

# Genealogy Friends News

Genealogy Friends of Plano  
Libraries

Genealogy Friends News

October, 2010

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

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

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

Email Address: [genfriends@genealogyfriends.org](mailto:genfriends@genealogyfriends.org) Newsletter: [Barbara Coakley newsletter@genealogyfriends.org](mailto:Barbara Coakley newsletter@genealogyfriends.org)

## Saturday Seminars

Mark your calendars now for the exciting Genealogy Friends events in 2010 and 2011. 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 16, 2010—All Day Seminar will be held at Plano Bible Chapel, 1900 Shiloh Rd, Plano—"Records Research: Land, Church & Courthouse" presented by James Deen, Barbara Coakley and Tresa Tetryek. The fee is \$35 for members and \$38 for nonmembers if you register before October 10th and \$40 for members and \$45 for nonmembers afterwards. Bring a sack lunch, drinks will be available. <http://genealogyfriends.org/flyers/workshops/workshop2010flyer.pdf>

### Future Topics:

October 21, 2010—Gen Friends General Meeting will be held at Outback Steakhouse at 7 pm. Stay tuned for details.

October 23, 2010—LearnN—Join us to learn about two powerful software packages. Jennifer Pitts will show us how to organize and touch up photos using Picasa. Barbara Coakley will demonstrate how to use Family Atlas to create a map of our family history. Roots Magic has also agreed to give us a discount on Family Atlas, details will be available at the LearnN. See page 8 for more information.

November 20, 2010—Lt Calvin J Spann will share his experiences as a Tuskegee Airman

November 30-December 5th—Research Trip to Salt Lake City—On November 30th we'll travel to Salt Lake City. Research at the library begins with an orientation seminar. This is a great way to visit the largest genealogy library in the world. A professional genealogist will be available to help with your research during the trip. See page 7 for more information. **The registration deadline for discounted hotel rooms is October 31st.**

December 18, 2010—Show and Tell—bring your genealogy finds and share them with us

January 15, 2011—Daniel Scurlock will speak to us about computer security, the good and bad of Facebook, tips on backing up your computer and virus protection.

If you have suggestions for programs please submit them to Barbara Coakley at [bjc1620@sbcglobal.net](mailto:bjc1620@sbcglobal.net).

## 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

## Join Genfriends

It's time to renew your membership. The money we raise is used to purchase materials for the Genealogy Section at Haggard Library. Individual memberships are \$30 and family memberships are \$50. Dues year runs from October 1 to September 31.

## Genealogy Friends Logo Shirts

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) \$20.00 Henley's (white, ash or natural) \$20.00 Polo Shirts (white, ask or light blue) \$20.00.

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## Genealogy Classes

Genealogy II will be offered on Tuesday nights from 10/19 to 12/14. There won't be any class on November 30th since we will be in Salt Lake City. In this class we examine different types of records—where to find them, how to use them, what they tell you.

The instructor is Barbara Coakley. To register visit the college's web site <http://www.ccccd.edu/ce/index.html> or call 972-985-3711.

## Writing Contest

The National Genealogical Society sponsors a writing contest. The deadline for submissions is December 31st. Even if you don't want to submit your family history, their publication, *Creating a Winning Family History* could be helpful when you write your family history to share with your family. Check out their website for more details <http://www.ngsgenealogy.org/cs/>

## 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. Her columns are also available in the column archives at <http://tracingourroots.weebly.com/>

## Legacy Users Group

Joanne Corney leads a group of dedicated, knowledgeable folks who use Legacy software to organize their genealogy. They meet on the fourth Tuesday of each month in the program room at Haggard Library from 10:30 to 12:30. If you have questions email Joanne at [ptxlegacyug@verizon.net](mailto:ptxlegacyug@verizon.net)

## *Biography of Robert "Bob" Gibson Welsh*

**1854-1926**

*By Johnny B. Drury*

Robert G. Welsh<sup>1</sup> was born September 23, 1854 in the Parish of Dairy, Ayrshire, Scotland, about thirty miles from Aberdeen to Robert and Jane (Kerr) Welsh. His father was an iron ore miner born in Ireland. His mother was also born in Ireland.<sup>2</sup>

Robert G. Welsh's siblings included Isabell (born abt. 1848), Mary (b. abt. 1853), Jane (b. abt. 1857), Thomas (b. abt. 1861),<sup>3</sup> and Joseph (b. abt. 1863).

In about 1872 at the age of about 18,<sup>4</sup> he came to America as a ship stowaway landing at Norfolk, VA, accompanied by either a cousin or brother (name unknown). His companion immediately returned to Scotland for reasons unknown.<sup>5</sup> From Norfolk he soon made his way to McMinn County, TN.

He lived in Tennessee approximately ten years<sup>6</sup> where he married Julia Ann Cole on 27 Jun 1876. Robert Welsh worked as a farm laborer.<sup>7</sup> This was apparently his first serious introduction to farming since he had grown up in relatively urban and mining surroundings in Scotland. They had two children: a daughter, Elizabeth "Bessie" (1877-1934), and a son, Robert Bruce "Bruce" (1879-1904).<sup>8</sup> Wife, Julia, died 27 Dec 1880 in McMinn County, Tennessee.

It is uncertain when Robert Welsh obtained his nickname, but he was referred to by family and friends throughout his adult life as "Bob."<sup>9</sup>

Following Julia's death, Bob migrated to McKinney, Collin County, TX (abt. 1882). Although not substantiated at this writing, he apparently migrated with his son, daughter, and another family (unidentified) who were relatives of his deceased wife. (This other family reportedly settled in Celina, a small village in northwestern Collin County.)<sup>10</sup> Bob first worked for Dr. S. H. Abbott and Dr T. W. Wiley. He then obtained employment as a farm laborer on the farm of David Bomar in the Bomar Chapel community, five miles northeast of McKinney.<sup>11</sup> There he continued to hone his agricultural knowledge and skills in the farming and husbandry industries.

Bob met Mary A. "Minnie" (Wise) Samuels<sup>12</sup> in the middle 1880s. Following a courtship of unknown length, Bob wrote the following marriage proposal letter to Minnie:

*McKinney Tex*

*Jan 14 / 1886*

*Dear Minnie*

*The toils of the day are over and how delightful is it to me to have the honor of penin[sic] of lines to one whom I sincerely love. If there is there is one thing that can console me for my unavoidable absence from your side it is the pleasure of being to pen a few lines to you. I have so long enjoyed the happiness of being welcome by your side that I writ[sic] with more confidence on the subject from constantly meeting with you and obsessing the thorough acts of amiability and kindness which adorn your daily life. I have gradually associated my hopes of future happiness with the chance of possessing you as there sharer[sic] believe me. Dear Minnie this is no outbreak of boyish passion but the hearty and healthy result of a long and affectionate study of your disposition. It is love founded on esteem and I feel persuaded that your knowledge of my own character will lead you to trace my motives to there[sic] right source. May I then implore you to consult your own heart and I sincerely hope that you will accept these lines trusting that you will see them in the proper light. I remain your faithful friend and lover R G Welsh.<sup>13</sup>*

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## Biography of Robert "Bob" Gibson Welsh

*(Continued from page 3)*

Bob and Minnie were married five months later on 26 Jun 1886 on the farm of A. P. Mallow, three miles northeast of McKinney. The Rev. W. P. Cloyd performed the ceremony. Soon after the marriage, Bob was baptized by Rev Cloyd in the local Cumberland Presbyterian Church.<sup>14</sup>

Bob began to accumulate a savings while continuing to increase his Collin County area farming connections. In the middle 1890s, Bob and Minnie bought a farm in Ardath<sup>15</sup> northeast of McKinney. Here they raised their family: Bruce and Bessie (from his previous marriage); Minnie's son, John Charles "Charlie" (her daughter, D. J., died in 1881); their two sons, John Robert (1894-1971) and Willie "Bill" Edward (1902-1977); and daughters Minnie "Minnie" Myrtle (1889-1953), Lula Grace "Grace" (1888-1968), Kate "Kate" Rowena (1892-1981), and Jennie (1896-1949).

The farm was self-supporting with the common husbandry of chickens, cows, hogs, horses, mules, etc., along with the usual family garden and orchard. However, Bob was focused on the cultivation of cotton. His obituary highlights the fact that he was considered an expert cotton ginner during the autumn periods in the surrounding communities of Ardath, Altoga, Princeton, and McKinney.<sup>16</sup>



Bob and Minnie Welsh  
(circa 1890s)

Among the many farm animals and pets, the farm contained a horse named Jack. Jack was certainly a plow horse for the crops in his early days (circa early 1900s). Jack became known as "Ol' Jack" in his later, "retired" years. Bob's son, John, would often place his children on "Ol' Jack's" back for short rides around the Ardath farm in the middle 1920's. The farm also included a family pet in the early 1900s, a dog named "Shep," which was a personal favorite of son, John.<sup>17</sup>

Bob's first son, Bruce, died 31 Oct 1904 in Collin County, TX, following several weeks of suffering from typhoid fever. His death came about six months after returning from Tennessee.<sup>18</sup> It is uncertain how long Bruce had been in Tennessee before returning to Texas, but 1900 Census shows he and his sister, "Bessie," living McMinn County, TN, with their grandparents, the Cole's.<sup>19</sup> Both grandparents died in 1901, so it can be assumed Bruce and Bessie returned to Texas about 1904. Bruce was age 25 when he died. He never married. Bob's first daughter, Elizabeth "Bessie" returned to Texas (probably with her brother). She graduated from the Baylor Nursing School in Dallas in 1911 and died in 1934 in McKinney, Collin County, TX. Bessie also never married.<sup>20</sup>



Bob and Minnie  
Welsh  
on their Ardath  
Farm

Bob Welsh's level of formal education is unclear, but any that he received was no later than as a teenager in Scotland. However, it is evident Bob was apparently quite a self-educated person in his adult life. He was known as an avid reader. He was also very much interested in learning and being involved in the cotton growing and ginning industry. Bob was also involved in local school, civic and political activities. He was a member of the Princeton community's Odd Fellows Lodge and a member of Woodmen of the World.<sup>21</sup> His political activities are unclear except for the fact that he participated the local Populist Party activities as a Collin County delegate to the Party's convention in Farmersville, TX, held in May 1898.<sup>22</sup>

Bob Welsh died late in the evening of Wednesday, 24 Nov 1926 following a several month illness diag-

*(Continued on page 5)*

## Biography of Robert "Bob" Gibson Welsh

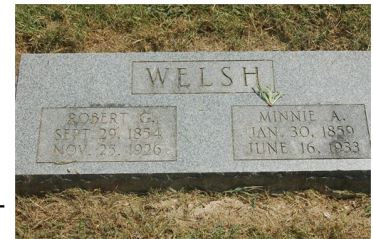
(Continued from page 4)

nosed as Bright 's disease.<sup>23</sup> He died on his parlor couch with Minnie and his surviving children around him.<sup>24</sup>

Bob Welsh was buried mid afternoon on the following day in the Altoga Cemetery, a couple of miles where he had lived for almost 40 years. His close friend, Rev. F. G. Rodgers, of Sherman, TX, conducted the ceremony. The ceremony was held in the memorial tabernacle shed located about 20 yards northwest of his gravesite. The ceremony was well attended and described as "a very large assemblage of friends filled the memorial shed and overflowed it..." and "...a large choir..."<sup>25</sup>

Bob Welsh was buried next to his first son Bruce who died 22 years earlier. Bob's wife, Minnie, and his first daughter, Elizabeth "Bessie," were later buried next to him.

Bob was well known to have a quite demeanor who was never known to publicly degrade another person. He was extremely thrifty and charitable and continuously supported the less fortunate in Collin County. Above all, Bob was known to possess a keen sense of humor and enjoyed having fun in life. He always enjoyed a good joke and laugh.



Graves of Bob and Minnie Welsh,  
Altoga Cemetery, Altoga, Collin County,  
TX

\* \* \* \*

Note: This biography contains all that is currently known by this author concerning Robert Gibson Welsh as of 1 Nov 2010. If anyone can add information, please contact the author at email: [Rustic04@aol.com](mailto:Rustic04@aol.com). As new information is found, this biography will be updated.

(Biographer: Johnny B. Drury, great-grandson to Robert Gibson Welsh)

(All photos from Drury/Welsh Family genealogy collection)

1. The family name of "Welsh" is also often recorded as "Welch". This is attributable to the fact that census records were recorded by census takers as the family names were verbally presented to them. Additionally, newspaper articles and books often recorded the name interchangeably. However, Robert Gibson Welsh was definitely known to spell his name as "Welsh."
2. 1861 Scotland Census, Dairy Parish, Ayrshire, Scotland. (The address recorded in this census was 32 Carsehead Row.)
3. Ibid, 1861 Scotland Census.
4. Obituary of Robert G. Welsh, "R. G. (Bob) Welsh Funeral Largely Attended, Altoga," *The McKinney Examiner*. Sec. 2, Col. 1. (Interesting family historical note: this obituary happened to appear on the same page with another article discussing the Texas Governor's "Thanksgiving pardon for Arlye Stepp, previously convicted as an accessory to murder of Hardy Mills. Hardy Mills was an uncle of Robert G. Welsh's daughter-in-law, Clara (wife to Robert's son, John Robert Welsh).)
5. Peggy Jane (Welsh) Ware, granddaughter to Robert G. Welsh, from interview with this author, May 2009.
6. Ibid, Obituary of R. G. Welsh.
7. 1880 U. S. Federal Census, recorded 1 Jun 1880, Supervisor Dist. No. 2, Enumeration Dist. No. 68, 14<sup>th</sup> Civil District, McMinn County, TN, Pg 12. Line 25.
8. Ibid.
9. Ibid, Obituary of R. G. Welsh.
10. Ibid, Peggy Jane (Welsh) Ware.

## Biography of Robert "Bob" Gibson Welsh

(Continued from page 5)

11. Ibid, Obituary of R. G. Welsh.
12. Minnie was born in 1859 as Mary A. Wise in Potosi, WI. She obtained the nickname, "Minnie" from her father after they traveled from Wisconsin to Kentucky on a riverboat with a similar name. The nickname stuck and she was thereafter known by all as "Minnie". This nickname is on her tombstone in the Altoga Cemetery and several descendants were named "Minnie". Minnie was first married to J. C. Samuels from Kentucky. In about 1889, her husband apparently abandoned the family or disappeared from their Collin County residence. He rode off one morning saying he was "going to check on the horses." He never returned and reportedly died in Kentucky. In mid 1880 Minnie was living with her two small children, parents, siblings, and maternal grandmother in Collin County as recorded by the 1880 U. S. Federal Census.
13. Robert Gibson Welsh, Letter to Minnie Samuels, McKinney, TX, 1886. (Original letter currently in Drury/Welsh Family Genealogy Collection and in the position of this biography's author.)
14. Ibid, Obituary of R. G. Welsh.
15. Ardath was a thriving village in early 1900s, but no longer exists. It was located northeast of McKinney near the present intersection of New Hope Road East (Farm to Market Road 1827) and Longneck Road (Farm to Market Road 75) or approximately 33° 140' 07"N, 96° 30' 32"W. Ardath was originally started with a house built in 1878. In later years it included a store, barbershop, an Odd Fellows Lodge, and a well known string band in circa 1902. (Capt Roy F. Hall and Helen Gibbard Hall, Collin County: Pioneering in North Texas, Heritage Books, Inc., 1994.) The location where the string band performed was probably the same "entertainment hall" called "Caleoki" where Robert Welsh's son, John, often danced circa 1910. (Note: the spelling of "Caleoki" is uncertain because it is recorded many years after John's verbal stories.)
16. Ibid, Obituary of R. G. Welsh.
17. Ibid, Peggy Jane (Welsh) Ware.
18. Obituary of Bruce Welsh, *The McKinney Daily Courier*, 11 Nov 1904, pg. 3, Col. 4.
19. 1900 U. S. Federal Census, Recorded 1 Jun 1900, Supervisor Dist. No. 3, Enumerator Dist. No. 86, 14<sup>th</sup> Civil District, McMinn County, TN, Pg 1, Lines 54-55.
20. Obituary, "Funeral Held Today for Miss Bessie Welch[sic]," *The McKinney Daily Courier*, 21 Aug 1934.
21. Ibid, Obituary R. G. Welsh.
22. Helen Gibbard Hall, *The Way It All Began; McKinney, Texas; A History*, Collin County Historical Society, Inc., Revised 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition, 2010.
23. Bright's Disease was a historical general classification of various kidney diseases which today would be described as acute or chronic nephritis.
24. Ibid, Obituary R. G. Welsh.
25. Ibid.



## ***Come Find Us ... at the Genealogy Friends'***



### ***Eighth Annual Research Retreat***

#### ***Family History Library***

*Salt Lake City, Utah*

***November 30 through December 5, 2010***

*The Retreat includes:*

- *Pre Trip Seminar will be held on September 25th at Haggard Library from 10:30-12:00 to help you prepare for a successful research trip*
- *Family History Library orientation by FHL staff on November 30th at 3:00 pm.*
- *Individual and group consultations with experienced genealogists*
- *Opportunity to use the vast resources of the largest genealogical library in the world*
- *Discounted hotel rooms.*

***The registration deadline is October 31, 2010.***

*For more information contact Barbara Coakley at [bjc1620@sbcglobal.net](mailto:bjc1620@sbcglobal.net) or the Genealogy Friends website [www.genealogyfriends.org](http://www.genealogyfriends.org)*

*Cost is \$80 for Genealogy Friends Members or \$100 to become a member (a savings of 33%) and register for the retreat. Proceeds are directed to the improvement and expansion of the Haggard Library Genealogy Section*

## Gen Friends Learn-N:

### "Using Picasa to Organize Your Pictures"

by Jennifer Pitts

And

### "Mapping Your Family History"

by Barbara Coakley



**Saturday, October 23, 2010**

**from 10:30am to 12:30pm**

**W O Haggard Library, 2501 Coit Rd, Plano**

Picasa is a free software package you can use to organize your digital photos and touchup some of those old photos that need some work. Jennifer will help us understand how to use this powerful tool.

Family Atlas is a fun easy way to map your family history. Trace your ancestors' migration around the world then pinpoint sites of important family events. Barbara will demonstrate how to import a gedcom file and create family maps. The software will be available to purchase at a discount.

Space is limited. To register email [s-icosper@juno.com](mailto:s-icosper@juno.com). A \$10.00 donation would be appreciated. Donations are used to purchase materials for the Genealogy section of the Haggard Library.

Genealogy Friends of Plano Libraries, Inc. is a nonprofit organization certified under Section 501 c [3] of the Internal Revenue Code

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