



Genealogy Friends News

Genealogy Friends of
Plano Libraries

September, 2003

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[http:// www.rootsweb.com/~txgfpl](http://www.rootsweb.com/~txgfpl)

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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 18, 2003 - Barbara Coakley recently attended the National Institute of Genealogical Research at the National Archives in Washington, DC. She will speak to us about the records available at NARA and how to locate and use them.

November 15, 2003 - To be announced.

December 20, 2003 - Show and Tell, re-live your grade school days, bring some of your most memorable genealogy finds and "brag" about them to the group.

Second Annual Research Retreat

Join members of Genealogy Friends February 1-8, 2004 on our second annual Research Retreat to the Family History Library in Salt Lake City, UT. The Retreat includes:

- Library Orientation by FHL Staff
- Seminar on FHL Research by a Professional Genealogist
- Individual and Group Consultations with Experienced Genealogists

Registration Deadline: December 12, 2003

For more information contact Genealogy Friends at genfriends@comcast.net.

To register complete the form on our website www.rootsweb.com/~txgfpl.

Library Lock Ins

Mark your calendars the next 2003 Library Lock In will be October 24th a Halloween Treat. Come dressed as your favorite ancestor. For a \$10.00 donation, you can spend 5 hours researching with the exclusive use of the genealogy reference section of the Gladys Harrington Library. Volunteers and library staff will be available to answer questions and help with the genealogy section resources. Pizza and a soft drink are also available for an additional \$4.00.

Classes available include:

- Cemetery Research on the Internet
- Social History Research on the Internet
- One on one sessions with experienced researchers
- Introduction to the Genealogy section of the library
- Using a GPS

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

Volunteer Activities

Library Volunteers

Our volunteers are in the library during the day on most days. Check out our web page and the bulletin board for the schedule of volunteers on duty; or call the Reference Desk to inquire 972-461-7175. If you would like to volunteer to work in the library, contact the Reference Desk.

Volunteers Needed

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

Publications For Sale

The following are available from Genealogy Friends:

Plano Star Courier Index 1904-1910	\$20
Plano Star Courier Index 1911-1917	\$20
Revised Genealogy Section Catalog for GHJL	\$30
Cemeteries of Collin County, TX	\$20
Place Names of Collin County, TX	\$10
Railroads in Collin County, TX	\$10
Disaster in McKinney	\$10
Military Investigations: Red, White & Blue	\$10
Colonial Ills, Brews & Concoctions	\$10
Library 101: Using Dewey Decimal Systems	\$10

Donations

Fishbowl

Please consider placing a donation in our fishbowl. The money is used to buy CD's for the Genealogy Section of the library

Web Sites

Eighteenth, nineteenth, and early twentieth century local and trade directories from England and Wales are available through the University of Leicester's New Opportunities Fund project—<http://www.historicaldirectories.org>.

The Genealogy Home Page is full of great links to other genealogy sites. <http://www.genhomepage.com>

Sources2Go has over 20066 images of digitized government records available at <http://www.sources2go.com>

Use the on-line foreign language letter writing guides available at www.familysearch.org when writing letters to other countries. You can copy and paste sentences or entire paragraphs from the web site into your letter.

On the I Recommend It web site you can sign up for a newsletter that will tell you what happened on this day in history. <http://www.recommend-it.com/ezines>

The Animated Atlas Growth of a Nation web site contains a map of the US and shows the geographic history of the US. <http://www.animatedatlas.com/movie.html>

Why not make magnets of your ancestors. Everything Magnets makes magnets from pictures. Their web site is <http://www.everythingmagnets.com>

Researching Siblings

A number of times while researching a family, I hit a brick wall that was crumbled by including siblings in my research. This happened again on my last trip to the National Archives.

Paul Brey was born in Germany and arrived in the US in time to be enumerated on the 1850 Census in the Williamsburg neighborhood in Brooklyn. He soon moved to St. Louis where his parents and siblings lived. Paul's father, Ernst Brey, left numerous records in St. Louis. He was listed in the City Directories and on the Census records, his death certificate is on file with the city, his obituary was in the paper, and a handbill from the school of languages he ran is in the files of the Missouri Historical Society. However, his wife was a complete mystery.

According to family tradition Paul's mother died not long after they arrived from Wurttemberg and her name was Maria Regina Kroener. There was a death recorded in the St. Louis City Death Register the week ending 25 October 1858 for a Mary Brey that died of Typhoid. There was no other information recorded and there was no obituary in the local papers.

Evidence had been uncovered showing that Paul had three sisters and one brother. His brother William served in the Civil War. While looking for his pension file I noticed a Julius Brey also from Missouri. Brey was not a common name in Missouri in the 1860's. William and Julius were the only two pensioners listed from Missouri. So I decided to pull both files.

William's file referred to his wife and children. When he passed away his wife had to prove they were married to begin receiving his pension. There was no existing record of their marriage so affidavits were included from William's two living sisters. There was no evidence about their parents.

Julius's file was a gold mine. Not only did it prove that Julius was another brother that I had not previously uncovered, it contained evidence of their mother and a link to the town in Germany they lived in. Julius served as the assistant surgeon with the 25th Infantry Regiment from Missouri. He was shot while attending to the wounded at the battle of Shiloh, TN. The shot was not removed and caused health problems. Julius died 5 days after surgery was performed on the wound on 1 July 1867 of complications. After Julius's death, Ernst filed for a pension claiming he had been dependant on Julius for support. As part of his claim, he submitted proof of his marriage, Julius's birth, his wife's death.

Annual General Meeting

Our Annual General Meeting will be a dinner meeting on Monday night, October 13, 2003 at Tino's at Collin Creek Mall. We will meet at 6:30 pm. To get the private room we had to guarantee 30 people. Please email genfriends@comcast.net to confirm your attendance.

Dues Are Due

It is time for us to pay our dues. Single: \$30. Family: \$50. Friend: \$100; Gold: \$500; Platinum: \$1000. 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.



The file included a copy of German church records from the marriage of Ernst Brey and Maria Regina Kroener and the baptism of Julius Brey. Included are the names of the town's in Wurttemberg where they lived and the names of Ernst's parents. It also mentions that Maria Regina's father was the minister in the town, so he should be easy to identify. There was also a copy of the Burial Certificate from the City of St. Louis for Maria Regina which provided the name of the cemetery where she is buried as well as confirming that the death record is Maria's.

In addition to these vital statistics the file is full of letters and affidavits describing the life of Ernst Brey. According to the letters, the family immigrated in 1849 and Ernst was naturalized in 1855. Ernst was a Minister of the Gospel in Wurttemberg, however, he never practiced in the United States. He made a meager living as a professor of languages and was supported by his children, however, my great-great grandfather, Paul was not mentioned in the file. This might be an indication that he and his father were not close. There is also a letter mentioning another brother who went south just before the Civil War began and was never heard from again. This might be Harman Brey who disappeared from the City Directories in 1861.

Without exploring all the soldiers with the name of Brey from Missouri I would not have found this gold mine of information. In the case of the burial certificate, the original is no longer available from the City. No other record that I have found indicates the town names in Wurttemberg where the family lived. You never know what you might if you look for your ancestors siblings.

Education Opportunities

Basic Genealogy Collin County Community College is offering a class in Basic Genealogy taught by Lynne M. Darrouzet, JD, CGRS from September 18 through November 13, 2003.

For information go to their web site, <http://www.cccd.edu/cs/areasofstudy/conted/cecourses.html> or call 972-985-3790.

Genealogy & The Internet Collin County Community College Seniors in Active Learning (SAIL) is offering classes taught by Lynne M. Darrouzet, JD, CGRS. Visit their web site: <http://www.cccd.edu/SailSite/index.html> or call 972-985-3790.

September 22 The Dallas Genealogical Society monthly meeting speaker will be Robert L Sheehorn. His topic will be Early History of Free Masonry in Dallas 1848-1874. Meetings are held in the auditorium at the J Erik Jonsson Library.

October 6-10 The Regional In-depth Genealogical Studies Alliance in cooperation with the Georgia Archives and the National Archives Southeast Region announces a workshop with J. Mark Lowe, Linda Woodward Geiger, Pamela Boyer Porter and staff members of the Georgia Archives and NARA. For more details, visit the Web site at <http://www.RIGSAlliance.org>.

October 25 The Dallas Genealogical Society will sponsor a Genealogical Seminar "Texas: the Lone Star State" featuring Lloyd DeWitt Bockstruck. For registration information contact the society's Web site <http://www.dallasgenealogy.org>.

October 27 - 31 The Regional In-depth Genealogical Studies Alliance in cooperation with the National Archives Southwest Region (Ft Worth) announces a workshop . For more details, visit the Web site at <http://www.RIGSAlliance.org>.

2004

January 12-16, The Utah Genealogical Association announces its 9th Annual Salt Lake Institute of Genealogy. This week long institute will offer 10 tracks of learning. For details for this institute, please see www.infouga.org.

January 22-24, Gentech 2004, Preserving the Past—Exploring the Future, will be held in St. Louis, Missouri. Information is available at <http://stlgs.org/gentech2004/>

February 7, The Dallas Genealogical Society will feature Hank Z Jones. For more information visit their web site — <http://www.dallasgenealogy.org/>

May 19-22, The National Genealogical Society annual conference will be held in Sacramento, California.

July 11-16 The Genealogical Institute of Mid-America will hold its tenth annual study program in Springfield, Illinois. Details are available from the Institute Director, Ms. Susan Kaufman at kaufmansusan@juno.com

July 11-17 The National Institute on Genealogical Research will be held at the National Archives in Washington, D.C. Visit their web site for more information - <http://www.rootsweb.com/~natgenin>

September 8-11 FGS 2004 Conference will be held in Austin, TX

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 genfriends@comcast.net.