



Genealogy Friends News

Genealogy Friends of
Plano Libraries

Genealogy Friends News
April 2011

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

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

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

Email Address: genfriends@genealogyfriends.org Newsletter: Barbara Coakley newsletter@genealogyfriends.org

Saturday Seminars

Mark your calendars now for the exciting Genealogy Friends events in 2011. 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:

April 16, 2011—"Using Manuscript Collections in Genealogical Research" by Brenda McClurkin, Archivist, UTA Historical Manuscript Collection.

Future Topics:

May 21, 2011—Marilyn Waligore, teaches the History of Photography at UTD. She's going to enlighten us about early photographs. Join us to learn if that image you have of your ancestor is a daguerreotype, an ambrotype, or a tin type.

June 18, 2011—Barbara Brixy Wiley is our speaker. Her topics will be "Curlicues & Chicken Scratch: Reading Yesterday's Handwriting" and "Was Your Grandmother a Relict? What Do Those Old Words Mean?"

July 16, 2011—Our speaker is Tara Carlisle from the University of North Texas. She'll be talking to us about the UNT Digital Libraries and The Portal to Texas History. We have a great resource right here in our own backyard.

August 20, 2011—Need some magic to help with your genealogy research? Ada Nelson's "Research Magic—Showcasing Tools for Genealogists" will be right up your alley. Come learn how Office One Note, Roots Magic, Magic Wand Scanners, iPad, and Skype/Magic Jack can help you conjure up your ancestors.

August 27, 2011—**Learn N**—topics and speakers will be announced soon

September 17, 2011—Stacy Kemp, the Collin County Clerk will speak to us about records at the County Courthouse.

October 15, 2011—"Y DNA Testing" by Don Raney

October 20, 2011—Dining Out at Outback Steakhouse

November 19-2011—**All Day Seminar**—Kelvin Meyers will be our speaker.

December 17, 2011—Show and Tell—bring your genealogy treasures and share with the group.

Publications For Sale

The following are available from Genealogy Friends:

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| 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 |

Ordering FHL Microfilm

The Family History Library is rolling out a new feature on FamilySearch.org. In Utah, and soon in the rest of the US, you can order microfilm from the Family History Library from home. The film/fiche will be delivered to a Family History Center near you and you will be notified when it arrives. You go to the Family History Center to use the film/fiche. You'll need to create a free account to be able to use this service once it has been rolled out to us here in Texas. I can't wait. Just one more thing FamilySearch is doing to make researching easier.

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Research Interests

We are adding a new section to our Website where we will post research interests of our members with their contact information. This is a great way to connect with others who are researching the same families, who knows someone might have the clue you need to break through that brick wall.

If you are interested in having your research interests included send the surname, location where they lived, date range they were there and your contact information to Barbara Coakley at newsletter@genealogyfriends.org.

Information will be compiled and posted every two weeks.

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/>

Newsletter Articles

We need your stories to put in our newsletter.

Have you found an interesting record? Did you solve a problem recently?

Write a story about one of your ancestors. Your experiences can help out another researcher or someone researching the same family might see your article—our newsletter is posted on our website and sent to the Allen County Public Library so it is indexed in PERSI.

Submit your article in a word document to Barbara Coakley at newsletter@genealogyfriends.org

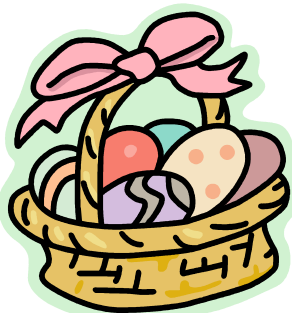
Suggestion Box

Thanks to those of you who have offered suggestions for topics for presentations. Here's what we have received so far:

- History and Haunting of Downtown Plano—I'm working on a program for 2012
- Converting Home Movies to DVD—If anyone knows of a speaker for this topic or someone who would be willing to write an article for the newsletter, please email Barb.
- Organization—paper and digital documents—This will be a topic at our next Learn N.
- Using Family Tree and Using Genealogy Software—I'll try and incorporate this into a future program or newsletter. If anyone is interested in presenting or writing articles for the newsletter please email Barb.
- American Indian Research—we're looking for a speaker on this topic, if you know of anyone, please email me
- DNA Testing—Don Raney will speak on this topic in October.
- Fixing Old Photos—we've done this a couple of times in the past, I'll try and schedule it again in 2012
- Publishing—this will be on the schedule in 2012

Keep those ideas coming, we want to present programs and articles in the newsletter that meet your needs.

If you have any other suggestions or would like to do a presentation or write an article for the newsletter, please email Barbara Coakley at newsletter@genealogyfriends.org.



GenFriends Blog

A blog is a combination of the terms web and log. They are meant to be interactive. GenFriends has a blog, <http://genfriends.blogspot.com/>. Check it out, post comments and follow it to keep up with what's going on in the society.

Join Genfriends

Please consider joining Genealogy Friends. 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.

Genealogy Friends Logo Shirts

You can be one of the best dressed genealogists in town!

We have logo t-shirts, sweatshirts, 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 \$15

Long Sleeved T Shirts \$18

Sweatshirts \$20 (white, neutral, ash, light blue, pink, yellow and sand)

Henley's \$20 (white, ash or natural)

Polo Shirts \$20 (white, ask or light blue)

Finding Civil War Ancestors

By Barbara Coakley

The first shot of the Civil War was fired at Ft. Sumter on April 12, 1861, one hundred and fifty years ago. The Sesquicentennial is providing focus on the Civil War and access to resources we might need to learn about our ancestors' lives.

If you have a male ancestor who was between the ages of 16 and 60 from 1861 to 1865 chances are very good they were involved in the Civil War in some capacity. Let's explore how you might find out about them.

The first place to start is with family stories and memorabilia. Check with family members to see if anyone remembers any family stories or has any documents or heirlooms related to the Civil War (or any other military conflict—you can use many of these techniques to uncover military experiences in other times).



Bombardment of Fort Sumter (1861) by Currier & Ives

Compiled Military Service Records

Check out the National Parks website Civil War Soldiers & Sailors System <http://www.itd.nps.gov/cwss/>. This website offers free access to basic facts about 6.3 million soldiers from Compiled Military Service Records at the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA). There is information here about both Union and Confederate soldiers. There are plans to add Navy records in the future. The website also has information about regiments, battles, and national cemeteries. If you find your ancestor here, make a note of the side (Union or Confederate), Regiment, Company and rank so you can do further research.



Compiled Military Service Records (CMSR) contain cards that were filled out from original enlistments, discharges, muster rolls, hospital records, etc. and filed together in envelopes by soldier. These files were created by the War Department as an efficient way to check military and medical records to research claims for pensions and benefits. Some CMSR from the Civil War are available on microfilm and online at Footnote (www.footnote.com) and Ancestry (www.ancestry.com) but the majority of union records are currently only available at the National Archives. To order a file visit NARA at www.archives.gov the cost is \$25.00.

The CMSR should give you the date and place where you ancestor enlisted, the date and place where they were discharged. The units they fought in and the time period they served. If they were wounded, taken prisoner or killed in action there should be information about these events as well.

Regimental Histories, Memoirs, and Diaries

Once you have the dates and units they served in you can use regimental histories, memoirs, and diaries to find out more about their experience. Regimental histories can range from a list of where the unit was stationed in chronological order and the battles they fought in to volumes of text about the unit. To locate a regimental history you can Google the name of the regiment or check out some of these web sites:

- The Civil War Archives <http://www.civilwararchive.com/regim.htm>
- Library of Congress <http://www.loc.gov/rr/main/uscivilwar/>

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- The American Civil War <http://sunsite.utk.edu/civil-war/warweb.html>

There are also Civil War history and diaries that are out of copyright and available online.

- *Hardtack and Coffee* available on Internet Archive <http://www.archive.org/details/hardtackcoffee00bill>
- *Recollections of the Civil War* available on Internet Archive <http://www.archive.org/details/recollectionsofc00morr>
- The American Civil War available on Internet Archive <http://www.archive.org/details/americancivilwa02hosmgoog>
- These are just a few explore Internet Archive (<http://www.archive.org/>), Google Books (<http://books.google.com/>), BYU Family History Archives (<http://www.lib.byu.edu/fhc/index.php>) to see if you can find other books of interest.
- An Illinois Soldier in the Civil War website details the memoirs, dairy and life of Private Jefferson Moss, Company G, 93rd Illinois Volunteers. <http://www.ioweb.com/civilwar/>

Pension Files

After the Civil War your ancestor, his widow, parents or children may have applied for a pension for his service. NARA has an index to Federal Pension files T288 General Index to Pension Files 1861-1934. There are a few pension files available on Footnote but most of them have to be ordered through NARA. The cost of a Civil War Pension file is \$75.00 or you can get a packet of eight documents that contain genealogical information for \$25. If you need help understanding a pension file you can refer to the Orders, Instructions, and regulations governing the Pension Bureau on Internet Archives <http://www.archive.org/details/cu31924030744548>

Confederate pensions were granted by the state, the federal government did not pay pensions to confederate soldiers. Some of them are available at FamilySearch (<https://familysearch.org/>), some at Ancestry and some at Footnote. You can also order them from the states, this website lists where to order them <http://www.archives.gov/research/military/civil-war/civil-war-genealogy-resources/confederate/pension.html> ..

Pension files contain different information. Widow's pensions usually include proof of marriage to the soldier, children and parent dependent pensions require proof of relationship to the soldier so they can contain birth information. Confederate pension applications ask questions about the soldier and their family. They are definitely worth the effort to locate.

Other Sources

There are other sources that can help you paint a picture of your ancestor's service.

Draft Registration Records—The Enrollment Act of 1863 subjected all males between the ages of 21 and 45 to a draft. The United States was divided into enrollment districts along the lines of congressional districts. The Provost Marshall's office was responsible for collecting names which were placed on consolidated lists as of July 1, 1863. There were three classes of men—aged 20-35; aged 36-45 who were unmarried and everyone else. These lists are available on microfilm at NARA and at Ancestry. The lists include the name, age on 1 July 1863, profession, marital status, birthplace, and former military service.

There were quotas set by enrollment district and names were drawn to make up the difference between the quota and the number of volunteers from that district. As the war progressed, the age ranges of men eligible for the draft was widened and eventually only those who had served two full years during the Civil War or were disabled were exempt.

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Finding Civil War Ancestors, continued

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Another provision in the law stipulated that if a man was drafted they had the option of paying \$300 to a substitute to serve for them. This sum increased as the war progressed. You might find this referred to as serving their country by proxy. To determine if your ancestor was drafted and a substitute served in their place you have to turn to Record Group 110, Records of the Provost Marshall's Office. The original records are available at the Regional Branch of the National Archives that services the area where your ancestor lived at the time they were drafted. The records include ledgers of the names drawn in the draft which will indicate if a substitute was provided for the draftee.

1890 Veterans & Widows Census Schedules—a special enumeration was done during the 1890 Census that lists veterans or their widows. The census listed the soldiers' name, rank, company, regiment, enlistment date, discharge date, length of service, disability, and remarks. Unfortunately some of the states were destroyed in the same fire that robbed us of the 1890 population schedules (lost were states beginning with A-K except District of Columbia and Kansas). The Veterans and Widows schedules are available on Ancestry.com or on microfilm.

Newspapers and County Histories—Use newspapers to find accounts of battles and news of soldiers. You could look at newspapers from your ancestor's home town and newspapers from the area of the battle they served in to get different perspectives. County histories often include the names of men from the county who served and their units. This could give you a place to start looking for your ancestor's service. The Civil War website has Harper's Weekly for the period during the Civil War (<http://www.sonofthesouth.net/leefoundation/the-civil-war.htm>); this website has a list of Civil War Newspapers (http://www.uttlyer.edu/vbetts/newspaper_titles.htm). The Richmond Daily Dispatch is available online from 1860-1865 at <http://dlxs.richmond.edu/d/ddr/>. Search the Newspaper Directory on the Library of Congress website to locate newspapers from the area where your ancestor lived (<http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/search/titles/>). Penn Libraries has a list of online newspapers (<http://gethelp.library.upenn.edu/guides/hist/onlinenewspapers.html>). County Histories can be found on Ancestry, Heritage Quest, BYU Family History Archives and Internet Archive. If you can find a county history online for your county, check library catalogues and order it through Inter-Library loan.



South gate Andersonville Prison

Prison records—If your ancestor was captured during the war, check for prison records. There are records available on Ancestry. There is a list of prisons on The American Civil War website <http://www.mycivilwar.com/pow/pow.htm> and information on Civil War Prisons http://www.censusdiggins.com/civil_war_prisons.html. There is also an index to Records of Commissary General of Prisons on NARA's website in their Archival Research Catalog (ARC) <http://www.archives.gov/research/arc/topics/civil-war/prisoners.html>. Don't forget to check Google.

Grand Army of the Republic—A fraternal organization composed entirely of Union Civil War veterans. There was a national organization, state level organizations known as Departments and local units known as Posts. Check Google for GAR Post records from the area where your union soldier lived. Some records have been donated to local historical societies and archives, check online catalogs for records. The Post records can include information about the soldier's service, their birth, soldier's obituaries and burial information and sometimes even photos. Each Post filed Quarterly Reports that are lists of members and include drops, transfers, new members and deaths of members. Check the state archives and historical society for these Department records. The *History of the Grand Army of the Republic* by Robert B Beath is available as a pdf file <http://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=loc.ark:/13960/t9c53qg4f>

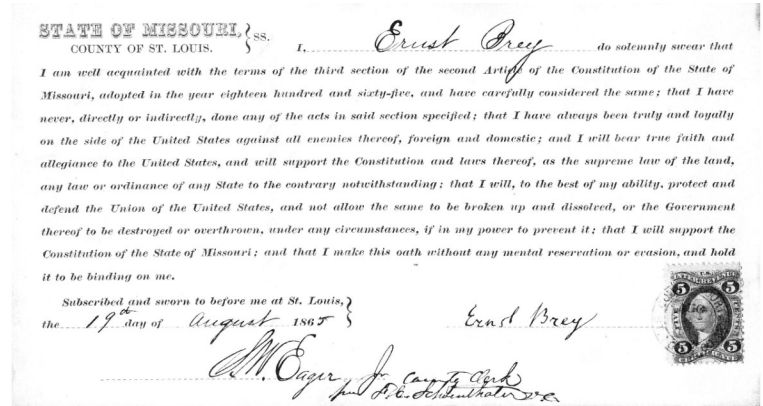
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Finding Civil War Ancestors, continued

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Other Union Fraternal organizations included the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War which was founded in 1881. Their website is <http://www.suvvw.org/>; Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States and Union Veterans Union.

Oaths of Allegiance—After the war is someone who lived in a southern state wanted to teach school, hold public office or preach they had to sign an Oath of Allegiance to the United States. Confederate soldiers who were taken prisoner had to take an Oath of Allegiance before they were released. Check local manuscript collections, archives and historical societies to find these records.



Homestead Files—You might find evidence of your ancestor's military service in their homestead file. The Homestead Act was passed in 1862 which granted citizens 160 acres of government land. In order to be granted land the individual had to be head of household, a citizen, 21 years old and not have taken arms against the United States. Those serving in the military were allowed to waive these restrictions so evidence of their service should be included in their homestead file. To find out if you ancestor was granted homestead land, check the index on the Bureau of Land Management General Land Office Records website (<http://www.glorerecords.blm.gov/>). You can use the information on the website to order the Land Entry Case file from NARA. The fee for a file is \$40.00. (<http://www.archives.gov/contact/inquire-form.html#84>).

Naturalization Records—Military service shortened the requirements for citizenship so if your ancestor served in the military there might be mention of their service in the naturalization record. Before 1906 naturalizations could be filed in any court of record. Check all levels of courts in the area where your ancestor lived for their naturalization records.

The Civil War touched the lives of our ancestors. Even if your ancestor didn't serve in the war chances are good that their lives were impacted. Relatives might have served and there were economic impacts on lives of civilians, both the North and South during the war. These are just a few of the sources you can use to explore the Civil War.

Civil War Websites

Civil War Trust <http://www.civilwar.org/150th-anniversary/>

Confederate Uniforms http://www.ushist.com/american_civil-war_uniforms_confederate_cs.shtml

Union Civil War Uniforms http://www.ushist.com/american_civil-war_uniforms_union_us.shtml

Civil War News <http://www.civilwarnews.com/>

US Army Center of Military History <http://www.history.army.mil/>

Archeology at Andersonville <http://www.nps.gov/history/seac/andearch.htm>

1890 Veterans Schedule <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~wiozauke/censusrecords/1890Vets.html>

Tennessee Civil War Prison Records <http://www.tngenweb.org/civilwar/pow/index.html>