



# Genealogy Friends News

Genealogy Friends of Plano  
Libraries

Genealogy Friends News  
June 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:

June 19, 2010—Don Raney will speak on Early American Migration Routes

### Future Topics:

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

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

September 18, 2010—Kelvin Meyers 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 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

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 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



## Fulfilling our Manifest Destiny: Riding the Trails Westward

by Brenda Kellow

*The travels into new territories began with the desire of the early Puritans who arrived in Massachusetts in 1630 to expand their boundaries and exploded in the 1840s when the expansionists wanted to extend their boundaries all the way to the West Coast. Discover why our ancestors moved from the East Coast into the south and westward.*

### Manifest Destiny

Manifest Destiny, loosely translated declares Americans are a chosen people ordained by God to create a model society in the wilderness. The idea of claiming the land all the way to the Pacific Ocean probably began with the Puritan landings at Massachusetts Bay in 1630.

John L. O'Sullivan in *The United States Magazine and Democratic Review* first coined the two words, manifest destiny, in July 1845 to support the annexation of Texas. Congressmen in their debates on the three territorial issues quickly picked up the phrase during that timeframe when referring to the annexation of Texas, the joint occupation of the Oregon territory with England, and the prosecution of war with Mexico. Then James K. Polk took up the issue when he became president and quickly approved the annexation of Texas, endorsed the division of Oregon at the 49<sup>th</sup> parallel, and engineered a war with Mexico in order to acquire New Mexico and California.

Manifest Destiny was probably a direct result of modern technology—the invention of the steam engine, the telegraph, and the railroad. These made communication and travel more manageable from coast to coast. Industrialism was on the move and with it was the need for more and more land.

### Migration Studies

- More than just an educated guess or luck of the draw.
- Successful migration study involves
  - Finding the 'sending' place and the 'receiving' place
  - Realizing Americans are movers, and understanding that they usually don't move far, and they make stops midway
- Recognizing the conditions that precipitated leaving continental Europe to come to America
  - Regional, and general wars
  - Unrepresentative government
  - Disappointing revolutions
  - Over population
  - Religious and political persecution
  - Uneven, and unpredictable economic development



Figure 1 Families resting after a long day on the trail.

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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.

## Fulfilling our Manifest Destiny: Riding the Trails Westward

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- Safer and cheaper overseas passage
- International migratory labor

### Problems in migration research pertaining to the inexperienced researcher

- Familiarity of records, or a lack thereof
- Early census data that only names the head of household
- Psychological handicaps, laziness. Just do it!
- Map expertise. The French Academy of Sciences made the best maps.
- The constantly changing names of the migration trails is frustrating.
- Migration halted during wars. Example: 1812-1815; 1861-1865 and through the following two years of reconstruction.

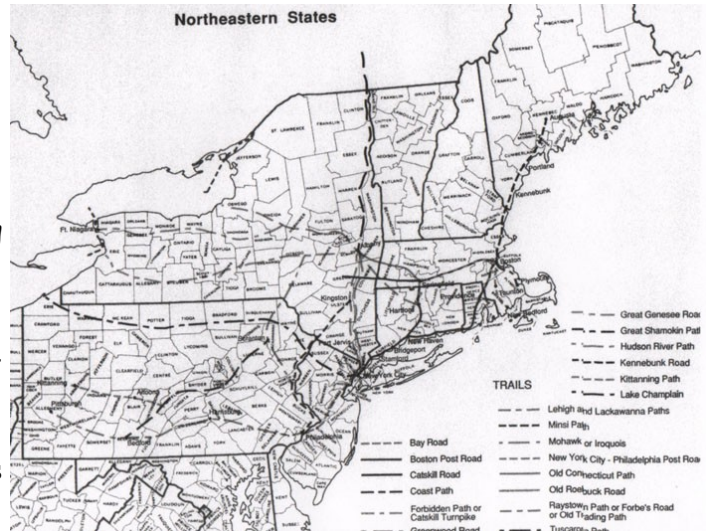


Figure 2 Northeastern Migration-Moving South and West.

### Suggested Procedure

- Don't get too focused on a particular tactic. Be flexible. Be open-minded.
- Understand motivations and localities before researching specific county and state records
- Similar religious preferences
- Ditto ethnic identity
- Ditto economical identity
- Study group dynamics

### Freedom of movement

- Motivation? What compelled him/them to move?
- Natural forces. Floods. Land depletion.
- Demographics (statistics). Who was moving? When did they move? Why? Percentages?
- Assisted migration. Forced (American Indian removal).
- Numerous factors involved. Inheritance? No inheritance?

### Motivators

- Economic reasons [usually the strongest factor]
- Family pressure
- Physical reasons (illness)
- Flight from family

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- Old age
- Reaching maturity
- Moving in with children
- Death of a spouse
- Natural forces (soil exhaustion, floods, etc.)
- General economic reasons
- Peer pressure (large group movements)
- State imposed public order
- Specific economic qualifiers (reasons) such as the opening of new land, better still, free land!
- Mass psychological pressure
- War, and its aftermath

### Psychology of Migrants

Who goes and why?

- Migration means they have the means and the will
- Incentives are present
- Awareness of advantages of the new land
- Precipitating factors (may be good or bad)
- Mobilization
  - Improved roads, or and new roads opened to the south and west
- Social controls allow for migration



Figure 3 Life Zone Map

### Leading motivators for migration within the state and outside it

Ray Allen Billington gives five variables that most likely affected our wandering ancestors

- Economic conditions in the old and new communities
- Job opportunities in each
- Distance between the new and the old including the kind of geographic barriers the pioneer faced
- Population density
- Similarity of social climate
- People are unlikely to move from one “life zone” or “growth zone” into another.
- Examples: Coal miners do not move to the seashore to fish. Cotton and tobacco farmers do not move and become cattle ranchers.
- Exceptions: Doctors, attorneys, merchants

### Why go from East Coast and the South to Oregon?

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Primary reason

- Oregon was healthier
  - No malaria in Oregon like on the rivers and in the bottom lands of the South and East Coast
  - High mortality among the Southerners
  - Health wise, they lived longer and better in Oregon.

### Why go to Texas?

- Major cause and effect of immigration was the War of 1812
- Poor economy in the colonies
- Impresarios began the colonization of Texas
  - Cheap or free land
  - \$1.25 and acre in the 1850s
  - For \$166 they could buy 4,428 acres in Texas
- Texas was settled by the South. Many Texans are from Tennessee and Missouri. Migration into Texas brought early settlers into North Texas from the upper south, while those from the Gulf States settled the southeastern area of Texas and the hill country. But you must remember that there are always exceptions!



### Techniques for the 'determined' hunter

- If you are not searching one of the exceptions above, then adopt a trial and error method until you uncover your ancestor's trail!
- Total familiarity with the person and the community for at least the first five years in an area is a must!
- Expect normality in behavior before searching off-the-wall-places!
- Focus your attention on the families associated with your people rather than surnames alone! Deductive reasoning is a must for covering this area of research!
- The term "Go Fish" is not an option!
- Link the young frontiersman with an elder in the new community who probably created and left extant records in the previous community! Include federal, state and county records in the search!
- Examine the counties along the migration trails where the family or person might have stopped and left a valuable record! Since the value of the records may be unknown to you, search them all for clues.
- A comparison study must be made of every record examined!
- Seasonal movement. Watch for migrations during the wintertime! Winter is the prime season when farmers move. They have harvested their crops and can arrive at the new destination in time to clear the fields and plant a crop at planting time.



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*\*Billington and Merk's books are two of my favorites and both were used in a college history class. I believe they are in the library and available for checkout.*



Wagon Trains pulled by oxen took over the West.