



Genealogy Friends News

Genealogy Friends of
Plano Libraries

May 2008

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

<http://www.rootsweb.com/~txgfpl>

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

<http://www.rootsweb.com/~txcolli3>

<http://genfriends.blogspot.com/>

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Saturday Seminars

Mark your calendars now for the exciting Genealogy Friends events in 2008. Meetings are held in the Program Room at the Haggard Library, 2501 Coit Rd., Plano, TX from 10:15 to 12:30:

Today's Topics:

May 17, 2008—Lynne Darrouzet will speak to us on Organizing Your Genealogy

Future Topics:

June 18, 2008—"Extra, Extra, Read All About It—Using Newspapers to Fill in Details of Your Ancestors Lives" will be presented by Barbara Coakley from 10:30 to 12:00 at Haggard Library.

June 21, 2008—Richard Preston will speak to us about Migration Patterns. Ever wondered what route your ancestor took or why they moved from one place to another? Come listen to Richard for some potential answers.

July 19, 2008—David Hardin from the Haggard Library will be speaking on the Genealogy Collection and the online resources available at the library. We have access to a wonderful collection right here in Plano, come learn more about it.

August 9, 2008—Preparing for the Research Retreat in Salt Lake City—This seminar is for those of us who are going to Salt Lake City. We'll discuss using the Family History Library Catalog, Preparing a Research Plan, and Visiting the Family History Library.

August 16, 2008—"Beginning Genealogy" by Barbara Coakley. Whether you are truly a beginner or just want a "back to basics" refresher this class is for you.

September 20, 2008—"Convict Ancestors from England" by Dr. Steven Butler. Dr Butler spoke to us last year about the Mexican War, we are excited to have him back to educate us on a really interesting topic.

October 18, 2008—Dr. Jacob Blosser will speak to us about the History of Religions in America. Dr Blosser is an Assistant Professor of History at Texas Women's University.

November 15, 2008—Bryan Lean, the curator of Collections and Exhibits at the North Texas History Center will be speaking to us about the collection.

December 20, 2008—Show and Tell.

If you have suggestions for programs please submit them to Jean Funk at jeano25@aol.com.

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

Memorial Day—Murphy Cemetery

On Friday, May 30, from 5:30 to 7 p.m. the Cemetery Association of Murphy will host a Memorial Day Observance at the Murphy Cemetery. Tours of the cemetery will be provided by the Murphy Middle School Junior Historians. Music will be furnished by the Murphy Middle School Girls' Choir. Parking will be at the Murphy Middle School.

The Murphy Cemetery is one of the oldest cemeteries in Collin County, dating back to 1850. The cemetery is also called the Maxwell Cemetery or Old Decatur Cemetery.

Genealogy Class Collin College

Intermediate Genealogy will be offered at Collin College (formerly CCCD) on Monday nights from July 7, 2008 to August 25, 2008 at Plano Senior High School. The Instructor will be Barbara Coakley. Register online at <http://www.cccd.edu/cs/areasofstudy/conted/index.html>

Advanced Genealogy will be offered during the fall semester. More information will be available later this year.

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

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.

Visit the Plano Insider web site is <http://www.planoinsider.net/> and click on either PULSE or ENTERTAINMENT to read the weekly column. Each column is posted for one week only. The column and archives are posted at <http://www.geocities.com/TracingOurRoots>.

Legacy Users Group

Joanne Corney started a Legacy Family Tree users group. The group will meet the fourth Tuesday of each month at the Haggard Library in the Program Room from 10:30 to 12:30. Contact Joanne at ptxlegacyug@verizon.net for more information.

Publish Before You Perish

By Brenda Kellow, BA

How can you ever get your information out to your family before they all die off? You know the answers: publish a book or booklet or start your own website where you pen the research on all your ancestors. Can it be easier than you imagine? Yes.

I've published books, booklets, submitted 3-4 generation genealogies to journals, and opened a family website, and setup a private wiki where a group of researchers submit their findings on a selected surname. This is all good—right? The answer is yes and no but only you can decide how to handle your research on your family lines.

As the genealogical community ages, so are our families who wait to read about their ancestors. Many have given you pictures—or at least shared them with you—while others have filled out charts and endured hours of interviews or letter writing. So why don't you get up off your duff and compile the histories for which they wait?

Published books are only legends if you don't reveal your sources. In today's world of sophisticated genealogists you must properly footnote records—or use endnotes—and properly structure your theories according to the approved genealogical standards at the time. Our footnotes are very different from those you learned in school or college and our standards differ from those used by the legal community. Footnoting genealogies and perfecting genealogical standards have a steep learning curve.

Now, back to aging genealogists and families for I am one of those. I was born to older parents late in their lives. There is a generation between my sibling and me, so you can imagine the advanced ages of my aunts, uncles, and cousins. Two important people have already died—family members who gladly spent hours of their time and shared their knowledge and photographs. Fortunately I had already presented them with a family history on their paternal line, but did not finish the history on their maternal line until after their deaths. Why? Frankly life, family, writing, and redoing footnotes as they became more refined became so time-consuming that I let that get in the way of sharing that important line.

Document. Document. Document. That has been instilled in me as an absolute must for years. Over the years I have read and studied Lackey's *Cite Your Sources*. Early on it was the only publication we had on citing sources, genealogically speaking.

Mills' *Evidence!* was the next book we studied for even more ways to correctly cite where we found our sources. But it was her thicker, more complex and greater detailed *Evidence Explained* that took us to the next level—citing items or records found on the Internet. Once again we read every page detailing how to cite everything from artifacts to cyberspace.

First we used the preponderance of evidence (POE) to prove a hypothesis when no record could be found showing definite proof one way or the other. By using the POE argument we claimed we searched and found no document to prove the answer and then offer a conjecture explaining our speculation.

Over time the genealogical proof standard (GPS) replaced the POE and became the technique for offering our exhaustive research, quality of records searched and interpreted, rebuttal of contrary evidence, carefully documenting statements of fact, with all deductions carefully reasoned and explained. This is good. Nothing should be published without properly following the GPS so that some of us can further this research in the future.

Future. That's the magic word! For some of us who are approaching retirement and have yet to share our diligent findings with our family, to properly follow the GPS and properly cite every record may take longer than we have on this earth. Is there another way to tell your family from where the evidence comes and offer pro and con evidence with your presentation without the proper citations and confirm every record found? Is there a place for the latter? Yes is the answer to both questions—with reservations.

This week I was critiquing a booklet a member had written for her family when suddenly I realized this was the way to get that information out to my family. Why not write for my elderly family first and then publish it? Her booklet, told in story format, presented all her research and even what she failed to find. Where she found the records or from whom was included within the storyline. The pages were not numbered consecutively and there was no index. Genius! Why didn't I think of that sooner? Some of you won't be surprised while others just won't believe it! But I have changed my way of thinking.

Remember, I am one of those younger researchers whose findings need to be released to my family of octogenarians and older. They have told me they aren't interested in all the 'stuff.' They only want an accurate, interesting and easily read history of the family.

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Publish Before You Perish (continued)

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I believe it is suitable and has a place if the family history is presented to an aging family who really doesn't care about all the citations and arguments but just want to read about their ancestors before meeting the grim reaper. It is possible to include this information within the text in a readable story format. If you can't find something and no relative can help you with a family legend, and then explain this to the reader. Introduce contradictory statements and those giving the account. Remember, I only condone using this format when you present it to a family member and the work is well under 100 pages in length. Do not be fooled: these omissions do have obvious caveats for advanced or professional historians.

I certainly do not excuse any writer from all the standard accoutrements necessary for publishing a family history book. Including all the standard parts necessary for publishing a book seen by the public or used by researchers is mandatory.

Will I abandon all the proper documentation and present my aging family with only the facts in an interesting story? Yes, but only to the family. I will use the standard format when I submit to journals or publish books. Some of my readers will undoubtedly be surprised with my change of heart. Why? To roughly quote King Lear, I've begun to "hear the wind at my back."

Brenda Kellow has a bachelor's degree in history, teaches, and lectures on genealogy. Before retiring to publish her family's histories in 2007, Brenda held certification as a Certified Genealogist and as a Certified Genealogical Instructor.

Sixth Annual Research Retreat—Salt Lake City

Join Gen Friends members on our Sixth Annual Research Retreat to the Family History Library in Salt Lake City for the opportunity to use the vast resources of the largest genealogical library in the world—microfilm, microfiche, books, and CDs from all over the world. The book collection of the Family History Library does not circulate, you have to visit Salt Lake City to use the huge collection of family histories, county histories, maps, reference books, and published records. If you haven't been there this is a great way to learn your way around. If you have, you can research in the company of fellow genealogy enthusiasts.

November 11-November 16, 2006

The \$80.00 Retreat Fee includes:

- Pre-Trip Seminar on August 9, 2008 from 10:00-12:00 at Haggard Library on Research at the Family History Library and Planning Your Research
- Library Orientation by FHL Staff on the afternoon of November 11th
- Seminar from a Professional Genealogist in Salt Lake City
- Block of Hotel Rooms has been reserved at the Salt Lake Plaza
- Individual and Group Consultations with Experienced Genealogists

Registration Deadline is October 15, 2008. If you have questions, please email Barbara Coakley at newsletter@genealogyfriends.org.

Westminster... And Its College

By Joy Gough

WESTMINSTER.

The community of Westminster, located northeast of present-day Anna, was settled around 1860. At that time the area was called Seven Points. Supposedly the name came from the orientation of Collin County's northeast corner. I have never been able to find "7 points" in the area.

In 1888 a private college was established near Seven Points. There were then only three or four dwelling houses near by. In 1890 the school was sold to the Methodist Protestant Church and named Westminster College. The community changed its name to that of the college. In 1898 Westminster Post Office was created. The Westminster Masonic Lodge started the same year. The town continued to grow around the college.

At the turn of the century Seven Points/Westminster was a thriving community with an increasing population. People were settling there and businesses were established: grocery stores, a blacksmith shop, tailor shop, bank, garage, filling station, barber shop, drug store, and a gin.

The first store was owned and operated by Mr. Hullinger in 1902. The first banker was J. M. Kerby and the first gin in Westminster was built by W. A. McDougal in 1908. The first gasoline sold in Westminster was brought in barrels on a wagon drawn by four horses.

In the year 1911 the First State Bank of Westminster advertised as having a capital of \$10,000. Listed as bank president was J. S. Stewart and J. M. Kirby was listed as another official. C. W. Geer advertised as a tailor in the same year and W. A. Pace was Westminster's druggist. G. W. Howell was the barber and J. M. St. John was a groceryman. Geo. A. Taylor was a realtor.

In 1912 the citizens of Greenville decided to build an electric rail line to Whitewright in Grayson County. In 1914 they decided to extend the line through to Gainesville by way of Denton. The only part of the Greenville-Northwestern Railway that was built went from Anna to Blue Ridge in Collin County by way of Westminster. The train, called the "dinkie," was said to have open-air cars and look like a "surrey with the fringe on top." The line was discontinued in 1920.

In 1914 Gray Bill and Westminster schools consolidated. Westminster had an affiliated high school and three churches: Baptist, Methodist and Church of Christ. The Methodist Church came into being in Westminster with consolidation of Blackman's Chapel at Sedalia and the Graybill church. In 1916 the town of Westminster was incorporated. The college closed in 1917. Westminster's most prosperous time was before World War I.

In the 1920s drilling companies dug for oil and water in the area. Westminster had an artesian well. Water was reached after drilling to a depth of 703 feet and flowed strongly enough to rise through a pipe twenty foot above the surface to be discharged into an elevated tank.

In 1941 the men and boys were called into service; people moved out and took jobs in defense plants. With no companies for employment and no major roads and railroads, the town continued to decline.

The town's population declined from a high of 600 in the 1920s to less than 200 and it had few businesses. In 1989 the school district was closed. Westminster had its own police and fire departments in the 1990s.

With allegations of mishandling of funds by the town's management, Westminster tried twice to declare bankruptcy, once in 2001 and again in 2004. Its creditors, mainly the State of Texas, refused to allow that. With no way to raise the money it owed, the town voted in 2005 to abolish its charter and disincorporate. Westminster is once again a community with a long history and an uncertain future.

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Westminster...And Its College (continued)

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The town got its name from Collin County's only college - Westminster College.

WESTMINSTER COLLEGE

The town was still called Seven Points when Rev. J. M. Harder built and taught a private school in 1887. There was a seven-pointed star in the east end of the two-story wooden structure that housed his college and the school was called Seven Points College. The name "Seven Points" predated the college. Rev. Harder was a good teacher. Many who received training from him went on to lead successful lives. Mr. Harder operated the college for about five years.

Around 1892 the frame building was sold to I. P. Rosser and in 1895 to the Protestant Methodist Church, who bought the building for \$450 and changed the name to Westminster College. The school offered two years of college work and training for ministers. C. O. Stubbs was first president.

In 1896 in Methodists opened their school. They struggled hard and succeeded in filling the old school building with pupils. The time came when they were compelled to have more room.

In 1902 the Methodist Church sold the building and campus and moved to Limestone County, Texas. The college continued there until 1971 when it moved to Florence, Mississippi, and became part of Wesley College. Part of the little college started in Collin County over 100 years ago is still in existence.

North Texas Baptist Academy.

The Westminster Baptist Church bought the school building in 1902.

The Church then deeded the school to the Collin County Baptist Association, which operated the school for a period of nine years as a college preparatory school. During its ownership by the Collin County Baptist Association the name was changed to the North Texas Baptist Academy. Charles Thompson was first president for this school. The school was affiliated for its graduates to enter the freshman year at Baylor University for the A. B. degree.

The cornerstone was laid for a new facility in 1907 and a fifty-room building was completed fourteen months later. The top floor had twenty-five rooms that were used as a girls' dormitory. The building is of concrete and cost \$75,000, besides donations of rock, sand and labor. In the Academy's catalogue for the season of 1910-11 there was a total of 120 students enrolled.

A literary magazine called "The Sketch Book" was printed in the Academy's own printing shop, which was published monthly during the school year. The community supported the magazine with advertising.

The institution closed its doors during the 1914-15 term. Another source says 1917-1918 was the last year. The building became the property of Collin County Baptists and was used as a church and later by the Westminster Baptist Church. Around 1950 the building was destroyed.

