

Genealogy Friends News

Genealogy Friends of
Plano Libraries

Genealogy Friends News
October 2022

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

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

Email Address: genfriends@genealogyfriends.org Phone 972-836-9436

Newsletter: Barbara Coakley, email: newsletter@genealogyfriends.org

Schedule of Events

Mark your calendars now for the exciting Genealogy Friends events. Saturday seminars are held at W.O. Haggard Library, 2501 Coit Rd, Plano, TX from 10:15 to Noon.

This Month:

October 15, 2022 - Hybrid Meeting - "You Can Find It In The Archives" by Joan Gosnell from the DeGolyer Library at SMU. We'll meet in the Genealogy Section. The Program Room is setup for early voting.

Future Events:

October 17-21 - Family History Week At McKinney Library - see page 8 for details

October 21, 2022 - Lock-In at the W.O. Haggard Genealogy Center see page 7 for details.

November 3, 2022—Zoom Meeting—Genealogy Round Table— We are a group of genealogy enthusiasts who get together to share information and help each other on the first Thursday of each month. Zoom invite will be sent out the week before the meeting.

November 8, 2022 - DNA Special Interest Group - Meets in Genealogy Section from 7-8:30 pm.

November 19, 2022 - Hybrid Meeting- "Finding Your New England Ancestors" by David Appleton. We'll meet in the Genealogy Section. The Program Room is being used for another event.

December 17, 2022 - Meeting at the Library - Show and Tell

Membership year runs from October 1 to September 30 - It is time to pay dues. See page 2 for details.

Index

Gen Friends Info, Donations, and Volunteer Opportunities	2
Genealogy Education	2
Evaluating a Family Bible	3
Death Records	4
Italian Prisoner of War Camp & Website Potpourri	5
Genealogy Lock-In at Haggard Library	6
Family History Week at McKinney Library	7

Genealogy Friends

Purpose: To educate members and library patrons in doing genealogical research and to support the Genealogy Center of W.O. Haggard, Jr. Library through donations.

Goal: To expand the library collection to meet the needs of this genealogically diverse community.

Genealogy Friends of Plano Libraries, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation. All donations are tax deductible.

Join us on [Facebook - Genealogy Friends of Plano Libraries](#)

The annual membership meeting is held each October.

Genfriends Membership

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 pay for programs and to purchase materials for the Genealogy Section at Haggard Library.

Download the membership form on our website <http://genealogyfriends.org/news/> send it in with payment to

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

Raffle

Ancestry donated a world-explorer one year membership and a DNA kit to us for fundraising.

Raffle tickets will be for sale at the September Workshop, October Annual Meeting and October Saturday Seminar. Tickets are \$10 each or 3 for \$20. Drawing will be at the October Saturday Seminar. Proceeds go towards materials for the Genealogy Section at Haggard Library.

So far this year we have donated 46 books to the library. Over the last five years we have donated materials valued at over \$13,000.

History Harvest

The Genealogy Center at Haggard Library is hosting a History Harvest.

Preserve Collin County history by sharing your photos and documents with Plano Public Library's Genealogy Center. They will digitize up to six items -- you get digital copies, and the library gets to add to their Collin County Digital Images Collection.

When:

Haggard Library - Tuesday October 11th 10am -2 pm
And Tuesday October 25th 4-8pm.

Email genealogy@plano.gov to register.

Genealogy Education

FHF Really Useful Family History Show - Friday and Saturday November 11 and 12 <https://www.fhf-reallyuseful.com/> This is from England. There are webinars and workshops, sessions are recorded so you can watch them if you don't want to get up really early. Cost is £12.

Texas State Genealogical Society annual conference, **Unlock Your Past**, is November 4-5. **If you are going to register please use the TIPS code for Gen Friends GFPL22.** For everyone who registers we get \$10 contributed to our society.

<https://www.txsgs.org/2022-txsgs-family-history-conference/>

The Genealogy Show will be virtual on December 2-4, 2022. <https://thegenealogyshow.uk/>

RootsTech 2023 will be in person and virtual March 2-4, 2023. Registration is open. <https://www.familysearch.org/rootstech/event/rt2023> Virtual is free and in person is \$98. Don't forget that sessions from past years are available on the website to view. <https://www.familysearch.org/rootstech/search>

Evaluating a Family Bible

By Barbara Coakley

A number of years ago I got a phone call from a second cousin, he still lived in the small town where my grandparents were born and lived most of their lives. His family owned the newspaper and they were selling it so they were cleaning out the building. He found a family bible for our branch of the family. He wasn't sure how his parents got it but was willing to send it to me. I was so excited. The bible arrived a few weeks later. I was a little disappointed because the entries were for my Great Grandparents, my grandparents and some of my uncles. There was no new information but it was exciting to have another piece of our family history.

Like any other record, a family bible should be evaluated to determine how reliable the information is. Here are a few questions to ask:

What is the publication date? Compare the publication date to the date of the entries to determine if it is possible they were recorded at the time of the events.

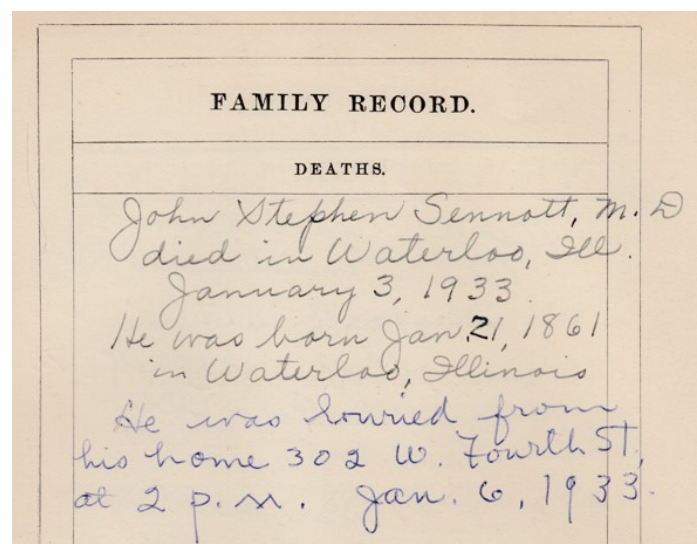
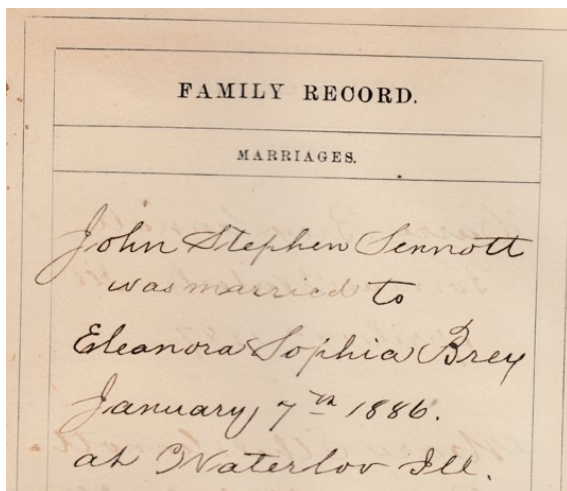
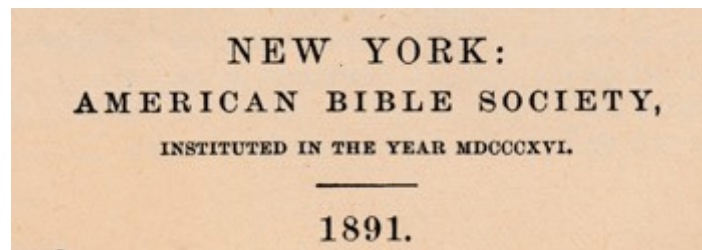
Is the handwriting all the same? If all the entries over a wide span of years and are all in the same handwriting it possible they were all recorded at the same time. Think about who may have written the entries and what years they were alive.

What type of writing instruments are used? If you have entries in the 1800's written in ball point pen they couldn't have been entered at the time of the event.

Who had the bible? If you know this and can find other samples of their handwriting it might be possible to figure out who made the entries.

My family bible was published in 1891. This was before my grandfather and his sisters were born. I think my great grandmother was the one who started the entries

One entry was from 1886 - the marriage of my great-grandparents.



The entry for the death of my great-grandfather was interesting. There were two different handwriting and two different pens used.

Use the answers to the questions to determine how much to rely on the information in the Bible. If it is different than other documents you have you need to resolve the conflicting evidence. In my case the birth date for John is different than what is on his baptismal record by just a couple of days.

Death Records

By Barbara Coakley

The most obvious record to look for to document the death of an ancestor is a civil registration. However, they were not required in many locations until the early 1900's. Even if they were required compliance often took years after the law was passed for people to comply. Check the *FamilySearch* Research Wiki to find out when death registrations were required in the location you are searching. If your ancestor lived in an urban area check the city to see if they required registrations before the county/state did. If you are researching in early New England, death records were recorded in the Town not in the County.

There are many other records that can provide information about your ancestors death and also give you clues for other records to search for more information about their life. Don't forget to analyze each record carefully to extract details.

Newspapers are a great source. Check for obituaries but don't stop there. Look for articles about your ancestor being sick before they die, funeral notices, burial permits, thank you notices from the family after the funeral, memorials on the anniversary of the death, court dockets for probate cases, notices of settlement of the estate, and especially if it is a strange accident or other unnatural causes, look for articles about what happened. If the ancestor was an immigrant check to see if there are papers in their native language. The obituary in that paper might contain more information. Also check for religious newspapers or publications by societies your ancestor belonged to or where they worked.

Cemetery records can be important. There are websites like *FinaAGrave* or *BillionGraves* where volunteers have uploaded pictures and details of graves. For older graves, check for published records - someone may have walked the cemetery years ago and the stones may no longer be there or have faded badly and aren't legible. Some cemeteries have information on their websites. Use *Google* to find them. Pay attention to who is buried around your ancestor, they might be family members or in-laws.

Church records often pre-date civil registration. If your ancestor is an immigrant the church record might include more information than the civil record like the town name in the old world where they came from or parents names. City directories includes lists of churches by denomination to help you find the right congregation.

Funeral home records are private business records so they don't have to make them available. If the funeral home is still in business contact them. If not, try the local library, genealogical society or historical society. They might have been donated to a university or some other manuscript collection. Many are searchable using [ArchiveGrid](#).

Mortality census schedules are available from 1850 through 1885 along with the population schedules for the U.S. census. They contain information about anyone who died in the year before the census date. They are available on *FamilySearch* and *Ancestry*.

City directories are a listing of people published yearly in many locations. When someone is no longer listed it might be because they died or moved away. If a man left a widow, she might be listed and many directories include the name of the deceased husband in the entry for a widow.

Coroner's Inquest records - if the cause of death was not natural or suspicious there probably would have been an inquest. If these records still exist they can provide details about your ancestor's death. Check *FamilySearch*, the local library, genealogy society, or the county courthouse for the records.

Social Security Death Index databases are available on various websites that cover different periods of time. Use *Steve Morse One Step* website to search multiple databases if your ancestor died after 1963.

There are a number of military records that can contain information about your ancestor's death. Pension files, headstone applications, and BIRLS (veterans affairs beneficiary identification records locator subsystem) database on *Ancestry* covers 1850-2010. Check *Fold3* and *Archives.gov* for records.

If your ancestor owned property, real or personal, there should be a probate record at the county courthouse. If they had a will it will be recorded and the probate process generates paperwork. Look for the estate papers - they can contain a list of heirs, accounting of the estate, guardianship papers, estate inventory, records from the estate sale, and receipts for payments made to creditors and heirs. *FamilySearch* has digitized some and if they don't have them check the courthouse.

Don't forget to ask family members what records they might have like prayer cards or the guest book from the funeral service.

Italian Prisoner of War Camp

Submitted by Barbara Brogdon

Published on the [Texas Historical Commission](#) page on Facebook

This chapel outside the city of Dimmitt in Castro County stands as one of the few physical reminders of the days when this site served as an Italian prisoner of war camp during World War II.

During the war, Texas hosted 79 prisoner of war camps. One of these was Hereford Military Reservation and Reception Center, spanning around 800 acres in Castro and Deaf Smith counties. Beginning in spring 1943, Italian internees were imprisoned at the camp, eventually reaching a population of about 7,000.

Several of the prisoners were fine artists and craftsmen. These men designed and built this chapel, crafting the concrete building to resemble marble. Completed in 1945, the chapel stands as a memorial to five Italians who died while interned at the camp.

A restoration project by the Castro County Historical Commission, begun in 1987, was completed in 1989. A group of Italians formerly held at the camp returned for the chapel's restoration ceremony.

Learn more about POW and incarceration camps in Texas during WWII: <https://www.thc.texas.gov/.../japanese-german-and-italian>

Photograph by Eathan Hamm, @eathan.hamm



A Potpourri of Websites

Thomas' Genealogy Tree House - Thomas MacEntee is replacing his Genealogy Do Over Facebook group with a new one. A link to join his mailing list will be available soon. He sends out tips, notices of sales related to genealogy, and free pdf documents with tips on a variety of subjects. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/gentreehouse/about>

CompGen is Germany's largest association for family research. They have databases to search including address books, family books, and more; a surname distribution map, a wiki, and an archive of blog posts. <https://www.compgen.de/>

Matricula has church records from Austria, Germany, Poland, Luxemburg, Servia and Slovenia. <https://data.matricula-online.eu/en/>

GenScriber is a transcription editor for genealogical records and is free for non-commercial use. There are several windows in the interface so you can see the document and input at the same time on one screen. <https://genscriber.com/en/>

Transcript 2.6 is another transcription editor that is free for personal use. <https://www.jacobboerema.nl/en/Freeware.htm>

2022 Genealogy Lock-In

Where: W.O. Haggard Library, 2501 Coit Road, Plano, Texas

When: October 21, 2022

Program of Events

9:30-10:30 am - Deciphering Handwriting in Genealogical Records by Joseph B Everett, MLS, AG, Family & Local History Librarian (BYU Library)
Difficulty Intermediate

10:40-11:30 am - Improve, Expand, and Enrich your Family Tree - With Tax Records by Doug Waggoner, Family Historian
Sponsored by Waco-McLennan County Library
Difficulty Beginner

11:40-12:40 pm - Choosing Genealogy Services & Software by Tony Hanson, Family Historian
Difficulty Intermediate

**Lunch**

2-3:10 pm - Building and Researching Your Family Tree by Bill Buckner and Hannah Kubacak, Genealogy Center (Waco-McLennan County Library)
Difficulty Beginner

3:20-4:10 pm - Citing Sources Without Stressing Out by Amy Johson Crow, MLS, founder and lead educator at Generations Connection, host of Generations Café podcast
Sponsored by Denton Public Library
Difficulty Beginner

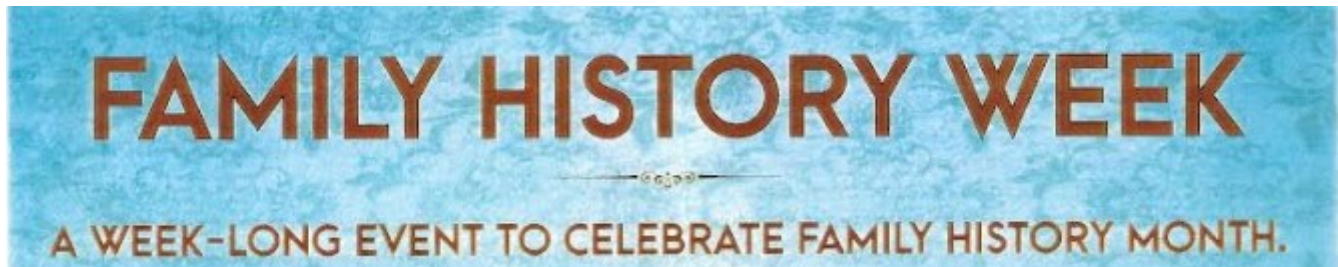
4:20-5:10 pm - Making the Allen County Public Library Genealogy Center Your Research Assistant by Curt B. Wicher, MLS, FUGA, IGSF Manager
Difficulty Beginner

50 Minute Break

6:00-7:15 pm - How to Approach and Solve Brick Wall Problems with DNA by Sara Allen, Senior Librarian, Allen County Public Library, Genealogy Center
Difficulty Intermediate

7:30-8:30 pm - United States Migration Patterns: Why They Left, Where They Went, and the Stories They Left Behind by LeAnne McCamey, professional genealogist, publisher, author, and the owner of American Genealogical Research Services
Sponsored by Waco-McLennan County Library
Difficulty Intermediate

Family History Week



Where: Roy & Helen Hall Memorial Library, 101 E Hunt St, McKinney, TX 75069 & Zoom

When: October 17- 21, 2022

To Register visit the Calendar on the library website. Choose the date on the calendar, pick the event and click the Register for Program link. <https://www.mckinneytexas.org/calendar.aspx?CID=32,34,23,40,30,33>

October 17 - Monday - 7-8 pm - **Oral Histories** Presented by Dr. Kyle Wilkison, Dr. Betsy Brody and Ed Veal - Library or Zoom

October 18 - Tuesday - 2 pm - **FamilySearch Wiki** by Lynell Moss - Library or Zoom

October 19 - Wednesday - 6:30 pm - **McKinney's Architecture History** by Paula Nesta - Library or Zoom

October 20 - Thursday - 7 pm - **Family Scrapbooking** by Alayna Herod - Library

October 21 - Friday - 10 am to 6 pm - **Genealogy Lock-In** - Library or Zoom

Programs

10-11 am Deciphering Handwriting in Genealogical Records

11-12 Improve, Expand and Enrich Your Family Tree With Tax Records

12:10-1:10 Choosing Genealogy Services & Software

1:20-2:30 Building and Researching Your Family Tree

2:40-3:30 Citing Sources Without Stressing Out

3:40-4:55 How to Approach and Solve Brick Wall Problems with DNA

5:05-5:55 United States Migration Patterns: Why They Left, Where They Went, and the Stories They Left Behind