



Genealogy Friends News

Genealogy Friends of
Plano Libraries

October 2006

P.O. Box 860477, Plano, TX, 75086-0477
<http://www.rootsweb.com/~txgfpl>
<http://www.geocities.com/genfriendsghl>
<http://www.rootsweb.com/~txcolli3>

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Newsletter: Barbara Coakley bjc1620@sbcglobal.net

Saturday Seminars & Lock Ins

Mark your calendars now for the exciting Genealogy Friends events in 2006 & 2007:

October 22, 2006—Annual Meeting at Mexi Go Restaurant and Spring Creek and Coit at 1 pm

October 27, 2006—Lock In—Using Computers in Genealogy. See flyer on page 10.

November 18, 2006—Lynne Darrouzet and Barbara Coakley will speak on Research in New England.

December 16, 2006—Annual Show and Tell. Bring your family heirlooms, genealogy discoveries or problems to share with your fellow genealogy enthusiasts.

January 20, 2007—Stephen Butler will speak to us about the US-Mexican War.

February 9, 2007—Barbara Coakley will discuss the Ziebold and Schnaiter Family research that led her to the Family History Tour to Germany.

March 17, 2007—Dr. Adrienne Caughfield will present “True Women and Westward Expansion”

April 21, 2007—All Day Workshop—Topic & Speaker To Be Determined

May 19, 2007—Ed Sandbach will discuss Preserving and Organizing Photos and Vicki Bell will discuss Digital Photography

June 16, 2007—Happi McGirk will speak to us about Writing Your Family History and Creating Digital Heritage Albums

July 13, 2007—Lock In—Regional Research. Sessions will cover research in various parts of the US.

July 21, 2007—Martina Willdechapparro will speak on the Victorian Mourning Culture. Second Speaker TBD

August 18, 2007—Preparing for a Research Trip by Barbara Coakley

September 15, 2007—Lynne Darrouzet is our speaker, topic TBD

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

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 jfargo@comcast.net.

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:

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

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>.

Chasing Those Skeletons: Important But Little Used Records

By Brenda Kellow, BA, CG

Genealogists love SKELETONS! Historians may not have the same affection for those bony little critters that we do. But, finding them in either your closet or in someone else's closet certainly has a fascination, and it makes studying them more than just mundane.



The first time I found my parents on a census was one of the most enthralling and joyous occasions in my life. However, searching newspaper accounts, funeral records, burial records, and criminal and civil court records was the most INTERESTING and shocking!

So how do you know there is a skeleton in your family, or in your clients' families? Usually there is a family story or a 'secret' about one. Just grab the "facts" of the story [I use facts loosely of course!] and run, don't walk, to your library, newspaper office, funeral home, or courthouse to find out the REAL truth. Remember, you cannot rely on the story's facts for they have probably been exaggerated over time, or maybe the memory failed. Take for instance the military person who was a private when he was in service, but who fifty years later became a Colonel or General in someone's printed family history! I see this phenomenon appear over and over in family histories, and in the county histories we call "mug" books.

To find out more about the fable, interview others in the family who may know something about the stories. Maybe there are family members or neighbors who would just love to talk to you. Remember, you must ask the proper questions before you can expect to resolve the mystery.

When I found the picture of the pretty little toe-headed two-year old sitting between my great-aunt Rachael and someone I didn't know, I took the picture to some of the family members who lived in the same town as my great aunt and asked if they knew the child. I had asked Aunt Rachael to identify the child, but she could not recall who the child was. The lady in the picture was her cousin who lived in the next town. I must find her! I must find out the identity of the little girl snuggled between the two ladies in the picture. Cousins sometimes love to talk, and talk, and talk. Luckily, this cousin was one of those. The fact that cousin "Chatty Cathy" had only two boys intrigued me.

Checking the phone books, I was lucky that Chatty Cathy was listed and still alive! Off I went to meet her, who lived in the little town about 40-miles away. She happily and gladly told me the child was Becky, the only child of my great-aunt Rachael and her *first* husband. First husband! Chatty Cathy told me all kinds of information that I did not know about but would need to check for accuracy!

Wow! Aunt Rachael had a prior marriage? She told me she only had one marriage, and no children.

I had just found out that Aunt Rachael had two marriages *and* a child that had been absent from any family discussions. No one had a picture of little Becky in any of their boxes or albums of pictures. Aunt Rachael had destroyed all her pictures of the child.

Chatty Cathy told me that Aunt Rachael had given Becky to one of her close girl friends to raise as her own. She said that Aunt Rachael only saw Becky once or twice after that. Aunt Rachael soon divorced her first husband, whom Chatty Cathy suspected to be American Indian, and quickly married for the second time—to a man who did not want children! She said Aunt Rachael's father, great-great Uncle Jacob, would not accept her marriage to an American Indian nor that he had a grandchild who was half

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Chasing Those Skeletons (Cont'd)

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Indian. Wow! The prejudice in the early 1900s was not a surprise but I did not expect to find anything like this in this faithful Catholic family.

With this new information, I set out to document Aunt Rachael's first marriage, her divorce, her name change back to her maiden name, and to gather obits and funeral records for her parents. Aunt Rachael had let me scan her marriage certificate to her second husband, but I had not checked for an entry in the court records. Had I checked for obits first, I would have found that when her mother died in 1936, Aunt Rachael's name was mentioned as that of her first husband! Her mother knew about the baby before she died, and that the baby had been given away! I began to feel the sadness inflicted upon this family by the adoption.

Back to the interview with Chatty Cathy. She told me the last name of Aunt Rachael's best friend to whom she had given Becky. It was Smith. Oh, great!

Now it was time to hit the newspaper files in this rather small town where everybody knows everybody. Fortunately, little Becky Smith was mentioned in the newspapers during her childhood and until her well-attended, and publicized wedding. Would you believe she married a man whose name was Smith? It's true. She did.

You can see that to find the answers to fables you have dig.

Details like: Who, What, Where, Why, and How will help to verify or substantiate much of the story. These are questions any good journalist or detective will ask. You might need to write these down on a sheet of paper to remind you to ask the proper questions, and then write down the answers. Or, record the interview.

To analyze the research process is necessary before making that first trip to research for the 'real' story. Write down any resource that might be of help. If you are not familiar with the area, then consult county or city histories. If you are still puzzled, don't forget to talk with the local reference librarians, municipal librarians, and the clerks in the County Clerk's Office. Fortunately for me, the state archives where this family lived was well-staffed the three days I spent there Dig'n Up Bones.

Are you wondering about the grown-up little Becky? When Becky was fifteen, she had found her adoption papers in a trunk in the attic of her parents' home. She hid her attic adventure from her adopted mother. A sudden phone call from Aunt Rachael's nephew acquainted Becky with her personal family history. He also told her that I was collecting the family's family history.

When Becky called me, I told that I had pictures of her and her birth mother which I immediately sent to her in the mail. We talked again after she received the pictures. Becky told me her grandchildren look just like she did in the pictures. Becky is four years older than I am. We are friends as well as cousins. She is a beautiful mother, though arthritic, with equally beautiful children and grandchildren. Her husband is a local school teacher who is nearing retirement. Because of her advanced rheumatoid arthritis, Becky needs to be under the constant care of a physician, which can be terribly expensive. This led to more research, this time in unfamiliar research into Native American Indian records. We were successful. Together, we submitted her adoption papers and her papers showing her American Indian heritage. Another success, but very difficult. Today the government helps with Becky's medical needs.

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Chasing Those Skeletons (Cont'd)

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Two years before Aunt Rachel died, Becky began visiting her birth mother twice a week in assisted living. Aunt Rachael never recognized her publicly or privately as her daughter. Instead, she maintained that Becky was her niece! Not all family lore turns out with a happy ending, but sometimes there is closure.

Diligent research for chasing those wily old skeletons is like any other. You must have a plan. Make no mistake, not all skeletons can be found and captured for your pen, but most families have a secret that has remained buried for many decades. It is a challenge but one I enjoy, not for publicity, but for the personal knowledge that I have the skill and ability for *Dig'n Up Bones* to unveil the secrets of the past.

To end on a light note!

HANDLING SKELETONS WITH SENSITIVITY

There was a family who was in a quandary about what to do with Uncle Fred in their published history. They hired a PR person to handle the sensitive problem of Uncle Fred who had committed a crime and was electrocuted for it. The PR person came up with this for the publication:

“Uncle Fred occupied a chair of applied electronics at an important government-funded institution. He was attached to his position and his death came as a great shock.”

Colonial Census Records

There were censuses taken in Colonial times:

1624 Virginia	1698 New York & Part of Vermont
1708 Rhode Island	1712 Maryland
1726 New Jersey	1755 Connecticut
1767 New Hampshire	1764 Massachusetts

Gen Friends Web Sites

Volunteers from Genealogy Friends maintain three web sites to provide information for you:

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 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. There is also a biography of Gladys Harrington.

Genealogy Friends of Plano Libraries Website <http://www.rootsweb.com/~txgfpl>. This page contains information on membership, the calendar of events, copies of past newsletters, etc.

New Additions to the Genealogy Section, Gladys Harrington Library

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

- Pennsylvania Research: County and Township Records RREF 016.9293748 HUM
- Pennsylvania births: Carbon Co., 1795-1825; Monroe Co., 1741-1825; Schuylkill Co., 1755-1825
GEN 929.3748 HUM
- The Browns of Providence Plantations: The Nineteenth Century, Vol. 2 GEN 338.72 HED
- John Mallet: The Huguenot and His Descendants GEN 929.2 MAL
- Marriages & Obituaries From Early Georgia Newspapers GEN 929.3758 HUX
- Georgia 1860 Agricultural Census, Vols. 1&2 GEN 929.3758 GRE
- Transcription of Provincial North Carolina Wills, 1663-1729/30, Vol. 1, A-K; Vol. 2, Testators L-Z
GEN 929.3756 BRA
- Czech Family Histories, Vols. I & II GEN 976.40049186 CZE
- Who's Who in the South and Southwest, 1947 GEN 920.03 WHO
- The Ericsson Chronicle: 125 Years in Telecommunications GEN 384 MEU
- A Short History of Skidaway Island GEN 975.8 KEL
- Couch, Hansen, Adkins, and Kin thru Kansas GEN 929.2 COU
- Arkansas Atlas & Gazetteer, 1997 GEN 912.767 DEL
- Missouri Atlas & Gazetteer, 1998 GEN 912.778 DEL
- Magna Carta Ancestry: A Study in Colonial and Medieval Families GEN 929.308913 RIC
- Here is Lake County, Ohio GEN 977.1334 LAK
- Epitaphs to Remember: Remarkable Inscriptions from New England Gravestones GEN 929.50974 MAN
- Map Guide to German Parish Registers: Grandduchy of Baden GEN 929.107204346 HAN
- Tombstone Records of Chester Co., SC and Vicinity, Vol. I GEN 929.50975747 CRO
- 12th Census of Population, 1900: Alabama, Vol. 20, DeKalb Co., E.D.'s 63-80 GEN 929.376166 TWE
- DNA and Genealogy GEN 929.1072 FIT
- Maryland German Church Records, Vol. 3, 1742-1779 & Vol. 4, 1780-1811 GEN 929.3752 WEI
- Frederick Co., MD Land Records, 1770-1772, Vol. 9 GEN 929.375287 AND
- Nelson Co., KY Birth Records, 1852-1859, 1861, 1874-1879, 1903-04-06, & 07 GEN 929.3769495 ING
- Moser of North Carolina GEN 929.2 MOS
- Biographies of Representative Women of the South, Vol. 3, 1861-1925 GEN 920.72 COL
- The Third of 1820 Land Lottery of Georgia GEN 929.3758 LUC
- York County, South Carolina Will Abstracts, 1787-1862 [1770-1862] GEN 929.375743 HOL
- Chester County, South Carolina Will Abstracts, 1787-1838 [1776-1838] 929.375747 HOL

Additions to Genealogy Collection (Cont'd)

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- Chester County, South Carolina Deed Abstracts, Vol. I: Deed Books A-F, 1785-1799 [1768-1799] GEN 929.375747 HOL
- Ulster Emigration to Colonial America, 1718-1775 GEN 929.3411 DIC
- South Carolina's Royal Grants, Vol. 1: Grant Books 1 thru 9, 1732-1761 GEN 929.3757 HOL
- Researching Scots-Irish Ancestors: The Essential Genealogical Guide to Early Modern Ulster, 1600-1800 GEN 929.10720416 ROU
- English at Chapel Hill, 1795-1969 GEN 800.0711756 MAC
- Irish Boston: A Lively Look at Boston's Colorful Irish Past GEN 974.461 QUI
- Forensic genealogy GEN 929.1072 FIT
- History of Alabama and Incidentally of Georgia and Mississippi, From the Earliest Period GEN 976.1 PIC
- Records of Walker County, Alabama GEN 929.376176 BIG
- Cities, Towns & Communities of Georgia Between 1847-1962, 8500 Places & the County in Which Located GEN 917.58 HEM
- Marriage & Death Notices from Alabama Newspapers and Family Records, 1819-1890 GEN 929.3761 FOL
- A Researcher's Library of Georgia History, Genealogy, & Records Sources, Vol. 1 GEN 929.3758 DAV
- History of Fayette County, Alabama GEN 976.187 NEW
- Tracing your Irish Ancestors: The Complete Guide GEN 929.10720415 GRE
- Atlanta & DeKalb County, GA Street Map Book GEN 912.758231 ADC 2001
- Metro Atlanta, GA Street Map Book GEN 912.758231 ADC 2001
- The Judson History and Legacy GEN 266.61092 HUN
- Mohawk Valley Happenings GEN 974.76 STR

Thanks to Lynn Day for providing this information.

Web Sites

In the first person is an index to letters, diaries. Oral histories and personal narratives from more than 2,500 collections of oral history in English from around the world.

www.inthefirstperson.com

The University of New Hampshire Library's Government 1500 topographical maps for the New England States and New York that cover the period from the 1890's to the 1950's have been digitized and are available online.

<http://docs.unh.edu/nhtopos/nhtopos.htm>