



Genealogy Friends News

Genealogy Friends of
Plano Libraries

Genealogy Friends News
November 2012

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

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Saturday Seminars

Mark your calendars now for the exciting Genealogy Friends events in 2012. 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:

November 17, 2012—All Day Workshop—Lloyd Bockstruck is our speaker—Held at Plano Bible Church, 1900 Shiloh Rd, Plano, TX. Topics will be Court Orders and Court Minutes, Substitutes for Birth and Death Records, Pitfalls in Research, and What's in a Name—The Name Quagmire.

Future Topics

December 15, 2012 - Show and Tell. This is your opportunity to share your successes with fellow family history enthusiasts.

If you have an idea about a program or a speaker for 2013, email Barbara Coakley at bjc1620@sbcglobal.net.



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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
Colonial Ills, Brews & Concoctions	\$10
Library 101: Using Dewey Decimal Sys	\$10
Compiled Newsletters with Index	\$15

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

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Kirkin' O' The Tartan at Corinth Presbyterian Church

Corinth Presbyterian Church celebrated the Kirkin' o' the Tartan on Sunday, November 4, 2012. The Kirkin' o' the Tartan is a traditional blessing of the tartans by the Clergy. "Kirk" is the Scottish word for Church. Tartan is the traditional kilt worn by the Highland Scots. The history of this event began following the failure of the Jacobite Rebellion of 1745 when the tartan was forbidden to be worn. The Clan System, with its representative tartans, was demolished as troops loyal to the Duke of Cumberland and the House of Hanover ravaged the Scottish Highlands, searching our Jacobite supporters. Anyone found wearing clan tartan was subject to arrest, imprisonment, or banishment to the colonies. Countless Scots were forced into the British army to fight in several wars on the European mainland and in the American colonies. Thus the Kirkin' o' the Tartan went into hiding, away from official eyes. Tradition holds that during this time, the women of the Highland clans would bring a small piece of their tartran to the Kirk (church) with them to be blessed secretly and to pray for protection for the clan and it's members. Each Highlander secretly touched a bit of their tartan hidden among their clothing at the appropriate moment in the service.

Genealogy Friends Logo Shirts & Tote Bags

We have logo t-shirts, sweatshirts, 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 \$15

Long Sleeved T Shirts \$18

Sweatshirts \$20 (white, neutral, ash, light blue, pink, yellow and sand)

Henley's \$20 (white, ash or natural)

Polo Shirts \$20 (white, ask or light blue)

Tote Bags \$17

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Rosamond Baptist Church Historical Overview (1910-2012)

by Joy Gough

On September 27, 2012, the Anna Area Historical Preservation Society held a dedication for the Rosamond Baptist Church. The community was located about halfway between Anna and Westminster on FM2862. At one time it had a school.

Rosamond Baptist Church Historical Overview

On October 2, 1910, the Rev. Joe Pierce and Rev. Capps along with others met and organized Bethel Missionary Baptist Church of the Rosamond Community. Rev. Pierce acted as moderator at this meeting. There were 13 charter members.

All of the names of the members were not available; however, the following people were thought to be among the first members:

Mrs. A. D. Hall
Dudley Hall
Mr. & Mrs. Tom Gambrell
Mr. & Mrs. Le Barbee
Mr. George Barnes and Sons (Walter, Lee, Ernest, Perry)

The group took immediate action after constituting themselves as a church and called Rev. Capps as the first pastor. Mr. T. J. Gambrell was elected as the first church clerk. At first the church met in the Rosamond School which stood just east of the present church building. The church held services 4 times a month, meeting on the first Sunday of each month.

The next action taken by the church was on November 6, 1910 when three men were ordained as the first deacons of the church.

G. W. Barnes
R. L. Barbee
William Mooney

Members of the council were the Rev. Capps, Wheeler, Dunn, Airs, and Woods. Bro. D. A. Hall was chosen to be Sexton. The church also licensed Bro. Lee Barnes to preach.

Beginning in December 1910, the church began to think and make plans to build a building in which the church could meet. These plans and hopes were not fulfilled until eight years later.

On September 2, 1911 messengers were elected and sent to the Associational Conference. The messengers elected to attend the conference were T. J. Gambrell, and Bro. Lee Barnes. The conference was held in McKinney, Texas on September 6, 1911. A collection of \$11.50 was taken for County Missions.

On October 2, 1911, because of a prior Bethel Baptist Church, the name of the church was called Bethel Church #2 in the minutes. The name remained the same until September 7, 1918 when the name was changed to Rosamond Baptist Church. The next significant event recorded was the ordination of J. W. Riffe and Joseph Gaither as deacons. The ordination was held on November 30, 1911. Rev. Joseph Pierce preached the ordination service and Rev. Duflie Wallace conducted the examination. The moderator was Rev. C. W. Capps. The church flourished and grew in the Rosamond School and in the fall of 1918 a significant event took place. The present building was built. Bro. Forest Rogers was pastor. Mr. Ruff Murry was awarded the contract to build. The land was bought and deeded to the church by Mr. & Mrs. Welch Riffe. Mr. Earl Lawrence and Mrs. Rife collected money for the first piano which was purchased from Sherley Bros. at Anna, Texas for \$12500.

The church originally was heated by coal burning stoves and lighted by kerosene lamps. However, electricity was wired to the building in the 30's by an extension of service that extended from Eck Brown's store across the road. In 1940 electricity was wired into the building, and in 1945 lutane replaced the coal burning stove.

Rosamond Baptist Church, continued

Many advances have been made - from 1/4 time to 1/2 time in 1943, and on May 1, 1955, under the leadership of the Rev. Don Richards the church went full time. The monies to the Cooperative Program were increased to 15% in January 1956. The Baptist Standard and Home Life Magazine were placed in each member's home. The church ordained three ministers since 1951.

Don Richards Nov. 14, 1954

Willard Kerns Sept. 15, 1957

James Phippen Dec. 13, 1959

Harry Gaither and Earl Lawrence erected the first sign for the church in 1952 and in 1960 a new sign replaced the old one. In 1955 the building was sheet-rocked and in 1956 two Sunday school rooms were added. In 1956 the insurance was increased from \$2,000 to \$4,000. In 1957 the roof was replaced because of hail damage.

A new piano was placed in the church on February 2, 1958 at a cost of \$525.00. Contributions were received in the amount of \$77.13 and \$50.00 was allotted for the old piano. The church borrowed \$350.00 from the First National Bank of Anna at 5% interest and the note was paid in full on November 7, 1958.

Due to a declining population in the rural areas, the church could not financially exist; therefore, the church closed the doors to a regular place for worship in 1965. There is a core group to this day that still helps to maintain the church facilities.

On Tuesday, August 27, 1985, the Rosamond Church Building was on fire! It was a miracle that it was saved by Kris Beall who saw smoke coming from the south pasture of his home and called the Anna Fire Department. By the time the trucks arrived, the building was on fire and the fireman indicated another five minutes and the Church would have been burned to the ground. There was extensive damage to the building.

Kenneth Lindsey, son of Billy Joe and Katy (Russell) Lindsey gave of his time and labor to repair the building. A new roof replaced the old one, and the church was painted.

At this time only two annual meetings are held. The Rosamond ladies meet for lunch on the third Saturday of June and the Homecoming is held on the Sunday of the Labor Day Weekend.

Fast forward to 1997. The Rosamond Baptist Church reopened the doors of the church for morning worship service on October 5, 1997. The church called as its pastor the Rev. Penrod Cravens of Millsap, Texas. He was born in the Rosamond community, but at a young age his parents moved to California. His parents were Ben Cravens and Nora (Boss) Eastin (the daughter of James Henry Eastin and Alice M. Rife). Rev. Cravens lead the church from Oct. 1997 - Dec. 1999.

Rev. Bill Beene served as pastor from 2000 - Feb. 2004. During this time a new fellowship hall and bathroom facilities were added to the building. The church added a new heating and cooling system, ceiling fans, and carpeting to the church building. New pew cushions were purchased by Edward "Sonny" W. Reed, whose father was a charter member of the church as noted by "Sonny". In September 2002 the new addition to the building was dedicated and called the "Lindsey Room" in honor of Kenneth Lindsey. In 2008 a new church sign was installed by Kenneth Lindsey.

The final two pastors were Mr. Tom Clayton who served as pastor from 2004 - 2006 and Mr. Dan Moses from 2006 until the summer of 2009. Rosamond was an active member of the Anna Community Christian Outreach. A number of Easter sunrise services were held at the church. In the summer of 2009 the doors were again closed to regular Sunday morning worship services.

The church is still maintained, and the annual Homecoming was on September 2, 2012 with about 50 people in attendance. At this writing there are plans to repaint the outside of the Rosamond Baptist Church. *(History brought up to date as of September, 2012.)*

Rosamond Baptist Church, continued

Resources:

- *Partial History of Rosamond Church*
- *Glimpse of History Rosamond Baptist Church*
- *Devotional of Rosamond Homecoming - Inez Robertson (1982)*
- *ArtVacts from 1997— 2012*

Personal Testimony by, Blanche (Russell) Daily, Naomi (Russel) Parchman, Gaither (Robertson) Phipps, Relda (Rffe) Beall, Kenneth Lindsey and many others who continue to call Rosamond their home. It Is an historical landmark for the community.

From church history given to Relda Beau (granddaughter of Mr. & Mrs. J. W. (Welch) Rffe and Great Granddaughter of Christopher Rffe Jr. who came to this area around (1851-53) from Liberty Kentucky.

Funeral Records Identify Many Secrets

By Brenda Kellow

This has been a rather sad week necessitating attending two funerals—a family member and an acquaintance. The most emotional funeral was that of my great uncle who died on Saturday. He was one of my three favorites—Uncle Ernest, Uncle Bud and Uncle Ray—now all deceased in that order. No more great uncles are alive from any of my lines, but there is one great aunt still living. She is Uncle Ray's sister who is alive and well and living in California. Uncle Ray lived a great life blessed with a loving wife, and adoring children and grandchildren.

While making the long drive to the funeral home, I began to ponder whether I needed any genealogical information on this branch of the family. I could only remember two little girls, but they belonged to another uncle. I had never found their burial places. Being one to tie up any loose strings, my thoughts went to possible records I could search for the information. It was then I thought of funeral home burial records. I don't need to get funeral records to complete my search to document them, and it is not critical that each burial site be identified, but I never want to leave a stone unturned. After all, I had found a wealth of information on some of those records—and nothing on others. I entered a note in my PDA to remind me to tackle this when I got back home.

Upon returning home I examined the records I had found earlier. Among the records was a death certificate with little information on the cause of death or burial place. The only indication that either had been ill was in the column asking how many days the physician had been in attendance. He answered, "eight days." Funny, but that had not registered before as being important. The funeral home/burial record might just lead me to the cause of death, and maybe indicate if either was hospitalized. Certainly they were quarantined. Maybe there is a record of quarantines. If the two little girls were in the hospital maybe these records were extant, the only hospital was located in a nearby county. I've not fared well with finding hospital records. I made another note that I must identify the hospital and search the next county for non-resident deaths.

I was familiar with the little town where the two little sisters died. There were two cemeteries and one funeral home. I recalled the records were complete and that the funeral director and his secretary had always been happy to help me with my family search in the past. Both cemeteries had been inventoried and published. Checking the books, I found nothing to indicate the girls were buried in either of these cemeteries. Thinking it was logical the girls would be buried in the town where their parents resided, I started my search there.

The death certificates I had obtained sometime earlier showed little information: both died of [blank] within six (6) days of each other in the early 1900s. The small town had two public cemeteries but there was only one funeral home.

Funeral Records, continued

The next day I visited the funeral home and talked with the director about my dilemma. He found the burial record of each child and made copies for me. The funeral record corroborated that both had died within six days of each other. It showed the cemetery as Old Pioneer Cemetery, and the cause of death as "typhoid fever." Great, now I had the cause of death. But, there was a surprise for me in that file folder.

There was a sister who also died of typhoid in his file of the family that I wasn't aware of until the funeral home director asked if I wanted a copy of her record too¹. I was in luck. It gave her full name, including her maiden name, parent's names, the full name of her husband, and the name of the hospital² in the adjoining county where she died. Typhoid fever had killed the young bride at age 16. How sad. I could not imagine the grief the parents suffered after losing three daughters within a fifteen-day period³. The director indicated the two younger girls were buried side-by-side, with the older girl at their heads. Now I knew I was looking for three girls, sisters, two with their maiden name and the married girl with her husband's surname.

I must visit the courthouse in the next county where I will hopefully find the death certificate for the older girl. I knew it must be filed under her husband's surname. Evidently they were not married in the county in which her parents lived because there was no marriage record in the courthouse index. Maybe I could find it in one of the contiguous counties. Since she died in one county and was buried in another, there should also be a record of "body removal."⁴ If I had not checked with the funeral director for the burial records, I may never have known about the married girl. He certainly went the extra mile to identify the girl I did not know existed. I love working in small towns, and the attention to detail given me by the residents.

I spent the rest of the day walking the cemetery reading stones⁵. There was no stone in the entire burial ground with that family name, nor with the oldest girl's married name⁶. The two girls lived and died with that terrible disease without their final resting place recognizing them. The only thing I could do now was to place a cenotaph near the front gate with their three names and dates. Usually the cemetery keeper does not object when a family member places a memorial stone near the front gate of the cemetery⁷.

Cemetery records most often have some information to enlighten me or to fill in a missing puzzle piece in my family quilt. These records certainly did. I know I really didn't need the burial places, but I always try to find them for my own satisfaction. This time I found the other daughter, and I knew the parents had purchased the burial plots, when the purchase was made, how the girls were placed in the plot, and their relationship to the plot owner, etc.

As I have indicated, funeral records have helped me several times. There was one occasion when I tried to find the burial place of a man that led to a wonderful discovery. The funeral record had an attachment stapled to it that said a train had killed him while he was uncoupling a boxcar in the train yard in Fort Smith, Arkansas. It went on to say that he had spent four painful weeks in the local hospital after the doctors removed his leg. Unfortunately, he developed a fatal case of gangrene. He was not buried in Fort Smith, Arkansas, the site of the fatal accident, or in Fayetteville where the family originated. This was the opportunity to search through the family 'legends' to try and retrieve a clue in hopes I could document the story⁸. Because some of the cousins had moved from Fayetteville into Oklahoma City a decade later, I decided to try there. The Family History Center's microfilm of funeral home records and cemetery inventories in Oklahoma City was most helpful.

One cemetery in particular had the subject's name in the inventory list. The microfilm record showed his mother, who had previously disappeared and whom I assumed to be dead, was alive before his death and living in her home in Oklahoma City. The reason she was presumed dead was because her husband was still living alone in their home in Washington County⁹. Now, let's go back to the burial plot. The mother had purchased the plot several years before her single son's death in the switching yards. From the burial record and the attachment, I found the cost of the plot, the names of

Funeral Records, continued

more of her unmarried children, a drawing that marked exactly where on the plot each would to be buried, the mother's residence, and her daughter's occupation and address. The daughter was a hairdresser and owned her own shop. The mother and married daughter were living side by side.

Let me tell you about another funeral record that might be of interest. This funeral record identified a cemetery in Northampton County that was unknown to me. Few people knew it was there. Gradually over time death and relocation out of the area faded any memory of the cemetery. Thank Goodness for the town elderly with an interest in history and preserving the memory of those departed, for I found one of those who gave me a location where the cemetery used to be.

After arriving at the location, I felt there was no doubt why this cemetery was now unknown. It was located behind a huge trash-recycling plant that totally blocked the cemetery from being seen from the road. At my visit, I was surprised the cemetery had been cared for, mowed, and all the tombstones were upright indicating that someone was caring for it. A stroll through the bone yard uncovered the rather large tombstone of the person for whom I was searching. I'm glad I had the fortune to find it, because I have to tell you the odors from the plant were almost unbearable on that hot summer day.

There are other cemetery records that gave me valuable information, and some that gave me absolutely nothing. I think you get the point that if you have not checked cemetery and funeral records you may be missing valuable clues to your family puzzle.

There are few caretakers or office buildings in non-commercial cemeteries in the south and in Texas, but they are plentiful elsewhere. Just walk into the office and ask for assistance. They are most happy to help.

Texas Laws concerning Cemeteries on Private Property.

TX Laws

§ 711.041. Access to Cemetery

(a) Any person who wishes to visit a cemetery or private burial grounds for which no public ingress or egress is available shall have the right to reasonable ingress and egress for the purpose of visiting the cemetery or private burial grounds. This right of access extends only to visitation during reasonable hours and only for purposes usually associated with cemetery visits.

(b) The owner or owners of the lands surrounding the cemetery or private burial grounds may designate the routes of reasonable ingress and egress.

Added by Acts 1993, 73rd Leg., ch. 634, § 22, eff. Sept. 1, 1993.

Facts about Funerals in the state of Texas: <http://www.usgennet.org/usa/tx/topic/cemeteries/txlaws.htm>

1. No extant 1890 census, no birth records, and no church records for that time period.
2. Few of these records exist. I've had no luck acquiring these records to date.
3. I made a note to check the history of the disease in the county to determine if the girls died during an epidemic.
4. In addition to 'body removal' certificates, there is also a record made of grave openings and closing.
5. Cemeteries on private property are accessible under the Ingress and Egress law applicable in most states. This gives you the right to safely enter and leave the cemetery. The owner of the land has to let you on his property without causing the visitor any fear. If you don't have a copy of it, you should in case you ever have to show it to a landowner with the cemetery on his/her property. See <http://www.usgennet.org/usa/tx/topic/cemeteries/txlaws.htm>.
6. The cemetery had large areas without stones, indicating they were broken and removed, or perhaps vandalism.
7. If there is not a caretaker, then perhaps there is a person in the county with information on the cemetery.
8. Family stories and legends, are interesting, but they must be documented before declaring them truth.
9. If they legally separated or divorced, it was not in Washington County records, because I had previously taken all pertinent information from the courthouse indexes.
10. A couple of Methodist ministers were buried there, however, the current minister and many of his flock was under the misconception the trash recycle plant had built over it and the cemetery was destroyed.