

# Genealogy Friends News

Genealogy Friends of  
Plano Libraries

Genealogy Friends News  
September 2024

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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 or join via Zoom.

### September Events

September 25, 2024—RootsTech Registration Opens

### October Events:

October 8, 2024—DNA Interest Group—Hybrid Meeting—See Page X for details

October 10, 2024—Roundtable Discussion Group—Zoom—See Page X for details

October 12, 2024—Great Family Search Conference—See page 2

October 18, 2024—Lock In at Haggard Library—See page 2

October 19, 2024—Hybrid Meeting—”Avoiding Bias: Consider All The Possibilities” by Barbara Coakley

### Future Events:

November 16, 2024—Hybrid Meeting—”After You’re Gone: Future Proofing Your Genealogy” by Thomas MacEntee

December 21, 2024—Library Only—Show and Tell

January 18, 2025—Hybrid Meeting—”Avoiding An Ancestor Identity Crisis” by Shelley Bishop

February 15, 2025—Hybrid Meeting—”Using Fold3 to Your Advantage” by Craig Scott

Check out the events on our Website— <https://www.genealogyfriends.org>

**ENJOY THE BENEFITS OF  
MEMBERSHIP**



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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.

## Gen Friends Membership

### Time to Renew

Our membership year runs from October 1 to September 30.

The money we raise is used to pay for programs and to purchase materials for the Genealogy Section at Haggard Library.

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

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## DNA Interest Group & Roundtable

DNA Group topic for October 8th meeting is Gedmatch.

Roundtable discussion topic for October 10th meeting is Using Maps in Research. Think about how you have used maps, where you find maps, and what types of maps you have used in your research.

## Genealogy Events

### September Events

#### Dallas Genealogical Society 2024 Seminar Series:

September 28, 2024 "Autosomal Analysis: Tools for Finding Your Ancestors" with Blaine Bettinger  
<https://dallasgenealogy.org/meetings-events/seminars/>

### October Events

#### Great Family Search Conference at Plano Family History Center

October 12, 2024

<http://greatfamilysearch.com/>

#### Genealogy Lock In at Haggard Library

October 18 9-6

<https://content.civicplus.com/api/assets/2bd913ff-bebd-43ab-93aa-ca922c249cb1>

### November Events

**Texas State Genealogical Society Family History Conference** will be November 1-2. There will be 10 presentations on Live Days with Q&A and on-demand recordings that will be available through 31 January 2025. **If you are going to register use code GFPL so GenFriends gets credit.** <https://www.txsgs.org/family-history-conference/>

Check out **Conference Keeper** to keep up with events. <https://conferencekeeper.org/>

## School Records

Fall is the time when students go back to school. School records might not be the first record group you think of to find out about your ancestors but they can fill in details about their lives. They can fill in details between census years, add information about your ancestor—were they a good student, did they miss school, did they take part in extra curricular activities, etc. Record availability varies by location and time period.

### What School Records Can Tell You

Yearbooks and College Catalogs can provide extensive information about your ancestor and their education. My grandfather attended the University of Missouri. The college archive provided his transcript. I found out that his high school wasn't accredited so he had to take courses to be admitted into the School of Engineering. He joined the Engineering Club, in the military band, and was the head cheerleader in his Junior year. The local newspaper included articles about goings on at the university. I learned that he and the other cheerleaders painted megaphones for a big football game. The local newspaper from his hometown included articles in the social column every time he visited home and returned to school.

One ancestor was a doctor. His record in the AMA Deceased Physicians Card File included the name of the Medical School he attended in the 1870s. The college catalogs that are digitized and available online include lists of classes, labs, instructors, cost of attending, lists of students, awards presented to students, and requirements for graduation. The City Directories for the time he attended school included the address where he lived. Newspaper accounts of graduation ceremonies added details.

Another ancestor was a High School Teacher. The city where she taught had a public school archives. I was able to learn what the requirements were for teaching school, that she attended a teachers college, and the schools where she taught.

County histories often include information on early schools including information on students and teachers. My ancestors attended the first school in their county in the 1840s.

My grandmother attended a private high school. They have an archives that provided information about her education. There were also articles in the local newspaper about events at the school including graduation, she was the valedictorian. My cousin had her scrapbook that included the text of her speech.

More recent school records have been critical in identifying DNA matches.

### Locating Records

Start with family papers. If you don't have any school records, ask you relatives what they have.

Collections of Yearbooks are available on Ancestry, FamilySearch and MyHeritage.

Catalogs and Yearbooks might be available on the website of the College or University. Google the school name.

School Census or Admission Records might include the age of the student, names of parents, information on siblings. Check FamilySearch for digitized records. Also check state digital collections on sites like State Archives or State Library.

Some cities have school archives. Google the city and "School Archives".

Check with local Genealogical Societies, Historical Societies and Libraries to determine what records might be available and where they are.

Contact the local diocese for records from Catholic schools.

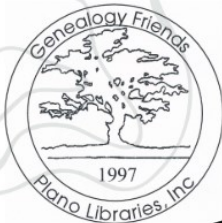
Private schools might have archives. Check their websites if they are still operating or manuscript collections if they are no longer operating.

School records might have been donated to institutions that maintain manuscript collections. Use ArchiveGrid to search manuscript collections (<https://researchworks.oclc.org/archivegrid/>).

### Worth the Effort

School records can require some effort to find but they can provide interesting information to add to your ancestors' stories. In some cases they may be the critical record that can confirm and identity or help break down that brick wall.

## October Seminar



# Saturday Seminar

October 19, 2024

Featuring:  
Barbara Coakley



Genealogy Friends  
of Plano Libraries Presents:

## Avoiding Bias: Consider All The Possibilities

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

Our goal in family history research is to prove an identity, relationship, or life event by thorough research. Bias can impact our research. It can keep us from finding the evidence we need, cause us to misunderstand research results, and lead us to incorrect conclusions. We'll discuss different behaviors that can introduce bias into our research process and how to avoid them.

## Genealogy News

**Issues at 23 and Me**— The Independent Board Directors at 23 and Me resigned en masse. Here is a link to the article <https://www.axios.com/2024/09/18/23andme-resignations-anne-wojcicki>. Diahn Southard of YourDNAGuide is advising that we take screen prints of important information and matches <https://www.youtube.com/shorts/h6pX2mbLnAY>

The St. Louis County Library has a great article about **Norwegian Bygdeboker** in their latest newsletter. <https://www.slcl.org/sites/default/files/2024-09/pastports-09-2024.pdf>

MyHeritage acquired **Mesaieus.com** a site that specializes in French Canadian genealogy. <https://www.mesaieux.com/>

October is German American Heritage Month. Germanology Unlocked is offering a free seminar on October 1—From Germany to America: How German Immigration Impacts Your Genealogy. <https://mailchi.mp/germanologyunlocked/from-germany-to-america-webinar>