



Genealogy Friends News

Genealogy Friends of
Plano Libraries

Genealogy Friends News
May/June 2023

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. Saturday seminars are held at W.O. Haggard Library, 2501 Coit Rd, Plano, TX from 10:15 to Noon.

June:

June 1, 2023—Zoom Meeting—Genealogy Round Table— We are a group of genealogy enthusiasts who get together to share information and help each other on the first Thursday of each month. Email newsletter@genealogyfriends.org for zoom link.

June 13, 2023—In Person—DNA Special Interest Group

June 17, 2023—Extended Hybrid Meeting—This meeting will be from 10:15 to 1:00 pm—
"Appreciating Conflicting Evidence: Analysis and Resolution Develops Broader Research" and " Indirect Evidence: Finding What Was Not Written" by Rebecca Whitman Koford.

Future Events:

July 15, 2023—Hybrid Meeting—"Hidden Features in FamilySearch," by Lynell Moss

August 19, 2023—Hybrid Meeting—"30 Types of Maps Useful in Genealogy," by Margaret Kapustiak

September 16, 2023—Virtual All Day Seminar— Our speaker will be Cheri Hudson Passey. More info coming soon.

October 21, 2023—Hybrid Meeting—"After They Are Gone: What Probate Records Tell Us," by Barbara Coakley

Check out the events on our Facebook page for more info on the topics and speakers for each months program.

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Genealogy Friends

Purpose: To educate members and library patrons in doing genealogical research and to support the Genealogy Center of W.O. Haggard, Jr. Library through donations.

Goal: To expand the library collection to meet the needs of this genealogically diverse community.

Genealogy Friends of Plano Libraries, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation. All donations are tax deductible.

Like and Follow us on [Facebook - Genealogy Friends of Plano Libraries](#)

The annual membership meeting is held each October.

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 pay for programs and 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

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DNA Special Interest Group

The DNA Special Interest Group normally meets on the second Tuesday of each month in the Genealogy Section of Haggard Library from 7-8:30 pm. The June meeting will be on Tuesday, June 13th.

We are using Diahna Southard's book *Your DNA Guide the book* to guide our discussions. We are working on pages 28-44 which are about choosing your research goal.

We are learning together about using DNA to further our genealogy research.

Evidence—June Topics

On June 17th we'll have two talks on different types of Evidence:

Conflicting evidence is a gift, because resolving the conflict often leads to new discoveries.

Understanding of indirect evidence is such a valuable instrument in your methodology tool-kit. This talk uses case studies to examine methods and sources that can help build a case to finding ancestral relationships.

Our speaker is Rebecca Whitman Koford. See the website for her bio.

Local Genealogy Events—Save the Dates

Dallas Genealogical Society Summer Seminar—Cyndi Ingle, “Genealogy and the Internet: Successfully Mining the World Wide Web” July 22, 2023 <https://dallasgenealogy.org/meetings-events/seminars/2023-summer-seminar/>

Children’s Genealogy Program at Haggard Library—September 9, 2023 at 10:30 am.

Gen Friends All Day Virtual Seminar—September 16, 2023 More information on back page.

Dallas Genealogical Society Fall Seminar—Michael Strauss, “ The Twentieth Century Wars: Military Records and Research” September 23, 2023 <https://dallasgenealogy.org/meetings-events/seminars/2023-fall-seminar/>

Library Lock In will be October 20, 2023. Stay tuned for more information.

Great Family Search presented by the Family History Center in Plano will be held on October 28, 2023.

Clubs and Organizations

By Barbara Coakley



Members of the Columbian Club in Waterloo, Monroe County, Illinois in the early 1900's

One of the family heirlooms that I have is a quilt made by the Columbian Club, a ladies organization in Waterloo, Illinois. The quilt was made in 1901 by the group and twenty-three members embroidered their name on it. The local newspaper provided information about the group. As part of the Columbian Exposition in 1893 in Chicago each state was invited to have a building which they funded and furnished. Women's Columbian Clubs were organized in many places to raise money and provide exhibits that represented their state. The group in Waterloo decided on a work of art with an agricultural motif. The members gathered grains, seeds and grasses all grown in Monroe County and the Sisters of St. Joseph created a design of a crescent and a star.

The group continued to meet monthly at one of the members' homes. There were also other social events. In addition to being a social group, they provided Thanksgiving dinner for the inhabitants of the Poor House and helped other families in need. The minutes of their meetings are held in the manuscript collection at the county library.

Many of my ancestors belonged to different clubs and organizations. The newspapers are full of information about their meetings. Some were part of national organizations like the Masons, Odd Fellows, Grand Army of the Republic (GAR), etc. These organizations often collected information about their members including photographs. The only picture I have of William L.C. Brey was the one in the GAR Ransom Post in St. Louis, Missouri that is currently in the manuscript collection of the Missouri Historical Society. In addition to the picture there was information about William and his service in the Union Army.

There were organizations in Waterloo for men, women, and children that represented many different interests. In addition to newspapers, local museums, historical societies, genealogical societies and libraries might have information about the groups. They provide information about our ancestors' interests that we aren't likely to find in other records. Did they like to garden, play cards, played a sport, were interested in politics, or part of a professional organization, etc.

With the exception of the newspapers, the other sources may not be digitized or indexed. ArchivGrid allows you to search over 7 million records held by over 1,400 archival institutions (museums, archives, libraries, and historical societies). <https://researchworks.oclc.org/archivegrid/>

Search using the name of the group, the location or a combination to locate records in collections. Many institutions have an "Ask A Librarian" feature or an email that you can use to ask questions about the collection.

Finding these records will require creative thinking and possibly a visit to the institution to look at them. What you find out about your ancestors can be worth the extra effort.

Gen Friends Board

Genealogy Friends is a completely volunteer organization. In order to continue to survive and grow we need more volunteers. Meet a few of our most dedicated volunteers who are currently serving on our board. There are always things we could use help with like taking pictures at functions, posting on social media, etc. If you can help email newsletter@genealogyfriends.org.

Craig Burden Treasurer



Like so many of us, my interest in family history began in my early teens. Born and raised in Dallas, I would sit with my grandmother, listening to the many stories of her past that she would share with us. My grandmother had my mother late in life, 45 years old, and so when I was in my teens, she was in her mid-80s. She was born in 1876, so she didn't just tell us what she had heard about the old west, she actually lived it, and shared that with anyone who would listen. While my brother and sister were running around her house, playing like kids do, I would often be found sitting next to her on her couch, listening for hours to her stories. Like the time one of her relatives named Sonkey Smith was walking down the street in what would've been a typical old west town, and as he approached a saloon, was struck and killed by a stray bullet from a gun fight within the saloon. I would later discover that Sonkey was my grandmother's half-brother from her mother's first marriage. I didn't realize that at the time she had gotten me hooked on family history. By the time I was in junior high school I had created a Family Tree, on paper of course, of my family going back to all

my Great grandparents based on questions I posed to relatives about our family's past. Thinking I was the only one in the family interested family history and genealogy, I would discover later that many on my father's side shared that interest and had done their own research as well, even having a professional genealogist work on my father's family from Tennessee. Apparently, genealogy is in the Burden's DNA.

Earning a MS degree in Biology from SMU, working in cancer research at Southwestern Medical school for 5 years, then working 35 years as a Network Systems engineer, left less time to work on genealogy than I preferred.

A few years before my retirement in 2017, my wife Gaylan and I both began spending more time researching our families.

About 6 or 7 years ago, my wife Gaylan was in Haggard library and she ran into someone who invited her to attend a meeting that the local Genealogy group had at the library once a month. We both attended one of the meetings, and enjoyed it so much, we've been there ever since. We both have learned more than we could ever dream of through our association with GenFriends of Plano Library's. Even more important than learning about genealogy has been the making of many special friends through this group, including learning that some of them are distant cousins. Every month it's like a little mini family reunion.

Like many in the last few years, I've gotten interested in genetic genealogy, and how it complements and adds to traditional genealogical research. I belong to Ancestry, Family Search, MyHeritage, 23andme, and Living DNA.

I'm always looking for more time with which I can spend researching my family's history.

I'm in my fourth year as a member on the board and my third year as treasurer of GenFriends, a position whose responsibilities I take very seriously to ensure the financial health of our special organization.

Gen Friends Board

Barbara Coakley

Vice President & Newsletter Editor



My grandmother passed away in 1985. In her dresser we found an envelope of documents and pictures for a Catholic nun. No one in the family knew who she was so I set out to identify her. Eventually I did, she was my grandmother's Aunt Dena who entered the convent in Clyde, Missouri. Today I am still making discoveries about my ancestor's and my husband's. I have been fortunate to be able to visit places my ancestors lived across the US and in Europe. There is nothing better than walking down a street or into a church where an ancestor was baptized in the 1600's.

Brenda Kellow introduced me to GenFriends when I took her class at Collin County Community College and I have been active ever since. I started writing the newsletter in November 2000. I've been on the board since then as well and am currently serving as Vice President. My responsibilities include finding speakers for our Saturday Seminars and organizing the annual All Day Seminar. I facilitate the monthly Round Table zoom discussion group and the DNA Special Interest Group that meets monthly. The best part of GenFriends is the people.

I also volunteer for the Dallas Genealogical Society and the Texas State Genealogical Society.

After retiring last year, I started doing more genealogical speaking for various societies and libraries. The best part is when someone tells me they learned something.

I love learning and have attended numerous genealogical institutes and webinars. The good thing that came out of Covid was virtual classes and more webinars. In 2021 I completed ProGen, an eighteen month study group that uses Elizabeth Shown Mills book Professional Genealogy.

My husband, Rick, live in Dallas with our two Cavalier king Charles spaniels and my mom.

Colonial Immigration

By Rob Weir

Our speaker in June, Robert Cameron Weir, answered a question about immigration in Colonial times. He was kind enough to send this information. Keep in mind before the Steerage Act of 1819 which took effect in 1820, there was no federal requirement for ships to have a passenger list. Information on arriving passengers was inconsistent, typically based on the authority of the local customs officials. The records that still exist tend to be in local or state archives. Here are some good sources:

- Robert Charles Anderson's Great Migration Series that covers New England immigrants to 1640 available on American Ancestors <https://www.americanancestors.org/> and published versions are in libraries.
- Peter Coldham's book *Complete Book of Emigrants*
- *The Original Lists of Persons of Quality* by John Cameron Hotten
- *Topographical Dictionary of 2,885 English Emigrants to New England 1620-1650* by Charles Edward Banks
- *Directory of Scottish Settlers* by David Dobson

Website Potpourri

BookFinder.com searches websites for new and used books. Search for the title or author, select the book and the results tell you who has it for sale, the condition, and the price. Click on the link and it takes you to the site where you can purchase the book. <https://www.bookfinder.com/>

MyHeritage has updated their Theory of Family Relativity feature for DNA results. If you have new theories there will be a purple banner at the top of the DNA Matches page. Here is a link to a blog post about the update <https://blog.myheritage.com/2023/05/new-update-to-theory-of-family-relativity-2/>

The FGS project to digitize the War of 1812 pension files was put on hold due to Covid. When FGS merged with NGS there was an agreement to finish the project. A contract has been signed to continue the digitization. Surnames starting with Sj to U are currently being digitized and are scheduled to be completed in one year. The new files will be added to the collection on Fold3 that is available for free.

Genealogy Educational Opportunities

This is just a small sample of what is available, check out *ConferenceKeeper* for a more complete schedule <https://conferencekeeper.org/>

The Seattle Genealogical Society is offering a two day Preservation Seminar on June 17-18, 2023. The cost is free to members and \$25 for non-members. The speaker is Denise Levenick, The Family Curator. <https://seagensoc.org/cpage.php?pt=158>

JewishGen offers on demand webinars, virtual classes and research consulting. <https://www.jewishgen.org/>

Your DNA Guide website by Diahna Southard includes education, both free and for a fee, a blog, and her book. This is a great place to get started and learn about DNA. <https://www.yourdnaguide.com/>

The Genealogical Forum of Oregon special interest groups meet online via Zoom. African American, British, DNA Q&A, DNA Advanced, Family Tree Maker, French Canada, Genealogy Problem Solvers, German, Great Lakes Region, Irish, Italian, Learn & Chat, RootsMagic, The Q Review, The Writers' Room and Virginia Roots and Vines. <https://gfo.org/learn/special-interest-groups/>

The Pinellas Genealogy Society hybrid meetings and special interest groups are open to the public. They have DNA Interest Groups, RootsMagic User Group, Family Tree Maker User Group, and webinars on lots of different subjects. Check out their calendar. <https://pinellasgenealogysociety.com/calendar/>

The law is important in our research to help us understand the records we are using, why our ancestors did what they did, and understand terminology. The Legal Genealogist blog is a great place to learn about legal topics. Judy Russell worked in the legal field for more than 20 years before she retired and now she is a lecturer and author. <https://www.legalgenealogist.com/>

NGSQ Study Groups are available. They read an article from the National Genealogical Society Quarterly each month and discuss the article. You can learn from studying and analyzing published case studies by some of the leading genealogists. Check out the website for more information <https://ngsqstudygroup.com/>