



Genealogy Friends News

Genealogy Friends of
Plano Libraries

Genealogy Friends News
March 19, 2016

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

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Schedule of Events

Mark your calendars now for the exciting Genealogy Friends events in 2015. Meetings are held in the Program Room at the Haggard Library, 2501 Coit Rd., Plano, TX from 10:15 to 12:30 unless otherwise noted:

Today's Topic:

March 19, 2016—"Windows 10 Upgrade" by Daniel Scurlock

Future Topics

April 16, 2016—"Embracing Change is Empowering" by Tresa Tatyrek

April 28, 2016—Dining Out—See page 2 for details

May 21, 2016—"Unmasking Mark Twain's 'Jim'" by Larry McCarty

June 18, 2016—"Family Search Online Catalog" by Lynell Moss

September 17, 2016—**All Day Workshop**—Speaker will be Lisa Louise Cooke, save the date and stay tuned for more information.

The Legacy Users Group meets the fourth Tuesday of each month, downstairs at Haggard Library from 1:30 to 3:30. There is an after meeting session if you need one on one help. Contact ptxlegacyug@verizon.net

If you have an idea about a program or a speaker, email Charlie Law at programs@genealogyfriends.org.

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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

Genealogy Updates

The 16th Annual Chapman Family Association Convention will be held at the Overland Park Marriott in Overland Park, KS June 17-18, 2016. More information is available on the CFA website <http://www.chapmanfamilies.org/>

Plano Mutual Cemetery announces Tombstone Mysteries Solve 'Em and Save 'EM on Saturday, April 16, 2016 from 10 am to noon at the corner of Jupiter and 18th Streets. This is a community preservation project. This is a free event but you must register at PlanoConservancy.org or by calling 972-941-2117.

FamilySearch.org adds new collections every week, have you looked lately to see what's new that might aid you in your research? Here are just a few recent collections:

England's Devon Bishop's Transcripts

England Lancashire Oldham Cemetery Registers 1797-2004

Kansas County Marriages 1855-1911

Maryland Marriages 1666-1970

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
Plano, TX 75086-0477

Dining Out

Genealogy Friends of Plano Libraries, Inc. Dining Out on Thursday , April 28, 2016 at 7:00 pm



810 North Central Expressway—#100
Plano, TX 75074

Choice of One Entrée and Drink

Taco Dinner

Enchilada Dinner

Rosita Salad

Migulito

Coke, Diet Coke, Dr. Pepper, Sprite, Fanta, Root Beer, Lemonade or Ice Tea

Alcoholic drinks will be served as cash bar

Sign Up By April 26, 2016 by emailing Jean Funk at Jeano25@aol.com or download the flyer from our website and mail it in.

You can pay at the door

Cost \$19.00 per person

March is National Women's History Month

By Brenda Kellow

Get a group of genealogists together and they will invariably lament about the complexity encountered in researching burned courthouses, brick walls and following the trail of the elusive female. Only a percent of active researchers encounter burned courthouses and the infamous brick wall. Not so for finding females. The intricacy of female research is equally difficult, but a necessary task. After all, half of our ancestors are women.

Documenting the history of the women in our family tree is crucial to finding all the possible information on both the male and female line. It is common to realize during the research that the women often come from wealthy families whose ancestors make it possible to enter many national lineage societies such as The Daughters of the Republic of Texas; Daughters of the American Revolution; Sons of the American Revolution, Sons and Daughters of the Seventeenth Century, etc. When I decided to join the many lineage societies in 1985 that I was eligible to join, and my ancestor not already proven in it by someone else, I joined many too many groups. I do not recommend that, but I am not sorry that I did. It was a way of honoring the male and female ancestors as well as proving my research was accurate. Why? The degree of research difficulty vastly increases when the subject is a female. The reasons are several. To perform an adequate search, one must know both a maiden name and a married name. If there are multiple marriages, then one must also know those surnames.

Much of the time, the law did not recognize women, legally speaking. It is not at all unusual to read a husband's will and find that he only refers to her as "my wife" or "my now wife." Until the last century, she was often not allowed to own property, vote, own a private business, and was not listed by name in the census until 1850. However, they were indispensable to the family.

They gave birth to the babies, worked in the fields, cooked the meals, made the clothing, rugs, linens and quilts, washed the clothing, and was generally the cement that held a family together. Their hours were long. Today we would probably tag those long hours as "24-7." The living and working conditions were sometimes deplorable by today's standards. They did not strike or have a union to fight for a better state of affairs as we have today in the workplace. They stood tall and took it like champions.

I found women in my maternal and paternal line through documented research, but now I have added DNA to help me. To verify through bloodline, you might consider having a look at your DNA findings. There is a new DNA that identifies women's male lines. It is autosomal DNA, aDNA. Last year, thanks to Ancestry and their autosomal DNA advancements, I was able to prove a link to several ancestors on my paternal line. This was impossible with mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA), for it could only follow maternal lines. Several companies offer DNA, but Ancestry.com is readily available and trustworthy, and the only one that collects aDNA. Whatever obstacles you encounter hunting the females in your family tree, you should benefit from the information found by DNA matching. Nevertheless, you still need to verify it through documentation.

The women who came before me had 'true grit.' I feel fortunate to have descended from these strong females. I salute them this year during National Women's History month. Please do the same with the ladies who preceded you. By doing so, you leave a legacy for those who follow.

The history behind Women's History month

Do you know the history behind the making of women's history month? The Library of Congress' webpage, <http://womenshistorymonth.gov/about.html>, has the story of how it came about and evolved. Also, consult their site for related events going on during this month.

Ridgell McKinney

By Joy Gough

The last of Collin McKinney's great great grandchildren, Ridgell Murphy McKinney, died on October 9, 2013 at the age of 99 1/2. He had lived a full life. In honor of Collin McKinney's 250th birthday in April 2016, I will reprint this article about Ridgell.

Ridgell was the youngest of the seven children of John B. and Annie Magers McKinney. He was born April 7, 1914, in the family home in the Wilmeth community. The Wilmeth community was named for another of Ridgell's great great grandfathers, J. B. Wilmeth. The community was located on the north side of McKinney in the vicinity of Wilmeth Road between Central Expressway and SH 5 (McDonald Street). Ridgell was named for a distant relative.

Ridgell attended the Wilmeth School, which was located in the northwest corner of the present-day McKinney golf course. It was started by Ridgell's great great grandfather J. B. Wilmeth and is said to be the first public school in Collin County. Originally the classes were held in the second story of the Wilmeth Home. There is a historical marker for the Wilmeth Home on SH 5. Ridgell transferred to a McKinney school when the Wilmeth School closed in the mid 1920s.

Near the end of Ridgell's senior in high school, a boy in class cracked his knuckles during a test. The teacher blamed Ridgell. He did not do it but he could not tattle on a fellow student. He dropped out of school and, as a result, did not graduate from high school. The McKinney School District finally awarded him his high school diploma in 2008 when he was 94 years old.

The last legal hanging in Collin County took place in 1922 at the Old Collin County Prison in McKinney. Eight-year-old Ridgell had come to town with his father to the Woodman of the World building, which is located just off the southeast corner of the McKinney square. While his father was socializing, Ridgell and a friend went to the roof of the building and watched the hanging. Later he and his friend sneaked by the funeral home and looked in the window at the corpse lying on a table. The boys were frightened when rigor mortis caused the corpse sat up! I wonder if Ridgell's father ever knew that his young son had witnessed such a gruesome event! The state took over the task of hanging criminals in 1924.

During the Depression in the 1930s Ridgell was the manager of the A & P Grocery Store, which was located at the southeast corner of the McKinney square. He had an IOU box in the store. People, who could not afford to pay for their groceries, would write an IOU and put it in the box. When the people had the money, they would pay off their IOUs. All of the IOUs were paid.

Ridgell had a date with the sister of Ralph Fults. Fults was a member of Clyde Barrow's gang and his parents lived in McKinney. When Ridgell picked her up for the date, he noticed that the girl was upset and that people were watching them from an upstairs window. The girl explained that the Barrow gang was hiding out in the house and she was afraid for the safety of her parents. He and his date went to dinner and then he took her home. Again he could tell that they were being watched from an upstairs window. She would not let him walk her to the door because they might make him stay.

Ridgell was married on November 9, 1939 to Peggy Douglas. He and his wife did not have any children. She died in 1967.

During World War II, Ridgell served in the European Theater with the 15th Air Force, completing 50 heavy bombardment missions as an aerial engineer and top turret gunner on B24 aircraft. He was already stationed in the north of Africa on D Day. On that day his squadron flew north to bomb some strategic points in France. He had many stories to tell of the war, including one where the planes had been sabotaged. As the first three planes took off, they exploded. His plane was number 4. They decided to abort the take off. There was another story where the landing gear would not go down and he was held by his ankles upside down under the plane while he cranked the landing gear down. He came back to the states to get training before being shipped to the Pacific Theater. The Japanese surrendered before he was finished his training.

After the War, Ridgell worked for the Ashburn Veterans Administration Hospital in McKinney, which was located north of US 380 (University Drive) in McKinney near SH 5 (McDonald Street), where the Job Corps is today. The hospital was in use until 1965. He was in charge of the supply department.

Ridgell was a lover of Collin County and Texas history. He loved to talk about the history of the county and his family's contributions to that history. He collected memorabilia on the state and county. He had a letter that Collin McKinney wrote to his wife in 1835 while he was attending the Constitutional Convention for the Republic of Texas in

Ridgell McKinney

which he said he would be killed by Santa Anna. He had a ticket to the first Cotton Bowl game. He had a picture of Collin McKinney's cabin being towed along SH 5 (McDonald Street) as it passed the Wilmeth home on its way to McKinney. The house was used as a Visitor Center for the celebration of the Republic of Texas's Centennial in 1935. Ridgell's father was an early photographer, who set up a lab under the staircase in the house to develop his own photos on glass plates. Ridgell had a large collection of the glass plates and, thus, some of the earliest photos of the county, especially of the Wilmeth community.

In recent years the third grade classes in McKinney schools have been producing videos about the founding of the county and about Collin McKinney. Ridgell was always a judge of the videos.

In 2011 Ridgell visited the Texas historical marker for the early Collin County town of Mantua, which was founded by Collin McKinney and his sons. Pronounced Man chew way.

In 2012 the Collin County Historical Commission honored him with a plaque commemorating his contributions to preserving and teaching Collin County history.

Ridgell McKinney was a Collin County historic icon, a great lover of life, the end of an era, as they say. He will be missed.

Flashback: Memories of Plano, 1956

By Brenda Kellow

The Plano Star-Courier, Plano, Collin County, Texas

August 23, 1956, Volume 69, No. 16

Remember, this is an abstract of the newspaper. Not all names are mentioned, i.e., obituaries, showers, and marriages will not have every name mentioned that were in the newspaper. For the complete content, look at the microfilm or find the copy in Newspapers.com.

Dr. and Mrs. O. T. Mitchell of Plano are cooling off in the Villa Motel, Manitou Springs, Colorado, where the weather is hot.

Mrs. Henry Baccus died in the City-County Hospital in McKinney on Wednesday following a few months illness.

Mrs. Ora Clark, 66, passed away Tuesday in Denton. Services were at the Presbyterian Church in Denton with burial in Ferris, Texas. She was sister to Raymond Miller and sister-in-law of Earl Clark of Plano. Her family lived in the Fannie Harrington Community.

Harry E. Haas, 63, of Waxahachie, died last Saturday afternoon. He was a WWI Vet and a member of the Catholic Church of Waxahachie.

Plano resident Howard Hawn is teaching a Salesman's School class in Corpus Christi for Employers Casualty Company of Dallas.

Ray Pate has returned home from a stay in a Dallas hospital where he had eye surgery.

Football workouts began Monday morning with about 50 boys attending. Quarterback Don Gunn was the only returning player after the last graduation. Lettermen returning to play are Pinkie Allman, R. M. Loftice, Melvin Bozeman, James Uselton, Jerry Burch, Larry Dunn, and Claiborne Gregory. B team lettermen returning are Norman Nicholson, Joe Wiser, Jack O. Harrington, twins Jim and Tom Murrell, John Calvert, John Spurgeon, Billy Slayden, J. W. Gregory, Bill Spearman, Dan Slayden, Larry Davis, Kenneth Rawlings, Charles Bader, and Gene Lynge. Coach Carter Masy is assisted by Jimmy Thompson and Glenn Rogers.

Nine new teachers are added to Plano faculty for the first day of school on September 4. They include: Mrs. O. F. Field, second grade; Mrs. Kittie Lantrip, second grade; Miss Hope Streetman, third grade; Mrs. Dorothy Stults, sixth grade; Miss Ruth Coldwell, Science teacher; Miss Evelyn McElhany, librarian; Mrs. Nellie Frost, business; and Lyman D. Robinson, coordinator, visual aids. The entire list of returning teachers is in the original newspaper article.

Mrs. Parelee Weaver Standifer, 86 years and four days of age, died August 16 in Dallas. She was born August 12, 1870 in Texas. She is the widow of merchant R. W. Standifer. She is the daughter of the late W. M. Weaver and Mrs. Ethelinda Butler Weaver, both of Tennessee. Funeral was held Friday at the Harrington Funeral Chapel.

Flashback: Memories of Plano, 1956

George Washington Maynard, 66, formerly of Plano, died Sunday in Dallas. Funeral Services were Monday at Big Spring Baptist Church. Interment followed at Big Spring Cemetery. He was born January 25, 1890.

The Federal Government accepted the offer of the Christie lot for the new location of the Plano Post Office site. The site is on 16th Street just off K Avenue, north of City Hall.

Mr. and Mrs. Harold Angel and Mrs. George Angel of Wichita Falls, visited their mother and sister, Mrs. Harvey Angel and Nancy this past weekend.

Mr. and Mrs. H. L. Toland and two sons David and Johnny of Hebron, visited in Plano Tuesday.

Mr. George A. Cox announced the open house in Southwood Estates on August 26.

Nancy Hargrove returned to Beaumont after visiting her grandparents Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Haggard. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W. P. Hargrove.

Charlene Rogers, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jack Rogers, is recovering from pneumonia.

Everyone qualified voter is urged to vote in the Democratic run-off primary election, August 25.

A new ordinance was adopted August 18 that strictly prohibits outside watering.

Mr. and Mrs. Johnny P. Lyles of Mesquite celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary on Sunday, August 26, at the home of their son Johnny W. Lyles. They were married at the home of her parents on August 26, 1896. Mrs. Lyles came to Texas with her parents on April 24, 1887. Her father established the first jewelry store and bakery in Plano. He assisted instructing Mr. A. Weatherford in jewelry repair.

p. 2 Price Daniel, Sam Rayburn and Lyndon Johnson assisted work to maintain the Veterans Hospital in McKinney.

Mr. and Mrs. Ted Reddell of McKinney visited brother-in-law and sister, Mr. and Mrs. A. Bagwill on Sunday.

p. 3 Mrs. Doyle Nelson thanks everyone for their support in the primary election.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Armstrong, and daughters Betsy and Becky, return from a 15 day vacation in Colorado. While there, they visited Mrs. Taylor Jackson and daughter Judy, of Dallas, who is spending a month at that location.

Mrs. Joe H. Griffin thanks everyone for their kindness while she was in the hospital.

p. 4 Richardson and Plano artists entertained the Rotary Thursday.

Lee O'Daniel runs for Governor of Texas.

Mrs. Jack Lair made a donation of books to the Plano Junior High School Library.

1956 State Fair installed the first commercial running monorail. It runs from the front of the fairgrounds to parking lot.

Police officer Raymond Robinson is named Constable of Collin County.

Leo D. Faries is a participant of the Seattle Annual Sea Fair. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Leo D. Faries and husband of the former Joyce D. Ivy of Plano.

Mrs. Kathy Spence of Tom Bean spent the week with her sister and brother-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Howard Haun and son Mike.

The First Baptist Church defeated Baptist Conference baseball championship Saturday by a score of 2-0.

p. 5 The season's first cool spell lowered temperature from 82 to 67 on Monday.

Accidents investigated for the Texas Highway Patrol totaled 858 during July.

Lone Star Gas Company offers substantial cash prizes in the contest. The deadline is October 15.

Rev. Frank A. Brooks will preach Sunday at the First Christian Church in Plano. Fellowship follows.

F. E. Lemons, father of Foy Lemons, suffered a stroke in Sachse.

Laymen from the First Methodist Church continue to supply Renner M. E. Church. The speaker for August is Jim Dilts in the morning and Roy Murrell in the evening.

Little Jeff Ring was a patient at Baylor Hospital in Dallas. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Harold Ring of Dallas. He is the grandson of Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Skaggs.

R. B. Burch found a rhinoceros beetle on a downtown Plano sidewalk on Tuesday morning. He turned the beetle over to Plano graduate Gilbert Ritchey who gave it to Miss Ruth Coldwell, science teacher.

p. 6 Wedding date set for Jeanie Jeanes and John Turner set for August 31.

Mrs. Ray J. McCutcheon and son Bill are in San Diego for the graduation of son and brother, Donald, member of the Marine Corp.

Mrs. Tom George attends, in Sequoyah, Arkansas, a conference in a Board of Mission Schools.

Attending the funeral of brother-in-law and uncle's funeral in Dallas, Pearce Collier, were T. B. Haggard, Ed Haggard,

Flashback: Memories of Plano, 1956

Homer Haggard, and Miss Romaine Haggard of Houston.

p. 7 Rev. and Mrs. L. E. Quillen and son vacation in Norton, Virginia where they will visit his parents, Mrs. and Mrs. L. E. Quillen, Sr. Rev. Cooper Marshall of Lavon will fill the pulpit at the Lebanon Baptist Church.

p. 8 Jack Durham is Scoutmaster of Plano's Boy Scout Troop. Boney Mitchell is the Assistant Scout master. Mentioned in the article are Tom and Jim Murrell, Kelly Mitchell, Brownie Miller, Larry White, Billy Skaggs, Lyndon Bozeman, Jackie Mayfield, David Kennedy, Richard Thurman, Glenn Lewandos, Jimmy Field, David Graves, Brownie Miller, Dewayne Ashby, Farrell Phelps, and Leland Robinson. The Scout movement is sponsored by the Methodist Men's Group of the First Methodist Church.

Mr. and Mrs. George Spurlin, Phil and Quin vacationed in Galveston with Mr. and Mrs. W. P. Hargrove.

The 20th Strain Reunion, with 92 present, was August 19 in the City Park. Eldest members attending were Mrs. Effie Hendricks and Mrs. Lizzie Ereckson. Mrs. Jennie Richards of Los Angeles was unable to attend. All attending are named in the article.

Funeral services for Bruce Reed of Hubbard, father of Jim Reed of Houston and Bill Reed of Freeport. Attending were Mr. and Mrs. DeWitt Hogge, Mrs. James Miller and son, Mrs. J. P. Masters and children Martha and Scott, Mrs. Ruby Chaddick and Mrs. Fred Meeks.

Miss Sally Haggard, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Scott Haggard, visited her grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Clint Haggard.

Mrs. Ervin Arnold thanks everyone for their concern during her children's recent battle with mumps and Sylvia's broken leg.

Construction work stopped, for the present, on the 200-acre site of the Collin Radio Company on William Alvis Road in Richardson. The shutdown order came from the Collin Radio home office in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. Contractors started the \$999 engineering and laboratory building. This was the first begun on what was the Walter Ely farm. Collin Radio announced that 700 men would be employed in the first building. The main building, which will house manufacturing operations of the company, is expected to rise on the same site. Another 3,700 will be employed in it. There was no explanation for the shutdown.

Mrs. Joe Bill Griffin attended the bedside of her mother, Mrs. W. H. Long in McKinney, following her surgery at the City-County Hospital. Mrs. Long is improving.

Annual Gallop Reunion attracts 100 people in attendance. The family gathered Sunday at the Plano Community Center. Guests of honor were Mr. and Mrs. Joe Gallop of Plano. Mr. Gallop's birthday was the next day. All twelve children were in attendance with their children. Ten of their children attended Sunday services at the Plano First Baptist Church Those in attendance are mention in the article.

Mrs. D. L. McDowell and granddaughter Miss Wanda Skaggs visited in Dallas with the former's son Mr. and Mrs. K. A. McDowell and daughter Connie Ann.

Mrs. Will Wilson of Dallas was in Plano Saturday in the interest of her husband's candidacy for Attorney General of Texas.

Mr. and Mrs. Ike Eddleman and family recently visited relatives in Shreveport, Beaumont, Port Arthur and New Orleans. Their daughter Marcia was stung by a Portuguese Man of War.

Mrs. G. L. Sherrill of Dallas visited her son E. L. Sherrill and family.

Our speaker today is Daniel Scurlock our go to person for computer issues. Who better to help explain the move to Windows 10 and how to make it the least painful. What are the hidden changes? I am not a person that resists change but one who is slow to adopt.

Daniel Scurlock founded Scurlock Systems after working 17 years in the corporate IT field. He works closely with the small business community and is able to easily ascertain their needs. Daniel grew up in Georgetown, Texas but has been in the Dallas area for many years.

Scurlock Systems is an IT support company offering services for small business and residential clients. Founded in 2003, Scurlock Systems is a Plano, Texas based company serving the growing IT needs of residential and small business clients. Our skilled team is trained to help clients with all IT-related issues that are faced by users in today's technological society.