



# Genealogy Friends News

Genealogy Friends of  
Plano Libraries

October 2007

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## Saturday Seminars & Lock Ins

Mark your calendars now for the exciting Genealogy Friends events in 2007 & 2008:

### Today's Topics:

October 20, 2007—"Perils, Paradoxes and Pitfalls in Probate Records" by Glen Kinkade, .

### Future Topics:

November 17, 2007—"Overview of Major US Migration Patterns" by Richard Preston.

December 15, 2007—Annual Show n Tell. Bring your genealogy finds to share with your friends.

January 19, 2008—"First Person Accounts in Genealogy" by John Pritchett

February 16, 2008—Aaron Holt from the Southwest Branch of the National Archives will do a presentation about their collection.

March 15, 2008—Learn about Family Tree Maker and Legacy, two popular genealogy programs—  
Speakers Joanne Corney and Tresa Tatyrek.

April 19, 2008—Naomi Taplin from the Texas Baptist Historical Collection will speak to use about Preservation Techniques.

If you have suggestions for programs for 2008 please submit them to Barbara Coakley at [bjc1620@sbcglobal.net](mailto:bjc1620@sbcglobal.net)

## 2007 Research Retreat to Salt Lake City

Genealogy Friends will be sponsoring a trip to Salt Lake City this fall. We will be traveling to Salt Lake City on Tuesday, November 6 returning on Sunday, November 11th. The fee for Members is \$80.00 and Non-Members \$100.00. The fee includes an Orientation to the Family History Library, a lecture on immigration and consultations with a professional genealogist.

## Legacy Users Group

Joanne Corney started a Legacy Family Tree users group. The group will meet the fourth Tuesday of each month at the Haggard Library in the Program Room from 10:30 to 12:30. Contact Joanne at [ptxlegacyug@verizon.net](mailto:ptxlegacyug@verizon.net) for more information.

## Write A Book Challenge! Earn a \$5 Donation to Gen Friends

That's right. This offer is for members of Genealogy Friends of Plano Libraries, Inc. only.

**What do you have to do?** Write a biography of one of your family members, a history of a family line, or family newsletter, etc., per the few requirements below, and present it to Brenda Kellow to read, or you may bring it to the 2007 December Show and Tell program and win a \$5 donation to Genealogy Friends. Talk to Brenda if you have problems meeting any of the requirements below. E-mail her at [GenFriends@tx.rr.com](mailto:GenFriends@tx.rr.com).

### Requirements:

\* Book or booklet written on some phase of family history and published professionally, or you may "publish" off your own computer before December 2007's Show and Tell program. A hard cover is not required.

\* Requirements: At least ten (10) pages which contain:

Five (5) pages of text of your own composition and not composed by a genealogy program such as *Family Tree Maker*, *Legacy Family Tree*, etc. There is no limit on written text. If you have more than ten (10) pages, great! The text should contain the subject's vital information such as birth, death, marriage, and places where the event took place if you have that information. Text should contain some history such as the life and times of that period; how the time period affected the family; note if the female gave birth before the migration from one place to another, or did she travel while pregnant; the difficulty of traveling in wagons across the country and over the mountains; or crossing rivers, etc. In other words, make it interesting to read.

Remaining pages may be of graphics such as photocopies of an original document such as a will, marriage certificate, obituary, funeral card, or pictures you have collected on the subject.

Have at least four (4) properly cited footnotes, endnotes (See *Evidence! Citation and Analysis for the Family Historian*, by Elizabeth Mills. A copy is in the library.) You may also embed the source inside parentheses within the body of the text. The purpose of the citation is to document some of your findings and familiarize yourself with citing a source.

Title page should contain the family name. If you are covering more than one family surname, then follow the title with the other family surnames:

*The Jones Journal*

*With Related Lines of Kelly, Smith, and Valentine*

Donate one copy to the Gladys Harrington Library Genealogy Section and display book or booklet at the December 2007 Show and Tell Program.

The purpose of this challenge is to get you writing your family stories! You have until December 15, 2007 to complete the project. By beginning your writing with this challenge, you can earn a donation of \$5 per book or booklet to Genealogy Friends. It does not have to look like a high-end professional book. It is your book, your family. That is why the requirements are so generous and "writer friendly."

## Websites

German Lutheran Church Records in Chicago

<http://pages.prodigy.net/johnhallman/germluthchi.htm>

Make My Report.com is a cross between Google and Wikipedia. A good source to find information on the time and places where your ancestors lived.

<http://www.makemyreport.com/>

The Massachusetts Archives is indexing the Passenger Manifest cards they have for arrivals at the port of Boston 1848-1891. This is a work in progress so if the name you are looking for isn't there now, check back later or contact the archives and they will check for you.

<http://www.sec.state.ma.us/arc/arcsrch/PassengerManifestSearchContents.html>

Swenson Swedish Immigration Research Center

<http://www.augustana.edu/swenson/>

Swedish American Society

<http://www.swedishamericanhist.org/genealogy.html>

The Killingly Historical Center in Danielson, CT holds vital records and local family histories. They will do research if you can't visit.

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

The Northeast Regional Branch of NARA has an online exhibit about WWII "America on the Homefront"

<http://www.archives.gov/northeast/boston/exhibits/homefront/>

## 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

## All Day Workshop

Gen Friends is looking for some place to hold an all day workshop in 2008. If you know of a place that holds 50 people for a small fee or better yet free and would be available for us to hold an all day workshop, please contact Barbara Coakley at [bjc1620@sbcglobal.net](mailto:bjc1620@sbcglobal.net).

## Regional Genealogy & Local History

The Regional Genealogy & Local History Research: Local History and Genealogy Portals to the World web-site includes areas, countries, directories, organizations, local ancestry and local history studies. Links include the Encyclopedia of Genealogy & A Researcher's Guide to Local History Terminology.

## Volunteer Needed—Grant Applications

Gen Friends would like to apply for grants to raise money. If you have experience completing grant applications and would be willing to help please contact Roberta Hendricks at [robertaclint@msn.com](mailto:robertaclint@msn.com).

## The Oregon Trail

By Joy Gough

Lately I have been reading about the migration along the Oregon Trail. I was struck by the similarities between the going to Oregon and coming to Texas. The time-frame was the same; the enticements were the same; the migrants were similar; travel and preparation were the same.

The migration on the Oregon Trail started in 1843 and continued until the 1870s. The settling of Collin County started with the Peter's Colony in the early 1840s and continued until well after the Civil War.

The 1840s were a time in America when people believed it was their right and duty to extend the United States to all of the land west of the Mississippi River between Mexico and Canada, ignoring national boundaries whenever they felt like it. A few cities existed on the west banks of the Mississippi River, but basically the United States stopped there and restarted on the Pacific Coast. The western areas were U. S. Territories, not states.

The people who migrated had already moved once or twice in their lifetime or in their parents' lifetimes. They were not as attached to where they lived as families who had lived in the same location for generations. Many of the people came from the new frontier states of Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Tennessee, and Kentucky. Most of the migrants were farmers.

Whether by direct advertising or word-of-mouth, the enticements for migration were the same. The new land was a Garden of Eden where the soil was so rich and the crops were so bountiful that they grew without a lot of work for the farmers. The climate was so good that it did not get too hot in the summer or too cold in the winter. It hardly rained in Oregon and it did not reach 100° in Texas. The Indians were not a threat in either locality or along the route.

Of course, the big enticement in the 1840s was free land. In the Peter's Colony in Texas a married man was given a square mile of land, 640 acres. A single man received half of that. In Oregon a married man was given 320 acres of land and his wife was given an additional 320 acres. All the settlers had to do was start clearing the land and live on it. What could be easier?

Travel to either location was advertised as being not too difficult and not taking too long. It was considered

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## The Oregon Trail, cont'd

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an adventure by many and no hardship seemed insurmountable, not illness or pregnancy or weather. Most of us know the approximate route of the Oregon Trail with all of its dangers.

The route to Collin County was somewhat easier, but there was no direct way to get here. Either the settlers came by wagon train all of the way, or they took a boat to Shreveport or Jefferson, Texas, and proceeded by wagon from there. The wagon trains would come down from Missouri through Indian Territory (Oklahoma) or across Tennessee, or Mississippi. Very few settlers came to Collin County by way of the Gulf of Mexico and Galveston.

Roads in those days were cleared trails with tree stumps “no more that 12 inches high” (a designation by the Republic of Texas for road building). There were no bridges and the streams all had steep banks. Diaries written by travelers in these wagon trains mention having to wait on the bank of a river or stream for days, or even weeks, waiting for the water to go down. Men and animals were drowned trying to cross these streams and rivers. Animals and men had to be used in front and in back of wagons to get them up the steep streambanks. The trip was not an easy one!

Preparation for a move like this could take longer than the trip itself. The highest priority went to the wagon and animals to pull it. After that came food and then anything else the family might need or want in their new home. Farm wagons were not strong enough to withstand the journey. The wagons had to be made of seasoned hardwood to withstand the long miles and weather extremes. The wagons had to be sturdy enough to carry possessions and family but light enough for the animals to pull without too much exertion. Most people did not travel in the wagons and many did not sleep in them. The wagons were mostly for transporting possessions and supplies and for protection from the weather.

In the beginning the animal of choice was the ox. Oxen did not have to be pampered. They were extremely strong, non complaining, and could survive on sparse prairie grasses and muddy water. Another advantage of oxen was that Indians very seldom stole them, like they did horses. The disadvantage of oxen was they were extremely slow. People could, and did, walk along side them, all the way to Oregon. Each wagon would have 2 to 4 yokes of oxen to pull it. A yoke consisted of 2 animals. Some families had 2 or more wagons.

The second animal of choice was the mule. They were not as strong as oxen and needed a better diet than oxen. They were faster, though.

Many of the men on the wagon train rode horses. In certain parts of the west the horses had to be watched constantly to keep the Indians from stealing them.

## The Jamestown Settlement On the Banks of Virginia's James River, 1607

### By Brenda Kellow

The story is and old one, 400 years old to be exact. It began in 1607, thirteen years before the Pilgrims landed in Massachusetts. It is not a romantic story. It is a story of brave men and boys of all classes who left their wives, children, brothers and sisters behind in England and traveled across the ocean in three tiny ships to establish a new beginning in a new land. Many would never see their families again for they would spend their last hours before death in that hellish place. Those who would survive knew they had to persevere. They knew it would be a tough job to establish a community in the new world, but they had no idea of what insurmountable strife they would face.

There were 104 males of English decent making the journey on three ships, the *Susan Constant*, the *Godspeed*, and the petite vessel *Discovery*. A few were of the upper class and had a coat of arms, some were gentlemen farmers, and others came to escape London's prison. The men had minimum survival skills. Some were primarily English gentlemen farmers who were used to having servants to wait on them and slaves to do the manual labor, so naturally a few did not expect the to toil so intensely in this remote humid outpost on the swampy banks in the New World. Many lacked the skills needed to safely pioneer a new land. They would have to pool their skills in an attempt to work as a team. Some were nothing but troublemakers on the sea and on land.

The journey took five long months in the sailing vessels. They lived in cramped quarters. As the small ships swayed back and forth on the rolling sea, many became seasick. The smell of their vomit mixed with strong, smelly body odor was overwhelming in the lower decks. The stench of animal waste contributed to the disgusting odor. They served an important purpose: they became food during the trip and after landing; and the remainder of the uneaten would breed on the land. Persons who were not suffering the agony that accompanied seasickness spent as much time as possible on the main deck so they could breathe the fresh sea air.

The sea journey finally ended and they stepped onto the low, swampy primeval banks of the disease infested James River, still unaware of the horrendous hardships they would later suffer. The green water had algae floating on top and smelled of rot. They did not have the technology to purify it before using it. But, being of strong stock, many would survive the ordeal and the site would hold the honor of becoming the first permanent English colony in the New World.<sup>1</sup>

They reached the heavily forested shore of the new world in April 1607 during the worst draught the area ever had.<sup>2</sup> The rich stockholders of the Virginia Company of London, their sponsors, hoped the entrepreneurs would fulfill their commitment and line the stockholders' pockets with riches. Imagine, these adventurous people came to make the shareholders wealthy. What were they thinking? Be that as it may, they immediately began to carry out their responsibility in this harsh new world. First, before hunting for food or a safe place to settle, the devoutly religious colonists established a cross at the landing site. They named it Cape Henry.<sup>3</sup>

Their next mission was to find a safe place to live. They searched the wilderness for a month before finding what they mistakenly thought was the perfect site for their settlement. It was along the banks of a river and at the mouth of the Chesapeake Bay. They named the James River tributary and Jamestown Island after the English king. The

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## The Jamestown Settlement (continued)

*(Continued from page 6)*

date was May 14, 1607. They immediately began to build a fort for protection. A month later the residents had completed Fort Jamestown. See the attached sketch of the fort located on the banks of the river.

They chose the island for five reasons:

It didn't appear to have any Indians close by.

Deep water surrounded Jamestown Island.

It was at the entrance to the Chesapeake Bay.

It was near the Atlantic Ocean.

It offered a strategic defensive position in case of a sea attack from invading Spanish ships.

The harsh winters of 1609 and 1610, dubbed the "starving winters," almost wiped out the little colony in the tide-water region of Virginia. Only Captain John Smith's strong leadership skills saved the colonists from abandoning Jamestown. His policy demanded the men work daily or be denied food for that day. So work they did! The men built a fort. They dug ditches to channel the rainwater into the tributary. They constructed homes and public buildings that included a church and maybe a saloon that doubled as a meetinghouse. The married men hoped that one day their families would join them in the new world.

England didn't have much glass because they did not have the wood supply necessary to forge the fires to the critical temperatures required for this process. The plentiful forests in Jamestown inspired glassmaking as a trade commodity they used to trade with England for supplies. Tobacco was another commodity in high-demand by the English. A few years later the colonists began to ship large crops of tobacco to England. Other trade items were wheat, soap-ash, lumber for milling wainscot, clapboard, soft wood planks, pitch, turpentine, and tar.

They learned to hunt for food and prepare it over a wood fire. With the food source on the island spent, they resorted to eating the rats, the cats brought to catch the rats, and the dogs transported as pets. During a long winter of starvation in 1610 one man killed his wife and roasted her body over a fire, and ate her.<sup>4</sup> It did not say whether or not the woman was an English woman or an Indian woman from one of the local villages. One account mentions the punishment and hanging of the man who committing this horrendous act.

Because their wives did not follow them to the New World in the beginning, the men had to do the lowly jobs associated with woman's work: cooking; washing utensils; cleaning; laundry; sewing; and the customary ironing of the linen underwear. It is not surprising the men took native wives to nurture them, do household chores, and for sex. Some welcomed the arrival of the wives. Others were perfectly content to remain with the Indian women. There was also a certain amount of protection from Indian attacks afforded those living with the native women. But, there was no guarantee.

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## The Jamestown Settlement (continued)

*(Continued from page 7)*

The men took turns standing watch to thwart off sudden raids by the seafaring Spanish who controlled the sea and the coastline, and the Indians who would attack by both land and sea. Discipline was the order of the day for those who fought among themselves. Their weapons were match-fired guns. Recent digs have uncovered many warring items. They found some armor used to protect their bodies from the sharp Indian arrows.

Forensic archeologists found the bones of a young man between the ages of 17-19. They determined the ball went through the main artery in his leg before lodging in his femur (the largest bone in the leg) causing him to bleed to death. In addition, there were several fragments of shrapnel all around the area. Their findings determined after examining his teeth that he had a good childhood, and probably came from a family with a comfortable income. They suspect from their findings that this just might be the young man named Jeremy Alickock,<sup>5</sup> one of the original colonist.

The area they chose for the fort was not a good one. They misinterpreted the surroundings when they found no Indians living nearby.<sup>6</sup> A more experienced explorer would not have chosen this swampy land with the disgusting drinking water. They drank contaminated water polluted with waste flowing downstream from the local Indian villages and by the salt contaminated water flowing back from the ocean. There was no way to purify it at that time. Mosquitoes and bugs infested the site. Many colonists lost their lives from disease, but the close integration of the colonists was a second factor in their demise. Epidemics such as smallpox, influenza, measles, malaria, typhoid, dysentery, and tuberculosis obliterated both the colonists and the Indians. The diseases hit hardest those between the ages of fifteen and forty. If you think about this age range these people were principally the providers, protectors, and those of childbearing age. The doctors tried to administer to the sick with the primitive medicines of that time, however primitive. The conditions were too inhospitable. The four surgeons practicing in the colony between 1607 and 1610 were practically useless under the extreme conditions in this new land.

Although there was small game on the island, the colonists soon depleted the supply. Because of the limited area, it did not support many large game animals such as deer or bears. They quickly killed what food source was living on the island. The harsh climate and disease, coupled with disputes with the Algonquian Indians over being ousted off their land resulted in over 90 percent decline in the white man, and an unknown number of the Indians. When John Smith left in 1609, only 60 settlers out of 214 were still alive.

In June 1610 the survivors resolved to leave the island, but the arrival of the new governor Lord De La Ware accompanied by Captain Samuel Argall and his supply ships changed the circumstances and the colonists decided to stay.

It was the resourceful Samuel Argall who kidnapped and romanticized the story of Pocahontas, the new bride of an Indian by the name of Kocoum. The sole purpose of kidnapping Pocahontas was to trade her for some English prisoners and the Powhatan weapons. Her father, the powerful Algonquian Chief Powhatan, only responded to a portion of Argall's ransom demands. There was no trade, and soon Argall took her to live with a family in Henrico. Pocahontas remained there, learned English, eventually converted to Christianity, and afterwards took the christened name, Rebecca.

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## The Jamestown Settlement (continued)

Very soon the beautiful and vivacious Pocahontas caught the eye of the recently widowed tobacco entrepreneur John Rolfe. Rolfe fell in love with her and later married her in the spring of 1614. He spent weeks agonizing over whether or not to marry a heathen. Recorded in a letter Rolfe wrote to the governor, he professes his love for her. In it he stated, "It is Pocahontas to whom my hearty and best thoughts are, and have been a long time so entangled, and enthralled in so intricate a labyrinth that I (could not) unwind myself thereout (sic)." At 22 Pocahontas and their infant son accompanied Rolfe to England. She died shortly after the family arrived at Gravesend in 1617.

Intermittent peace settled over the Indians and white men after this marriage, yet it was long enough for the English settlers to establish themselves in the new land. Although the union brought food, hope, some peace and prosperity, the suffering continued for decades.

What began 400 years ago, the story of Jamestown depicts the hardships and deaths of the English men who came to the new land. It did have a romantic story involving the Indian princess Pocahontas, John Rolfe, and the romanticized and probably exaggerated account of her friendship with John Smith. It is, however, primarily the story of brave men and boys of all classes who left their wives, children, brothers and sisters to travel across the mighty ocean to establish a new beginning in a new land. Some realized this new beginning—others met their deaths in the swampy, disease and insect infested land. The survivors did persevere and tackled their tough jobs to establish this community in the new world amidst insurmountable strife.

The Original Settlers of Jamestown	Occupations
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<u>Master</u> Edward Maria Wingfield	
Captaine Bartholomew Gosnoll	
Captaine John Smyth	Council members
Captaine John Ratliffe	
Captaine John Martin	
Captaine George Kendall	
Master Robert Hunt	Minister
Master George Percie	Gentlemen
Anthony Gosnoll	
Captaine Gabriell Archer	
Robert Ford	
William Bruster	
Dru Pickhouse	
John Brookes	
Thomas Sands	
John Robinson	
Ustis Clovill	
Kellam Throgmorton	
Nathaniell Powell	
Robert Behethland	
<b>**Jeremy Alicock</b>	
Thomas Studley	

## The Jamestown Settlement (continued)

Richard Crofts	Gentlemen	
Nicholas Houlgrave		
Thomas Webbe		
John Waler		
William Tanker		
Francis Snarsbrough		
Edward Brookes		
Richard Dixon		
John Martin		
George Martin		
Anthony Gosnold		
Thomas Wotton, Surgeon		
Thomas Gore		
Francis Midwinter		
William Laxon	Carpenters	
Edward Pising		
Thomas Emry		
Robert Small		
Anas Todkill		
John Capper	Blacksmith	
James Read		
Jonas Profit		
Thomas Couper	Sailor	
John Herd	Barber	
William Garret	Bricklayers	
Edward Brinto		
William Love	Mason	
Nicholas Skot	Tailor	
John Laydon	Drum	
William Cassen	Laborers	
George Cassen		
Thomas Cassen		
William Rods		
William White		
Ould Edward		
Henry Tavin		
George Golding		
John Dods		
William Johnson		
William Unger		
William Wickinson		Surgeon
Samuell Collier		Boys
Nathaniel Peacock		
James Brumfield		
Richard Mutton		

[www.jamestowne.org](http://www.jamestowne.org). The register of qualifying ancestors may be found at [www.jamestowne.org/images/Register \(July%202004\).pdf](http://www.jamestowne.org/images/Register(July%202004).pdf).

### Notes:

1 Columbus holds the distinction of finding the new world in 1492 even though the Vikings were in Greenland in 986 (<http://members.aol.com/bakken1/viking/vikingnw.htm>).

The Spanish discovered Florida on March 27, 1513 but they did not found St. Augustine until 1565. The French founded Fort Caroline in 1564. The Brits had a better lobby, or maybe they were **more vain**.

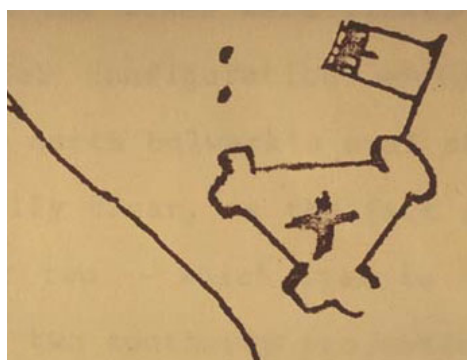
2 Found by archeologists after taking core samples from the centuries-old Cyprus trees living on the riverbank. The trees are extremely sensitive to climate changes.

3 They chose to name the landing site after one the sons of King James—Henry, the Prince of Wales.

4 One diary account stated a man ‘powdered her flesh’ before cooking and eating her. ‘Powdered’ probably meant he put flour on her before cooking.

5 See list of *Original Settlers* on page 9. He is listed as a gentleman.

6 Despite Indian attacks on the villages on the island, at times the Powhatan Indians traded food, copper, and iron implements to the colony.



Fort Jamestown

This is a drawing by Spanish Ambassador Pedro de Zuniga, ©1609, from The Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities site at <http://www.apva.org/history/fort.html>, May 13, 2007. The sketch shows a flag-like projection which is more probably an enclosed garden. The three sides and circular bastions at the corners are common to all three descriptions of the early fort. It contained a storehouse, church, and a number of houses.

If you can prove descent from a qualifying Jamestown ancestor to the satisfaction of the lineage society's genealogist, contact the Jamestowne Society Company at