



# Genealogy Friends News

Genealogy Friends of  
Plano Libraries

May 2004

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

[http:// www.rootsweb.com/~txgfpl](http://www.rootsweb.com/~txgfpl)

<http://www.geocities.com/genfriendsghl>

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## Upcoming Events

### Saturday Seminars

Genealogy Friends sponsors free seminars the third Saturday of every month from 9:30 to Noon at the Gladys Harrington Library.

**June 19, 2004** - "Beginning Genealogy" by Stella Fincher and "Cite Your Sources" by Weldon Fincher

**July 17, 2004** - Barbara Coakley will talk to us about Immigration and Naturalization Records

**August 21, 2004** - "Social History" by Lynne Darrouzet and "Creating An Ancestor" by Clare Molina

**October 16, 2004** - Leo Baca will be returning to discuss DNA Research

**November 20, 2004** - Learn to publish your genealogy finds on the Internet using Front Page - John Darrouzet

**December 18, 2004** - Annual Show and Tell—Show off your findings

### Gen Friends Presents John Humphrey

**On Saturday, September 18, 2004, Genealogy Friends presents award-winning author, John T. Humphrey.** John is the current president of the Mid-Atlantic Germanic Society and vice president of the Genealogical Society of Pennsylvania. Mr. Humphrey's principal genealogical publication is the fourteen-volume set of Pennsylvania Births that list more than 170,000 birth in eleven eastern Pennsylvania counties prior to 1800. He has written other books and numerous articles, lectures widely on German and colonial research, and has appeared on national television and public radio. He was the former director of the National Genealogical Society Learning Center. Currently Mr. Humphrey is working on genealogical records created during World War II of interest to researchers in Germany and the United States. Topics will be:

**Reconstructing Families on the Colonial Frontier** - Records kept during the colonial period can be difficult to find or when they do exist, they are often incomplete causing serious obstacles to research. This lecture explores strategies to get around these obstacles by creatively using data found in the records that do exist.

**Researching Pennsylvania Ancestors** - If your ancestors are from the keystone state you need to know about Pennsylvania's deeds, warrants, patents, probate and vital records.

**Researching German Ancestors: "The Agony and the Ecstasy"** - This two hour introduction to German research explores obstacles like language and custom, and it looks at a variety of records kept by Germans both in the U.S. and Germany that will open the way to a rich source of research material.

Cost: Non-members before Sept 1, \$32, after Sept 1st, \$37 and Members \$25 Box Lunches from Jason's Deli will be available for purchase. They include a sandwich (turkey, ham, or roast beef), chips, a cookie, and a pickle. For more information contact

## Genealogy Friends Logo Shirts

Be one of the best-dressed genealogists in town. Order your Gen Friends logo t-shirt or sweatshirt now. The shirts have a 3" logo printed on the left chest. Shirts are available in white, natural, or ash gray with a dark green logo.

T-shirts are \$12.00 for toddler through XL and \$14.00 for XXL and XXXL

Sweatshirts are \$17.00 for toddler through XL and \$19.00 for XXL and XXXL

### Volunteer Activities

#### Library Volunteers

Our volunteers are in the library during the day on most days. Check out our web page and the bulletin board for the schedule of volunteers on duty; or call the Reference Desk to inquire 972-461-7175. If you would like to volunteer to work in the library, contact Pat Mitchell.

#### Volunteers Needed

We need several volunteers to help with all facets of Genealogy Friends activities and events. If you have a talent, extra energy, or are willing to help in any way, please contact us at [genfriends@comcast.net](mailto:genfriends@comcast.net). Current Opportunities Include:

- Help is needed to continue to index the 1930 Census for Collin County. The indexes are posted on our web site to enable researchers to more easily find their families. We will provide a CD containing the Census and the format for the Excel or Open Office Spreadsheet where the data is entered.
- Volunteers are needed for all facets of the Lock Ins including refreshments, manning stations, sharing information or experiences, and registration. If you can help contact Joyce Kaplan.
- If you would like to serve on a committee to improve our events, please contact Weldon Fincher.

### Lock Ins & Board Meetings

Library Lock In - October 29th.  
Board Meeting will be July 20th.  
The Annual Meeting will be October 4th.

### Publications For Sale

The following are available from Genealogy Friends:

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	

### Tracing Our Roots Column

The "Tracing Our Roots" column by Brenda Kellow appears in Plano Star Courier, Star Community Newspapers and DFW Community News weekly. The column and an archives of past columns are also available at <http://www.geocities.com/TracingOurRoots>.

### Dues Are Due

It is time for us to pay our dues. Single: \$30. Family: \$50. Friend: \$100; Gold: \$500; Platinum: \$1000. We currently have over 70 members.

Please consider **matching funds** if your corporation is a participant. We are a nonprofit organization certified under Section 501 [c] [3] of the Internal Revenue Code.

## Web Sites

The State Historical Society of Missouri's newspaper collection, which is accessible through inter-library loan, is now included on the University of Missouri's MERLIN library catalog. The web site is <http://laurel.lso.missouri.edu/> click on the University of Missouri-Columbia libraries. Locate newspapers by searching on the county or town name or title.

The US Military History Institute at Carlisle Barracks PA holds over a million still photographs including a large collection for the Civil War, World War I and World War II. Unfortunately the photographs don't circulate, however, there are finding aids on the web site.  
<http://carlisle-www.army.mil/usamihi/>

The Texas General Land Office's Land Grant Database of over 440,000 records is available online at <http://www.glo.state.tx.us/archives/landgrant.html>. The database is searchable by county, grantee, title date and patent.

Over time boundaries of states and counties changed. Your ancestor may not have moved but the county might be different. In order to locate them you will need information about the boundaries at the time you are searching. The US Census Map site contains maps indicating these changes.  
<http://www.genealogyinc.com/maps/uscm.htm>

Pat Connors maintains a section on her web site for Irish Books, a mailing list, links to bookstores, and more. Volunteers will do lookups for you. Check it out by selecting Ireland Books on the drop down list under Ireland.  
<http://www.connorsgenealogy.com>.

This site contains three movies with narration about the Growth of the United States..  
<http://animatedatlas.com/movie.html>

Check this one out for SE Kansas items/genealogy  
<http://www.sekls.lib.ks.us/>

Joan Neubauer is an author from Georgetown, TX who has written a few books. One was on journaling and the other on writing your family story. Her web site is [www.wordwright.biz](http://www.wordwright.biz)

Are you looking for the grave of an ancestor who is a veteran? If so, check out the National Cemetery Administration web site nationwide gravesite locator <http://www.cem.va.gov/>

## Legal Abbreviations

When reading old legal documents it is important to understand legal abbreviations, derived from Latin, to correctly interpret the meaning of the document. A few are:

et ux - and wife

et vir - and husband

d.s.p. - died without issue

liber - book or volume

d.v.p.—died in the lifetime of his father.

A good reference for legal terms is *Black's Law Dictionary*.

## Naming Patterns

Our ancestors often used naming procedures when picking a name for a new child. This could explain why certain names are common in a given family line.

1st son=father's father

2nd son=mother's father

3rd son=father

4th son=father's oldest brother

5th son=father's 2nd oldest brother or mother's oldest brother

1st Daughter=mother's mother

2nd Daughter=father's mother

3rd Daughter=mother

4th Daughter=mother's oldest sister

5th Daughter=mother's 2nd oldest sister or father's oldest sister

Thanks to Bill Walton for submitting this information.

Hippocrene Books, [www.hippocrenebooks.com](http://www.hippocrenebooks.com) has folk and fairy tales from different countries. There are also several history and cookbooks from different countries. Some of the countries are Czech, Polish, Swedish, French Scottish, Chile, Russia, Turkey, Bohemia, English, etc. The folk tales are obviously written for children, but they are really quite nice stories to read.

Thanks to Jean Funk and Bill Walton for submitting web sites of interest.

## Genealogy of a House

I recently became acquainted with a twist on genealogy – tracing the genealogy of a home. The concept is to research the house and it's inhabitants to determine when it was built, when additions were added, when major repairs were done, or when electricity/plumbing were added. The concepts are similar and you use a number of the records we are already familiar with. The idea was interesting to me since I try to reconstruct the lives of my ancestors, going beyond just names, dates and places. Wouldn't it be fun to construct the evolution of a family home?

Begin by inspecting the house and taking pictures. Look specifically at the features of the house – roof, chimney, doors, windows, outbuildings, foundation, boundary and walls. Styles and materials changed over time and can assist in dating the house. Also look for differences in materials to determine what might have been original construction vs. a later addition. It was not uncommon for features to be updated as styles changed, due to technological advances or when repairs were needed. For example, in early days when cloth had to be woven for clothing, a large room would be needed for the loom. Later when the loom was no longer needed the space could be modernized for a different use.

Look at the house in relation to those around it. Do they look like they are from the same time period? It might be necessary to research neighboring houses to date your house, just like we research neighbors to find information on our ancestors. Also, look for the arrangement of any outbuildings, the shape of wells, sources of water, relationship to roads, etc. If the house is in a rural area, check for the dumpsite. All of these items provide clues about the house. The type of construction – log, wood, Poteau en Terre, adobe, brick, stone – can provide information to date the home.

Exterior - Measure the exterior of the house and draw a diagram of it. Examine the foundation to determine if the materials and style are consistent with the rest of the house. Often if additions were added, the foundation will be different for the sections as they are added. Note each of the following:

- Chimneys – how many are there, where are they placed, and what material are they made from.
- Roof – style, materials and pitch of the roof. Look for sections that were added.
- Walls – material, note the pattern of bricks, size of stones, or width of wood planks
- Doors – number, placement.
- Porch – many were added later, is the style consistent

with the style of the house.

- Windows – number, placement, style, shutters, shape

The number of stories can also provide a clue. Before the Revolution the typical house was 1 ½ stories, in the 1790's 2 ½ stories became more common, between 1820-1840 3 story homes became more common in urban areas. Different styles and sizes were common in different locations and during different time periods.

Interior - Examine the interior of the home, take pictures and measurements. Note each of the following:

- Walls – treatments and coverings, materials (wood, plaster, brick)
- Staircases – style, placement, type of wood on balustrade
- Moldings – placement, materials, and style
- Fireplaces – number, size, placement, material of mantel
- Doors – style, hardware
- Room organization – number of rooms, size, placement, pitch of roof, placement of hall, symmetry of rooms
- Flooring – width of boards in wood floors

The attic and cellar can be critical. They are the two places where construction features may be seen. Look for changes in the house, roof supports, and floorboards.

In addition to examining the physical features of the house, the materials, style, etc. other records can be used to help with your research. This part of the research was very familiar. Begin with the deeds, work back through the chain of ownership of the property looking documenting the grantor, grantee, consideration, property description, and dates of each transaction. Pay close attention to any changes in property descriptions. Deeds are normally located at the county courthouse.

Records for the original sale of property from a government to an individual may be located at an archive—state or federal, or with the Bureau of Land Management. If the property was originally obtained via homestead, request the homestead file from the National Archives. As part of the homestead process, any improvements to the land are described, and living on the property was a requirement. The files I have located for the farm where my father was born described the house, well, and crops in addition to events in the lives of my ancestors. There are affidavits included from neighbors attesting to the fact that my ancestors lived on the

## Genealogy of a House (continued)

property the required amount of time. They also describe the house so I get different descriptions that can be compared. Best of all they discuss the only time they were absent from the property due to the death of a my great grandfather.

Check for mortgage records. It might prove helpful to plot the land descriptions of the property and possibly those surrounding the house you are researching. There are two types of property descriptions. Metes and bounds uses compass directions and landmarks to describe the property from a starting point around the perimeter to the ending point. The other type of description places the property using townships, ranges and sections in relation to a prime meridian. Also, locating the property on a map can help by showing the relationship to water, roads, etc.

Wills and estate packets can also provide valuable information about the home. The disposition of the property can fill in gaps in ownership. The estate inventory might include items of furniture and tools of occupations. Tax records should also be reviewed. Changes in valuation could indicate improvements, additions, etc. Road lists are lists of property owners who were required to work on maintaining roads for a number of days per year, based on the size of their property. Court records should be examined looking for damage claims and disputes.

Vital records (births, marriages, deaths) can also provide clues to changes in the house. Often, additions were made when family size increased, if a man married a widow with a number of children, rooms may need to be added to the home to accommodate the large family. When a parent ages, one of their children and their family might move in, however, until the house passes to the heir upon the death of the parent, changes, additions or modernizations might not be made.

Memoirs and family papers can also be invaluable in providing information about the home. I was fortunate enough to locate family papers of an ancestor in a manuscript collection at Southern Illinois University. Included in the papers were receipts, drawings, paint and wallpaper samples for each modernization and remodeling of the family home. The home is now a bed and breakfast so I hope to be able to spend time there this year. I wonder if the current owners know anything about this fabulous collection of information. In addition, the architectural drawings from the construction of another family home located in Geneva, Switzerland were among the papers. This proves that you never know where clues might turn up. Check historical

societies, genealogical societies, libraries, and archives. Manuscript collections can be located using National Union Catalog to Manuscript Collections, partially available on the web site of the Library of Congress. Other sources that could provide information include fire insurance maps, census records, county histories, and ownership maps.

Once all the information is gathered you will need to use reference materials to determine the meaning of each feature. If you are interested in researching a house Sally Light's book, *House Histories A Guide to Tracing The Genealogy of Your Home* would be a good resource. Using records we are familiar with and some new ones to research a home of your ancestor can add fascinating details about their lives. Next month we will explore more about finding land records.



## GenFriends Makes The News

The Dallas Morning News carried a story about our pledge to save Heritage Quest. The link is <http://www.dallasnews.com/s/dws/wfaa/latestnews/stories/043004dnmetlibraries.5f912.html>. Our efforts paid off, the commitment has been met and Heritage Quest will be available for our use for another year. We will be writing the check to the Library soon.

## Book Exchange

Genealogy Friends would like to exchange Collin County books with books from other societies. If you have an area or society you would like us to try and exchange with, please contact Joy Gough at [jfarrgo@comcast.net](mailto:jfarrgo@comcast.net).

## Education Opportunities

### 2004

**June 4,** Scottish Family History Symposium sponsored by the Texas Scottish Festival and Highland Games at LaQuinta Conference Center, Arlington, Texas—"Researching Your Scottish Ancestors from a Distance" David Webster of Scotland. For further information call 1-800-363-7268.

**June 13-18,** Institute on Genealogical and Historical Research, Sanford University, Birmingham, Alabama. More information available on courses, fees, housing, etc. <http://www.sanford.edu/schools/ighr/ighr.html>.

**July 12-Aug 30,** Genealogy I, Lynne M. Darrouzet, JD, CGRS will be teaching at Collin County Community College on Monday nights from 6:30 - 9 pm.

**July 11-16** The Genealogical Institute of Mid-America will hold its tenth annual study program in Springfield, Illinois. Details are available from the Institute Director, Ms. Susan Kaufman at [kaufmansusan@juno.com](mailto:kaufmansusan@juno.com)

**July 11-17** The National Institute on Genealogical Research will be held at the National Archives in Washington, D.C. Visit their website for more information - <http://www.rootsweb.com/~natgenin>

**September 8-11** "Legends Live Forever - Researching the Past for Future Generations" FGS 2004 Conference will be held in Austin, Texas. Topics include oral history, writing your family story, using social history in genealogy, foreign research, immigration and naturalization, Texas and the southwest. The conference hotel will be the Hilton Conference Center. To sign up for the conference e-zine send a message to [ezine@fgs.org](mailto:ezine@fgs.org). More information is available at the FGS web site <http://www.fgs.org>.

## Newsletter Articles

Have you found an unusual record during your search? How did you solve that last really tough problem? Write an article and submit it to be published in the newsletter. Have you discovered a fantastic web site? Email it to Barbara Coakley at [bjc1620@hotmail.com](mailto:bjc1620@hotmail.com).

### Gen Friends 3rd Annual Research Retreat

Mark your calendars. The 3rd Annual Research Retreat to the Family History Library in Salt Lake City, Utah will be January 30 to February 6, 2005.

Research in the largest genealogy library in the United States with your colleagues. Assistance will be available from veteran researchers. We have had a great time the last two years. Everyone returned with new information about ancestors. Plan on joining us.

Watch our web site for more details [http://www.rootsweb.com/~txgfpl/retreat\\_slc.htm](http://www.rootsweb.com/~txgfpl/retreat_slc.htm)

### History & Genealogy Web Site

Members of Genealogy Friends are contributing to a new web site—History and Genealogy for the Active Researcher located at <http://www.geocities.com/genfriendsghle>.

The goal is to expand the knowledge of those researching in Collin County and North Texas.

The site is under construction with new items being added frequently, check it out often. Submissions are welcome.

## Donate Your Genealogy To The Library of Congress

**Please help the Library of Congress identify and acquire new and reprinted genealogy and local history volumes.**

The Library of Congress has one of the world's premier collections of U.S. and foreign genealogy and local history publications. The Library's genealogy collection began as early as 1815 when Thomas Jefferson's library was purchased. Through generations of international giving, the Library's collections contain more than 40,000 compiled family histories and over 100,000 U.S. local histories. The Library also collects local histories from around the world. Researchers doing foreign research will find strong collections for western Europe, especially the British Isles, Ireland, and Germany.

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Anglo-American Acquisitions Division  
USA Gifts  
101 Independence Ave., SE  
Washington, DC 20540-4174  
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(202) 707-9440 FAX

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Local History and Genealogy  
Collection Development  
101 Independence Ave., SE  
Washington, DC 20540-4660  
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(202)707-1957 FAX  
lhgref@loc.gov

Donations to the Library of Congress will be acknowledged, and may be tax deductible, depending on the donor's own tax situation. We strongly encourage the use of acid-free paper and if the work requires binding, please allow wide margins.

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Washington DC. 20559-6300	

Thanks to Clare Molena for submitting this story.