



Genealogy Friends News

Genealogy Friends of
Plano Libraries

Genealogy Friends News
February 2024

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Schedule of Events

Mark your calendars now for the exciting Genealogy Friends events. Saturday seminars are held at W.O. Haggard Library, 2501 Coit Rd, Plano, TX from 10:15 to Noon.

April Events

April 4, 2024—Round Table Zoom Discussion Group— Zoom meeting from 7-9 pm

April 9, 2024—DNA Special Interest Group—Hybrid —7 to 8:30 pm

April 20, 2024—Hybrid Meeting—”The Value of Transcribing Historical Records” by LaBrenda Garrett-Nelson

Future Events:

May 11, 2024—Research At The Library—In Person at Haggard Library 10:30 am to 1 pm

May 18, 2024—Hybrid Meeting—”A Foundational Step in Research Strategy-What is the Research Question?” by Emily Richardson

June 15, 2024—Hybrid Meeting—”AI and Genealogy” by Thomas MacEntee

July 20, 2024—Hybrid Meeting—”Working With An Online Family Tree” by Bernard Meisner

August 17, 2024—Hybrid Meeting—”50 Family History Writing Tips in 50 Minutes” by Lisa Alzo

September 21, 2024—Virtual All Day Seminar—More information Coming Soon

Check out the events on our Website— <https://www.genealogyfriends.org>

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Genealogy Friends

Purpose: To educate members and library patrons in doing genealogical research and to support the Genealogy Center of W.O. Haggard, Jr. Library through donations.

Goal: To expand the library collection to meet the needs of this genealogically diverse community.

Genealogy Friends of Plano Libraries, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation. All donations are tax deductible.

Like and Follow us on [Facebook - Genealogy Friends of Plano Libraries](#)

The annual membership meeting is held each October.

Gen Friends 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 pay for programs and to purchase materials for the Genealogy Section at Haggard Library.

Pay online or download the membership form on our website <http://genealogyfriends.org/news/> send it in with payment to

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September All Day Seminar

Gen Friends All Day Seminar will be on 21 September 2024—"Research: From Planning to Writing."

Topics and Speakers will be "

- Ready-Set-Plan! Developing a One-Step Research Plan by J. Mark Lowe
- Research Logs: The Key to Organizing Your Family History by Diana Elder
- Elements of a Genealogy Source Citation by Lisa Stokes
- Writing Your Family History Step-by-Step by Lisa Alzo

Registration will open soon so save the date on your calendar.

Genealogy Events—Save the Dates

Dallas Genealogical Society 2024 Seminar Series:

- April 13, 2024 "Genealogy Jackhammers: Methods for Breaking Brick Walls" with Tom Jones
 - July 27, 2024 "The Legacy of Forced Removal: Finding Formerly Enslaved & Indigenous Kin" with Nicka Sewell-Smith
 - September 28, 2024 "Autosomal Analysis: Tools for Finding Your Ancestors" with Blaine Bettinger
- <https://dallasgenealogy.org/meetings-events/seminars/>

Texas State Genealogical Society Family History Conference will be November 1-2. There will be 10 presentations on Live Days with Q&A and on-demand recordings that will be available through 31 January 2025. More details will be available soon.

Check out Conference Keeper to keep up with events. <https://conferencekeeper.org/>

FamilySearch Full Text Search

FamilySearch announced their Full Text Search at RootsTech 2024. AI technology is used to search handwritten and typed documents that have not been previously indexed. Currently there are wills and probate collections available to use with this new tool.

Go to FamilySearch Labs <https://www.familysearch.org/labs/>, sign in to your FamilySearch account; and click on Expand Your Search with Full Text.

The primary search field is Keyword. You can include a text string in quotes. Use the + for multiple terms. Wild cards can also be used. If you click on More Options an additional Name field is available to use for searching.

Search ×

Keywords

"Last Will and Testament" +St. Louis

Add Ancestor Information

Name

Ziebold

Once the search results are found there are filters that can be used to narrow search results.

Record Year lets you narrow search results by decade. Once you choose the decade you can narrow it down to a ten year time span.

Record type lets you filter by twelve different types of documents.

Record Place - choose a country, then state, then city/town.

Collection—choose a record group.

This tool is still being refined so results might not be perfect yet but it definitely speeds up research. I found records for ancestors in places that I didn't know to search. There was a Release of A Vendor's

Lien filed in Sterling County Texas by the Commercial Bank of Waterloo, Illinois that listed all the trustees of the bank including my Great Grandfather from Waterloo, Monroe County, Illinois.

Try it out to see what you can find.

Results (9,843,068)

SEARCH

Record Year Record Type Record Place Collection

St. Louis, Missouri, United States Probate 1903

...I have hereunto | set my hand at St . Louis, Missouri, this 14th day ...

...Hoffinister, as and to be her last will and testament, in our ...

...above written . Chas . F. Ziebold 418 ½ Olive St Adolph, J. Pfeiffer ...

...be considered as a part of her last Will and Testament, in the ...

MORE

Keyword Matches (30)

March is Women's History Month

March is designated Women's History Month by presidential proclamation to honor women's contributions in American history. It can be harder to tell the stories of women in our family trees because their names changed and for many years women had limited rights and generated fewer records. From colonial times into as late as the 1900's when women married their status changed to "feme covert." They were legally covered by their husbands and could not enter into contracts, make a will, start a business, etc. without the permission of her husband.

In order to find out about our married female ancestors we often have to trace the men in their lives. As we work backwards from the known to the unknown we need to find the maiden names of the women in our family tree. Marriage records are the logical place to start. Look for the marriage license, register, banns, bonds, announcements, and church marriage records. Having the spouse's name, location and approximate date can help locate these records.

Census records place ancestors in family groups. Locate the census records for every year and pay attention to the neighbors. The young married couple might have lived with or near the bride's family. Siblings or parents might be living with the married couple.

Daughters were often mentioned in wills and probate records of their fathers. If the daughter was married the record often included the name of the husband. If part of the estate was real estate check for deeds. When land was sold the wife often had a dower right to the property that had to be relinquished for the sale to take place.

Death certificates for the woman might include the names of her parents, birth date, and birth location. Also look for death records for her husband and children. They might include the maiden name of the wife/mother. Obituaries might also include her maiden name and more information about her family.

Biographies of her husband or sons might include information about her family. Most counties in the US have county histories from the late 1800's to the early 1900s that included biographies of many of the county residents.

Newspapers can include information about our female ancestors. Many of them were involved in their church, charitable, and social organizations. Scheduled meetings and often details about the event were covered in the local newspaper. The gossip columns might have articles about her family members coming to visit or she and her family going to visit relatives in other places.

The couple might have been buried in the family plot of her family. Check the cemetery and pay attention to surrounding graves. Her maiden name might also be inscribed on her tombstone.

Military pension files for her husband or sons might include information about their wife/mother. The widow might have filed for a pension after her husband died. In order to be eligible the woman had to prove that she was married to the soldier.

Children's names might include the maiden name of their mother. Other naming patterns might also be apparent. Children might have been named after their mother's parents or siblings.

Single women and widows were treated differently. They owned land, made wills, had careers, etc. Women who were head of households were eligible for homestead land from the federal government.

It is important not to skip any records for her, her husband, her children and her parents. Check all record groups for records for the women and her entire family. Analyze every record carefully to be sure you are extracting all of the clues. Using timelines to chart the events in a woman's life can expose holes that require more research.

Women can require more digging but their stories can be very interesting and deserve to be told.

Volunteer Opportunity



**Gen Friends Needs
Your Help**

Genealogy Friends is run by all volunteers and there aren't many of us. In order to keep the society active we need more people to step up, help out, and think creatively.

Here are a few opportunities:

- Newsletter Articles—tell the story of an heirloom, your favorite website, history of the area, a sketch of one of your ancestors, a unique record you found that was useful, technology you use, etc. I can help edit the piece.
- Photographer to take pictures at monthly meetings to post on our website.
- Event Coordinator—Plan our annual dinner meeting and quarterly lunches. If you can plan a party you are qualified for this. We'll provide a checklist to follow.
- Board Member—Secretary—take minutes at board meetings. If you can take notes and create a Word Document you can do this.
- Social Media—create events on our Facebook page for Saturday Seminars, DNA Group meeting, and Roundtable Discussion Group. The postings are created all you would have to do is log on and create the events on Facebook. Step by Step instructions will be provided.

The board is very supportive and we help each other so you won't be left on your own.

DNA News

Ancestry is adding DNA tools to their pro tools subscription. What's coming? The number of groups will be increased to 64. We'll be able to see the amount of shared dna between matches. A date for these tools hasn't been introduced so stay tuned.

DNA Painter has added WATO Plus. It lets you use DNA matches to help figure out where a test taker might fit into their family tree. You enter who you are looking for, their birth year, who the test taker is and their relationship to the person you are trying to fit in the tree. <https://dnapainter.com/>

Banyan DNA is a new tool for building, visualizing, and analyzing complex genealogies. If you have half-relationships, pedigree collapse, or multiple relationships this tool might help you analyze your dna matches. <https://www.banyandna.com/home>

The DNA Special Interest Group meets on the second Tuesday of each month at W.O. Haggard Library and via Zoom. Our discussion in April will be about research logs for DNA.