



Genealogy Friends News

Genealogy Friends of
Plano Libraries

September 2005

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

<http://www.rootsweb.com/~txgfpl>

<http://www.geocities.com/genfriendsghl>

<http://www.rootsweb.com/~txcolli3>

Email Address: genfriends@comcast.net

Newsletter: Barbara Coakley bjc1620@sbcglobal.net

Upcoming Events

Saturday Seminars

Genealogy Friends sponsors free seminars the third Saturday of every month from 9:30 to Noon at the Gladys Harrington Library.

October 15, 2005 —Lynne Darrouzet will discuss Research Preparation and Brenda Kellow will discuss Non Population Census Schedules.

November 19, 2005 —Family Reunions and Newsletters will be the topic of the presentation by Brenda Kellow and Barbara Coakley.

December 17, 2005 —Join us for our annual Show and Tell.

January 21, 2006—Dreanna Belden from University of North Texas will speak to us about their Portal to Texas History Project.

Research Retreats

2006—Salt Lake City

The Fourth Annual Research Retreat to the Family History Library in Salt Lake City will be January 29th through February 5th. The fee is \$80 for members and \$100 for non-members (includes membership). Registration deadline is January 15th. The fee includes an Orientation to the Family History Library by library staff, a lecture on U.S. Court Records by a professional genealogist, individual and group consultations with experienced genealogists, and an opportunity to use the resources of the largest genealogy library in the world.

Further information and registration forms are available on our website at www.rootsweb.com/~txgfpl/.

2007-Washington DC

Genealogy Friends will be sponsoring a trip to Washington DC in October 2007. You will have an opportunity to research at the National Archives, Library of Congress and the Daughters of the American Revolution Library. Orientation sessions will be held at each institution. If you are interested please contact Barbara Coakley at bjc1620@sbcglobal.net. More information will be available at a later date.

Dues Are Due

Our fiscal year begins in October; it is time to renew your dues now. Regular dues are Single: \$30. Family: \$50. Friend: \$100; Gold: \$500; Platinum: \$1000. We currently have over 70 members.

Please consider **matching funds** if your corporation is a participant. We are a nonprofit organization certified under Section 501 [c] [3] of the Internal Revenue Code.

Library Lock In—October 28th

Using Computers for Genealogy

Friday, October 28, 2005 from 6:00 to 11:00 P.M.

Gladys Harrington Library, 1501 E. 18th Street, Plano

Topics offered for all levels of experience:

- Legacy 6.0, Part 1 and Part 2 – Learn about the features that were added to the recently released version of this robust genealogy software.
- Gen Smarts – Wondering where to look for Uncle George? Gen Smarts looks at your data and then produces a list of possible sources and where to find them.
- Using Front Page for Genealogy – A Web Page is a great way to share and preserve your research. Learn how to use Front Page to do this.
- Computer Update – Firewalls, Spyware, etc. – Learn from a computer security professional some simple steps to help keep your computer safe from worms, trojans, viruses, spyware, malware and hackers.
- Publishing Your Genealogy Research – Information on how to publish your family history or genealogy findings; solutions available for limited number book publishings as well as alternatives to physical books (ebooks, web-sites, newsletters...), and pricing for various solutions.
- Organizing Your Files on Your Computer – You know you have it somewhere but can't find it! Learn some methods and software that can help keep the digital clutter under control.
- Private Consultations by appointment between 10:00 and 11:00 p.m.
- Internet Computers – Library Card and authorization required*
- Open Research – Use the vast resources available at the Harrington Library to research your family.

Details:

Check-in at 5:30 P.M. The library closes to the public at 6:00.

Registration is a \$10.00 donation. Option: Pizza, cookie & beverage available for \$4.00. Additional beverages are \$.50 each.

Make checks payable to GenFriends. Pay at the door. Sorry, no credit or debit cards.

Forms are available at the library and/or print from the Gen/Friends website, <http://www.rootsweb.com/~txgfpl/lockins.htm>. For further information contact: GenFriends at genfriends@comcast.net

NOTE: To use the Internet computers, you must have a library card and be authorized by the library prior to 5:30 P.M. on the evening of the lock-in.

Genealogy Friends Logo Shirts

Be one of the best-dressed genealogists in town. Order your Gen Friends logo t-shirt or sweatshirt now. The shirts have a 3" logo printed on the left chest. Shirts are available in white, natural, or ash gray with a dark green logo.

T-shirts are \$12.00 for toddler through XL and \$14.00 for XXL and XXXL

Sweatshirts are \$17.00 for toddler through XL and \$19.00 for XXL and XXXL

Genealogy Classes CCCC

Genealogy II will be taught by Lynne Darrouzet, JD, CGRS, at CCCC's Preston Ridge Campus September 19 through November 14, 2005.

This class builds on the methods introduced in Genealogy I to further acquaint the students with original records sources, and to enhance skills in interpreting, extracting, transcribing and abstracting records, research planning, analyzing evidence and documenting research findings.

Students will be asked to prepare research reports based on their own research. Course is designed for those who have completed Genealogy I; those returning to genealogy; or for the researcher seeking professional credentials.

To register call 972-985-3711.

Volunteers Needed

Your participation can help make Genealogy Friends a better organization.

We need several volunteers to help with all facets of Genealogy Friends activities and events. If you have a talent, extra energy, or are willing to help in any way, please contact us at genfriends@comcast.net.

Gen Friends members also volunteer in the library assisting patrons with genealogy research. This would be a great way to learn more about different aspects of research or increase your knowledge of the libraries holdings. posted on the Gladys Harrington Library web page. Contact the Reference Desk 972-941-7175 to work in the library.

Publications For Sale

The following are available from Genealogy Friends:

NEW 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

Tracing Our Roots Column

The "Tracing Our Roots" column by Brenda Kellow appears in Plano Star Courier, Star Community Newspapers and DFW Community News weekly.

The column and an archives of past columns are also available at <http://www.geocities.com/TracingOurRoots>.

Book Exchange

Genealogy Friends would like to exchange Collin County books with books from other societies.

If you have an area or society you would like us to try and exchange with, please contact Joy Gough at jfar-go@comcast.net.

Collin County Historic Photographs Web Site

Members of GenFriends are contributing photographs of Collin County to the newest Gen Friends web site *Collin County, Texas Past Finders Photo Collection*.

<http://www.rootsweb.com/~txcolli3>. The web site now contains over 3,400 photographs. Categories include Cemeteries,

Churches, Schools, People, Places, and Tombstones. If you would like to contribute photos of Collin County subjects, contact Joy at jfarrgo@comcast.net.

History & Genealogy Web Site

Members of Genealogy Friends are contributing to a new web site—History and Genealogy for the Active Researcher located at <http://www.geocities.com/genfriendsghl>.

The goal is to expand the knowledge of those researching in Collin County and North Texas.

Check out the timeline—a daily calendar of events in Collin County through the years.

2005 Education Opportunities

October 3-7, The Regional In-depth Genealogical Studies Alliance will hold its 2005 workshop at the brand-new National Archives Southeast Region facility in Morrow, Georgia. Check out their web site <http://www.RIGSAlliance.org>

October 21-22, The Texas State Genealogical Society's annual conference will be held in Lubbock, TX. Details are not yet available.

October 29, The San Antonio Genealogical and Historical Society will hold its Annual Fall Seminar featuring Patricia Hatcher. More information at their web site <http://www.rootsweb.com/~txsaghs2>

18th Annual Four Families Reunion

WHEN: SEPTEMBER 24 – 25, 2005

WHERE: Woodmen of the World Life Ins. Society, 28340 State Hwy 75, Oneonta, AL

Do you have ties to any **ALLGOOD, BYNUM, CORNELIUS, or MURPHREE** family that was among the early settlers of Blount county Alabama? Did your name or the name of your parents, grandparents, great-grandparents, etc. appear in one or both of the following books?

HISTORICAL SKETCHES OF THE BYNUM FAMILY, by Jasper E. Bynum, or **GENEALOGY OF THE BYNUM FAMILY**, by Mary Lou Boazman Howard

If you can answer **YES** to one, or both, of these questions, you should plan to attend the **18th Annual Four Families Reunion** on **September 24th and 25th, 2005**. Descendants of these families are invited to join us for a weekend of history, fun, and fellowship. There will be a Genealogy Session on Saturday, September 24th, from 9 to 5. This is a great opportunity to discuss family connections, discover new cousins, see old friends, make new ones, and find new clues to aid in your family research

The Family Reunion (covered dish event) will be on Sunday, September 25th. The building will open at 10 a.m. and activities will begin at 12:30 p.m. For more information, or a complete agenda of the weekend's activities, please contact on of the following:

Marilyn Brown, President, 5868 Red Valley Rd., Remlap, AL 35133, e-mail: mbhbrown@msn.com, or PH: 205-681-5812

Sheri Savory, Vice President, 16912 Hernando Ave., Panama City Beach, FL 32143, e-mail: gistfranklin@aol.com, or PH: 850-866-8277

Bruce Jordan, Newsletter Editor, 5345 FM 339 N, Prairie Hill, TX 76678, e-mail: bjordan@glade.net, or PH: 254-344-2343

State Archives & Libraries—South Carolina

By Lynne Darrouzet, JD, CGRS

Our series continues with a description of the holdings of the South Carolina State Archives.

The South Carolina Department of Archives and History (SCDAH) is the caretaker of the South Carolina State Archives, a collection of historical documents dating back to the beginning of the Colony in 1670.

Location: 8301 Parklane Road, Columbia, SC 29223

Reference Desk:

Tele. 803.896.6104 or 803.896.6105

Fax: 803.896.6198

Main:

Tele: (803) 896-6100

Fax: (803) 896-6198

Web Site: <http://www.state.sc.us/scdah/homepage.htm>

Hours:

Research Room: 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. Tuesday through Friday; 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Saturdays; 1 p.m. to 6 p.m. on Sundays

Closed on state holidays

Research:

Reference staff will answer questions about the records and provide specific information from them if the amount of research time is reasonable. Staff will also check specified indexes for a specific name and fill a photocopy order for records in which the name appears. Staff cannot undertake extensive research or analyze records for questions of judgment; they will, however, recommend sources for further research.

Reference queries can be sent by e-mail to reference staff. There is an e-mail request form for genealogical queries and another form for queries relating to general, historical or legal questions.

Fees:

Out of state research fee for mail/telephone queries: \$15.00

In state research fee for mail/telephone queries: \$5.00

Photocopies (per page) \$0.40

The turnaround time on queries is usually quite prompt (one to two weeks).

Background:

- Evolved from two state agencies created in 1891 and

1894

- Custodian of the non-current archives of state and local government

Holdings from 1670 (and some earlier British documents) and now include 10,627 record series, a total of 27,775 cubic feet of paper records and 23,083 microfilm reels

Access to Collection:

The South Carolina Archives Summary Guide to Holdings is a listing of summary information on every record series in the department's archival holdings. Summary guides are available for state records, local records, federal records, British records, Confederate records, among others. The summary guides are available at <http://www.state.sc.us/scdah/guide/guide.htm#guide>

The Archives has an extensive catalog of information about the Archives' holdings of state and local government records only available to patrons who visited the Reference Room. However, the Archives has received a grant to make the catalog available online. This project is scheduled for completion in fall 2006.

Records indexes to key series are available on-line at <http://www.archivesindex.sc.gov/>. The series are searchable by personal name, geographic location, topic, time span or a combination of these search factors. Photocopies of records identified in this index can be requested for a fee from the archives. Some of the searchable series are described below. This index includes a Combined Alphabetical Index to Colonial and State records, 1675-1919

Collections:

A complete description of the collections can be found in the summary guides and catalog as described above. A brief list of the type and scope of records available that are of interest to genealogists include:

- Legislative records: Journals from 1692 and acts from 1691, supplemented by bills, petitions, reports, and so forth from 1782.
- Court records: Journals and case papers of provincial and appellate courts.
- State agencies and departments: Non-current records of existing and defunct organizations.
- Land records: Plats and grants virtually complete from 1731; nearly complete records of grants and conveyances

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State Archives & Libraries—South Carolina (cont'd)

By Lynne Darrouzet, JD, CGRS

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1671-1730; memorials of land titles, 1732-1775; microfilm of deeds available to 1920.

- Records of the Secretary of the Province and State: Wills, inventories of estates, marriage settlements, commissions, mortgages, bills of sale, registers of trademarks, and charters of incorporation from 1671.
- Military service records: Accounts Audited of Claims Growing Out of the Revolution; rosters of Confederate War soldiers; Confederate pension applications; scattered records of colonial wars, War of 1812, and Mexican War; records of the Adjutant General's Office.
- County and Municipal records: Several thousand cubic feet of manuscript records and a growing collection of microfilm produced by the SCDAH; microfilm and typed copies of selected records to 1860 made by the Family History Library and the Works Progress Administration.

Reference collection: A growing microfilm collection of public and semi-public records of or relating to South Carolina from the British Public Records Office, the National Archives, and private manuscript repositories; published reference works; bibliographies; archival guides; and monographs on South Carolina history.

Key Series:

Some of the records of interest to genealogists are indexed and searchable online. Search results are returned with a brief abstract of the document and names mentioned in the document.

- Confederate Pension applications 1919-1938;
- Legislative Papers 1782 - 1866
- Plats for State Land Grants 1784 - 1868
- Will Transcripts 1782 – 1855
- Renunciations of Dower Books (Charleston County) 1787-1887 992
- Accounts Audited of Claims Growing Out of the Revolution 1778-1804
- Memorial Books (Copy Series) 1731-1778 21,515
- Renunciations of Dower Books (Court of Common Pleas) 1726-1786
- Miscellaneous Records (Main Series) [Selected Vol-

umes] 1741-1843

- Colonial Land Grants 1749-1799
- Township Grants 1736-1761
- Town Lot Grants 1772-1775
- Colonial Land Grants
- Bills of Sale 1843-1872
- Robert W. Gibbes Collection of Revolutionary War Manuscripts 1773-1840
- Colonial Plat Books 1731-1775
- Unrecorded Plats for Land Not Granted 1731-1866
- Mortgages 1786-1815
- Conveyance Books (Register of Mesne Conveyance) 1776-1785
- Conveyance Books (Public Register) 1719-1776

Researching South Carolina Records

Some useful references for genealogists on the Archives' web site:

Selected Bibliography of County, City, and Town Histories and Related Published Records in the South Carolina Archives Reference Library <http://www.state.sc.us/scdah/refcountybiblio.htm>

This bibliography provides a list of the county, city, and town histories and related published records—abstracts of wills and deeds, cemetery records, marriage and death notices, and so forth—available in the Archives' reference library.

Vital Records at the Archives

<http://www.state.sc.us/scdah/vit.htm>

Good description of the availability and location of birth, marriage, death, divorce, church and other records in South Carolina

Confederate Military Records at the Archives

<http://www.state.sc.us/scdah/confedrc.htm>

Detailed description of service records and veterans' benefit records available at the Archives.

Selected Readings in South Carolina History

<http://www.state.sc.us/scdah/selectedrngz.htm>

Collin County Bits—The Peters Colony**By Joy Gough**

Having grown up in one of the original thirteen colonies, I did not realize until I came to Texas that the word “colony” has two very different meanings. To me a colony is a settlement of people who emigrated from another place, such as England. The thirteen colonies were such settlements. The people came to the New World and created the colonies.

In Texas the colony was created before the people came. A Texas colony was an immigration company trying to get people to move to a specific piece of previously unsettled land. Texas had several of these colonies. The one that involved North Texas was the Peters Colony.

When I first heard of the Peters Colony, I was not interested in it. After all, I thought, there were no “colonies” anywhere near Texas. Surely the Peters Colony does not apply to this area. In fact, the Peters Colony was responsible for settling much of North Texas.

When Texas broke from Mexico and became a republic in 1836, its first priorities were writing a Constitution and establishing its own policies. In the Constitution of 1836, all heads of households living in Texas at the time of Texas’ Independence Day (March 2, 1836), except Negroes and Indians, were declared citizens of the Republic of Texas and were given the rights to one league and one labor of land (4605.5 acres). Veterans of the Texas Revolution were also given a league and a labor of land. These Headrights granted settlers the rights to the land, but they did not designate where the land was located. The settlers could decide where in Texas they wanted to locate their headrights. Many times they divided their acreage, with one portion being farm land for crops, another being forest land for hunting and timber, and maybe a third was prairie land for raising cattle. Since Texas’ western borders were not clearly defined, some of the Texas headrights were actually located in present-day Oklahoma, and maybe Colorado and New Mexico.

During the days of the Republic, present-day Collin and Grayson Counties and points west were part of Fannin County; Dallas and Tarrant Counties were part of Nacogdoches County; and Johnson and Ellis Counties were part of Robertson County.

The new government of the Republic of Texas assumed responsibility for its public domain lands. It nullified the existing Mexican land laws and abolished all of the land offices, firing the agents and the commissioners. On February 4, 1841, the Republic signed a land bill that included both the British and the Spanish systems of land grants. It authorized the President of the Republic to enter into *empresario* contracts to establish colonies. This type of colony system was Spanish in origin. The Spanish sold land to *empresarios*, who sold land to individuals and received large land “premiums” for their efforts. The British sold land to individuals. In other parts of the Republic, people bought land from the government.

Twenty people petitioned the Republic of Texas to establish a colony in Texas. They included William S. Peters, his sons – William C. Peters, John Peters, Henry J. Peters – and his son-in-law, Samuel Browning. William S. Peters was an Englishman by birth. He and his sons lived in Louisville, Kentucky. The sons were musicians and owned music stores in Louisville and other towns in the area. Samuel Browning was the only one to move to Texas. The colony was named the Peters Colony. In this instance, “the colony” was a company, whose purpose was to entice settlers to immigrate to the Republic.

From February of 1841 to July 1842 there were three contracts between the Republic of Texas and the Peters Colony company with each additional contract increasing the size of the land area and also increasing the demands on the Colony administrators.

The First Contract for the Peters Colony was signed on August 30, 1841. The company were contracted to bring in six hundred (600) heads of households in a three-year period. A head of household was defined as a father, a widow, or a single man.

The land designated for the colony extended from the Red River to the bottom of present-day Collin County, west about 20 miles, and then back up to the Red River. It consisted of the western half of present-day Grayson county and a sliver on the west side of present-day Collin County and the eastern halves of present-day Denton and Cooke Counties. At that time all of the land was in Fannin County.

Every family that immigrated was entitled to receive 640 acres (a section or a square mile) and every single man, 320 acres (a half section). In order to qualify for the grant, the immigrants had to reside on the land for three years, to cultivate at least ten acres, to have the land surveyed and plainly marked, to take an oath of allegiance to the Republic of Texas, and to procure from the chief justice of the county a certificate signed by two reliable witnesses, stating the terms of the law had been fulfilled.

The settlers were to be given full and absolute title to the land provided they “shall have built a good and comfortable

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Collin County Bits—The Peters Colony

Cabin upon it, and shall keep in Cultivation under good fence, at least 15 acres on this tract.”

The company would get a land premium of ten (10) sections for every one hundred families and five sections of land for every one hundred single men that moved into the colony. The land premiums were to be selected within the limits of the colony and no land was to be granted for a fractional portion of the settlers. The Republic further agreed to give each individual settlement within the colony a section of land to be used to aid the settlers “in the erection of buildings for religious public worship.” It was further agreed that the company would introduce at least 200 of the 600 families within a year, 400 within two years and the remainder in the third year. If these time limits were not fulfilled the contractors were to forfeit their rights. A final clause provided that the emigrants introduced be of good moral character. If the company fulfilled the terms of the contract, it could have received as much as sixty square miles, or sixty sections, of land in the Peters Colony.

By the end of the Third Contract in July of 1842, the number of immigrants was increased to eight hundred, and the land area had almost doubled in size to include half of Collin and Grayson Counties, most of Dallas County and part of Ellis County -on the East- and half of Tarrant and Cooke Counties, most of Denton County and part of Johnson County - on the West. Also every alternate section of land was to be reserved for the Republic of Texas.

The Peters family and some new associates organized the Texas Agricultural, Commercial and Manufacturing Company to manage the Peters Colony, with Horace Burnham as agent.

The Fourth Contract, signed on October 3, 1842, changed everything. The time period to bring in eight-hundred families was extended to five years. The western boundary was extended to include land in Throckmorton County sixty miles west of Wichita Falls. The colony was one hundred miles long and one hundred and sixty four miles wide. The terms of the contracts were changed so that the title to the property was not given to the settler. It was kept by the agent of the land company, who could give the settler any portion of his 640 acres, not to be less than 160 acres. This change is what precipitated the Hedgcoxe War.

Source: *The Peters Colony of Texas*, by Seymour V. Connor, The Texas State Historical Association, 1959.

New Additions to the Genealogy Collection, Gladys Harrington Library

The following books, CD's and microfilm are now available in the library:

- | | |
|---|------------------|
| • The Yesterdays Behind the Door | GEN 929.2 CHR |
| • The First Settlers of Orange County, Virginia | GEN 975.5372 JOY |
| • Centennial History of Arkansas, Vols. I, II, & III | GEN 976.7 HER |
| • A Century of Population Growth From the First Census of the United States to the Twelfth, 1790-1900 | GEN 304.6021 UNI |
| • Here Lies America: A Collection of Notable Graves | GEN 920.073 EIL |
| • Heraldry for the American Genealogist | GEN 929.6 STE |
| • A Yankee in King George's Archives | GEN 929.1 ELL |
| • A Graveyard Preservation Primer | GEN 363.69 STR |
| • Welsh Family History: A Guide to Research | GEN 929.1072 GEN |
| • Pioneer History, 1802-1865: An Interesting Record of Randolph Township | GEN 977.1 DIC |

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New Additions to the Genealogy Collection, Gladys Harrington Library

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- Massachusetts Towns: An 1840 View GEN 974.4 SAN
- Genealogical Dictionary with alphabetical Nationwide County Index Included GEN 929.103 COO
- Court-Hand Restored or, The Student's Assistant in Reading Old Deeds, Charters, Records, etc. GEN 417.7 WRI
- Abstracts of South Carolina Plats, Vols. 1, 2, & 3, Including Books 1-8 GEN 929.3757 PRU
- The 1860 Census of East Feliciana Parish GEN 929.376316 EIG
- The Felicianas of Louisiana GEN 917.631 REE
- Tax lists, Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania, 1786-1810 GEN 929.374881 DUM
- Origin and Evolution of Illinois Counties GEN 977.3 ILL
- Twenty censuses, population and housing questions, 1790-1980 GEN 929.1 UNI
- Genealogical calendar, 1753-2000, including a calendar for each year from adoption of the Gregorian Calendar by England and its colonies through the year 2000 GEN 529.3 GEN
- The family of Charles Holt & Martha Ratliff Holt GEN 929.2 HOL
- Estate inventories: how to use them GEN 929.1 SMI
- Shadows in Silver: A Record of Virginia, 1850-1900 In Contemporary Photographs Taken by George and Huestis Cook with Additions from the Cook Collection GEN 975.5 KOC
- A Practical Guide to the "Mistakes" Made in Census Indexes GEN 929.1 PRA
- Us Nesters in the Land of Enchantment GEN 978.9 CLI
- The Virginia House: A Home for Three Hundred Years GEN 728.37 FAU
- The Gravestones of Early Long Island, 1680-1810 GEN 736.50974 WEL
- Peninsula Pilgrimage GEN 917.55 HUN
- The Last Great Necessity: cemeteries in American history GEN 393.10973 SLO
- German Genealogical Research GEN 929.1072043 SCH
- The Thomas Book Giving the Genealogies of Sir Rhys Ap Thomas, K.G., The Thomas Family Descended From Him, and of Some Allied Families, Vols. 1 & 2 GEN 929.2 THO
- The Scotch-Irish of Colonial Pennsylvania GEN 973.042 DUN
- The Land Records of America and Their Genealogical Value GEN 929.373 KIR
- The Lost Panoramas of the Mississippi GEN 917.7 MCD
- The Chesapeake in the Seventeenth Century: Essays on Anglo-American society GEN 975.518 CHE

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New Additions to the Genealogy Collection, Gladys Harrington Library

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- Ray's Index and Digest to Hathaway's: North Carolina Historical and Genealogical Register GEN 929.3756 RAY
- Hingham: A Story of Its Early Settlement and Life, Its Ancient Landmarks, Its Historic Sites and Buildings
GEN 974.4 HIN
- Tombstones of Your Ancestors GEN 929.1 SCH
- Underfoot: An Everyday Guide to Exploring the American Past GEN 973.072 WEI
- The Mansions of Virginia: 1706-1776 GEN 728 WAT
- An Old House Speaks GEN 929.2 WIL
- Botetourt Co., VA Will book A, 1770-1801 GEN 929.375583 CHI
- Montgomery County, VA, Will book 1, 1786-1809 GEN 929.3755785
- Ida Goold Butler, Daughter of Samuel William Goold, Journal, vol. II GEN 929.2 GOU
- Marriage Records Index, Denton County, Texas, 1895- March 1912 GEN 929.3764555 WHI
- Indian Forays on the Holston & Clinch GEN 970.468 IND
- Annals of Athens, Georgia, 1801-1901 GEN 975.818 HUL
- The Huguenot, 1993-1995 GEN 284.5 HUG
- Virginia's District Courts, 1789-1809 GEN 929.37556 WAR
- Memorial and Biographical History of Dallas County, Texas GEN 976.42811 MEM
- The Old Dominion in the Seventeenth Century: A Documentary History of Virginia, 1606-1689
GEN 975.5 BIL
- Southwestern Bell: Greater Dallas, 2003 GEN 384.625 SOU
- Southwestern Bell: Richardson, Garland, Plano Yellow Pages GEN 384.625 SOU

Thanks to Lynn Day for compiling this list of new books.

What DNA Testing Did For My Genealogy

By Lynn Fussell

I knew my grandfather, James Jefferson Spencer, since he had lived with us for a while as I was growing up. It had been said by family members that our ancestors came to Tennessee from North Carolina. This was true for both families, Fussells and Spencers. I had been able to document my Fussell ancestors back to Nicholas Fussell who was born about 1603 and lived in London, England. In doing, so I discovered that I had a Revolutionary War ancestor and was able to join the Sons of the American Revolution.

After my seemly good success researching my Fussell line I started on my mother's Spencer line. I wanted to trace the line back and at least see if I had a Revolutionary War ancestor in the Spencer line. It was relatively easy tracing the line.

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What DNA Testing Did For My Genealogy (cont'd)

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though Tennessee census records, starting with my grandfather in the 1900 and working. In the 1850 census for Hardin, Co., Tennessee I identified Charles Spencer, my ggggrandfather, who was 58 years old at the time and gave birth place as North Carolina. This confirmed some of the information I had gleaned from several family members. Some of this information stated that Charles's oldest son, Samuel B. had been born in Hickman Co., Tennessee about 1814. The 1810 census for Tennessee had been lost and much of the 1820 census for Hickman Co. was obliterated. This led to searching records for Hickman Co. I found a Charles Spencer and a Samuel Spencer mentioned on a number of deeds and records. The dates on these records ranged from about 1810 to 1819-20. This led me to conclude that Samuel was the father of Charles.

The next step was to search the North Carolina 1800 census records for a Samuel Spencer. One was found in Burke Co. with three children, 2 males and 1 female all less than ten years of age. He was not listed in the 1790 census as head of household. After I found Samuel I hit that infamous brick wall. I joined the *Spencer Historical and Genealogical Society* hoping I might get some leads for my research. Richard Spencer who was President of SHGS at the time and lives in Franklin, Tennessee found out I was searching for information on Samuel Spencer from North Carolina. He was a volunteer in the Williamson County Library and found some information on a Samuel Spencer which was in a Williamson County Genealogy Society file. One of the documents he sent me was four pages of a letter from Messina to her grand niece, Mabel which was written in 1923. Mabel wanted to know something about her family genealogy. Messina gave her very significant information from memory. Messina said the records in Pontotoc, Mississippi were strewn about by Yankee soldiers and there was a big rain that night and the records were destroyed. Some of the information she gave was the name of her father, his birth day, 13 April 1797 and place, Rutherford County, NC and her grandfather, Samuel who was born in 1775 in North Carolina. She stated that Samuel left North Carolina when William was five and settled in Hickman Co., Tennessee. Her father left Hickman County and came to Mississippi and married her mother Margaret Montgomery on 5 March 1823 in Cottonginport, Monroe Co., Mississippi. William Spencer was listed in the 1830 Monroe County census and subsequently in Pontotoc County census records from 1840 through 1870. Messina was listed in the 1850 Pontotoc County census as a daughter of William born about 1842. Messina's information identified the second male son in the 1800 Burke County, NC, census. All my documentation at this juncture indicated that Charles and Samuel were brothers, both being sons of Samuel Spencer. Messina stated her father William said that his grandfather, Edmond, had come to America with his four brothers in 1700 and landed in Maryland. This statement was only partially correct; there were not enough generations accounted for between Edmond and Samuel. Regardless, I was making little headway getting through or around my brick wall.

About 2001 SHGS initiated a surname program using DNA tests as a genealogy tool. The idea that Spencer ancestors might be identified using the DNA in the y chromosome which is passed from father to son unchanged. This only applied to males.

Since I was related to the Spencers through my mother, for me to participate I had to sponsor a male cousin, James. In the report on his DNA there were no matches. About three years later there was a notification by Family Tree DNA, the test organization, that there was a match with James. This was Garry whom I had met several years back at a Spencer reunion. Both James and Garry descended from Charles through Charles oldest son, Samuel B. There were about seven matches with Garry listed as McWhirters(?). I could only hope additional testing would be more fruitful.

In February or March of this year I got a call from Sharron Spencer who is the data manager for SHGS. She informed me that a descendant of Samuel's son, William whose name was also William had a DNA test and it did not match James' and Garry's DNA. Something was amiss! How could this be? Oh, by the way, William's DNA did match another group of Spencers. How to clear up this dilemma?

It was decided I should sponsor two more DNA tests from descendants of another son of Charles. This was done for Don and Arthur, descendants of Charles M. and their DNA matched James and Charles. My documentation for relationship between Charles and Samuel were records from Hickman Co., Tennessee, primarily deeds whereas for William there was Messina's letter identifying her father and grandfather in addition to DNA match with other Spencers. I had to conclude that Charles was not a biological son of Samuel. You can only speculate on an explanation or answer as well as I can.

WHAT DID DNA TESTING DO FOR MY GENEALOGY? It didn't get me pass my brick wall. It created a dilemma, for sure. I only know that my ggggrandfather was Charles Spencer, beyond him it's _____ and most likely will remain that way.