



Genealogy Friends News

Genealogy Friends of Plano
Libraries

Genealogy Friends News
July 2008

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

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

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

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

Saturday Seminars

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

July 19, 2008—Cheryl Smith from the Haggard Library will be speaking on “How in the world do I start researching at the W.O. Haggard Library? We have access to a wonderful collection right here in Plano, come learn more about the collection and the online resources available.

Future Topics:

August 9, 2008—Preparing for a Research Trip—Learn how preparation can help you make the most of your research trip. We'll discuss creating a research plan and using it onsite at the repository you are visiting. Since GenFriends is sponsoring a trip to Salt Lake City in November, we'll use examples from a visit to the Family History Library. These principles can be used visiting any repository. This class will be from 10:30-12:00 in the Genealogy Section.

August 16, 2008—“Beginning Genealogy” by Barbara Coakley. Whether you are truly a beginner or just want a “back to basics” refresher, this class is for you.

September 20, 2008—“Convict Ancestors from England” by Dr. Steven Butler. Dr Butler spoke to us last year about the Mexican War, we are excited to have him back to educate us on another really interesting topic.

October 18, 2008—Dr. Jacob Blosser will speak to us about the History of Religions in America. Dr Blosser is an Assistant Professor of History at Texas Women's University.

November 11-16—Research Retreat to Salt Lake City (See Page 2 for more details.)

November 15, 2008—Bryan Lean, the curator of Collections and Exhibits at the North Texas History Center will be speaking to us about the collection.

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

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

Sixth Annual Research Retreat—Salt Lake City

Join Gen Friends members on our Sixth Annual Research Retreat to the Family History Library in Salt Lake City for the opportunity to use the vast resources of the largest genealogical library in the world—microfilm, microfiche, books, and CDs from all over the world. The book collection of the Family History Library does not circulate, you have to visit Salt Lake City to use the huge collection of family histories, county histories, maps, reference books, and published records. If you haven't been there this is a great way to learn your way around. If you have, you can research in the company of fellow genealogy enthusiasts.

November 11-November 16, 2006

The \$80.00 Retreat Fee includes:

- Pre-Trip Seminar on August 9, 2008 from 10:00-12:00 at Haggard Library on Research at the Family History Library and Planning Your Research
- Library Orientation by FHL Staff at 2 pm November 11th
- Seminar from a Professional Genealogist in Salt Lake City
- Block of Hotel Rooms has been reserved at the Salt Lake Plaza
- Individual and Group Consultations with Experienced Genealogists

Registration Deadline is October 15, 2008. If you have questions, please email Barbara Coakley at newsletter@genealogyfriends.org.

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

California Digital Newspapers

The California Digital Newspaper Collection <http://cdnc.ucr.edu/> is part of the National Digital Newspaper Program. You can search the index and view images of the newspaper on their website. The collection is over 150,000 pages from 1849-1911.

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

Education Opportunities

The following opportunities are available for you to continue to learn more about genealogy:

Genealogy Class Collin College

Genealogy III will be offered Monday nights from September 15th to October 20th. This class will include techniques for Breaking Down Brick Walls and a class project.

Legacy Users Group

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

DGS Summer Institute

“Call of the West” will be held July 24-26 at the J Eric Johnnsen Main Library features lectures by Lloyd Bockstruck and John Colletta. For more information visit their website http://www.dallasgenealogy.org/fundraising/Summer%20Institutes/summer_institute_2008.htm

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>.

New Book

Colleen Fitzpatrick, who spoke to us twice about Forensic Genealogy, DNA and analyzing photographs has written a new book, “The Dead Horse Investigation Forensic Photo Analysis for Everyone.”

Check our her website for more information <http://www.forensicgenealogy.info/index.html> and email Colleen at cfitzp@aol.com and mention you are from Genealogy Friends of Plano Libraries to order the book at a discount

National Conferences

The Federation of Genealogical Societies Conference will be held September 3-6, 2008 in Philadelphia, PA
<http://www.fgsconference.org/index.php>

The National Genealogy Society 2009 Conference will be held May 13-16, 2009 in Raleigh, NC
<http://www.ngsgenealogy.org/hotel.cfm>

Collin County Bits—The Name Renner

By Joy Gough

Have you ever been traveling on Renner Road in Richardson and wondered where the name came from? At one time there was a community of Renner in the southwest corner of Collin County. Renner said the community extended into three counties - Collin, Dallas, and Denton. In order for that to be true the boundaries had to extend from about Coit Road on the east to the other side of Addison Airport on the west and from about 15th Street in Plano on the north to Campbell Road in Richardson on the south. That is a big territory.

The St. Louis Southwestern, or the Cotton Belt, Railroad was built through Collin County 1887/88 on its way from Ft. Worth to Greenville. Much of the Collin County portion of the route is still in use. We are all familiar with it. They are the tracks that cross Coit Road around 190 and Plano Parkway. They are the tracks on the north side of Renner Road in Richardson. They are the tracks that go over North Central Expressway at Plano Parkway and then cross Plano Parkway. The tracks cross Avenue K just south of 15th Street and continue east skirting the south side of 14th Street/FM544 before crossing it at Murphy. They skirt the north side of FM544 on the way to Wylie, crossing Ballard Street before continuing on to the Wylie train yard where they stop. At one time they extended east through Lavon, Nevada, and Josephine.

Renner was a railroad town, started in about 1887. The community of Renner was named for John A. Renner, an engineer in charge of developing townsites along the Cotton Belt Line. He was probably responsible for founding the towns of Murphy and Josephine also. Renner was founded where the line enters Collin County on the west. Josephine was founded where the line leaves the county on the east.

The community of Renner applied for a post office in 1888, almost as soon as the railroad came through. George T. Hudson was appointed postmaster. F. W. Jackson opened the first store. A school was built about the same time. The school house was a large two-story building with a foyer and one room on first floor and one room on the second. As was the custom with early school houses, the second floor used as a community center. The school was used until 1919. The Renner school house has been moved to Old City Park in Dallas.

In September of 1904 Renner petitioned the railroad for passenger service. In 1890 the population of Renner was 50. In 1900 the population had more than doubled to 166. Renner was always a farming community. The railroad was used to carry the crops to market.

In 1950 the town population was down to 100 residents. D. E. Wilson was the mayor in 1957. Remnants of Renner on the west side of Coit Road near Frankford Road existed until 1983 when it was absorbed by Dallas. The Texas A. & M. Research Center, still in existence, was located at Renner.

The First Baptist Church of Renner was started in the Renner School house in 1890. They met in the school house until 1897 when the Renner Baptist Church dedicated a building that was located on Dickerson Street in Renner. It was a wooden frame structure with one room that served all purposes. The building had an entrance in the north corner and another one on the west side. In 1925 a larger building was erected, which had a small square steeple and a covered entryway/porch. The doors were in the center. The congregation was very active. It was not on a circuit and had its own ministers. In 1963 a separate fellowship hall was added. Community elections were held in the fellowship hall.

The Renner Methodist Church was started in 1891. Frank Jackson, who had the first store, donated land for a church building, parsonage, barn and vegetable garden. The Methodist church was always on a circuit with other Methodist churches. Services were held every other Sunday. The congregation was dissolved in 1957 and the church building sold to a business firm.

At one time Renner had a cotton gin and stores as well as the school house and the Baptist and Methodist churches. The school district was absorbed by the Plano School District. In 1985 the Baptist Church building was moved to the Farmers Branch Historical Park.

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The Name Renner (continued)

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Aside from the two buildings in the historical parks, the only other remnant of Renner still in existence is the congregation of the Baptist church, which moved a building on Davenport Street in North Dallas. In 1980 the name of the church was changed to Preston Highlands Baptist Church. The Renner Baptist Church congregation has a Texas State Historical Marker.

The street names also survived. The Baptist church was on Dickerson Street. Another street was named for Frank Jackson, who opened the first store. Look for these streets on Mapsco to find the location of the Renner town site.

Military Records Identify Military Individuals

By Brenda Kellow

You know what they say about death and taxes!

Genealogical research certainly involves both of these events. We learn to study everything that happens during the life of an ancestor. We have to dig through deeds, wills, and even hunt through old parish records to find vital information.

Early handwriting may be challenging to interpret, but the symbols in parish records of the 16th and 17th centuries may be puzzling, but they are certainly fascinating.

Below are some of the symbols I have found in searching for some of my ancestors.

SYMBOLS

Born *

Born Illegitimate (*)

Baptized ≈ or x

Betrothed o

Married ∞

Divorced % or Ó

Common-law Marriage o-o

Died

Buried

Died in Battle

Latin Terms

Anno Domini (A.D.) - in the year of our Lord

circa (c., ca., circ.) - about

died *sine prole* (*d.s.p.*) - died without issue

et alii (*et al.*) - and others

item - also, likewise

liber or *libro* - book or volume

nepos - grandson

obit (*ob*) - he died, she died

obit sine prole (*o.s.p.*) - he or she died without issue

requiescat in pace (*R.I.P.*) - may he or she rest in peace

sic - so, thus

testes - witnesses

ultimo (*ult.*) - last

uxor (*us, vx*) - wife

Verbi Dei Minister (*V.D.M.*) - minister of the word of God

videlicet (*viz, viz^t*) - namely

Brenda Kellow has a bachelor's degree in history, teaches, and lectures on genealogy. Before retiring to publish her family's histories in 2007, Brenda held certification as a Certified Genealogist and as a Certified Genealogical Instructor. Send reunions announcements, books to review, and genealogy queries to: TraceRts@Verizon.net.

Key to Tombstone Engravings

Anchor/Ships.....	Hope or a Mariner	Lamp.....	Knowledge of God
Arches.....	Victory in Death/Entry to Heaven	Laurel.....	Fame or Victory
Arrows.....	Mortality	Lily or lily of Valley...	Emblem of Innocence and purity
Bird.....	Eternal Life	Morning glory.....	Beginning of life
Bird flying.....	Resurrection	Oak.....	Strength
Book open.....	Teacher	Oak leaves & acorn.....	Maturity, and ripe old age
Bible open.....	Minister	Palm branches.....	Signifies Victory and rejoicing
Bouquets flowers.....	Condolences, grief, sorrow	Passion Flower.....	Passion of Jesus
Broken column.....	Loss of Head of family	Phoenix.....	I will rise again
Bugles.....	Resurrection, or Military	Picks & Shovels.....	Mortality
Butterfly.....	Short lived, Early death/Resurrection	Poppy.....	Sleep
Candle being snuffed.....	Time, Mortality	Portals.....	Passageway to eternal life
Cherub.....	Angelic	Rings broken.....	Family circle severed
Clover.....	The Godhead	Rose.....	Love
Corn.....	Ripe old age	Rose bud.....	Morning of life, renewal of life
Cross.....	Emblem of faith	Rose fully opened.....	Prime of life
Crosses:		Roses.....	Brevity of earthly life
Celtic	Immortality	Shell.....	Baptism
Greek/Latin.....	Christianity	Shells.....	Pilgrimage of life
Latin 3 step.....	Godhead, Faith, Charity	Stars & stripes on eagle.....	Eternal vigilance liberty
Maltese.....	Bravery	Sword.....	Victory/Justice/Mercy
St. Andrews.....	Martyrdom	Thistles.....	Remembrance
Crossed swords.....	High ranking military person	Tombs.....	Mortality
Crown.....	Heavenly reward	Torch Inverted.....	Life extinct
Darts or Coffin.....	Father time	Tree Stump with ivy.....	Head of family Immortality
Dove....	Innocence, Gentleness, Affection, Purity/Peace/ Holy Spirit	Trees.....	Life
Flying birds	Flight of the soul	Trumpeters.....	Heralds of the resurrection
Fruit.....	Eternal plant	Urn with Blaze.....	Undying friendship
Garlands.....	Victory in death	Urn with wreath/crepe.....	Mourning
Hands shaking.....	Farewell	Violets.....	Humility
Harp.....	Praise to the Maker	Weeping willow.....	Emblem of sorrow
Hearts.....	Soul in bliss or love of Christ	Wheat sheaf.....	Fruitfulness/Ripe for harvest/Gathered in for the old
Horns.....	The Resurrection	Weeping Willow.....	Earthly sorrow/Grief
Hourglass.....	Swiftness of time/Flight of time	Winged Effigies.....	Flight of the soul
Hand of God Chopping.....	Sudden Death	Yew.....	Immortality
Hourglass with wings.....	Time flying, short life		
Imps.....	Mortality		
Ivy.....	Friendship and Immortality		
Lamb.....	Innocence/Purity (children)		

Cook County Vital Records

Cook County, Illinois is in the process of digitizing their vital records and making them available on their website <http://www.cookcountygenealogy.com/>. Also, Steven Morris has added this database to his One Step Search Website <http://www.stevemorse.org/>. You have to create an account to search the indexes. The document images will cost \$15.00 each plus a \$1.75 credit card fee per order. The vital records before October 8, 1871 were destroyed in the Chicago file so the records on the website start after that date.