



# Genealogy Friends News

Genealogy Friends of  
Plano Libraries

Genealogy Friends News  
July 2020

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

[http:// www.genealogyfriends.org](http://www.genealogyfriends.org) <http://genfriends.blogspot.com/>

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## Schedule of Events

**Haggard Library is closed so we are holding our meetings via Zoom**

Mark your calendars now for the exciting Genealogy Friends events in 2020. Meetings will be held via Zoom until further notice from 10:15 to 12:30. Invites will be send out the week before the meeting.

### This Month

**July 18, 2020—Zoom Meeting—**"Armchair Mysteries Solved at Home with Old School Communication and New School Technology" by Patty Gillespie

### Future Events

**August 15, 2020—Zoom Meeting—**"Mining The Gems in a Civil War Pension File" by Bernard Meisner

Recordings of the May and June presentations are available on our website, <http://www.genealogyfriends.org>

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### 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

### 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 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  
PO Box 860477  
Plano, TX 75086-0477

### Genealogy Education & Websites

**Celtic Connections Conference** has been replaced with Virtual Journey Home. There will be on-demand presentations between July 31 and August 31, live chats and electronic syllabus. <http://celtic-connections.org/index.html>

**Virtual British Institute** October 12-14, 2020. There will be three tracks each with four live presentations and q&a time. Courses will run consecutively so you can take 1, 2 or 3. <https://www.isbgfh.com/Virtual-British-Institute>

**DNA from A to Z: Unlocking Your Genetic Code** Dallas Genealogy Society Virtual Seminar will be held July 25, 2020 There will be three different tracks, beginning, intermediate and advanced. You can mix and match classes from the different tracks for the 4 sessions. Registration is open. <https://dallasgenealogy.com/dgs/meetings-events/seminars/2020-summer-seminar/>

**Federation of Genealogical Societies Conference—Blazing Trails in the Heart of America** will be held virtually. Live Sessions September 2, 2020. On-demand sessions will be available between September 15, 2020 and March 15, 2021. There are three levels of on-demand sessions. Early bird registration ends August 15, 2020.

**Texas State Genealogy Society Conference**, “Remembering Your Heritage” is scheduled for November 13-15, 2020 at the Omni Mandalay Hotel at Las Colinas. <https://www.txsgs.org/2020-conference/>. Registration links are not active on their website yet.

Check the genealogy and historical societies in the locations where your ancestor lived, many societies are holding their meetings virtually and posting recordings on their website. This month I attended webinars held by the Georgia State Genealogical Society, the St. Louis Genealogical Society, the Missouri Historical Society and the WWII Memorial in Washington, D.C.

**Generations Café** by Amy Johnson Crow includes podcasts about genealogy topics. <https://www.amyjohnsoncrow.com/>

**Family Tree Templates** [https://templatelab.com/family-tree-templates/#Family\\_Tree\\_Templates](https://templatelab.com/family-tree-templates/#Family_Tree_Templates)—This site has descendant charts and family tree charts in word, excel and pdf formats. Warning—the site is full of ads.

**Find my Past Forum**—this is a Facebook group where you can get help with your research. [https://www.facebook.com/groups/2464210320534030/?ref=pages\\_group\\_cta](https://www.facebook.com/groups/2464210320534030/?ref=pages_group_cta) this is a private group, answer the question when you request membership.

## BLM GLO Tract Books

By Barbara Coakley

Land acquired by an individual from the Federal Government generated multiple records. The May 2020 newsletter has an article about Homestead records. This month we are going to dive into another record generated during the process. Tract books were filled out at the land office for each transaction and show the status of each parcel of land. The books include transactions that were completed, cancelled, never finished, forfeited or rejected for cash sales, credit sales, homesteads, timberland rights or mineral rights granted by the federal government, indian allotments, military bounty land warrants, land grants from previous foreign governments, railroad grants, school grants and swamp grants.

### Finding Tract Book Entries

If a transaction was completed it will be included on the Bureau of Land Management Government Land Office website <https://gloreports.blm.gov/>.

1. Search the website.
2. Note the land office and land description on the record.

Names On Document		Allotment Information	
NEVSHAM, JOHN		Land Office:	Kaskaskia
		Mineral Reservations:	No
		Tribes:	---
		Willes:	---
		State In Favor Of:	---
		Authority:	April 24, 1820: Sale-Cash Entry (3 Stat. 566)
		General Remarks:	---
Military Rank:	---		

  

Document Numbers		Survey Information	
Document Nr:	274	Total Acres:	190.00
Map, Dec. Nr:	---	Survey Date:	---
BLM Serial Nr:	IL NO 5/N	Geographic Name:	---
Indian Allot. Nr:	---	Meters/Bounds:	No
Coal Entry. Nr:	---		

  

Land Descriptions						
Map	State	Heridian	Twp - Rng	Aliquots	Section	Survey #
<input type="checkbox"/>	IL	3rd PM	0035 - 008W	ETUNE	7	Monroe
<input type="checkbox"/>	IL	3rd PM	0035 - 008W	WISAW	8	Monroe

3. Determine which Tract Book contains the property using the FamilySearch.org US BLM Tract Books Coverage Table [https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/United\\_States\\_Bureau\\_of\\_Land\\_Management\\_Tract\\_Books\\_Coverage\\_Table\\_-\\_FamilySearch\\_Historical\\_Records](https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/United_States_Bureau_of_Land_Management_Tract_Books_Coverage_Table_-_FamilySearch_Historical_Records).

ILLINOIS	Vol. 20-21 KASKASKIA	Township 1-6S, Range 8W
ILLINOIS	Vol. 21-22 KASKASKIA	Township 1-6S, Range 9W
ILLINOIS	Vol. 22 KASKASKIA	Township 1-3S, Range 10W
ILLINOIS	Vol. 23 KASKASKIA	Township 3-5S, Range 10W
ILLINOIS	Vol. 23 KASKASKIA	Township 1-15S, Range 11W

4. Locate the image of the Tract Book on FamilySearch.org <https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/2074276>. Browse the collection, pick the state and book number from the list above.

United States Bureau of Land Management Tract Books, 1800-c. 1955

State

Alabama

Arizona

Arkansas

California

Colorado

Dakota Territory

Florida

Idaho

Illinois

Indiana

Iowa

#### United States Bureau of Land Management Tract Books, 1800-c. 1955

##### Description

3,907 tract books containing official records of the land status and transactions involving surveyed public lands arranged by state and then by township and range. These books indicate who obtained the land, and include a physical description of the tract and where the land is located. The type of transaction is also recorded such as cash entry, credit entry, homesteads, patents (deeds) granted by the Federal Government, and other conveyances of title such as Indian allotments, internal improvement grants (to states), military bounty land warrants, private land claims, railroad grants, school grants, and swamp grants. Additional items of information included in the tract books are as follows: number of acres, date of sale, purchase price, land office, entry number, final Certificate of Purchase number, and notes on relinquishments and conversions. Original documents are located at the Bureau of Land Management in Springfield, Virginia.

##### How to Use this Collection »

##### View Images in this Collection

Browse through 942,374 images

##### Citing this Collection

"United States Bureau of Land Management Tract Books, 1800-c. 1955." Images, FamilySearch. <http://FamilySearch.org> : 14 June 2016. Bureau of Land Management. Records Improvement, Bureau of Land Management, Washington D.C.

Vol 19 (Vandalia)

Vol 20 (Edwardsville)

Vol 20 (Kaskaskia)

Vol 20 (Shawneetown)

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Corr:file.  
{ N. 274.

The United States of America. *Ex<sup>o</sup>*

To all to whom these presents shall come, Greeting:

Whereas *John Newham*, of *Monroe County, Illinois*, has deposited in the General Land Office of the United States, a certificate of the Register of the Land Office at *St. Louis*, whereby it appears that full payment has been made by the said *John Newham*, according to the provisions of the Act of Congress of the 24th of April, 1820, entitled "An act making further provision for the sale of the Public Lands," for the East half of the North East quarter of section seven, and the West half of the North East quarter of section eight, in Township three South, of range eight East, in the District of Lands subject lands at *St. Louis, Mo., Illinois* containing one hundred and sixty acres, according to the official plat of the survey of the said Lands, returned to the General Land Office by the Foreveer General, which said tract has been purchased by the said *John Newham*.

NOW KNOW YE, That the UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, in consideration of the premises, and in conformity with the several acts of Congress, in such case made and provided, have Given and Granted, and by these presents do give and grant, unto the said *John Newham* and to his heirs the said tract above described: To Have and to Hold the same, together with all the rights, privileges, immunities, and appurtenances, of whatsoever nature, thereunto belonging, unto the said *John Newham*, and to his heirs and assigns, forever.

In testimony whereof, *J. Andrew Jackson*, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, have caused these letters to be made Patent, and the seal of the General Land Office to be hereunto affixed.

Given under my hand, at the City of Washington, the *eleventh* day of *April*, in the year of our



## The Fierce Female Librarians Who Delivered Books on Horseback During the Great Depression

Submitted by Barbara Brogdon

Originally published on DustyOld-Thing.com

By Rose Heichelbech

In the middle of the Great Depression, America was grappling with not only the tightening of just about every single household budget, but the nation was also poorly connected. At the time most rural areas were without basic services like electricity and running water. As such, these remote areas were often devoid of public institutions like libraries. Some of the most isolated areas were nestled in the Appalachian area of Kentucky, among other locations. One of the many public programs initiated by FDR's New Deal was the Works Progress Administration, which funded the Pack Horse Library Initiative. The project hired fierce "book women" (and occasionally men) who were fearless,



Works Progress Administration

who loved reading, and who were highly proficient on horseback for the job.

The idea was that books would be delivered by leather saddlebags to places where libraries had not yet been built. Indeed, in many of these remote places, paved roads had not yet even been constructed. This is why horseback travel was needed in light of the lack of roads. The concept of the Bookmobile had only recently been invented, but it was an expensive idea which predicated the service on easy access to paved roads, something which was not common in the U.S. until the 1940s and 1950s.

The alternative to the Bookmobile in these rough rural areas was to reach readers by horseback. Beginning in the early hours each day, the book women would deliver and pick up books to those who in all likelihood had no other means of gaining new reading material. The goal was to create jobs, but also to boost literacy.

The program functioned by effectively making the book women extended employees of a **library already operating in their county**. The riders were known in their communities which is why they were able to do this tough job without getting shot at!

The books and magazines that were used in the project were all donated and old Christmas cards were circulated as bookmarks so that the already-used books would not get dog-eared by hapless readers.

Unlike a regular library, this program operated in a less formal way. In fact, there exist several photographs of book women reading aloud to their clients which indicates a great level of care and time dedicated to the project.

From 1935 until 1943 the project helped to reach about 100,000 people with only **1,000 riders employed** as book women over the life of the program. The women used their own horses (or sometimes mules) and were estimated to have covered about 100-120 miles per week.

Among the most popular books were **Robinson Crusoe and anything by Mark Twain**, although some of the horseback librarians said that the children in the mountains were so hungry for reading material that they begged for any books at all to be brought to them.

At the time it was estimated that through lack of public resources and crippling poverty that around 1/3 of all Americans did not have reasonable or convenient access to library reading materials. Just think about it.

## Fierce Female Librarians (continued)

The program met its end along with many other New Deal agencies when the WPA was dissolved in 1943- a function of the fact that war work had rendered the program less relevant since people now had jobs. With plenty of decent-paying positions making military equipment, aircraft, and bombs, the unemployment of the nation was no longer the biggest issue at hand.

Overall, the WPA helped to fund and manage libraries and literacy programs in 45 states and employed nearly 15,000 people altogether. The WPA library programs not only funded the Pack Horse Library Initiative, but also helped to create a houseboat library in Mississippi and the **reconditioning of millions of books** for service in America's libraries.

## Ebay, Flea Markets, Antique Stores—Finding Ephemeria

Online auction sites, flea markets, estate sales and antique stores are great places to find pictures, documents, baby books, post cards, scrap books, history books, business items, letters, deeds, maps, atlases and more. Unfortunately, not all our family members value family treasures as much as we do and things are donated or sold. You can find items from the businesses your ancestor worked for, post cards with pictures of the area where your ancestor lived, or items from events that your ancestor experienced or influenced their life.

So far I acquired a post card sent to my Grandfather, an out of print county history that isn't available online and business items for my Great-grandfather's mill (a mechanical pencil, fly swatter, clothes brush - all items given away to advertise the mill) from online auctions.

Right now it isn't possible to travel to search antique stores or attend auctions. The good news is there are online auctions. In the future when you plan a research trip check the websites for estate sales, auctions and always stop in the local antique store.

How do you start?

1. Determine locations where your ancestor lived. It is possible for items to travel great distances but start close to their home.
2. Make a list of spellings of names, business names, locations, etc.
3. Use your list to search online websites. Try different spellings, with and without abbreviations, and use wild cards if the site permits them.
4. Examine articles carefully, many cannot be returned. Look at shipping information, is it included or an additional cost.

Websites

Ebay—Create an account so you can save your searches and results will be emailed to you. <https://www.ebay.com/>

GoTo Auction— Click on the state you want to search and a list of cities will come up. Check cities around where your ancestor lived. Some are online auctions but you still have to pickup the merchandise in person. <https://www.gotoauction.com/>

Mercari—<https://www.mercari.com/>

Etsy—<https://www.etsy.com/?ref=lgo>

EstateSales.net—<https://www.estatesales.net/>

EstateSales.org—<https://estatesales.org/>

Everything But the House—<https://www.ebth.com/>