



Genealogy Friends News

Genealogy Friends of Plano
Libraries

Genealogy Friends News
December 2008

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Saturday Seminars

Mark your calendars now for the exciting Genealogy Friends events in 2008 & 2009. 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:

December 20, 2008—Show and Tell—Bring all of your Genealogy Successes and share them with the group.

Future Topics:

January 19, 2009—Jennifer Pitts will speak to us about On Line Hosting

February 21, 2009—Aaron Holt, Archivist at the Southwest Regional Archives will be back to speak to us about the National Archives and Record Administration resources.

February 28, 2009—Learn In—Mark the date and stay tuned for more information.

March 21, 2009—Lynell Moss will speak to us about the Family History Library.

April 18, 2009—All Day Seminar—Naomi Taplin— Librarian, Texas Baptist Historical Collection will be doing an all day seminar on preserving family artifacts.

May 16, 2009—David and Paula Pitts will speak to us about Planning a Family Reunion.

June 20, 2009—James Deen will speak to us about Land Records Research

July 18, 2009—To be determined

August 15, 2009—Leo Baca will speak to use about DNA.

September 19, 2009—To be determined

October 17, 2009—"City Directories, Newspapers, and Obituaries with the Census as Your Guide," by Barbara Coakley.

November 21, 2009—Thresa Tatyrek will be speaking to us on Using the Internet for researching your Genealogy.

December 19, 2009—Show and Tell, come and share your Ancestors' stories with the group.

If you have suggestions for programs please submit them to Jean Funk at jeano25@aol.com.

Websites

The German Information Center USA, The German National Tourist Office and more partners have launched German Originality.com. <http://germanoriginality.com/>

Former employees of Google have started a new search engine CUIL (pronounced Cool). Check it out <http://www.cuil.com/>

The US Government maintains a list of significant record collections http://www.usa.gov/Citizen/Topics/History_Family.shtml

You can search multiple sites with Surname Navigator <http://www.surnamenavigator.org/>

Out of Copyright Maps http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Old_maps

The INS has a section of their website that provides reference documents on immigration laws in the US from 1790-current. Click on Education & Resources

and then Immigration Legal History <http://www.uscis.gov/portal/site/uscis>

Need help finding your Revolutionary War Ancestor <http://www.learnwebskills.com/patriot/>

The Massachusetts Vital Records Project has put the "Tan Books" compiled in the early 1900s from government and private town records and include records from 1600-1849. <http://www.massvitalrecords.org/>

Ray's Place Explore New England's Past is a website that contains over 7,000 pages on New England history and genealogy. <http://history.rays-place.com/#town>

Colonial Connecticut Records 1636 to 1776 is a website by the University of Connecticut Library that contains digital copies of the 15 volumes of public records. <http://www.colonialct.uconn.edu/>

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

Dues are Due

Dues are due! Individual memberships are \$30 and family memberships are \$50—funds go to purchase materials for the genealogy section at Haggard Library.

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

Gen Friends Learn In

Our first Learn In was a great success. The next one will be February 28, 2009 to celebrate Black History Month. Stay tuned for more details.

Georgia Death Certificates

The Georgia Archives has put death certificates from 1919 to 1927 online. There is an index linked to digital images of the Death Certificates. The website is www.GeorgiaArchives.org.

This is a combined effort between Family Search Record Services, The Georgia Archives and the Georgia State Office of Vital Records and Statistics.

The certificates include age, county of death, parents' names, occupation, gender, race, and cause of death. Some may include the place of birth of the deceased and their parents, marital status, occupation, and place of burial.

Google Newspapers

There is an article on the Google Blog about a project they have to bring history online, one newspaper at a time. In September, they launched an initiative that began with indexing the archives of the *New York Times* and *The Washington Post*.

They recently purchased 20 million digitized pages from PaperofRecord.com. The collection covers the United States, Canada, and Mexico and includes the *Toronto Star*. One downside is that some of the papers indexed charge for access to the entire article, but the index is a huge help.

Newspapers are a great source for family history. In addition to obituaries you can find ads for ancestors businesses, lists of letters at Post Offices, news of the time to put your ancestor in context, and the personal columns can tell you details about your ancestor you won't find anywhere else. <http://news.google.com/archivesearch>

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>.

American Genealogical Biographical Index

The American Genealogical Biographical Index is a 226 volume every name index of hundreds of genealogies, the genealogy column of the *Boxton Transcript*, which appeared from 1896 to 1941, the 1790 Census, documents from the Pennsylvania Archives. This is currently on Ancestry.com but is moving to World Vital Records effective January 2009.

Legacy Users Group

The Legacy Family Tree users group meets the fourth Tuesday of each month at the Haggard Library in the Program Room from 10:30 to 12:30. Contact Joanne Corney at ptxlegacyug@verizon.net for more information.

Collin College Classes

Barbara Coakley will be teaching Genealogy I at Collin College. Class will be held January 26, 2009 to March 2, 2009 on Monday nights from 6:30 to 9:00 at the Courtyard Center.

Watch for the new class on Genealogy Research on the Internet coming in 2009.

On The Road to Man-Chew-Way

By Joy Gough

For the last few weeks I have been at the courthouse trying to find the location of the town of Mantua (pronounced Man-Chew-Way). It's not as easy as it sounds.

Mantua was one of the earliest towns in Collin County and was probably the first one to be planned and platted out before anyone lived there. It was started in 1854 by the McKinney family and others with much of the land being purchased from the McKinneys.

At the time Mantua was founded, it was the only town between the city of McKinney and the county's northern border. The towns of Melissa, Anna, and Van Alstyne did not exist. In 1858 when Collin County required the residents of the county to help in the construction of roads, Mantua Road was one of the roads they built. If you travel north on US 75, the Mantua Road exit is the last one in Collin County before Grayson County. That places the town somewhere around US 75 and the north county line.

Five trustees purchased land to develop the town of Mantua. A 25-acre town was platted out. The east-west streets were named Crockett, Milam, Fannin, and Bonham after heroes of the Texas Revolution. Following the same pattern, the north-south streets were named Sherman, Travis, and Rusk, with the westernmost street named School. There were 4 alleys named Throckmorton, McKinney, Wilcox, and Jefferson. These were the names of some of the trustees.

Mantua was created with the purpose of starting a college called the Mantua Seminary. Education was obviously important to the early settlers. The college was supported by the sales of lots in the 25-acre town and by the Mantua Masonic Lodge. When the building was constructed, the college occupied the first floor and the Masonic Lodge the second. Eventually the school occupied both floors.

The lots in the town were usually sold by McKinney, Attorney. I do not think the town was ever incorporated. I also do not know which McKinney was an attorney. William McKinney's name is usually associated with the town. He could be a son of Collin - I have not researched that.

The Mantua Seminary was located just off the northeast corner of the 25-acre town. Several maps show the location of a school at Mantua. However, they do not say whether it is the seminary or the public school. Several hand-drawn maps show a zig-zag road where various people lived and where a church and a school were located. The school and church are not named. Mantua had 2 or 3 churches - at least a Methodist Church, named Mt. Zion, and a Christian Church, named Mantua Christian.

In the 1870 census, Mantua had a population of 50 people with over 1000 living in the area outside of the town. The townspeople had strict rules about not allowing alcohol sales. One "smart" individual set up a tent just outside the city limits to sell alcohol. Mantua was located on the stage coach route that went to Sherman. It was a thriving little community, a center of culture in the wilderness that was Collin County at that time.

In 1872 the Houston and Texas Central Railroad came through Collin County on its way to Sherman. The railroad company was in the habit of asking towns to pay for the privilege of having the railroad come through their cities. They asked Mantua for money. Mantua's reply was that since it was in a direct route between McKinney and Sherman, the railroad would come through their town whether they paid them or not. No, they would not pay.

The railroad answered by bypassing Mantua to the east, creating the towns of Melissa, Anna, and Van Alstyne as it went. By 1880 Mantua had almost disappeared. Its stores and churches and Masonic lodge moved to either Van Alstyne or Anna. The seminary closed. The Christian church was the last one to move. The public school stayed in existence until the 1930s.

Today no evidence remains of Mantua. There is supposed to be a cemetery but no markers remain. The

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On the Road to Man-Chew-Way (continued)

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cemetery is even indicated on deed maps. It would have been outside the 25-acres.

A few of Mantua's residents are still alive, people who went to public school there. They have plenty of stories. The Collin County Archaeological Society has done a couple of digs in the area. But the question still remains - where was Mantua? Some maps show it east of US 75; others show it on the west side. Some people say it straddled the highway. If it was started by the McKinney family, they lived on the east side, east of SH 5.

The plat map for the town says the 25-acres were on the Burge survey, which is almost all on the east side. However, the Burge survey is 640 acres or more. That still does not say where the town was located. I am narrowing it down. I know where it was not, but I still do not know the exact location of Mantua.

I will be continuing "On the Road to Man Chew Way," trying to pinpoint this important part of Collin County history.

Preservation Tricks for Un-sticking Pages and for Removing Old Photographs from Rootsweb Review, January 2008

SEPARATING STUCK PAGES

"*Separating Pages in Old Documents*," Jennie Vertrees, Princeton, Missouri. "I just wanted to share with you how to separate pages in fragile documents that are stuck together. A few years ago, I was granted permission by the state archives department in Jefferson City, Missouri, to hand copy some of the pages from the original 1880 census for Mercer County, Missouri. I ran into some pages that were so tightly stuck together that I couldn't get them apart short of tearing them, which I didn't want to. So I asked the person in charge of these old documents if she knew how to get them apart without damaging them. She took a sheet of acid-free paper and "see-sawed" it gently between the two sheets of the document; they came apart without much effort. She stated that the sheet of paper had to be acid-free or it wouldn't work. I've tried it since then and it has worked every time for me.

REMOVING PHOTOS FOUND IN OLD ALBUMS

"*A Sticky Photo Problem*" by Carol Simmons, Minden Ontario. "I work at a local museum. We have been faced with the problem of having photos stuck to album pages many times. People often donate photo albums, and since we are charged with their safe-keeping, we attempt to remove and conserve the photos. We have found waxed dental floss to be a blessing. We slide a piece of floss back and forth--much like using a cross-cut saw--between the photo and the backing material. It works great; the photo doesn't get bent or creased. As a side note, make sure to remove all photos from the albums that have sticky pages and a clear film over-sleeve. These are horrendous for photos."

REMOVING PAGES FROM MAGNETIC ALBUMS

"*A Sticky Photo Problem*" by Richard A. Danca, Newton, Massachusetts. "Here's an idea for removing pictures stuck to pages in those so-called "magnetic" photo albums, where the supposedly tacky substance meant to hold photos on the page can set over time. You can safely remove those photos by carefully using a hand-held hair dryer set to "Low" or "Warm." Heat one edge of the photo and pry it away slowly as you continue to direct the warm air back and forth under the photo. A bit of the goo sometimes sticks to the photo, but probably not enough to worry about. After removing the photo, put it in a proper, acid-free photo album."

December Preservation Tips (continued)

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NEWSPAPERS ON INTERLIBRARY LOAN

“*Newspaper Research Tips* by Mary Harrell-Sesniak, maryh@volunteer.rootsweb.com, (Genealogy is not just a pastime; it’s a passion.) Pam Walton of the Humble Area Genealogical Society recently presented a program titled “Getting the Most Out of that Newspaper” at Kingwood College in Kingwood, Texas. Here are some of her research tips, which I thought you might enjoy.”

If you find an article abstracted from a newspaper, find the original source. The more times something is rewritten, the more removed it is from the original copy and the more prone it is to errors. Request newspapers from other libraries by using interlibrary loan (ILL). Upon receipt, you will have a couple of weeks to examine it before returning it.

Expand research to neighboring communities and order more than one newspaper for the time-frame you are researching, since articles can differ drastically from paper to paper. For example, search newspapers from smaller and larger neighboring cities; they may have reported on the same event you are researching.

Order issues printed ten days prior to and ten days after an event, since certain items have follow-ups. For example, a death notice, funeral notice, burial notice, and obituary would be published on different days and would include different data.

Watch for items frequently overlooked by researchers, such as juror lists and letters left in post offices, which indicate someone had left the area.

Even advertisements can be useful; for example, you could learn about a family business.

Keep a research log to avoid duplicating your work. Some useful headings for your research log include the date you ordered or looked at the newspaper;

the name of the paper;

the names, dates, and items you are researching; “your findings; and whether or not you made photocopies. If possible, photocopy the whole page of the newspaper, including the title and date, even if this makes the article too small to read. Then, make an enlarged, readable copy of the article itself. “Label everything on the back, including the name of the paper, the publication location and date, the volume, the page number, and the column.

Organize your copies carefully. one method is to create files for individual males' surnames, sorted alphabetically by the first name, and another set for females' married surnames, sorted the same way.

[Columnist’s recommendation: You can also keep a set with maiden names and cross reference the files by including a sheet of paper that references the other file.]

Use Easybib.com or Elizabeth Shown Mills’s (sic) book *Evidence Explained* to cite newspaper references properly in your family tree and other citations.”

[Editors note: The opinions expressed herein are those of the authors and are not necessarily those of the editor or of Rootsweb Review

