



Genealogy Friends News

Genealogy Friends of
Plano Libraries

November, 2003

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

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

Email Address: genfriends@comcast.net

Upcoming Events

Saturday Seminars

Genealogy Friends sponsors free seminars the third Saturday of every month from 9:30 to Noon at the Gladys Harrington Library.

December 20, 2003 - Show and Tell, re-live your grade school days, bring some of your most memorable genealogy finds and 'brag' about them to the group.

January 17, 2004 - Preparing for a Research Trip to Salt Lake City.

February 21, 2004 - Cheryl Smith will talk to us about the holdings in the genealogy section of the Gladys Harrington Library.

Second Annual Research Retreat

Join members of Genealogy Friends February 1-8, 2004 on our second annual Research Retreat to the Family History Library in Salt Lake City, UT. The Retreat includes:

- Library Orientation by FHL Staff
- Seminar on FHL Research by a Professional Genealogist
- Individual and Group Consultations with Experienced Genealogists

Registration Deadline: December 12, 2003

For more information contact Genealogy Friends at genfriends@comcast.net.

To register complete the form on our website www.rootsweb.com/~txgfpl.

2004 Events

Mark your calendars, the Library Lock Ins in 2004 are February 27, May 7, and October 29th.

We will have two all day Saturday Seminars - April 17th and September 18th.

Board Meetings will be January 20, March 16, and July 20th.

The Annual Meeting will be October 4th.

Dues Are Due

It is time for us to pay our dues. Single: \$30. Family: \$50. Friend: \$100; Gold: \$500; Platinum: \$1000. Please consider **matching funds** if your corporation is a participant. We are a nonprofit organization certified under Section 501 [c] [3] of the Internal Revenue Code.

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

Volunteer Activities

Library Volunteers

Our volunteers are in the library during the day on most days. Check out our web page and the bulletin board for the schedule of volunteers on duty; or call the Reference Desk to inquire 972-461-7175. If you would like to volunteer to work in the library, contact the reference desk.

Volunteers Needed

We need several volunteers to help with all facets of Genealogy Friends activities and events. If you have a talent, extra energy, or are willing to help in any way, please contact us at genfriends@comcast.net.

Publications For Sale

The following are available from Genealogy Friends:

Plano Star Courier Index 1904-1910	\$20
Plano Star Courier Index 1911-1917	\$20
Cemeteries of Collin County, TX	\$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 Systems	\$10

Donations

Fishbowl

Please consider placing a donation in our fishbowl. The money is used to buy CD's for the Genealogy Section of the library

Web Sites

Canadian Naturalizations—this database contains approximately 200,000 people who applied for and received status as naturalized Canadians from 1915 to 1932.
http://www.genealogy.gc.ca/01/010203_e.html

The National Personnel Records Center in St Louis has a web site where you can request information if you are the veterans next of kin.
<http://vetrecs.archives.gov>

The University of North Carolina has a dictionary of Units on their web site. Use it to translate measurements in land deeds.
<http://www.unc.edu/~rowlett/units/index.html>

The Library of Congress Map Collections: 1500-2003 includes maps of cities and towns, cultural landscapes, military battles and campaigns, conservation and environment, transportation and communication, and discovery and exploration.
<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/gmdhtml/gmdhome.html>

Death Indexes Available On line:

Illinois 1916-1950

<http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/archives/databases.html>

California 1940-1997, Kentucky 1911-2000, Maine 1960-1997, and Texas 1964-1998

<http://searches.rootsweb.com>

Ancentry.com has New York City 1892 to 1902. You can search free at the Harrington Library if you don't have a subscription.

Preparing for a Research Trip

The Family History Library in Salt Lake City houses the largest collection of genealogical records from different places in the world. There are records available from all 50 states and numerous other countries. Gen Friends is sponsoring a trip to Salt Lake City in February (see the article on page 1).

The key to a successful research trip is planning, no matter whether you are going to the local library for an afternoon or the Family History Library (FHL) in Salt Lake City. The first step to creating a great research plan is analysis. Analysis is important, it identifies what you have found, what is missing and what you've found that doesn't make sense.

A time line is a great tool to present a visual representation of your ancestor's life. List the events in chronological order for the family/ancestor. You can also add important historical events, e.g. wars, epidemics and major events that occurred in the locations where your ancestors lived.

Review the timeline looking for missing events. Do you have records proving the birth, marriage, death, burial, etc? Do the dates and places make sense? Identify the holes that need to be filled in.

Another way to analyze your data is a T chart. Draw a T on a piece of paper. List what you know about an event on the left side. On the right side, across from each event, write any questions you want to answer, what you don't know, or what doesn't make sense.

Once you know what you don't know, you need to determine which of these problems you want to solve on your trip. Prepare a list of problems by location (e.g. State, County, and City).

Review the Family History Library Catalog on CD Rom or on their website (<http://www.familysearch.org>) to determine what records are available at the library for the locations you are searching. Search the catalog using the place search function.

Here is an example. William Hoffmeister, his brother, sister, mother and step-father arrived in St. Louis from Hanover sometime before 1845. William purchased a farm in St. Charles, Missouri where he raised horses for use by his brother's livery stable in St. Louis. When William sells a piece of property in 1855 and on the 1860 Census his wife is listed as Catherine. However, when he sells a piece of property in 1864 and on the 1870 Census his wife is listed as Maria Ursula. There is only one William Hoffmeis-

Tracing Our Roots Column

The "Tracing Our Roots" column 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>.

ter listed in St. Charles on the Censuses and I have other family records showing that William resided in St. Charles the whole time. Therefore, I am looking for a death record for Catherine and marriage record for William and Maria Ursula to prove it is the same man with two different wives.

A search of the FHL catalog for St. Charles County, Missouri shows that there are Catholic Church records and marriage records available for the time period I am interested in. I will record the film numbers on my research plan along with the names, events and the time frame to search. Doing this work before I go allows me to be productive during my limited time at the library.

Other tools available on the website are Research Guidance and Research Helps. Research guidance includes historical information about the location and suggested search strategies. Research Helps include Research Outlines. They list records available at the FHL, other institutions that have records, and extant records for that location.

Once you know what records you will be searching, be sure you are familiar with the type of record. For example, if you are going to research land records you need to understand how to use the direct (grantor) and indirect (grantee) lists to find the deeds for your ancestors. You also need to understand the difference between the various types of deeds and the language used in them. Use a research guide to learn about using the record. Two helpful guides are *The Source* and *The Researcher's Guide to American Genealogy*.

If you are going to research records in a different language, be sure you have a genealogical word list or dictionary to help you. There are also guides available to help you read old handwriting, even though it is written in English, the record may be hard to read.

Now that you know what you want to look for, it is time to create your research plan. An Excel spreadsheet is a great way to do this. Create a column for each piece of data about the item to be searched - Ancestor's Name, Location, Time Frame, Record, Film/Fiche/Call number, and Comments (for other helpful information). Once you have each item

Preparing for a Research Trip, cont'd

entered in the spreadsheet, you can sort by the different columns.

The final step is to prioritize the items on your research plan. You need to determine in which order you will search the items on your list. Consider which things are not available to you at home? Remember the books don't circulate to the local Family History Centers, you want to be sure and review them during your visit to the library.

Determine which items are sure fire hits, easy to search, difficult to search, and which are complete shots in the dark. It is important to mix up the items so that you will sustain your energy. Start with a record you are familiar with and that you believe is something you will definitely find. Intersperse "sure fire" success items among the difficult records.

Determine when you are most productive. If you are a morning person, schedule the tasks that take more brain power first and the easier ones later in the day. Have a backup plan in case the film you need is being used by another researcher.

Once you arrive and familiarize yourself with the library, start with the first item on your list. Make sure you record the source information on each copy or abstract of information. It is important that you take time to analyze the results of each search and update your plan as you go along. If there were multiple records available to solve your research problem and the first one you checked provided the answer, you need to determine if the other records might provide more information. If not, move on to the next item on your research plan. If the record did not provide the answer, check the catalog to see if there are other options available that might.

Spending time to create a comprehensive research plan will help you make the most of the limited time available on your research trip. After you have analyzed the data you have, determined which records are available to solve the problems you have identified, created and prioritized your research plan and familiarized yourself with the records you will be searching you are ready. You will have done your homework, therefore, the chances are good you will return from your trip with a brief case full of new information about your ancestors.

References

Warren, James W and Paula Stuart. *Getting the Most Mileage From Genealogical Research Trips*. St Paul, MN: Warren Research & Publishing, 1998.

Family History Library Facts

Information from the Family History Library Website:

- The collection includes over 2.2 million rolls of microfilm genealogical records; 742,000 microfiche; 300,000 books, serials, and other formats; and 4,500 periodicals.
- The Ancestral File database contains approximately 35.6 million names that are linked into families.
- The International Genealogical Index database contains approximately 600 million individual names. An addendum to the International Genealogical Index contains an additional 125 million names.
- The Pedigree Resource File database contains 36 million names that are linked into families.
- Records available are from the United States, Canada, the British Isles, Europe, Latin America, Asia, and Africa.
- In 2000, the collection increased monthly by an average of 4,100 rolls of film and 700 books.
- A majority of the records contain information about persons who lived before 1920.
- Approximately 242 cameras are currently microfilming records in over 40 countries.
- Records have been filmed in over 110 countries, territories, and possessions.

1870 Census Index on Ancestry

Ancestry.com is adding an every name index for the 1870 Census. Some states are available now. The index is not complete yet, if you don't find your ancestors, try again later. If you don't have a subscription to Ancestry, you can access the web site at the Gladys Harrington library at no charge.



Family History Library Catalog™(FHLC). The catalog of microfilm, microfiche, and books available through the Family History Library. Available on line at www.familysearch.org or you can purchase a CD for \$5.00.

Family History SourceGuide™. Research outlines that describe types of records in countries, state, and provinces around the world. Available in printed form from Family History Centers or on CD. Order CD at www.familysearch.org.

Education Opportunities

2004

January 12-16, The Utah Genealogical Association announces its 9th Annual Salt Lake Institute of Genealogy. This week long institute will offer 10 tracks of learning. For details for this institute, please see www.infouga.org.

January 22-24, Gentech 2004, Preserving the Past—Exploring the Future, will be held in St. Louis, Missouri. Information is available at <http://stlgs.org/gentech2004/>

February 7, The Dallas Genealogical Society will feature Hank Z Jones. For more information visit their web site — <http://www.dallasgenealogy.org/>

March 20, The Midland Genealogical Society holds its Spring Seminar at the First Presbyterian Church Activities Building, 800 West Texas Avenue, Midland, Texas. Featured lecturer: Richard L. Hooverson. For more information e-mail: mrlynmrlyns@netscape.net

May 19-22, The National Genealogical Society annual conference will be held in Sacramento, California, the website is coming soon at <http://www.ngsgenealogy.org/confnatl.htm>

July 11-16 The Genealogical Institute of Mid-America will hold its tenth annual study program in Springfield, Illinois. Details are available from the Institute Director, Ms. Susan Kaufman at kaufmansusan@juno.com

July 11-17 The National Institute on Genealogical Research will be held at the National Archives in Washington, D.C. Visit their web site for more information - <http://www.rootsweb.com/~natgenin>

September 8-11 FGS 2004 Conference will be held in Austin, TX

Newsletter Articles

Have you found an unusual record during your search? How did you solve that last really tough problem? Write an article and submit it to be published in the newsletter. Have you discovered a fantastic web site? Email it to genfriends@comcast.net.

Dues Are Due

It is time for us to pay our dues. Single: \$30. Family: \$50. Friend: \$100; Gold: \$500; Platinum: \$1000. Please consider **matching funds** if your corporation is a participant. We are a nonprofit organization certified under Section 501 [c] [3] of the Internal Revenue Code.

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 genfriends@comcast.net.

1870 Census Index on Ancestry

Ancestry.com is adding an every name index for the 1870 Census. Some states are available now. The index is not complete yet, if you don't find your ancestors, try again later.

New In The Library

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

- Collingsworth County, 1890-1984
- The L.B. Toler Family History
- A Family History: Boyds and Connected Families
- Wheatheart of the Plains: An Early History of Ochiltree County
- Henslee Hand-Me-Downs
- Marriage, Death and Legal Notices From Early Alabama Newspapers, 1819-1893
- The Paynes of Virginia
- History of Milam County, Texas
- Sumter County, Alabama Wills: 1828-1872; Mortality Schedules: 1850-1880
- Grave Markers in Burke County, Georgia
- The McKinley Clan, Part II: A Genealogy of the Charles Carson McKinley Family
- Leon County Cemetery records, Vol. I
- Leon County Cemetery records, Vol. II
- Wood County, 1850-1900
- Cemeteries of Northwest Cherokee County, Texas
- 1850 Slave Schedule, Sumter County, Alabama
- 1855 Census, Sumter County, Alabama
- Summerville Cemetery, Augusta, Georgia
- San Jacinto Descendants
- Continental Telephone of Texas (covering Collin, Fannin, Grayson, Hunt counties)
- Continental Telephone of Texas (covering northeast TX communities)
- Continental Telephone of Texas (covering Upshur & Wood counties)
- Farmersville Telephone Directory
- Galveston: A Different Place: A History and Guide
- History of the City Cemetery of Jacksonville, Texas
- Official Street Atlas of Lorain and Medina Counties (Ohio)
- Portage County, Ohio cemeteries, Vol. III, Mantua Township and Mantua Village, 1807-1992
- Portage County, Ohio cemeteries, Vol. X, City of Streetsboro and Shalersville Township, 1809-1994
- Portage County, Ohio cemeteries, Vol. XI, City of Aurora, Hiram Village, Hiram Township, 1803-1995
- Leon County Historical Collections, Volumes 1-3
- Deaths and Marriages from Tarboro, North Carolina Newspapers, 1824-1865
- Jacksonville: The Story of a Dynamic Community, 1872-1972
- History of Edgecombe County, North Carolina
- Historical Collections of the Mahoning Valley
- Texas Society Colonial Dames Seventeenth Century Early History and Member List, 1939-1973

Donation

The Olivia Raney Library in Raleigh, North Carolina is giving the following to us for the library:

- Orange County Records, vols. 3 & 4 (Deed Books 3 & 4). 1990
- Wake, Capital County of North Carolina / Murray. 1983
- North Carolina, a Guide to the Old North State / WPA. 1944 reprint
- Sharecroppers, the Way We Really Were / Taylor. 1984