



Genealogy Friends News

Genealogy Friends of
Plano Libraries

Genealogy Friends News

October 2023

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

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Schedule of Events

Mark your calendars now for the exciting Genealogy Friends events. Saturday seminars are held at W.O. Haggard Library, 2501 Coit Rd, Plano, TX from 10:15 to Noon.

October:

October 21, 2023—Hybrid Meeting—”After They Are Gone: What Probate Records Tell Us,” by Barbara Coakley

Future Events:

November 9, 2023 Round Table Zoom Discussion Group

November 14, 2023 DNA Special Interest Group

November 18, 2023—Hybrid Meeting—”Researching Graphically: Expanding Your Research With Timelines, Charts, Spreadsheets, and Diagrams,” by Ari Wilkins.

December 9, 2023—In Person—Research At The Library

December 16, 2023—In Person —Show and Tell

January 20, 2024—Hybrid Meeting—”A Nose for News: Sniffing Out Stories in Newspapers” by Mary Roddy

February 17, 2024—Hybrid Meeting—”The Fair Court: Records of the Chancery Court” by Judy Russell

March 16, 2024—Hybrid Meeting—”Turning Records Into Stories” by Barbara Coakley

Check out the events on our Facebook page for more info on the topics and speakers for each months program—<https://www.facebook.com/GenealogyFriends>

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Genealogy Friends

Purpose: To educate members and library patrons in doing genealogical research and to support the Genealogy Center of W.O. Haggard, Jr. Library through donations.

Goal: To expand the library collection to meet the needs of this genealogically diverse community.

Genealogy Friends of Plano Libraries, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation. All donations are tax deductible.

Like and Follow us on [Facebook - Genealogy Friends of Plano Libraries](#)

The annual membership meeting is held each October.

Genfriends Membership

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 pay for programs and to purchase materials for the Genealogy Section at Haggard Library.

Download the membership form on our website <http://genealogyfriends.org/news/> send it in with payment to

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DNA Special Interest Group

The DNA Special Interest Group meets on the second Tuesday of each month in the Genealogy Section of Haggard Library from 7-8:30 pm. The November meeting will be on Tuesday, November 14th.

We are taking a break there will not be a meeting in December.

We are using Diahan Southard's book *Your DNA Guide the book* to guide our discussions. We are working on pages 28-44 which are about choosing your research goal.

We are learning together about using DNA to further our genealogy research.

IMPORTANT!

Volunteers Needed

Genealogy Friends is a volunteer led organization. We have a dedicated board of directors who keep things running. Our fiscal year begins October 1st.

Current Volunteer Opportunities:

Photographer—take pictures at events—you can use your phone.

Social Media—post events on our Facebook page

If you are interested in helping out please email newsletter@genealogyfriends.org

Local Genealogy Events—Save the Dates

Great Family Search presented by the Family History Center in Plano will be held on October 28, 2023.

Research At The Library will be on December 9, 2023. Experienced members will be available to help with research planning and answer questions. Join us at W.O. Haggard Library from 10-1.

Dallas Genealogical Society 2024 Seminar Series:

- April 13, 2024 “Genealogy Jackhammers: Methods for Breaking Brick Walls” with Tom Jones
- July 27, 2024 “The Legacy of Forced Removal: Finding Formerly Enslaved & Indigenous Kin” with Nicka Smith Sewell
- September 28, 2024 “Autosomal Analysis: Tools for Finding Your Ancestors” with Blaine Bettinger

Stories of Family Heirlooms

By Barbara Coakley

Heirlooms are handed down from generation to generation in a family. They are treasured objects that held meaning for family members, provide a connection to the past, and clues about our ancestors. As time goes by, family members don't have a connection to the person who originally owned the heirloom. Passing on the stories along with the heirlooms is one way to create a connection to the objects that were important to our ancestors.

Photograph and write down what you know about the object. Here are a few things to include:

- Describe the physical characteristics of the object—size, weight, material, characteristics
- Who did it belong to and who owned it over time? Include pictures of the people who owned it.
- How, when, and where did the person who originally owned it obtain it?
- Where was it kept?
- What was it used for in the past and now?
- Who provided the information about the object?

Next step is research, something we are all familiar with. Find out what you can about the object and place it in the context of your family.

- Google the object.
- Search newspapers.
- If the object had a purpose, research how it might have been used.
- Look for family pictures that might include the object
- Any other documentation like letters, receipts, etc.

Preserve the heirloom. There are companies that make archival quality containers to store all types of items. Here are a few companies:

- Hollinger Metal Edge <https://www.hollingermetaledge.com/>
- Gaylord Archival <https://www.gaylord.com/>
- University Products <https://www.universityproducts.com/>

There are lots of websites that offer advice on how to preserve objects. The book *Saving Stuff* by Don Williams and Louisa Jaggar, Senior Conservator of the Smithsonian Institution tells how to care for and preserve collectibles, heirlooms and other prized possessions. It is available on Amazon.

Write the story and share it with your family. Make provisions to pass the object and the story on to the next generation.

An example of a story about one of my family heirlooms is on the next page.

Helen Coakley's Shirley Temple Pitcher, continued

Helen, Jim, John holding Bill
and Jack Coakley on the
Homestead, 1933

Helen and her husband, John Leonard Coakley, and their three sons, lived on their homestead near Tule Lake, Siskiyou County, California.⁴ The home that John built in 1927 burned to the ground in 1934.⁵ During the depression, Helen probably took advantage of the promotion to acquire the pitcher. Later in life, Helen continued to benefit from premiums, she used Oxydol laundry detergent to get glasses and towels.⁶

I have the pitcher on a shelf in my living room. It brings back fond memories of Helen in her kitchen at the house in Kansas City where they lived when I was a little girl.

⁴ John L Coakley (Siskiyou County, California) homestead entry file, certificate number 017373, Sacramento Land Office, Land Entry Papers; Record Group 49; Records of the Bureau of Land Management; National Archives, Washington D.C.

⁵ "Midland," (*Klamath Falls, Oregon*) *The Evening Herald*, 28 April 1934, digital image *Newspapers*, (<https://www.newspapers.com/image/97170254/?terms=coakley>: accessed 13 May 2019) page 9, column 2.

⁶ Conversation with Jane Sennott Coakley, daughter-in-law of Helen Struck Coakley, 2023.

Lottie Deno

By Barbara Brogdon & Barbara Coakley

Originally published on [Traces of Texas Facebook page](#)

A bit of Texas history that most of us never learned!!

Ft. Griffin Flat, here in West Texas, was the hell hole of all Texas in the mid-1870s. Near present day Albany, it was called "the Sodom of the West." It was near an Army fort, the buffalo hunters, and the trail drives. Famous gamblers that lived there included John Wesley Hardin, Doc Holliday, Wyatt Earp, Lottie Deno, and Pat Garrett, the man who killed Billy the Kid.

In the Flat, the most famous gambler was Lottie Deno, a red-headed beauty that always wore the latest fashions. She was the model for Miss Kitty on the TV series, Gunsmoke, and the lead character in a series of novels by Alfred Henry Lewis, who became one of America's most famous writers. He was also in the Flat. The name Lottie Deno comes from the Spanish word for money, lots of dinero. She got the name when she won all the money on the table in a poker game. In different towns she was called, Faro Nell, the Poker Queen, Mystic Maude, The Angel of San Antonio, and other names. Big Nose Kate Elder and Doc Holliday had become a couple. One night, Kate, being jealous of Lottie, started a fuss and pulled her gun. Lottie pulled her gun and they cursed each other, but Doc stepped between them.

Another time in Fort Griffin, two poker players stood up and shot each other dead across the table. The room emptied out, except for Lottie, who kept her chair at the faro table. The sheriff ran in and told Lottie he could not see why she didn't run like everyone else. Lottie said, "You have never been a desperate woman."

One night, Doc won \$3000 and broke the faro bank. Lottie took over and won all of Doc's money for herself. Lottie left the Flat with a small trunk filled with money. She moved to Deming, New Mexico and married gambler, Frank Thurmond. Her investments in mining, real estates, and ranching made her very rich. Think of all the movie and TV series made about these people who met in West Texas.

This is an excerpt from FAMOUS GAMBLERS, POKER HISTORY, and TEXAS STORIES, by Johnny Hughes available on Amazon.

Submitted by Barbara Brogdon

Here is more information about Lottie that was not part of the Traces of Texas post:

From the Texas State Historical Association

<https://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/entries/thurmond-charlotte-tompkins-lottie-deno>

Lottie was born Charlotte J. Tompkins 21 April 1844 in Warsaw, Gallatin County, Kentucky, one of two daughters of a wealthy Kentucky plantation owner. Her family lost their fortune during the Civil War. After moving around, she arrived in San Antonio in 1865.

Another book about Lottie is *Pistons, Petticoats and Poker The Real Lottie Deno: No Lies or Alibis* by Jan Devereaux

