



Genealogy Friends News

Genealogy Friends of
Plano Libraries

September 2007

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Saturday Seminars & Lock Ins

Mark your calendars now for the exciting Genealogy Friends events in 2007 & 2008:

Today's Topics:

September 15, 2007—Lynne Darrouzet will be speaking on **Copyright Law and Women & the Law.**

Future Topics:

October 20, 2007—"Perils, Paradoxes and Pitfalls in Probate Records" by Glen Kinkade, .

November 17, 2007—"Overview of Major US Migration Patterns" by Richard Preston.

December 15, 2007—Annual Show n Tell. Bring your genealogy finds to share with your friends.

January 19, 2008—"First Person Accounts in Genealogy" by John Pritchett

February 16, 2008—Aaron Holt from the Southwest Branch of the National Archives will do a presentation about their collection.

If you have suggestions for programs for 2008 please submit them to Barbara Coakley at bjc1620@sbcglobal.net

2007 Research Retreat to Salt Lake City

Genealogy Friends will be sponsoring a trip to Salt Lake City this fall. We will be traveling to Salt Lake City on Tuesday, November 6 returning on Sunday, November 11th. The fee for Members is \$80.00 and Non-Members \$100.00. The fee includes an Orientation to the Family History Library and consultations with a professional genealogist.

There is a block of rooms reserved for \$82.00 per night at the Salt Lake Plaza Hotel, to make a reservation call them at 1-800-366-3684. The hotel is located right next to the library. This is a great opportunity to visit the largest genealogy library in the world for the first time with others who have already been there. If you have already been there, it is an opportunity to research in the company of friends. See the website for a registration form—http://www.rootsweb.com/~txgfpl/retreat_slc.htm

Legacy Users Group

Joanne Corney started a Legacy Family Tree users group. The group will meet the fourth Tuesday of each month at the Haggard Library in the Program Room from 10:30 to 12:30. Contact Joanne at ptxlegacyug@verizon.net for more information.

Write A Book Challenge! Earn a \$5 Donation to Gen Friends

That's right. This offer is for members of Genealogy Friends of Plano Libraries, Inc. only.

What do you have to do? Write a biography of one of your family members, a history of a family line, or family newsletter, etc., per the few requirements below, and present it to Brenda Kellow to read, or you may bring it to the 2007 December Show and Tell program and win a \$5 donation to Genealogy Friends. Talk to Brenda if you have problems meeting any of the requirements below. E-mail her at GenFriends@tx.rr.com.

Requirements:

- * Book or booklet written on some phase of family history and published professionally, or you may "publish" off your own computer before December 2007's Show and Tell program. A hard cover is not required.

- * Requirements: At least ten (10) pages which contain:

Five (5) pages of text of your own composition and not composed by a genealogy program such as *Family Tree Maker*, *Legacy Family Tree*, etc. There is no limit on written text. If you have more than ten (10) pages, great! The text should contain the subject's vital information such as birth, death, marriage, and places where the event took place if you have that information. Text should contain some history such as the life and times of that period; how the time period affected the family; note if the female gave birth before the migration from one place to another, or did she travel while pregnant; the difficulty of traveling in wagons across the country and over the mountains; or crossing rivers, etc. In other words, make it interesting to read.

Remaining pages may be of graphics such as photocopies of an original document such as a will, marriage certificate, obituary, funeral card, or pictures you have collected on the subject.

Have at least four (4) properly cited footnotes, endnotes (See *Evidence! Citation and Analysis for the Family Historian*, by Elizabeth Mills. A copy is in the library.) You may also embed the source inside parentheses within the body of the text. The purpose of the citation is to document some of your findings and familiarize yourself with citing a source.

Title page should contain the family name. If you are covering more than one family surname, then follow the title with the other family surnames:

The Jones Journal

With Related Lines of Kelly, Smith, and Valentine

Donate one copy to the Gladys Harrington Library Genealogy Section and display book or booklet at the December 2007 Show and Tell Program.

The purpose of this challenge is to get you writing your family stories! You have until December 15, 2007 to complete the project. By beginning your writing with this challenge, you can earn a donation of \$5 per book or booklet to Genealogy Friends. It does not have to look like a high-end professional book. It is your book, your family. That is why the requirements are so generous and "writer friendly."

Burnet County Genealogical Society Seminar

The Burnet County Genealogical Society is sponsoring a seminar on Friday, October 12, 2007 at 401 East Jackson St, Burnet, TX 78611. The seminar features Emily Croom. On Saturday there will be a field trip to Ft. Crogham to research original probate and will packets from Burnet County. See their web site for more information—
<http://www.rootsweb.com/~txburnet/SeminarRegist07.html>

Websites

Civil War Newspapers online. The University of Richmond has digitized the Richmond Daily Dispatch newspapers for the Civil War Years.

<http://dlxs.richmond.edu/d/ddr/index.html>

The University of Texas Historical Maps Collection is a large online collection of maps of the world, including the US Army Map Service Maps circa 1945.

<http://www.lib.utexas.edu/maps/>

Omniglot—Covers writing systems and languages of the world. Learn about alphabets, tips on learning languages, translations, etc.

<http://www.omniglot.com/index.htm>

Rudy's List of Archaic Medical Terms—

<http://www.antiquusmorbus.com/Index.htm>

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

Volunteer Needed—Grant Applications

Gen Friends would like to apply for grants to raise money. If you have experience completing grant applications and would be willing to help please contact Roberta Hendricks at robertaclint@msn.com.

Southwest Regional Archives—Correction

Correction from Last Month—Part of the Southwest Regional Archives Collection moved to the new facility; however not the Genealogy Section. The Genealogy Section is still located at the old address—501 West Felix Street, Building 1, Fort Worth, TX 76115-3405. They are open Monday through Friday 8:30 to 4:00. Join us in February to learn about the collection housed at the Southwest Regional Archives when Aaron Holt from the Archives will be our speaker

Indians Living in Collin County, Texas

By Joy Gough

As a whole, the Indians living in Collin County in the 1840s and 1850s were peaceful Indians. They were farmers and hunters, not warriors. The tribes included the Caddo, Cherokee, Delaware, Kickapoo, and Tonkawa tribes. The Delaware had a village in the vicinity of Fitzhugh Mills northeast of Allen. The Tonkawa had a village along Indian Creek northeast of McKinney.

Plains Indians were prevalent west of Collin County in the area of Denton County and the area known as the Flats. They were horsemen, hunters and warriors. They would not plant crops because they were hunters. They would not work because they were warriors. They considered it beneath them to do planting and working. They would beg for things instead of working to earn them. The peaceful Indians did not have respect for them because they would not work.

A Kiowa chief by the name of Spotted Tail moved his band of about 200 to the Flats between Frisco and Prosper in the mid 1840s. He was in trouble with the soldiers in Kansas and Nebraska so he sought refuge in the western part of this county. The Kiowas were prairie Indians and preferred the open land of western Collin County to the wooded areas to the east.

Spotted Tail was said to be of medium height with piercing eyes. He wore his long black hair in 2 braids. His war bonnet had feathers that reached from his forehead all the way to the ground. After the Civil War he got a Union Army coat and wore that constantly - just the coat with no pants - a loin cloth and his moccasins. He attended the July 4th celebration at Buckner in 1845.

Chief Spotted Tail was a heavy drinker, who spent many a night in the livery stable sleeping one off. He sat around various places in the McKinney area begging for food and drink and the settlers obliged him. He helped bury the dead in a smallpox epidemic in 1873 when no one else would do it. He contracted the disease and died from it. He asked for a white man's burial and was buried at the Buckner Cemetery in McKinney.

As long as Spotted Tail's band lived in the area, Collin County was not attacked by marauding Indians from the west, which were usually Comanche.

In 1854 the State of Texas established an Indian reservation near Camp Cooper on the Brazos River and had all of the Indians moved into it. James W. Throckmorton, who was later governor, interceded on Spotted Tail's behalf and the tribe was allowed to remain in Collin County. When the reservation Indians were moved to Oklahoma, most of the Kiowa band moved with them voluntarily. Spotted Tail and a few others remained in the county.



INDIAN MASSACRES

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Indians Living in Collin County, TX, cont'd

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In November of 1842 a group of men were trying to build a community on the banks of Wilson Creek. The Indians raided and harassed them so much that they gave up the idea and helped John McGarrah establish the community of Buckner instead.

Around Christmas of 1842 Wesley Clemmons (Clements), and a man named Whistler were clearing land around Honey Creek for farming. The Indians attacked. The men ran to their house for their guns but were killed before they got there. One of the wives and the wife of Sam Young held the Indians at bay from the house until nightfall when they escaped. The other wife was at the creek at the time of the attack. She hid in the water using a reed to breath with until she thought she was safe. She escaped and ran toward the Throckmorton settlement for safety. Some men saw the woman, who was very distraught. She told them everyone was dead. Sam Young was in Bonham at the time of the attack getting supplies.

About February of 1843 as some men were building cabins at Buckner, a Dr. Calder from Cedar Springs near Dallas stopped by for a rest before continuing on his way to Fort English (Bonham). He was riding one horse and leading another. Soon after he left, the men heard Indians whooping and shouting. Dr. Calder was running toward Buckner followed by two Indians. Before the doctor could reach the settlement, the Indians caught and killed him. A search party was formed to pursue the Indians. When they got to the area where the doctor had been attacked, they were attacked themselves by a band of about 50 Indians. The party made it back to the cabin and were able to fight off the Indians.

In the fall of 1843 Jeremiah Muncey and his family were massacred by Indians at their home in present-day north Plano between Plano and Jupiter Roads on the south bank of Rowlett Creek. The Indians had camped upstream the night before near the present-day Rowlett Creek Cemetery at Custer and 121. As they proceeded down Rowlett Creek, they came upon two boys hunting. The Rice boy was killed. The Searcy boy's horse did not like Indians and bolted. He survived the attack and went to McKinney to get help.

The Indians continued down Rowlett Creek to the Jeremiah Muncey place. The Muncey home was a lean-to that they were using while they constructed their home. Jeremiah Muncey, his wife, a three-year-old child and a neighbor named McBain Jameson were all killed. Two of Muncey's boys were taken by the Indians and never seen again. The oldest Muncey child was in McKinney at the time getting supplies. The site of the massacre is marked, as well as the spot where the Munceys were buried. This was the last Indian massacre in Collin County.

There was supposed to be an Indian siege upon a house near Weston. The house was on a little rise. The settlers would sneak down to Honey Creek at night for water and then sneak back to the house. The siege lasted a couple of weeks or more.

Stories exist of Indian killings in the area of Westminster, east of Melissa and Anna. No details remain for those raids.

In 1862 Christian Stelzer was killed east of Celina. Many people attributed it to Indians. It was later revealed that he was killed in an argument over the Civil War.

Collin County was on the edge of the frontier until well after the Civil War. There were Indian raids in Tarrant, Cooke and Wise Counties in the 1870s. Before the Civil War the Indians were somewhat under control because of the U. S. Army soldiers and forts that were spread west across the state. With the coming of the Civil War, those soldiers were removed. Many of the men who enlisted in the Confederate Army from Collin County thought they would be protecting the area from the Indians.

Peters Colony of North Texas & Related Incident

By Brenda Kellow

You have undoubtedly heard of the Peters Colony if you have done any Texas history research, but did you know that the Hedgcoxe War was related to this colony of North Texas? You did know the colony was here in Collin County, Fannin County and Denton County didn't you? If not, read on and find out more about the colony and the resulting dispute or war.

The Indians roamed the Texas landscape freely and didn't like the adventurous settlers coming in on covered wagons, on horseback, or by foot to seek their fortunes in the virgin forests, streams, and meadows. Most new settlers came into the towns along the Gulf of Mexico but it was not long before settlement began in North Texas. The Peters Colony, sometimes known as the Texan Land and Emigration Company, encountered many boundary changes, growing larger with each revision of the contract awarded to the impresarios. At first the boundary on the north began at the Red River and came south encompassing only a portion of Cook, Grayson, Denton and Collin counties.

Another extension was granted and the boundary was extended into Tarrant, Dallas, Johnson and Ellis counties. But a later extension extended the colony even further. [See map at right.] Now that you know the area the colony covered in North Texas it is time to put all this into a time frame with Texas history.

Peters [Peters'] Colony was the name commonly applied to a North Texas impresario grant made in 1841 by the Republic of Texas to twenty American and English investors led by William S. Peters, an English musician and businessman who immigrated to the United States in 1827 and settled in Blairsville and then Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Peters viewed the colony primarily as a business venture. But, influenced by his studies of the philanthropic ideas of William Godwin and Thomas Paine, he may also have envisioned the colony as providing new opportunities for the English industrial middle class. Half of the investors were residents of England and the other half were residents of the United States. Of the Americans six were probably related to Peters—three sons and three sons-in-law. All of the original investors, except possibly one or two, were native Englishmen.

The headquarters of the Peters colony was in Louisville, Kentucky, where Peters' son William C. operated a successful music store. From this music store W. S. Peters and Samuel Browning, Peters' son-in-law, departed in June 1839 to seek English support for the colony. This was the first of several trips Peters made to England and France on behalf of the colony. He returned from England in July 1841 with news from the London investors, and in Austin on August 30, 1841, Browning signed the first of four contracts with the Republic of Texas.

The first contract established the boundaries of the colony as beginning on the Red River at the mouth of Big Mineral Creek, running south for sixty miles, then west for twenty-two miles, north to the Red River and then east with the river to the point of origin. According to the terms of the contract the impresarios had to recruit settlers from outside the republic at a rate of 200 families in three years. In return the colonists were to be granted 320 acres per single man and a maximum of 640 acres per family. The impresarios were allowed to retain up to one-half of a colonist's grants as payment for services rendered, including land surveys and title applications. The impresarios provided powder, shot, and seed and in some cases built settlers' cabins. The impresarios also received ten sections of premium land from the republic for each 100 families.

Insufficient inappropriate land within the boundary of the colony led to a request for an extension of the boundary, which was granted in a second contract, signed on November 9, 1841. This contract extended the boundaries of the

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colony forty miles southward, but also increased the number of required colonists to 800. On November 20 the Texas Agricultural, Commercial, and Manufacturing Company was formed in Louisville, with the addition of seven Louisville associates, to help offset the absence of financial backing from the London investors. The new company sent the first group of immigrants to the Cross Timbers area of Texas by steamboat as early as December 1841, but difficulties in attracting and keeping people in the colony caused the company to request an extension of time and another adjustment of the boundaries. By terms of a third contract, signed by Sam Houston for the republic on July 26, 1842, the company was given a six-month extension for the introduction of the first third of the colonists, and the boundary was extended to enclose a ten-mile-wide strip on the west and a twelve-mile-wide strip on the east. In return for these concessions, however, the republic reserved for itself each alternate section of land.

On October 3, 1842, the English investors transferred their interests to three other Englishmen and three Americans who were each scheming for control of the colony: Daniel J. Carroll, Sherman Converse, and Charles Fenton Mercer. Converse, after persuading the Louisville group to assign their rights to him, obtained a fourth contract with the Republic of Texas on January 20, 1843. It gave a five-year extension, to July 1, 1848, to fulfill the contract and added over ten million acres to the west of the colony. When the promises that Converse had made were not fulfilled, the Louisville group, thinking themselves deceived, found additional investors and reorganized as the Texas Emigration and Land Company on October 15, 1844.

Under the leadership of Willis Stewart, an astute Louisville businessman and one of the new investors, the company made good its claim to be the true owners of the Peters colony. The confusion over ownership, however, discouraged immigration to the colony, and by July 1, 1844, according to the company's own agent, Ralph H. Barksdale, there were only 197 families and 184 single men in the colony. The company was further hampered in its attempts to attract settlers by an ordinance passed by the Convention of 1845 that required an investigation of all colony contracts on the assumption that they were unconstitutional. The company increased its problems by employing as its agent in 1845 the London-born Henry O. Hedgcoxe, who's foreign and officious manners irritated the colonists and reinforced a commonly held suspicion that the contractors were mere land speculators. An influx of squatters into the colony also complicated the company's task of administrating the colony. Expiration of the contract on July 1, 1848, did not end the company's difficulties. Land within the colony was now legally open for the free laying of certificates that permitted new settlers to obtain grants of 640 acres from the state. Many of the old settlers thought that the company's claim to up to half of what they considered their land was intolerable. The settlers demanded that the legislature rectify an unjust situation. Their protest took the form of mass meetings, petitions, and a colony convention, held in Dallas on May 21, 1849. During the controversy John H. Reagan and James W. Throckmorton, neither of whom were colonists, emerged as leaders in the protest movement. In January 1850 the legislature attempted to end the controversy by passing a law to secure the colonists' claims. The legislation, which was detrimental to the impresario company's interests, angered the stockholders of the Texas Emigration and Land Company and led to litigation. A compromise was reached on February 10, 1852, when the legislature passed an act granting 1,700 sections of land in floating certificates to the company. The colonists would have until July 1, 1852, to establish their claims, and the company would have 2½ years from that date to lay its certificates. The colonists immediately opposed the compromise law and resolved to continue their fight.

On July 12, 1852, a citizens' committee forced its way into the Hedgcoxe office in Collin County to investigate the Englishman's records. At a mass meeting in Dallas on July 15, 1852, the committee issued an unfavorable report on Hedgcoxe. On July 16, 1852, a contingent of armed men from the Dallas meeting attacked the Hedgcoxe office and drove him from the county in an incident that became known as the Hedgcoxe War. A settlement was eventually

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reached, and the compromise law was amended to extend the deadline for colonists to file their claims to May 7, 1853. But it took nearly ten legislative enactments over nearly twenty years to bring final settlement of the land titles. The colony that helped settle North Texas brought little if any profit to the investors and much disgruntlement among the settlers.

WORKS CITED

Seymour V. Connor, *The Peters Colony of Texas: A History and Biographical Sketches of the Early Settlers*. Austin: Texas State Historical Association, 1959. Vertical Files, Barker Texas History Center, University of Texas at Austin.

PETERS COLONY. *The New Handbook of Texas*, vol. 5. Austin: Texas Historical Association, 1996.

HEDGCOXE WAR

The "Hedgcoxe War" of 1852, also known as the Peters Colony Rebellion, was an armed uprising of colonists protesting what they viewed as an attempt by the land company to invalidate their land claims. From its inception the colony had been embroiled in controversy regarding the terms of agreement between the land company and the settlers. On February 10, 1852, the state legislature, in an attempt to satisfy both the colonists and the land company, passed a compromise law. According to its terms all lawsuits between the land company and the state were to be withdrawn, the colonists were to be given new guidelines and extended time for filing their claims, and the state was to give the land company 1,088,000 acres of land. But the colonists, concerned over the possible sale of some claims and angered over the legislature's generosity towards the land company, continued their protest and demanded that the law be repealed.

In May 1852 the agent of the land company, Henry Oliver Hedgcoxe, published an explanatory proclamation that stated the colonists had until August 4, 1852, to establish their claims with him. The proclamation, which was viewed by the company's opponents as arrogant and autocratic, contributed to the misinterpretation of the compromise law. The colonists were further aroused when the attorney general, Ebenezer Allen, issued an opinion upholding the law. At a mass meeting of colonists in Dallas on July 15, 1852, Hedgcoxe was accused of fraud and corruption by an investigating committee. On July 16, 1852, John J. Good led about 100 armed men from the mass meeting to Hedgcoxe's office in Collin County. Hedgcoxe's files were seized and removed to the Dallas County Courthouse. No violence was done, but Hedgcoxe was ordered to leave the colony. He fled to Austin the next day. Alarmed by the colonists' actions, the land company adopted a conciliatory tone towards the settlers. On February 7, 1853, an amendment to the compromise law, satisfactory to both sides, was passed. Except for relatively minor adjustments made in the courts and the legislature over the next ten years, the colonists' title difficulties were ended.

WORKS CITED

Seymour V. Connor, *The Peters Colony of Texas: A History and Biographical Sketches of the Early Settlers* (Austin: Texas State Historical Association, 1959). Vertical Files, Barker Texas History Center, University of Texas at Austin (William S. Peters, Peters Colony).

i Old Plano City Cemetery photograph taken from the Genealogy Friends Web site at <http://www.rootsweb.com/~txcolli3/Cemeteries/mnop/pioneer/pioneer2.jpg>, August 11, 2007. Photograph originally taken by Joy Gough.