



Genealogy Friends News

Genealogy Friends of
Plano Libraries

November 2006

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

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

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

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

Email Address: genfriends@tx.rr.com

Newsletter: Barbara Coakley bjc1620@sbcglobal.net

Saturday Seminars & Lock Ins

Mark your calendars now for the exciting Genealogy Friends events in 2006 & 2007:

December 16, 2006—Annual Show and Tell. Bring your family heirlooms, genealogy discoveries or problems to share with your fellow genealogy enthusiasts.

January 20, 2007—Steven Butler will speak to us about the US-Mexican War.

February 17, 2007—Barbara Coakley will discuss the Ziebold and Schnaiter Family research that led her to the Family History Tour to Germany.

March 17, 2007—Dr. Adrienne Caughfield will present “True Women and Westward Expansion”

April 21, 2007—All Day Workshop—Colleen Fitzpatrick will be returning.

May 19, 2007—Ed Sandbach will discuss Preserving and Organizing Photos and Vicki Bell will discuss Digital Photography

June 16, 2007—Happi McGirk will speak to us about Writing Your Family History and Creating Digital Heritage Albums

July 13, 2007—Lock In—Regional Research. Sessions will cover research in various parts of the US.

July 21, 2007—Martina Willdechaparro will speak on the Victorian Mourning Culture. Second Speaker TBD

August 18, 2007—Preparing for a Research Trip by Barbara Coakley

September 15, 2007—Lynne Darrouzet is our speaker, topic Government Documents.

October

If you have suggestions for programs for 2007 please submit them to Barbara Coakley at bjc1620@sbcglobal.net

2007 Research Retreat to 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. More information will be available at a later date.

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

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 jfargo@comcast.net.

Microfiche Reader for Sale

DuKane Explorer 14 microfilm reader, in good condition, with high, medium, low viewing

Used for indexing projects. \$100.

Phone Brenda Kellow, 972-941-9280, or email

TraceRoots@comcast.net

Publications For Sale

The following are available from Genealogy Friends:

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| 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 |

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. Visit the Plano Insider web site is <http://www.planoinsider.net/> and click on either PULSE or ENTERTAINMENT to read the weekly column. Each column is posted for one week only.

The column and archives are posted at <http://www.geocities.com/TracingOurRoots>.

Collin County Bits—1850s Collin County**By Joy Gough**

Ever wonder what Collin County was like when the first settlers came here? We know that geographically the eastern side of the county was wooded and the western side was grassland. Many of the early settlers had land on both sides of the county. The grasslands did not have to be cleared for farming. The settler could have crops the very first year.

However, wood was very vital for the early settlers. It was needed for construction as well as cooking and heating. Game was plentiful. Settlers talked of standing in their front doors and shooting bear and deer. The creeks were noted for their crystal clear water and their white-rock banks. There are 2 creeks in Collin County named White Rock Creek, one of which starts around Frisco, traveling southeast and eventually forming White Rock Lake in Dallas County. All of Collin County's early settlers were farmers, some branched out into other things, but they still had to grow their own food.

I recently received a copy of a letter mailed October 3, 1852, from McKinney. The writer, Susan P. Stone, a young wife who was a fairly new Collin County resident, was describing Collin County to her family back home in Gallatin, Sumner County, Tennessee. Many of Collin County's early settlers came from that section of Tennessee.

Mrs. Stone calls Collin County "this beautiful country." She states that she can't imagine going back to Tennessee "to clime over them old poor hills and be always stumping my toes again the rock and guming my clothes with red clay." Obviously she had not been outside around here after it rains. "I never expect to see old Tennessee again."

Susan states: "This is a great country and people raise plenty to eat. It is the greatest place for vegetables I ever saw. I have seen beets that after they was sliced, one slice would cover a large plate and watermellons that I could not lift off the ground. We have turnips so large that I cant find nothing large enofe to wash them in without taking the washtub. I have a cucumber laid up for seed. It is so large that one slice around would cover a large breakfast plate. The sweet potatoes is fine. One will do my family all day and some left at knight. ...they had cabbage heads so large that after the green leaves was trimmed they would not go in a washtub. You may think these tails too great to be true but believe what I tell you."

I have trouble believing that the vegetables were as large as she is saying. The beets and cucumber would have to be 12" in diameter. I don't know the size of a washtub, but it must be about 24" in diameter. It is interesting to see the variety of crops, too. I would have thought that 1852 was a little early for such diversity.

Susan adds: "I still have as much life and fun as ever...I am very buisey in the week weaving me some cotton dresses. It is eight hundred and very tedious to weave. I wanted to get that done and weave another piece again pappa gets here then I will be ready to talk with them all winter."

This wonderful letter was donated to the Harrington Library, along with a transcription, if you want to read it. Susan sounds like really vivacious person.

Here is a male perspective on the county. On June 3, 1859, John Pendleton wrote a letter to his brother back in Virginia. "I will try to give you a description of Collin Co., as fare as I have Sean for beauty and Soil it cannot be beat on earth the Prairies lies high and just rolling enough to drain the water off between the branches of the Sabine.

Collin County Bits (Cont'd)

The Prairies is about ½ mile wide and on the branches timber enough to answer the demands of the country. These branches run up to the divide between the Sabine and Trinity rivers and Some of them is from ½ mile to 50 miles in length. These Prairies are covered with grass that looks like a wheat field with numerous herds of cattle and deer. Some times can be Sean twenty in a gang. The Prairies at this Season of the year is over Spread with flowers of every tint and hue. The land is all taken up in Collin Co., but a plenty for Sale....There is always a Pleasant air stirring on the Prairies though very Sultry in the timber. Our wheat harvest is over here and the people is generally done laying by their corn and better looking corn I never saw grow out of the ground." The Pendletons lived in the area just northeast of Farmersville. John Pendleton was an early preacher in the area, although he came to the county for the land, not to start a church.

The early Collin County farmers were always talking about how fertile the soil was and what large harvests they had. By 1859 all of the land in the county was already "taken up." In 15 years the county had gone from no residents to all of the land being owned by someone. The 1850s were a time of very rapid growth and prosperity for the county. It was a time when the pristine prairies were turned into farm land.

Happy Thanksgiving



New Additions to the Genealogy Section, Gladys Harrington Library

The following books have been added to the Genealogy Collection at the Gladys Harrington Library:

- Who's Who in the South and Southwest, 1978-1979 GEN 920.03 WHO
- Who's Who of American Women, 1979-1980 GEN 920.03 WHO
- National Society of the Colonial Dames of America in the State of Texas, Chapter XXI, Dallas, Texas, 1988-90
GEN 369.12 NAT
- National Society Colonial Dames XVII Century, Col. Cole Digges Chapter, 1989-1991 GEN 369.12 NAT
- National Society Colonial Dames, XVII Century, Roll of Arms, Vol. I GEN 369.12 SCH
- Annual Report, National Society of the Colonial Dames of America, 1991-92 GEN 369.12 NAT
- The Colonial Dames of America, Chapter XXI, Dallas, TX, 1990-92 GEN 369.12 NAT
- Membership list, Colonial Dames of America, 1987 GEN 369.12 COL
- National Bylaws and DAR handbook of the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution, 1981
GEN 369.135 DAU
- Cabarrus Co., NC Marriage Records, 1793-1868 GEN 929.375672 ING
- Mecklenburg Co., NC Marriage Records, 1788-1866 GEN 9293375676 ING
- Ellis Branson of Romine Township, Marion Co., IL GEN 929.2 BRA
- TX Society, Daughters of the American Colonists, 1977-79 GEN 369.2764 DAV
- John Cavet Chapter, U.S. Daughters of 1812, Dallas, TX, 1990-92 GEN 369.14 NAT
- United Daughters of the Confederacy, TX Division, Bonnie Blue Flag Chapter, Dallas, TX, 1984-1986
GEN 369.17 UNI
- Texas Branch, the National Society Sons and Daughters of the Pilgrims, 1989-91 GEN 369.12 NAT
- Johnson Co., AR 1860 U.S. Census GEN 929.376733 LAC
- Searcy Co., AR Cemeteries, Book II GEN 929.509767195 MAY
- Arkansas, Searcy Co., 1860 Census GEN 929.3767195 LAC
- Searcy Co. AR: A History of Searcy Co., AR & Its People GEN 976.7195 SEA
- Arkansas 1850 Census Every-Name Index GEN 929.3767 MCL
- Shootin's, Obituaries, Politics; Emigratin', Socializin', Commercializin', and the Press GEN 929.3767195 JOH
- Book of Irish names: First, Family & Place Names GEN 929.4 COG
- Warrants for Lands in South Carolina, 1680-1692, Vol. 2; 1692-1711, Vol. 3 GEN 929.3757 SOU
- Southern Honor: Ethics & Behavior in the Old South GEN 975 WYA
- Love and Hate in Jamestown GEN 975.54251 PRI
- Benjamin Smith, Pastor GEN 286.63 SMI

Additions to Genealogy Collection (Cont'd)

(Continued from page 5)

- Our Ancestors, V. I: Johnson, Smith, Hampton, Payne, Pace GEN 929.2 JOH
- The Settling of North America: The Atlas of the Great Migrations into North America from the Ice Age to the Present GEN 304.87 SET
- Haskell County history: Indian Territory – 1988 GEN 976.677 HAS
- Scott Co., AR, 1870, United States census GEN 929.376744 HAN
- Gregory Family Correspondence, 1829-1888 & Josephus Gregory Travel Diary, 1848-1849, Lunenburg Co., VA GEN 929.2 GRE
- Yesterday Revisited: An Illustrated History of LeFlore Co. GEN 976.679 SPE

Thanks to Lynn Day for providing this information.

Web Sites

The Boston College Website Information Wanted allows you to search the Boston Pilot Missing Friends column. From 1831 through 1921 people looking for friends and relatives that had emigrated from Ireland to the US put ads in this column.

<http://infowanted.bc.edu/>

The Federation of Eastern European Family History Societies web site contains maps of Germany, Russia, Austria, Hungary, Romania, Bulgaria, Romania, Finland, the Baltics. There are also links to members webpages, <http://www.feefhs.org/>

The Massachusetts Archives Collection Database (1629-1799) is a searchable index to eighteen volumes of their collection.

<http://www.sec.state.ma.us/arc/arcsrch/RevolutionarySearchContexts.html>

Iowa Gravestones Photo Project
http://iowagravestones.org/cemetery_index.php

Searchable Databases at the National Archives Website
<http://aad.archives.gov/aad/index.jsp>

Kentucky Vital Records Project
<http://kyvitals.com/>

North Dakota On line Death Index
<https://secure.apps.state.nd.us/doh/certificates/deathCertSearch.htm>

The Danish Emigration Archives website contains information on the archives and searchable databases.
<http://www.emiarch.dk/home.php3>

West Virginia Archives and History website includes a searchable index of birth, death and marriage records.
<http://www.wvculture.org/history/archivesindex.aspx>

Old German Professions
<http://worldroots.com/brigitte/occupat.htm>

The Germans in America—Website of the European Reading Room of the Library of Congress
<http://www.loc.gov/tr/european/imde/germany.html>

Old German Spelling Patterns
<http://www.asherwin.com/spelling.html>

Ships Passenger Lists Online
<http://home.att.net/~wee-monster/onlinelists.html>

Online Searchable Death Indexes
<http://home.att.net/~wee-monster/deathrecords.html>