



Genealogy Friends News

Genealogy Friends of
Plano Libraries

December 2006

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

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

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

<http://www.rootsweb.com/~txcolli3>

Email Address: genfriends@tx.rr.com

Newsletter: Barbara Coakley bjc1620@sbcglobal.net

Saturday Seminars & Lock Ins

Mark your calendars now for the exciting Genealogy Friends events in 2006 & 2007:

January 20, 2007—Steven Butler will speak to us about the US-Mexican War.

February 9, 2007—Lock In Breaking Down Brick Walls. See Page 6.

February 17, 2007—Barbara Coakley will discuss the Ziebold and Schnaiter Family research that led her to the Family History Tour to Germany.

March 17, 2007—Dr. Adrienne Caughfield will present “True Women and Westward Expansion”

April 21, 2007—All Day Workshop—Colleen Fitzpatrick will be returning.

May 19, 2007—Ed Sandbach will discuss Preserving and Organizing Photos and Vicki Bell will discuss Digital Photography

June 16, 2007—Happi McGirk will speak to us about Writing Your Family History and Creating Digital Heritage Albums

July 13, 2007—Lock In—Regional Research. Sessions will cover research in various parts of the US.

July 21, 2007—Martina Wildechapparro will speak on the Victorian Mourning Culture. Second Speaker TBD

August 18, 2007—Preparing for a Research Trip by Barbara Coakley

September 15, 2007—Lynne Darrouzet is our speaker, topic Government Documents.

October 20, 2007—Glen Kinkade, topic to be announced.

October 26, 2007—Lock In—Computers and Genealogy

November 17, 2007—Richard Preston will speak to us about Migration Patterns.

December 15, 2007—Annual Show n Tell. Bring your genealogy finds to share with your friends.

If you have suggestions for programs for 2007 please submit them to Barbara Coakley at bjc1620@sbcglobal.net

2007 Research Retreat to Washington DC—Update

Genealogy Friends may be sponsoring a trip to Washington DC in October 2007. You will have an opportunity to research at the National Archives, Library of Congress and the Daughters of the American Revolution Library. Orientation sessions will be held at each institution. There has not been much interest to date. If you are interested please contact Barbara Coakley at bjc1620@sbcglobal.net. A decision will be made in January if the trip is still on.

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

McKinney Genealogy Program

The McKinney Memorial Public Library is having a free seminar on Saturday, February 24th from 3:00 to 4:00.

Carol Taylor from Greenville, Texas will speak on "Learn More About Civil War Research."

Microfiche Reader for Sale

DuKane Explorer 14 microfilm reader, in good condition, with high, medium, low viewing

Used for indexing projects. \$100.

Phone Brenda Kellow, 972-941-9280, or email

TraceRoots@comcast.net

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 |

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. Visit the Plano Insider web site is <http://www.planoinsider.net/> and click on either PULSE or ENTERTAINMENT to read the weekly column. Each column is posted for one week only.

The column and archives are posted at <http://www.geocities.com/TracingOurRoots>.

Collin County Bits—A Prairie Christmas

By Joy Gough

(My apologies to Clement Clarke Moore)

'Twas the night before Christmas
And all across the prairie,
Not a creature was stirring
Except Farmer Larry.

He put on his Stetson
And his boots with the spurs,
And looked for his gloves,
He didn't want hers.

The cows needed milking
The horses must be fed,
He wished he could stay inside
In his cozy warm bed.

Effie and Zack were asleep
In their bunk beds
While visions of presents
Danced in their heads.

They were expecting a visit
From dear Santa Claus,
But Larry wasn't sure
He knew who that was.

An elf dressed in red
Sporting a long beard,
Could be his neighbor, Clem,
He was kind of weird.

Larry finished his chores
And was ready to sleep,
He put back on his Stetson
And penned up his sheep.

He closed the door to the barn
And started back to the house,
He saw something in the yard
It didn't look like a grouse.

He walked over to the vision
And what should he see?
It looked like reindeer and a sleigh
How could that be?

Reindeer weren't from Texas
And sleighs needed snow,
They didn't belong here
That much he did know.

Maybe they were lost
And couldn't find their way,
He'd help them get warm
And feed them some hay.

Where were they going
And why were they here?
And why was a sleigh
Being pulled by reindeer?

He hadn't heard them arrive,
He didn't know where they were from,
He hadn't heard any noise
When the reindeer had come.



Collin County Bits (Cont'd)

He didn't see a driver
There was no one around,
But there were several footprints
Across the soft ground.

He entered his house
And what did he see?
But a man dressed in red
Over by his Christmas tree.

The man had shiny black boots
And a big green sack,
He was picking out toys
For Effie and Zack.

"Is that you, Clem?
The farmer asked him,
"Did you bring the reindeer
And the sleigh with white trim?"

The man turned around
And gave him a grin,
He had a twinkle in his eye
And a beard covering his chin.

He was an odd looking man
With a big round belly,
He was eating cookies,
And peanut butter and jelly.

"No, I'm not, Clem,"
He said with a smile,
"When I visited his place
He'd been asleep for a while.

"I remember you, Larry,
When you were quite small,
Waiting for Santa
And wanting a red ball.

"You used to stay awake
You wanted to watch me,
But you always fell asleep
Before you could catch me."

Larry was truly amazed.
He couldn't believe what he saw,
This was really Santa Claus
And he was in awe.

Santa was quite busy
Putting toys around the tree,
This was something special
Larry wanted the family to see.

He wanted to go
Wake the kids and his wife,
This was the best thing
They'd ever see in this life!

But Santa closed up his sack
And tied it with a bow,
The reindeer and sleigh were waiting
He was ready to go.

Santa gave a little nod
And walked out the front door,
"I'm getting old, Larry,
And don't use chimneys anymore.

Collin County Bits—(cont'd)

“Too much fire,
Too much smoke,
Too many ashes
Getting on my red cloak.

“Mrs. Claus isn’t happy
With how I come home.
All dirty and dusty,
And needing a comb.”

“It is time for us,”
To be on our way.”
He walked across the yard
And climbed into his sleigh.

“We have Texas to cross
And that is no small feat,
With the prairies, the mesas
And deadlines to meet.”

He whistled to his team
They were glad when he came,
The reindeer were ready,
As he called them by name.

“Now Bevo, now Lobo,
Now Travis, and Todd,
On Waco, on Reveille,
And Felix Navidad.

“To the top of the veranda,
To the top of the gable,
Fly as fast as you can
Up over the stable.

Santa and his reindeer

And his pretty red sleigh,
Rose up in the air
And just flew away.

As I went back inside
To get ready for bed
I heard him exclaim
As he flew overhead:

“Merry Christmas to you
And your family too.
Remember the spirit of Christmas
And what it can do,

“Celebrate this Christmas
As family and friends do,
Remember what the name means
And that it’s a special birthday, too.”



Breaking Down Brick Walls



Friday, February 9, 2007 from 6:00 to 11:00 P.M.
Gladys Harrington Library, 1501 E. 18th Street, Plano

Topics offered for all levels of experience:

- Sorting Out Men With the Same Names – Are there three John Smiths in the area and timeframe you are searching. Learn some tips to figure out which is yours.
- Researching Collateral Lines to Find Your Ancestors – Sometimes records exist for siblings or cousins that don't for your ancestors. Add this technique to your toolbox to find your ancestors.
- Getting Around Burnt Courthouses – Courthouse Burned? All is not lost, learn about records that may still exist.
- Finding Female Ancestors – Finding women can require different strategy than those used to search for male ancestors. Join us and learn a few.
- Finding Little Used Sources in Courthouses – There are more records in courthouses besides marriage certificates, birth certificates, death certificates and wills. Learning about them could jump start your research.
- Private Consultations by appointment between 10:00 and 11:00 p.m.
- Internet Computers – Library Card and authorization required*
- Open Research – Use the vast resources available at the Harrington Library to research your family.

Details:

Check-in at 5:30 P.M. The library closes to the public at 6:00.

Registration is a \$10.00 donation. Option: Pizza, cookie & beverage available for \$4.00. Additional beverages are \$.50 each.

Make checks payable to GenFriends. Pay at the door. Sorry, no credit or debit cards.

For further information contact: GenFriends at genfriends@tx.rr.com

NOTE: To use the Internet computers, you must have a library card and be authorized by the library prior to 5:30 P.M. on the evening of the lock-in.