



Genealogy Friends News

Genealogy Friends of
Plano Libraries

Genealogy Friends News
April 2020

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

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Schedule of Events

Haggard Library is closed until March 27, at which time the closure will be reassessed. Our March and April programs have been cancelled.

Mark your calendars now for the exciting Genealogy Friends events in 2020. 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:

Future Events

May 16, 2020—"Mining the Gems in a Civil War Pension File" by Bernard Meisner

June 20, 2020—"Four Methods to Search Familysearch.org" and "FamilySearch.org Q&A" by Lynell Moss

July 18, 2020—"Armchair Mysteries Solved at Home with Old School Technology" by Patty Gillespie

We are working on the sessions for 2020, if you have a topic or speaker suggestion please email Barbara Coakley at newsletter@genealogyfriends.org.

Second month of staying at home. Hope everyone is safe and well. I've used the time to research WWI service for one of my ancestors, see the article on the last page.

Barbara Coakley

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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. 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

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Plano, TX 75086-0477

Genealogy Education

YouTube, search on genealogy, a specific topic, a website or software program and you'll be amazed at how many videos have been posted. <https://www.youtube.com/>

Echoes of our Ancestors, the National Genealogical Society Family History Conference is holding a virtual conference. It will be a combination of live and on demand programming. Live programming will be on Wednesday, May 20th from 10 am to 6 pm cdt. Streaming sessions will be available in July. Stay tuned for more news.

<https://conference.ngsgenealogy.org/>

BYU Independent Study offers free courses <https://is.byu.edu/catalog/free-courses>

The National Archives of Great Britain website includes audio and video classes

<https://media.nationalarchives.gov.uk/index.php/category/family-history/>

State Library of North Carolina has an Introduction to Genealogy and Family History Research class on their website. <https://statelibrary.ncdcr.gov/ghl/genealogy/roots-mooc>

Georgia Genealogy Society offers a free webinar each month. <https://www.gagensociety.org/webinar-schedule>

The following conferences are still scheduled:

DNA from A to Z: Unlocking Your Genetic Code Dallas Genealogy Society Summer Seminar will be held July 24-25, 2020 <https://dallasgenealogy.com/dgs/meetings-events/seminars/2020-summer-seminar/>

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

<https://fgs.org/conferences/> Conference registration opening has been delayed. Hotel reservations are open.

Texas State Genealogy Society Conference, "Remembering Your Heritage" is scheduled for November 13-15, 2020 at the Omni Mandalay Hotel at Las Colinas. <https://www.txsgs.org/2020-conference/>

Genealogy Bargains

MyHeritage offers a free 14 day trial and 50% off subscriptions. This would be a good time to try it out for 2 weeks to see if you want to subscribe. <https://www.myheritage.com/complete-genealogy-package?>

[key-word=partners&utm_source=partner_familyhistorydaily&utm_medium=partner&utm_campaign=familyhistorydaily_nov16&utm_content=ftfc_textlink&tr_placement=familyhistorydaily&tr_ad_group=ftfc_textlink2&tr_funnel=Complete&tr_country=us&tr_device=](https://www.myheritage.com/complete-genealogy-package?key-word=partners&utm_source=partner_familyhistorydaily&utm_medium=partner&utm_campaign=familyhistorydaily_nov16&utm_content=ftfc_textlink&tr_placement=familyhistorydaily&tr_ad_group=ftfc_textlink2&tr_funnel=Complete&tr_country=us&tr_device=)

Genealogy Bargains is a blog dedicated to saving money for genealogists. You can sign up for their newsletter and you will get emails when new offers are posted. <https://genealogybargains.com/>

WWI Genealogy Research Guide is offered by the World War 1 Centennial Commission. There is also a webinar recording that you can watch by the author, Debra Dudek <https://www.worldwar1centennial.org/index.php/commemorate/family-ties/wwi-genealogy-research-guide.html>

Godfrey Memorial Library is temporarily offering access to NewspaperArchives.com with their premium membership. <https://www.godfrey.org/scholar/godfrey-membership.html>

Many societies are converting their seminars to online. Check the societies you belong to or those in the areas where your ancestor lived to see if they have any virtual events planned.

Genealogy Websites

The Copyright Genie helps you figure out if a work is covered by a copyright, <https://librarycopyright.net/resources/genie/index.php>

Scribbr generates citations in MLA or APA format. Enter information about the source and the website creates the citation for you <https://www.scribbr.com/mla-citation-generator/#/> Another option is EasyBib <https://www.easybib.com/> It works well but the site is cluttered with ads.

Directories are a great resource for finding our ancestors. Here are some websites that have collections or links

Online Historical Directories Website <https://sites.google.com/site/onlinedirectorysite/>

Library of Congress <https://www.loc.gov/>

Internet Archive <https://archive.org/>

MyHeritage <https://www.myheritage.com/research/collection-10705/us-city-directories>

Ancestry.com <https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/2469/>

Fold3.com <https://www.fold3.com/browse/223/>

FamilySearch.org https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/United_States_Directories

City Directories of the United States of America <https://www.uscitydirectories.com/>

Google Books <https://books.google.com/>

Linkpendium <http://www.linkpendium.com/>

Cyndi's List <https://www.cyndislist.com/>

American Ancestors <https://www.americanancestors.org/browse/library-and-special-collections/online-exhibits/city-directories>

Directories <http://www.donslist.net/PGHLookups/Dir1Win.shtml>

The Dallas Skyline

Traces of Texas on Facebook

This sensational photo shows Lucius Washington plowing his fields with the Dallas skyline in the background, 1939. I love the juxtaposition of the old agricultural ways with the modern city skyline in this photo. This was taken by Carl Mydans and is in the collection of the Smithsonian Institution in Washington.



Submitted by Barbara Battocchio Brogdon

Researching WW I Service

WWI is the only major conflict that does not have a memorial on the mall in Washington D.C. The World War One Centennial Commission and the Doughboy Foundation are building a memorial in Pershing Park. They have a website that shows what the memorial will look like. The last three Friday's they held webinars. One was how to research service in World War I and included a free e-book on resources. <https://www.worldwar1centennial.org/honor/national-wwi-memorial.html>

John L Coakley served in France. He received a number of medals for his service that used to hang in his home office. They were mounted on two wooden shield shaped plaques. John lost his left leg below the knee during the war. His "wooden leg" as we referred to it had a small hole in it. He told his grandchildren two different stories. The first was that there was a little yellow bird that lived there. The bird was very shy however, we never got to see it. The other was that was where he stashed his allowance when my Grandmother gave it to him. He removed the leg at night and used crutches to get around. The only time I remember Grandpa talking about the war was when we visited Cantigny Park, near Chicago. It is a museum dedicated to the First Division. There was a cannon there and Grandpa told me that he had been firing one like it when he lost his leg. John was very active in different organizations linked to his service, he and Helen made a number of trips to reunions.

Years later when I became interested in Family History both John and his wife Helen had passed away but an aunt and cousin had some information about his service. I was given a copy of his Discharge Papers, a unit history, letters from fellow soldiers and information about the associations that he was active in. When my aunt passed away her children sent me two framed certificates. He was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross and the Croix de Guerre. I had written to the Military Records Center in St. Louis and to the VA and was told that both his files were destroyed in the fire at the records center in 1973.

Attending the webinar inspired me to research his service. I pulled out the documents about his service that I had accumulated and read each document carefully. His discharge papers included his unit—17th Field Artillery, Battery B, Second Division. Here are a few examples of sources that might help research your ancestor who served in World War I.

Ancestry.com

- US Army Transport Service, Passenger Lists
- US Department of Veterans Affairs BIRLS Death File, 1850-2010
- World War I Draft Registration Cards, 1917-1918
- US Headstone Applications for Military Veterans, 1925-1963
- American Soldiers of WWI

Fold 3.com

- Cablegrams Exchanged Between General Headquarters, AEF and the War Department, 1917-1919

Newspapers from the time provided information that official records wouldn't, like the fact that he had written his mom a letter telling her that he had arrived safely in France or that he and two other soldiers in the military hospital in Iowa would prefer to receive their medals in private but were forced to participate in a public ceremony on July 4, 1919.

The Unit History that I had doesn't identify the author but it was in with papers from a Second Division reunion that John attended. It is twenty-three type written pages and has an account of what the unit was doing every day. It included details about cold train rides, clogged roads when the unit was moving the guns. Check Internet Archive, Google Books, and the Library of Congress websites. Also google the name of the unit. Don't forget to search World War, materials from the time wouldn't refer to it as World War I.

The result of this was a new posting on my blog, Through the Years <https://throughtheyears-barbara.blogspot.com/2020/04/john-l-coakleys-military-service.html>