



Genealogy Friends News

Genealogy Friends of Plano
Libraries

Genealogy Friends News
September 2010

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[http:// www.genealogyfriends.org](http://www.genealogyfriends.org)

<http://genfriends.blogspot.com/>

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Saturday Seminars

Mark your calendars now for the exciting Genealogy Friends events in 2010. 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 18, 2010—Kelvin Meyers, a professional genealogist and former librarian at the Dallas Public Library Genealogy Department presents “The Hand That Rocked the Cradle Could Rule the World” and “Skallywags, Rogues, and Ruffs: All Those Ancestors We Don't Talk About”

Future Topics:

September 25, 2010—We're offering a special seminar "Preparing for a Research Trip". Having a research plan can make any research trip more productive. The seminar will focus on preparing to visit the Family History Library in Salt Lake City but the principles can be applied to any trip including one to your local cemetery, library or courthouse.

October 16, 2010—All Day Seminar will be held at Plano Bible Chapel, 1900 Shiloh Rd, Plano—"Records Research: Land, Church & Courthouse" presented by James Deen, Barbara Coakley and Tresa Tetryek. The fee is \$35 for members and \$38 for nonmembers if you register before October 10th and \$40 for members and \$45 for nonmembers afterwards. Bring a sack lunch, drinks will be available. <http://genealogyfriends.org/flyers/workshops/workshop2010flyer.pdf>

October 21, 2010—Gen Friends General Meeting will be held at Outback Steakhouse at 7 pm. Stay tuned for details.

October 23, 2010—LearnN—Join us to learn about two powerful software packages. Jennifer Pitts will show us how to organize and touch up photos using Picasa. Barbara Coakley will demonstrate how to use Family Atlas to create a map of our family history. Roots Magic has also agreed to give us a discount on Family Atlas, details will be available at the LearnN. See page 8 for more information.

November 20, 2010—Lt Calvin J Spann will share his experiences as a Tuskegee Airman

November 30-December 5th— Research Trip to Salt Lake City—On November 30th we'll travel to Salt Lake City. Research at the library begins with an orientation seminar. This is a great way to visit the largest genealogy library in the world. A professional genealogist will be available to help with your research during the trip. See page 7 for more information.

December 18, 2010—Show and Tell—bring your genealogy finds and share them with us

If you have suggestions for programs please submit them to Jean Funk at jeano25@aol.com.

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
Military Investigations: Red, White & Blue	\$10
Colonial Ills, Brews & Concoctions	\$10
Library 101: Using Dewey Decimal Sys	\$10
Compiled Newsletters with Index	\$15

Join Genfriends

It's time to renew your membership. The money we raise is used to purchase materials for the Genealogy Section at Haggard Library. Individual memberships are \$30 and family memberships are \$50. Dues year runs from October 1 to September 31.

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Genealogy Classes

Genealogy II will be offered on Tuesday nights from 10/19 to 12/14. There won't be any class on November 30th since we will be in Salt Lake City. In this class we examine different types of records—where to find them, how to use them, what they tell you.

The instructor is Barbara Coakley. To register visit the college's web site <http://www.ccccd.edu/ce/index.html> or call 972-985-3711.

Great Family Search Conference

The Great Family Search Conference will be held on October 8-9 at . Featured speakers are David Rencher, Chief Genealogical Officer, FamilySearch and Roger Bell, SVP of Content and Product for Footnote.com. For more information visit <http://www.greatfamilyserach.com>

Tracing Our Roots Column

The "Tracing Our Roots" column written by Brenda Kellow appears each Sunday in the 'PULSE' or 'ENTERTAINMENT' section of the Plano Insider newspaper, and in Star Community newspapers throughout North Texas. Her columns are also available in the column archives at <http://tracingourroots.weebly.com/>

Legacy Users Group

Joanne Corney leads a group of dedicated, knowledgeable folks who use Legacy software to organize their genealogy. They meet on the fourth Tuesday of each month in the program room at Haggard Library from 10:30 to 12:30. If you have questions email Joanne at ptxlegacyug@verizon.net

Websites

ScotlandsPeople redesigned their website. This is the official Scottish genealogy resource. They have almost 80 million records.

<http://www1.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/>

Tami Glatz has developed a genealogy toolbar for your internet browser. It has links to genealogy sites, provides alerts on what's new in genealogy and a powerful search engine.

<http://relativelycurious.ourtoolbar.com/>

Findmypast.co.uk has added 22,000 baptism, marriage and burial records to its Dorset parish record collection. The records cover 1549-1839, dates vary by record type. Findmypast is a subscription website. There are various levels of subscription available.

<http://www.findmypast.co.uk/parish-records-collection-search-start.action?redef=0&event=B>

Looking for a genealogy society in the area you are searching? Check out Society Hall on the FGS website. You enter a keyword and choose a state from the drop down list and the search will return info about genealogy societies.

<http://www.fgs.org/societyhall/index.php>

If you are interested in DNA but don't really understand what it's all about you might want to visit Learn Genetics. It is a website from the University of Utah that has lots of easy to understand information about DNA.

<http://learn.genetics.utah.edu/>

There will be a new conference in 2011—Rootstech, a new genealogy and technology conference will be held February 10-12, 2011 in Salt Lake City. The conference will be hosted by FamilySearch. Sponsors include the New England Historic Genealogical Society, Ancestry.com and Brigham Young University.

More information is available at <http://rootstech.familysearch.org/>

Podcasts can be a great way to learn about resources available for genealogists. You don't need to have an ipod to listen either. The National Archives (UK) has a podcast series. <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/rss/podcasts.xml>

The National Genealogical Society (NGS) has a series of interviews in the Members Only section on their website. There are interviews with a number of prominent genealogists including Leslie Anderson, Elizabeth Shown Mills, Helen Leary, and David Rencher. Included in membership are four issues of the National Genealogical Society Quarterly (past issues are also available as pdf files on the website), four issues of NGS Magazine, a large collection of digitized bible records, the fully indexed *The National Intelligencer (1800-1850)*, and special discounts. Membership is \$60 per year. <http://www.ngsgenealogy.org/cs/home>

Here is a list from Dear Myrtle of websites to check if you are doing research on ancestors in England:

The British Library <http://www.bl.uk/>

British-Genealogy <http://www.british-genealogy.com/>

Looking for a Person on the UK National Archives website <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/records/looking-for-person/default.htm>

England on the FamilySearch Wiki <https://wiki.familysearch.org/en/England>

GEN UKI UK & Ireland Genealogy <http://www.genuki.org.uk/>

Old Maps <http://oldmaps.co.uk/>

Parish Locator <http://www.parloc.pwp.blueyonder.co.uk/>

Old Street Plans <http://artus-fh.co.uk/source/Early%20Maps.html>

Arphax publishing publishes the *Family Maps* series. The books are now available in paperback. The books list the original settlers in a county and include maps. <http://www.arphax.com/>

The USA.gov website includes a page on History with some interesting links to Family History and Genealogy information and databases like the Federal Bureau of Prisons, Genealogy Resources by State, list of State Archives, and a Guide to Tracing Your American Indian Ancestry. http://www.usa.gov/Citizen/Topics/History_General.shtml

What's New in Genealogy

Ancestry.com released a new version of Family Tree Maker 2011 with more than 100 enhancements. Family Tree Maker is integrated with Ancestry.com. Some of the new features are smart stories, a narrative tool, new and improved charts, new and improved reports, and new media management tools. It can be purchased online for \$39.95 at <http://www.familytreemaker.com/>. They are working on a version for Mac.

FamilySearch.org announced that they added over 200 million new searchable historic records representing 18 countries to their digital collection. <http://pilot.familysearch.org/recordsearch/start.html#start>. Check the website frequently, new collections are highlighted with a *. They are also moving records from Record Search to the FamilySearch Beta. The data transfer, containing 447 collections and 600 million names, should be completed by the end of the month. <http://beta.familysearch.org/> will replace the current <http://www.familysearch.org> by the end of the year. Check out the

World Archives Project—Ancestry.com has a project that is a collaborative effort that has allowed thousands of people around the world to help index records. There are a number of records you can help index. The indexes are available for anyone to search on Ancestry.com (you do need a subscription to view the records). You can choose the project that you index. <http://community.ancestry.com/wap/download.aspx> It is important that each of us take the time and volunteer to help with an indexing project. You can also index records on FamilySearch.org http://www.familysearch.org/eng/indexing/frameset_indexing.asp

Mark your calendar! The 1940 US Federal Census will be released to the public on 2 April 2012. There are a couple of questions that we might find very useful—Where did you live in 1935? Who in the household provided the information? Was anyone in the household working for the WPA, CCC or the Youth Conservation Corps? NARA is digitizing the census in house because of right to privacy laws.

The Federation of Genealogy Societies (FGS) is partnering with the National Archives to digitize the War of 1812 Pension files. These files have not been microfilmed which means to obtain copies you have to order them from NARA or visit Washington DC. They are hoping to finish the project before the bicentennial of the war's end in 2015. There are 7.2 million images in 180,000 files. If you would like to make a donation to help with this project visit <http://fgs.org/1812/>

Genealogy Friends Logo Shirts

Be one of the best-dressed genealogists in town.

In addition to the ever popular Gen Friends logo t-shirts and sweatshirts, we now have 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 (white, neutral, ash, light blue, pink, yellow and sand) \$15.00

Sweatshirts (white, neutral, ash, light blue, pink, yellow, light green or sand)\$20.00

Henley's (white, ash or natural) \$20.00

Polo Shirts (white, ash or light blue) \$20.00

Long Sleeved T-shirts (white, natural, ash, light blue, pink, yellow or sand) \$18.00



A Surprise in the Family Tree

Written and typed by Nicolas Quattromani, age 12
 A class assignment project
 (Grandson of Bob and Brenda Kellow)

I sure am lucky I have a genealogist in the family. Genealogy is the study of family history, and my maternal grandmother has won many awards and certificates for her extensive work. She attends meetings on genealogy and has a popular website on the subject. I like to learn about who I am related to, so, out of curiosity, I asked my grandmother if I had any relatives who fought in the American Revolutionary War, because we studied American history in school. It turns out that she has much information on him in books and documents, giving me many details to put in this report. Enjoy!

The name of this man was Joseph E. Singletary, my (deep breath) great-great-great-great-great grandfather. The Singletary family is huge, consisting of possibly thousands of individuals. Joe Singletary was born in 1761 and died in 1844, making him 14 when the war started and 22 when it ended. He died at a ripe old age of 83, 154 years before I was born. That long ago and I still have a copious amount of information about him!

Joseph Singletary fought in the revolutionary war, in the North Carolina Militia. He was a private in the militia when he joined, becoming a lieutenant later in service. He had a pension application, and moved from North Carolina to Thomas County Georgia in the early years of America. At the time that he died in 1844, crops were bad and a sickness was going around that had killed one of his relatives, as a letter tells. Parts of Thomas County and the adjacent Decatur County were later taken to create Grady County, in which was his house and tombstone. So, if you are looking for his house, (which was demolished by the way), then Grady County is the place.

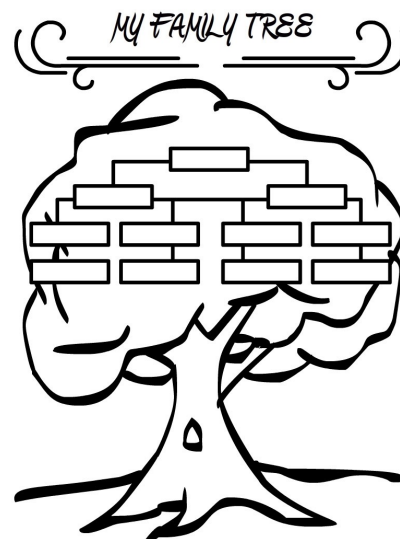
The Singletary line goes back to early colonial days. Stephan Hopkins, a very interesting man, was a colonist at Jamestown and sailed on the *Mayflower*. On the way to Jamestown in the ship *Sea Venture*, he was shipwrecked in "Isle of Devils" in the Bermudas. Stranded on an island for ten long months, he and the other guys ate turtles, birds, and wild pigs. Eventually the castaways built a ship and sailed to Jamestown. How long Steve remained in Jamestown is unknown. He was back in England by 1617, when he married Liz Fisher, but apparently had every intention of bringing his family back to Virginia. In 1620, Steve Hopkins set sail on the *Mayflower*, along with his wife and kids. At Plymouth, due to his experience at Jamestown, he was held in high esteem and was used as an expert on the Native Americans.

The fact that I had a Jamestown *and* Plymouth ancestor was the real surprise!

October is Family History Month

October is Family History Month. It's a great opportunity to share all the work you have done on your family history. Here are a couple of things you might do:

- Write a story about an ancestor and share it
- Take pictures of family heirlooms and write their story— who owned them, where and when did they get them, etc. and share them.
- Start an online family tree and upload pictures of your ancestors. Who knows you just might connect with another researcher working on the same family.



Dealing with Difficult Handwriting

By Barbara Cookley

Wouldn't it be great if all of the people who created records for our ancestors had beautiful, readable handwriting? Unfortunately, some of the records we find are hard to read. It is important to be able to correctly read documents to be able to accurately interpret the document and what it tells you. If you can't read the handwriting you won't be able to glean all of the information from a document and might miss important clues or answers to your research questions. Here are a few tips that might help make dealing with handwritten documents a little easier.

Handwriting styles have changed through the years, generally, early documents are harder to read than more recent documents. The writer may have used more than one form of the same letter. Often it depends on the placement of the letter in the word. They might make a letter differently if it is at the beginning of the word than if it is in the middle of the word.

When you find a document that is difficult to read the first step is to read through the document looking for words that you can read. Look for words that should be in the document like the month. Use the letters in those words to decipher other words. If the document is one where standard language is used, think about what the wording might be. Reading documents for context might help you make out the words. For example, a deed usually begins with the date the place where it is recorded, the names of the seller and buyer, the consideration, and a description of the property. Reading documents before and after the one related to your ancestor improves your chances of finding words or letters that you recognize. The more you work with one person's handwriting the easier it is to make out the words.

Another tactic is to transcribe the document. The first time you go through the document don't spend too much time on single words. Insert _____ where you can't read a word. If there are letters you can make out put them in with blanks for the letters you can't make out, for example e_t_e. Then go back through more slowly to try and fill in the missing letters and words. Sometimes you may have to read through the document multiple times before you can fill in all the blanks. You can also use gazetteers, county histories or other published sources to help with places or peoples' names.

For extremely difficult documents, try making it larger or using a magnifying glass. Sometimes it is easier to read a document blown up to 11x17 from 8 1/2 x 11. Zoom in on a digital or microfilmed document. If you are reading a document on microfilm, try placing a piece of lightly colored paper on the surface where the document is displayed. Light yellow, blue or green may cut the glare and make the document easier to read. You might want to trace the words onto the paper, they may be easier to read and writing out the words may help you recognize the letters.

In addition to the handwriting, there are a couple of other things that make old documents difficult to read. Writing can bleed through from one side of a document to another and ink can also fade or flake away; both can make reading the document very difficult. You might need to look at both sides to determine what was written on each side of a document.

Spelling was not important to early Americans. This can present a challenge when trying to read old documents. The same word may be spelled different ways in the same document. Words were often spelled phonetically. Read the word out loud so you can hear the phonetic possibilities. The spelling of some words has changed through the years. Here are a few examples that you might run into in documents for your ancestors—akers acres, alsoe also, coussen cousin, sume sum.

Capitalization and punctuation were not always used like they are today. You will see capital letters in the middle of a sentence and not at the beginning. They were often used to place emphasis on a word. Some sentences don't end with a period in early documents. Commas were used inconsistently.

Abbreviations and contractions were often used in old documents. Frequently you will see given names, place names, months and phrases abbreviated. There were no specific rules for using abbreviations. Here are a few Feb^r would be written in place of February; Dan^l or Dan^l for Daniel; chr for christening; Jr, Jun, Jun^r for Junior.

Numbers may also be different. Compare numbers with other numbers in the record. If items are numbered consecutively, you can look at the order to decipher the numbers. 8's were written horizontally in early records; 2's can look like 4's or 7's. 1's and 7's may be difficult to tell apart.

Sometimes a fresh pair of eyes can be a big help. Ask someone else for help reading difficult documents. Like other skills, the more you read old handwriting the easier it is to make out letters and words. Kip Sperry's book *Reading Early American Handwriting* contains lots of valuable tips and examples that might help you. Don't give up, practice and persistence will pay off.

Come Find Us ... at the Genealogy Friends'



Eighth Annual Research Retreat

Family History Library

Salt Lake City, Utah

November 30 through December 5, 2010

The Retreat includes:

- *Pre Trip Seminar will be held on September 25th at Haggard Library from 10:30-12:00 to help you prepare for a successful research trip*
- *Family History Library orientation by FHL staff on November 30th at 3:00 pm.*
- *Individual and group consultations with experienced genealogists*
- *Opportunity to use the vast resources of the largest genealogical library in the world*
- *Discounted hotel rooms.*

The registration deadline is October 31, 2010.

For more information contact Barbara Coakley at bjc1620@sbcglobal.net or the Genealogy Friends website www.genealogyfriends.org

Cost is \$80 for Genealogy Friends Members or \$100 to become a member (a savings of 33%) and register for the retreat. Proceeds are directed to the improvement and expansion of the Haggard Library Genealogy Section

Gen Friends Learn-N:

"Using Picasa to Organize Your Pictures"

by Jennifer Pitts

And

"Mapping Your Family History"

by Barbara Coakley



Saturday, October 23, 2010

from 10:30am to 12:30pm

W O Haggard Library, 2501 Coit Rd, Plano

Picasa is a free software package you can use to organize your digital photos and touchup some of those old photos that need some work. Jennifer will help us understand how to use this powerful tool.

Family Atlas is a fun easy way to map your family history. Trace your ancestors' migration around the world then pinpoint sites of important family events. Barbara will demonstrate how to import a gedcom file and create family maps. The software will be available to purchase at a discount.

Space is limited. To register email s-lcosper@juno.com. A \$10.00 donation would be appreciated. Donations are used to purchase materials for the Genealogy section of the Haggard Library.

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