



GENEALOGY FRIENDS NEWS

April, 2002

GENEALOGY FRIENDS OF PLANO LIBRARIES, INC.

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

<http://www.geocities.com/genfriendsghl> and <http://community.dallasnews.com/dmn/genealogyfriends>

E-Mail Address GenFriends@aol.com Editor: Barbara Coakley

- **MAY SATURDAY SEMINAR:** On May 18th Kris Richens will speak on Indian Research and Military Research. Doors open at 9:10 am at the Harrington Library.
Upcoming Seminars - Join us with your family memorabilia, newsletters, albums, etc for "Show and Tell" on June 15th.
- **LIBRARY LOCK IN:** Mark your calendars for the Lock-ins for 2002. This year each lock-in has a theme.
April 26th – The Research Trip – The focus of this lock in will be preparing for A Research Trip and Researching while you are on the road. Class topics include Preparing for A Research Trip, Cemetery Research, Courthouse Research, and Library Research. In the computer lab you can learn about USGenWeb and databases available at the library. There will also be instruction on using Acestry.com, the 1880 Census CD's, using the CD Rom computer, and using the internet.
July 12th – Organization – Once you've started your research how do you organize it so you know what you have and can find things? Class topics will include Organizing your files both paper and on the computer, Gedcom files, Interviewing and Reading Handwriting.
November 1st – Compiling & Writing – The final step is writing your family story. Class topics include Writing A Research Report, Copyright, Scanning & Editing Photos, Using Microsoft Publisher and Word, and Publishing Your Genealogy on the Internet.
All lock-ins are from 5:30 pm to 11 pm at the Gladys Harrington Library.
- **SATURDAY SEMINARS:** Gen Friends proudly announces three all-day seminars in 2002.
May 4, 2002 "Valuable But Little Used Resources": Bill Hallas, Brenda Kellow, Barbara Coakley and Ned Hoover will speak on Advanced Research topics including Adoption Records, Criminal Records and Postal Directories. We are asking for a \$25 donation from members; \$32 from nonmembers attending. The doors open at 9:10. The lectures begin at 9:30 a.m. sharp to noon; brown bag or lunch out from 12-1. We can eat in the room. The lectures continue after lunch from 1-4 p.m.
June 22, 2002 "Government Records: National and Regional". Lynne Darrouzet and Barbara Coakley will present Census Records with an emphasis on 1930, Tax Records, Military Records and Land Records.
October 19, 2002 Pat Hatcher will be lecturing on four stimulating topics: Evaluating Evidence – A Methodology for Every Day; Look Again! What Did You Miss?; "My Ancestor Isn't In The Census!" Are You Sure?; and Computer Techniques to Make you a Better Researcher.
- **MEMBERSHIP:** Welcome to our new members: Ruth Hackbarth, Barbara Vollweiler, James Koons, Richard Preston, and Judy Guyer. Join Gen Friends, dues are: Single: \$30. Family: \$50. Friend: \$100; Gold: \$500; Platinum: \$1000. Dues are used to purchase materials for the genealogy department at the Harrington Library. 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.
- **GENEALOGY FRIENDS WEB PAGES:** Tell Collin County researchers about the county histories, biographies, & photos of early settlers on our Web Pages.
- **FISHBOWL:** Please consider placing a donation in our fishbowl. The money is used to purchase resource materials for the Genealogy Section of the library. Recent purchases include 1870 Birthplace Series 5 CD's and World Immigration Series 9 CD's.
- **DONATION AWARDS:** Make a donation and receive a free publication for donations in different denominations Check our Web Pages for listings or pick up a flyer at the next Seminar. We are a 501 [c][3] corporation.
- **GENEALOGY BOOKS FOR SALE:** Postal Connection, 7000 Independence Pkwy, #160 (NE corner Legacy & Independence) has added

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genealogy books and “Roots Stamps” to their inventory. Stop by and see Jean Funk, the proprietor, and check out the selection.

- **BRENDA’S COLUMN:** Check out Brenda’s column each week

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

There is also an archive of columns

<http://www.virtualtexan.com/writers/kellow/>

- **GENEALOGY CLASSES:** Joel Lawson, who has done presentations on Face Reading, is now teaching a self-paced online “Face Reading” class. There are twelve lessons. The fee is \$20. For details visit <http://www.universalclass.com> and enter Face Reading in the search box.

- **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 calendar of our volunteers on duty; or call the Reference Desk to inquire 972-461-7175.

- **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 volunteer. Email us that you can help! GenFriends @aol.com.

Volunteers are also needed to help with the seminar on October 19th. Contact Jean Funk at if you are interested.

- **CONFERENCES AND SEMINARS:** A great place to find info on upcoming events is the Federation of Genealogical Societies web site, <http://www.fgs.org/fgs-calendar.htm>.

May 9-11, Salt Lake City, UT. Utah Genealogy Society annual conference “Untangle Your Roots” <http://infouga.org>

May 15-18 the NGS Conference in the States will be held in Milwaukee, WI. <http://ngs.genealogy.org>

The Dallas Genealogical Society presents “A Southern Perspective on The American Experience” June 27-30. Classes will be taught by Lloyd DeWitt Bockstruck, Robert Scott Davis and Brent Holcomb.

July 7-12 Springfield, IL will be the site of the Genealogy Institute of Mid-America. There are 4 tracts. Email Susan Kaufman for information on

classes at kaufmansusan@juno.com put GIMA in subject line.

August 7-10 Ontario, CA will be the site of the FGS annual conference.

<http://www.fgs.org>

- **WHAT’S NEW:**

The BLM Web Site is back - the Bureau of Land Management's General Land Office Records site is back up and is better than ever. There is a new miscellaneous search feature including options for dates and land office. To search under additional criteria, after you identify your state at the "Basic" search tab, click the "Standard" tab to search by county and/or location, etc. You can also search by Section, Range and Township to get a list of all purchasers. This could help locate neighbors, and distinguish between family members with common names.

<http://www.glorerecords.blm.gov/>

- **LAND RECORDS Part II** – In the January newsletter there was an article on one of the two types of land transactions, between two individuals. The other type of transaction is the transfer of land from a government to an individual. There have been various ways for an individual to obtain land from the government throughout our history. Land could be a reward for Military Service, given to an individual as an incentive to move to a certain area (a homestead), part of an Indian allotment, or purchased from the government. Some land was granted from the Federal Government to State Governments who then in turn could grant it to an individual.

Public Domain is land that was owned by the Federal Government and is subject to sale or transfer of ownership under laws passed by Congress. States formed from public domain land are called public land states. They are Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, California, Florida, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Utah, Washington, Wisconsin, and Wyoming. The documents generated by a transaction whereby land ownership was transferred from the Government to an individual are land entry papers and a patent that guarantees title to the land.

Usually the land was surveyed. Except for parts of Ohio, the land was surveyed in a uniform pattern described by Sections, Townships, and Ranges. This description may be required to locate records about a transaction. A record of the disposition of each tract of land was kept in a tract book. Tract books are arranged by state and

usually include the land description, acreage, date of transaction, type of transaction, name of party and patent number.

Military Bounty Land Warrants were certificates issued by the Federal Government for Military service between 1775 and 1855. They were used to encourage enlistments during the Revolutionary War, War of 1812 and the Mexican War. The National Archives has these records. Those from the Revolutionary War have been microfilmed (Revolutionary War Pension and Bounty Land Warrant Application Files, 1800-1900, M804). The file contains the application by the veteran or his widow for a warrant and will indicate whether the claim was approved or disproved. They may also contain a discharge certificate presented as evidence of service. Another group of related records is US Revolutionary War Bounty Land Warrants Used in the US Military District of Ohio, M829, which includes warrants dated 1789-1833 issued under acts of July 9, 1788, March 3, 1803, and April 15, 1806.

There were warrants issued for service in the War of 1812 (War of 1812 Military Bounty Land Warrants, 1815-1858, M848). There were warrants issued as a result of acts of Congress passed on December 24, 1811, January 11, 1812, and May 6, 1812. They provided that noncommissioned officers and soldiers serving for 5 years or their heirs were entitled to 160 acres of land from the public domain as partial compensation for their military service. A second set of warrants resulted from an act of December 10, 1814 by which Congress doubled the acreage offered to soldiers enlisting after that date.

Bounty Land Warrants were also issued for service during the Mexican War however they have not been microfilmed. If your ancestor served in one of these wars there is a good chance they received a warrant. However, it does not mean that they settled on the land. Warrants could be sold

Homesteads In 1862 Congress passed The Homestead Act of 1862 which provided that "citizens and persons who had filed their intention to become citizens were given 160 acres of land in the public domain if they fulfilled certain conditions. In general, an applicant had to build a home on the land, reside there for 5 years, and cultivate the land." **Homestead Entry Files** (January 1, 1863-June 30, 1908) are arranged by state and by land office. If the conditions were met a patent was issued, if not the entry was unpatented or cancelled. In a patented homestead file there will usually be an application showing the name of the person, their residence, the land description, and acreage. The file should also include proof that conditions were met such as a

description of the house and date when residence was established, crops planted, and number and relationship of members of the household. A final certificate was issued after the person proved they met all the conditions. It shows the name and address of the applicant, the description of the land, date of patent and volume and page where patent was recorded. If the applicant was a naturalized citizen the file should also include proof of naturalization.

Land entry files from patents issued 1908-1973 are in the serial patent files at NARA. There is a card index, which lists the name of the applicants alphabetically with the corresponding land office and serial application number. This index includes land transferred from cash sale, homestead, timber culture, desert land, and Indian allotment.

Bureau of Land Management - In 1946 the Bureau of Land Management was formed. It is divided into Eastern and Western states. Records for the Eastern states are at the office in Springfield, VA. Most western states have their own offices. The records consist of Survey Field Notes, Tract Books, Township Plats, Patents, and Land-Entry Case Files. The Survey Field Notes were made by the surveyor. They contain background information about the area and sometimes drawings of homes and buildings on the property. These may be found at the State's Land Office or State Archives. Tract Books have been microfilmed and should be available at NARA. The BLM web site gives you the capability to search for your ancestor. Some Patents are also available on line. Originals are in the Eastern States office and they have also been microfilmed.

Private Land Claims were based on grants, purchases or settlements of land that took place before the US acquired sovereignty over the land. Usually these claims were made by people who claimed to have grants from foreign sovereigns (France, Great Britain, Spain or Mexico). *Land and Property Research in the United States* discusses land distribution and record keeping for these governments. The land descriptions for these properties are usually measured in metes and bounds, an indiscriminate method of surveying using natural features rather than Section, Township, and Range. NARA has records for Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Florida, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Louisiana, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, New Mexico, and Wisconsin. Records presented before Boards of Commissioners or other Federal Agencies, 1790-1837 were sent to Congress and transcribed therefore they can be found in the American State Papers.

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STATE LAND STATES granted their own lands; therefore, the records are not at the National Archives. The state land states are the thirteen original states, Vermont, West Virginia, Kentucky, Tennessee, Texas, and Hawaii. The New England states used the New England town system. Grants were usually to a group of men called the town proprietors. The block of land was divided among the inhabitants of the town. Part of the land was kept for the town commons, which was held by the town. This system created a society of villages. This also means that records are at the town level.

New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania and the southern states used the metes and bounds system. The land allotments in these states were usually farm sized and allotted directly to individuals. In New York and the southern colonies there were some very large grants given to the wealthy.

Texas does not fit in either category. It was annexed in 1845 and considered itself independent. "Special agreements were made in regard to the control of public land and the state's responsibility for her own debts...Texas agreed to assume responsibility for her own public debt if she could retain title to her public land." Texas land grants are filed at the State Land Office in Austin. If you believe that your ancestor obtained land from a government it is possible the documents generated by the transaction could be a gold mine of information and well worth looking for. Refer to the sources in the bibliography for more information.

Bibliography:

Eales, Anne Bruner and Robert M Kvasnicka. *Guide to Research in the National Archives of the United States*. Washington, DC: National Archives and Records Administration, 2000.

Military Service Records: A Select Catalog of National Archives Microfilm Publications. Washington DC: National Archives and Service Administration, 1985.

Greenwood, Val D. *The Researcher's Guide to American Genealogy*. Baltimore, MD: Genealogy Publishing Company, 2000.

Home, E Wade. *Lland & Property Reseach in the United States*. Salt Lake City, UT: Ancestry, Inc. 1997.

• **WEB SITES –**

Trying to locate a Range and Township in Federal Land States? You can obtain maps from the County or State that will show the designations. Another good source for maps is the USGS web site. You can order maps for any place in the US. <http://>

This chart will calculate the year of birth from the census.

<http://jerry.vigo.lib.in.us/washington/CENDATES.HTM>

This a database of census statistics for all census running from 1790 to 1960. You can set variables such as number of person of a specific ancestry, total population, .how many families with 1-over 11 members. You can also generate a graphical presentation of various data

The link is:<http://fisher.lib.virginia.edu/census/>

This website has a key to abbreviations most used in Genealogical research and a list of epidemics in our history,

<http://www.rootsweb.com/~inmarsha/info.htm>

Resident and Employee records from the Eastham Prison Farm in Houston County, TX

<http://userdb.rootsweb.com/census/index/>

Proper gravestone cleaning, cemetery do's and don'ts and using Cemetery Survey, Photograph Listing and Gravestone Assessment forms available at

<http://www.rootsweb.com/~wapsgs/WSCA/education.htm>

The meaning of old carvings on tombstones like a tree stump with ivy visit links from

<http://www.rootsweb.com/~txcoryel/insc.htm>

Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission announced PA PowerPort which will enable researchers to utilize the resources of the Pennsylvania State Archives.

<http://www.state.pa.us>

Minnesota Historical Society online index of death certificates in the sate 1908 thru 1955

<http://people.mnhs.org/dci/Search.cfm>

National Obituary Archive

<http://arrangeonline.com>

- **PUBLICATIONS FOR SALE:** The following are available from GenFriends:

Plano Star Courier Index 1901-1910 \$20

Plano Star Courier Index 1911-1917 \$20

Genealogy Section Catalog for GHL \$15

Cemeteries of Collin County, TX \$20

Place Names of Collin County, TX \$10

Railroads in Collin County, TX \$5

Disaster in McKinney \$5

Confederate Soldiers of Fannin Co	
\$5	
Early Roads of Collin County	\$5
Veteran Burials Pecan Grove	
Cemetery, McKinney, TX	\$7
Military Investigations: Red, White	
& Blue	\$10
Colonial Ills, Brew & Concoctions	
\$10	
Index to Tracing Our Roots	\$30
Library 101: Using Dewey Decimal	
Systems	\$15

- **TOPICS FOR NEWSLETTER ARTICLES:**

Email Barbara Coakley at bjc1620@hotmail.com with ideas for articles in future newsletters.