



Genealogy Friends News

Genealogy Friends of
Plano Libraries

Genealogy Friends News
September 2021

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

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Schedule of Events

We are holding our meetings via Zoom through September

Mark your calendars now for the exciting Genealogy Friends events. Meetings will be held via Zoom until further notice from 10:15 to 12:00 (unless otherwise noted below). Invites will be send out the week before the meeting.

This Month

September 18, 2021 - Zoom Seminar - Judy Russell will be our speaker for two sessions. See the flyer for more information.

Future Events:

Reminder - October is the beginning of our fiscal year it is time to pay your dues.

October 7, 2021—Zoom Meeting—Genealogy Round Table—We are a group of genealogy enthusiasts who get together to share information and help each other on the first Thursday of each month. Zoom invite will be sent out the week before the meeting.

October 9, 2021 - Format TBD - Change of Date due to Early Voting - Lynell Moss will share what is new on FamilySearch.

November 20, 2021 - Format TBD - Program TBD

December 18, 2021 - Format TBD - Show and Tell

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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

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

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Genealogy Education & News

Vivid-Pix software is available at a discount and GenFriends earns money with every purchase. Email newsletter@genealogyfriends.org for the link to purchase Restore for \$39.99 and help raise money to purchase materials for the Genealogy Section of the library.

There are virtual lectures almost every day listed on Conferencekeeper.org. <https://conferencekeeper.org/>

Legacy Family Tree Webinars Webtember continues. Free webinars every Friday in September. <https://familytreewebinars.com/webinar/webtember-all-genealogy-all-september-long/>

The Virginia Genealogical Society Fall 2021 Virtual Conference will be Friday and Saturday, October 15-16th. <https://vgs.org/cpage.php?pt=31>

Family History Federation's **Really Useful Family History Show** - November 12-13. Online event with sessions that focus on Research in Great Britain. <https://www.fhf-reallyuseful.com/>

Florida State Genealogical Society has a free webinar each month. <https://flsgs.org/cpage.php?pt=253>

Wisconsin State Genealogical Society has a free webinar each month <https://wsgs.org/cpage.php?pt=319>

The Allen County Public Library Genealogy Center has free webinars <https://acpl.lib.in.us/genealogy>

The New England Historic Genealogical Society offers free webinars and online classes. Check their schedule at <https://www.americanancestors.org/education/online-classes>

Dallas Genealogical Society Fall 2021 Seminar is "Maine to Virginia: Finding Your Colonial Ancestors" October 23, 2021. Speaker is David A. Lambert. <https://dallasgenealogy.com/dgs/meetings-events/seminars/2021-fall-seminar-2/>

New Hampshire Society of Genealogists 2021 Virtual Fall Conference, On The Road Again, featuring Joshua Taylor will be October 23rd <https://www.nhsog.org/events>

RootsTech will be virtual in 2022 - Save the date - March 3-5th.

New Braunfels, Texas

Submitted by Barbara Brogdon

From Texas Historical Commission Facebook Page

New Braunfels, a Texas Main Street community between San Antonio and Austin, is one of the fastest-growing cities in the nation, and it's easy to see why.

Visitors to historic downtown find a restored and well-preserved city center where specialty retail, dining, lodging, and business mix with cultural arts, festivals, and special events.

Begin a journey through downtown at the restored Comal County Courthouse and enjoy murals, museums, and Old World German bakeries along and adjacent to San Antonio Street. German heritage is in full evidence along the avenues where celebrations like the Wein and Saengerfest, Wassailfest, and the ever-popular Wursthfest—an annual 10-day salute to sausage—take place among the preserved architectural icons of the city's earlier historic era.

More destinations in New Braunfels: <https://txhillcountrytrail.com/.../cities/new-braunfels>



Reasonably Exhaustive Research

by Barbara Coakley

The Genealogical Proof Standard was created to "measure the credibility of conclusions about ancestral identities, relationships, and life events." We use the standards as we research our family history and strive for credible conclusions about who are ancestors were, the relationships they had with other family members, and what happened to them during their lifetime. The five components are:

1. Reasonably exhaustive research.
2. Complete and accurate source citations.
3. Thorough analysis and correlation.
4. Resolution of conflicting evidence.
5. Soundly written conclusion based on the strongest evidence.

The first standard, reasonably exhaustive research can sound daunting. What does it mean? How do I know when I have attained it? *Genealogy Standards* says, "examination of all potentially relevant sources" when solving a research question.

We focus on original records that provide direct evidence to answer our research question. Index entries are clues to find the record if it still exists.

- An index doesn't allow us to analyze the record, pull all the information from it, and determine what it is telling us about our ancestor.
- Abstracts only include the information that the compiler thought was relevant at the time. Examining the actual record could provide more details.
- Authored works like family trees or compiled family histories are good clues but shouldn't be treated as facts. If there are sources cited they should be reviewed to be sure they provide the evidence the author thought they did.

Before we begin searching for the answer to our research question it is important to understand what records exist that might provide evidence to answer the question. It is important to study the location to determine if the records are extant where they are. All of this information is added to the evidence we have already found on our research plan.

Original records can be incorrect. The informant might have had a reason to alter the truth. The recorder might not have made a mistake. It is important to understand who created the record, when it was created and why it was created. If you find one original record and ignore other records that might exist you risk making an incorrect conclusion. If the information in records conflicts then we have to do our best to resolve the conflict.

John S. Sennott was baptized by Fr. J Fischer at Saints Peter and Paul Catholic Church in Waterloo, Monroe County, Illinois on 15 February 1861. When Fr. Fischer recorded the baptism in the church register he also recorded John's birth date, 23 January 1861. The interesting part is that every other document that lists John's birth date has 21 January 1861. The local newspaper includes birthday celebrations in a number of years all on 21 January. His death certificate says 21 January. His son, Harry, told me that his father's birthday was 21 January. Births were not recorded in Monroe County until 1868. I found an original record that contained direct evidence but was it correct? The baptismal record was created closest to the event but I don't know who provided the information to the priest for the register or if he recorded what he was told correctly. So far, I haven't found anything that confirms which date is correct.

The Sennott family has other issues with birth dates.

- John's father, James Sennott, was baptized 1 May 1817 at St. Aidan's Catholic Church in Enniscorthy, Wexford, Ireland. His wife thought his birthday was 15 May 1817.
- John's Aunt Ellen told her family she was born 11 April 1808. She was baptized in the same parish as James on 30 April 1814. Her older sister Mary was baptized 22 June 1808. It appears that the children were all baptized shortly after they were born and that Ellen was actually born in 1814 and not 1808. When Ellen died in St. Louis, Missouri all of the articles in the newspapers and the cemetery records said she was 101.
- Records in the U.S. for Mary show her birth date as 21 May 1808.

Reasonably Exhaustive Research

•If I had not compared the information for all the children and located the baptism records from Enniscorthy on the National Library of Ireland website I would have had no reason to doubt that Ellen was actually 101 when she died.

Sometimes direct evidence does not exist to answer a research question and we have to combine indirect evidence to try to arrive at an answer. When this occurs it is important to expand our research to include relatives and associates, to other locations where our ancestor lived, and to study local history to understand what other records might have been created to answer our question.

There were three men who interacted through out their lives and their families moved from St. Louis, Missouri to Oquwaka, Henderson County, Illinois. John Struck, Henry Struck and Bernard Struck all married at the same catholic parish in St. Louis. Bernard and his future wife were the witnesses at John's wedding. John and Louisa were witnesses at Bernard's wedding. The entries in the marriage register for Henry and Bernard list their parents - Ferdinand Struck and Anna Maria Klein Renne. The priest that recorded John's marriage did not include the parent's names. When Bernard and his wife died a few years later, John acted as the executor of his estate and the probate papers indicate that John was Bernard's brother. Based on the indirect evidence John's parents were Ferdinand and Anna Maria.

Without reasonably exhaustive research conclusions might be incorrect. It is important to understand what records exist and try to locate them to provide evidence to answer our research questions. When we find sources we need to evaluate them to determine how much weight to put on the information in them. As we piece together the stories of our ancestors we are reconstructing history, we need to make an effort to be make them as accurate as possible.

Here are some sources that will provide more information on the Genealogy Proof Standard and reasonably exhaustive research:

Board for Certification of Genealogists. *Genealogy Standards*. 2d ed. Nashville & New York: Ancestry Imprint, Turner Publishing, 2019.

Greenwood, Val. *The Researcher's Guide to American Genealogy*. 4th edition. Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Company, 2017.

Hobbs, Patti Lee. "What am I missing? Recognizing Research Holes in Available Sources," *Legacy Family Tree Webinars*. <https://familytreewebinars.com>.

Jones, Thomas W. *Mastering Genealogical Proof*. Arlington, Va.: National Genealogical Society, 2013.

Mills, Elizabeth Shown. *Evidence Explained: Citing History Sources from Artifacts to Cyberspace*, Third Edition Revised. Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Company, 2017.

----- "QuickLessons" and "QuickTips: The Blog." *Evidence Explained: Historical Analysis, Citation & Source Usage*. <https://www.EvidenceExplained.com>.

----- *Historic Pathways*. <https://historicpathways.com>.

There are numerous articles in scholarly journals that are examples of using reasonably exhaustive research. Reading them can provide sources and strategies to solve difficult research problems. A few are *The National Genealogical Society Quarterly*, *The NEHGS Register*, *The Genealogist*, and *The American Genealogist*.