



# Genealogy Friends News

Genealogy Friends of Plano  
Libraries

Genealogy Friends News  
July 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 2009 & 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:

July 17, 2010—Tresa Tatyrek will speak to us about Heritage Quest

### Future Topics:

August 14, 2010—Digital Scrapbooking Workshop—We're meeting at the Plano Bible Church, 1900 Shiloh, Plano from 10-3. Ruthie Mathews, a Creative Memories consultant, is lead a hands-on workshop on using StoryBook Creator Plus software. Cost of the workshop is \$25. You'll need a laptop with StoryBook Creator Plus software, and your digital pictures. Email [bjc1620@sbcglobal.net](mailto:bjc1620@sbcglobal.net) to reserve your spot.

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

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"

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—we'll be focusing on computer topics, save the date and stay tuned for more details.

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 6 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.

Individual memberships are \$30 and family memberships are \$50.

Dues year runs from October 1 to September 31.

## Genealogy Class

“Genealogy—Online Research” will be offered on Wednesday nights from July 21st to August 25th from 6:30 to 9:00 at the Courtyard Center Campus. This class focuses on using websites for genealogy research. Class topics include using Ancestry.com, Footnote.com, Google, FamilySearch.org and websites for different kinds of research – government records, military records, immigration & naturalization, and published records.

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/2009-index.html>

## 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



## Lining Up Your Ancestors

by Barbara Coakley

When we research our families we are placing our ancestors at a specific place at a point in time. Creating a timeline can be a useful tool to help you analyze what you know about your ancestors. As you add the events from your ancestor's life to the timeline it becomes very obvious what information you are missing, shows any conflicting information clearly, and can provide insight into where you need to focus future research. Adding historical events to the timeline provides clues to identify what was happening during their lifetime which could lead to useful records they created. You can also add information about the locations where they lived—when was the county formed, county boundary changes, etc.

### Where do you start?

Timelines can be created in Excel or Word or possibly by your genealogy program. There are also specialized software packages for creating timelines and web sites that can be helpful. We'll use an excel timeline for our example and then discuss some other options. One of the advantages of using Excel is the ability to sort by the columns you set up. You can sort chronologically, by ancestors' names, by location, or by events which can help you look at the information in different ways.

### Step by Step

1. Determine who the focus of your timeline will be—is it one ancestor or an entire family?
2. Gather the records and information you have about the life of your subject(s).
3. Open an Excel document and title the columns:
  - Date—when was the record generated
  - Name - you might want to put last names and first names in different cells so you can sort the timeline
  - Event—what event generated the record you have
  - Place—where did the event take place
  - Source—a short reference so you know where the information came from
  - Comments—any other information that you want to capture about the event/record
4. Enter the information from the records you have
5. Add historical events to the timeline or compare your ancestors' timeline to a historical timeline —history puts your ancestors' lives in context, may explain some of the records they generated, and give you ideas for where to look for records. For example, if you have a male ancestor who was between 16-40 in 1862, you should

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1. An Act of Congress of the Republic of Texas creating Houston County shows that in the beginning, the county was a very large county, and covered all of the territory now embraced within the bounds together with all of Trinity County and all of Anderson County and a large portion of Henderson County. An 1836 map of the State of Texas gives a clearer understanding of the territory embraced within the original limits of the county.

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look for records of service in the civil war or war claims records. There are websites where you can generate historical event timelines.

- Add in information about the locations where they lived. You can use the online version of *Red Book: American State, County, and Town Sources*. The full text is available on Ancestry.com's Wiki site. Here is the url [http://www.ancestry.com/wiki/index.php?title=Main\\_Page](http://www.ancestry.com/wiki/index.php?title=Main_Page)

Here's an example of what your timeline will look like:

Date	Last Name	First Name	Event	Location	Source	Comments
1816			County Formed	Monroe Co, IL		
1818	McLaughlin	Patrick	Birth	Ireland	FamilySearch.org	
1818			Statehood	Illinois		
1835			Halley's Comet			
After 1835	McLaughlin	Patrick	Resided	New Design Precinct, Monroe Co, IL	Arrowheads to Aerojets	Sennott & Burns families are also mentioned
1837			Depression and Panic	US		
1840	McLaughlin	Patrick	Census	Monroe Co, IL	Ancestry.com	
26 May 1840	McLaughlin	James	Baptism	Monroe Co, IL	St Augustine Catholic Church Register	Son of Patrick McLaughlin & Sinnet
3 May 1841	McLaughlin	Patrick	Purchased Land	S 33 T3S R9W Monroe Co, IL	Monroe Co, IL Deed Book F p 134-135	

### Timeline Software

Genelines by Progeny has three different editions, one for Legacy, one for Ancestral Quest and one that works with Family Tree, PAF or a gedcom file. The software brings together history and your family on visual timeline charts. <http://www.progenygenealogy.com/genelines.html>

The Genealogy Timeline is software created by a genealogist who couldn't find an acceptable tool to create timelines for their family history. [http://pw1.netcom.com/~genealogy/genealogy\\_timeline.htm](http://pw1.netcom.com/~genealogy/genealogy_timeline.htm)

TimelineMaker software allows a free trial. This software isn't tailored to Genealogist but allows you to draw timelines in different formats. <http://www.timelinemaker.com/index.php>

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There is a timeline template available from Excel if you would rather use a pictorial format. <http://www.vertex42.com/ExcelArticles/create-a-timeline.html>

Easy Timeline Creator creates historical timelines. You define the time period and scale, enter events and create your timeline. <http://www.timelinecreator.com/>

### Timeline Websites

- OurTimeLines is a website where you can create a timeline based on the life of your ancestor. You can see how your ancestor fits into history and use the events to direct your research. <http://www.ourtimelines.com/>
- Illinois Genealogy Timeline has major events from 1400-2000 with sources. These events are worldwide. <http://web.archive.org/web/20071021042554/http://hometown.aol.com/livingstoncounty/myhomepage/tv.html>
- This site has timelines by category <http://www.cam-info.net/timehist.html>
- Camelot Intl – click on the continent you are interested in for a timeline of historical events <http://www.camelotintl.com/world/index.html>
- AnyDayInHistory—enter a month and date on this website and it will tell you what was happening on that day in history. Use it to find out what happened the day your ancestor was born, emigrated, married, etc. Putting our ancestors in historical context can help us understand the challenges they faced in their lives. <http://www.scopesys.com/anyday/>
- FoodTimeline– if you have wondered what your ancestors ate, check out the food timeline <http://www.foodtimeline.org/>
- WhoWhatWhen—this website creates historical timelines from a database of key people and events. You enter the birthdate and a description and a timeline is generated for the life of famous people in the category. You can link to sites with information about their lives or famous events. <http://www.sbrowning.com/whowhatwhen/index.php>

For those of us that are visual, a timeline is a valuable analysis tool. Timelines put your ancestors' lives in chronological order. It becomes obvious what events you are missing as you read each record you have collected carefully and enter the information in your timeline. Adding historical events that would have influenced the lives of your ancestors can help you understand why they took the actions they did. Line up your ancestors and see where it leads you.

## ***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 date and time to be announced*
- *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*