Genealogy Friends News

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http://www.geocities.com/genfriendsghl
http://www.rootsweb.com/~txcolli3

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Saturday Seminars & Lock Ins

Mark your calendars now for the exciting Genealogy Friends events in 2006:

June 17, 2006—Jennifer Pitts will share her knowledge of Adobe Photoshop Elements - learn to perfect, transform, organize and share your photos like a pro.

July 7, 2006—Lock In—Little Used Sources. See the article on page 2.

July 15, 2006—Learn about 19th Century Funeral Customs from Carol Taylor, the head of a genealogy library who has been researching her family history for over thirty years.

August 19, 2006—We'll have two speakers. Frank Reisch will talk to us about The Folk, Music Tales & Humor of The Pennsylvania-Dutch and Lynne Darrouzet will discuss Research Using the NEHGS Website.

September 16, 2006—All Day Seminar—Lloyd Bockstruck will be speaking on Colonial Topics.

October 21, 2006—Thinking about joining a lineage society? Representatives from the Daughters of the American Revolution, Sons of the American Revolution, Sons of Confederate Veterans, Daughters of the Republic of Texas, Colonial Dames of the 17th Century, and more will tell us about their societies and answer our questions.

October 27, 2006—Lock In—Using Computers in Genealogy. See article on page 2.

November 18, 2006—Richard Preston will talk to us about Migration Patterns.

December 16, 2006—Annual Show and Tell.

If you have suggestions for programs for 2007 please submit them to Barbara Coakley at bjc1620@sbcglobal.net

2007 Research Retreat to Washington DC

Genealogy Friends will be sponsoring a trip to Washington DC in October 2007. You will have an opportunity to research at the National Archives, Library of Congress and the Daughters of the American Revolution Library. Orientation sessions will be held at each institution. If you are interested please contact Barbara Coakley at bjc1620@sbcglobal.net. More information will be available at a later date.

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

Collin County Historic Photographs Web Site

Members of GenFriends are contributing photographs of Collin County to the newest Gen Friends web site *Collin County, Texas Past Finders Photo Collection.*

http://www.rootsweb.com/~txcolli3. The web site now contains over 3,400 photographs. Categories include Cemeteries,

Churches, Schools, People, Places, and Tombstones. If you would like to contribute photos of Collin County subjects, contact Joy at jfarrgo@comcast.net.

History & Genealogy Web Site

Members of Genealogy Friends are contributing to a new web site—History and Genealogy for the Active Researcher located at http://www.geocities.com/genfriendsghl.

The goal is to expand the knowledge of those researching in Collin County and North Texas.

Check out the timeline—a daily calendar of events in Collin County through the years.

Microfiche Reader for Sale

DuKane Explorer 14 microfilm reader, in good condition, with high, medium, low viewing

Used for indexing projects. $100.

Phone Brenda Kellow, 972-941-9280, or email TraceRoots@comcast.net

Publications For Sale

The following are available from Genealogy Friends:

NEW 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

Tracing Our Roots Column

The "Tracing Our Roots" column by Brenda Kellow appears in Plano Star Courier, Star Community Newspapers and DFW Community News weekly.

The column and an archives of past columns are also available at http://www.geocities.com/TracingOurRoots.

Book Exchange

Genealogy Friends would like to exchange Collin County books with books from other societies.

If you have an area or society you would like us to try and exchange with, please contact Joy Gough at jfarrgo@comcast.net.

State Libraries and Archives – The Colorado State Archives

By Brenda Kellow, BA, CG

The two largest groups of people, in 1683 the Germans immigrated from near the Rhine, and the Ulster-Scots between 1707-1728, flooded Pennsylvania, then known as William Penn's "Holy Experiment." The German settlers, mostly Lutheran, were dubbed "Pennsylvania Dutch" and included the Amish, Dunkers, Mennonites, Moravians, and Schwenkfelders. They settled first around Philadelphia but spread out to Lancaster, Northampton, Berks, and Lehigh counties while the Ulster-Scots settled in the Cumberland, Lebanon and Lehigh Valleys, and on into southwestern Pennsylvania. The Cornish people came into Northampton County by mid-1800s in search of slate in the Blue Mountains. They found it! This group became paramount in my search and it remains so today. They many hours of research and even more weeks of on-site searching in every conceivable record inspired me to give you some hints about research in the "Keystone State."

Townships

It is imperative to know and understand the workings of the township and its hierarchy. The township is the "mother" of the chain of command. From it are the incorporated towns, boroughs, and cities, many having their on internal governments. An explanation appears in John T. Humphrey's book on Pennsylvania Research which Genealogy Friends just donated to the genealogy collection.

Census and Tax Records

The population census records and indexes for Pennsylvania are available and on microfilm from archives, public libraries and the Family History Library (FHL). Only a few county census are unavailable. The state library has the non-population census for 1850-1880. The tax payer lists for 1779-1863 fill in any gaps covered by a state census. Tax enumerations, often called Septennial Census, were taken every seven years during this time period.

My first experience with the census records acquainted me with the knowledge that more than one copy of a census exists. The pages of the Northampton census on, before, and after where my people were listed were faded so badly that I could not see writing on the pages. Fortunately, while visiting the Marx Genealogy Library in Northampton County I found the census there to be perfectly legible. There they were with all the relatives living around them. There is more information in the Marx Genealogy Library in Easton, Pennsylvania than I have found in any film or record collection anywhere else. Much of it is typed on ancient typewriters or handwritten on "onion skin" paper. The vast majority of these old records have not been filmed or indexed and they are not available on a national basis. If you haven't visited your counties, I recommend highly that you visit all existing Pennsylvania county genealogy and history libraries in the state.

Vital Records

With the exception of a scattering of early records during the colonial era, there are few early records before it became mandatory in 1906. The exception is that some of the larger cities did record early births and deaths, but these are few and far between. The state archives has films of existing vital records for the, cities of Allegheny, Easton, Harrisburg, Pottsville, Pittsburg and Williamsport. The Historical Society of Pennsylvania has those for Philadelphia. The clerk of the orphans' court is responsible for maintaining these records.

Unfortunately, marriage records were not part of colonial law, but some of the information from the bonds and church marriage records appear in the published series of Pennsylvania Archives. Records of later marriages are kept in the county orphans' courts. There are no extant 19th century civil vital records. Use of church and justice of the peace records, tombstone records, and burial records is mandatory to fill-in the missing dates. Another vital source are numerous recordings found in newspapers. Northampton County has most all issues of the county newspapers on film in the Marx Library. The library maintains a large collection of original church records, many which are written in German. These are currently being transcribed into English by John Humphrey and all of his publications to date are in the genealogy library.

State Libraries and Archives – Pennsylvania Research & Archives

The prothonotary clerk in the county court of common pleas is responsible for keeping the divorce records. These exist from 1804 and were issued mainly in the case of adultery. Found also in this office are naturalizations, peddlers' license, sheriff's sales, jury lists, etc.

Genealogical Background Material

A vast assortment of early published government records are found in *The Colonial Records* series. Unfortunately, little of the original records exist today, so use of the series if important to finding information of such things as military records and pensions, naturalizations, land warrants, ships' lists, bounty disputes, maps, etc.

Biographies and pictures appear in mug books, but must be used with caution as with any other state. If your ancestor subscribed, then it is likely his family history, complete with pictures of the family, exists within these pages. Only the more well-to-do could afford this privilege.

Maps

There are many maps available for purchase, for free, or to view on film. Years ago the local banks used to give, free of charge, county maps complete with markings of churches and cemeteries. I found a map of the county on the wall of the Marks Library complete with the pre-1900s roads with homeowners names beside the crudely-drawn squares representing homes. Later, I found these published by A. Pomeroy and Co. and titled, *Atlas of Northampton County Pennsylvania, from actual surveys by and under the direction of D. G. Beers,* 1874. Do you think I bought a copy? The answer is "yes."

Don't forget to examine the courthouse and library walls on your visits. You just might find a jewel just like the one I mentioned above.

Land

You must know the history of your area in order to search efficiently. If you are searching the northeast portion of Pennsylvania, you will want to include Connecticut. Pennsylvania and Connecticut struggled for ownership over this area beginning in the mid 1700s.

Virginia claimed the southwest corner. More struggle ensued.

Revolutionary War soldiers were offered tax-free land in the western part. These lands are referred to as "donation Lands. Soldiers of this war were also offered "Depreciation Lands" that could be bought at reduced prices.

Check for deeds and mortgages kept by the recorder of deeds. Deeds prior to 1850 and their indexes are on film at the state archives and the Historical Society of Pennsylvania.

Probate and Will Records

Since early colonial times, the recording of wills and letters of administration were kept by the county register of wills. This office maintains records concerning division of estates, guardians of orphaned children, letters of administration, inventories, accounts, etc. I can't tell you how vital it is to check all these records. By using a little forensic genealogy there is no limit to the information hiding within these records.

I am particularly fond of Pennsylvania research. Why? The counties have records and I can find my people in the records. I sincerely hope you do, too.

Pennsylvania Research & Archives (cont'd)

Happy hunting!

Selected Bibliography

Dunn, Mary, Dr. *Index to Pennsylvania's Colonial Records Series,* Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Company, 1992.

Humphrey, John T. *Pennsylvania Births.* Series by county. Washington, D.C.: Gateway Press, Inc., 1991.

Livengood, Candy Crocker. *Genealogical Abstracts of the Laws of Pennsylvania & the Statutes at Large.* Westminster, Maryland: Willow Bend Books, 2001.

Munger, Donna Bingham. *Pennsylvania Land Records: A History and Guide for Research.* Wilmington, Delaware: Scholarly Resources, 1991.

Tepper, Michael, Editor. *Emigrants to Pennsylvania, 1641-1819, A Consolidation of Ship Passenger Lists from the Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography.* 1975. Reprint. Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Company, 1999.

Collin County Bits—Ghost Towns
By Joy Gough

Collin County has a number of ghost towns or vanished communities. Most of Collin County's earliest towns no longer exist. In most cases there are no old buildings to mark the location of the ghost town. Many of the locations of the ghost towns are in still undeveloped parts of the county. The most important ghost town was Collin County's first county seat, Buckner.

Buckner.

Buckner was the first town in Collin County. It was located on the John McGarrah survey and was named for his home town of Buckner, Arkansas. McGarrah came to the area in 1843 and started a trading post before statehood in 1846. Buckner was the only place within forty miles where any kind of merchandise could be bought. It was located on the Cedar Springs/Bonham Road and was sometimes called Fort Buckner. The Comanche Indians were still attacking settlers in those days and all communities were built as forts.

July 4, 1846 was a very big day at Buckner. Not only was it the first real election day in the county but the day had been set aside for a picnic and social gathering as well. A band of settlers met at Ft. Buckner for a celebration. The first flag in the county was raised, and the first soldiers, Stapp's Company, were organized to go to the Mexican War.

Andrew Stapp, who had been serving in the Mexican War, used this opportunity to organize a company of men to serve with Texas. Mounting a stump he reminded the pioneers present that they were now a part of the great state of Texas, and Texas was at war. He had been authorized by the governor to ask for volunteers who were ready to join other Texans and march across the Rio Grande. Anyone wishing to join was asked to go into John McGarrah's little store and put down his name. Sixty men rushed into the store, about all the younger men of the county. These first soldiers ranged in age from 19 to 45.

   Collin County's first elections for county officials were held that day at Buckner. Ninety one people voted; many signing their names with an 'X'.It was decided that only free adult males could vote in the election, no slaves and no women. The ballots had to be sent to the state, which meant the voting could not be a show of hands. They needed paper and pencil. A pencil was found in the store. The only paper found for the voting was a copy of "Paradise Lost" that was in someone's saddle bag. Ballots were torn from the blank pages of the book. There were no candidates; each person voted for whomever they wished for county of-

Collin County Bits—Ghost Towns (cont'd)

(Continued from page 5)

fices. Since most of the settlers were illiterate, the voter would tell a writer the name of the person he wanted to vote for. The name was written down and the voter would put his X by the name as his vote. Collin County's first Chief Justice, County Clerk, District Clerk and Sheriff were elected that day along with four County Commissioners and a Justice of the Peace.

Also discussed was the location of the county seat of the new county. Since Buckner was the only town in Collin County, it was named the first county seat. The first "courthouse" was in the back of John (Jack) McGarrah's store.

Plans were made to make Buckner a permanent townsite. On August 1, 1846, John McGarrah donated fifty acres for the town of Buckner, and town lots were laid off around a public square as a site for a court house. On September 21, the newly appointed county commissioners held an auction of lots, the first lot going for $22.50 in cash. The second lot went for $26.00. Each lot was 4,800 Square feet. Money from the sale of the lots went into the county treasury. By the close of 1846, Buckner had a general store, a blacksmith shop, a post office, and John L. Lovejoy's dry goods store. A postoffice was established at Buckner on November 25, 1846, with John McGarrah the Postmaster, appointed by President Polk.

When Texas became a state, a law was enacted that said the newly established counties in the had to be about 30 miles square with the county seat within three miles of the geographic center of the county. In January of 1847, the commissioners hired a surveyor to locate the center of Collin County, which was found it to be seven miles southeast of Buckner. To meet the requirements of the law, the commissioners appointed a committee to select two sites for a new county seat.

One site selected was where McKinney is now. The other selected site was on Sloan's Creek three miles south of present day McKinney near the present underpass on Highway Five.

Only eleven votes were cast on November 1, 1847. The settlers south of Wilson Creek could not reach Buckner to vote because the creeks were overflowing. The final vote was ten votes for the McKinney site and one for the other site.

The story is told that Ben Baccus came in just before the polls closed that day. When he was told that McKinney site had all ten votes cast, he voted for the Sloan Creek site just to be different.

For several months after the election nothing was done to establish the county seat at the new location. The Post Office and stores remained at Buckner and all of the county business was still done at Buckner. In early May of 1848, John L. Lovejoy hired two men - Jim Reed and Manse Wilmeth - and twelve yoke of oxen to drag his dry goods store on skids across the prairie to the site selected for the new county seat. At that time the location that was to become downtown McKinney was a dense thicket of trees, shrubs, thorns, and vines. The oxen pulled the little building as far into the thicket as they could take it, and it was set up - facing south - on the site that was to become the northwest corner of the square. Soon after the Lovejoy Dry Goods Store was set up, a saloon was built across the dirt street and, just south of that, Dr. Worthington built a little wooden building as an office.

Finally, on Nov. 10, 1848, the Post Office moved from Buckner to Lovejoy's Dry Goods Store in McKinney, with Mr. Lovejoy as postmaster. Soon the county offices were moved to a little log court house on the southwest corner of McKinney's public square.

The county still tried to use the name "Buckner" for its county seat, but the U. S. Post Office said the name was already in use. The name "McKinney" was selected for the new town, honoring the man, who served in the legislature from the area, Collin McKinney.

For a number of years a school remained at Buckner. The town ceased to exist. All that remains of Buckner today is the Buckner Cemetery, located about 2 miles west of US 75 on the north side of US 380. The cemetery was located near the northeast corner of the town. The town of Buckner became part of the prairie once again.

2006 Lock Ins

Lock Ins are held at the Gladys Harrington Library. Registration begins at 5:30, the library closes to the public at 6:00. Suggested donation is $10.00. Pizza, drinks and cookies are served at 7:00 for an additional $4.00. Lock Ins are a great place to learn in small groups. Participate in classes, get help with a research consultation, or use the resources available to do your own research. A Plano Library Card and Internet Registration are required prior to 5:30 pm to use library computers.

July 7th—Little Used Sources

Classes include Institution and Coroners Records; Using Newspapers for More than Obituaries; Genealogy Journals—They can be useful even if your ancestor isn't mentioned; and Hiring a Professional Researcher.

October 27th—Using Computers in Genealogy

Classes to be determined.

New Additions to the Gladys Harrington Library Genealogy Section

The following books have been added to the Genealogy Collection at the Gladys Harrington Library:

- Adventurers of Purse and Person, Virginia, 1607-1624/5, Vol. 2   GEN 929.3755 ADV
- New England Court Records: A Research Guide for Genealogists and Historians   GEN 929.1072074 RAP
- Colliers from Surry County, Virginia   GEN 929.2 COL
- Some Collier Families: Descendants of Robert Collier and Isabella Doddington, 1453-1990   GEN 929.2 COL
- Some Collier Families: Descendants of John Collier and Sarah Horton, 1741-1991   GEN 929.2 COL
- Pender County, North Carolina Gravestone Records, Vol. I   GEN 929.50975625 MCE
- Finding Your Irish Ancestors: A Beginner's Guide   GEN 929.10720415 OUI
- Abstracts of the Wills and Estate Records of Granville County, North Carolina, 1833-1846   GEN 929.3756535 GWY
- The Boundless Bounds Family   GEN 929.2 BOU
- Lockey-Peyton and Related Families   GEN 929.2 LOC
- Alumni Directory, 1987 (American University, Washington, D.C.)   GEN 378.753 AME
- Inventory of Maryland Bible Records, Vol. I   GEN 929.3752 INV
- Claiborne County, Mississippi: The Promised Land   GEN 976.2285 HEA
- A Historical Atlas of Texas   GEN 911.764 POO
- The Chinaberry Tree Revisited: a Collier/Gregg Genealogy   GEN 929.2 COL
- A New Orleans Lady: The Life of Eunice Macy Folger Mallett   GEN 929.2 MAL
- History of Wayne County, North Carolina: A Collection of Historical Stories   GEN 975.6395 HIS
- A History of the Clan MacLean   GEN 929.2 MCL
- A Port of Entry: Oxford, Maryland   GEN 975.2 TUC
- Journal of a Lady of Quality   GEN 910. 4 SCH
- History of Upson County, Georgia   GEN 975.8486 NOT

Library Additions (cont'd)

- Historic Goose Creek, South Carolina, 1670-1980   GEN 975.793 HEI
- Collections of Early County Historical Society, 1971, Vols. 1 & 2   GEN 975.8962 COL
- Materials Toward a History of the Baptists, Vols. 1 & 2   GEN 286.0973 EDW
- Tales and Traditions of the Lower Cape Fear, 1661-1896   GEN 975.62 SPR
- Hooper Genealogy: A Southern Branch, Vol. II   GEN 929.2 HOO
- Daniel Mallett (1790-1845): His Ancestors and Descendants   GEN 929.2 MAL
- Between the Creeks, Revised: Masonboro Sound, 1735-1985   GEN 975.627 HEW
- War of 1812 Ancestors and Their Children   GEN 973.52 TAB
- National Society, Arkansas Society, Colonial Dames XVII Century, Roster 1951-1993   GEN 369.12 NAT
- The Hills of Wilkes County, Georgia and Allied Families, Vol. 2   GEN 929.2 HIL
- New Hanover County: A Brief History   GEN 975.627 LEE
- Samuel Webber: The Thirteenth President of Harvard University (1806-1810)   GEN 378.0092 ORE
- North Carolina During Reconstruction   GEN 975.6 ZUB
- God's Acre   GEN 929.509746 DAL
- What Did They Mean By That? A Dictionary of Historical Terms for Genealogists   GEN 423.1 DRA
- Marlow Brothers Ordeal, 1881-1892: 138 Days of Hell in Graham on the Texas Frontier   GEN 976.4545 LED
- Profile of a Colonial Community: Salisbury Towne and Wicomico County on Maryland's Eastern Shore   GEN 975.225 COO
- The Mellichamp Family History   GEN 929.2 MEL
- Sir Ellis Hicks (1315), Captain John Ward (1598), John Wright (1500), Philip leYonge (1295) and 7,812 Descendants   GEN 929.2 HIC
- Search for the Passengers of the Mary & John, 1630, Vol. 1: Passengers & Their Children   GEN 929.3 SPE
- Register of Graduates and Former Cadets of the United States Military Academy   GEN 355.071173 WES
- Graves County, KY: Newspaper Genealogical Abstracts, Vol. 28   GEN 929.376993 SIM
- The Old Court House   GEN 725.1509762 COT
- Wilmington, A Pictorial History   GEN 975.627 RUS
- Family Histories: Christian County, Kentucky, 1797-1986   GEN 976.978 CHR
- Cane River Country, Louisiana   GEN 976.365 CAN
- Cape Fear Adventure: An Illustrated History of Wilmington   GEN 975.627 CAS
- The Larner Book: Wm. Larner, 1812-1850, & His Descendants   GEN 929.2 LAR

Thanks to Lynn Day for compiling the list of additions for us.