



Genealogy Friends News

Genealogy Friends of Plano
Libraries

Genealogy Friends News
September 2008

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Saturday Seminars

Mark your calendars now for the exciting Genealogy Friends events in 2008 & 2009. 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:

September 20, 2008—"Convict Ancestors from England" by Dr. Steven Butler. Dr Butler spoke to us last year about the Mexican War, we are excited to have him back to educate us on another really interesting topic.

Future Topics:

October 18, 2008—Dr. Jacob Blosser will speak to us about the History of Religions in America. Dr Blosser is an Assistant Professor of History at Texas Women's University.

October 25, 2008— Learn In—There will be two sessions focusing on using the internet for genealogy. See page three for more information.

November 11-16—Research Retreat to Salt Lake City (See Page 2 for more details.)

November 15, 2008—Bryan Lean, the curator of Collections and Exhibits at the North Texas History Center will be speaking to us about the collection.

December 20, 2008—Show and Tell—Bring all of your Genealogy Successes and share them with the group.

January 19, 2009—Jennifer Pitts will speak to us about On Line Hosting

February 21, 2009—Aaron Holt, Archivist at the Southwest Regional Archives will be back to speak to us about the National Archives and Record Administration resources.

March 21, 2009—Lynell Moss will speak to us about the Family History Library.

April 18, 2009—All Day Seminar—Naomi Taplin— Librarian, Texas Baptist Historical Collection will be doing an all day seminar on preserving family artifacts.

May 16, 2009—David and Paula Pitts will speak to us about Planning a Family Reunion.

If you have suggestions for programs please submit them to Jean Funk at jeano25@aol.com.

Sixth Annual Research Retreat—Salt Lake City

Join Gen Friends members on our Sixth Annual Research Retreat to the Family History Library in Salt Lake City for the opportunity to use the vast resources of the largest genealogical library in the world—microfilm, microfiche, books, and CDs from all over the world. The book collection of the Family History Library does not circulate, you have to visit Salt Lake City to use the huge collection of family histories, county histories, maps, reference books, and published records. If you haven't been there this is a great way to learn your way around. If you have, you can research in the company of fellow genealogy enthusiasts.

November 11–November 16, 2006

The \$80.00 Retreat Fee includes:

- Pre-Trip Seminar on August 9, 2008 from 10:00-12:00 at Haggard Library on Research at the Family History Library and Planning Your Research
- Library Orientation by FHL Staff at 2 pm November 11th
- Seminar from a Professional Genealogist in Salt Lake City
- Block of Hotel Rooms has been reserved at the Salt Lake Plaza
- Individual and Group Consultations with Experienced Genealogists

Registration Deadline is October 15, 2008. If you have questions, please email Barbara Coakley at newsletter@genealogyfriends.org.

Genealogy Friends Logo Shirts

Be one of the best-dressed genealogists in town. Order your Gen Friends logo t-shirt or sweatshirt now. The shirts have a 3" logo printed on the left chest. Shirts are available in white, natural, or ash gray with a dark green logo.

T-shirts are \$12.00 for toddler through XL and \$14.00 for XXL and XXXL

Sweatshirts are \$17.00 for toddler through XL and \$19.00 for XXL and XXXL

Collin County History Website

Check out Gen Friends Collin County History Website.

It includes County History, Historic Photos, Collin County Maps, Timeline, Early Settlers to Collin County, Research Tips and much more. This site is maintained by volunteers from Genealogy Friends.

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

Education Opportunities

The following opportunities are available for you to continue to learn more about genealogy:

Gen Friends Learn In

Remember the Lock Ins we used to have? They have been replaced with Learn In's. The first one will be on Saturday, October 25th in the Genealogy Section at the W.O Haggard Library from 10:30 to 12:30.

We will be offering two classes that focus on using the internet to find your ancestors. Jennifer Pitts will be teaching a class on using Ancestry.com the first hour. During the second hour you will have a choice. If you would like to apply what you learned in Jennifer's class by using the computers in the Genealogy Section there will be volunteers standing by to help you. Or you can attend another class; Barbara Coakley will be teaching a class focusing on other genealogy sites that you can access using the libraries computers.

Conference CDs

If you can't make it to a national conference you can order CDs of some of the sessions at <http://jamb-inc.com/>. CDs are \$12 plus \$1.50 shipping and handling. Download the spreadsheets for lists of sessions for each conference.

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.

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.

Visit the Plano Insider web site is <http://www.planoinsider.net/> and click on either PULSE or ENTERTAINMENT to read the weekly column. Each column is posted for one week only. The column and archives are posted at <http://www.geocities.com/TracingOurRoots>.

National Conferences

The Federation of Genealogical Societies Conference will be held September 2-5, 2009 in Little Rock, Arkansas
<http://www.fgs.org/conferences/index.php>

The National Genealogy Society 2009 Conference will be held May 13-16, 2009 in Raleigh, North Carolina
<http://www.ngsgenealogy.org/hotel.cfm>

Collin County Bits—Place Names II

By Joy Gough

Collin County is not the only place with strange place names. America is full of them.

My grandmother was born in Hard Scrabble, Ohio. I thought that was a wonderful unique name for a community. However, my husband's grandmother topped that. She was born in Toad Suck, Texas. I do not even want to know where that name came from. Ironically, as strange as it may seem, there is more than one Toad Suck in the United States. According to *Wikipedia*, there is a Toad Suck, Arkansas, with a Toad Suck Park plus a Toad Suck lock and dam on the Arkansas River. Toad Suck Daze is celebrated every year. Someone was really creative in coming up with that name.

What about Flushing Meadow? The US Tennis Open is being held there at Arthur Ashe Stadium. Was the meadow really flushing? Or was it being flushed? Why were they flushing it? What was wrong with it? The name makes no sense.

There is a town southeast of Tucson, Arizona, named Hell. It is well-named; it is really a God-forsaken place. It's only source of income seems to be souvenir items saying, "I've been to Hell and back." There are other communities named "Hell" in the United States.

While I am talking about Hell, not too far from Charleston, South Carolina, is Hell-Hole Swamp. A festival is held every year during which "Miss Hell Hole" is crowned. How is that for a beauty title? How proud the queen must be to wear a sash with that name on it! I am assuming the swamp is an awful place to have a name like that. The actor, Robert Mitchum, was from Hell Hole Swamp.

A favorite name in Oklahoma is Lottawatta. As you come over the hill, there really is a lot of water around. Maybe the Indians were trying to tell us something.

Sweetwater, Texas, sounds like a nice place. After traveling many miles across west Texas and crossing a lot of salty rivers and streams, this place has good, sweet water. It also has a lot of rattlesnakes. Sweetwater is where they have the rattlesnake roundups every year. No matter how many snakes they catch, they do not seem to decrease the population of these deadly creatures.

At one time Collin County had communities names Egypt, Mississippi and Illinois. I can understand that some of the settlers came from the two states, but why Egypt? Egypt, Texas. It sounds strange. Collin County also had a Cairo/Karo. Either it was named for the capital of Egypt or for corn syrup. Not too far south of here is Italy, Texas. In the general area we have Paris, Athens and London. Moscow is located north of Houston.

Near the Hunt County line is the community of Bland. Is that a description of the community as opposed to exciting or interesting? It's just bland.

There is a lake near Farmersville named Burnt Steak Lake. I guess some campers or fishermen burned their steaks one night. Maybe it was so memorable that it got in the papers?

The Spanish names in Texas have always seemed odd to me. There is a Mother Lagoon and a Father Island and a city named The Body of Christ. I do not care how religious the Spaniards were, why did they give the places those names? I can understand using saint names. The Body of Christ (Corpus Christi) seems creepy to me. I will accept Padre Island and Laguna Madre even though it seems strange to have names like that.

Many people in the United States think Plano is a strange name. They interpret it as Plain Ole Texas - nothing special, just plain. It is still better than the first name suggested for the town - Fillmore, after the president.

In Turkey, Texas, they hold a Bob Wills Day every year. I guess they want to be famous for something other than Thanksgiving.

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Place Names II (continued)

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Texas is the only place that has a town honoring the mule - Muleshoe. The town even has a statue of a mule. Mules were used to bring ore from the mines in New Mexico. Remember twenty-mule team Borax? The mule teams were pulling wagons of borax to town.

Down in the Big Bend country near Terlingua is Study Butte. It always gets a good laugh no matter how you pronounce it.

Who can forget Wink, Texas, home town of Roy Orbison? The town is so small that if you wink, you might miss it.

Prosper in Collin County was so named when the Frisco Railroad went through. Someone thought it was be a prosperous community.

Texas has a number of cowboy/wild west sounding names - Gun Barrel City, Cut and Shoot, Rough and Ready, Hide Out, Gunsight, Cow Spur, Cow City, Longhorn, Ropesville, Mustang, Angus, Comanche, Cherokee, Buffalo and Buffalo Gap. Texas' past is evident in these names. There is also a Pancake, Texas. I guess they were cooking pancakes while out on the range. Why is West, Texas, in the eastern part of the state?

When it came to naming communities, the towns were at the mercy of the sense of humor of the residents, and maybe their disgust when the United States postal service rejected the first name submitted. That is how Climax in Collin County got its name. Again, as strange as Climax is for a town name, there is more than one in the United States.

Toad Suck is supposed to refer to men sucking so much whiskey out of the bottle that they swelled up like toads. I'll accept that story. It certainly sounds better than what I was imagining. Toad Suck, Texas, is now named Collinsville, located about 15 miles north of Celina on the Grayson/Cooke county line.

I am sure there are many more strange place names where our ancestors lived. Tell me about them. We will have a contest to see whose ancestors came from the place with the strangest name.

Preserving the American Historical Record Bill—HR6056



If approved, the more than three million dollars in federal funding that would come to Texas would be granted out to repositories throughout the state holding historically valuable records to assist them in their efforts to preserve and improve access to those materials. Right now the bill has 22 co-sponsors in the House but at least 50 are

needed to get the bill out of committee for a hearing and a vote. I have written three letters to members of the Texas delegation in the House, but so far only one member of the delegation, Rep. Sheila Jackson-Lee of Houston, has signed on as a cosponsor. Please contact your congressman by phone, by email, or by fax and encourage them to sign on as a cosponsor of HR 6056. Background information

and a draft letter are included in the information on this website: <http://www.archivists.org/pahr>.

Helpful Websites

I found these online and they were a great help to me, so I thought I would pass it along to you. Enjoy, Brenda

Online free census databases for the states, Canada, England, Scotland and Wales. <http://www.census-online.com/links/index.html>

U.S. Census Bureau State and County Quick Facts <http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/>

Georgia Death Certificates 1919-1927 <http://content.sos.state.ga.us/cdm4/gadeaths.php>

Georgia Virtual Vault databases from the Georgia Archives Collections containing deed books, colonial will books, Confederate Enlistment Oaths and Discharges, Confederate Pension Applications, etc. <http://content.sos.state.ga.us/cdm4/cw.php>

Lost Cousins searches for free but there may be a charge for their actual record. <http://www.lostcousins.com/pages/members/home.mhtml>

Profiler of Names across the world: Where did they come from? <http://www.publicprofiler.org/worldnames/>

Allen County Public Library free searches: <http://www.genealogycenter.info/fwacdb.php>

Cite your source by filling in the blanks <http://www.calvin.edu/library/knightcite/index.php>

Stephen Morse's database for finding the census microfilm roll numbers. So helpful when you are working with census film and fail to record the entire source. <http://stevemorse.org/census/reelframes.html>

<http://www.familysearch.org/eng/default.asp> and <http://labs.familysearch.org/> are the new search sites for database retrieval and to examine certain images. This is a must see.

RootsWeb marriage record search <http://userdb.rootsweb.ancestry.com/marriages/?sssdmh=dm13.160937>

Texas deaths, index <http://pilot.familysearch.org/recordsearch/start.html#c=1375599;p=2;t=searchable>

Texas death certificates 1890-1976 <http://pilot.familysearch.org/recordsearch/start.html#c=1320964;p=2;t=searchable>

Search for your ancestors' information on a world map <http://pilot.familysearch.org/recordsearch/start.html#c=1320964;p=2;t=searchable>

Ten steps for creating a Christmas Newsletter <http://h71036.www7.hp.com/hho/cache/415451-0-0-225-121.html?sssdmh=dm13.151165>

Many Texas databases not just death indexes: Has newspapers, obits, etc. <http://www.deathindexes.com/texas/>

Need to translate something into English? <http://www.altavista.com/>