



Genealogy Friends News

Genealogy Friends of Plano
Libraries

Genealogy Friends News
May 2009

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

[http:// www.genealogyfriends.org](http://www.genealogyfriends.org)

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

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Saturday Seminars

Mark your calendars now for the exciting Genealogy Friends events in 2009. 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:

May 16, 2009—David and Paula Pitts will speak to us about Planning a Family Reunion.

Future Topics:

June 20, 2009—Robert Deen will speak to us about Land Records Research

July 18, 2009—Marjorie McMenemy will speak to us about her research.

July 25, 2009—Learn 'N—Lynne Darrouzet is our speaker. She'll be presenting a case study on tracing neighbors and associates in Colonial Virginia and being able to infer relationships from that when there is no other evidence. The second hour there will be volunteers to help you take advantage of the extensive collection of Virginia sources available in the Genealogy Section at Haggard Library.

August 15, 2009—Leo Baca will speak to use about DNA.

September 19, 2009—Brenda Kellow will speak to us about researching the Census before 1850.

October 17, 2009—"City Directories, Newspapers, and Obituaries with the Census as Your Guide," by Barbara Coakley.

October 24, 2009—Learn 'N—We'll celebrate Halloween with talks on Cemeteries and Death Records.

November 21, 2009—Tresa Tatyrek will be speaking to us on Using the Internet for researching your Genealogy.

December 19, 2009—Show and Tell, come and share your Ancestors' stories with the group.

January 11-17, 2010—Research trip to Salt Lake City. Save the date and stay tuned for more details.

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

GenFriends Research Retreat

Save the date and start getting your research plan ready—our next Research Retreat to Salt Lake City has been scheduled for January 11-17, 2010.

This is a great opportunity to visit the largest genealogy library in the world with fellow researchers.

Rooms are being held at the Salt Lake Plaza Hotel adjacent to the library. Room Rate is \$85.00 per night with one night free.

The dates of the trip coincide with the Utah Genealogical Societies 2010 Salt Lake Genealogy Institute. If you are interested in attending refer to their website <http://www.infouga.org/>

Collin College Classes

Barbara Coakley will be teaching Genealogy II at Collin College. Class will be held June 1, 2009 to July 20, 2009 on Monday nights from 6:30 to 9:00 at the Courtyard Center.

Genealogy Research on the Internet will be held on Saturday mornings from 9-12 at the Courtyard Center, July 11, July 25, August 1, August 8, and August 22, 2009.

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

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>.

Volunteer to Index

The Family History Center is digitizing their materials and need our help. You can make a difference. Join over 150,000 volunteers who are indexing billions of records from around the world. Volunteer now at <http://familysearchindexing.org> and search the records that have been completed at <http://search.labs.familysearch.org>.

Ancestry.com

Did you know that there were some collections on Ancestry.com that aren't indexed? A couple of examples are the Returns from Regular Army Regiments, 1821-1916 and Hamburg Passenger Lists Handwritten Indexes 1855-1934. If you access these collections there will be a yellow box at the top of the screen telling you to browse the images. It is always a good idea to check the Card Catalog and look at the collections in your area of interest, there might be a tidbit hidden in the un-indexed collections.

Legacy Users Group

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

Collin County Family Reunions

By Joy Gough

In the early 1900s annual family reunions were common in Collin County. Most families were able to remember their first pioneers in the county. In some cases, the original settlers were still able to attend the events. The extended family members had spread out to different areas of the state and country but still made an effort to attend the annual events near the old homestead.

The reunions were usually held in May. Cemetery Decoration Day in Texas is usually held the first weekend of May. Collin County held its Old Settlers Celebration in May. Many reunions coincided with these events. A few coincided with Memorial Day at the end of the month.

The reunion committee usually had a president and a secretary, whose purpose was to keep track of the extended family members and send invitations. Her other duty - she was usually a teenage girl - was to collect information on the people who attended - births, deaths, marriages, addresses, etc. - and on the people who could not attend. Little girls were always described as lovely or pretty. Little boys were always called manly and handsome.

The write-ups for many of the reunions were in the local newspapers. The family usually invited a reporter to make sure of that. The resultant newspaper article contained a mountain of genealogical information.

The following article is really 7 pages long and contains information on 5 or 6 generations of the Hendricks family. It has been shortened to show the programs that were part of most reunions.

ANNUAL REUNION DESCENDANTS JAMES ASBURY HENDRICKS IS HELD MOTHER'S DAY, MAY 8
Daily Courier-Gazette, May 12, 1938.

On Col. Tom Airhart's Farm in New Life School Community Twelve Miles Northeast McKinney – Larkin Hendricks Native South Carolina Settled In Collin County In 1850 With Wife and Nine Children ...

Sunday, May 8, was observed by between 150 and 200 children, foster-children and their descendants of James Asbury Hendricks and wife, Malinda Katherine (DerrickDerrick) Hendricks, in a beautiful Bois-d'Arc and pecan grove on the big farm of Tom Airhart Airhart in the New Life School District, about twelve miles northeast of McKinney.

A glorious brand of rather cool but clear, pretty spring weather prevailed, favoring a better attendance than usual for the occasion.

The Hendricks family is one of the most numerous, as well as one of the earliest, to settle in Collin County. James Asbury Hendricks came from South Carolina when he was only a boy in 1850. His father, Larkin Hendricks, and wife left their native state of South Carolina to settle in the Lone Star state, only four years (1850) after the latter ceased to be the Republic of Texas and become a commonwealth of the American union.

Family Came to Collin In 1850.

Larkin Hendricks, father of James Asbury Hendricks, was born in South Carolina, May 18, 1812, and came to Texas with his family and settled in Northeast Collin, in 1850. He died at his home near Anna, November 16, 1883 at the age of 71 years, 5 months and 28 days. Larkin Hendricks was married to Miss Nancy M. Gilreath Gilreath in South Carolina. To this union were born nine children as follows: James Asbury Hendricks, George Hendricks, Washing-

(Continued on page 4)

Collin County Family Reunions (continued)

(Continued from page 3)

ton Hendricks, Mrs. Lydia Echols Echols, Mrs. Sarah Brinlee Brinlee, Mrs. Jane Sanders Sanders, Mrs. Julia Groff Groff, Mrs. Hannah Arrington Arrington and Miss Bennie Hendricks.

? Dinner In Grove.

Following the abundant and sumptuous repast, served at the meal hour, an enjoyable program of recitations were given by several of the younger members of the family. County Superintendent, L. Dow Hendricks presided over the program, introducing the various presentations.

The program was opened by the singing of a greeting song to the more elderly ones of group, whose names and some gracious remarks were inserted in the verse.

Miss Mignon Venable Venable, talented daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jack Venable of Dallas, who is an expression pupil of Miss Hester Hendricks, gave a recitation, "The Joy Ride," which was most appropriate for the occasion, for which she drew the plaudits of the large throng. The little Miss mother, the former Miss Thelma Rollins Rollins also studied expression under Miss Hendricks.

A recitation, "The Old Neighborhood," was also rendered by Miss Nell Powell, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. S. Y. Powell Powell of Anna.

Col. Tom Airhart, the host for the occasion, then spoke extolling the goodness and graciousness of the senior honoree of the occasion, Mrs. Mary Hendricks. He described her life from early childhood, during the Civil War, and her contribution in the perpetuation of the Hendricks family. "At thirteen years of age, when her mother died, she became a young mother to a family of eleven children, rearing them through the hard years of the Civil War, into maturity," said Col. Tom in his eulogy. "Later in life she reared another family, other than her own," he added. Col. Tom also told of how the honored guest had sold bois-d'arc apples and saved the revenue from her sales, so that she might buy her first saddle and wash kettle, "which in those days had to come all the way from Jefferson, instead of some mail order house," said the speaker, who jokingly burlesqued the younger generation of the family. He closed his short tribute by requesting the family again return as his guests for the 1939 homecoming and reunion to also be held on next Mother's Day.

A standing note of appreciation and acceptance was tendered Col. Airhart immediately after he concluded.

Two other brief speeches entertained the gathering, by Little Miss Bonnie Ruth Caudell Caudell, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Lonnie Caudell of the New Life community, and Master Jimmy Briggs Briggs, son of Mr. and Mrs. Turner Briggs of Houston. Both were well received.

Immediately after the program the entire group gathered on the levee along the Sisters Grove Creek, which protects the lowlands of Col. Airhart's fine farm, where pictures were taken by H. A. L. Greenwood Greenwood, veteran McKinney photographer. It was estimated that there were more than one hundred and fifty persons included in the picture.

During the remainder of the afternoon, the men folk entertained the crowd with a hotly contested baseball game.

.... [Multiple listings of the families in attendance.]

(Continued on page 5)

Collin County Family Reunions (continued)

(Continued from page 4)

The history of the Hendricks family in Collin County has now stretched across six generations, starting with Larkin Hendricks who came here 88 years ago and coming on down to Betty and Bobby, twin daughters of Mr. and Mrs. Glen Richardson. Five of these generations are still living – Mrs. James Asbury Hendricks, Mrs. Tom Airhart, Mrs. G. W. Richardson, Glen Richardson, and his young twin daughters.

The history of the Hendricks family is inseparably entwined with the history of Northeast Collin. It is a story of pioneer achievements – developing and clearing the fine virgin blackland soil of Collin County and making way for modern progress. The Hendricks family has always been characterized by its strong family ties, its intense loyalty to the soil and its vigor and industry, which has come on down through the several generations that have been active in Collin's growth and development. They have also been appreciative of education, good schools and a number of them have aspired to college training.

.... [More family listings.]

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

Join Now

Individual memberships are \$30 and family memberships are \$50—funds go to purchase materials for the genealogy section at Haggard Library. Dues year runs from October 1 to September 31.

Gen Friends Award

Joy is our representative and member of the Plano Heritage Commission.

They give out awards for exemplary achievements. She has notified us that Genealogy Friends is receiving an award of appreciation for all of its efforts to preserve Collin County history and genealogy.

Joy's Report:

"The people on the Heritage Commission could not say enough good things about Genealogy Friends and the genealogy section of the library. It was really good to be listening to all of that. They want to honor the genealogy section next year. The ceremony will have a keynote speaker and ice cream and lemonade, etc. Four people/groups got the appreciation awards, one got excellence, and one got life achievement. It is a great honor."

The award ceremony will be Thursday evening, May 28 from 4 - 8 at the Heritage Farmstead.

Britain's Bargains

By Brenda Kellow

Free Search Sites

Every news broadcast or headline carries something about our tight economy. That affects our research. Finding free sites offering help is necessary.

Searching in local and foreign archives is one of the biggest thrills a genealogist can experience. In today's market, a trip can cost a lot. It is just one more thing that leaves our pockets empty.

We can access many of these records over the Internet. Usually the index is free, but the actual record may cost. Alternatively, other sites offer a free month or 30 days of access for a reduced price. Some even offer a few days of free access over national holidays like Memorial Day, July 4, etc. The sites that work with us to lessen our finances are the ones we want to use and share with others. Because of requests for help searching in other countries, this is about searching the United Kingdom's free sites.

We used to access British information from the General Register Office (GRO), www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/certificates/. Recently that has changed. Direct.gov now houses records for England and Wales, www.direct.gov.uk/en/index.htm. Not only is access free, but the records acquired from this site are cheaper. Once you get to the home page, at the top right in the blank following 'Search This Site,' type 'Genealogy.' From there you will go to the page titled 'Family History Research,' or access it at www.direct.gov.uk/familyhistory.

If you are just beginning the hunt, scrutinize the site, Researching Your Family History through Direct.gov. It has sites for genealogists: First Steps in Researching Your Family History; Researching Family History Using Official Records; and Using the General Records Office to Research Family History. Just click the hyperlinks to access these topics. Under Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ), it says that ordering records with the GRO Index Reference are under \$15. To find the cost in dollars, you will have to convert pounds to dollars, but that information is on Google. Tip for searching for sites on Google: ---__pound to dollars; or, Genealogy Research+United Kingdom.

Another site that lists many places for research information and guidance is United Kingdom Genealogy, www.cyberpursuits.com/gen/uklist.asp. For land research and the proper protocol for finding documents, try out UK Genealogy Archives, <http://uk-genealogy.org.uk/>. Also, check out vital records at Free BMD, www.freebmd.org.uk/. Free Census UK, www.freecen.org.uk/, is a central database available in one place that allows you to search the censuses online from 1841-1891.

GENUKI, www.genuki.org.uk/, is a reference site to free United Kingdom and Ireland records. It guides you to the various other sites and genealogical societies too numerous to mention here. The Federation of Family History Societies (FFHS) sponsors the English non-commercial site, not to be confused with the Federation of Genealogical Societies in America (FGS).

Abbreviations are sometimes challenging, but UK Genealogy Common Acronyms and Jargon offers assistance at www.oz.net/~markhow/acronym-uk.htm. Logistics World lists alphabetically the names and abbreviations by abbreviation, counties, and countries, www.logisticsworld.com/ukcounties.asp. Examples: CHI for Channel Islands, CON for Cornwall, DON for County Donegal in Ireland, and WAL for Wales.

I have checked each of these websites and several of their links for activity. I found they are active and up-

(Continued on page 7)

Britain's Bargains (continued)

dated as recently as April 2009. Use the free sites first, get your bearings, scrutinize for fee sites, and then buy the subscription of your choice.

For Fee Sites

For finding surnames, UK Surnames offers over 61,000 names, www.uk-surnames.com/index.php. For many of these sites, although free, request you register. At this time, you usually have an option to receive a newsletter. Another free site is Family Tree Circle. Register for access at www.familytreecircles.com/.

Another free site is Free BMD, www.freebmd.org.uk/. The aim of this site is to transcribe the Civil Registration index of births, marriages and deaths for England and Wales, and to provide free Internet access to the transcribed records.

Free access to parish records for baptism, marriage and burials is available at www.freereg.org.uk/.

The National Archives, www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/

GENUKI, www.genuki.org.uk/, is a reference site to United Kingdom records and Ireland that is free. It guides you to the various other sites to numerous to mention here and to the various genealogical societies. It is sponsored by The Federation of Family History Societies, an English non commercial site not to be confused with the Federation of Genealogical Societies in America.

A few sites for fee are those such as Find My Past, but it is a pricy subscription that should be purchased only if you are searching England every day. I am a diligent searcher and the subscription has been worth the money. A month subscription costs less, so explore it. www.findmypast.com.

The British segment of Ancestry.com subscription costs about \$103 annually, or if you have the American subscription, this can be added or it can come as a part of the World membership. I don't know how I could research without Ancestry. The genealogy library has the library subscription to Ancestry. www.Ancestry.co.uk.

UKBMD is a new site for me so I registered for free to receive their emails on site updates. When I entered a name in the search field, it immediately connected me to Ancestry.com, and you all know that it is a fee based subscription site. Nevertheless, there is educational information on the site that would behoove you to explore. It searches indexes for birth, death, marriage and census records. www.ukbmd.org.uk/. Birth, Marriage and Certificates for records from 1837-2005 is available for about \$7 for three months access.

Family Relatives.com has a one-year subscription for about \$44, www.familyrelatives.com/.

The Genealogist.co.uk costs about \$100 for a year's subscription, www.thegenealogist.co.uk/.
World Vital Records.com newsletters

Brenda Kellow has a bachelor's degree in history, teaches, lectures on genealogy and writes the column, Tracing Our Roots, www.geocities.com/TracingOurRoots