



# Genealogy Friends News

Genealogy Friends of  
Plano Libraries

June, 2007

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

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

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

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

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Newsletter: Barbara Coakley [bjc1620@sbcglobla.net](mailto:bjc1620@sbcglobla.net)

## Upcoming Events

Genealogy Friends sponsors free seminars the third Saturday of every month from 9:30 to Noon at the Gladys Harrington Library. Mark your calendar for our programs.

### Today's Program:

June 16, 2007 - Digital Heritage Albums by Jean Funk and Writing Your Family History by Barbara Coakley

### Next Month:

July 13, 2007—Lock In—Regional Research. Sessions will cover research in various parts of the US.

July 21, 2007—Martina Willdecharro will speak on the Victorian Mourning Culture. 10th Anniversary Celebration of Genealogy Friends.

August 18, 2007—Preparing for a Research Trip by Barbara Coakley

September 15, 2007—Lynne Darrouzet is our speaker, topic to be announced.

October 20, 2007—Glen Kinkade, “Perils, Paradoxes, and Pitfalls in Probate Records.”

October 26, 2007—Lock In—Computers and Genealogy

November 17, 2007—Richard Preston will speak to us about Migration Patterns.

December 15, 2007—Annual Show n Tell. Bring your genealogy finds to share with your friends.

We are gathering ideas for the 2008 program schedule, if you have suggestions please submit them to Barbara Coakley at [bjc1620@sbcglobal.net](mailto:bjc1620@sbcglobal.net)

## 2007 Research Retreat to Salt Lake City

Genealogy Friends will be sponsoring a trip to Salt Lake City this fall. We will be traveling to Salt Lake City on Tuesday, November 6 returning on Sunday, November 11th.

There is a block of rooms reserved for \$82.00 per night at the Salt Lake Plaza Hotel, to make a reservation call them at 1-800-366-3684. This is a great opportunity to visit the largest genealogy library in the world for the first time with others who have already been there. If you have already been there, it is an opportunity to research in the company of friends. Stay tuned for more information.

## 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

### Microfiche Reader for Sale

DuKane Explorer 14 microfilm reader, in good condition, with high, medium, low viewing. Used for indexing projects. \$100. Phone Brenda Kellow, 972-941-9280, or email [TraceRoots@tx.rr.com](mailto:TraceRoots@tx.rr.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

### Legacy Users Group

Joanne Corney is starting 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](mailto:ptxlegacyug@verizon.net) for more information.

### Book Exchange

Genealogy Friends would like to exchange Collin County books with books from other societies.

If you have an area or society you would like us to try and exchange with, please contact Joy Gough at [jfargo@comcast.net](mailto:jfargo@comcast.net).

### 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>.

### Membership

Our fiscal begins October 1st. Regular dues are Single: \$30. Family: \$50. Friend: \$100; Gold: \$500; Platinum: \$1000. We currently have over 70 members.

Please consider **matching funds** if your corporation is a participant. We are a nonprofit organization certified under Section 501 [c] [3] of the Internal Revenue

## Write A Book Challenge! Earn a \$5 Donation to Gen Friends

That's right. This offer is for members of Genealogy Friends of Plano Libraries, Inc. only.

### What do you have to do?

Write a biography of one of your family members, a history of a family line, or family newsletter, etc., per the few requirements below, and present it to Brenda Kellow to read, or you may bring it to the 2007 December Show and Tell program and win a \$5 donation to Genealogy Friends. Talk to Brenda if you have problems meeting any of the requirements below. E-mail her at [GenFriends@tx.rr.com](mailto:GenFriends@tx.rr.com).

### Requirements:

- Book or booklet written on some phase of family history and published professionally, or you may "publish" off your own computer before December 2007's Show and Tell program. A hard cover is not required.

- Requirements: At least ten (10) pages which contain:

Five (5) pages of text of your own composition and not composed by a genealogy program such as *Family Tree-Maker*, *Legacy Family Tree*, etc. There is no limit on written text. If you have more than ten (10) pages, great! The text should contain the subject's vital information such as birth, death, marriage, and places where the event took place if you have that information. Text should contain some history such as the life and times of that period; how the time period affected the family; note if the female gave birth before the migration from one place to another, or did she travel while pregnant; the difficulty of traveling in wagons across the country and over the mountains; or crossing rivers, etc. In other words, make it interesting to read.

Remaining pages may be of graphics such as photocopies of an original document such as a will, marriage certificate, obituary, funeral card, or pictures you have collected on the subject.

Have at least four (4) properly cited footnotes, endnotes (See *Evidence! Citation and Analysis for the Family Historian*, by Elizabeth Mills. A copy is in the library.) You may also embed the source inside parentheses within the body of the text. The purpose of the citation is to document some of your findings and familiarize yourself with citing a source.

Title page should contain the family name. If you are covering more than one family surname, then follow the title with the other family surnames:

*The Jones Journal  
With Related Lines of Kelly, Smith, and Valentine*

Donate one copy to the Gladys Harrington Library Genealogy Section and display book or booklet at the December 2007 Show and Tell Program.

The purpose of this challenge is to get you writing your family stories! You have until December 15, 2007 to complete the project. By beginning your writing with this challenge, you can earn a donation of \$5 per book or booklet to Genealogy Friends. It does not have to look like a high-end professional book. It is your book, your family. That is why the requirements are so generous and "writer friendly."

## Message From Cheryl Smith

“When we open at Haggard I would like to start out with a display on the history of Plano and Collin County. When I was at the Virginia Historical Society in Richmond, VA during the NGS Conference, they had a wonderful display on the timeline of Virginia. I decided that's what we should have for our display for the grand opening.

I'm writing to ask you if you would be willing to lend some items for the display. I won't need them for awhile. But I would like to know what you could lend so I can fit it into the timeline. We are getting the display cases that are at GH now. So, that's what I'm planning to use for the display.

Right now, I know I have pictures and a few documents to use. I will also use some newspaper articles. I'd like to have a few 3d or solid items also.

Please pass this on to others who have Collin County/Plano family or history. I'll be contacting the Wells, Schell's, Harrington's, and Haggard's. I will also contact Peggy Mitchell.”

I hope you will contribute if you have anything. Please contact Cheryl Smith at Gladys Harrington Library 972-941-7175 or via email at [cheryls@plano.gov](mailto:cheryls@plano.gov).

### McKinney Obituary Index

McKinney Public has put the indexes to their obits online from 1884-1989 at <http://www.mckinneytexas.org/Associations/144/data/forms/1138/Obituary%20Index%201884-.pdf>. This is a .pdf file that you can save on your computer and use at your leisure.

### Collin County Historic Photographs Web Site

Members of GenFriends are contributing photographs of Collin County to the newest Gen Friends web site *Collin County, Texas Past Finders Photo Collection*. <http://www.rootsweb.com/~txcolli3>. The web site now contains over 2,700 photographs. Categories include Cemeteries,

Churches, Schools, People, Places, and Tombstones. If you would like to contribute photos of Collin

### Research Standards

As we do our research it is important that we maintain high standards. Whether you are researching your family history as a hobby or are a professional, it is important that the work we do results in thoroughly researched and truthful history. This link will take you to an article written by LeRoy F Eastes that discusses the Genealogy Research Standards accepted by the National Genealogy Society— <http://www.island.net/~andreaav/standards.htm>.

### History & Genealogy Web Site

Members of Genealogy Friends are contributing to a new web site—History and Genealogy for the Active Researcher located at <http://www.geocities.com/genfriendsghl>.

The goal is to expand the knowledge of those researching in Collin County and North Texas.

## Honoring The Women In Your Family History

### By Brenda Kellow, B.A., C.G.

It is not uncommon to find females as a neglected people, yet they are our foremothers. Neglecting to research females is a deplorable act. Just because they are harder to find than males and their surname changes with marriage is no excuse! They lived. They took care of the family 24/7: nurturing, disciplining, teaching her children moral values, nursing the ill and preparing the dead, cooking and cleaning the house, making clothes for the family members, birthing children, and passing along their traditions learned from their mother and grandmothers. She had a life. She deserves to have a biography just like the males, yet in many family histories she is neglected. It can be done by taking your research findings, studying the history and social history of the times, and putting it into words.

Few females could read and write prior to 1900. These women left no diaries or family histories. On the other hand, the lucky researchers find Bibles meticulously recorded for many years by literate females providing births, deaths, and marriages of immediate family members as well as cousins, aunts, and in-laws.

Including a nice bibliography on the life and times of a woman requires a little additional research on the subject of the social and legal history of her time, plus lots of creativity. Hunt for documents and histories that will give you this information. Then apply, apply, apply. What was the climate for women during her lifetime? Could she vote? Could she own property? Did she own or run her own business? Did she work in a factory? What was it like for a woman who spent her life on a farm? Or for the businesswoman who most likely lived in a larger town or city?

#### Case study:

Sarah Godshalk was such a businesswoman in 19<sup>th</sup> century Maryland. By checking several years of city directories and censuses I found the following information:

Sarah was married and the owner of a millinery shop specializing in clothing and hats. She lived above the shop with her husband Jacob, a self-employed bricklayer, and two daughters. Ten years later Sarah moved her shop just around the corner where she was living alone with her daughters above a new shop, perhaps one that was less costly. I found no divorce or death information on Jacob. What had happened to him? A search of other counties in the state revealed that Jacob had moved three counties to the north where he worked in a large brick factory. This time Jacob was not self-employed, but working as an employee in a brick factory. Available records gave no indication of what happened to cause the separation, or why her husband had moved away. Neither married again, and the separation continued until their deaths. Using information gathered from censuses, local history, and city directories made it possible for Sarah to have a personality. Some valuable information was also uncovered on her husband. Had the information found her and him on census records and in city directories, one might have concluded that one or the other had died rather than separated.

What information have you gleaned from the census? By using this information you might be able to indicate their migratory pattern of where they were and when they arrived at each location. How was the family most likely to have made the journey? For instance, when she and her husband left one place and arrived in another, was a child born immediately after, or before they arrived? How difficult would the journey be for a young or middle-aged pregnant woman? What would it have been like to give birth while traveling, or for a mother to care for her newborn and/or other children on this trip? Was she at the beginning or nearing the end of her childbearing years during their relocation? Check for ages and births on the census for this information. Many books are available on the social history of females at the library and bookstores. Try searching on Google for 'Women's History Month' or 'Women in Early

*(Continued on page 6)*

## Honoring the Women in Your Family History, contd

(Continued from page 5)

Times.' If you are looking for answers on ownership, there is a book in the library called, *Women and the Law*. Sources on this subject exist. Find them and use them to write your family histories.

### Case study:

A complete census study had been conducted on the Stibbens family including all the spouses. All children were accounted for, or so I thought. Because they were a catholic family and they were all in the vicinity of the same Catholic Church, a further study was conducted in the parish records in the diocese library. From the parish records I found when each child was christened, the godparents, parents' names, communions, marriages, last rights, etc. Then low and behold there appeared Mary and Marian, two females that I could not place with parents, and who were christened on the same day. To make identification more difficult in identifying them, the priest failed to record the parents' given names. He had recorded only the baby' names, parents' last name, which was Stibbens, and the date of Christening!

Census records at this time did give the children's names, but it did not give a relationship. In these cases, we assume the children living in the household are those of the head of household. Checking back into my census information, there was no Mary born in this time period, nor any child named Marian. Mary and Marian Stibbens were infants when the priest baptized the two girls. The parish records did not have any burial information on these girls, so I could not determine for sure if they lived or died soon afterwards.

Who were their parents? The question consumed my curiosity. In examining my recorded information from the censuses, I found that I had not recorded one major column in the 1900 census. I had overlooked the column for 'how many children born to this mother.' That meant that I had to search again all those families with a female still in her childbearing years between the christening date of 1886 and the 1900 census.

Over half way through the examination of the censuses again, I found the female! She had been married to a Stibbens man in the 1880s, but divorced him soon after that. I had their divorce record from the county offices. It mentioned only one child, a son. The census record was another story. It asked 'how many children born to this mother,' and then 'how many children still alive.' Her answer was that she had given birth to three children and only one was alive. After finishing the rest of the census of women in their childbearing years, all children were finally accounted for. Now I knew the parents of Mary and Marian.

Let's change the way we write family histories. There is nothing more boring than to see a woman's life including only the day she was born and died, and married. Let's vow to include a story of her life with other details you probably already have "somewhere" in your files! I would like for all of you to write about one of your female ancestors and present it to a family member in March, Women's History Month.

### Case study: Stibbens girls in Pioneer Cemetery.

I began to ponder whether I needed any genealogical information on this branch of the family. I could only remember two little girls, but they belonged to another uncle. I had never found their burial places. Being one to tie up any loose ends, my thoughts went to possible records I could search for the information. It was then I thought of funeral home burial records. I don't need to get funeral records to complete my search to document them, and it is not critical that

(Continued on page 7)

## Honoring the Women in Your Family History, contd

*(Continued from page 6)*

each burial site be identified, but I never want to leave a stone unturned. After all, I had found a wealth of information on some of those records—and nothing on others. I entered a note in my PDA to remind me to tackle this when I got back home.

Upon returning home I examined the records I had found earlier. Among the records was a death certificate with little information on the cause of death or burial place. The only indication that either had been ill was in the column asking how many days the physician had been in attendance. He answered, “eight days.” Funny, but that had not registered before as being important. The funeral home/burial record might just lead me to the cause of death, and maybe indicate if either was hospitalized. If they were in the hospital, the only one was located in a nearby county. I’ve not fared well with finding hospital records. I made another note that I must identify the hospital and search the next county for non-resident deaths.

I was familiar with the little town where the two little sisters died. There were two cemeteries and one funeral home. I recalled the records were complete and the funeral director and his secretary had always been happy to help me with my family search in the past. Both cemeteries had been inventoried and published. Checking the books, I found nothing to indicate the girls were buried in either of these cemeteries. It is logical they would be buried in the town where their parents resided.

The death certificates I had obtained sometime earlier showed both died of [blank] within six (6) days of each other in the early 1900s. Although there were two public cemeteries in the town, there was only one funeral home. The next day I visited the funeral home and talked with the director about my dilemma. He found the burial record of each child and made copies for me. The funeral record corroborated that both had died within six days of each other. It showed the cemetery as Old Pioneer Cemetery, and the cause of death as typhoid fever. Great, now I had the cause of death. But, there was a surprise for me in that folder.

There was a sister who also died of typhoid in his file of the family that I wasn’t aware of until the funeral home director asked if I wanted a copy of her record too<sup>1</sup>. I was in luck. It gave her full name, including her maiden name, parent’s names, the full name of her husband, and the name of the hospital<sup>2</sup> in the adjoining county where she died. Typhoid fever had killed the young bride at age 16. How sad. I could not imagine the grief the parents suffered after losing three daughters within a fifteen-day period<sup>3</sup>. The director indicated the two younger girls were buried side-by-side, with the older girl at their heads. Now I knew I was looking for three girls, sisters, two with their maiden name and the married girl with her husband’s surname.

I must visit the courthouse in the next county where I will hopefully find the death certificate for the older girl. I knew it must be filed under her husband’s surname. Evidently they were not married in the county in which her parents lived because there was no marriage record in the courthouse. Maybe I could find it in one of the contiguous counties. Since she died in one county and was buried in another, there should also be a record of “body removal.”<sup>4</sup> If I had not checked with the funeral director for the burial records, I may never have known about the married girl. He certainly went the extra mile to identify the girl I did not know existed. I love working in small towns, and the attention to detail given me by the residents.

I spent the rest of the day walking the cemetery reading stones<sup>5</sup>. There was no stone in the entire burial ground with that family name, nor with the oldest girl’s married name<sup>6</sup>. The two girls lived and died with that terrible disease without their final resting place recognizing them. The only thing I could do now was to place a cenotaph near the front gate with their three names and dates. Usually the cemetery keeper does not object when a family member

*(Continued on page 8)*

## Honoring the Women in Your Family History, contd

(Continued from page 7)

places a memorial stone near the front gate of the cemetery<sup>7</sup>.

In many cases, cemetery records have something on them to enlighten me and fill in a missing puzzle piece in my family quilt. These certainly did. I know I really didn't need the burial places, but I always try to find them for my own satisfaction. This time I found the other daughter, and I knew the parents had purchased the burial plots, when the purchase was made, how the girls were placed in the plot, and their relationship to the plot owner, etc.

As I have indicated, funeral records have helped me several times. There was one occasion when I tried to find the burial place of a man that led to a wonderful discovery. A newspaper article led me to the funeral record with an attachment stapled to it that said a train had killed him while he was uncoupling a boxcar in the train yard in Fort Smith, Arkansas. It went on to say that he had spent four painful weeks in the local hospital after the doctors removed his leg. Unfortunately, he developed a fatal case of gangrene. He was not buried in Fort Smith, Arkansas, the site of the fatal accident, or in Fayetteville where the family originated. He was buried in 'Oklahoma.' This was the opportunity to search through the family 'legends' to try and retrieve a clue in hopes I can document the story<sup>8</sup>. Because some of the cousins moved in later years from Fayetteville into Oklahoma City, I decided to try there. I had not documented those because I was still working on another subject. The Family History Center's microfilm of funeral home records and cemetery inventories in Oklahoma City was most helpful.

One cemetery in particular had the subject's name in the inventory list. The funeral record on microfilm showed that his mother, who had previously disappeared and was assumed to be dead, was alive before his death and living in her home in Oklahoma City. The reason she was presumed dead was because her husband was still living in their home in Washington County. If they legally separated or divorced, it was not in Washington County records, but that search is for another day. Now, let's go back to the burial plot. The mother had purchased the plot several years before her single son's death in the switching yards. From the burial record and the attachment, I found the cost of the plot, the names of more of her unmarried children, a drawing that marked exactly where on the plot each would be buried, the mother's residence, and her daughter's occupation and address. The daughter was a hairdresser and owned her own shop. The mother and married daughter were living side by side.

1. No extant 1890 census, no birth records, and no church records for that time period.
2. Few of these records exist. I've never had much luck acquiring these records.
3. I made a note to check the history of the disease in the county to determine if the girls died during an epidemic.
4. In addition to 'body removal' certificates, there is also a record made of grave openings and closing. Unfortunately I have never been too successful finding these.
5. Cemeteries on private property are accessible under the Ingress and Egress law applicable in most states. This gives you the right to safely enter and leave the cemetery. The owner of the land has to let you on his property without causing the visitor any fear. If you don't have a copy of it, you should in case you ever have to show it to a landowner with the cemetery on his/her property. See <http://www.usgennet.org/usa/tx/topic/cemeteries/txlaws.htm>.
6. The cemetery had large areas without stones, indicating they were broken and removed, or perhaps vandalism.
7. If there is not a caretaker, then perhaps there is a person in the county with information on the cemetery.
8. Family stories, legends, are interesting, but they must be documented before declaring them truth.

### Historian Looking for Missing Newsletter Copies

If you have a copy of the following newsletters please contact Joy Gough at [jfarrgo@verizon.net](mailto:jfarrgo@verizon.net):

1998 - July, October, November, December

1999 - January, February, July, November

2000 - February, March, April, May, June, July, November

2002 - October, December



## McKinney Railroads

By Joy Gough

Texas did not have railroads until after the Civil War and Reconstruction. A small line near Galveston was built before 1861, but the war and lack of funding kept it from being extended northward. Because of yellow fever scares in Galveston, railroad officials decided to start a new line at Houston and extend it northward to the Red River. This line was called the Houston & Texas Central. So important was the railroad to communities that the state and local governments provided incentives such as funding and right-of-way to encourage the railroad go through towns. The railroad coming through, or bypassing, a community could literally determine its survival. If the railroad bypassed a community by as little as ½ mile, the community moved to the tracks. Of all of the communities in Collin County today, the larger ones are the ones that had a railroad. The ones without a railroad have disappeared or ceased to grow.

The Houston & Texas Central came to Collin County in 1872. Dallas gave the company \$8250 to have the railroad pass through it. McKinney paid \$20,000 for the same privilege. Sherman paid \$50,000. The route was that of the DART tracks today. Richardson and Plano moved to the tracks. The towns of Allen, Melissa, Anna, and Van Alstyne were created by the H&TC.

The first Houston & Texas Central train to arrive in McKinney was called the "J. W. Speight," in honor of the mayor of Waco, strange since the line did not go through Waco. It arrived in McKinney on October 2, 1872, with a big celebration that was attended by state officials. The line ran four (4) trains a day in each direction, 2 freight and 2 passenger. I am not sure if the line is active in McKinney any more. DART owns the tracks, I believe, all the way to Denison. The tracks were still in use in the 1990s.

The next train for McKinney was the East Line & Red River. Over the years the name of the line changed many times but the locals called it the East Line. It arrived in McKinney in 1886. The East Line was the town of Jefferson's attempt to continue as a major trade center. The line ran from Shreveport to McKinney. A turntable in McKinney turned the engine around for the return trip. This was a narrow-gauge railroad at first and the rail bed were poorly constructed. There are many stories about how uncomfortable and slow the ride was. The line closed in 1941.

The Texas Electric Railway came to McKinney in 1908. It was commonly called the Interurban. The tracks generally ran parallel to the Houston & Texas Central tracks. In McKinney, they veered from the train tracks to go up Kentucky Street, passing by the courthouse square. The whole traction railway system went from Denison to Dallas to Waco, with branches to Fort Worth, Denton, Terrell, Corsicana and Cleburne. It was the most extensive electric, light rail system in the country. McKinney had a large power plant just north of downtown and a repair garage in the heart of town a block north of the square. The fares were about 2¢ a mile. The line ran from 5:30 AM to midnight. North-bound trains ran on the hour. South-bound trains were on the half hour. It carried passengers as well as freight, such as mail, packages and produce. The trolleys had stops about every ¾ mile, with 17 stops between McKinney and Plano. The rising popularity of cars and the high cost of maintenance caused the Interurban to discontinue at the end of 1948. Here we are, 60 years later, reestablishing the electric rail line.

*(Continued on page 10)*

## McKinney Railroads

*(Continued from page 9)*

In 1912 the citizens of Greenville decided to build an electric rail line connecting several little towns with McKinney and Greenville. It was called the Greenville-Whitewright-Northwestern Traction Company. The locals called it the “dinkie.” Rumor has it that the cars were like a “surrey with the fringe on top.” In 1914 they decided to extend the line to Denton and Gainesville. The section from McKinney to Blue Ridge through Westminster was all that was built of this line and it was abandoned in 1920.

The McKinney Bonham Paris Traction Line was planned. The feasibility study was completed in 1914 with 2 different routes—one through Altoga, Westminster and Whitewright and the other through Altoga, Blue Ridge and Trenton. It was never built.

A line was planned to go west out of McKinney, Called the Elm Valley Railroad Line, its route would have headed west from McKinney roughly in the area of Wilson Creek Parkway today. Construction was actually started on it. It would have been part of the Texas-New Mexico-Pacific railroad. It was never completed



## Colleen Fitzpatrick Wins Award

Colleen Fitzpatrick, who has spoken to us twice and her partner Andrew Yeiser won the 2007 ISFHWE Annual *Excellence-in Writing Competition* for their article “Scientific Methods,” which was published in *Family Tree Magazine*, April 2006.