



Genealogy Friends News

Genealogy Friends of Plano
Libraries

Genealogy Friends News
March 2009

P.O. Box 860477, Plano, TX, 75086-0477

[http:// www.genealogyfriends.org](http://www.genealogyfriends.org)

<http://genfriends.blogspot.com/>

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Saturday Seminars

Mark your calendars now for the exciting Genealogy Friends events in 2009. Meetings are held in the Program Room at the Haggard Library, 2501 Coit Rd., Plano, TX from 10:15 to 12:30:

Today's Topic:

March 21, 2009—Lynell Moss will speak to us about the Family History Library and using the Family History Centers.

Future Topics:

April 18, 2009—All Day Seminar—Naomi Taplin and Alan Lafever from the Texas Baptist Historical Collection will be doing an all day seminar on preserving family artifacts.

May 16, 2009—David and Paula Pitts will speak to us about Planning a Family Reunion.

June 20, 2009—Robert Deen will speak to us about Land Records Research

July 18, 2009—Marjorie McMenemy will speak to us about her research.

July 25, 2009—Learn 'N—Lynne Darrouzet is our speaker. She'll be presenting a case study on tracing neighbors and associates in Colonial Virginia and being able to infer relationships from that when there is no other evidence. The second hour there will be volunteers to help you take advantage of the extensive collection of Virginia sources available in the Genealogy Section at Haggard Library.

August 15, 2009—Leo Baca will speak to use about DNA.

September 19, 2009—Brenda Kellow will speak to us about research before 1850.

October 17, 2009—"City Directories, Newspapers, and Obituaries with the Census as Your Guide," by Barbara Coakley.

October 24, 2009—Learn 'N—We'll celebrate Halloween with talks on Cemeteries and Death Records.

November 21, 2009—Tresa Tatyrek will be speaking to us on Using the Internet for researching your Genealogy.

December 19, 2009—Show and Tell, come and share your Ancestors' stories with the group.

If you have suggestions for programs please submit them to Jean Funk at jeano25@aol.com.

Library of Congress Website Orientation

The Library of Congress holds a monthly one-hour Web conference orientation to the Library of Congress materials available through the LOC Web site. The conferences are held on the 11th of each month, and participants must register well ahead of time. The link for registration is

<http://www.loc.gov/rr/program/orientation.html>.

Seeking Michigan

Michigan death certificates are now available for the years 1897 to 1920. They are part of the collection of images, maps and documents available on the Seeking Michigan website. The collection includes Civil War Service Records, WPA rural property inventories by section, township and range (1936-1942), early photographs, and oral histories.

<http://seekingmichigan.org/>

Genealogy Friends Logo Shirts

Be one of the best-dressed genealogists in town. Order your Gen Friends logo t-shirt or sweatshirt now. The shirts have a 3" logo printed on the left chest. Shirts are available in white, natural, or ash gray with a dark green logo.

T-shirts are \$12.00 for toddler through XL and \$14.00 for XXL and XXXL

Sweatshirts are \$17.00 for toddler through XL and \$19.00 for XXL and XXXL

Dues are Due

Dues are due! Individual memberships are \$30 and family memberships are \$50—funds go to purchase materials for the genealogy section at Haggard Library.

Preserving Our Precious Heirlooms

On Saturday April 18, 2009 Gen Friends will be hosting an all day workshop.

Naomi Taplin and Alan Lefever from the Texas Baptist Historical Collection will be our speakers. Bring your own family treasures and learn how best to preserve them.

Where: Plano Bible Chapel—1900 Shiloh Rd, Plano

When: 9:30am—3:00 pm

Food: Bring a sack lunch, drinks will be available.

Registration Fee:

- Before April 1: members \$30, nonmembers \$38
- After April 1: members \$40, nonmembers \$45

Visit our website for the registration flyer

http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~txgfpl/flyers/workshop_april09.pdf

Publications For Sale

The following are available from Genealogy Friends:

Public Land Survey Systems	\$5
Plano Star Courier Index 1904-1910	\$20
Plano Star Courier Index 1911-1917	\$20
Cemeteries of Collin County, TX	\$40
Collin County, TX Voter Registration Index 1867	\$20
Place Names of Collin County, TX	\$10
Railroads in Collin County, TX	\$10
Military Investigations: Red, White & Blue	\$10
Colonial Ills, Brews & Concoctions	\$10
Library 101: Using Dewey Decimal Sys	\$10
Compiled Newsletters with Index	\$15

Education Opportunities

The International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies (IAJGS) 29th International Conference on Jewish Genealogy will meet August 2-7, 2009 at the Sheraton Philadelphia (PA) City Center Hotel (www.philly2009.org). The conference is co-sponsored by the IAJGS and the Jewish Genealogical Society of Greater Philadelphia (JGSGP). Advance registration is available only online and can be completed at http://www.philly2009.org/registration_information.cfm.

Wisconsin State Genealogical Society 2009 Gene-A-Rama "Fine-Tuning Your Genealogical Research Skills" Speakers - Christine Rose, FASG, CGSM, CGLSM,

James L. Hansen, FASG, George Findlen CGSM David McDonald, CGSM, Nancy Emmert, CGSM, and Virginia Nichols

Friday & Saturday, 3-4 April 2009 at Madison Marriott West 1313 John Q Hammons Drive, Middleton, WI

Registration Forms and Information can be found at www.wsgs.org

The Southern California Genealogy Jamboree lecture schedule is now online and available for download at www.genealogyjamboree.blogspot.com. Jamboree will be held June 26-28, 2009, at the Burbank Marriott Hotel and Convention Center, Burbank, California.

Collin College Classes

Barbara Coakley will be teaching Genealogy II at Collin College. Class will be held June 1, 2009 to July 20, 2009 on Monday nights from 6:30 to 9:00 at the Courtyard Center.

Genealogy Research on the Internet will be held on Saturday mornings at the Courtyard Center, July 11, July 25, August 1, August 8, and August 22, 2009.

Tracing Our Roots Column

The "Tracing Our Roots" column written by Brenda Kellow appears each Sunday in the 'PULSE' or ENTERTAINMENT' section of the Plano Insider newspaper, and in Star Community newspapers throughout North Texas.

Visit the Plano Insider web site is <http://www.planoinsider.net/> and click on either PULSE or ENTERTAINMENT to read the weekly column. Each column is posted for one week only. The column and archives are posted at <http://www.geocities.com/TracingOurRoots>.

New Jersey

The New Jersey Division of Archives holds all death certificates to 1900. The state is working on an online database for deaths through that date. Currently, the site has entries for June 1878 to June 1884 at <https://wwwnet1.state.nj.us/DOS/Admin/ArchivesDBPortal/DeathIndex.aspx>. The database connects to an online order form.

Historic Map Works

Historic Map Works is adding a feature called Historical Earth. They layer maps from different years for a location so you can "travel seamlessly through time for any geographic spot in the United States." They have two example locations on their website.

On their website there are over 500,000 maps, directories, etc. You can view the images for free. They currently have a special, print any map for \$.99. Downloading a pdf file is more expensive.

<http://www.historicmapworks.com/>

Legacy Users Group

The Legacy Family Tree users group meets the fourth Tuesday of each month at the Haggard Library in the Program Room from 10:30 to 12:30. Contact Joanne Corney at ptxlegacyug@verizon.net for more information.

National Women's History Month

By Brenda Kellow

Sure, they are harder to find than males and their surname changes after marriage(s) is no excuse! Don't neglect them. Far too often, we find females as a neglected people, yet they are our foremothers. They lived. They took care of the family 24/7: nurturing, disciplining, teaching her children moral values, nursing the ill and preparing the dead, cooking and cleaning the house, making clothes for the family members, birthing children, and passing along their traditions learned from their mother and grandmothers. She had a life. She deserves to have a biography just like the males, yet many families neglect their maternal histories. You can do it by taking your research findings, studying the history and social history of the times, and putting it into words.



Few females could read and write prior to 1900. These women left no diaries or family histories. On the other hand, some lucky researchers find Bibles meticulously recorded for many years by literate females providing births, deaths, and marriages of immediate family members as well as cousins, aunts, and in-laws.

Let's honor her even though her life and times may require a little additional research on the subject of the social and legal history of her time. What was it like for women during her lifetime? Could she vote? Could she own property? Did she own or run her own business? Did she work in a factory? What was it like for a woman who spent her life on a farm? How does the woman who owned a business in a larger town or city differ from life on the farm?

Start now to change the way females are often neglected in family histories. Too often, we see only a birth, death and marriage, but our families had a life so get busy and put some meat on the bones of those ancestors. Check your files to be sure you don't have something on her in your files. Make someone happy: write about one of your female ancestors and present it to your family in March, Women's History Month.

Unknown or just misplaced?

As often as possible, I try to answer questions my reader's send me about their research problems. I received one that was interesting and goes along with Women's Family History Month in March. Although I cannot answer everyone's questions, I decided to examine the problem and try to help her.

The question was from a woman who asked if her assumptions were correct about the wife and mother dying before the husband since the probate records did not mention her name. She further hypothesized the single child given to another couple to rear was probably related and possibly a member of the mother's family. The re-



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National Women's History Month (continued)

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searcher had documented the husband's lineage through his father's will, but had not been able to identify his wife.

When the husband died, the probate made no mention of her. After posting a substantial guardianship bond of \$7,500, the court gave three of their four children to one family member, but gave custody of the remaining child to a distant relative. She hypothesized that the single child went to a member of the family who was likely to be that of the wife's family. My thoughts are that the guardians were friends or neighbors, but may certainly have been a relative of the wife or husband. Another scenario is that the child was needed to help with family chores in the store of a merchant or as a laborer on a farm, or the child could have been placed there to receive special care for a medical problem.

Suggestions given were to check for an obit in the newspapers and cemeteries for a tombstone for the wife. Because of the substantial guardianship bond, the county court minutes probably have written and signed quarterly accounts from the guardians to the court itemizing equipment and property sales and purchases. These quarterly reports would continue until the children reached majority or the females married—whichever came first. A further check of probate records might also give some clues.



To answer her question, the hypotheses may be correct, but it is not good practice to 'suppose.' You need proof however substantial. It was not clear if she had investigated the entire family, but if not they should be for this question and many others may never be answered. It is important to research direct bloodlines, but also you must include the collateral lines—aunts, uncles, cousins.

I'll use a client's findings, which I later turned into a book, as another example of the importance of demystifying the females in the family. The client wanted to be approved for membership in the Colonial Dames of the Seventeenth Century lineage society. I was given the names of three possible men who might be the bloodline link she needed to be accepted. Following is the abbreviated version of what my search uncovered.

After a long search, the first two men led to dead ends, but the third, George Jeffers/Jeffries, proved to be the likely suspect. His wife and sons were here in the 1600s, therefore it was likely George arrived with them or shortly before. I was wrong in that assumption. George did leave England with his family to sail to America. Unfortunately, George died aboard ship before reaching Pennsylvania. But as luck would have it, George left a will naming his children and his wife. There was the shocker!

George's wife, Jane Chandler turned out to be an amazing woman with surprising possibilities. Additional biographical findings allowed the inspection of Jane (maiden name unknown) Chandler's activities. First, the Chandler genealogy gave her arrival in the colonies as 1687. Second, it appeared Widow Chandler was not destitute as she and her brother-in-law bought property in the city of Chichester in March 1687. She built a two-story house on her city lot. Widow Chandler, therefore, qualified as a resident and as a landowner of the commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

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Women's History Month (continued)

It is rare for a woman in the 17th century to be a widow, a mother, be financially stable, and a landowner. Nevertheless, Jane's accomplishments and her financial success made it possible for her descendants to verify and submit her proud lineage as an emigrant and land owner to the *Colonial Dames of the Seventeenth Century*.

Kellow, Brenda Burns. *Robert & Jane (Chandler) Jeffers/Jefferis, 17th Century Colonial Residents of Chester County, Pennsylvania: A Brief History*. Richardson, Texas: Dig'n Up Bones Publishing, 1998.

Although the client's objective was achieved, she was equally proud to be accepted into the lineage society through the emigration and accomplishments of her strong female ancestor, Jane (____) Chandler.

_____1

NEW: A few weeks ago the president proclaimed March as Irish American History Month.

VIEW TEXAS LAND GRANTS ONLINE: www.glo.state.tx.us/archives/landgrant.html.

1. Historical Society *Pennsylvania Magazine*. IX: 234.

2. Ibid

3. Ibid

Keys to Mining the Non-Population Schedules

Free genealogy talk, Thursday, April 2nd, 2009. Haggard Library Genealogy Library. 10:30-noon. Speaker: Brenda Kellow

The purpose of the Special Census lecture is to introduce the genealogy researcher to the various means of using different types of census in order to benefit from their assets. The best-known and most used census is the population census. Attendees will learn that there is more to the census than just counting people. Have you ever gone beyond the population census? Did you know there are other census schedules? Do you know what is included in the special censuses? If not, this lecture is a must to broaden your research.

The non-population census schedules include agriculture, manufacturing and business, social, mortality, slave, federal territorial census, and veteran's census. But, we can't forget the sheriff's census and state census—although they are population censuses they are most important none the less. Each has an extraordinary amount of information. Finding, using and analyzing these schedules put people in a particular place during a particular time period.

The McKinney library is holding a Beginning Genealogy class on Saturday, April 25th from 10:15-11:45 am at the library 101 E Hunt St, McKinney, TX. No preregistration is necessary.