



Genealogy Friends News

Genealogy Friends of
Plano Libraries

Genealogy Friends News
September 2013

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

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Schedule of Events

Mark your calendars now for the exciting Genealogy Friends events in 2013. Meetings are held in the Program Room at the Haggard Library, 2501 Coit Rd., Plano, TX from 10:15 to 12:30 unless otherwise noted:

Today's Topic:

September 28, 2013—"Ten Tips to Break Down Brick Walls" by Barbara Coakley

Future Topics

October 19, 2013—"Genealogy Basics" an All Day Workshop to be held at Plano Bible Church, see page 5 for details.

October 24, 2013—Genealogy Friends Annual Meeting & Dining Out Night will be held at Outback Steakhouse, 1509 N Central Expressway, Plano. See page 5 For details.

November 16, 2013—"The What, When, Where and Why on Naturalization Records" by Meg Hacker from NARA Regional Branch in Ft. Worth.

December 21, 2013—Show and Tell—share your family history finds with the group.

The Legacy Users Group meets the fourth Tuesday of each month, downstairs at Haggard Library from 1:30 to 3:30. There is an after meeting session if you need one on one help. Contact ptxlegacyug@verizon.net

If you have an idea about a program or a speaker, email Barbara Coakley at newsletter@genealogyfriends.org.

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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
Colonial Ills, Brews & Concoctions	\$10
Library 101: Using Dewey Decimal Sys	\$10

Genfriends Membership

It's time to renew your 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 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

Great Family Search

Great Family Search will be held on November 2, 2013 from 8:30 am to at 2700 Roundrock Trail, Plano, TX. This is a great opportunity to learn more about FamilySearch.org and other aspects of Family History research. It is sponsored by the Plano & Richardson Texas Family History Centers. Keynote speaker is David Rencher, Chief Genealogical Officer for FamilySearch. Sessions include Treasures in the Records of the US Congress; Preserve the Pensions—The Community Makes a Difference; Coming Forward, Descendant Research; Using the Power of Google in Family History Research; How Do I Start My Family History?; Organizing Family Stories to Share; On the Go Mobil Apps; US Census Research; US Immigration Passenger Lists –Beyond Ellis Island; US Land Records in Family History Research; and more.

No charge to attend, pre-registration is requested. <http://www.greatfamilysearch.com>.

Genealogy Friends Logo Shirts & Tote Bags

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)

Henley's \$20 (white, ash or natural)

Polo Shirts \$20 (white, ask or light blue)

Tote Bags \$17



Using Ancestry.com

By Barbara Coakley

We postponed our September Saturday Seminar so members could attend Ancestry Day so I thought I would share some of what we learned. Crista Cowan, the Barefoot Genealogist, was the main speaker.

There are five main areas of the :

1. Family Trees
2. Search
3. Learning Center
4. Collaborate
5. DNA



Family Trees

You can build a family tree on Ancestry.com to organize your research. You don't have to have a membership to build your tree, however, you can't work on your tree at the library. If you want to share your tree with others you can mark it private. Even if you have a private tree, information posted on living people is not visible to others unless you specifically give them permission. A person on your tree will be considered living if their birth date is less than 100 years ago and there is no information in the death date field. There is also a status field on the Vital Information tab for each individual where you can choose deceased or living.

When you post pictures to your tree other members can copy those to their tree. If anyone posts comments on the pictures they will be viewable on any tree where that photo has been copied. However, if someone copies stories you have uploaded and you update them the updates don't flow through to the trees where the copies reside.

You can sync your tree with your Family Tree Maker database. The software is available for purchase in the Ancestry store. It is on sale through September 30th for \$31.99 if you download the software.

Ancestry.com will recommend record matches, when this happens a shaky leaf will appear on that ancestor's record. Recommendations are only made for approximately the top ten percent of the most popular databases. This is a way to get you started. Before you attach a record, make sure it matches your ancestor. If you don't want to see hints from other peoples' trees you can turn them off in your site preferences. You can also turn off email notifications of hints for your tree.

Search

Content comes in three main categories—Records that have been digitized and put online; geographic content; and member contributed content. Some of the records that have been digitized are available without a paid membership. The geography based content includes ship photos, flags, maps, post cards and yearbooks, just to name a few.

When you search used the advance form. To get to this form click the Show Advanced button on the search screen and then the Advanced link at the bottom of the form. This gives you more fields to limit your search. Start by filling in as much information as you know, you can remove search criteria and expand your search if you don't get the results you are looking for. Check out the search results on the first page, if you don't see what you are looking for, don't spend a lot of time looking through all the pages, try changing your search criteria to get more pertinent search results.

You can use wildcards when you search. A * replaces any number of characters and a ? Replaces a single character. You can't use a wildcard at both the beginning and end of the search term but you can use it anywhere in the name. You must have at least 3 letters in the search term to use the wildcard. To activate the wildcard, change the

Search Show Advanced

First & Middle Name(s)	Last Name
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Name a place your ancestor might have lived e.g., Houston, Harris, Texas, USA	Estimated birth year <input type="text"/> Calculate it
<input type="checkbox"/> Only records from US collections	
<input type="button" value="Search"/>	

Using Ancestry.com

search settings from use default settings to Restrict to exact by clicking on the drop down under the search term box for that field. Here are some examples—if you are searching for the name Brey but sometimes it is spelled Bray you can search using Br?y to get results with both spellings.

Be careful using the exact box on search fields other than name. If you check exact and that field is not included in the indexes for a record, it won't be included in the search results. For example if you put information for a birth and click exact you won't get any City Directory records in your results since that record doesn't include information on when the person was born.

To search on a location, choose a matching entry from the drop down list. These locations have been geo coded so results will include nearby places as long as you use the Restrict to this place exactly option. The location on the event will bring up records created in that place or that contain the place.

Another trick is to search using a first name and other criteria like place, event, etc. if you can't find the record you are looking for. Sometimes the name is so misspelled that the search can't find it. If you get too many search results you can limit the names to soundex (alternate spellings), phonetic (names that sound the same) or names with similar meanings.

You can include events. Don't forget to enter where they happened or a date. Family members can also help to limit your search results. You can also limit the collections searched. There are three ethnicity options to help your searches in the Collection Priority drop down list—Native American, Jewish, and African American. These additional algorithms find more relevant results for these categories of searches.

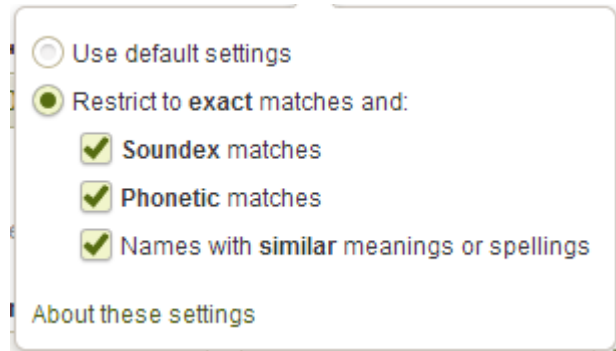
Once you find a record, right click to open it in a new window. This way you won't lose your search results list. Also check out the suggested records that are displayed on the right when you open a record. These are the top other records that have been saved to other peoples trees along with the record you just opened.

To limit a search to records from a specific place scroll down to the bottom of the search page and click on the place on the map. You can further limit the search by county by clicking on the county in the box on the right of the screen. There are two other tabs—History and Research. The History tab contains history of the location and the Research tab contains links to other websites that might help with your research. You can also use the Card Catalog to limit searches to a specific record collection where you can filter collections by name, keyword, types of records, location, and date range. Read about the collection before you spend time searching it to be sure it includes the records you are looking for.

The **Learning Center** contains video tutorials, research guides, blank forms, and much more. The full text of *The Source: A Guidebook to American Genealogy* and *Red Book: American State, County, and Town Sources* are included on the Ancestry Wiki. You can look up a record type and the location to learn what it might tell you, when records were kept for a specific location and if it isn't available on Ancestry.com where you might find it.

You can view who has saved information in your tree in the **Collaborate** section. Use these links to find others researching the same families. If you have a paid account you can send messages to other researchers and answer messages from other researchers. Don't forget to update your profile—add a picture (studies show that if you have a picture others are more likely to contact you) and your research interests.

Ancestry.com is a great resource and they are adding new records every week. Exploring the site should be on your to do list. You don't need a paid membership to use many of the features.



Genealogy News

The 2013 Genealogy Friends Annual Meeting and Dining Out will be held at Outback Steakhouse, 1509 North Central Expressway, Plano, TX on Thursday, October 24th at 7:00 pm.

Join your friends and fellow researchers for an evening of good fun, great food, door prizes and a brief business meeting. While having an enjoyable evening, you will be helping GenFriends provide quality programs for the novice and seasoned researchers alike, and continue to support the W. O. Haggard Library Genealogy Department with the acquisition of needed research materials.

The menu includes your choice of:

- Outback Special—signature sirloin seasoned with bold spices and seared to please.
- Chicken on the Barbie—grilled fresh chicken
- North Atlantic Salmon—fresh filet of salmon, grilled on an open flame.
- Entrees include your choice of two sides—fresh steamed vegetables, dressed baked potato, house salad, or Caesar salad.
- Dessert will be your choice of cheese cake or carrot cake.

This menu and an 18% gratuity are included in the \$25.00 price. Checks are to be made payable to “Genealogy Friends”. A cash bar will be available.

Reservations are encouraged. You can register at the September and October Saturday Seminars, email GenFriends@GenealogyFriends.org, or call 972-836-9436.

Genealogy Lock In at Haggard Library will be held on Friday, October 18, 2013 from 12:30 pm to 11 pm. There will be webinars running all day. There are 8 libraries involved across Texas. The programming includes Who Am I? Basic Steps in Beginning to Find Out; Find Success with FamilySearch!; e-Docs, e-Services and e-Government: County Records Online; Solving Family History Mysteries with Original Landowner Maps from Arphax Publishing and HistoryGeo.com; Ancestry Library Edition: What’s New; Accessing Texas County Records through the Regional Historical Resources Depositories Program; Unusual Genealogy Resources; Genealogical resources of the Texas General Land Office. Arrangements have been made to take and fill requests for information from selected resources at participating libraries. Texas Confederate Pension Applications, Texas City Directories, Texas Vital Statistics Indexes, McLennan County area obituaries and cemetery records; PERSI periodical holdings in the Clayton Library; Denton yearbooks and obituaries; and Collin County Records.

Register on the library website <http://www.planolibrary.org> and click on Register for Classes, navigate to October 18 and click on the link for the Texas Wide Genealogy Lock in link.

Photos uploaded to FamilySearch.org will now be preserved forever for free online at FamilySearch.org. They have over one million photos that have been uploaded. The photos are public and invitations to view them can be sent through Facebook, Twitter, Google+, Pinterest and email. Read more <https://familysearch.org/node/2379>

October All Day Workshop



Genealogy Friends of Plano Libraries Presents: “Genealogy Basics”

When: Saturday, October 19, 2013 from 9:30 to 4:00

Where: Plano Bible Chapel, 1900 Shiloh, Plano, TX

Topics: Golden Rules of Genealogy

Organizing the Three R’s Research, Results, and
Records

Research Plans - The Key to Success

Summing it All Up, Writing Great Research
Reports