



Genealogy Friends News

Genealogy Friends of
Plano Libraries

Genealogy Friends News
June 2012

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 Newsletter: Barbara Coakley newsletter@genealogyfriends.org

Saturday Seminars

Mark your calendars now for the exciting Genealogy Friends events in 2012. 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 16, 2012—Carol Taylor is our speaker. Her subjects will be Civil War Paper Trail and Unionists & Southern Claims Commissions Files

Future Topics:

July 21, 2012—"Genealogists Go Mobile" by Sandra Crowley

August 18, 2012—"Early American Migration Routes" by Don Rainey

August 25, 2012—Immigration and Ships Passenger Lists. See Page 2 for more information.

September 15, 2012—David Duff presents "Searching for Our French Canadian Ancestors"

October 20, 2012—Join us to learn about the Genealogy Collections at the Haggard Library and the McKinney Library. Speakers will be Cheryl Smith and Susan Kusterback.

November 17, 2012—All Day Workshop

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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
Colonial Ills, Brews & Concoctions	\$10
Library 101: Using Dewey Decimal Sys	\$10
Compiled Newsletters with Index	\$15

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

Brenda Kellow writes a weekly genealogy column, Tracing Our Roots. you can read it online at <http://tracingourroots.weebly.com/>

LearnN

LearnN's are offered three times a year at the library. There are two one hour sessions. A \$10 donation is requested to raise money for materials for the Genealogy section of the library:

August 25—Immigration—Learn to use Stephen Morse's "One Step" website to locate ships passenger lists as well as general information on immigration records. Speaker will be Jean Funk.

Genealogy Friends Logo Shirts & Tote Bags

You can be one of the best dressed genealogists in town!

We have logo t-shirts, sweatshirts, 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 \$15

Long Sleeved T Shirts \$18

Sweatshirts \$20 (white, neutral, ash, light blue, pink, yellow and sand)

Henley's \$20 (white, ash or natural)

Polo Shirts \$20 (white, ask or light blue)

Tote Bags \$17



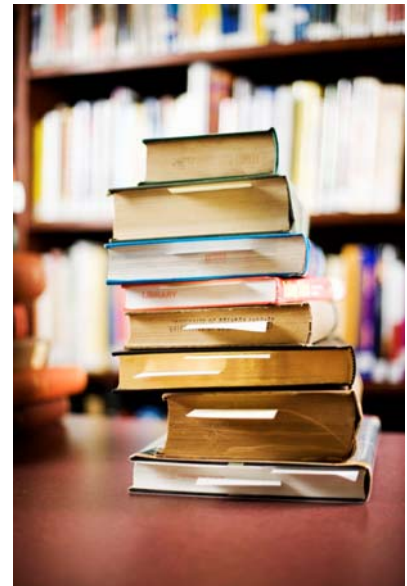
Library Volunteers Needed

The Genealogy section needs volunteers to help with indexing the Plano Star Courier, sorting through six boxes of the Wells collection to create a bibliography and scan images, data entry of information for digital collection. Think about all the resources you have used that were made possible by volunteers. We should all be giving back to the genealogy community. If you are interested contact Cheryl Smith at cheryls@plano.gov or 972-769-4240.

Donations to the Library

The following books are being donated to the library thanks to Mrs Nostestine and Pinkie Feigl and will be available soon:

- Van Zandt County (2 volumes)
- Chester County Heritage (2 volumes)
- Marriage Records, 1909-1932 (Van Zandt County, TX)
- Graveyards of Van Zandt County, Texas—volumes B, C and D
- School Days in Van Zandt County, Texas (2 volumes)
- Divorce Records of Van Zandt County, 1848-1920
- 1890 in Van Zandt County, Texas
- 1900 Census Index to Van Zandt County, Texas
- Where they lie, Civil War Veterans of Van Zandt County, Texas
- Early Births 1872-1900 Van Zandt County, Texas
- 1850, 1860, and 1870 Census of Van Zandt County, Texas
- Van Zandt County Court Minutes A & B, 1848-1871
- Diligence and the disappearance of manakintowne's Huguenots



Paperback books are sent to the bindery for hard cover binding before they are available for use in the library.

1940 Census Update

Here's an update on indexes available to search the 1940 US Census:

FamilySearch.org—Oregon, Nevada, Arizona, Utah, Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, Colorado, Delaware, Kansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Virginia, Florida, Vermont and New Hampshire are completed and available. 13 more states are over 95% indexed and will be available soon.

Ancestry.com—Nevada, Maine, New York, Delaware, and Washington DC are searchable.

MyHeritage.com has New York (partial) and Rhode Island indexes available on their website.

If you don't want to wait for the indexes you can use the Unified Census Finder on Stephen Morse's website <http://stevemorse.org/census/unified.html> to determine which enumeration district and browse images at all of the sites

Historical Vignettes from McKinney Newspaper

By Helen Hall, November 4, 1976

The election we have just gone through was of wide interest, but no more so than the very first election held in Collin County 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.

Mansel Wilmeth had spent four days riding to all the settlements 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 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 how 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 the 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 some-

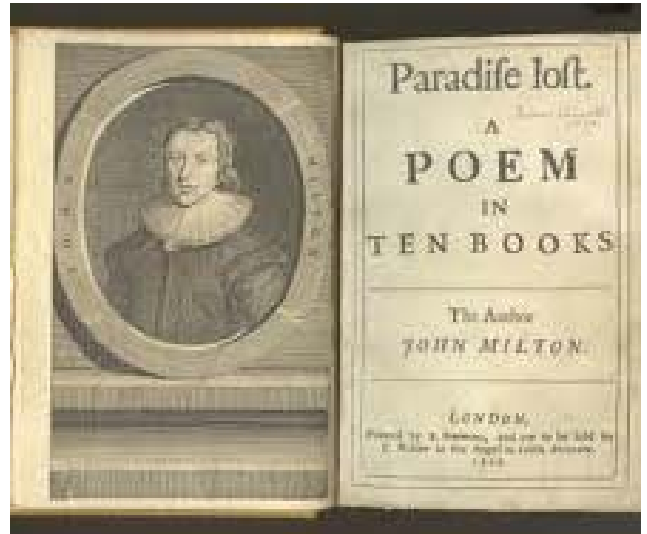
one write the name he was voting for and then make a crossmark himself, with some adding about the X, his mark.

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.



Lightning Kills Entire Family

McKinney Democrat

Aug 15, 1912, p 1

The entire community in the vicinity of Westminster was terribly shocked Saturday morning when it was learned that J. H. Shelly, a farmer living three miles east of Westminster, in the Cross Roads community, together with his wife and daughter, had been killed by lightning during the severe electrical storm which passed over that section of the county on Thursday night, and that the bodies were not discovered until about 7:30 that morning.

It is generally believed that Mr. Shelley and his family had taken refuge in the storm house, and after remaining there for a short time had remembered that one of the windows of the house had been left insecurely fastened, and they all returned to the house, together, to see that the windows and doors were properly closed. It seems that it was while Mr. Shelley was engaged in closing the window, and while his wife and daughter stood near by, that the bolt of lightning descended, killing all of them instantly. All the hair was burned from Mr. Shelleys head; the daughters jaw was broken, and numerous particles of glass from the broken window had penetrated her face and neck; Mrs. Shelly, seemed to have been thrown from a chair, near by, and her neck was broken. Of course, just how it all occurred will never be known, definitely, but from all appearances, and the position of the bodies, it is believed that the above theory is about correct.

Justice Jeffcoat held an inquest Saturday, and rendered a verdict of death by lightning.

Mr. Shelley was a prominent farmer in the community in which he lived and had many friends, to whom the news of this terrible calamity will be a great shock.

Websites

By Barbara Coakley

PeoplePlotr—<http://www.peopleplotr.com/>

This is a web app that makes it easy to create interactive family trees. You can embed photos, documents, text, and videos. Each plot has its own unique web address that you can send to anyone so they can view your people plot. You can also set your plot so that others cannot view it.

Direct Me NYC 1940—<http://directme.nypl.org/>

Use old phone books to unlock the Federal Census. Select a borough and browse through the images of the phone book. Even if you have found your family, the phone book may add information about your family.

War of 1812 Records fee on Fold3 for the month of June

<http://go.fold3.com/warof1812/>

The War of 1812 started 200 years ago on June 18th. Fold3 has over 400,000 images from the War of 1812. They are hosting the images of the pension application files that are being digitized as a project with the Federation of Genealogical Societies. So far only 3% of the files have been digitized. Here's a link to the project page <http://fgs.org/1812/>. Other records that are free are War of 1812 Service Records, Letters Received by The Adjutant General, and War of 1812 Prize Cases, Southern District Court, New York.

