



Genealogy Friends News

Genealogy Friends of
Plano Libraries

Genealogy Friends News
November 2011

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 2011 and 2012. 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:

November 19-2011—All Day Seminar—Kelvin Meyers will be our speaker. See the back page for more details

Future Topics:

December 17, 2011—Show and Tell—bring your genealogy treasures and share with the group.

January 21, 2012—Tara Carlisle from UNT will present Digitizing Your Records.

February 18, 2012—Meg Hacker from the Southwest Regional Archives will discuss the 1940 Census.

February 25, 2012—LearnN—Topics to be announced

March 17, 2012—”Digital Photography for Genealogists” by Tony Hanson

April 21, 2012—Jeanette Hurst will discuss British Research

May 19, 2011—”Introduction to Heraldry for Genealogists” by David Appleton

We are looking for topics and speakers for 2012 presentations, email Barb Coakley at newsletter@genealogyfriends.org

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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

Genealogy Class

Beginning Genealogy at Collin College taught by Barbara Coakley, Tuesday nights 1/10/12—2/14/12 from 6:30 to 9:00 at Courtyard Campus. Visit Collin College website to register <http://www.collin.edu/ce/>

Genfriends Membership

Dues are due. Our membership year runs from October 1 to September 30. Individual memberships are \$30 a year and family memberships are \$50.

The money we raise is used to purchase materials for the Genealogy Section at Haggard Library.

Download the membership form on our website <http://www.collin.edu/ce/> send it in with payment to

Genealogy Friends of Plano Libraries, Inc
PO Box 860477
Plano, TX 75086-0477

Tracing Our Roots Column

Brenda Kellow writes a weekly genealogy column, you can read it online at <http://tracingourroots.weebly.com/>

Newsletter Articles

Have you found an interesting source, solved a genealogy problem, or come across a unique newspaper article? Send articles for the newsletter to newsletter@genealogyfriends.org.

Genealogy Friends Logo Shirts

You can be one of the best dressed genealogists in town!

We have logo t-shirts, sweatshirts, Henley's and polo style shirts available.

The shirts have a 3" dark green logo printed on the left chest. All shirts are available in toddler through XXXL.

T-shirts \$15

Long Sleeved T Shirts \$18

Sweatshirts \$20 (white, neutral, ash, light blue, pink, yellow and sand)

Henley's \$20 (white, ash or natural)

Polo Shirts \$20 (white, ask or light blue)



Sharing Your Genealogy

By Barbara Coakley

We work very hard to research our family history. Are you sharing what you find with your family? Sharing is a great way to get the family interested. You never know what cousin George may have in his basement and if he doesn't know that you are working on the family history, he may never mention that box full of goodies that is just sitting there collecting dust. Another reason to share is to connect with other researchers working on the same family—a distant cousin out there might have the clue to break down that brick wall you have been struggling with for years. Last but definitely not least, writing is the best way I have found to identify the missing pieces and conflicting evidence that I have in my research. As I write up the family story it becomes very obvious when I don't have a death date, place of birth, marriage info, etc. for an ancestor.

There are some really easy ways to share your genealogy and you don't have to be a technology wizard to do it. Here are a couple of things to try:

Create a Website—Using Weebly you can get a website up and running in an afternoon without any additional software or technical knowledge. You can have two different sites on Weebly or you can upgrade to Weebly Pro for a fee and have up to 10 sites, password protect pages and embed documents.

Before you begin on Weebly.com think about what you want to share on your website and how you want to organize it. Here are some things to think about:

- What do you want on the main page? You might include an introduction explaining the content of the site.
- If the site is for more than one family name, how do you want to organize the families? You can create a page with a link on the main page for each family name and then subpages from that page for each person or couple or generation.
- Are you going to include daughters on their father's page or their husband's page?
- Do you have pictures you want to share?
- Do you want to include a family tree? You could save

To get started go to the website www.weebly.com and create an account.

- Click on the Add Site button.
- Enter your site title.
- You can use a domain name you have purchased or use a subdomain of weebly.com—name it something that something that describes the content of your site—Coakleyfamilyhistory for example.
- Click Save and you are ready to start designing your website.
- There are four choices on the left side of the menu bar across the top of the screen—Basic, Multimedia, Revenue and More. Start with Basic. As you choose other items the content on the Elements tab will change.
- Click on the Design tab to choose your design—there are lots to choose from and you can change your mind later if you get started and don't like the look of the site.
- Add additional pages—click on the Pages tab, click add page, name the page and click save settings. If you want this page to be visible in the menu bar on the home page leave it even with the home page. If you want the page to be visible from one of the pages linked to the home page, drag it to the right. You can change the order of pages in the menu bar by dragging them up and down. Subpages are visible from the home page by placing the cursor on the page in the menu bar. Different page designs allow different numbers of pages in the menu bar on the home page.
- Add elements to your pages by clicking on the element you want to add and dragging it onto the page. Your choices

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Sharing Your Genealogy, continued

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are Title, Paragraph with Title, Paragraph with Picture, Paragraph, Video, Two Column Layout, Contact Form. If you don't like it once you have it on the page put your cursor in the element and a red x appears in the upper right, click on it to delete the element. You can also copy or move elements—put your cursor in the element and a green arrow appears in the upper left, click on it and a menu appears, chose what you want to do and which page you want to move or copy the element to.

- You can cut and paste text from another document or file or you can type in the text boxes.
- To upload a picture, click in the picture box, find the .jpeg, .gif or .png file you want to upload on your computer, click open and the file will be added to your website. If the design has a picture in the banner, you can replace it with your own picture by placing your cursor on it and click on the Edit Image button that appears. Delete the image that is there, upload the picture you want, and click OK and Save. You can have the same image on all your pages or a different image on each page.
- You can move elements around on the page by clicking on them and dragging them to the new location.
- On the Settings tab you can change the name or url of your site. You can also enter information so that search engines will find your site or you can hide it from search engines. You might want to hide it while you are building the site and then add the description and meta keywords when you are ready to invite others to view your site.
- Now you are ready to check out the other choices on the Menu Bar at the upper left of the screen:
 - Multimedia—you can add a photo gallery, slideshow, upload a file, add audio or video, link to Google Maps or a You Tube Video. Photo Gallery and slideshows are great ways to share lots of pictures. You could upload a file of your family tree from your genealogy program or a historical document you want to share. Share the audio recording of your interview with Grandma on the audio page. You get the idea.
 - More—you can add dividers to your pages.
- When you are ready to share your site, click the orange Publish button in the upper right. You can share it on Facebook or Twitter using the buttons on the publish page.

Create a Facebook Page—You can create a facebook page to share your research.

- Go to www.facebook.com.
- There is a link in the lower right to Create a Page for a celebrity, band or business. Click on it.
- Click on Cause or Community, Enter the name of your site and read and agree to the terms and click Get Started.
- You can link this to your existing Facebook page or create an account if you don't have one.
- Upload a profile picture for the page from your computer
- Link to the website you created on Weebly.com and fill in the About section so people know the purpose of your page.
- Post picture and notes about your ancestors, records you have found, research questions.

If Facebook in the list of places you check for the surnames you are researching? If not, try searching and see what you find.

Write an article for the newsletter—A couple of our members have already done this. Summarize a research problem, celebrate a brick wall you finally broke through or write about a new source you discovered that might help someone else. Articles in newsletters and journals are great to glean ideas about how to solve your problem. Look for articles about the place and time frame you are researching. Read the footnotes, you might find out about a source you didn't know existed. Your article might help someone else out. Our newsletters are posted on the website, the blog and our Fa-

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Sharing Your Research, continued

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cebook page. I have been contacted by other researchers who read articles I wrote about my family. You might get lucky too.

These are just a couple of ways to share your research. Be creative and try them they really aren't hard and if you have trouble you can reach out to a friend, family member or someone in GenFriends for help. You never know who you might connect with or touch with your stories and photos.

Military Records

By Barbara Coakley

November 11th was Veterans Day. Many of our ancestors served their country this is the perfect time to look for records of their service. There are records from many conflicts available on the internet, we no longer have to spend hours at the National Archives turning through roll after roll of microfilm. Here are a few websites you can use to research your ancestors' military service:

Fold3 (formerly Foot note) <http://www.fold3.com/> \$ pay site

Their tag line is "The web's premier collection of original military records." You can use Fold3 at the library if you don't have a subscription. The current cost is \$79.95 a year. Their collection includes records from the Revolutionary War, War of 1812, Mexican War, Indian Wars, Civil War, World War I, World War II, and Vietnam. Here are just a few highlights:

War of 1812 Pension Application Files—these files have never been microfilmed. Until now you had to order a file from the National Archives or visit Washington DC. The Federation of Genealogy Societies (FGS) partnered with Fold3 to digitize these files and make them available. FGS still needs donations to complete the project which will cost \$3.7 million dollars. There are currently 99,104 images (only 1% of the files) available on Fold3.

Revolutionary War Records—The Revolutionary War Pension files on Fold3 are the full pension files, M804. Heritage Quest has selected records from the same files—they aren't the complete pension files.

Civil War Records—Fold3 has 21 different record groups from the Civil War. In addition to pension files and service records, the collection includes Matthew Brady's photos and maps. Many of the pension files haven't been microfilmed or digitized and are still only available through the National Archives.

Civil War Soldiers and Sailors System <http://www.itd.nps.gov/cwss/> .

This site is a database of over 6.3 million servicemen who served on both sides during the Civil War. The information was entered from the General Index of Cards in the Compiled Military Service Records at the National Archives. If you find your soldier here there is a compiled service record. There are also over 4,000 Regimental histories of both Union and Confederate units and histories of 364 of the most significant battles of the Civil War.

FamilySearch—https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/list?page=1®ion=NORTH_AMERICA

There are some Civil War service records for both Union and Confederate , Revolutionary War Pension and Bounty Land Warrant Applications and a War of 1812 Index for Louisiana. Keep watching this site, they add new records daily. Also in the Learn section there are 25 different lesson that have to do with military records. Check out the Wiki as well for the area you are searching.

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Ancestry.com <http://www.ancestry.com> \$

There is a Military Research Guide at http://c.mfcreative.com/offer/military/mil_rec_guide.pdf. The Military collection includes records from the Revolutionary War, Civil War, World War I, World War II, and more. If you have soldiers who served in the regular army they have the enlistment records. There are no compiled service records for the regular army.

Here are some other websites that might help with your military research:

The Civil War—Harper’s Weekly Original Civil War Newspapers
<http://www.sonofthesouth.net/leefoundation/the-civil-war.htm>

Department of Veterans Affairs Grave Locator
http://gravelocator.cem.va.gov/j2ee/servlet/NGL_v1

Colonial Ancestors
<http://colonialancestors.com/revolutionary/soldiers.htm>

Olive Tree American Military Genealogy & History
<http://www.olivetreegenealogy.com/mil/usa/mex.shtml>

Colonial America From Exploration through the American Revolution—this site includes the 1840 Census of Pensioners, Revolutionary and Military Service which lists the ages of surviving revolutionary soldiers <http://www.us-roots.org/colonialamerica/>

DonsList.Net <http://www.donslist.net/PGHLookups/MilitaryM.htm>

National Archives Access to Archival Databases <http://aad.archives.gov/aad/> and Guide to Researching Military Records <http://www.archives.gov/research/military/veterans/>

Cyndi’s List—Look for the topic you are interested in. Cyndi has links for US Military as well as Civil War, American Revolution, World War I, World War II, etc. <http://www.cyndislist.com/us/military>

Google—Google the unit, battle your ancestor fought in, conflict, images of uniforms and battles, etc. Don’t forget about the Advanced Search function where you can include and exclude combinations of words, etc. <http://www.google.com/>

Online Military Indexes & Records—directory of links to online military indexes and records organized by conflict.
<http://www.militaryindexes.com>

Daughters of the American Revolution—Search on your ancestor in the Genealogical Research System to see if a member has submitted papers on them. Even if you aren’t interested in joining DAR there might be information in the papers to help you with a research problem. http://www.dar.org/library/online_research.cfm

Check the Secretary of State, State Library, State Archive, State Historical Society for the states where your ancestor lived both during and after the conflict. Many of them have online indexes and/or digital images of military records. Also look for how-to articles for research for that state. NARA has links on their sites to the State Archives for all 50 states
<http://www.archives.gov/research/alic/reference/state-archives.html>

American Battle Monument Commission—Articles about various conflicts including “The Normandy Campaign” and “Hallowed Grounds”. Good background information. <http://www.abmc.gov/home.php>

These are just a few of the websites available on military records. Good luck finding your soldier.

