



# Genealogy Friends News

Genealogy Friends of Plano  
Libraries

Genealogy Friends News  
August 2010

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](mailto:genfriends@genealogyfriends.org) Newsletter: [Barbara Coakley newsletter@genealogyfriends.org](mailto:Barbara Coakley newsletter@genealogyfriends.org)

## 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:

August 21, 2010—"Using Google for Family History" by Barbara Coakley

### Future Topics:

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"

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—Topics will be Court Records, Land Records and Church Records. More info to come soon.

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

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—see page 7 for details

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](mailto: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

Please join us. The money we raise is used to purchase materials for the Genealogy Section at Haggard Library. Right now we have a membership special—two years membership (2010 & 2011) for \$45. Normally, individual memberships are \$30 and family memberships are \$50. Dues year runs from October 1 to September 31.

## Genealogy Classes

Genealogy—Getting Started will be offered on Tuesday nights from 9/7 to 10/12. Where do you start to unravel the mystery of your family history? If you've been researching for a while and need a refresher on organization and research methodology this class is for you as well.

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.

## 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/>

## 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



## Websites

NARA has videos on You Tube. There are videos about the 1940 Census. Check out the instructions to enumerators, info on the agricultural census, population census and census of housing. The 1940 Census will be released to the public in April 2012.

<http://www.youtube.com/user/usnationalarchives#g/c/9C64D8D2FD4C281D>

They have also launched “Inside the Vaults”, an ongoing effort to make the collection more accessible to the public. So far there are four videos online—Inside the Vaults Federal Register, The Declaration of Independence, The Grace Tully Archive (she was FDR’s personal secretary), and Magellans of the Sky (eight Army airmen who set out to be the first humans to circle the globe by air).

<http://www.youtube.com/user/usnationalarchives#p/c/5F66D151A2D578AA>

Volumes of The National Genealogy Society Quarterly from the 1985 to present are now available as pdf files that can be downloaded for members of the National Genealogy Society. They also have a searchable index from 1912-2008. So what? Journal’s area a great place to find resources available for an area and time period. Even if the article isn’t about your ancestor, if it covers the location and time period you are searching you can learn about sources available. Reading the articles can give you ideas about how to approach a research problem. Study the sources used and how they were analyzed to extract every last bit of important information. There are how to articles as well that focus on a specific source or location. If you are ready to write a family story, you can use the articles to get ideas on how to organize your story. In addition to access to the publication archives you receive NGS Magazine and are eligible for discounts for national conferences and research services. Individual membership is \$60. Their website is <http://www.ngsgenealogy.org/cs/home>

Have you checked out FamilySearch.org’s digital collection lately? They continue to publish more and more images. There are now over 12 million digital images representing eight countries published.

<http://pilot.familysearch.org/recordsearch/start.html#start>

If you have Swedish ancestors, check out Genline.com. The site has information on how to get started as well as images of Swedish Church records online. This is a subscription site.

<http://www.genline.com/>

Family History Expos have a newsletter full of information about their upcoming events, what’s new in genealogy and research tips. Sign up on their website

<http://www.fhexpos.com/>

Midwesterners Rejoice! Ancestry.com has added vital records for Ohio and Michigan. Ohio Deaths, 1908-1932, 1938-1944, and 1958-2007; Ohio Marriage Index 1970, 1972-2007 and Ohio Divorce Index 1962-1963, 1967-1971, 1973-2007. Michigan Death Records 1897-1920. Don’t forget you can access Ancestry.com at the Haggard Library—they have a subscription to a number of genealogy sites.

IPUMS is the Integrated Public Use Microdata Series. It provides census microdata for social and economic research. The census bureau published books with information from individual enumerations. These are available on the website in pdf format for 1790 through 1890, 1980, 1990, and 2000. The questions asked on each census and the instructions to the enumerators are on the site as well. Understanding the instructions can help you make sense of the data on the census about your ancestors. For example, in 1880 the instructions specify that the term house-keeper is to be used for women who were being paid to perform the service. The occupation for women who were keeping house for their own families was to be recorded as keeping house and grown daughters who were assisting them were to be recorded with no occupation. This piece of information can help you correctly interpret the occupation of your ancestor.

<http://usa.ipums.org/usa/index.shtml>

## ***Enumeration Districts and Justice Precincts of Collin County, Texas 1900-1930***

By Patricia D. Mitchell and Sharon Henry

When a library patron recently asked where in Collin County her ancestor lived when she only saw a precinct number at the top of the census page, library volunteers, Pat Mitchell and Sharon Henry, began their research that resulted in a study called *Enumeration Districts and Justice Precincts of Collin County, Texas 1900-1930*. This book is now at Genealogy, Local History, Texana, and Archives Library of the Plano Library System located at the W.O. Haggard Jr. Library.

The authors began by reading the Collin County recorded enumeration districts descriptions on the National Archives (NA) microfilm T1210 and T1224. They also read the Collin County census found on microfilm NA T623, T624, T625, and T626. The census bureau made maps showing the boundaries and numbers of enumeration districts. Only the 1930 map has been preserved for Collin County and is found on microfilm NA M1930. With this data, tables were created showing the enumeration district number, precinct or ward number, page on the census, summary of the enumeration district description, and the name of the census enumerator. The methodology used in this study can be applied to the information available for any other county and state.

Included in the book are two maps created by Collin County Geographic Information System Department (GIS), thanks to Bret Fenster, showing the precinct lines. These maps are viewable on line at [www.planolibrary.org](http://www.planolibrary.org) (click on Genealogy tab, click on Digital Resources box, and search for "maps"). A large copy of each map is in the library collection. A total of three maps are included in this study—*Justice of the Peace Precinct Map 1900-1930*, *Enumeration District Map for 1930*, and the *1936 General Highway map* for Collin County. Some other maps that are at the genealogy library are given in the bibliography along with web sites for more Collin County maps.

As the authors were discussing their need for a map showing precinct lines with Bret Fenster, he was getting ready to attend a regional mapping conference. He then made a poster showing how mapping programs can be used for genealogy needs using some of the author's original material. His entry, which won 3<sup>rd</sup> place, is now at the County Clerk's Office on Bloomdale Road in McKinney, TX.

The study of census records can give you clues to the location within Collin County where your ancestor was living. If your ancestor owned his land, the deed books located at the county courthouse may give you more details. Happy Hunting.

Patricia D. Mitchell and Sharon Henry are Genealogy Volunteers at Genealogy, Local History, Texana, and Archives Library Plano Library System W.O. Haggard Jr. Library, 2501 Coit Road, Plano Texas 75075 Phone 972-769-4240.

Carol Hofer found this article at the Tennessee State Archives while looking for obituaries.

*Nashville Banner*. Nashville, Tennessee. Friday, August 7, 1925, page 3, column 6.

### **Owner of Lost White Corn Being Sought**

Whoever lost a supply of white corn on Third avenue south, Thursday morning, may obtain same by applying at the police station and identifying the goods.

This is not in liquid corn, but a 100-pound sack of shelled corn. But being corn, it is taking up too much space at the police station.

## Our Ancestors' Education

Family History is more than names, dates and places. We strive to make our ancestors' come to life and place them in the context of their time, their society and economy. School yearbooks, graduation programs, class rosters, etc. are a great source to do this.

My great-grandfather, John Stephen Sennott, was a physician. An inquiry to the National Genealogy Society yielded information from their AMA Deceased Physician database. John's education began in Waterloo, Illinois at the public schools, from there he attended St. Louis University and then graduated from St. Louis Medical College in 1883. The next stop was, of course, St. Louis City Directories. John was listed in the 1883 City Directory living in the Laclede Hotel.

Most major colleges and universities have an archives section on their websites. On the St. Louis University website you can contact their archives. I received a response within a few days of sending my query. Not only did they tell me that John had indeed been a student there but the archivist painted a picture of his time there.

John enrolled in the four-year Commercial Program from 1874 to 1878. This program was for students who intended on pursuing a business career. They also had a six-year Classical Program which would have been the more traditional educational path for someone planning on being a doctor. The archives no longer had individual student records, however, the catalogs for each year not only listed the classes offered but named the students and provided information on any special awards or distinctions they earned.

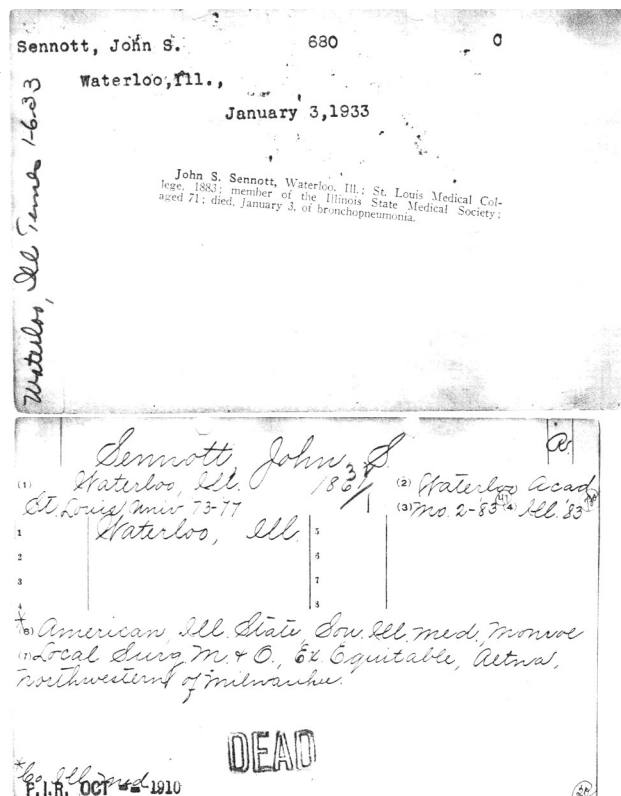
In 1874-1875 John studied English Grammar, US History, Geography, Elocution, practical and mental Arithmetic, penmanship and catechism. He received special notice for distinguished diligence in his studies. John was awarded the first premium for Christian Doctrine, a distinguished rating in English grammar, second premium in History and Geography, and first premium in arithmetic. He also excelled in the semi-annual examination held at the close of the session.

1875-1876, his second year, John's classes were English Grammar, Epistolary Composition, Bible History, Geography, Elocution, Math, Penmanship, and Catechism. Again he stood out as a student, earning a distinguished rating in Arithmetic and excelled at the semi-annual examinations.

The third year, 1876-1877, was referred to as Second Rhetoric Class. John studied English Composition and Rhetoric, Essays, Debate, Modern History and continued with more classes in geography and math. He also took classes in Algebra and Christian Doctrine. He received a distinguished rating in book-keeping and continued to excel at exams.

In his final year, 1877-1878, something happened and not only did John not graduate but he isn't listed as earning any awards or distinctions. It looks like he dropped out sometime during the year. This might be explained by lack of funds to continue his education. His father died when John was a year old and his mother raised John and his step sister by herself. Things must have improved, however, since the AMA Deceased Physicians record showed that he had graduated from St. Louis Medical College.

According to the Archivist, St Louis University didn't have a medical school in the 1880's so the hunt was on to find St.



AMA Deceased Physicians Record for John Sennott

(Continued on page 6)

## Our Ancestors' Education (continued)

*(Continued from page 5)*

Louis Medical College. The History of St. Louis Neighborhoods website provided some information. Apparently the medical school split from St. Louis University and became known as St. Louis Medical College. In 1891 it merged with Washington University and became their medical school. A visit to the Missouri Historical Society paid off. In their collection, they not only had a history of St. Louis Medical College but the college catalog for 1883, the year John graduated.

Beginning in 1880 all students were required to complete three years of study and pass examinations in Chemistry, Anatomy, Physiology, Materia Medica and Therapeutics, Principles and Practice of Medicine, Surgery and Obstetrics to obtain a degree of Doctor of Medicine. The curriculum was listed for each of the three years. Fees were \$90 per term and students were required to purchase twelve textbooks. For an additional \$12.00 John could have joined the Quiz Club that “presented to the student the opportunity for the free discussion of the important points of the subject-matter of the lectures, and thus enables him to express concisely his views, corrects erroneous conceptions, fixed the salient points in his memory, and prepares him not only for the Green Room, but also for the emergencies of practice.” The catalog listed each class that John would have taken for each of his three years in medical school. His preceptor was Dr. Wetmore of Waterloo. John returned there after graduating on 7 March, 1883. He continued to live and practice medicine in Waterloo until his death in 1933.

Being able to add this information makes John a real person, it is so much more interesting than just knowing that he attended medical school.

There is information available on High School and grade schools. Check out the Family History Library they have some yearbooks in their collection. Public libraries, historical societies and archives in the area you are searching are great sources of information on education. The archives at the college or university that your ancestor attended can be very helpful. They often have yearbooks, college catalogs, and anniversary publications in their collections. Also check to see if there is an archive for the public schools in the city where your ancestor lived. If you don't know which schools they attended, check out city directories to find out what schools were near where your ancestor lived. Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps also showed schools, look for those close to where your ancestor lived. For those who lived in rural areas or smaller towns, check the county histories. They often have chapters on education in the township, town or county.

Here are a few websites that might help:

<http://www3.old-yearbooks.com/> A free site where you can browse by state

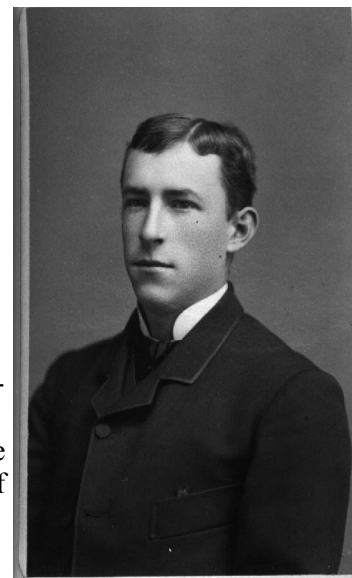
<http://www.e-yearbook.com/> This is a subscription site that has high school, college, middle school and military yearbooks

<http://www.idreamof.com/school.html> I Dream of Genealogy has a list of links to available school records and yearbooks by state

Ancestry.com and World Vital Records also have yearbooks in their collections. Visit Haggard Library to use Ancestry.com at no cost.

Researching our ancestors' education can provide the kind of information that transforms our ancestors from names and dates on a flat pedigree chart into three dimensional, interesting people. It is well worth the time and effort to uncover gems like these records.

Thanks to Joyce Kaplan for the info on the yearbook websites which inspired this article.



John Sennott

Photo taken while attending  
Medical School



## ***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 re-search trip*
- *Family History Library orientation by FHL staff on November 30th*
- *Individual and group consultations with experienced genealogists*
- *Opportunity to use the vast resources of the largest genealogical library in the world*

*The registration deadline is October 31, 2010.*

*For more information contact Barbara Coakley at [bjc1620@sbcglobal.net](mailto:bjc1620@sbcglobal.net) or the Genealogy Friends website [www.genealogyfriends.org](http://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*