



# Genealogy Friends News

Genealogy Friends of  
Plano Libraries

November 2005

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

<http://www.rootsweb.com/~txgfpl>

<http://www.geocities.com/genfriendsghl>

<http://www.rootsweb.com/~txcolli3>

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## Upcoming Events

### Saturday Seminars, Field Trips & Lock Ins

Mark your calendars now for the exciting Genealogy Friends events in 2006:

**December 17, 2005**—Join us for our annual Show and Tell. Where else can you find a room full of people who are genuinely interested in your genealogy triumphs?

**January 21, 2006**—Dreanna Belden from University of North Texas will speak to us about their Portal to Texas History Project which offers a digital gateway to the rich collections held in Texas libraries, museums, archives, historical societies and private collections.

**January 29-February 5, 2006**—Fourth Annual Research Retreat to Salt Lake City. See article on page 2.

**February 10, 2006**—Lock In—Breaking Down Brick Walls. See the article on page 2.

**February 18, 2006**—Jim Nyfeler, a member of the Advisory Council to the New England Historical and Genealogical Society will speak to us about resources available at NEHGS. The FGS Conference is in Boston in September, it would be a great time to visit the NEHGS Library in Boston and the conference in one trip.

**March 18, 2006**—Nygil Parker, an Archivist from the Southwest Regional Branch of the National Archives, will speak to us about the resources available at their facility in Ft. Worth. Come to the lecture to prepare for our field trip.

**April 3, 2006**—Field Trip to the Southwest Regional Branch of the National Archives. Details to be announced.

**April 15, 2006**—Dr. Colleen Fitzpatrick, author of *Forensic Genealogy* will discuss what can be achieved by applying the investigative techniques of forensic science to genealogy. Her book will also be for sale at the seminar.

**May 20, 2006**—To be announced.

**June 17, 2006**—Jennifer Pitts will share her knowledge of Adobe Photoshop Elements - learn to perfect, transform, organize and share your photos like a pro.

**July 7, 2006**—Lock In—Little Used Sources. See the article on page 2.

**July 15, 2006**—Learn about 19th Century Funeral Customs from Carol Taylor, the head of a genealogy library who has been researching her family history for over thirty years.

**August 19, 2006**—To be announced

**September 16, 2006**—All Day Seminar—Speaker to be announced.

**October 21, 2006**—Thinking about joining a lineage society? Representatives from the Daughters of the American Revolution, Sons of the American Revolution, Sons of Confederate Veterans, Daughters of the Republic of Texas, Colonial Dames of the 17th Century, and more will tell us about their societies and answer our questions.

**October 27, 2006**—Lock In—Using Computers in Genealogy. See article on page 2.

**November 18, 2006**—Richard Preston will talk to us about Migration Patterns.

**December 16, 2006**—Annual Show and Tell.

## Research Retreats

### 2006—Salt Lake City

The Fourth Annual Research Retreat to the Family History Library in Salt Lake City will be January 29th through February 5th. The fee is \$80 for members and \$100 for non-members (includes membership). Registration deadline is January 15th. The fee includes an Orientation to the Family History Library by library staff, a lecture on U.S. Court Records by a professional genealogist, individual and group consultations with experienced genealogists, and an opportunity to use the resources of the largest genealogy library in the world.

Further information and registration forms are available on our website at [www.rootsweb.com/~txgfpl/](http://www.rootsweb.com/~txgfpl/).

### 2007-Washington DC

Genealogy Friends will be sponsoring a trip to Washington DC in October 2007. You will have an opportunity to research at the National Archives, Library of Congress and the Daughters of the American Revolution Library. Orientation sessions will be held at each institution. If you are interested please contact Barbara Coakley at [bjc1620@sbcglobal.net](mailto:bjc1620@sbcglobal.net). More information will be available at a later date.

## 2006 Lock Ins

Lock Ins are held at the Gladys Harrington Library. Registration begins at 5:30, the library closes to the public at 6:00. Suggested donation is \$10.00. Pizza, drinks and cookies are served at 7:00 for an additional \$4.00. Lock Ins are a great place to learn in small groups. Participate in classes, get help with a research consultation, or use the resources available to do your own research. A Plano Library Card and Internet Registration are required prior to 5:30 pm to use library computers.

### February 10th—Breaking Down Brick Walls

Classes include Analyzing Your Research Parts 1 & 2; Using Indirect Evidence to Prove Who Your Ancestor Was; Getting More Out of Census Records; and Finding Ancestors Before 1850.

### July 7th—Little Used Sources

Classes include Institution and Coroners Records; Using Newspapers for More than Obituaries; Genealogy Journals—They can be useful even if your ancestor isn't mentioned; and Hiring a Professional Researcher.

### October 27th—Using Computers in Genealogy

Classes to be determined.

## Family Health Histories

From Ancestry.com:

“Recognizing the importance of knowing your family history in monitoring and early detection of genetically pre-disposed conditions and diseases, U.S. Surgeon General Richard H. Carmona, M.D., M.P.H., and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) is encouraging Americans to investigate their family's health history and Thanksgiving has been designated as National Family History Day. Families are encouraged to discuss family history and illnesses and conditions that are prevalent among family members at family gatherings, and to record that information. More information is available at: [www.hhs.gov/familyhistory](http://www.hhs.gov/familyhistory).”

## 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

## On Line Death Indexes

The North Dakota Department of Health has posted an index of deaths. Dates not specified.

<https://secure.apps.state.nd.us/doh/certificates/deathCertSearch.htm>

The Texas Department of Health death index form 1964-1998 are available at RootsWeb.com:

<http://vitals.rootsweb.com/tx/death/search.cgi>

California Death Records from 1940-1997 are available at RootsWeb.com

<http://vitals.rootsweb.com/ca/death/search.cgi>

Arizona has death certificates on line, 1878-1954

<http://genealogy.az.gov/>

Idaho death index 1911-1951

<http://www.rootsweb.com/~idgenweb/deaths/search.htm>

Database of Illinois Death Certificates, 1916-1950

<http://www2.sos.state.il.us/departments/archives/idphdeathindex.html>

Kentucky Death Records 1911-2000

<http://vitals.rootsweb.com/ky/death/search.cgi>

Minnesota Death Certificates Index

<http://people.mnhs.org/dci/Search.cfm>

Missouri Birth & Death Records Database, Pre-1910

<http://www.sos.state.mo.us/archives/resources/birthdeath/>

Available on Ancestry.com: Louisiana, Massachusetts

## Publications For Sale

The following are available from Genealogy Friends:

<b>NEW</b> 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

## Tracing Our Roots Column

The "Tracing Our Roots" column by Brenda Kellow appears in Plano Star Courier, Star Community Newspapers and DFW Community News weekly.

The column and an archives of past columns are also available at <http://www.geocities.com/TracingOurRoots>.

## Book Exchange

Genealogy Friends would like to exchange Collin County books with books from other societies.

If you have an area or society you would like us to try and exchange with, please contact Joy Gough at [jfar-go@comcast.net](mailto:jfar-go@comcast.net).

### Collin County Historic Photographs Web Site

Members of GenFriends are contributing photographs of Collin County to the newest Gen Friends web site *Collin County, Texas Past Finders Photo Collection*.

<http://www.rootsweb.com/~txcolli3>. The web site now contains over 3,400 photographs. Categories include Cemeteries,

Churches, Schools, People, Places, and Tombstones. If you would like to contribute photos of Collin County subjects, contact Joy at [jfarrgo@comcast.net](mailto:jfarrgo@comcast.net).

### History & Genealogy Web Site

Members of Genealogy Friends are contributing to a new web site—History and Genealogy for the Active Researcher located at <http://www.geocities.com/genfriendsghl>.

The goal is to expand the knowledge of those researching in Collin County and North Texas.

Check out the timeline—a daily calendar of events in Collin County through the years.

### Southwest Regional Archives

A recent article in Family Tree Magazine, December 2005 by James Warren and Sharon DeBartolo Carmack contained interesting information about the Southwest Regional Archives located in Ft. Worth. One of the archivists, Nygil Parker, is speaking to us about their collection in March and we have a field trip to the archives planned in April. The article fueled my curiosity and I checked out their website for more information— <http://www.archives.gov/southwest/>.

Their collection contains both microfilm and original records (textual records). Some records cover all states, like the census, military, ships passenger lists. The textual records collection focuses on Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, and Texas. It includes over 84,000 cubic feet of documents, photographs, and maps. These holdings were originally generated by Federal courts and 85 different Federal agencies. Subjects include regional history from the early 1800s with emphasis on westward expansion to the southwest and settlement of Native Americans (particularly Cherokees, Choctaws, Chickasaws, Creeks, and Seminoles) in Indian Territory; the Civil War, slavery, Chinese exclusion, repatriation, segregation, World Wars I and II, economic development, oil, and the space program.

There is a on-line catalog of the microfilm holdings of the National Archives. You can search or browse the catalog. When you find the film you are looking for, it tells you where it is available. Use this to determine if the film you need is available at the Southwest Regional Archives.

Archival holdings are arranged by record group (RG), a body of records from an agency or bureau, identified by an RG number. There are finding aids, including a comprehensive guide to the archival holdings, available by mail and online. It is a good idea to call the archives before visiting if you plan on using textual records. You must also obtain a researcher identification card to use the textual records. Photocopy machines, for both paper and microfilm, are coin-based, please bring coins with you. The *Guide to Archival Holdings at the National Archives Southwest Region (Ft Worth)* is available on their website. Entries contain a administrative history of the department followed by descriptions of the records, lists of finding aids, related microfilm publications, and any restrictions to the records.

Location: 501 West Felix Street, Building 1  
Fort Worth, TX 76115-3405

Hours: Monday through Friday—6:30am to 4 pm  
1st Saturday of Each Month—8 am to 4 pm

(Work on original records before 8 am on weekdays and on Saturdays must be pre-arranged.)

The records available at the National Archives and it's branches can provide insight into the lives of your ancestors and our history. Knowing how your ancestor interacted with the Federal Government is the key to successful research at the archives. Check out the website, attend the Saturday Seminar in March and plan to join us on the field trip to the archives on April 3rd. This is a fantastic resource located in our own backyard.

**Collin County Bits—The Hedgcoxe War and the End of the Peters Colony****By Joy Gough**

The Peters Colony stretched 100 miles south from the Red River, west 164 miles to the middle of Callahan County and back north to the Red River. The eastern boundary ran south through the middle of Grayson, Collin and Dallas Counties to the top half of Ellis County. Turning west, it went through Johnson, Hood, Erath, and Eastland, ending in the middle of present Callahan County. Turning north on its western boundary it included all of present Shackelford County, and most of present Throckmorton, Baylor, and Wilbarger Counties. In all it included all of thirteen counties and parts of thirteen others and covered approximately 16,400 square miles.

The current residents of this area of north-central Texas know that this land differs considerably from east to west. The advertisement for the Peters Colony said “the lands ...are so well proportioned with woodland and prairie, that nearly every settler may have woodland enough for all the purposes of fuel, fencing, and agriculture, and rich prairie enough to relieve him of the tedious, expensive, and laborious work of clearing a plantation, it requiring only to be fenced in, to be ready for cultivation.” I do not know of anywhere in the Peters Colony where this statement would be true. There were woodlands on the east side of the Colony, but the prairie begins within ten miles of the eastern boundary. There were few trees on the prairie. Most of the land was unsettled, virgin prairie, yet the advertisement listed a number of crops as being “produced in abundance.”

And the climate. The climate was described as “mild and beautiful, and for health and pleasure, is not surpassed by any in the world, and in this respect may be termed the Italy of America—the thermometer ranging from 30 to 90 degrees Fahrenheit during the year, the winters are mild and the summer months are relieved of their heat by a constant breeze which plays over the country.” After spending a few summers and winters here, one has to wonder where this statement came from.

Farmers evidently believed the advertisement and moved to Texas for the free land that would grow anything with little work. Many of the colonists were from Illinois, Missouri, and Tennessee. According to the advertisement, all they had to do was settle on the land for three (3) years and clear, fence and cultivate 15 acres in order to receive full title to the land – 640 acres for a married man and 320 acres for a single man. In the 1840s, wealth was measured by land possession. A Peters Colony land grant made the settler wealthy. Even though they did not have money in their pockets, the colonists were wealthy and respected because of the acres of land they owned.

The Fourth Contract between the state of Texas and the Peters Colony, signed on October 3, 1842, caused a lot of controversy and distrust among the colonists. It stated that the title to the property would not given to the settler, but would be kept by the agent of the land company. The agent could give the settler any portion of his 640 acres, not to be less than 160 acres, and keep the rest.

After Texas became a state in 1846, settlers began coming to the state to settle. Some settled within the land claimed by the Peters Colony but did not register with the Colony. The new settlers wanted Texas to be like the rest of the American frontier, meaning they could settle on the land they wanted and could apply directly for the deed without having to go through an agent or agency. They would also get the title to all of the acres they were entitled to and no agency would be able to take part of the land for “services rendered.”

The administrators of the Peters Colony complained to the Texas state government about the squatters. In 1852 the state said that the Peters Colony could oust the squatters on Colony land and it gave the administrators 1,000,000 acres for settling the land. The settlers were angry that the state had sided with Peters Colony in the matter and were afraid that the Colony would claim some of their lands.

The agent for the Peters Colony in 1852 was Henry Oliver Hedgcoxe. Members of his family resided in Collin County east of present Hedgcoxe and Custer Roads in Plano. The offices for the company were in Denton County in the area known today as The Colony (hence its name). The deeds for the Colony land were in the office in Denton County.

In May of 1852 Hedgcoxe proclaimed that the colonists had until August to file their claims with the Colony or they would be removed from their homesteads. This was the beginning of the Hedgcoxe War.

The settlers were already angry that they could not get possession of the deeds to their properties. They did not like the officious Mr. Hedgcoxe or his directive. They were angry with the Colony administrators for failing to provide the services that were promised, i.e. land surveys and houses or cabins.

On July 15, 1852, a mass meeting of the colonists held in Dallas accused Hedgcoxe of fraud and corruption. On the next

*(Continued on page 6)*

## Web Sites

The Prince William Public Library System is developing a web-based collection of historical and genealogical reference tools for Prince William County, VA. After going to [www.pwcgov.org/library](http://www.pwcgov.org/library), click on Digital Library for the menu of .pdf files available which include: Birth Records, 1853-1896; Marriages, 1854-1938; Annotated Census, 1840; Marriages from Sources Outside the County (1853-1905); Obituaries, 1900-1930; Slave Births, 1853-1859.

RedLightGreen helps you located the most important books and other research materials in your area of interest, and find out whether what you need is available at your favorite library. Sign in, and you can format and send citations any way you want: MLA, APA, Chicago, Harvard, Turabian. Just click—it's done.

[www.redlightgreen.com](http://www.redlightgreen.com)

An index to the Eastern District naturalizations for New York City has been posted on the Italian Genealogical Group's website. <http://italiangen.org/EDN.stm> "The database contains an index to the naturalization records that were issued between 1865 and 1956 by the Eastern District Courts, which includes the Bronx, Kings, (Brooklyn), Queens, Richmond (Staten Island), Nassau and Suffolk Counties. It contains over 600,000 records. This index is a "work in progress" ... it will be updated from time to time." Steve Morris has created an alternate index

[www.stevemorris.org/natural/naturalization.html](http://www.stevemorris.org/natural/naturalization.html)

Family Tree Connection allows you to search original records for your ancestors. A subscription is required to access some things.

[www.familytreeconnection.com/](http://www.familytreeconnection.com/)

The Family History Archive collection at Brigham Young University Lee Library provides access to over 3,700 family history books from the collection of the Family History Library on-line. This is a consortium of six libraries digitizing books, the entire collection is made up of over 125,000 books. When a book is added to the on-line Family History Archive collection it is indexed, searchable on-line and available to genealogists all over the world.

[www.familyhistoryarchive.byu.edu](http://www.familyhistoryarchive.byu.edu)

## Collin County Bits—Cont'd

*(Continued from page 5)*

day over 100 men from Dallas marched on his office in Denton County.

At this point, the various accounts of what happened differ. In all instances, Hedgcoxe was forced to leave the area. In most cases the records were lost or destroyed.

One account says the rioters got the deeds to their properties and filed them in the Dallas courthouse and everything was OK after that.

Another account says that the protesters burned Hedgcoxe's house and office, including all of the records.

Still another account says that Hedgcoxe was told that the colonists were coming. He hid the deeds in a field nearby. When the colonists got to the office, they did not find anything. Hedgcoxe then sent the deeds to the headquarters in St. Louis for safe keeping. They were lost en route and never arrived.

On July 29, 1852, a multi-county, public meeting was held in McKinney to discuss the actions of the settlers, who had raided Hedgcoxe's office. The resolution from the 3-day meeting stated that it necessary for the colonists to take the books, maps and papers into their own hands. Henry O. Hedgcoxe was accused of villainy and fraud and driven out of the colony. They also stated that the Peters company never complied with their contracts.

The company responded in November by saying Hedgcoxe was not an agent of the company, but was actually an officer of the state of Texas. They urged the settlers to get their papers and send them to Austin.

The papers never arrived in the state capitol. Some people say the records were lost in the Dallas courthouse and were burned when the courthouse burned. Whatever happened to the records, it is agreed that they were lost.

In 1853 Texas passed a Homestead Law making it possible for the Peters Colonists to apply to the state for the deeds to their property. Finally, after living on the land for seven years, the colonists were able to get the deeds to their homesteads. The Peters Colony was never the success that the state or the administrators anticipated, but it encouraged the first settlers to come to North-Central Texas.

Sources: THE PETERS COLONY OF TEXAS: HISTORY AND BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES, by Seymour V. Connor; A HISTORY OF COLLIN COUNTY, TEXAS, by Stambaugh and Stambaugh; THE HANDBOOK OF TEXAS ONLINE, <http://www.tsha.utexas.edu/handbook/online/>; Denton

## State Archives & Libraries—Illinois State Archives

### Illinois State Archives

The Illinois State Archives was established in 1921 and is located in the state capital—Springfield. In addition to the main facility there are seven regional archives located at state university campuses throughout the state. The State Archives serves as the depository of public records for both the state and local government agencies which possess legal, administrative or historical value. It's collections do not include manuscript, newspaper or non-official sources.

#### State Records

State records are located in Springfield and local government records are located in the appropriate regional archive. There are also some Federal records (census, military and land records) available at the state archives. The State Archive website contains descriptive inventory of the archives which can also be downloaded as a .pdf file. Records are organized by the agency, institution, or board that generated the records. There is a description of the records included in each record group which includes the time period covered, how the records are organized, cubic feet of the group, and indicates if there is an index. Some record groups also contain a general history of the agency, board or department which can be very helpful.

Once a record is located in the inventory, you can request a search of indexed record groups via mail. Out of state requests require a \$10 fee be sent with the request. My experience has been that requests are answered in 2-4 weeks.

#### Local Government Records

Local government records are located at one of the seven Illinois Regional Archive Depositories (IRAD) which are located at Northern Illinois University, Western Illinois University, Southern Illinois University, Northeastern Illinois University, Illinois State University, Eastern Illinois University and University of Illinois at Springfield. Records include those from counties, townships, municipalities, and school districts which have been determined to have long-term value.

The available records vary by county, they can include: Land records; birth, marriage, death records; tax records; voters registrations; naturalizations; probate records; court records; commission meeting minutes; jail records; etc. To find out what records are available for the county you are interested in, search the IRAD Local Government Records Database on the website. The listing contains the title of the record group, the time period it covers, the IRAD depository where the record group is located, and the number you will need to find the record. A listing of

holdings can be downloaded in .pdf format. There is also a printed summary guide to holdings in IRAD which can be ordered on the website.

You can either visit the IRAD facility to search the records or request a search by mail. Check with the facility before a visit, because they are located at universities they may have reduced hours during school holidays. There is a two request limit. Once those requests have been returned you are welcome to submit more requests. They ask that you provide specific information in your search request. You will be charged for photo copies, which will be billed. If the fee will exceed \$5.00 you will be notified before the copies are made.

#### Online Databases

There is an ongoing effort by the Illinois State Archives to provide indexes to their records. Volunteers index the records from home and they are posted to the website. When searching an index be sure to check the status of your county. Photocopies of the records included in the indexes can be requested from the archives or IRAD if they are extant. Current databases include: Public Domain Land Tract Sales; Servitude and Emancipation Records; Illinois Veterans—War of 1812, Indian Wars, Mexican War, Civil War, Spanish American War, Sailors & Soldiers Home; Marriages 1763-1900; Deaths—Pre 1916 and 1916-1950; and various county records.

#### Finding Aids & Publications

There is a series of nine on-line pamphlets to assist you in your research. They contain information to help you find your ancestor in the specified records available at the archives. *For The Record* is a quarterly newsletter produced by the archives. It is available on the website in .pdf format. Each issue contains new records in their collections both at the archives and at IRAD. It can be used as a supplement to the inventories available. Publications for sale include books and CD-ROMs pertaining to records available at the archives.

Contact Info : Norton Building, Capital Complex, Springfield, IL 62756 Phone: (217) 782-4682

Hours: Monday—Friday 8 am to 4:30 pm  
Saturday 8 am to 3:30 pm

Compared to some other state archives, Illinois provided decent access to records for those of us who don't have the luxury of visiting the archives. My requests have always been answered in a timely manner. Their on-line record descriptions make preparing for a visit easy.