



Genealogy Friends News

Genealogy Friends of Plano
Libraries

Genealogy Friends News
November 2008

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

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

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

Email Address: genfriends@genealogyfriends.org Newsletter: Barbara Coakley newsletter@genealogyfriends.org

Saturday Seminars

Mark your calendars now for the exciting Genealogy Friends events in 2008 & 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:

November 15, 2008—Bryan Lean, the curator of Collections and Exhibits at the North Texas History Center will be speaking to us about the collection.

Future Topics:

December 20, 2008—Show and Tell—Bring all of your Genealogy Successes and share them with the group.

January 19, 2009—Jennifer Pitts will speak to us about On Line Hosting

February 21, 2009—Aaron Holt, Archivist at the Southwest Regional Archives will be back to speak to us about the National Archives and Record Administration resources.

February 28, 2009—Learn In—Mark the date and stay tuned for more information.

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

April 18, 2009—All Day Seminar—Naomi Taplin— Librarian, 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—James Deen will speak to us about Land Records Research

July 18, 2009—To be determined

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

September 19, 2009—To be determined

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

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

Genealogy Podcasts

Did you know there were genealogy podcasts available? They are pre-recorded online radio shows that you can download to your computer or play directly from the internet. The beauty is you can listen when you want to. Using iTunes it is possible to subscribe to the podcasts so you get the latest version automatically. The iTunes software is available at www.apple.com/itunes/download. Once you have installed the software, click on the store, search on genealogy and download.

Some of the titles available are: Dear Myrtle's Family History Hour, Enhanced Irish Families Worldwide: History and Genealogy (The world's first weekly podcast on Irish Family Heritage, history and genealogy); Family History Expos Genealogy Podcast; Family History: Genealogy Made Easy; Family Tree Magazine Podcast; Genealogy Gems Podcast—Your Family History Show (Genealogy research strategies & creative family history ideas for the family historian); and The Genealogy Guys Podcast (Genealogy Chat with George C Morgan and Drew Smith).

Topics range from what's new in Genealogy, website updates, and research techniques. It is a great way to stay updated.



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.

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

Gen Friends Learn In

Our first Learn In was a great success. The next one will be February 28, 2009 to celebrate Black History Month. Stay tuned for more details.

Geni.com

If you are looking for somewhere to build your family tree online, check out Geni.com. Their goal is to build a family tree of the entire world, enabling families to connect, preserve, and share their lives. Features include photo and video sharing, timeline, family tree, and a family calendar for birthday's and anniversaries. You can download your family tree into a GEDCOM file.

You invite relatives and they can invite other relatives. There is also a feature to allow you to merge related family trees.

Their website is www.geni.com.

Volunteer Opportunities

Where would we be without the efforts of volunteers all over the world who have helped make information available. Can you help with one of these projects?

Gen Friends is indexing the Plano Star Courier. You can either work in the library or bring in a thumb drive, save the images and work at home. Contact Cheryl Smith at the Haggard Reference Desk if you are interested.

The Family History Library is digitizing their collection. They are looking for volunteers to index the collection. If you are interested, visit their website <http://www.familysearchindexing.org/en/home/home.jsf?pname=homeTab>

Ancestry.com has started the World Archives Project. Indexes produced are free on their website. <http://community.ancestry.com/wap/download.aspx>

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>.

Ancestry New Collection

Ancestry.com announced that it has partnered with JewishGen and the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (JDC) to create the world's largest online collection of Jewish Family History records. The collection includes nearly 26 million records. Part of the collection will be free as long as they are on Ancestry.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.

Collin College Classes

Barbara Coakley will be teaching Genealogy I at Collin College. Class will be held January 26, 2009 to March 2, 2009 on Monday nights from 6:30 to 9:00 at the Courtyard Center.

Watch for the new class on Genealogy Research on the Internet coming in 2009.

Help With Your Ancestor Search

By Brenda Kellow

There are new genealogy toys on the Internet, at least they are rather recent to me, and I tried them out again this morning. The verdict? Fantastic!

I have talked about the power of the Internet in the past, but these new sites branched into excellent expanded genealogy search engines with free, immediate results. It searches Internet pages for you. Called "Ancestor Search, Find Your Family History," the free site hunts for your ancestors in many ways and uses the top genealogy sites.

Using both Genealogy Searcher and Genealogy Surnames I found as many hits from both, but they were different ones. I used william murr~genealogy, with the tilde, as my test case. Both Searcher and Surnames offered many hits. There were just as many hits with both, but different ones on each site. The only two hits that were not my family are William "Bill" Murr and William Murr, author of *Walter the Farting Dog*.

Alternatively, at Search by Location, type in "Collin County Texas~map" and a map of the county pops up, or by entering Plano Mutual Cemetery, Plano, Texas, a map with the location of the cemetery appears. There is an advanced feature complete with tips to help you improve your search.

Ancestor Search introduces the beginning researcher to genealogy on the genealogy home page, <http://www.searchforancestors.com/>. It suggests building a family tree online or off and correctly advises starting with you and go backwards through the generations. Using the hyperlinks directs you to various interesting and erudite topics. Beware of the box at the very top for entering your name and locality for these are the Ancestry.com site and the box to the right for Footnote. Although these give a free search of indexes with the number of times the subject is mentioned in specific databases, you must have a subscription to search inside both of these. However, don't despair because many of the bigger local libraries have a free Library Edition subscription to Ancestry and Footnote. In Texas, you want to look for libraries with a subscription to TexShare.

The Ancestor Search Homepage connects you with Ancestry's free 'Family Tree' tool for making a pedigree chart. From there, click on 'Build a Free Family Tree Online' and study the eight tips: beginning your family tree; conducting interviews; online searches of records and family trees; online databases; searching archives and repositories offline; further instruction from Ancestry's Learning Center videos; and where to find and use free resources. It also has an interaction feature under 'Gathering Information.' It asks if you have performed a certain search and gives a reply after you answer. It also asks whether you want to search specific databases such as surname or genealogy websites, Gedcom files, queries, images, genealogy calculators, street maps, or translation sites. By clicking on "Why is this helpful" it explains how you the beginner or seasoned researcher might benefit from such a search.

Family Tree Maker genealogy program is the for fee genealogy database Ancestor Search advertises, but any of the free ones such as Legacy Family Tree (LFT) can be used. Besides, LFT is free and more powerful because it is built using Microsoft Access. The developers of this software database are still finding uses and methods of research using LFT. Most database software for genealogy includes videos and helpful hints on their homepage, and maybe newsletters from time to time.

Another of my favorite places is by Google and its site called 'Google Alerts.' Here you put in the topic of what you want searched such as a surname or first and last name of a person with their birth date or residence and frequency you want Google to perform the search. It searches while you go about your business, or overnight. My choice is that

(Continued on page 5)

Google For Genealogists (continued)

it search and report to me every day. In the morning when I sit down at my computer there will probably be at least one hit found during the last 24-hours. Just this morning I had hits on Kellow, Robbins, Murr, and Mackenzie. Hits are more frequent in the beginning but slow down a bit over time as it crawls over new sites looking for information. Be as concise as possible in choosing the search item. Please try by logging onto <http://www.google.com/alerts> and let Google search for you on a daily basis. I do have a free Gmail email address and I use as my contact for hits and lists and other items that might clutter my personal account. You may want to set up a free Gmail account for this purpose. They don't sell your account and I rather like the site. It's a little stiff, but it's free and has a rather good system for filing and saving important emails. In addition, it is important to know that I am not getting spam emails on Gmail.

Using the Ancestor Search surname search feature finds places and frequencies of surname occurrences. There was no Kellow listed but it suggested I use the free Ancestry Family Name History. Entering the site I found it showed the meaning and history of the surname Kellow; migration patterns in UK and US; migration to America from England; life expectancy; civil war soldiers; occupations; and names of others who posted information on the family and how to contact them. This is a synopsis of I found: from Cornwall region; plural of kelli wood and/or grove; Kelloe from Durham; and Scottish from lands of Kelloe in Berwickshire, or in some cases possibly a variant of Kellogg. The Kellow name was most prevalent in Pennsylvania, but small pockets were in other parts of the US per the 1920 census results. The largest percentages in the UK was Cornwall and in Scotland the counties of Angus, Lanarkshire and Midlothian. Listed were several people researching the family including two queries I made in 2001 and 2006. The results provided where Kellow surnames existed and where they did not. The immigration statistics showed the estimated highest emigration years into the US as 1865, 1870, 1880 and 1888. The ports of departure were Liverpool, Glasgow and Hamburg. Thirteen percent were slaters and ten percent were carpenters compared to the other occupations. Few Kellows served in the Civil War and the average lifespan was 80 plus years. In the box to the left, there were helpful hints of how to use the information and what to do next.

The Ancestor Search subject for my recent search was Joseph Kellow. I also have him on my Google Alerts list. He was a geological engineer, slater, and inventor born in Cornwall before going to Pennsylvania and New York. He traveled back several times to Cornwall, London and Wales. I'm writing a book on this line. I've worked with this line for years and I was looking for something other than the usual census, birth, death, and marriage, etc. Over the years we have traveled to Cornwall, looked at many sites, and uncovered bundles of information, but just in case, I hunted for that one more piece of information that just maybe I had not uncovered in the past.

One of the hits was a personal journal someone wrote, *Delabole to the Slate Belt, USA*. Below is a snippet:

“Joseph Kellow and Robert Chapman (both hailed from Cornwall) were one of the firsts to discover slate outcroppings and opened the first quarries in the Bangor area in 1853 and in Pen Argyll in 1854.”

Imagine my surprise when I found an 1885 patent for a railroad joint I had not known about earlier. He was a geological engineer and slater, so this was surprising.

JOSEPH KELLOW, OF PEN ARGYL, PENNSYLVANIA.

RAIL-JOINT.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 318,189, dated May 19, 1885.

Application filed March 2, 1885. (No model.)

Google for Genealogists (continued)

"To whom it may concern: Be it known that I Joseph Kellow, a citizen of the United States, residing at Pen Argyl in the county of Northampton and state of Pennsylvania, have invented a new and useful Improvement of Rail Joints in which the following is a specification reference being had to the accompanying drawings."

Still surprised to find the following in still another hit where Joseph, along with other engineers explained how to build a depressed road in Brooklyn. I probably would never have found this information without technological help. It follows:

"Joseph Kellow followed with a speech, in which he proved that the obstacles opposed by the Atlantic-avenue sewers could be easily overcome."

A recent article mentioning him was on page 3 of the Bangor Free Press newspaper in Pennsylvania dated 20 February 2008.

"First Week of March Declared Cornish Heritage Week in East Bangor. In 1853, Cornishman Joseph Kellow discovered slate on the property of Samuel Delp, about the same time that he and Robert Chapman discovered slate in Pen Argyl. As a result of Kellow's discovery, Jacob Weidman and a Mr. Deeterick acquired a lease on the land from Samuel Delp and opened a quarry in 1854."

Then, there was this document from the Jamaica, Long Island, New York courts:

"IN RE JAMAICA SLATE ROOFING & SUPPLY 00. 461

M. S. Schoenbaum, of Jamaica, N. Y., for intervening creditor. Robert McC. Robinson, of New York City, for petitioning creditors.

CHATFIELD, District judge. The Jamaica Slate Roofing & Supply Company was a corporation, which in November, 1910, had at least three shares of stock outstanding, of which one share was owned by one Joseph Kellow, one by his wife, Elizabeth P. Kellow, and one by a man named Doubleday, who may have also owned some previously held by a Mrs. Johnson, then deceased. Joseph Kellow and his wife, not only were officers of the corporation, but conducted its business ..."

In Cornwall courts, I found this on Joseph Kellow's previous ancestor:

"Sessions held at Lostwithiel **QS/1/6/361-379** 14 January 1796, Cornwall Record Office

Appeal of St Teath against order of 31 Oct. 1795 for the removal of Ann Sweet, wife of William Sweet, and children William (3½) and Elizabeth (1), from Tintagel to St Teath. Husband, William Sweet, with Joseph Kellow, Thomas Kellow, John Jenkin and John Bray, on 10 Nov. 1793 took work in the Delabole slate quarry in St Teath called Withy Bush, as common labourers for one year at 50 guineas. Quarry worked for ¾ year, and then given up. While working, W. S. resided in Tintagel, where he rented a house at 30s. p.a., and kept a cow at £3: order reversed, subject to opinion of King's Bench; Tintagel to pay St Teath costs. QS/1/6/370"

This is another from the Cornwall Record Office.

"3. Joseph Kellow of Portmadoc, Carnarfon, engineer (grantee). 1. to 3. with the consent of 2. Dish: Two thirds of 2s and 6d per ton for china clay, 3s per ton for china stone, 6d per ton for iron and iron ores, one eighteenth for tin and one fifteenth for copper and other ores Minimum rent: £20 Hardhead Common, Warleggan and numbered 683 in the map of the parish. With plan ..."

The reference to china clay is important because one of the items we inherited after the death of the most recent Joseph Kellow was a china clay tea set that I have displayed proudly.

From a search of the family church in St. Teath, Cornwall, I was able to find its history. I have included here the beginning and a part about the present church.

Google for Genealogists (continued)

“The Church is named after ST TETHA, one of the twenty-four sons and daughters of Prince Brychan, a Welsh chieftain. She and many of her brothers and sisters, including Endelienta, Mabena, Adwena, Minfreda, came to North Cornwall to convert people to Christianity in the Dark Ages after the Romans left Britain.”

“The PRESENT CHURCH building is mostly from about 1380. The present font is from this time and has lock holes on each side of the lid to stop people stealing the Holy Water. There is a statue of a KNIGHT on a window ledge in the church. He was probably killed in battle in the 15th century. Angels are holding his head and his feet are on a lion. In the back of the church is a slate GRAVESTONE with the date 1580, one of the oldest in the country. There is also another slate slab with a carved picture of three people in Tudor costume, one woman holding a skull and a thigh bone in her left hand.”

On Google Earth, I searched for Saint Tetha Church and cemetery. It only took a few seconds before the little balloon popped up pointing to the town of Saint Teath, the church and cemetery. The cemetery has many trees throughout, so the satellite picture did not show the stones. My next search was the United Methodist Church and cemetery of Ackermanville, Pennsylvania. This time the satellite picture showed the church and the many stones in the graveyard. From my memory I could almost determine where the family stones were located.

Ancestor Search, Google Earth and Google Alerts are certainly sites worth using—and they are free. By extending your usage of Ancestor Search and Google Alerts, your finds will be more prolific. Certainly, I have enjoyed using both sites. We, especially me, need all the help with hunting our ancestors as possible. Moreover, enjoying the benefits of Google Alerts’ searching while I sleep and reporting to me the next morning is fantastic!

Brenda Kellow has a bachelor's degree in history, teaches, and lectures on genealogy. Before retiring to publish her family's histories in 2007, Brenda held certification as a Certified Genealogist and as a Certified Genealogical Instructor. Since 1995, Brenda writes a weekly column on genealogy called "Tracing Our Roots" that appears in the Plano Star Courier, Plano Profile, and other North Texas Newspapers. She regularly submits to genealogy journals.

Websites

German map site. *Atlas des Deutschen Reichs*, by Ludwig Ravenstein, is a rare atlas that allows genealogists to locate very small towns and villages. This map is part of a digitization project at the University of Wisconsin. If you know the name of your family village, follow the directions about downloading the index. <http://www.library.wisc.edu/etext/ravenstein/>

Do it Yourself Color Coded State Maps is a website where you can customize a map by creating a title, adding text, and color coding different areas. You could use this to illustrate where you family lived, migration paths, etc. The completed maps can be downloaded. <http://monarch.tamu.edu/~maps2/>

Maps can be great tools for your research. Check out the digital collection United States Digital Map Library. Available maps vary by location. There are three groups on the website—State and County Maps, US Maps, and Indian Land Cessions to the US Treaty Maps. <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/usgenweb/maps/>

If you are doing Irish Family History, check out the Irish Roots Café. The website is full of links, podcasts, and books. http://www.irishroots.com/component/option,com_frontpage/Itemid,1/ Another website is New York Irish History Roundtable. <http://www.irishnyhistory.org/index.htm>

Looking for Genealogy Classes, visit GenClass, Online Genealogy Classes. 4 week classes are \$34.50. Each class has its own web site. The classes are self paced, you download the lessons and work through them at your leisure. There are also online chats for each class. <http://www.genclass.com/how.htm>

Findmypast.com is a website where you can build your family tree. They have English Parish Records, England and Wales Census Records, Migration Records, England & Wales Birth, Marriage and Death Records and others online accessible for a fee. There

Websites (continued)

(Continued from page 7)

are how to tips as well. <http://www.findmypast.com/home.jsp>

Central Florida Memory Preserving Yesterday, Today for Tomorrow is a digital collection that focuses on Central Florida <http://www.cfmemory.org/>

Keep up with what's new at Ancestry.com and Family Search.org at the Ancestry Insider blog. <http://ancestryinsider.blogspot.com/>

Another way to put your family history on the internet is to use The Next Generation. This is software to help build your web pages if you don't know how to use HTML. The software costs \$29.99. <http://lythgoes.net/genealogy/software.php>

Having trouble keeping up with all the Genealogy Blogs, try Alltop All the top genealogy news. It lets you look at pages of genealogy blogs to see what they are writing about all on one site <http://genealogy.alltop.com/>

Maryland Land Records are being made available online through a joint project of the Maryland Judiciary and the Maryland State Archives. You can get free access if you are willing to test the site. <http://www.mdlandrec.net/>

Chronicling America: Historic American Newspapers is a Beta site from the Library of Congress and the National Endowment for the Humanities. Currently they have newspaper images from 1880 to 1910 for California, District of Columbia, Florida, Kentucky, Minnesota, Nebraska, New York, Texas, Utah and Virginia. <http://www.loc.gov/chroniclingamerica/>

Stuck on an immigration problem? Check out Emigration & Immigration Records & Links. This website has how to guides, info on microfilmed records and links to online records. <http://home.att.net/~wee-monster/ei.html>

The German Immigrants Database at the Historisches Museum at Bremerhaven is a research project concerned with European emigration to the United States. Information is on immigrants from

Europe who left between 1820 and 1939, primarily from German ports. <http://www.deutsche-auswanderer-datenbank.de/index.php?id=51>

Genealogy.net has posted an index to German address books from 1699-1958 <http://adressbuecher.genealogy.net/app>

Researching English ancestors try these sites

UK & Ireland Genealogy Links <http://www.genealogylinks.net/uk/index.html>

GENUKI <http://www.genuki.org.uk/>

English Family History and Genealogy http://www.pricegen.com/english_genealogy.html

Proceedings of the Old Bailey—this site contains information on over 197,000 criminal trials in England from 1674-1913 <http://www.oldbaileyonline.org/>

Looking for that institution that might have that one document you need. Here is a page of links for Schools, Colleges and Universities with genealogical <http://www.academic-genealogy.com/schoolscollegesuniversities.htm#Libraries>

African American researchers might want to check out AfriGeneas List of Links, it was described as the Cyndi's List for African American research in a recent article. The site includes how to guides, chat sessions, a book store, record collections, forums, and much more. <http://www.afrigeneas.com/welcome.html>

Civil War researchers might find this site interesting. <http://sunsite.utk.edu/civil-war/>

Digital images of the List of Pensioners from the Revolutionary War in 1813 <http://sunsite.utk.edu/civil-war/>

Ohio in the Civil War <http://ohiocivilwar.com>

Virginia Soldiers in the War of 1812—Search the Payrolls and Muster Rolls on the Library of Virginia Website http://ajax.lva.lib.va.us/F/?func=file&file_name=find-b-clas12&local_base=CLAS12

From 1850 to 1880 Mortality Schedules were enumerated that listed anyone who died in the 12 month preceding the census. On this site, many of the schedules have been indexed. <http://www.mortalityschedules.com/>

Texas and Oklahoma**By Joy Gough**

I recently took a driving trip through the Texas and Oklahoma panhandles. I had never been to either before. Driving trips are the best way to learn what an area is like and what our ancestors might have gone through on their journeys.

The first thing that I realized was how big this state of Texas is. It took all day to get to Amarillo. Imagine how long it would take in a wagon pulled by oxen - a least a couple of weeks.

Of course, we visited Palo Duro Canyon. I did not know that the canyon was habitable. I was thinking it was more like the Grand Canyon, all rock. Charles Goodnight had one of his early cattle ranches in the canyon. In the summer the cows would roam the plains and in the winter they would be corralled in the canyon, protected from the winds and cold.

Part of the Red River that separates Texas and Oklahoma formed the canyon - actual name, the Prairie Dog Town branch of the Red River. The Red River was always the boundary between the two states. However, Texas thought the boundary was the North branch of the Red River and Oklahoma thought it was the Prairie Dog Town branch. The US Supreme Court made the final decision in favor of Oklahoma. My husband's great-grandfather was given land by the state of Texas for fighting in the Texas Revolution. Part of his land was located in what is now Oklahoma between the North and the Prairie Dog Town branches of the Red River.

The Texas and Oklahoma panhandles are full of wide-open spaces. Not much to vary the landscape. Not a lot of trees. This is cattle and wheat country. They are raising cotton these days with irrigation. Ranches are huge. With so little vegetation, ranches need 100s of acres to raise a small herd of cattle. One of Texas' largest ranches is near Dalhart, the XIT. Lots of grain elevators, oil wells, and railroads in the panhandle. As the saying goes, "Miles and miles of miles and miles."

Out in the tip of the Oklahoma panhandle we crossed the Santa Fe Trail. It connected Missouri with Santa Fe, New Mexico, before the days of railroads. You could still see where the trail crossed the plains between the hills. Pretty lonely country, even today.

We visited the Great Salt Plains of Oklahoma. I admit I had never heard of them. They sound awful. You would think they would be barren, that nothing could grow in all that salt. Actually the Great Salt Plains are noted for their alfalfa. A lot of flat land used for growing a lot of grain. The salt plains of West Texas are barren.

Traveling south from the Great Salt Plains to Ft. Sill, we were traveling on the old Chisholm Trail. The road/trail is dotted with towns (mostly Indian) and historical makers. (Also a lot of casinos for tribes I did not know were in Oklahoma.)

The last stop on our trip was Ft. Sill. Many US Army bases have museums that are open to the public. I know Ft. Bliss and Ft. Hood have them. The bases are proud of their history and the history of their units. All you have to do to visit the museums is to stop at the gate and tell the guards you are visiting the museum. They will issue you a pass. If you know one of your ancestors served in a particular unit or base, the museum is a good place to visit. I have heard of them even helping with research.

Ft. Sill is over 100 years old. The old quadrangle and buildings are the museum. General Custer served there at one time and President Harry Truman went through training there.

There are actually two museums at Ft. Sill. The second one is an artillery museum. You get a feeling of what it was like in the Civil War and various other wars with the constant Boom...Boom of the cannon and the occasional rat-a-tat of machine guns. The soldiers are constantly training. It's a little scary seeing a road sign saying artillery shells may be shot over your head.....Boom.....Boom.

For me, the main attraction of Ft. Sill was the early part of its history. Ft. Sill was the final home of many of our famous Indian Chiefs - Geronimo, Quanah Parker, etc. The base cemetery has the country's largest number of

(Continued on page 10)

Texas and Oklahoma (continued)

(Continued from page 9)

graves for Indian chiefs. There were markers for chiefs of the Comanche and Kiowa tribes. The Comanche were the ones that raided in the Dallas and Collin County areas.

In the distance on the other side of I44, but still on the base, is an Apache Cemetery. Geronimo is buried there, along with 100 others. It is evidently an active cemetery. What struck me was that many of the stones had Christian crosses on them. I don't know if they all converted to Christianity or if the base furnished the stones and added the crosses. It would be a quiet resting place except for Boom.....Boom. At one time the US told the Apache that were incarcerated at Ft. Sill that they could go back to a reservation in Arizona or stay there. About 80 decided to stay in Oklahoma. They are called the Ft. Sill Apache.

Quanah Parker has a large stone in the base cemetery, donated by the U. S. government. He had the graves of his mother and sister moved there. Quanah Parker never converted to Christianity. For one thing, he would have to become monogamous. He had seven wives and did not relish the idea of telling six they had to leave. Quanah is credited with starting the Native American religion, which is still active today. It is the sect that uses peyote in its rituals.

While wandering the base cemetery, I met a couple from Tennessee. Their surname was Parker and they were visiting "everything Parker." They had been to Fort Parker down I35 near Grosbeck. They were very interested in Quanah and the story of his mother, Cynthia Ann. Some how they had missed Parker, Texas, in Collin County. They did not know if they were related to these Texas Parkers, but it did not seem to matter to them.

We all know of genealogists, who research a surname, not knowing whether the people are relatives. Christine Rose comes to mind. She does the Rose Family Newsletter and researches everybody named Rose.

Driving around an area is the best way to learn its history and geography. You are seeing the some of the same sights as your ancestors and, maybe, seeing what attracted them to settle in an area.

Google for Genealogy

As you can see from Brenda's article, Google can be a powerful tool for genealogists. There is a new book out by Dan Lynch *Google Your Family Tree Unlock the Hidden Power of Google*. The book sells for \$34.95. There is more information available on his website <http://www.googleyourfamilytree.com/>

German Names

Are you curious about German Names? There is a three part article that offers insight into First Names, Surnames and Place Names on About.com <http://german.about.com/library/weekly/aa042699.htm?once=true> The links to part two and three are on the bottom of the page. There are also links to reference materials.

Conference CDs

If you can't make it to one of the national genealogy conferences you can get CDs of many of the lectures. This is a good way to hear national speakers without having to travel. CDs are available on the Jamb-Inc website for both 2008 Federation of Genealogy Societies and National Genealogical Society Conferences as well as some regional conferences <http://jamb-inc.com/>

ESSMLG

The Lineage Society Founded for Descendants of Early Settlers of Spanish and Mexican Land Grands has been organized to recognize and preserve the contributions of the Spanish/Latino culture in the early settlement of the United States. Visit their website for more information on the society <http://spanishgrants.com/>