



# Genealogy Friends News

Genealogy Friends of  
Plano Libraries

Genealogy Friends News  
September 2019

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 2019. 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, 2019**—All Day Workshop—DNA: The Basics & Beyond, Speaker Patricia Lee Hobbs, CG

### Future Events

**October 12, 2019**—Date Change—Panel of Experts –Bring your research questions

**October 21, 2019**—OneNote User Group—Group meets in the Genealogy Section of the library on the third Monday of each month from 7 to 8:30 pm

**October 22, 2019**—Legacy Users Group—Group meets in the Genealogy Section of the library on the fourth Tuesday of each month from 1:30—3:30 pm.

**November 16, 2019**—”What’s New on FamilySearch.org” by Lynell Moss

**December 21, 2019**—Show and Tell—Share your research and family stories.

## Index

Genealogy Education	2
Brenda Burns Kellow	3
La Villita, The “Little Village” in San Antonio	4
Marilee	4

### 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

### Genfriends Membership

Our membership year runs from October 1 to September 30. Individual memberships are \$30 a year and family memberships are \$50. Don't forget to renew your membership for next year.

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

### Genealogy Education

**TxSGS 2019 Family History Conference** will be held October 11-13, 2019 at the Omni Houston Hotel.

<http://www.txsgs.org/2019-conference/>

**Dallas Genealogical Society 2019 Fall Seminar** will be held October 12, 2019. The speaker is Jen Baldwin, Data Acquisition Manager, North America for Findmypast. J Erik Jonsson Central Library, 1515 Young St., Dallas, TX.

<https://dallasgenealogy.com/dgs/meetings-events/seminars/2019-fall-seminar/>

**Lock In** The Haggard Library is hosting the Texas Wide Genealogy Lock-In on October 18, 2019 from 9am to 9pm.

**Great Family Search** The Plano Family History Center annual all day workshop will be October 19, 2019

[http://www.greatfamilysearch.com/cgi-bin/waa1gate.dll?WAA\\_PACKAGE=BDS&WAA\\_FORM=BDSOptMenu1&C=0000000014A&](http://www.greatfamilysearch.com/cgi-bin/waa1gate.dll?WAA_PACKAGE=BDS&WAA_FORM=BDSOptMenu1&C=0000000014A&)

**Using Microsoft OneNote for Genealogy** class at Collin College meets on Wednesday from Oct 23 through Nov 13, 2019 at Courtyard Campus from 6:30 to 8:30 pm. Instructor is Barbara Coakley. Microsoft OneNote is an electronic notebook. You can use it for research planning and to store research results. Bring your laptop or a usb drive with genealogy records on it and you can create a notebook for your family history.

<https://www.collin.edu/ce/classes/index.html>

**Echoes of our Ancestors**, the National Genealogical Society Family History Conference will be held 20-23 May, 2020 in Salt Lake City, UT. <https://conference.ngsgenealogy.org/>

**Federation of Genealogical Societies Conference** will be held 2-5 September, 2020 in Kansas City, MO.

<https://fgs.org/conferences/>

## Brenda Kellow

By Joy Gough



Brenda Kellow, the founding president of Genealogy Friends, died unexpectedly on August 10.

Brenda Joan Burns Kellow was a true daughter of Texas and of Collin County. Her family had been in Texas for five generations. She was born in McKinney. Her parents were from the Lucas/Wylie area of the county and her grandparents lived in St. Paul. During her youth, her family lived at Avenue P and 15<sup>th</sup> Street in Plano. Brenda attended Mendenhall Elementary in Plano the first year that it opened. She graduated from Plano High School when it was located on Avenue H in what is now called the Cox building. She liked to tell people that she had three after-school jobs – she worked in a dress shop for a couple of hours while the owner took an afternoon nap; she ran the cash register at a restaurant where they fed her; and she sold popcorn at the local movie theater. She was a member of First Baptist Church of Plano. She graduated from the University of Texas at Dallas with a degree in history.

After graduation Brenda got a job as a librarian at Collins Radio Rockwall. That is where she met her future husband, Bob Kellow. Bob and Brenda were married for 58 years. They had two daughters -Renee and Liz- and two grandsons – Nicolas and Michael.

Brenda developed a passion for family history and genealogy. At one time she joined 27 lineage societies “just to prove she could.” She was a Certified Genealogy Instructor. She taught genealogy classes at Collin County Community College and at SMU-Plano for a number of years. She had a knack for getting people enthused about researching their ancestry. For almost 25 years she also wrote a genealogy column for the Star Media newspapers, which consists of fourteen newspapers in the local area.

Brenda was instrumental in establishing Genealogy Friends of Plano Libraries and served as its first president for several years. She was still a Board Member at the time of her death.

The Kellows moved to the St. Paul area about 14 years ago to build a house on land that members of Brenda’s family had lived on for many years. She loved living in the country where she hand fed the cows and named all of her “grand-calves.” Brenda was a member of the Wylie Northeast Special Utility District Board of Directors and Bob is on the St. Paul Town Council. They are members of Corinth Presbyterian Church in Parker, which is the church where her parents were married.

A memorial fund has been established for Brenda with Genealogy Friends. Proceeds from the fund will be used for the genealogy section of the Haggard Library in Plano. Mail contributions to GenFriends, PO Box 860477, Plano, TX 75086-0477.

## La Villita, The “Little Village” in San Antonio

By Barbara Battocchio Brogdon

La Villita, south of the River Walk in downtown San Antonio, was originally settled nearly 300 years ago as one of the city's first neighborhoods. It was first a Payaya Indian settlement; Spanish explorers and missionaries came to the site in 1691 and legend says that during the Texas Revolution, following his surprising defeat by Texian forces, Mexican Gen. Martín Perfecto de Cos issued his formal surrender at his home in what is now the La Villita Historic District.

The village was restored and revitalized during the Great Depression. In 1939, La Villita Historic Arts Village was established and the neighborhood was adapted into a center for teaching regional arts and crafts and to serve as an artists market. Today, nearly 30 shops and galleries offer distinct handcrafted items by artists from San Antonio and surrounding areas. You'll find paintings, folk art, textiles, sculptures, copper wares, jewelry, and more. Plus, in the midst of these tree-lined walkways and plazas, enjoy a savory culinary experience at the area restaurants with options ranging from traditional Mexican flavors to steakhouse favorites.

Resources: Texas Historical Commission and the Internet



## Marilee

By Joy Gough

Preston Road and County Line Road, Celina, Texas

Collin County Historical Commission

The community of Marilee was located in the northwest corner of Collin County. It straddled the Collin/Grayson County line and was about 1 ½ miles from the Collin/Denton County line. Celina was about seven miles south.

Marilee was located where Preston Road (SH 289) and the St. Louis-San Francisco-Texas-Burlington Northern railroad tracks cross the east-west County Line Road and enter Grayson County. The north side of County Line Road is in Grayson County; the south side is in Collin County. On some maps County Line Road is called Marilee Road or CR 60. The area is west of the White Rock Escarpment and is part of the geographic region called “The Flats.”

The St. Louis-San Francisco-Texas-Burlington Northern (Frisco) railroad tracks run along the west side of Preston Road in this area. This branch of the Frisco Railroad runs from Denison in Grayson County to Fort Worth, Texas. It was built in Collin County in 1902 and created the town of Frisco. The towns of Celina and Prosper moved to the tracks.

Marilee is half-way between Celina in Collin County and Gunter in Grayson County. In the 1930s it was a flag stop on the railroad, but it never had a depot



Marilee sign. Note the Railroad ties on the bottom left and the store across the road. The road in front of the store would be Preston Road (SH 289). The cross road would be Marilee Road, also called County Line Road. The store was in Grayson County. The girls are in Collin County. (Archives of the Celina Museum)

## Marilee

or station master. By the 1950s service was stopped in Marilee.

At one time, much of the Collin County land in the area belonged to J. R. Gough, who was an attorney and a state senator. He named the flag stop for one of his daughters, Marilee.

The earliest mention of Marilee in local newspapers was on September 17, 1908 in the *McKinney Weekly Democrat Gazette* in a biographic article on Rev. M. F. Wheeler, who was a minister at various Baptist churches in the area, including the church at Marilee. In March 25, 1909, Rev. M. F. Wheeler was holding a successful series of meetings at Marilee. The minister of the Marilee church was listed as Rev. W. T. Newsome.

In the *Dallas Morning News* newspaper on November 30, 1910, J. R. Gough ran an ad for a blacksmith and doctor. "Oh, you blacksmith, why stay in a place where you can't make ends meet, when here in God's country is an opening where you can not only make money, but can live in comfort and not worry about hard times? The town of Marilee, on the Frisco Railway, is in need of a good blacksmith; has a great scope of country to draw from and no opposition; can start right now on the way to making good money if he knows his business; no botchers need apply for this opening, but a good man who wants a home; there is also a splendid opening for a good country doctor, for while as a general rule, the country is very healthy, still for a good doctor it is the opportunity of a lifetime."

In the *McKinney Examiner* newspaper in a column entitled "Marilee Items",

"...This is a bustling little switch station about midway between Gunter and Celina on the Frisco R. R. This section is composed of the best land in Collin County and the majority of our citizens are energetic and persevering. Three good school houses and churches are in easy reach. Crops are above an average notwithstanding the long drouth [sic]. Some cotton will make over one-half bale per acre. Cotton picking is in full blast. Pickers are in great demand.

"This section was visited by a good rain Sunday morning which was badly needed and greatly appreciated.

"Marilee Store, which is under the management of Adams and Wilson, is doing a pretty good business.

"Cotton picking, which was somewhat delayed by the rain, is in full blast. Cotton is bringing about 5 cts in the seed, and 13 cts in the lint....

"Our friend J. R. Gough and son, of McKinney, were in our midst one day last week. Jim owns several hundred acres of land here, all well improved. He also owns the store house, gin and blacksmith shop. All of his renters have a good average crop of cotton....

HAPPY PETER" (September 11, 1913)

Marilee was a bustling little farming town with a store, a gin and a Baptist church. T. P. Parsley wrote the MARILEE NEWS social column for the Celina and McKinney newspapers. It was full of news of residents visiting relatives and parties and other events being held by residents. Sometimes the ALLA NEWS social column, which was written by Mrs. Hershel Flanery, carried news about the Marilee Baptist Church and Marilee.

### Store

A store was built on the north side of the county line at Marilee as early as 1913. It was owned by J. R. Gough and was managed by Adams and Wilson.

An article in the *Celina Record* on September 1, 1932, states: "Hope Installing stock Groceries at Marilee. Mr. C. H. Hope, who conducts a grocery store on the east side of the square [in Celina] is having a building erected at Marilee and will install a stock of groceries.

"Mr. and Mrs. Will Hayes of Kansas City, an aunt of Mrs. Hope, will have charge of the Marilee store.

"Mr. Hope formerly conducted a store at Marilee." The name of the store was "Hope Cash and Carry."

In 1948 "Clifford Fielder of England, Ark. has purchased the Marilee store from F. N. Shelton. He and Mrs. Fielder and two children have moved here and are living at the store." Sep 25, 1948

### Marilee Baptist Church

The Marilee Baptist Church was located on the west side of the train tracks on the south side of Marilee Road. The earliest mention of the church in the local newspapers was in 1908 in a biographic item for Rev. M. F. Wheeler, who

## Marilee

held revivals at Baptist churches throughout the north-west Collin County area, including Marilee. The minister for the Marilee church at the time was Rev. W. T. Newsome. Rev. Wheeler also led some meetings at the church in 1909. In 1927 the Rev. J. H. Gerault, who was pastor of the Frisco Baptist Church, reported the conversion of 14 at Marilee. Revivals were usually held in July and lasted several nights.

In June of 1946 Rev. Carl Grace was chosen as half-time pastor at the Marilee Baptist Church. He would preach at the church on the second and fourth Sundays of the month. In 1949 the Marilee Revival was led of Rev. Roy Stanley and lasted 10 days. Rev. Roy C. Kerr was also a pastor at one time, as well as Rev. L. T. Grumbles.

In the 1950s the pastor at Marilee was Rev. R. L. Stanley. W. D. Jones was in charge of the Sunday School. On July 5, 1951, it was reported that 52 were in Sunday School; 42 in BTU on Sunday night, with 3 baptism candidates. Volney Hickman was the director of the Training Union. In 1953 A. A. Woldridge was in charge of the Sunday School and W. D. Jones directed the Training Union.

An all-day service with dinner was held at the church on February 8, 1951. Five men were ordained as deacons.

On June 23, 1961 a Homecoming was held at the Marilee church with a picnic lunch. During the afternoon hymns were sung. The Rev. Ross Bourland was pastor of the church. The homecoming was an annual event.

The church closed at some point in the 1960s, but reopened in the 1980s. In 1985 V. L. Harris Jr. was the pastor at Marilee Baptist Church. John Paul Harris was the Music Director. Rev. V. L. Harris, Jr. was also the pastor of the First Baptist Church of Celina.

In 2004 a reporter for the *Dallas Morning News* visited Marilee. The building was no longer being used, but it was still standing.

### W.M.U.

A W. M. U. (Women's Missionary Union) was formed at the Marilee Church. In November of 1932 it was reported that 9 attended the meeting. Mrs. Bernice Parsley led a Bible Quiz. At another meeting in November of 1932 sixteen members and 1 visitor attended the meeting. Two quilts were finished for the Buckner Orphans' Home in Dallas.

"The Marilee WMU presented the church with a picture of the River Jordan, painted by Mrs. J. I. Gregory of Van Alstyne." (Sep 6, 1951). In photos of the interior of the church in the 1980s, the picture was still hanging near the altar.

### Cotton

In 1920/21 Marilee was one of two places in Texas to have a pink bollworm infestation. The other location was Ennis. The U. S. Dept. of Agriculture got involved in trying to eradicate the pest before it spread to the rest of the state. There were numerous articles in the Dallas papers about the infestation and the measures being taken to eradicate it. Measures including burning and plowing the crop under and leaving the field bare for three years. (In a side note, this pink bollworm is still a worldwide pest for cotton farmers.)



The River Jordan picture can be seen on the back wall.

## Marilee

Marilee had a cotton gin. In 1922 it was leased and operated by the Moore Brothers of Celina.

In 1929 "the first bale of cotton of the season for Marilee was brought to the gin early Tuesday morning, where it was ginned and bought by Mr. Recknor at 21c per pound. Additional premium money was raised to the sum of \$56.18. The bale brought Edward Jones, who raised it on the Goff farm, \$163.58." (August 15, 1929)

There was a price war for cotton at the gin that year. Evidently the Marilee gin was paying 20 to 21 cts for cotton. By 8 or 9 in the morning there was a long line of wagons at the waiting to be unloaded. "It is stated that the price being paid at Marilee is not justified by the market and that they are the result of a price war." (Aug 29, 1929)

There was a fire at the gin in 1935. Gin manager Frank Recknor gave the "fire boys" \$25 for their work in saving the gin plant. The fire was confined to the seed house and wharf. (Sept 5, 1935)

In 1940 the first bale of cotton ginned by the North Texas Gin Company at Marilee was brought in by W. M. Carter. The bale weighted 364 pounds and was sold to the Gin Company at 10 cents per pound. Mr. Carter also received a \$25 premium for having the first bale of the season. It was the first time that the Marilee gin had the first bale cotton of the season ahead of the gin in Celina.

The Marilee Gin and the Marilee Elevator each gave \$5.00 to the War Chest Drive for the Celina-Alla War Fund. (Oct 19, 1944)

In 1944 W. D. McDonald of Celina was made manager of the gin and elevator. He moved his family to Marilee to live in a house owned by the company. He managed the gin for the Kimbell Milling Company. (July 13, 1944)

F. D. Recknor of Gunter was the manager of the Marilee gin for several years. It also had a corn elevator located at the gin company. In 1946 the corn elevator burned in the middle of the night. A small amount of corn was lost. No one knew how the fire started. (January 31, 1946)

### Bus

The Coffman Motor Coaches had bus routes connecting Dallas, Sherman, Bonham, Honey Grove, the Air Port, and Denison in 1946. They had a route from Dallas to Denison that went up Preston Road (SH 289). The route included the Air Port (Love Field), Shepton (Plano), Lebanon (Frisco), Rock Hill (Prosper) and went on to Celina, Marilee and Gunter before it turned northeast to go to Sherman and Denison. The bus made 2 round trips a day and stopped in Marilee 4 times a day.

### School

Marilee did not have a school. The students went to 3 different school districts. Two of the districts straddled the Collin/Grayson county line. West of town the children went to Skaggs School. The building was really in Grayson County. East of town the students went to Sunbeam School District, which included parts of Grayson County. This school building was in Collin County. South of town the kids went to the Alla School, which became part of the Celina School District. When the Skaggs and Sunbeam Schools closed in 1943, the students north of the county line went to the Gunter School District and south of the county line went to Alla School District. The property of the two school districts was divided between the 2 counties. Gunter in Grayson County got the building and property of the Skaggs district. Alla School in Collin County got the building and property of the Sunbeam district.

### Roads

In 1952 an article stated Improvements Promised on State Highway 289.

...In Collin County the work will include straightening of Hwy 289 from Marilee south for two miles, and the construction of three bridges. This will presumably straighten the winding section of the road immediately south of Marilee and the replacement of the three inadequate wooden bridges between Marilee and the Alla School. (October 19, 1952)

Sources: *Celina Record*, Celina Museum, *McKinney Examiner*, Museum of the American Railroad, *Dallas Morning News*, Heritage Association of Frisco, John Rasor