



Genealogy Friends News

Genealogy Friends of
Plano Libraries

Genealogy Friends News
May 2020

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

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Schedule of Events

Haggard Library is closed so we are holding our May meeting via Zoom

Mark your calendars now for the exciting Genealogy Friends events in 2020. Meetings are held in the Program Room at the Haggard Library, 2501 Coit Rd., Plano, TX from 10:15 to 12:30 unless otherwise noted:

This Month

May 16, 2020—Zoom Session—”Extra, Extra, Read All About Your Ancestors” by Barbara Coakley. An email will be sent with the link to join the webinar.

Future Events

June 20, 2020—”Four Methods to Search Familysearch.org” and “FamilySearch.org Q&A” by Lynell Moss

July 18, 2020—”Armchair Mysteries Solved at Home with Old School Technology” by Patty Gillespie

This month’s newsletter includes an article on finding information about homesteads, more links to online education and websites. Hope you are taking advantage of the time at home to research your family.

Barbara Coakley

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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

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 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

Genealogy Friends of Plano Libraries, Inc
PO Box 860477
Plano, TX 75086-0477

Genealogy Education

Genealogy II a virtual class will be offered by Collin College from June 10-July 29 from 6:30 to 9 pm. The class will meet using Zoom and will be taught by Barbara Coakley. Each week we will look at records created by different events—military service, land records, tax records, immigration and naturalization records, etc.

<https://www.collin.edu/ce/classes/index.html>

Rootstech has videos of past sessions that you can watch from conferences 2015-2020 on a variety of topics. You can also download the syllabus from all of the 2020 sessions. <https://www.rootstech.org/video-archive>

Echoes of our Ancestors, the National Genealogical Society Family History Conference is holding a virtual conference. Live programming will be on Wednesday, May 20th from 10 am to 6 pm cdt. Streaming sessions will be available in July. Register for one of three packages. They all include the live sessions on May 20th and include different levels of access to the on-demand lectures that will be available beginning in July.

<https://conference.ngsgenealogy.org/>

Legacy Family Tree Webinars has extended their one-free-webinar-a-day through May. Every day one webinar from there library is free to watch. Click the link for the schedule.

https://news.legacyfamilytree.com/legacy_news/2020/05/weve-extended-the-free-webinars-through-may.html

American Ancestors has free webinars, lectures and how-to videos.

<https://www.americanancestors.org/education/learning-resources/watch>

DNA from A to Z: Unlocking Your Genetic Code Dallas Genealogy Society Virtual Seminar will be held July 25, 2020 There will be three different tracks, beginning, intermediate and advanced. You can mix and match classes from the different tracks for the 4 sessions. Registration will be open soon.

<https://dallasgenealogy.com/dgs/meetings-events/seminars/2020-summer-seminar/>

Federation of Genealogical Societies Conference will be held 2-5 September, 2020 in Kansas City, MO.

<https://fgs.org/conferences/> Conference registration and hotel reservations are now open. Early registration ends June 30th.

Texas State Genealogy Society Conference, “Remembering Your Heritage” is scheduled for November 13-15, 2020 at the Omni Mandalay Hotel at Las Colinas. <https://www.txsgs.org/2020-conference/>

Researching Homestead Records

In April 1927 John Leonard Coakley was granted a homestead near Tulelake, Siskiyou County, California. John had never farmed before, had a prosthetic wooden leg, and health issues as a result of his service during WWI but he was handy and had worked building bridges before the war and as a draftsman after his service. In August 1927 he rented half of a flat bed railroad car in Kansas City, Kansas loaded it with livestock and supplies and set out for his homestead.

On 20 May 1862 the [Homestead Act](#) was signed into law by President Abraham Lincoln. Any adult citizen or immigrant who had filed their intent to become a citizen and had never borne arms against the US Government could claim up to 160 acres of government land. An application was filed at a land office and a small registration fee paid. The Homesteader was required to improve the land by building a house and cultivating the land and to reside on the property for 5 years. If the requirements were met, the applicant completed more paperwork including testimony from witnesses and the applicant and they were granted a patent for the land. There were other laws that were passed over time that had slightly different requirements. Military service could shorten the time your ancestor had to reside on the land before they could file for the final patent.

If you suspect that an ancestor might have homesteaded, start with the US Department of the Interior Bureau of Land Management General Land Office Records website <https://gloreCORDS.blm.gov/default.aspx>. Search the documents for you ancestor. The search results will include the Land Office where the application was filed, the authority for the homestead (you can use this to understand the requirements your ancestor would have to meet), the document number, number of acres, location of the land, an image of the patent issued to the applicant, and you can map the land to see where it was located. For some locations there are related documents including surveys and tract books. Most of the land descriptions will be described in the [Rectangular Survey System](#). Property descriptions will be described with Township, Range and Sections related to a Prime Meridian.

The [Land Entry Case Files](#) contain the documents related to the Homestead. They can be ordered from the National Archives using [NATF form 84](#) or can be ordered online. The homestead process was run by a government agency so it generated lots of paperwork. The process started with an application that describes the land and the applicant. If your ancestor served in the military the file should include an Affidavit by Soldier describing his service.

The Affidavit by Soldier in John's described his service in World War I and a copy of his enlistment and discharge records were attached. With this information you can research the applicants military service.

After the requirements were met, the applicant filed a Notice of Intention to Make Proof which lists the witnesses that will provide testimony to back up the applicants claim that the requirements were met. A public notice had to be placed in a local newspaper indicating that the applicant was filing and included the names of the witnesses. The applicant and each witness gave testimony recorded on a form. The testimony included information about the applicant, described the land that was cultivated, and the improvements made on the land. The patent was approved and issued.

The testimony given by John and three witnesses describe the homestead. He received 60 acres. Wheat was planted on 50 acres which yielded 2500 to 3000 bushels in 1928 and 5 acres was in pasture and garden. In 1929 John planted barley and wheat. The house John built was 4 rooms about 20' by 30' and had two porches valued at \$1000. He also built a granary and chicken house, a frame machine shed 16' x 30'. A well was dug with steel casing and fencing was put up, some barbed wire and some woven wire. The total value of the improvements was \$2.100. The only time John was absent from the property was in the winter of 1928-1929 when the family went back home because his wife's parents were ill.

The local newspaper is another source to find information about the applicant and homestead. Check the paper where the land office was located. I found an article in The Klamath News on Sunday, April 3, 1927 saying John had been one of 45 applicants and that 6 men, including John, were awarded homesteads. There were also articles about John participating in a study to find out if sugar beets would grow in the area and working with the County Agent to test a new variety of alfalfa. You can also find prices for crops and articles on weather during the growing seasons. Don't forget to

Researching Homestead Records

look at the Gossip columns as well to see who might have visited on the homestead. Look at the Ads to see if your ancestor sold anything. John placed an add to trade a 1931 Ford half-ton pickup or 1930 model Ford 1 1/2 ton truck for stock cattle. John leased land in addition to the homestead with a partner. They put an add in the paper telling duck hunters that they would prosecute trespassers on their land.

Check the deeds and mortgages at the local courthouse. Once the patent was issued the land could be used as collateral for loans. John mortgaged his land regularly, probably to buy seed for planting. The notes were paid off each year after the harvest. Included in the Siskiyou County deed books were transactions when John purchased tractors, a car and more land. Don't overlook local historical or genealogical societies, they may have additional sources.

If your ancestor homesteaded before 1880, check the non-population census schedules for descriptions and information on the agricultural schedules. Ancestry.com has a collection of Non-Population Schedules for 1870 and 1880.

By doing a little digging you can paint a very vivid picture of the homestead that your ancestor settled and lived on.

Additional Sources

- Click on the hyperlinks in this article to go to websites with more information.
- Library of Congress Web Guides <https://www.loc.gov/rr/program/bib/ourdocs/homestead.html>
- Homestead National Monument <https://www.nps.gov/home/index.htm>
- Family Search Wiki https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Homestead_Records

Genealogy Websites

Curious about what happened to the 1890 Census? The History Guy posted a video on YouTube about the tragedy that resulted in the loss of the 1890 Census <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hwFLuIYgEIk>

British Museum Makes 1.9 Million Images Available—Try searching locations where you ancestors lived in addition to surnames <https://www.britishmuseum.org/collection>

National Library of Scotland Geo-Referenced Maps. OS Six-Inch 1888-1913 maps are searchable by street and place name. <https://maps.nls.uk/geo/explore/#zoom=5&lat=55.78537&lon=-3.16449&layers=1&b=1>

Find My Past has added over 10,000 images from Mirrorpix/Reach PLC's archives of press photographs from the early 20th Century to the present. Much of the collection is focused on World War II. <https://search.findmypast.com/search-world-Records/findmypast-photo-collection>

Camp Hood

Texas Historical Commission

In January, 1942, at the beginning of the United States' involvement in World War II, it was announced that a tank destroyer tactical and firing center would be established near Killeen.

Camp Hood was officially opened on September 18 and has been continuously used for armored training ever since. At times as many as 100,000 soldiers were being trained for the war effort. During the later part of the war, some 4,000 German prisoners of war were interned at Camp Hood.

Fort Hood is one of the largest military installations in the world. A significant portion of the combat-ready air and ground forces of the United States Army is stationed at Fort Hood. On December 15, 1995, the Second Armored Division was officially renamed the Fourth Infantry Division (Mechanized) with Fort Hood as headquarters.



This division was also designated as the Army's test division under the Force XXI program, which involved the testing and implementation of the latest technological advances in warfare.

In addition to combat support, Fort Hood units have also provided disaster relief efforts both nationally and internationally for fighting forest fires in Idaho in 2000, for example, and aiding flood victims after Hurricane Katrina in 2005.

□ Headquarters at Fort Hood near Killeen by [The Portal to Texas History](#)

Submitted by Barbara Battocchio Brogdon

Early Collin County Schools Names

By Joy Gough

From 1850 until about 1940 Collin County had over 150 independent school districts. All students walked to school, which were located about every 1 ½ to 2 miles. These schools were founded and financially supported by the families of the children attending them. Many only lasted 20 or 30 years. Some of the names and nicknames were certainly unique.

Some Collin County schools were named for daughters. There were Alla, Anna, Melissa, Josephine, Donna (2), Pauline, Fayburg, Verona and Foncine. Alla was the start of the Celina School District. Foncine and Pauline are part of Frisco. Fayburg and Verona became part of Blue Ridge. There was a Donna near Melissa and another one near Murphy.

Some schools were named for animals. These included Speckled Pup, White Elephant, Frog Not, Possum Trot (4), Hog Waller, Cow Skin, Monkey Run (2), Bear Creek (3), Ticky, Skeeter Flat, Graybill and Mustang.

A Spanish wagon-train family's puppy drowned in a creek and the area became known as Speckled Pup or Spanish Pup.

Possums trotted by on their way to look for food.

Cow Skins were hung on fences to dry out.

Kids chased wagons and someone said, "Look at the Monkeys Run."

Frog Not has at least 6 explanations about where that name came from. There is a Frog Not Water District east of Blue Ridge.

The White Elephant school building was moved to Proper and became part of the school complex.

Ticky Creek runs from Princeton southward into Lake Lavon. I imagine it was named for ticks.

Doctor Gray had a horse named Bill.

Someone raised hogs near Hog Waller.

Skeeter Flat had mosquitoes.

There were bears along the Bear Creeks near Prosper and Nevada.

Some school names were just plain strange. Among them were Backbone, Dump, Hide Out, Ketch Any, Lazy Neck, Lick Skillet, Long Neck, Out of Sight, Rawhide (3), Rough and Ready, Nickelville, Swayback, Squeeze Penny, and Who'd a Thought It.

The mailman just Dumped the mail.

A man had 2 different kinds of chickens and he told someone to Ketch Any kind for supper.

The stage coach stop was known as Lick Skillet because the food was so good.

When the parents met to dedicate the new school building, they got in a fight and the school became known as Rough and Ready.

Nothing in the area was worth a Nickel.

The school building roof didn't have a central beam and the roof was Swaybacked.

The owner of the local mill was so tight with his money that he would Squeeze a Penny.

The school had a Rawhide door.

The community didn't have the funds to pay for a new building so they held a dance to make money. Who'd a Thought It.

Supposedly outlaws hid in the thick brush on the west side of Preston Road near Spring Creek and it became known as Hide Out.

Lazy Neck was near the East Fork of the Trinity River south of McKinney.

Long Neck was an area north of Princeton.

Backbone was located near the banks of Pilot Grove Creek.

It's easy to see that early settlers had imaginations and a sense of humor. It is hard to believe that people were proud to be from Dump or Who'd a Thought It or Hog Waller or Skeeter Flat.