

Genealogy Friends News

Genealogy Friends of
Plano Libraries

Genealogy Friends News
March 2011

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 2011. 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:

March 19, 2011—Lynell Moss will introduce us to the new FamilySearch.org

Future Topics:

April 16, 2011—"Using Manuscript Collections in Genealogical Research" by Brenda McClurkin, Archivist, UTA Historical Manuscript Collection.

May 21, 2011—Marilyn Waligore, teaches the History of Photography at UTD. She's going to enlighten us about early photographs. Join us to learn if that image you have of your ancestor is a daguerreotype, an ambrotype, or a tin type.

June 18, 2011—Barbara Brixy Wiley is our speaker. Her topics will be "Curlicues & Chicken Scratch: Reading Yesterday's Handwriting" and "Was Your Grandmother a Relict? What Do Those Old Words Mean?"

July 16, 2011—Our speaker is Tara Carlisle from the University of North Texas. She'll be talking to us about the UNT Digital Libraries and The Portal to Texas History. We have a great resource right here in our own backyard.

August 20, 2011—Need some magic to help with your genealogy research? Ada Nelson's "Research Magic—Showcasing Tools for Genealogists" will be right up your alley. Come learn how Office One Note, Roots Magic, Magic Wand Scanners, iPad, and Skype/Magic Jack can help you conjure up your ancestors.

August 27, 2011—**Learn N**—topics and speakers will be announced soon

September 17, 2011—Stacy Kemp, the Collin County Clerk will speak to us about records at the County Courthouse.

October 15, 2011—"Y DNA Testing" by Don Raney

November 19-2011—**All Day Seminar**—Kelvin Meyers will be our speaker.

December 17, 2011—Show and Tell—bring your genealogy treasures and share with the group.

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

New Hours

Great news for those of us that work. GLHTA (the genealogy section) at Haggard Library is changing their hours on Tuesdays; effective April 1st they will be open from 1-9. Currently they are open from 10-5 on Tuesdays.

Join Genfriends

Please consider joining Genealogy Friends. 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.

Index

Genealogy At A Glance	3
My Elusive Grandparents	4
Mug Books	5

Research Interests

We are adding a new section to our Website where we will post research interests of our members with their contact information. If you are interested in having your research interests included send the surname, location where they lived, date range they were there and your contact information to Barbara Coakley at newsletter@genealogyfriends.org.

Information will be compiled and posted every two weeks.

Genealogy Friends Logo Shirts

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) \$20.00 Henley's (white, ash or natural) \$20.00 Polo Shirts (white, ask or light blue) \$20.00.

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/>

Newsletter Articles

We need your stories to put in our newsletter. Have you found an interesting record? Did you solve a problem recently? Write a story about one of your ancestors. Your experiences can help out another researcher or someone researching the same family might see your article—our newsletter is posted on our website and sent to the Allen County Public Library so it is indexed in PERSI. Submit your article in a word document to Barbara Coakley at newsletter@genealogyfriends.org

Genealogy At A Glance

By Brenda Kellow

I continue to be impressed with the laminated series of research topics containing an overview of facts necessary in order to begin and proceed successfully with research. More and more I am finding it difficult to carry anything other than my lap pad, pen and paper on research jaunts, and these lightweight fact sheets, the "Genealogy at a Glance" series, are lightweight and perfect for me. Some are only one sheet of laminated paper with useful information on both sides, while others contain four pages.

I have been using two of these recently from the series to search for my Scottish and French Huguenot ancestors who came into Canada before coming to the States. I used David Dobson's four-page laminated guide to *Scottish Genealogy Research* to give me quick facts; background information; sources; supplementary record sources. It directed me to the major online resources such as Scotland's People at www.ScotlandsPeople.gov.uk, National Archives of Scotland at www.nas.gov.uk, National Register of Archives for Scotland at www.nas.gov.uk/nras/register.asp, the Scottish Archive Network at www.scan.org.uk, and the National Library of Scotland at www.nls.uk.

With the Scotts documented coming from their homeland into Canada, I turned to Denise R. Larson's *French-Canadian Genealogy Research* to help unlock my French Huguenot family history. The four pages contain quick facts; a brief history of French Canada, Quebec, Acadia and the Huguenots; surnames with a factual explanation of "dit" names; civil and church records; census returns; emigration and naturalization; identification of major record repositories in Canada.

The online resources were most helpful. They are American-Canadian Genealogical Society Library <http://acgs.org/library/resources.html>; Canadian Council of Archives at www.archivescanada.ca/english/index.html; Canada's GenWeb at www.canadagenweb.org/; among others. It advised me that the renovation of the University of Moncton site would soon to be available in English. That site is the best source of information on Arcadian ancestry. This was just enough information to direct me to records, repositories and online databases

I have conducted Scottish research off and on for several years but having these little 'cheat sheets' opened up many resources and facts I had not used in previous research. The *French-Canadian Genealogy Research*, which is rather new to me, and *Scottish Genealogy Research* are the most helpful four pages I have read.

These heavy laminated pages are ideal and contain the necessary information to guide me through my research, inexpensive, and they are perfect for pacifying cranky backs.

The Genealogy at a Glance series are \$7.95 each and available from Genealogical Publishing Company, www.Genealogical.com, 3600 Clipper Mill Road, Suite 260, Baltimore, MD 21211-1953. Their phone number is 410-837-8271, Fax 410-752-8492.

Postage and handling charges are: 4th Class Mailing—\$5.50. For FedEx Ground Service within the U.S.—\$7.50.

Another Genealogy at a Glance publication in this series is *Irish Genealogy Research*.

Genealogical Publishing Company publishes several laminated guides called *Quick Sheets*. This series has:

Citing Online African American Historical Resources Evidence! Style, \$7.95

Citing Online Historical Resources Evidence! Style: First Revised Edition, \$7.95

Citing Ancestry.com Databases & Images: First Revised Edition, \$7.95

Genealogical Problem Analysis: Strategic Plan Evidence! Style: \$5.95

The Lineage Committee of Mary Shirley McGuire Chapter DAR is sponsoring an all day workshop at Waterview Church of Christ on Waterview between Campbell and Arapaho in Richardson on March 26, 2011. Doors open at 9:30 we finish at 5:00. Don Raney will give the program on Migration trails to help understand how and where immigrants moved and often married along the way; Federal and State Land Records (showing us how to find and plot the ancestors land when he moved; and Probate and Court Records when they lived, died, sued someone or were sued, fined or orphaned, etc. Contact Kit Amos for more information at 972-248-9209 or kitamos@live.com.

Elusive Grandparents

By Don Stevenson

My grandparent's marriage license states that Mary Wadlington and A. Stevenson were wed 25 November 1883 at Willis Creek, Williamson County, TX. Finding documentation on these two took some time and continues today. My parents' Family Bible told me more about them and led me on my search.

A. Stevenson's name gave me unsuspected problems. His given name was Albanus (and maybe John Albanus). His 1937 death certificate says Albanas Stevenson. His Pol-tax exemption of 1935 says A. Stevenson. Some deeds he had say A. Stevenson. Dad said that everyone called him "Banny" - but I have not seen "Banny" on any documents. The 1860 Caldwell County Texas census shows him as Ablinna. In the 1870 census he is Albina and a girl! In 1910 he is Albanos. The 1930 census shows Albinas. And his grave marker shows Alabanas. Also the Stevenson name was shown in some census as Steverson and Sieverson. His father's military record has Stephenson and Stevenson. I believe his name is John Albanus Stevenson - but I don't have any reliable documentation for the "John" part. There is still work to be done.

Grandmother Mary Wadlington is another mystery. The Stevenson Family Bible shows her as Mary Magdeline Louisa Australia Wadlington.

Well, no documents have room for all of that!

Most of the time, she is shown as

Mary Stevenson or Mary L Stevenson or Mrs. A. Stevenson.



Mary was born on 12 August 1861 in Caddo Parish, LA. She died on 04 April 1931 at Jarrell, Williamson County, TX. She had nine children. Following her line back has not been very fruitful. The Bible says her father was Ed Wadlington, born about 1835 in Mississippi and her mother was Mary Joiner, born 15 September 1838 in Alabama. They were married about 1858. Also the Bible says great grandmother Mary Joiner was married before Wadlington to a Hamilton and to a Melton. Louisiana Marriages to 1850 lists: "Hamilton, George married Joiner, Mary Ann on 29 Nov 1848 in Caddo Parish, Louisiana" - is this Hamilton father of John P. Hamilton brother to Mary M L A Wadlington? Census Jul 1870, Arkansas, Sulphur County Sulphur Fork Twp, Bright Star PO shows E 58 and ? 40 "Waddington" with 2 children Jesse L age 8, Mary L, age 7, and 3 both b. LA, and children by prior husband Hamilton: E age 23 b. AL, Sarah 17 and John 12 b, LA - all in same dwelling. I'm stumped on my LA research on the Wadlington line.

Mug Books

By Barbara Coakley

"Mug Books" or County Histories can be a valuable source of clues for the Family History researcher.

Background

County histories have been written for over 3,000 counties in the United States. The earliest county histories date back to the 1850's and some have been recently as the 1990's. Many were written for the centennial celebration in 1876. Counties can have two or even three different histories that were written through the years.

What They Contain

Many of the county histories begin with a history of the United States or the state where the county is located. This is followed by a history of the county, often broken up into chapters about geography, terrain, settlements, wildlife, businesses, churches, schools, government, newspapers, military participation, etc. They can include a map of the county and pictures of landmarks or important buildings in the county. There are usually histories of smaller divisions within the county—towns, townships, precincts, etc.

The books were paid for by subscriptions. For a price, county residents could have their biography included in the county history. Pictures were included for a premium cost. Biographies of presidents and other famous individuals could have been included in an effort to appeal to those who couldn't afford to have their own histories included.

The style of writing varies greatly, some are fascinating stories of the formation and growth of the county and it's residents and some are very dry. Even if the county history isn't well written it can still be full of clues to help your family history research.

How to Use County Histories

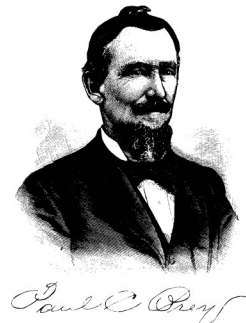
Since I've never seen a county history that sites sources, the information in these interesting books should be treated as clues to be verified. Let's start with the biographies. They can range from a couple of paragraphs to a couple of pages, depending on the amount your ancestor was willing to spend.

The example at the right is a biography of Paul Christian Brey from the *Combined History of Randolph, Monroe and Perry Counties, Illinois...* which was published in 1883. The biography not only talks about Paul, his wife and children but includes details of his parents' lives. "He [Ernst, Paul's father] came from a family possessed of ample means, and being of scholastic turn of mind was educated in the University of Tuebingen, became a teacher, studied theology and subsequently adopted the profession of teacher of languages which he followed until his advanced age compelled his retirement." Knowing this I was able to trace Ernst's career as an Evangelical Minister through four villages in Wurttemberg and later as a professor of languages at various schools in St. Louis. The highlight was when I found a handbill advertising Ernst's classes as a private tutor in St. Louis from 1863 in the archives at the Missouri Historical Society.

The article follows the families journey from Germany in 1849 to New York, where Paul attended school and worked as an apprentice in Williamsburg. From there they moved to St. Louis and as a young man, Paul moved across the river to Monroe County, Illinois. It mentions his mother's death in 1858 and that Paul had six brothers and sisters that lived to adulthood, four of

HISTORY OF RANDOLPH, MONROE AND PERRY COUNTIES, ILLINOIS

321



The subject of the following sketch is of German ancestry. He was born in the vicinity of Ulm, September 10, 1814. His father, Ernst Brey, was a native of the same place. He came of a family possessed of ample means, and being of scholastic turn of mind was educated in the University of Tuebingen, became a teacher, studied theology, and subsequently adopted the profession of teacher of languages, which he followed until his advanced age compelled his retirement. In 1840 he emigrated to America and settled in New York. One year later he came west, to St. Louis, and there made his home, and there he continued to reside. He married Maria Regina Kruiser, a native of Germany. She died in St. Louis in the year 1858. Of that union there were seven children who arrived at the age of maturity, four of whom are yet living. Paul C. Brey is the second child and eldest son. He received a good education in the schools of his native country. He came with his father to America in 1849, and soon after attended one session of the public schools at Williamsburg, N. Y. At the expiration of the school term some friends procured for him a situation in a general retail dry goods store. He remained there in a clerical position until 1852, when, at the urgent request of his father, who had come west to St. Louis two years before, he joined him, and soon after his arrival secured a situation in a wholesale book and stationery house in St. Louis. He learned the business, and continued in it until 1857, when he came to Monroe county and settled in Burksville, and there opened a general store. He continued merchandising until 1873, when he removed to Waterloo, where

he has continued to reside up to the present. Soon after Mr. Brey came to Burksville he was appointed postmaster, a position he held for seventeen years. He soon became prominent in the precinct where he settled, and was called on to fill various positions of trust. In 1863 he was elected justice of the peace, and held the scales of justice for six years. He also held other minor offices, such as township treasurer, school director, etc. In 1873 his standing and character as a citizen of Monroe county received honorable recognition at the hands of the voters of the county, by being elected county clerk. In 1877 he was re-elected, and, under the act of the legislature regulating the time of holding elections, held over until 1882, when he was elected for the third time, without opposition. The frequent elections without the aid or connivance of party machinery, but by the free, untrammeled votes of the people, show the standing and popularity of Mr. Brey. As a clerk he brings to the office a thorough business training, industrious habits, and a very affable and accommodating disposition, all of which combined makes him very popular as a public officer. On the 13th of August, 1860, he was united in marriage with Miss Sophia A., daughter of Alex. H. and Mary Frances (Carlisle) Durfee, old settlers of Monroe county. By that union there are nine children. Mr. Brey has always been a consistent Democrat of the Douglas school. In 1861 he was selected by some of his young friends to raise a company for the Forty-ninth regiment Illinois volunteer infantry (Col. Morrison's regiment), but being a newly married man he declined, but served the United States afterward by proxy.

(Continued on page 6)

Mug Books, continued

(Continued from page 5)

whom were still living when the biography was published. Now that I had the name of Paul's parents I was able to confirm that the census records I had were indeed his family. The census records provided the names of his siblings so I was able to research them. In the civil war pension file of his younger brother I found a copy of his parents marriage certificate which gave me the name of the town in Wurttemberg where they were married. The Family History Library has microfilmed the church records for that area of Wurttemberg so I was able to learn about multiple generations of the family.

The article ended with a sentence that took me a while to decipher—"In 1861 he was solicited by his young friends to raise a company for the Forty-ninth regiment Illinois volunteer infantry (Col. Morrison's regiment), but being a newly married man he declined, but served the United States afterward by proxy." Because of his age, I had already checked the civil war pension index and hadn't found a record for Paul so this made me curious. During a visit to the National Archives in Washington DC, I discovered what this meant. In the records of the Adjutant General's Office for the Congressional District where Paul lived I found the records of the draft, the physical examinations of inductees, and the day by day journal kept of the activities of the local draft board. In sub-district 40 where Paul lived there were 358 names drawn, Paul's name was drawn number 352 in January 1865. Service by proxy meant that Paul hired a substitute to serve in his place—that man was Valentine Siger. As you can see, this article led me to a wealth of sources about Paul and his family.

Even if your ancestor didn't spend the money to have their biography included in the county history there can be information to further your research. Here are a few things you might want to consider:

- Biographies of son-in-laws. Your ancestor may not have had the money to pay for a biography but possibly a daughter married into a more prominent family. Often the articles mention families of the wives as well as the subject of the biography.
- Military service—county histories often include lists of men from the area that served in conflicts from the revolution to World War II depending on when the book was published. Using the name of the unit you can access records to prove your ancestor's service or use a regimental history to follow the unit through the conflict.
- If your ancestor participated in an organized religion, you can use the county history to determine which congregations were active during the time you are searching. From there you can attempt to locate records which can be invaluable before civil vital records were kept.
- Look at where the people came from that founded the county or other major migrations into or out of the county. This might provide a clue to where your ancestor came from or went to.
- If your ancestor held an office in the county, they should be listed in the government section. Some of the offices that could be included are people appointed to maintain the roads, postmasters, county clerks, judges, post masters, assessors, treasurers, recorders, sheriffs, coroners, jurors, as well as those that served in state or federal governments could be listed.
- Lists of taxpayers can also be included which might include property descriptions or valuations. If you ancestor is listed you know you need to look for deeds and tax records from other years.
- The section on education might give you insight into the schools that were available for your ancestor to attend. Or if you ancestor was a teacher or school board member they might be mentioned.
- Often there is a section on commerce in the county which lists businesses. Even if you ancestor didn't own one of the local businesses you can use this information to paint a picture of the General Store, or where they might have purchased their wagon.

(Continued on page 7)

Mug Books, continued

(Continued from page 6)

The books can be full of interesting information about the place your ancestor lived. One of the drawbacks of county histories is that they don't traditionally include every name indexes. The biographies are listed in the table of contents. If you don't find your ancestor's name there, don't stop. Check to see if the local genealogy society has created an index. It might be available as a separate book. If you are lucky enough to find a digitized version you might be able to search the text.

Where do you find county histories?

P William Filby compiled a list of county histories in *A Bibliography of American County Histories* that was published in 1987 by Genealogical Publishing Company. It lists over 5,000 county histories. You can also search online library catalogs for the county you are searching. Take advantage of inter-library loan, the librarians in the genealogy section will be glad to help you locate the book.

We are fortunate that a number of websites are digitizing county histories.

Heritage Quest—can be accessed either in the library or through the libraries website. You'll need the login and password available at the reference desk at the library.

Ancestry.com—can be accessed in the library or you can purchase a subscription at home.

Family History Archives—BYU is partnering with the Family History Library, Allen County Public Library, Mid Continent Public Library, and the Clayton Library to digitize books in their collections. They have over 17,000 books available on their website. <http://www.lib.byu.edu/fhc/index.php>

Internet Archive - the goal of this website is universal access to all knowledge. They have over 2,000,000 texts available on their website. <http://www.archive.org/>

Google Books—search the location you are searching. <http://books.google.com/>

Google—search the location you are searching and County History. Search results could include state libraries, local libraries.

Local Genealogy Society—check the genealogy society for the county you are searching, many societies have reprinted county histories for their county.

It might take a little effort to find the county history for your county and if there is no index, you may have to spend some time reading, but it can pay off with information you won't find in other sources.

