



Genealogy Friends News

Genealogy Friends of
Plano Libraries

November 2007

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Saturday Seminars & Lock Ins

Mark your calendars now for the exciting Genealogy Friends events in 2007 & 2008:

Today's Topics:

November 17, 2007—"The Starkey Family: A Case Study in Research at the Family History Library" by Barbara Coakley

Future Topics:

December 15, 2007—Annual Show n Tell. Bring your genealogy finds to share with your friends.

January 19, 2008—"First Person Accounts in Genealogy" by John Pritchett

February 16, 2008—Aaron Holt from the Southwest Branch of the National Archives will do a presentation about their collection.

March 15, 2008—Learn about Family Tree Maker and Legacy, two popular genealogy programs—Speakers Joanne Corney and Tresa Tatyrek.

April 19, 2008—Naomi Taplin from the Texas Baptist Historical Collection will speak to use about Preservation Techniques.

If you have suggestions for programs for 2008 please submit them to Barbara Coakley at bjc1620@sbcglobal.net.

Gen Friends Meeting Site

Our meeting site will be changing in the next month or so, the Genealogy Collection is in the process of being moved from Gladys Harrington to Haggard Library. We will be moving with the collection. Stay tuned for more details.

When we move the meeting time will change to 10:00 on the third Saturday of each month.

Legacy Users Group

Joanne Corney started a Legacy Family Tree users group. The group will meet the fourth Tuesday of each month at the Haggard Library in the Program Room from 10:30 to 12:30. Contact Joanne at ptxlegacyug@verizon.net for more information.

Write A Book Challenge! Earn a \$5 Donation to Gen Friends

That's right. This offer is for members of Genealogy Friends of Plano Libraries, Inc. only.

What do you have to do? Write a biography of one of your family members, a history of a family line, or family newsletter, etc., per the few requirements below, and present it to Brenda Kellow to read, or you may bring it to the 2007 December Show and Tell program and win a \$5 donation to Genealogy Friends. Talk to Brenda if you have problems meeting any of the requirements below. E-mail her at GenFriends@tx.rr.com.

Requirements:

- * Book or booklet written on some phase of family history and published professionally, or you may "publish" off your own computer before December 2007's Show and Tell program. A hard cover is not required.

- * Requirements: At least ten (10) pages which contain:

Five (5) pages of text of your own composition and not composed by a genealogy program such as *Family Tree Maker*, *Legacy Family Tree*, etc. There is no limit on written text. If you have more than ten (10) pages, great! The text should contain the subject's vital information such as birth, death, marriage, and places where the event took place if you have that information. Text should contain some history such as the life and times of that period; how the time period affected the family; note if the female gave birth before the migration from one place to another, or did she travel while pregnant; the difficulty of traveling in wagons across the country and over the mountains; or crossing rivers, etc. In other words, make it interesting to read.

Remaining pages may be of graphics such as photocopies of an original document such as a will, marriage certificate, obituary, funeral card, or pictures you have collected on the subject.

Have at least four (4) properly cited footnotes, endnotes (See *Evidence! Citation and Analysis for the Family Historian*, by Elizabeth Mills. A copy is in the library.) You may also embed the source inside parentheses within the body of the text. The purpose of the citation is to document some of your findings and familiarize yourself with citing a source.

Title page should contain the family name. If you are covering more than one family surname, then follow the title with the other family surnames:

The Jones Journal

With Related Lines of Kelly, Smith, and Valentine

Donate one copy to the Gladys Harrington Library Genealogy Section and display book or booklet at the December 2007 Show and Tell Program.

The purpose of this challenge is to get you writing your family stories! You have until December 15, 2007 to complete the project. By beginning your writing with this challenge, you can earn a donation of \$5 per book or booklet to Genealogy Friends. It does not have to look like a high-end professional book. It is your book, your family. That is why the requirements are so generous and "writer friendly."

The Collin County Trail

By Joy Gough

Somehow my computer lost the end of last month's article so I am recreating it here.

The Collin County Trail

Lately while reading about the emigration along the Oregon Trail, I was struck by the similarities between going to Oregon and coming to Texas in those days. The time-frame was the same; the enticements were the same; the migrants were similar; and the travel and preparation were the same.

The migration on the Oregon Trail started in 1843 and continued until the 1870s. The settling of Collin County started with the Peter's Colony in the early 1840s and continued until well after the Civil War.

The 1840s were a time in America when people believed it was their right and duty (their Manifest Destiny) to extend the United States to all of the land west of the Mississippi River between Mexico and Canada, ignoring national boundaries whenever they felt like it. A few cities existed on the west banks of the Mississippi River, but basically the United States stopped there and restarted on the Pacific Coast. The mid-western areas were U. S. Territories, not states.

The emigrants were usually white farmers between the ages of 19 and 45, who had already moved once or twice in their lifetime or in their parents' lifetimes. They were not as attached to where they were leaving as families who had lived in the same location for generations. Most of the people came from the new frontier states of Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Tennessee, Kentucky, Alabama and Mississippi.

Whether by direct advertising or word-of-mouth, the enticements for migration were the same. The new land was a veritable Garden of Eden where the soil was so rich and the crops were so bountiful that they grew without a lot of work by the farmers. Farmers could get several harvests a year. The climate was so good that it did not get too hot in the summer or too cold in the winter. It hardly rained in Oregon and it did not reach 100° in Texas. The Indians were not a threat in either locality or along the route.

Of course, the big enticement in the 1840s was free land. In the Peters Colony in Texas a married man was given a square mile of land, 640 acres. A single man received half of that, 320 acres. In Oregon a married man was given 320 acres of land and his wife was given an additional 320 acres. Many women liked the idea of owning their own land. All the settlers had to do was start clearing the land and live on it. What could be easier?

Travel to either location was advertised as being not too difficult and not taking too long. It was considered an adventure by many and no hardship seemed insurmountable, not illness nor pregnancy nor weather. Most of us know the approximate route of the Oregon Trail with all of its dangers. The route to Texas wasn't as well defined.

There were not any mountains to cross on the route to Collin County, but there was no direct way to get here. Either the emigrants came by wagon train all of the way, or they took a boat up the Red River to Shreveport and Lake Caddo to Jefferson, Texas, and proceeded by wagon from there. The Red River was not navigable north of Shreveport.

The wagon trains could come down from Missouri or across Arkansas to connect with a branch of the Santa Fe Trail that went from Ft. Smith, Arkansas, through Chickasaw and Choctaw sections of Indian Territory for 180 miles to the Red River at Preston. (Ft.) Preston was located where Preston Road met the Red River. The Red River was notorious for quicksand and difficulty in crossing. Preston Road was one of two roads authorized by the Republic of Texas to connect Austin with its northern neighbors. Other wagon trains traveled from Jefferson across to Bonham and then to Collin County. Very few settlers came to Collin County by way of the Gulf of Mexico and Galveston. The east-west railroad was not built until the mid to late 1880s. Collin McKinney came by way of Texarkana.

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The Collin County Trail, cont'd

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Roads in those days were cleared trails with tree stumps “no more that 12 inches high” (a designation by the Republic of Texas for road building). There were no bridges and the streams all had steep banks. Diaries written by travelers in these wagon trains mention having to camp on the bank of a river or stream for days, or even weeks, waiting for the water to go down. Many men and animals were drowned trying to cross these streams and rivers. Animals and men had to be used in front and in back of wagons to get them up and down the steep streambanks. The trip was not an easy one!

Preparation for a move like this could take longer than the trip itself. The highest priority went to the wagon and the animals to pull it. After that came food and then anything else the family might need or want in their new home. Farm wagons were too heavy and not strong enough to withstand the journey. The wagons had to be made of seasoned hardwood to withstand the long miles and weather extremes. The wagons had to be sturdy enough to carry possessions and family but light enough for the animals to pull without too much exertion. Most people did not travel in the wagons and many did not sleep in them. The wagons were mostly for transporting possessions and supplies and for protection from the weather. Most emigrants slept outside in tents. Single men paid passage to drive the additional wagons in exchange for food.

In the beginning the animal of choice was the ox. Oxen did not have to be pampered. They were extremely strong, non-complaining, and could survive on sparse prairie grasses and muddy water. Another advantage of oxen was that Indians very seldom stole them, like they did horses. The disadvantage of oxen was they were extremely slow. People could, and did, walk along side them, all the way to Oregon or Texas. Each wagon would have 2 to 4 yokes of oxen to pull it. A yoke consisted of 2 animals. Some families had 2 or more wagons.

The second animal of choice was the mule. They were not as strong as oxen and needed a better diet than oxen. They were faster, though. A wagon pulled by oxen might make 25 miles a day. One pulled by mules could make almost 40 miles a day.

Many of the men on the wagon trains rode horses. In certain parts of the west the horses had to be watched constantly to keep the Indians from stealing them.

Guide books were published as early as 1848 telling emigrants how many pounds of supplies were needed for the trip - 25 pounds of bacon per adult, 150 pounds of flour, 25 pounds of sugar, 15 pounds of coffee, etc. If they ran out of food, there were no trading posts or settlers to replenish supplies. Many emigrants brought 2 or 3 milk cows on the trip. The cows were milked in the morning for breakfast and at night. The leftover milk was put in jars and hung from the side of the wagons. During the day the jostling turned the milk into butter for supper.

There were wild animals along the way that could be killed for food. The farmers were notoriously bad hunters and fishermen. One letter said repeatedly, “the men went out today hunting for game and got none.” Even with all the buffalo on the plains, they would come back empty-handed. Some wagon trains even hired hunters to accompany them to help obtain food. The emigrants became experts at making jerky by cutting the meat in strips and hanging it from the sides of the wagons to dry.

The trips took at least three months to Texas and six or more to Oregon. They could not start too early in the year because of snow and spring rains. Of course, they wanted to reach their destinations before cold weather and in time to have a crop before winter. If the traveling was too difficult, the settlers would lose their animals and sometimes their wagons and all their possessions on the trip. They could reach their new destinations with nothing but the clothes they were wearing.

Disease was rampant on these trips. The emigrants had little medicine and very poor hygiene. They drank from

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The Collin County Trail

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the same rivers that hundreds of animals had crossed. A cholera epidemic spread across the US in 1849, killing thousands of people in the cities as well as those on the trail. The roads were marked by graves and dead animals the whole way. No one knows how many people died from disease on the trips. Families lost the mother, father - or both - and children. Babies were born along the way. Many families were not the same as when they left their previous homes.

Once the emigrants reached their destinations, the real work began. The land had to be cleared and shelters of some kind had to be built for the family and animals. Furniture had to be made. Some emigrants lived in their wagons for a year or two until houses were built. Many times the permanent homes were not built for 2 or 3 years after arrival. Surviving the first winter could be very difficult.

Deciding to immigrate was a major upheaval in people's lives. They were leaving the safety and security of their homes and families for the great unknown. They traveled on faith and determination, believing they would have a better life. Many of the people never saw their relatives again. They did not ever make the return trip. They tried to convince their relatives to make the trip by writing encouraging letters to the families back home. They told them how wonderful the new land was and conveniently forgot to mention the hardships of the trip itself.

There was no "Collin Country Trail." However, the move to Texas was as difficult and demanding as any in those days, requiring a lot of planning and determination and hope and plenty of hard work to make the new land livable.

Oklahoma Land Records Online

Oklahoma County, Oklahoma is working on putting their land records from 1890 to the present online. This is the first county in a project to get all of the land records for Oklahoma accessible on the internet.

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

Websites

Check out this website if you are researching ancestors from outer rim of the present day Czech Republic.

www.rootsweb.com/~gbhs/index.html

Genealogy Library News is a blog that contains information about new articles and books that have been published. It is a great way to find articles about where your ancestors lived, their occupation, or other aspects of their lives.

<http://genlibrarian.blogspot.com/>

The East Texas Research Center collects, preserves, and provides physical and virtual access to East Texas' unique cultural history.

<http://www.sfasu.edu/libweb/etrc/index.asp>

Archaic Medical Terms—a resource for genealogists and historians

http://www.paul_smith.doctors.org.uk/ArchaicMedicalTerms.htm

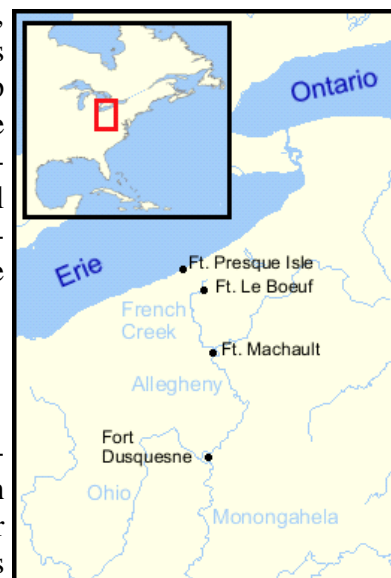
The Bloody Battles at Fort Duquesne

By Brenda Kellow

Out of every war come stories. Every battle or campaign has one. This is about one of those skirmishes—a deadly one. The time-period is 1755, July 1755 to be exact. The setting is at the forks of the Allegheny and Monongahela Rivers at the headwaters of the Ohio River, presently Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. The story focuses on the characters British Major General Edward Braddock, his 21 year old aide-de-camp George Washington and French Captain Claude Pierre Pecaudy, sieur de Contrecoeur aided by Captain Daniel-Hyacinthe-Marie Lienard de Beaujeau in their fight for control of Fort Duquesne. The history books label this battle *Braddock's War*. Both sides show traits of bravery, death, defeat, intelligence, stubbornness, and victory. It is just one story from the 168-year segment of the Colonial Wars.

Fort Duquesne

The fort was named after Ange de Menneville, marquis de Duquesne, the Governor-General of New France, 1752-1755. The French captain le Mercier built the star-shaped fort in 1754 from native timber enforced with rock and earth and fortified with large structures or bastions projecting from the sides for withstanding invading forces. The strategic location of Fort Duquesne was extremely important to each side. Occupation meant control of three rivers, the Ohio, the Allegheny, and the Monongahela, and domination of an important central route into the western wilderness, the Ohio Country. It guaranteed the French stronghold of the three other French outposts upriver, the Great Lakes, and with Fort Frontenac in Quebec.



Major General Edward Braddock

Braddock was the British major general and commander in chief of British forces in North America. His first assignment in the colonies was in 1755. His mission was to take the French stronghold, Fort Duquesne, and run the French out of the Ohio Valley and back into Canada. He commanded 1,400 British regulars and half as many colonial militia not to mention the families of some of the officers and soldiers, civilian laborers, teamsters, servants, slaves, and female camp followers who worked as cooks, nurses and washerwomen at a ratio of one female per ten soldiers. His insistence on using wagons rather than the customary pack animals proved to be a bad decision. The Indian trails were too narrow for the wagons and this large entourage. A road had to be built¹. After a long and tedious 110-mile march through the rugged wilderness to Little Meadows, he finally followed the advice of his 21-year old volunteer aide-de-camp, George Washington, and left the wagons, guarded by troops



E Braddock

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The Bloody Battles at Fort Duquesne (continued)

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under the command of Colonel Dunbar, and preceded the rest of the way on foot in the sweltering July heat.

Ten miles away from Fort Duquesne, as Braddock forded the cool and welcome waters of the Monongahela on a hot July 6, 1755, Captain Daniel-Hyacinthe-Marie Lienard de Daniel Beaujeu's 900-man force of 36 officers, 72 Regulars, 146 Canadian militiamen, and 637 Indians from the nearby tribes began to massacre the British and colonial militiamen. The British custom of fighting proved no match against the skilled Indians. Their bright red coats and polished brass accoutrements against the green of the wilderness brought quick attention to their presence.

The carnage began. French Captain Jean-Daniel Dumas quickly took command when commander Beaujeu was killed early on in the battle. Braddock remained on the field during the heat of the battle. He had four horses shot from under him before he was mortally wounded in the bloody killing field. Only the 21-year old aid-de camp, staff member George Washington, was alive, surviving two horses shot out from under him and four bullets tearing through his clothing. Some men from both sides ran to the woods for protection. At the closing of the battle Indians hunted and killed all of the soldiers who fled the battle before extending their murderous rage to the colonists whose homes were scattered throughout the area.

Major General Edward Braddock died on July 13, four days after being wounded during the middle battle. Knowing of his demise, he asked his men to bury him in the middle of the road, and then ride the horses over his grave followed by the wagons so his body would not be dug up and desecrated². With the chaplain deceased, George Washington presided at burial service there in Great Meadows, now known as Uniontown, Pennsylvania.

The Defeat of the French in the Colonies

The French twice successfully defended Fort Duquesne from English attacks. Following a British blockade on the St. Lawrence River that successfully halted France's ability to distribute supplies, thus rendering Quebec unable to support its forces situated on the Ohio River in the coveted Ohio Country, and Lake Ontario, General John Forbes gained control of Fort Duquesne, often described as a Herculaneum feat. Before retreating, the French burned Fort Duquesne to the ground on November 23, 1758.

With control of the passageways into and out of the Ohio Country, the fall of Fort Frontenac on Lake Ontario, and permanently disabling the French war effort in North America, the British rebuilt the fortress and named it Fort Pitt.

By observing Braddock's experience and a timely retreat by the Indians, Forbes was able to fortify the British position in the Ohio Country. The successful strategies learned from Braddock were:

1. He fortified his position as he approached the Ohio Country.
2. He delegated Colonel Henry Bouquet, his second in command, to oversee the building of all strategically situated posts that would protect his troops when attacked by the enemy

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The Bloody Battles at Fort Duquesne (continued)

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3. He recognized the importance of Indian diplomacy and sought indigenous allies by asking the southern Cherokee and Catawba Indians to join with the British side, which they did briefly—although it was only slightly effective.
4. He profited from peace negotiations between the Indians and British culminated in the Treaty of Easton in October 1758 that brought together the representatives from Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and the British Crown with over 500 Indians representing the Iroquois, the eastern and western Delawares, and several smaller eastern nations' branches of the Iroquois.

The key to every war victory are clever leaders who use the intelligence at hand to devise the strategy to win. In the case of British Major Edward Braddock, his failure to modify his performance led to his defeat and death at the hands of the French and the indigenous Indians. Had he acted on the battle advice of his aide-de-camp, George Washington, the outcome may have been different. Instead, his insistence on wearing the bright red uniforms of the British, having to build a road to carry the cumbersome wagons which wasted valuable time, maintaining the battle posture so common to the British, and his failure to study the battle tactics of the French and Indians led to the mortal outcome on his attempt to control the strategically positioned fort. Another tragedy coming out of this war is the lost rosters of those who served with Braddock. Other than the men serving under Braddock who were in a position of authority, the names of the common men fighting and dying on the killing field remain unidentified. Their story will never be told—their descendents never recognized.

Braddock's defeat necessitated yet another attempt to gain control of the landscape, this time under the control of the battle savvy General John Forbes. With his victory, the colonies gained control of Fort Duquesne—a crucial station for colonial migration into the Ohio River Valley at the headwaters of the Ohio River—and gained control of the fur trade and Indian alliances so profitable for colonial domination.

Notes

1. The road became know as Braddock's Road. It later became the foundation of the National Road.
2. In 1804, a crew of road workers discovered human remains buried in the roadway just west of Great Meadows. They exhumed and reburied the remains, believed to be Braddock's, under a marble monument in 1913.

