



Genealogy Friends News

Genealogy Friends of Plano
Libraries

Genealogy Friends News
May 2010

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

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

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

Email Address: genfriends@genealogyfriends.org Newsletter: Barbara Coakley newsletter@genealogyfriends.org

Saturday Seminars

Mark your calendars now for the exciting Genealogy Friends events in 2009 & 2010. 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 15, 2010—Bob McGuire and Ruthie Mathews are going to teach us about Family Keepsakes and Creative Memories

Future Topics:

June 19, 2010—Don Raney will speak on Early American Migration Routes

July 17, 2010—Tresa Tatyrek will speak to us about Heritage Quest

August 21, 2010—"Using Google for Family History" by Barbara Coakley

September 18, 2010—Kelvin Meyers presents "The Hand That Rocked the Cradle Could Rule the World" and "Skallywags, Rogues, and Ruffs: All Those Ancestors We Don't Talk About"

October 16, 2010—All Day Seminar—Topics will be Court Records, Land Records and Church Records. More info to come soon.

November 20, 2010—Lt Calvin J Spann will share his experiences as a Tuskegee Airman

December 18, 2010—Show and Tell—bring your genealogy finds and share them with us

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

Genealogy Class

“Writing for Genealogists” will be offered on Tuesday nights from 6/8 to 7/27 from 6:30 to 9:00 pm at the Courtyard Campus of Collin College (formerly CCCCD). Learn about writing different formats of research reports, timelines, and narrative compilations. Why not do something with all the information you have collected on your family? Don’t wait until you’ve found everything on your family to write your book. Just getting started, write as you go. It’s a great tool to help you analyze your research findings and share your research.

“Genealogy—Online Research” will be offered from July 21st to August 25th from 6:30 to 9:00 at the Courtyard Center Campus. This class focuses on using websites for genealogy research. Class topics include using Ancestry.com, Footnote.com, Google, FamilySearch.org and websites for different kinds of research – government records, military records, immigration & naturalization, and published records.

The instructor for both classes is Barbara Coakley. To register visit the college’s web site <http://www.ccccd.edu/ce/index.html> or call 972-985-3711.

Future of FamilySearch

If you are interested in the future of FamilySearch.org check out this blog post—it is a transcript of an interview with David Rencher, Chief Genealogy Officer for the FamilySearch.

Dick Eastman also interviewed David and a podcast of the interview is available on his website. http://blog.eogn.com/eastmans_online_genealogy/2010/04/podcast-an-interview-with-david-rencher-about-the-ngs-conference-in-salt-lake-city.html

You can visit the Beta site and explore the new site for yourself at <http://fsbeta.familysearch.org/>

Click on the link to submit your comments about the website.

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.

Her columns are also available in the column archives at <http://tracingourroots.weebly.com/2009-index.html>

Genealogy Friends Logo Shirts

Be one of the best-dressed genealogists in town.

In addition to the ever popular Gen Friends logo t-shirts and sweatshirts, we now have Henley’s and polo style shirts available. The shirts have a 3” dark green logo printed on the left chest. All shirts are available in toddler through XXXL.

T-shirts (white, neutral, ash, light blue, pink, yellow and sand) \$15.00

Sweatshirts (white, neutral, ash, light blue, pink, yellow, light green or sand)\$20.00

Henley’s (white, ash or natural) \$20.00

Polo Shirts (white, ask or light blue) \$20.00

Long Sleeved T-shirts (white, natural, ash, light blue, pink, yellow or sand) \$18.00



What's New at Ancestry.com

Ancestry publishes two important sources for genealogists—Redbook: American State, County, and Town Sources and The Source: A Guidebook to American Genealogy. They are making the content available on their new Wiki site where it can be kept up to date without having to publish a new edition of the books. It will also enable genealogists to contribute to the content. According to the main page they are planning on adding content from other reference books that they publish. This section of Ancestry.com is available to both subscribers and non-subscribers.

http://www.ancestry.com/wiki/index.php?title=Main_Page

The search functions are being improved. There will be new ways to define your search, re-designed forms and new controls for names and places let you restrict your search parameters more precisely.

You will be able to use the new category pages to narrow your search to a specific type of record. Once you choose the record types the form that opens is customized to let you search on fields specific to that record type. New collections in the category you select are highlighted on the screen as well.

You will be able to browse by location by choosing the state you want to search. The collections for that state are displayed by category. You can also choose a county to further narrow your search. There are two other tabs—History and References. The History tab contains high level historical data. The References tab offers suggestions and contact information for further research.

The collections you search will be stored in a Recently viewed collections box in case you need to go back to them.

Phonetic matches and names with similar meanings or spellings are new options on the name fields in the search boxes. There are also restrictions that can be turned on for the place field.

Here's a link to a tour of the new search features
http://landing.ancestry.com/search/tour/?sssdmh=dm13.244925&o_iid=42808&o_lid=42808

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.

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 Genfriends

Time to Renew Memberships! Or if you aren't a member, please consider joining Genfriends. The money we raise is used to purchase materials for the Genealogy Section at Haggard Library.

Individual memberships are \$30 and family memberships are \$50.

Dues year runs from October 1 to September 31.

What's New in Genealogy

By Barbara Coakley

There are two big annual conferences for genealogists every year. The National Genealogical Society (NGS) Conference was held in Salt Lake City this year in April. The Federation of Genealogical Societies (FGS) will be holding their conference in August. Conferences are a great place to connect with other genealogists, attend lectures on a variety of genealogy topics and shop at the vendor booths.

Every year during these conferences there are announcements from many of the major genealogy vendors. Unfortunately, I wasn't able to attend NGS this year. For those of us that can't make it to the conference there are a myriad of blogs and websites that focus on what happened at the conferences.

NGS has a new American Genealogy Special Topics Series CD—Courses are:

- Working with Deeds
- Introduction to Religious Records
- Social Security Sleuthing

Courses are presented in .pdf format. This is so new I couldn't even find it on their website yet. You can email the NGS Course Administrator at courses@ngsgenealogy.org if you are interested.

Arphax Publishing, the company that publishes the Family Maps series of books (historical land ownership maps), is working on California books. Their newest titles are Family Maps of Bates Co, MO, Poweshiek Co, IA and Kidder Co, ND and Texas Land Survey Maps for Austin Co, TX and Bosque Co, TX. Learn more at their website <http://www.arphax.com/>.

Even if you can't make it to the conference you can still listen to some of the lectures. Jamb tapes many of the sessions at the conferences and you can order them on CD. The lectures from NGS 2010 should be available on their website soon. CD's are \$12 each plus \$1.50 shipping and handling (not to exceed \$10 per order). <http://www.jamb-inc.com/>

Ancestry announced there will be a new version of Family Tree Maker for Macintosh users.

FGS launched a National fundraiser to digitize War of 1812 Pension Files. Their goal is to raise \$3.7 million dollars to enable online access by historians and family researchers to these files. Currently the pension files for the nearly 300,000 men that served are only available at the National Archives in Washington, D.C. Digitizing them will preserve the original records by removing them from continued heavy use. The documents have already been prepared so scanning can begin as soon as the money is raised. If you are interested in contributing visit the FGS website <http://www.fgs.org/1812/>

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1. An Act of Congress of the Republic of Texas creating Houston County shows that in the beginning, the county was a very large county, and covered all of the territory now embraced within the bounds together with all of Trinity County and all of Anderson County and a large portion of Henderson County. An 1836 map of the State of Texas gives a clearer understanding of the territory embraced within the original limits of the county.

What's New in Genealogy

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ourFamilyology is a website where you can build an online family tree. They announced a partnership with FamilySearch. You can now search, access and add genealogy records from FamilySearch into your online family tree. Their goal is to replace your genealogy database on your PC with their website. You can upload a gedcom file to build your family tree on ourFamilyology. Their website puts emphasis on building a reliable family tree with rigorous source management. You can share your genealogy and sources with others and multiple people can work on a family tree. You can try it out for 100 days for free. Annual fees are based on storage space requirements for your tree and range from \$18 to \$75. <http://www.family-genealogy.com/index.html>

FamilySearch has added over 300 million names to its database. This is a result of the project to digitize the billions of genealogical records they have filmed. The database can be found at <http://fsbeta.familysearch.org/>. The plan is to migrate this information to the main FamilySearch website later this year. You can check out what's coming next at <http://labs.familysearch.org/>.

Findmypast adds World War I records—This subscription website focuses on records from the United Kingdom. They have added 75,000 records from World War I including Royal Marine Medal Rolls 1914-1920—this list provides name, rank, service branch, service number, and a description of where or to whom the medals were issued.

The New England Chapter of Association of Professional Genealogists is offering a DVD of two lectures by Dr. Thomas W Jones. The Lecture Titles are “Correlating Sources, Information and Evidence to Solve Genealogical Problems” and “Writing Genealogy as it relates to the above topic”. The lectures were recorded at Boston University 21 February 2010. Cost is \$30. Dr. Jones is the editor of the *National Genealogical Society Quarterly*.

http://www.neapg.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=109&Itemid=86

ShipIndex.org is a website that contains records about ships. Search for the ships your ancestors travelled on. Accessing some records requires a subscription of \$9.95 per month. <http://shipindex.org/users/new>

Ancestor Tracks—“Using Maps to Track Your Ancestors” They offer maps for Pennsylvania. <http://www.ancestortracks.com/>

Mark your calendars for future conferences:

FGS will be held in Knoxville, Tennessee August 18-21, 2010

NGS will be held in Charleston, South Carolina May 11-14, 2011

FGS will be held in Springfield, Illinois September 7-10, 2011

If you can't make it to these conferences you might want to consider the Texas State Genealogical Society Conference in Waco November 4-6, 2010—“Bridging Generations”. Here is their website <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~txsgs/>

Websites

Public Profiler/worldnames shows the distribution of a surnames for 26 countries in Europe, America, Asia and Oceania.

<http://www.publicprofiler.org/worldnames/>

Archives.com has added more than 30 million California vital records, enhanced its family tree tool, added videos to help navigate their site, and a series of how-to articles. You can also search the records on FamilySearch's Pilot Record Search site from this website. This site is not connected with NARA. It is a subscription site where you can search records and build an on-line family tree.

<http://www.archives.com/>

Hi-Lite.org is a tool that you can use to remember and organize information you find on the internet. This combines the power of a traditional highlighter pen and adds the power of the internet and computer searching. You can organize your what you have highlighted by subject, date, or category. Join for free and download their toolbar and begin. They also have Pro and Premium versions for a fee that let you highlight photos and images and create custom highlighters. One drawback, it currently only works with Firefox. Check back, versions for other browsers are planned.

<http://hi-lite.org/>

Maureen Taylor has a new book coming out—*The Last Minute Muster, Images of the Revolutionary War Generation*. ISBN 978-160635-055-3 published by The Kent State University Press. This is a collection of rare nineteenth-century photographic images of the Revolutionary War generation. Each image has been researched and the stories are included in the book. Images include veterans, loyalists, Native Americans, African Americans, children who witnessed battles and aided soldiers and women who nursed soldiers' wounds. You can pre-order the book at The Kent State University Press website http://upress.kent.edu/books/Taylor_M.htm Maureen also writes a blog "photodetective" <http://blog.familytreemagazine.com/photodetectiveblog/>

Do you have a black sheep in the family? Ron Arons is an author and speaker who focuses on Criminal Records. His website has his books for sale and you can also search the Sing Sing Jewish Inmate Database

<http://www.ronarons.com/store.php>

The National Archives opened a new exhibit on April 30th "Discovering the Civil War". If you can't make it to Washington DC to visit the exhibit check out their website. The Resources page has digitized documents and links to articles from the Archives quarterly magazine, *Prologue*. <http://www.archives.gov/exhibits/civil-war/resources/>

Ancestry Games offers a customized deck of cards of your ancestors. A great way to get kids interested in their Family History. <http://www.ancestrygames.com/index.php>

Family Photoloom is a site where you can upload pictures and share them with others. Set up a free account. Pictures remain your property. Guests will have to set up a free account to view the photos. Only those you invite can see the pictures. You can import data from *New FamilySearch*.

<http://www.photoloom.com/>