

Genealogy Friends News

Genealogy Friends of Plano
Libraries

Genealogy Friends News
November, 2010

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

<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 2010 and 2011. 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 20, 2010—Lt Calvin J Spann will share his experiences as a Tuskegee Airman

Future Topics:

December 18, 2010—Show and Tell—bring your genealogy finds and share them with us

January 15, 2011—Daniel Scurlock will speak to us about computer security, the good and bad of Facebook, tips on backing up your computer and virus protection.

February 19, 2011—Our speaker is Tara Carlisle from the University of North Texas. She'll be talking to us about the UNT Digital Libraries and The Portal to Texas History. We have a great resource right here in our own backyard.

February 26, 2011—Learn N—Barbara Coakley and Lynne Darrouzet will be the speakers, stay tuned for more information.

March 19, 2011—Lynell Moss will introduce us to the new FamilySearch.org.

April 16, 2011—Stay tuned for more information

May 21, 2011—Marilyn Waligore, teaches the History of Photography at UTD. She's going to enlighten us about early photographs. Join us to learn if that image you have of your ancestor is a daguerreotype, an ambrotype, or a tin type.

June 18, 2011—Stay tuned for more information

July 16, 2011—Stay tuned for more information

August 20, 2011—Need some magic to help with your genealogy research? Ada Nelson's "Research Magic—Showcasing Tools for Genealogists" will be right up your alley. Come learn how Office One Note, Roots Magic, Magic Wand Scanners, iPad, and Skype/Magic Jack can help you conjure up your ancestors.

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

Genealogy Friends of Plano Libraries, Inc. is a nonprofit organization certified under Section 501 c [3] of the Internal Revenue Code

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

Join Genfriends

It's time to renew your membership. The money we raise is used to purchase materials for the Genealogy Section at Haggard Library. Individual memberships are \$30 and family memberships are \$50. Dues year runs from October 1 to September 31.

Genealogy Friends Logo Shirts

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) \$20.00 Henley's (white, ash or natural) \$20.00 Polo Shirts (white, ask or light blue) \$20.00.

Index

Biography of Robert Welsh	Page 3
Research Trip to Salt Lake City	Page 7
LearnN	Page 8

Genealogy Classes

Are you frustrated with searching for your family on the internet, Collin College (formerly CCCC) is offering a class that can help you research more efficiently—Online Genealogy. Class will be offered from 3/1/2011 to 4/5/2011 on Tuesday nights from 6:30-9:00 pm at the Courtyard Center

The instructor is Barbara Coakley. To register visit the college's web site <http://www.ccccd.edu/ce/>

NARA Document Options

The National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) now offers digitized versions of records ordered on their website <https://eservice.archives.gov/orderonline/>.

You'll need to register to order copies of records—immigration and naturalization records, land files, military service and pension records, court records, etc.

The fees are the same as for paper copies, they vary by record.

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. Her columns are also available in the column archives at <http://tracingourroots.weebly.com/>

GenFriends Ornaments

Gen Friends will be selling ornaments for your holiday tree for \$5.

Websites & More

Family Relatives.com added over 1 million Post Office records to their website. The Post Office records are from the mid 1800's. If you have ancestors in England, this subscription website is one you might want to check out

<http://familyrelatives.com/>

New Video Short

The National Archives has added it's eighth "Inside the Vault" video short to their website. This one is titled Discover the Civil War. Learn about some of the documents available at the Archives from the Civil War.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eUSpbAPJZoE>

While you are YouTube, visit the National Genealogy Society's page—they have a series of videos called "Paths to Your Past". There are videos by a number of prominent Genealogists.

<http://www.youtube.com/user/PathstoYourPast#p/u>

If you'd like to see what might be coming next on Ancestry.com visit Ancestry Labs. These are experimental projects, give them your feedback.

<http://www.ancestry.com/labs>

There is a white paper on Personal Archiving written by Gary Wright available on Wikipedia Commons. Gary presents interesting information on Preserving Your Family History Records Digitally.

[http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/](http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Personal_Archiving_White_Paper_8_Oct_2010.pdf)

[File:Personal_Archiving_White_Paper_8_Oct_2010.pdf](http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Personal_Archiving_White_Paper_8_Oct_2010.pdf)

Gimp is a Image Manipulation Program that is free. In addition to the software to download, they have tutorials. It can be used as a paint program, to retouch photos, or to convert photo file formats.

<http://www.gimp.org/>

Flip Pal is a small, portable scanner that runs on batteries and stores images on a memory card. It scans 4x6 at 300 or 600dpi. You can scan bigger documents and stitch the images together with the software that comes with it. The cost is \$149.99

<http://flip-pal.com/>

Another option for a portable scanner is VuPoint Solutions Magic Wand Portable Scanner. It is available at

Bed Bath & Beyond and Amazon.com. This scanner is 10"x1.2"x1.1" and weighs .47 lbs. It is battery powered. You can scan color or black & white documents at either 300 or 600dpi. Cost is approximately\$99.

Looking for forms to help organize your genealogy? Here are a few sites:

Checklist of Genealogical Sources [http://www.aagensoc.org/071011\[Allender%20Sybert%202007\].pdf](http://www.aagensoc.org/071011[Allender%20Sybert%202007].pdf)

Free Genealogy Charts & Forms

http://genealogy.about.com/od/free_charts/Free_Genealogy_Charts_Forms_Family_Tree_Chart.htm

Miscellaneous Genealogy Forms and Documents

<http://www.bcgs.ca/Genealogy%20Forms.htm>

Cyndi's List

<http://www.cyndislist.com/supplies.htm>

Agricultural Census Templates

<http://kinfolknews.blogspot.com/2010/10/agriculture-templates-are-here-finally.html>

Shoe String Genealogy

<http://www.shoestringgenealogy.com/forms.htm>

Genealogical Source Checklist

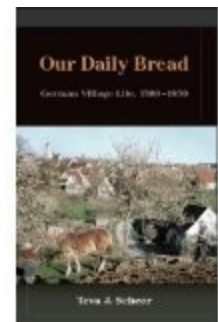
<http://www.magnoliamanorgenealogy.com/pdf/Genealogical%20Source%20Checklist.pdf>

The National Genealogy Society Conference will be held in 11-14 May 2011 in Charleston, North Carolina. Online registration opens on December 1st.

http://www.ngsgenealogy.org/cs/conference_info

German Villages Book

Teva Scheer has written a book about life in Germany titled, "Our Daily Bread: German Village Life, 1500-1850." The book is available on Amazon.com in both paperback (\$19.95 and e book (\$9.95) editions. I haven't read my copy yet but it's getting great reviews on the Rootsweb list.



Gazetteer: A Source of Fascination

By Carol Hofer

The word gazetteer fascinates me. When I say the word, I want to linger on the ZZZZ sound, like the buZZing of a bumblebee. Gazetteers, themselves, fascinate me, and I have looked at a few during the course of my genealogical research. The format and type of information differs so much from one to another, however, that I am unsure of what to expect when I open one. I know that I will find maps in an atlas, definitions of words in a dictionary, and synonyms and antonyms in a thesaurus. What exactly is a gazetteer? For a better understanding, I decided to investigate.

The *Wikipedia*¹ internet site defines gazetteer as “a geographic dictionary or encyclopedia sometimes found as an index to an atlas” and adds that “the geographical location is an important attribute” of the reported information. Thinking of the gazetteers I have seen, such a vague definition does not answer my question. Further reading at *Wikipedia* offers a bit of clarity by explaining the responsibilities of the editor. After determining the focus, the scope, and the geographical area of the gazetteer, the editor gathers applicable data and statistics from all levels of government, chambers of commerce, and any other pertinent sources. Categorized by type, scope, and the statistical information relating to a locale, the focus of a gazetteer can be the world, a continent, a country, or a much smaller area.

World gazetteers describe and may give pertinent statistics about individual towns or specific geographic features. Usually in an alphabetical, dictionary-style format, a world gazetteer may or may not include word pronunciations, pictures, or maps. Information about the named locale may include population, main industries, persons or events of historical significance, and its location in relation to another town, city, or river. Entries for mountains, rivers, deserts, and other natural features might include statistics regarding the size and geological makeup. Depending on the extent of the information and the details provided, a world gazetteer can range in size from one volume consisting of a few hundred pages to an encyclopedic, multi-volume set.

A gazetteer for a country would offer more detailed information than a world gazetteer simply because of its focus on a smaller geographical area. The title page of John Hayward’s gazetteer published in 1853 is an example of the content covered in the text:

A Gazetteer of the United States of America Comprising a Concise General View of the United States, and Particular Descriptions of the Several States, Territories, Counties, Districts, Cities, Towns, Villages, Their Mountains, Valleys, Islands, Capes, Bays, Harbors, Lakes, Rivers, Canals, Railroads, etc.; with the Governments and Literary and Other Public Institutions of the Country; also, Its Mineral Springs, Waterfalls, Caves, Beaches, and Other Fashionable Resorts; to Which are Added Valuable Statistical Tables, and a Map of the United States.²

The full text of *England's Gazetteer: or, An Accurate Description of All the Cities, Towns, and Villages of the Kingdom*³ by Stephen Whatley published in 1751 is also online and may name villages that no longer exist. Not online, but available at Haggard Library is *Meyers Orts- und Verkehrs-Lexikon des Deutschen Reichs* originally published in 1913 by Raymond S. Wright III. Although translating the German Gothic text is a formidable challenge, the three volumes containing maps, street-locator charts, tables, and other information is a valuable resource for researchers looking for German ancestors.

Narrowing the geographical area to the state, province, or county level provides even more detailed information becoming what *Wikipedia* categorizes as a descriptive gazetteer. Besides geographical descriptions, place entries may include information about government, county histories, and industries, along with maps and, possibly, photographs. The full text of several 19th century state as well as foreign gazetteers can be found online⁴, and they are a treasure trove of facts. *The Gazetteer of the State of New York* by John Homer French published in 1860, for example, is a wonderful resource for anyone researching ancestors in New York. Agricultural production, prison histories and statistics, schools, industrial output, first settlers of towns or counties and the name of the first child born in the new settlement are a mere fraction of the kinds of data squeezed within the 752-page text and extensive footnotes.

Gazetteer: A Source of Fascination (continued)

(Continued from page 4)

While the previous gazetteers focus on a particular geographical area and then describe its particular attributes, thematic gazetteers take the opposite approach by focusing on a particular theme or detail in which the geographical location is an attribute. *Wikipedia* gives examples of fishing ports, nuclear power stations, or historical buildings, but I stumbled upon a railroad gazetteer added at the end of a Dayton, Ohio, city directory. From Cincinnati, Ohio, on the Ohio River in the southwestern corner of the state, the gazetteer traces the route of a particular railway north to Sandusky, Ohio, on the shore of Lake Erie. The text named the rivers and the roads where the railway made its crossings and the towns where trains stopped for passengers, even naming people who lived in the vicinity. Since I am a native Ohioan, I could visualize the route, and I wondered if my great-great-grandfather had taken that particular train and that route to Cincinnati to claim the body of his younger brother who had been killed in a rail car accident.

As a result of my research, I understand exactly what to expect when I see a gazetteer. Just as an atlas is a graphic representation of a geographical area's topography, population, rainfall, or other attribute, a gazetteer is a verbal representation of a geographical area's attributes. My fascination with saying the word gazetteer and lingering on the ZZZ sound is intact, but I now have an even greater fascination with the magnitude of information found in them. After learning about gazetteers, associating buzzing bumblebees with gazetteers seems even more appropriate since they both explore and examine the nooks and crannies of a landscape. My future research plans will definitely include gazetteers.

1. Go to <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gazetteer> for a history of gazetteers followed by an extensive list of electronic gazetteers.
2. Accessed 11 Nov 2010 at http://books.google.com/books?id=4estAAAAYAAJ&printsec=frontcover&dq=united+states+gazetteer&hl=en&ei=ZZ-GTMCyJcP-8Abs05D0AQ&sa=X&oi=book_result&ct=result&resnum=8&ved=0CE4Q6AEwBw#v=onepage&q&f=false
3. Accessed 11 Nov 2010 at http://books.google.com/books?id=0u4BAAAAMAAJ&printsec=frontcover&dq=Gazetteer&hl=en&ei=jw3aTNbQJoK88gaEzujCQ&sa=X&oi=book_result&ct=result&resnum=7&ved=0CFAQ6AEwBg#v=onepage&q&f=false
4. I used Google Book search using *gazetteer* as the search criterion or added a specific location with *gazetteer*.

Christmas Ornaments for Sale

The Texas State Genealogical Society held their annual conference the first weekend in November in Waco. To commemorate their 50th anniversary they decorated a special Christmas Tree with ornaments donated by Genealogy Societies around the state. Gen Friends had an ornament made in the shape of Texas with Genealogy Friends of Plano Libraries on it.

We had some extras made so you can add one of these unique ornaments to your tree. They will be available for \$5 at the Saturday Seminars. The ornaments are in the shape of Texas, a Star, and a Christmas Tree. They come in blue, green and light burgundy. The proceeds from the sales will be used to purchase materials for the Genealogy Section of Haggard library.

