



Genealogy Friends News

Genealogy Friends of Plano
Libraries

Genealogy Friends News
September 2009

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

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

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

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Saturday Seminars

Mark your calendars now for the exciting Genealogy Friends events in 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 19, 2009—Brenda Kellow will speak to us about Colonial Resources Through 1850. **Meeting will be held at the Gladys Harrington Library - 1501 18th Street, Plano.**

Future Topics:

October 17, 2009—"City Directories, Newspapers, and Obituaries with the Census as Your Guide," by Barbara Coakley.

October 24, 2009—Learn-N—We'll celebrate Halloween with talks on Virginia Research and Death Records.

November 21, 2009—Tresa Tatyrek will be speaking to us on Using the Internet for researching your Genealogy.

December 19, 2009—Show and Tell, come and share your Ancestors' stories with the group.

January 11-17, 2010—Research trip to Salt Lake City. Join us to research at the largest genealogy library in the world. Our trip coincides with the Utah Genealogy Institute, you can sign up for evening classes taught by some of the best genealogists in the country. Don't wait too long to sign up. See page 2 for more details.

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

GenFriends Research Retreat

Save the date and start getting your research plan ready—our next Research Retreat to Salt Lake City has been scheduled for January 11-17, 2010. This is a great opportunity to visit the largest genealogy library in the world with fellow researchers.

Rooms are being held at the Salt Lake Plaza Hotel adjacent to the library. Room Rate is \$85.00 per night with one night free. More info is available on our website.

The cost is \$80.00. A professional genealogist will be available to help with your research and we'll have an orientation to the library on Monday to help you find your way around the library.

The dates of the trip coincide with the Utah Genealogical Societies 2010 Salt Lake Genealogy Institute. They have evening classes taught by prominent genealogists for \$10.00 each. If you are interested in attending refer to their website <http://www.infouga.org/index.php?option=2010SLIGevening>

The Legacy Family Tree users group meets the fourth Tuesday of each month at the Haggard Library in the Program Room from 10:30 to 12:30. Contact Joanne

October Learn-N

Save the Date—October 24th will be our next Learn-N.

When: 10:15 to 12:30

Where: Haggard Library Genealogy Section

Lynne Darrouzet will teach a class on Early Virginia Research. Join us and learn about using indirect evidence to prove your case.

Barbara Coakley will teach a class on Death Records. There are lots of sources that provide information about our ancestors' passing, don't stop with the death certificate.

Space is limited so if you are planning on attending email Genfriends@genealogyfriends.org.

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/2009-index.html>

Genealogy Friends Logo Shirts—New Colors & Styles

Be one of the best-dressed genealogists in town.

In addition to the ever popular Gen Friends logo t-shirts and sweatshirts, we now have Henley's and polo style shirts available. The shirts have a 3" logo printed on the left chest.

Shirts are available in new colors—light blue, pink and yellow. We still have white, natural, or ash gray as well. They all have a dark green logo. All shirts are available in toddler through XXXL.

T-shirts are \$15.00

Sweatshirts are \$20.00

Henley's are \$20.00

Polo Shirts are \$20.00

Collin College Classes

Collin College will be offering two genealogy classes this fall.

Beginning Genealogy will be Tuesday nights from 9/29/09 through 11/3/09 from 6:30-9:00 at the Courtyard Center. Whether you are just beginning your research or need a refresher to get you back on track, this class is for you.

Online Genealogy Research will be Tuesday nights from 11/10/09 through 12/15/09 from 6:30-9:00 at the Courtyard Center. This class will focus on using online resources in your research.

Barbara Coakley is the instructor for both classes, if you have questions about the classes email her at bjc1620@sbcglobal.net.

To register visit the Collin College website <http://www.ccccd.edu/ce/>

Annual Meeting

Save the date, Gen Friends annual meeting will be:

When: Thursday, October 29, 2009 at 7:00pm

Where: Outback Steakhouse

1509 North Central Expressway, Plano

Dinner will be \$20.00, you'll have a choice of four entrees:

Outback Special—sirloin seasoned with bold spices

Chicken on the Barbie—grilled fresh chicken

North Atlantic Salmon—grilled filet of salmon

These three come with two sides—vegetable, baked potato, Caesar salad or house salad.

Classic Roasted Filet Wedge Salad.

Price includes beverage, dessert, bread, tax and gratuity. Proceeds go towards purchasing materials for the genealogy section of the library. RSVP with number of guests attending to

GenFriends@GenealogyFriends.org. Bring a check or cash the night of the dinner. Sorry no credit cards.

British Institute

The International Society for British Genealogy and Family History is holding their 2009 British Institute in Salt Lake City, Utah October 5-9, 2009. The institute will be at the Crystal Inn Hotel.

More information is available at their website:

<http://www.isbgfh.org/institute.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 |

Join Genfriends

If you aren't a member, please consider joining Genfriends. The money we raise is used to purchase materials for the Genealogy Section at Haggard Library.

We have a special running now—Normally individual memberships are \$30 and family memberships are \$50. From now through October, join for \$45 for individuals and \$75 for families and you get 2009 and 2010 membership.

Dues year runs from October 1 to September 31.

REVOLUTIONARY WAR PENSION TRANSCRIPTIONS:

Including the application of Collin County's John Abston

By Brenda Kellow

A reader of my columns and former member of Genealogy Friends sent me this free site containing 6,573 transcriptions of Southern gentlemen's applications who served in the Revolutionary War. Besides the alphabetical listing of soldiers, it connects you with sites listing related sites.

Naturally, I looked for my families' names. I found one with the same name, but he was in South Carolina. Mine was in Tennessee at that time. I know this because I have his grantor deeds in South Carolina and grantee and patent records in Tennessee.

I did find something of interest: it included the application for Collin County's only Revolutionary War soldier to be buried in the county, John Abston, 1761-1856. He died at the age of 96 [Note that he did not recall the year of his birth in the second part of the transcript]. The site is at <http://southerncampaign.org/pen/index.htm#rosters>.

John Abston's application, #R14, was transcribed by Will Graves on 20 May 2006. I have not checked the transcription for accuracy, but I did notice that Mr. Graves noted that he had changed some punctuation and grammar for clarity. What difference does this make? If I were researching John Abston, I would want to see the document as it is with no changes whatsoever. Even if there are no changes it is always wise to read the document and compare it to the transcribed version.

Following is the document as Mr. Graves transcribed it.

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension application of John Abston R14; BLWts 196760-55 and 27761-55

Transcribed by Will Graves 5/20/2006

[some punctuation and grammar changed for clarity]

State of Texas

County of Collin

On the Fourth day of February A. D. 1857 Personally appeared before me George H. Pegnes [?] Chief Justice and Judges of the County Court of the County and State aforesaid, (in vacation) John Abston a resident of the county of Collin and State aforesaid aged Ninety-Six years who being first duly sworn according to law doth on this oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress passed June 7th 1832. That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated. To wit: That he volunteered in the Army of the United States "in latter part of the winter season" in the year A. D. 1779, at Jasper's Mountain, Pittsylvania (spelled "Pitsylvania" throughout the application) County Virginia under Capt. John Ellis with whom he served but a few weeks. The company then went with Capt. Ellis and this affiant was then transferred to and put under the command of Capt. Rose at the Town of New London in Bedford County when they joined the main Army. He states that he served under Capt. Ellis & Capt. Rose, and some other captains whose names he has forgotten for Two years and some few days

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Revolutionary War Pension Transcriptions

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and was discharged at New London, Bedford County Virginia on the ___ day of ___ A. D. 178__.
[blanks appear in the original]. He recollects that he was discharged as aforesaid as few months after the surrender of Lord Cornwallis at York town. That when he entered the service he resided in Pittsylvania County, Virginia and his father Joshua Abston at the time of his enlistment was a captain in the Virginia militia.

He states that the troops marched from New London towards Richmond. Thence they turned South and went to North Carolina. He states that he was in the Battle at King's Mountain and was encamped for a short time at "Ninety Six." The only Field officer he now has any recollection of was Col. Washington. That Thomas Smith, Thomas Hancock, James Hancock and William Stranger volunteered at the same time he did. He states that he has no documentary evidence of his services—his discharge having been destroyed by fire, and he knows of no person whose testimony he can procure who can testify to his service. He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and declares that this name is not on the pension Roll of any State.

S/ John Abston, X his mark

Sworn to and subscribed by the said John Abston the day and year aforesaid. Witness my hand and the seal of said Court this 4th day of February A. D. 1857.

S/ Geo. H. Pegnes [?]

Chief Justice of Collin
County, Texas

Questions asked of Mr. Abston: [second transcription by Will Graves]

N. B. The scrawl below the name and mark of the applicant is the attempt he made at signing his name and his blindness and extreme old age prevented his making it more legible hence the reason for having him make his mark.

S/ Geo. Ho. Pegnes, Chief Justice

Interrogatories propounded to the said deponent:

1st When and in what year were you born?

Ans: I was born in Pittsylvania County Virginia on the 2nd day of January the year I cannot now recollect.

2nd Have you any record of your age and if so where is it?

Ans: I had a record of my age but I think it was left with my son in Missouri.

3rd Where were you living when called into service; where have you lived since the Revolutionary War and where do you now live?

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Revolutionary War Pension Transcriptions

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Ans: In Pittsylvania County in Virginia—I have live in Virginia one year in Kentucky, several years in Missouri and now living in Collin County, Texas.

4th How were you called into service; were you draughted (sic, drafted); did you volunteer or were you a substitute and if a substitute, for whom?

Ans: I was a volunteer.

5th State the names of some [of] the regular officers who were with the troops when you served, such Continental and militia regiments as you can recollect and the general circumstances of your services.

Ans: I have stated in my declaration the names of all the officers I can recollect.

6th Did you ever receive a discharge from the service and if so by whom was it given and what has become of it?

Ans: I received a Discharge but it together with some other papers was burnt by a little Grand Daughter of mine.

Attest: S/ Jno Easton S/ John Abston, X his mark
State of Texas
County Collin

On this sixteenth day of June One thousand eight hundred and fifty five John Abston Aged about ninety four years a citizen of Collin County Texas personally appeared before me the undersigned justice of the peace and after being sworn according to law declares he is the Identical John Abston who volunteered in the revolutionary war declared by the united colonys (sic, colonies) in the year seventeen hundred and seventy six and was mustered into service on or about the year _____-[blank in original] under Capt. Rose for the term of _____[blank in the original] at Bedford's old courthouse State of Virginia and continued in service near two years and was at the battle of King's mountains (sic) mentioned in revolutionary history that he volunteered under an officer by the name of Ellis that Col. Charles Lynch was a commanding officer at the battle of King's mountains (sic); that there was so much changing of officers and such a great lapse of time disables him from gaveing (sic, giving) other [?] history of the case and further he has never made any application nor received any pension nor land warrant for his revolutionary services; that he makes this declaration for the purpose of obtaining the pension and bounty warrant to which he may be entitled under existing laws and that he hereby authorizes David Duprey to Receive his pension and warrant at Henderson, Rusk county Texas.

S/ John Abston

For more on this Revolutionary War Veteran, see the History section of the Genealogy Friends website: <http://www.genealogyfriends.org/history/cemeteries/abston.htm>.

Are Printed Books On Their Way Out?

By Barbara Coakley

This week there was a radio show discussing the demise of the printed book which made me think about how my attitude toward electronic books has changed in the past few years. For those of you that don't know me I am a confirmed bibliophile. I have a considerable library of genealogy reference materials, history books and fiction, mostly mysteries. A few years ago when people talked about printed books disappearing, I said, not for me. I'll stick with printed books thank you. There is nothing like sitting in my favorite overstuffed chair and reading a good book. However, I have mellowed on the subject of electronic books quite a bit.



Last year before I headed out on a cruise, I purchased a Kindle. It is an electronic book reader available from Amazon.com. I was going to have a lot of free time on my hands while we were at sea and laying on the beaches in the Caribbean and didn't want to fill up my carry on with heavy books (I've always preferred hardback to paperback).

I quickly fell in love with the Kindle for my fiction reading. I can download books from Amazon.com anytime day or night and the books are cheaper than the paper versions. If I finish a book at 10:00 pm and want to start reading the next one in the series right away, I download it via their proprietary whisper net and start reading. I can sit in my favorite chair and read. The book stays available so if I want to refer back to it or re-read it later, it's still there but it doesn't take up room on my already overflowing bookshelves. There are two bad things, you can't share with others and you can't read during takeoff and landing on an airplane. They even have an application available now so I can read my books on my iPod Touch or iPhone and don't have to carry the bigger Kindle with me.

I started thinking—how could I use this for my genealogy? The one thing I really didn't like about digitized books online was having to size screens to be able to refer to the book while entering information into my genealogy program, writing a research report or comparing it to research I'd already done to see if it was the right person. Many of these digitized books can be downloaded as .pdf files. My Kindle can handle .pdf files. It is a little bit of a hassle, you have to email them to Amazon and they convert them to the Kindle format so you can download them to your Kindle. Not really practical with really big files. But there are applications for the iPod to read .pdf files. If I put the digitized book on my iPod I can have it laying next to the computer and refer to it without having to re-size screens or toggle back and forth.

Another option is to have an external monitor alongside my laptop. You can share your desktop so that you can open the digitized book on one screen and the other application you are using. The same principle can be used if you have a laptop and a desktop, or in my case a laptop and a net book (really small laptop).

With all these alternatives it's been easier to take advantage of the growing collection of digitized and transcribed family histories, social histories, county histories, and how to reference books available on the internet. Many of the websites allow you to search the digitized versions which makes it much easier to find you ancestor in that un-indexed county history that is 600+ pages long. I'm even considering purchasing electronic versions of some of the

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Are Printed Books On Their Way Out?

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reference books I use most often so I can take them with me on genealogy trips. Seems like the most useful ones are the biggest and heaviest ones that it is difficult to travel with.

With all that said, let's get to the best part. Here are a few of the internet sources for digitized books:

- Heritage Quest—this site can be accessed through the Plano Public Library website. You will need the login and password, which you can get from the librarians in the Genealogy section. On the website look for the Databases and Internet Links and then Tex Share databases. You can search by person's name, location, and titles. The collection includes over 25,000 family and local histories. You can download the entire book to your computer or view it online.
- Family History Archive at BYU—<http://www.lib.byu.edu/fhc/index.php> Brigham Young University is working with the Family History Library, The Allen County Public Library, The Clayton Library and The Mid-Continent Public Library to digitize books. There are over 44,000 digitized books available. There are links in the Family History Library Catalog to their books that are included in this collection.
- Internet Archive—<http://www.archive.org/details/texts> This collection contains over 1.5 million books. You can search on the website. It may be easier to search on Google which will also show results in this collection. Books can be view in .pdf format, text or you can read online.
- Google Books—<http://www.archive.org/details/texts> This collection of over 1 million books is a combination of free books and books that are still in copyright that you will need to purchase.
- The Open Library—<http://openlibrary.org/> This website has more than 1 million digitized books and information on over 23 million books.
- Making of America— This project has two sites, one from Cornell University and one from the University of Michigan—<http://digital.library.cornell.edu/m/moa/> and <http://quod.lib.umich.edu/m/moagr/>
- Library of Congress American Memories Collection—<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/index.html>
- Library of Congress Chronicling America Collection—<http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/>
- Ancestry.com—this is a pay site—<http://www.worldvitalrecords.com/>
- World Vital Records—this is a pay site—<http://www.worldvitalrecords.com/>
- Genealogy Bank –this is a pay site—<http://www.genealogybank.com/gbnk/>
- Samuel May Anti-Slavery Collection—<http://dlxs.library.cornell.edu/m/mayantislavery/>
- Digital Quaker Collection—<http://esr.earlham.edu/dqc/>
- Their Own Words—<http://deila.dickinson.edu/theirownwords/>
- Princeton Library—<http://www.princetonlibrary.org/research/links/genealogy-digital.html> This is a page full of links to digitized collections by state.

Don't forget about using online library catalogs to locate paper books. You can always order them using interlibrary loan through the Haggard library.

I've been converted to a digital book user. However, at times I still like to sit and read old fashioned paper books. The only constant is change, don't get left behind, explore the world of digital books. It can be a great way to further your genealogy research without leaving your home.

DNA Websites & Books

Here are the websites that Leo Baca talked about in last month's meeting presentation:

Family Tree DNA—<http://www.familytreedna.com/Default.aspx?c=1>

Oxford Ancestors—<http://www.oxfordancestors.com/>

Sorenson Molecular Genealogy Foundation—<http://www.smgf.org/index.jsp>

Haplogroup Motifs—<http://www.stats.gla.ac.uk/~vincent/founder2000/motif.html>

YHRD.org—<http://www.yhrd.org/>

Czech DNA Project—<http://www.familytreedna.com/public/Czech/default.aspx>

Kirchners DNA Results—<http://www.kerchner.com/cgi-kerchner/mtdna.cgi>

Y Search - <http://www.ysearch.org/>

Y Base—<http://www.ybase.org/>

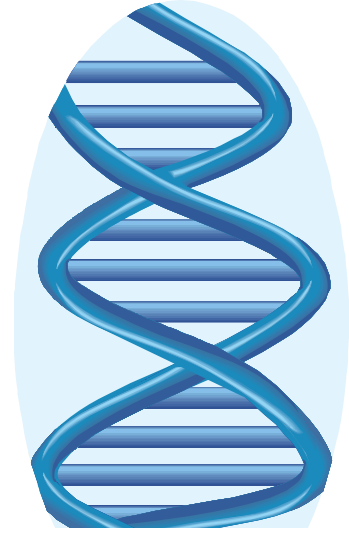
Genetic Chaos—<http://vetinarilord.blogspot.com/>

World Families—<http://www.worldfamilies.net/>

American Journal of Human Genetics—<http://www.cell.com/AJHG/>

The Genographic Project—<http://www.familytreedna.com/Default.aspx?c=1>

<http://shelob.bioanth.cam.ac.uk/mtDNA/toc.html>—I couldn't get this website to come up.



The books he mentioned were:

Mapping Human History by Steve Olson

The Real Eve by Stephen Oppenheimer

DNA & Family History by Chris Pomery

Reflections of our Past by John H Relethford

Archaeogenetics? DNA and the Population Prehistory of Europe by Colin Renfrew and Katie Boyle

Tracing Your Roots with DNA by Megan Smolenyak and Ann Turner

The Journey of Man A Genetic Odyssey by Spencer Wells