

Genealogy Friends News

Genealogy Friends of
Plano Libraries

Genealogy Friends News
July 2023

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

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Schedule of Events

Mark your calendars now for the exciting Genealogy Friends events. Saturday seminars are held at W.O. Haggard Library, 2501 Coit Rd, Plano, TX from 10:15 to Noon.

August:

August 3, 2023—Lunch At Chocolate Angel See page ? For more information.

August 3, 2023—Zoom Meeting—Genealogy Round Table— We are a group of genealogy enthusiasts who get together to share information and help each other on the first Thursday of each month. Email newsletter@genealogyfriends.org for zoom link.

August 8, 2023—In Person—DNA Special Interest Group

August 19, 2023—Hybrid Meeting—”30 Types of Maps Useful in Genealogy,” by Margaret Kapustiak

Future Events:

September 16, 2023—Virtual All Day Seminar— Our speaker will be Cheri Hudson Passey. More info on page ?.

October 21, 2023—Hybrid Meeting—”After They Are Gone: What Probate Records Tell Us,” by Barbara Coakley

November 18, 2023—Hybrid Meeting—”Researching Graphically: Expanding Your Research With Timelines, Charts, Spreadsheets, and Diagrams,” by Ari Wilkins.

Check out the events on our Facebook page for more info on the topics and speakers for each months program—<https://www.facebook.com/GenealogyFriends>

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Genealogy Friends

Purpose: To educate members and library patrons in doing genealogical research and to support the Genealogy Center of W.O. Haggard, Jr. Library through donations.

Goal: To expand the library collection to meet the needs of this genealogically diverse community.

Genealogy Friends of Plano Libraries, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation. All donations are tax deductible.

Like and Follow us on [Facebook - Genealogy Friends of Plano Libraries](#)

The annual membership meeting is held each October.

Genfriends Membership

Our membership year runs from October 1 to September 30. Individual memberships are \$30 a year and family memberships are \$50.

The money we raise is used to pay for programs and to purchase materials for the Genealogy Section at Haggard Library.

Download the membership form on our website <http://genealogyfriends.org/news/> send it in with payment to

Genealogy Friends of Plano Libraries, Inc
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DNA Special Interest Group

The DNA Special Interest Group meets on the second Tuesday of each month in the Genealogy Section of Haggard Library from 7-8:30 pm. The August meeting will be on Tuesday, August 8th.

We are using Diahn Southard's book *Your DNA Guide the book* to guide our discussions. We are working on pages 28-44 which are about choosing your research goal.

We are learning together about using DNA to further our genealogy research.

The Topic for the August Meeting will be mtDNA.

Volunteers Needed

Genealogy Friends is a volunteer led organization. We have a dedicated board of directors who keep things running. Our fiscal year begins October 1st. Current Volunteer Opportunities:

Secretary—the main duties are taking notes at our board meetings, keeping a list of members, and updating the email lists.

Photographer—take pictures at events—you can use your phone.

If you are interested in helping out please email newsletter@genealogyfriends.org

Local Genealogy Events—Save the Dates

Children's Genealogy Program at Haggard Library—September 9, 2023 at 10:30 am.

Gen Friends All Day Virtual Seminar—September 16, 2023 More information on back page.

Dallas Genealogical Society Fall Seminar—Michael Strauss, “ The Twentieth Century Wars: Military Records and Research” September 23, 2023 <https://dallasgenealogy.org/meetings-events/seminars/2023-fall-seminar/>

Library Lock In will be October 20, 2023. Stay tuned for more information.

Great Family Search presented by the Family History Center in Plano will be held on October 28, 2023.

Research At The Library will be on December 9, 2023. Experienced members will be available to help with research planning and answer questions. Join us at W.O. Haggard Library from 10-1.

Collin County's First Election

By Joy Gough

The very first election held in Collin County was on July 4, 1846.

Three months before, the Texas Legislature had created Collin County, and new officials had to be chosen from among the settlers. Buckner was the only centrally located settlement in the county and was named the county seat. It was located at present-day US 380 about 3 miles west of Central Expressway.

Mansel Wilmeth spent four days riding to all the settlements in the county to notify each family of the election to be held on July 4. This in itself was a monumental task, for the settlers were scattered in the woods to the northwest and south of Buckner.

There were, of course, no roads or bridges. Everyone was invited to bring dinner to John McGarrah's little store at Buckner and spent the day.

The polls opened at 8 o'clock in the store and remained open until 10 that night. Women could not vote, neither could the slaves who came, and after much discussion, it was decided that the old Indian chief, Spotted Tail, who had more or less saved the settlement from marauding Indians, could not vote either.

Another question that arose immediately was now to vote. Some insisted it should be by a show of hands or by voice, but they were over-ruled when they learned that the votes had to be written and sent to Austin.

Looking about the store, McGarrah came up with a small pencil, but there was no paper, something very few pioneers brought with them. Finally, J. B. Wilmeth remembered he had a copy of "Paradise Lost" in his saddlebags and brought it in.

Carefully they tore all the fly leaves with no printing and any half pages that were blank. These were cut into strips and this is how the votes were recorded.

There is no record on how many voted, but since there were over 90 people at the gathering, perhaps a third of them were male voters. Old records show that many of the early settlers could neither read nor write. In this case, he would have someone write the name he was voting for and then make a crossmark himself, with some adding about the X, his mark.

There was no list of office seekers and many of the settlers received a few votes.

At the end of the voting, it was determined that Zachery Roberts had been elected Chief Justice (County Judge), Tola (called Tollie) Dunn was the new County Clerk, Moses Wilson the District Clerk, King Custer, a son-in-law of Rattan, Sheriff. The county commissioners were John Fitzgerald (Fitzhugh), Peter Lucas, Godfrey Baccus, and John Wilson

A short ceremony was held at noon and a flag was raised. At dusk, a sack of wheat bran that had been freighted in by John Lovejoy was spread on the hard packed earth in front of the store and everyone stayed on until late.

The first election, of course, was the one held June 6 of that year to decide the exact location of the new County Seat, but this was the first time officials were elected.



[Map from Wikipedia Page "Buckner, Texas"](#)

Gen Friends Board

Genealogy Friends is a completely volunteer organization. In order to continue to survive and grow we need more volunteers. Meet a few of our most dedicated volunteers who are currently serving on our board. There are always things we could use help with like taking pictures at functions, posting on social media, etc. If you can help email newsletter@genealogyfriends.org.

Barbara Brogdon Dining Out and Newsletter Submissions



A job transfer landed us in Plano in 1975, and I have lived here ever since.

I was born in Yonkers, New York and lived there until I was twelve. Then my parents moved to Southern California – an entirely different world. I loved it and stayed until my thirties.

Having a chance to experience many different lifestyles and cultures: the East, the West, and the South, has given me the opportunity to see and be part of so many different environments. The best of all worlds!

This is also true of my family's heritage. An Italian father and British mother have provided rich stories to uncover for both sides of the family. My dad used to tell us stories about growing up in the city, stories of his father who was born in Italy and how he immigrated to the United States when he was sixteen years old. In order to have a better life, Pop came here with one of his brothers.

My grandmother, my Nonni, didn't have much time for storytelling. She raised eleven children, ten of her own and a cousin. She did, however, spoil each one of us and we loved her dearly. She may be best remembered for her mechanical abilities and the wonderful meals she created. Like many children I listened to my dad's memories and then moved on to my own interests. Family history wasn't even on the list.

A life-changing request for help occurred when my mom was in her late eighties. She asked me if I could find any information about her mother's family, as she knew nothing.

My search began on Ancestry.com. A free two-week trial was offered and I was sure I would get all the information my mom requested before the two weeks were over! It was an amazing period; I was delighted to find a census which showed my maternal grandmother as a child living with her mother and three brothers in Fremont Town New York.

The next twelve years were as interesting, and filled with as many surprises, as my first adventure into Genealogy research. Many kind and generous people have shared their knowledge through classes and seminars, providing inspiration with hints and stories of their own experiences.

2016 found me with a dear friend in Salt Lake City where we were able to study and take advantage of the resources in the astounding library. In 2017 I became a member of Genealogy Friends of Plano Public Library and am now in my fourth year as a member of the Board of Directors.

I also maintain an active membership in the Daughters of the American Revolution, Family Search and continue to use Ancestry for research.

It is my intent to continue to be a part of this dedicated group, perhaps inspire others, and help in any way that I am able.

AI and Genealogy

There is a lot of discussion about AI—here are a couple of sources related to Genealogy:

Amy Johnson Crow wrote a blog post about Using ChatGPT for Genealogy—check it out to find out how to use AI for your research successfully. <https://www.amyjohnsoncrow.com/using-chatgpt-for-genealogy-accurately/>

Lisa Louise Cooke's podcast episode on using AI for genealogy <https://lusalouisecooke.com/2023/07/15/ai-chatgpt-bard-genealogy-episode-278/>

Legacy Tree Genealogists blog article <https://www.legacytree.com/blog/using-ai-for-genealogy-research>

Linked In blog article <https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/ai-revolutionizes-genealogy-discovering-family-history-pillai/>

Facebook Group Genealogy and Artificial Intelligence <https://www.facebook.com/groups/genealogyandai/>

Keller's Drive-In

By Barbara Brogdon

Originally published on [Traces of Texas Facebook page](#)

Three carhops at Keller's Drive-In in Dallas, 1974. Shirley Ehney, shown here in the middle, had already worked for 20 years at Keller's, starting in 1954. She went on to work at least 51 years at Keller's as a carhop. She might still be working there for all I know. Here's a wonderful article about her:

<https://lakehighlands.advocatemag.com/.../meet-the.../>

This photo comes from the collections of the Texas/Dallas History and Archives Division [Dallas Public Library](#)



Lunch—August 3, 2023



Genealogy Friends August 2023 Luncheon

Thursday, August 3, 2023 11:30 a.m.

**Chocolate Angel
800 Central Expressway
Plano**

[It is located inside High Street Antique Mall, behind El Fenix on Central Expressway and Plano Parkway on the NE corner.]

I hope you plan to attend and bring your spouse/guests.

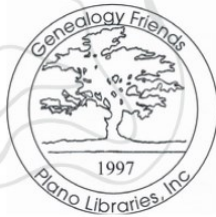
Order off the limited menu, attached.

This is an opportunity for those who do not like to drive at night to the to enjoy our friendly genealogy group. This is a chance to network, maybe get genealogy answers to questions, etc.

PLEASE RESPOND before Monday, July 31, 2023

**Barbara Brogdon
Landline 972-985-9498
planotxgal@aol.com**

All Day Seminar—September



Genealogy Seminar

September 16, 2023

Featuring:
Cheri Hudson Passey

Genealogy Friends
of Plano Libraries Presents:

Adding New Tools to Your Research Toolbox

Four Sessions:

- * *What Does That Say? Strategies for Reading Old Handwriting*
- * *5 Elements for Sound Research: A Guide for Applying the Genealogical Proof Standard*
- * *They Lived Where? How to Tackle a New to You Research Location*
- * *Finding the Living: Genealogy in Reverse*

www.genealogyfriends.org

Speaker:

Cheri Hudson Passey, a professional genealogist, instructor, writer, speaker, and the owner of Carolina Girl Genealogy, LLC. She presented at RootsTech and on Legacy Family History Webinars, will teach us about four ways we can become better researchers.

What Does That Say? Strategies for Reading Old Handwriting

Reading old handwriting in documents can often be a challenge. If we can't understand what a record says, how can we glean facts, clues, and other information to help us build our family trees? This session will show some of the best strategies to decipher old handwriting so you don't miss or misunderstand a thing!

5 Elements for Sound Research: A Guide for Applying the Genealogical Proof Standard

Wondering if the GPS applies to you or if it's only for more advanced or professional researchers? This session will show step by step why the standards are for everyone and how to put into practice each of the elements to create a firm foundation for your family history research.

They Lived Where? How to Tackle a New to You Research Location

Finding a branch from our tree that lived in a place we have never researched can leave us clueless about where to begin. Learn methods and strategies for understanding the records, history, and best practices for tackling a new research location.

Finding the Living: Genealogy in Reverse

Locating Cousins, Heirs, Next of Kin, and DNA Matches are just some of the reasons to find living people. Discover the tools and techniques used to find and make the connections you are looking for.

Early Bird for Members before September 6, 2023 \$40 — Regular Cost \$60

Register on our website <http://www.genealogyfriends.org/all-day-seminars.html>