



Genealogy Friends News

Genealogy Friends of
Plano Libraries

Genealogy Friends News
September 2012

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

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Saturday Seminars

Mark your calendars now for the exciting Genealogy Friends events in 2012. 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:

September 15, 2012—David Duff presents “Searching for Our French Canadian Ancestors”

Future Topics:

October, 2012—Annual business meeting and dinner at Outback Steakhouse, Plano.

October 20, 2012—Join us to learn about the Genealogy Collections at the Haggard Library and the McKinney Library. Speakers will be Cheryl Smith and Susan Kusterback.

November 17, 2012—All Day Workshop—Lloyd Bockstruck—Stay tuned more information will be available soon.

December 15, 2012 - Show and Tell. This is your opportunity to share your successes with fellow family history enthusiasts.



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
Compiled Newsletters with Index	\$15

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 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

New Hours—Genealogy Section

You now have more time to dig through your family tree. On Tuesday, September 4th, the genealogy collection of the Plano Public Library System began opening under the same hours as the libraries. That's 23 more hours to search for information that may help you get back to another generation. The Genealogy, Local History, Texana and Archives are located in the basement of W. O. Haggard Library, 2501 Coit Road. The new hours are Monday through Thursday, 9 am to 9 pm; Friday, 9 am to 6 pm; Saturday, 10 am to 6 pm; and Sunday, 1 pm to 5 pm.

Genealogy Friends Logo Shirts & Tote Bags

You can be one of the best dressed genealogists in town!

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



Winningkoff

By Linda Hess

Winningkoff originated on a high rise of ground between Wilson and White Rock Creeks which flowed into the East Fork of the Trinity River. In 1884, A. J. Winningkoff, who owned 204 acres of the Calvin Boles' League gave two acres to the county for the Winningkoff School Community.

A. J. Winningkoff was a barber in McKinney at the time of the 1880 census. A. J. Winningkoff and Elizabeth Rolfe married in 1875. Elizabeth and her family sailed on the steamship San Jacinto from Liverpool, England on March 24, 1873 along with Maria and Mary Howe. Also on another voyage leaving Norfolk, England May 16, 1873 was John Ashby and George Rolfe and their children. John Ashby and Maria Howe married January 8, 1874, and George Rolfe Jr. and Mary Howe married February 4, 1874.

After living in McKinney a few years, the Winningkoffs, Ashbys and Rolfes moved to farms about seven miles east of Allen. The school and the community were called Winningkoff. The English settlers lived long and useful lives in that community. Among the family names at Winningkoff were: Gant, Moore, Hindsley, Knight, McMillen, Enloe, Heifner, Petway, Norman, Christian, Rolfe, Smith, Campbell, Morrow and Snider.

A large number of children were educated in the Winningkoff two-room schoolhouse which had grades one through six. The classrooms were heated by large, round coal stoves. Most of the time there were two teachers, but in the last years as families moved away from the community, there was only one teacher. Among those who taught at Winningkoff School were Ruth Campbell, Ernest Massey, Otis Morrow, Cora Campbell Spurgin, George E. Robinson, Gladys Campbell Ferguson, Velma Snider Cooley, Delilah McMillen and Doris Smith Gant. The County School Board closed the school in 1949.

A Methodist Society led by the Reverend J. A. Stafford, presiding elder, and the Reverend Nathaniel Charles Little began meeting in the school house. In 1895, the trustees, Rufus E. Morrow, John Ashby and J. H. Shell, were instructed to secure a lot and raise money for a church house. Dr. Ellsworth S. Blythe, the community physician, gave an acre northwest of the school lot to the church. A building 30 by 50 feet was built. The church built a larger, square building in 1920. A. J. Winningkoff and his family were charter members of Blythe Chapel Methodist Church. The Blythe Chapel Methodist church building was moved to Lucas in 1967, and the church was renamed the First United Methodist Church of Lucas.

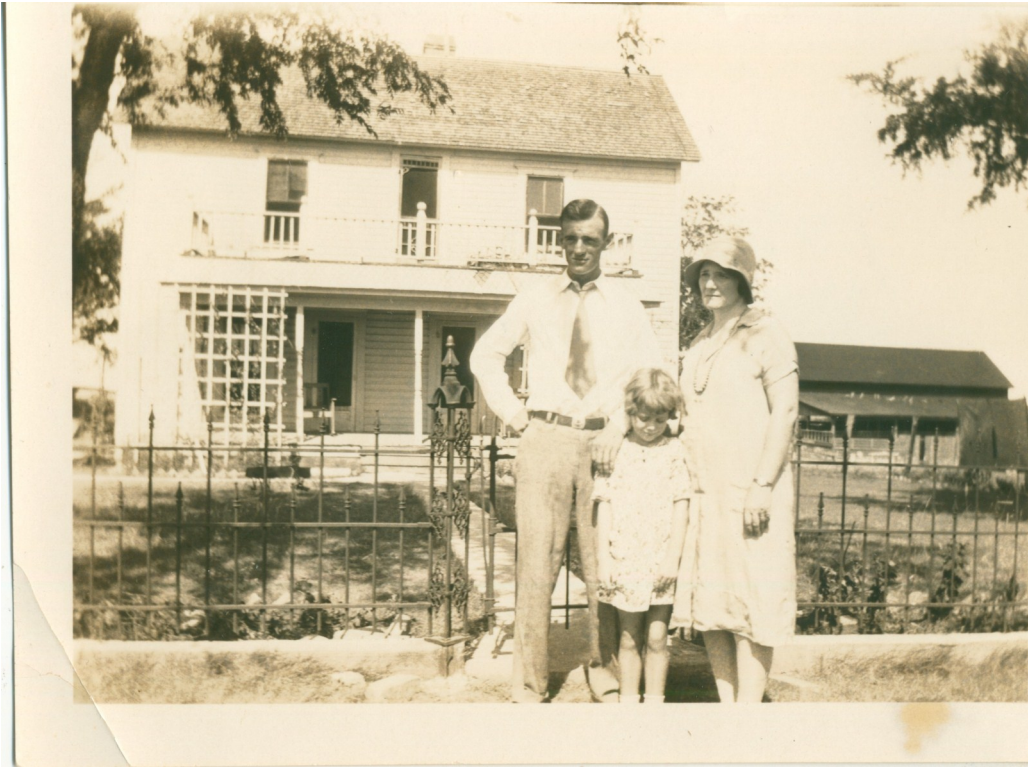
Dr. Blythe moved to Allen about 1910; Dr. Rufus E. Morrow of Lucas moved to Winningkoff but made house calls in both communities. He delivered many babies for the large families in the two communities, traveling by horseback in muddy weather.

There were at least two stores in the community. Ed. Knight had a grocery-pharmacy. Other storekeepers were Johnny Snider, Otis Morrow, Earl Nickerson, and Martin and Nona Heifner. B. A. "Curley" and Bessie Taylor, who purchased a store from Jim Heifner, were the last to have a store in Winningkoff. Aaron Norman's blacksmith shop was one of the last in this part of the county. Winningkoff was a thriving little community but now has disappeared, and the road dead ends into Lake Lavon.



New Historical Marker—The Graves Farm

By Joy Gough



A. D. Graves and Annah Graves Hardy in front of their family home

The Graves Farm

In 1850, W. H. Pulliam bought several hundred acres, around where Melissa City Hall sits in 2012, from D. E. W. Babb, the original patent holder. W. H. Pulliam sold the land to M. S. Pulliam, who sold it in 1898 to John Marshall Graves, father of Annah, M. P. “Bose” and A. D. Graves. A. D. Graves and his descendants lived on and worked this land until 2004 when the last Graves family member moved on. Several large barns and numerous out buildings surrounded the main family dwelling seen in the picture above. The view to the west from the house was spectacular from its hill top vantage point. The family raised cattle and other livestock, hay, wheat, corn and various other crops. Marshall Graves purchased the lumber to rebuild the Presbyterian Church, then located at Harrison and Red River Streets in Melissa, after the 1921 tornado demolished it and ravaged Melissa killing or injuring numerous people.

MARKER PROPERTY OF THE COLLIN COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION

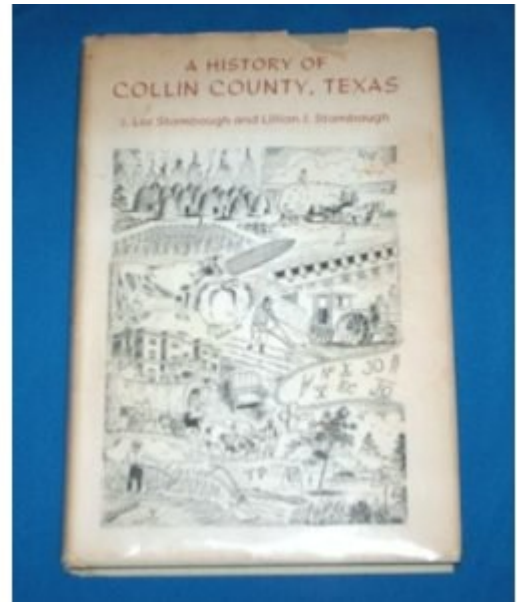


County Histories Are Best History Source of the Region

By Brenda Kellow

Counties are the 'go to' source for vital information sought by genealogists. The vital information such as birth, death and marriages may not have started when the county was begun, but other valuable information exists at the formation. The New England states have vital records going back to the 1600s and 1700s. The recording of vital information is just the opposite for the southern states, making it mandatory to know the history of the county which you are searching.

For instance, Collin County was formed on April 3, 1846, scarcely two months after Texas became a state, but official birth, death and marriage records did not begin until 1903. People began to filter into the area in the early 1840s in search of land grants from the Republic of Texas thanks to the Peter's Colony. The rich farmland, many dairy farms and the railroads slicing across the county brought about the growing agriculture market and secured its place in history. Land grants and other legal documents identify the early pioneers of the Republic and of the State of Texas. One has only to read the names in the deed indexes, church records and various other records to gather a brief history of who was here during what period. Fortunately, in time, industrious authors gathered our history and made it more available in the form of publications.



In 1876, many United States county histories were commissioned to celebrate the first one hundred years after the birth of our country. For counties formed when the state was created, these provide us with a wealth of information and a visual map of where our families lived in those early days. These may describe the churches and the religious groups, cemeteries, schools, fire and police departments, the political environment as well as biographies of those living in the early communities. Newer counties, formed from older ones, contain the records at formation of the new one, but also describe what land was taken from the older counties. That is why some families seem to move from county to county when in fact their farmland didn't change—only the county boundaries changed. County histories detail the changing boundaries and include the names of the local residents. Those books covering the sketches of local people are often referred to in the genealogical community as 'mug books.'

Some of these mug books solicited local families to appear in the publications for a price while others printed the information at no cost, but required the families to prepare and submit the family history themselves. In addition to finding your bloodline relatives, you may also discover collateral lines such as aunts, uncles and cousins. For this reason, I suggest you look for county histories where your forbearers lived.

Since not all counties have histories, search for church histories, histories of fraternal societies, etc. Do not close your mind to the possibility that at an earlier time and place your family may have belonged to another religion or to a so-called secret society. Additionally, do not be discouraged that some of the older books have little or no index, or at the very least a limited one.

Probably most used by early searchers of Southern states are those published by Goodspeed in the latter half of the 19th century. These contained some fascinating information on my bloodline family as well as collat-

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eral family. Regardless how informative the information, it may not be provable!

I was not able to verify through available documents that one of my immigrant ancestors with particularly itchy feet migrated into the Carolinas or served in the Revolutionary War. Although I could never prove his going into the Carolinas or his military service, I did use the information when I wrote my family history on this line. I cited the source and noted that I had not been able to prove this information as fact. Will I ever prove it? With the mass of information appearing online every day, it is possible if I live long enough.

Find county histories in library catalogs, in Kory L. Meyerink's chapter "County and Local Histories" in *Printed Sources: A Guide to Published Genealogical Records*, as digitized records online and in the union catalog of digital resources, OAISTER at www.oaister.org. Although county history books often contain the peanut butter and jelly to glue your family history to their counties of residence, not all of the information provided can be proven. Many have gross errors such as misspelled names, military service, incorrect dates especially relating to vital information, land ownership, misstatements regarding wealth, etc. Errors are in other genres and not unique to county histories. Nevertheless, these should be consulted. If you use the information, do site the publication's name, articulate the problem, and include whether the information was factual, partially true or what part was false. Even with errors, county histories are still the best resource for the history of the region and possible weaving the tapestry of your family history.

An excellent paper on this topic appears online at www.accessible-archives.com/collections/american-county-histories-to-1900/a-white-paper-american-county-histories/.

In summary, county histories are a great source for your region of study. Because each is so different, it covers many facets and can broaden your knowledge of the county. Be aware of the integrity but use whatever you find in these "mug books" to broaden your scope. A clue is better than nothing at all. Use caution when you quote from these books when there is no source. Older versions may not have indexes requiring you to read the entire book, but later electronic accounts usually have either a simple index or a complex one making these much easier to use.

