



Genealogy Friends News

Genealogy Friends of
Plano Libraries

Genealogy Friends News
October 2011

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

[http:// www.genealogyfriends.org](http://www.genealogyfriends.org)

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

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Saturday Seminars

Mark your calendars now for the exciting Genealogy Friends events in 2011 and 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:

October 15, 2011—"Y DNA Testing" by Don Raney

Future Topics:

October 20, 2011—Dining Out at Outback Steakhouse

November 19-2011—**All Day Seminar**—Kelvin Meyers will be our speaker. See the back page for more details

December 17, 2011—Show and Tell—bring your genealogy treasures and share with the group.

January 21, 2012—Tara Carlisle from UNT will present Digitizing Your Records.

February 18, 2012—Meg Hacker from the Southwest Regional Archives will discuss the 1940 Census.

February 25, 2012—LearnN—Topics to be announced

We are looking for topics and speakers for 2012 presentations, email Barb Coakley at newsletter@genealogyfriends.org

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

GenFriends Blog

A blog is a combination of the terms web and log. They are meant to be interactive. GenFriends has a blog, <http://genfriends.blogspot.com/>. Check it out, post comments and follow it to keep up with what's going on in the society.

Genealogy Friends Logo Shirts

You can be one of the best dressed genealogists in town!

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)

Genfriends Membership

Dues are due. 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://www.collin.edu/ce/> send it in with payment to

Genealogy Friends of Plano Libraries, Inc

PO Box 860477

Plano, TX 75086-0477

Tracing Our Roots Column

Brenda Kellow writes a weekly genealogy column, you can read it online at

<http://tracingourroots.weebly.com/>

Newsletter Articles

Have you found an interesting source, solved a genealogy problem, or come across a unique newspaper article? Send articles for the newsletter to newsletter@genealogyfriends.org.



Websites & Genealogy News

Family History Books—The collection of digitized books currently on by BYU website Family History Archives is moving to FamilySearch. The collection has outgrown the space available at BYU. The beta site is currently available.
<http://books.familysearch.org>

Unknown No Longer—Project of the Virginia Historical Society to increase access to its collections relating to Virginians of African descent. This database of enslaved Virginians that appear in the unpublished manuscript collection.

<http://unknownnolonger.vahistorical.org/>

Here is a link to the Guide to African American Manuscripts in the collection of the Virginia Historical Society

http://www.vahistorical.org/aamcvhs/guide_intro.htm

Oklahoma Sources

Oklahoma has added a page to their tourism website for genealogists

<http://www.travelok.com/genealogy>

Maps of Oklahoma counties

<http://www.travelok.com/article-page/detailed-county-maps>

Oklahoma Land Openings Map

http://www.travelok.com/files/genealogy/land_openings_map.pdf

Tennessee Civil War Geographic Information Survey Project—Shows hundreds of locations where Civil War battles, engagements, skirmishes and other military actions took place. This is an interactive application that links narrative information about the events to street maps, land use maps, aerial photography brought to us by the Tennessee State Library and Archives.

http://tnmap.tn.gov/civilwar_test/

Jefferson Genealogical Society—Jefferson Parish is part of Metro New Orleans

<http://www.jgs25.com/>

Resources for Finding Passenger Arrival Records at the Port of New Orleans, Louisiana

Website compiled by Joe Beine that lists information about arrivals and links

<http://www.germanroots.com/neworleans.html>

US Dept of Interior—Trace Indian Ancestry

<https://www.familysearch.org/films/>

JSTOR is a website with academic journals online. They have opened up content published before 1923 in the US and 1870 from other countries so it can be searched for free. Click the box “Include only content I can access” to limit your search to the free material.

<https://www.familysearch.org/films/>

Paper of Record has digitized Canadian newspapers including The Toronto Star from 1892 to present

<https://www.familysearch.org/films/>

Courthouse Records

By Barbara Coakley

Last month Stacy Kemp, the County Clerk for Collin County, spoke to us about records at the County Courthouse. It seemed like a good time to expand on the subject.

Collin County has an impressive website that provides access to many records online. It is one of the few county websites I have seen with a Genealogy section, here's the url—http://www.co.collin.tx.us/county_clerk/genealogy/genealogy.jsp. On the website you can search the historical marriage license archives and order a pdf copy which will be emailed to you. There are also images of school census records available online and indexes to births and deaths. Unfortunately not every county we research offers the same online access.



Preparation is the key to any research but especially if you are making a trip. County boundaries changed over time. The first step is to determine when the county was formed to be sure the timeframe you are searching will be at the courthouse.

Before you travel hundreds of miles to visit the county courthouse, check to see what is available on their website or through the Family History Library (FHL). County courthouse records are among those that the FHL targets for their microfilm/digitization project. Search the digitized records on Familysearch.org—https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/list#page=1®ion=NORTH_AMERICA Records are listed by state.

If you don't find what you need, then try a place search in the Library Catalog—<https://www.familysearch.org/#form=catalog>. Choose Place-names in the search field and enter the state, county in the For box and click Search. A list of the records available will be displayed. Click on the record category to see the titles available. You can order microfilm and microfiche to view at your local Family History Center by completing a form on the website—<https://www.familysearch.org/films/>. Login, choose your Family History Center, enter the film number and select the type of loan. A short term loan for a roll of microfilm is \$5.50.

Once you have exhausted the research you can do from home or the local Family History Center, it is time to prepare your research plan for visiting the courthouse. Don't forget to verify hours and location before you go. Determine which records you want to look at and confirm that they are located at the courthouse. There is nothing worse than wasting time going to the courthouse when the records are across town at an archives or finding out when you get there that they are off site and have to be ordered.

Let's explore what kinds of records can be found at a county courthouse.

Birth, Marriage and Death Records—Use Ancestry's Red Book (available on the Ancestry.com Wiki) or Everton's Genealogical Helper to determine when vital records were recorded in the county you are searching. Early records are often only available at the courthouse. Later, copies of records were sent to the state level as well. Sometimes cities required registrations before the county. In New England, records were kept at the Town so they won't be available at the County Courthouse.

Deeds – Transfers of property (real and personal) between individuals are recorded in the deed books at the county courthouse. Property was transferred from the owner, the grantor, to the buyer, the grantee. The most common indexing system is organized by owners (grantor index or direct index) and buyers (grantee index or indirect index). Names are recorded by the first letter of the owners' or buyers' last name. Indexes can be separated by time frame, be sure you are looking in the books that cover the time your ancestors' lived in the county. Deeds may have been recorded long after

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Courthouse Records, continued

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the actual transaction. Once, I found a deed for a transaction that took place in the 1860's that wasn't recorded until the early 1900's. Some are in alphabetical order within the first letter. Be sure to locate both the purchase and sale of each piece of real property your ancestor owned. If you don't find a deed for the sale, check probate records to see if the property passed to an heir. Another possibility is the property was sold for debt or taxes. In that case check under T for tax sale, S for Sheriff's sale, or C for commissioner. Property sold as a result of distribution of property in an estate might be under the name of the executor or administrator.



There are other indexing systems used in some locations—Cott Index, Russell Index (used in Pennsylvania), and Graves Tabular Index (popular in New York). These are explained in detail in *Courthouse Indexes Illustrated* by Christine Rose.



There are different types of deeds. The most common type of deed is a Warranty Deed. The seller warrants or guarantees that they have clear title to sell the property. A Trust Deed was a type of mortgage where the land was deeded to a third party, a trustee who held the title until the borrower pays the amount owed to the lender. This type of deed has three parties, the owner of the property who is mortgaging it, the lender, and the trustee. A Quitclaim Deed is a release of any claim or interest in the property. These are often used for land that the grantor has an interest in through inheritance or for dower releases.

Deed books can contain other documents—power of attorney, oil, mineral and gas leases, pre-nuptial agreements, military discharges, and mortgages are just a few examples. In some areas miscellaneous documents may included in the deed books but not in the index. When you find a deed for your ancestor, check a few pages before and after it. They often gathered up multiple deeds and made the trip to the courthouse with them to have them recorded, especially if it was a long trip to get there. Mortgages are sometimes recorded in separate books. It is worth you time to spend a few minutes talking to the clerk to find out how their deeds are organized and where other miscellaneous records might be kept.

Another record that can tell you about your ancestor is tax records. Most counties have both real and personal property tax records. They are often organized by township. If you know where in the county your ancestor lived it will be easier to locate the tax records. Taxes were collected every year. Tax records can take up a lot of room and seem to be one of the records that have a shorter retention period. If they are no longer at the courthouse check the local genealogical societies, historical societies or local manuscript collections. Another good way to find them is to send an email to the Rootsweb mailing list for that county or check a local research guide. Personal property tax records may be one of the few records generated by our poor tenant farmer ancestors. Even though they didn't own the land they may have paid taxes on their crops, wagon, livestock, etc. Taxes were local so you will need to consult the tax laws that were in effect in the location where you ancestor lived at the time they lived there.

Courthouses are full of records that can help us piece together the lives of our ancestors. Deeds and tax records are just two of these records. Next month we'll explore wills, probate and court records.

Genealogy Technology Updates

RootsTech 2012 will be held in Salt Lake City February 2-4, 2012 to bring genealogy and technology together.

<http://rootstech.familysearch.org/home>

Family Tree Maker 2012

Ancestry announced the release of Family Tree Maker 2012 on 29 September. Software is \$39.99.

Here is a link to the article on Ancestry.com Blog http://blogs.ancestry.com/ancestry/2011/09/29/family-tree-maker-2012-is-here/?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+ancestry+%28Ancestry.com+blog%29&utm_content=Yahoo%21+Mail

Here is a link to the website to purchase the software

<http://www.ancestry.com/cs/apps/win4942>

Personal Historian 2

RootsMagic has released Personal Historian 2, it is currently on sale for \$19.95 through October 31st.

Here's a link to a webinar about the new software

<http://rootsmagic.com/webinars/>

Here's a link to purchase the software

<http://rootsmagic.com/Personal-Historian/>

Mocavo

Mocavo.com now lets you upload your family tree. You can choose to have your tree open for searches or private. According to their website they will be adding a feature to scan across the web for results that match your tree and will send you an email.

<http://mocavo.com/>

fold 3 (Formerly Footnote)

Fold3 now offers video tutorials and help topics to help you get the most out of their website.

<http://www.fold3.com/tutorials/>

AncestorSync allows you to seamlessly download, upload, or synchronize your family tree from your online pedigree to your personal genealogy software on your local computer, and back again. It currently supports Ancestral Quest, Legacy, Mac Family Tree, PAF, RootsMagic and The Master Genealogist. Online pedigrees supported are Family Search, Geni and Our Familyology. Pre-order cost is \$10 for the first year.



Genealogy Friends of Plano Libraries Presents:
***“Sources & Techniques to
 Jump Start Your Research”***

Speaker: Kelvin L. Meyers

When: Saturday, November 19, 2011

Where: Plano Bible Chapel
 1900 Shiloh, Plano, TX

Topics: Tax Records or Why Did Scarlett Make a Dress of Her
 Mother’s Drapes?

Who Cares Who Their Neighbors Were? You Do!
 That’s Who!

Where Do I Go After 1930 Census?

Plowing Through Land Records to Find Your Ancestor

Details: 9:30 to 4:00

Before 11/1/11 \$35 Members \$38 Non Members

After 11/1/11 \$40 Members \$45 Non Members

Bring a Brown Bag Lunch