



# Genealogy Friends News

Genealogy Friends of  
Plano Libraries

Genealogy Friends News

May 2024

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

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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.

### June Events

**June 6, 2024—Round Table Zoom Discussion Group—** Zoom meeting from 7-9 pm

**June 11, 2024—DNA Special Interest Group—Hybrid —**7 to 8:30 pm

**June 15, 2024—Hybrid Meeting—**”AI and Genealogy” by Thomas MacEntee

### Future Events:

**July 20, 2024—Hybrid Meeting—**”Working With An Online Family Tree” by Bernard Meisner

**August 10, 2024—Research At The Library—**In person at Haggard Library 10:30 am to 1 pm

**August 17, 2024—Hybrid Meeting—**”Diseases, Disasters, Distress: Bad for Your Ancestors, Good for Genealogy” by Lisa Alzo

**September 21, 2024—Virtual All Day Seminar—**”Research: From Planning to Writing—See page 6 for more information

**October 19, 2024—Hybrid Meeting—**To be announced

**November 16, 2024—Hybrid Meeting—**To be announced

**December 21, 2024—Library Only—**Show and Tell

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

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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

Our membership year runs from October 1 to September 30. **Join now and get the rest of 2024 and 2025 for \$45.**

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

Genealogy Friends of Plano Libraries, Inc  
PO Box 860477  
Plano, TX 75086-0477

## September All Day Seminar

Gen Friends All Day Seminar will be on 21 September 2024—"Research: From Planning to Writing."

Topics and Speakers will be “

- Ready-Set-Plan! Developing a One-Step Research Plan by J. Mark Lowe
- Research Logs: The Key to Organizing Your Family History by Diana Elder
- Elements of a Genealogy Source Citation by Lisa Stokes
- Writing Your Family History Step-by-Step by Lisa Alzo

Recordings of the talks will be available for three weeks after the seminar for attendees.

Register on our website—<http://www.genealogyfriends.org/all-day-seminars.html>

See the flyer on page 8.

## Genealogy Events—Save the Dates

### Dallas Genealogical Society 2024 Seminar Series:

- June 8, 2024 “You Have Your Ancestry.com DNA Results: Now What?” with Tony Hanson and Barbara Coakley
  - July 27, 2024 “The Legacy of Forced Removal: Finding Formerly Enslaved & Indigenous Kin” with Nicka Sewell-Smith
  - September 28, 2024 “Autosomal Analysis: Tools for Finding Your Ancestors” with Blaine Bettinger
- <https://dallasgenealogy.org/meetings-events/seminars/>

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. More details will be available soon.

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

## Genealogy News

RootsTech presentations are available to watch on demand. <https://www.familysearch.org/en/rootstech/search>

The big news from FamilySearch at RootsTech was the full text search. FamilySearch Labs has other experiments that you can try out. <https://www.familysearch.org/en/labs/> Family Group Trees lets you share your tree with a family group. AI Search uses the help center, wiki, RootsTech to find answers to questions. Profile Quality Score rates the quality of the profile for an ancestor in the Family Tree.

Family Tree Maker 2024 is coming soon. MacKiev began taking preorders in February. There was a pre-release sale in February. Randy Severs has a list of features in an article on his blog <https://www.geneamusings.com/2024/02/introducing-family-tree-maker-2024.html> and on the website <https://www.familytreemaker.com/exhibition/rootstech2024/> but there is no way to purchase it yet on their website. FamilyTree Maker is doing a webinar during our Research At The Library meeting on August 10th at 11 am.

What records are included in the hints on Ancestry.com? According to Crista Cowan the records include census, birth, marriage, death, draft cards, passenger lists, records other users have attached to their public trees and marriage and death notices and other articles from Newspapers.com. You'll need a Newspapers.com subscription to see the actual articles. If you are looking for any other records you need to search for them. The best way to search is to find the record group in the catalog and use the search form customized for the information in the records.

If you have pictures of your ancestor you are trying to date, the Fashion History Timeline, hosted by the State University of New York's Fashion Institute of Technology, might be helpful. <https://fashionhistory.fitnyc.edu/>

The National Archives is hosting the 2024 Genealogy Series on YouTube on Tuesdays at noon starting on May 21 for 5 weeks. Each week is a different record group, the first topic is Passport Records. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=deUv7EWSjHY&list=PLugwVCjzrJsWKKs8nVj3b0pV52-R00-ru&index=1> Future topics include Native American Army Scouts, Capture German Records Related to American Prisoners of War During WWII, Alien Files, and WWII Enemy Alien Records Related to Japanese Americans <https://www.archives.gov/press/press-releases/2024/mr24-007>. The 2023 series videos are still available on YouTube.

Photos are a great way to add interest to family stories. Here are a few places to look for photos of your ancestors, the places they lived, events that impacted their lives, etc.

- FamilySearch <https://www.familysearch.org/>
- Ancestry <https://www.ancestry.com/>
- MyHeritage <https://www.myheritage.com/>
- Ancient Faces <https://www.ancientfaces.com/>
- DeadFred <https://www.deadfred.com/>
- Digital Public Library of America <https://dp.la/>
- Flickr <https://www.flickr.com/>
- Library of Congress <https://www.loc.gov/collections/>
- National Archives <https://catalog.archives.gov/search>
- Genealogy Societies, Historical Societies, and local libraries where your ancestor lived. I was standing at the copy machine at the Morrison-Talbot library in Monroe County, Illinois and looked up—there was an original photo of my second great grandfather.

Don't forget about copyright when using photos you find online. <https://guides.library.cornell.edu/copyright>

## Volunteer Opportunities—We Need Your Help



**Gen Friends Needs  
Your Help**

**Genealogy Friends is run by all volunteers and there aren't many of us. In order to keep the society active we need more people to step up, help out, and think creatively.**

Here are a few opportunities:

- Newsletter Articles—tell the story of an heirloom, your favorite website, history of the area, a sketch of one of your ancestors, a unique record you found that was useful, technology you use, etc. I can help edit the piece.
- Photographer to take pictures at monthly meetings to post on our website.
- Social Media—create events on our Facebook page for Saturday Seminars, DNA Group meeting, and Roundtable Discussion Group. The postings are created all you would have to do is log on and create the events on Facebook. Step by Step instructions will be provided.

The board is very supportive and we help each other

so you won't be left on your own.

## DNA News

YourDNAGuide announced a WATO class that focuses on using the What Are The Odds tool on DNA Painter. <https://academy.yourdnaguide.com/wato-course>

Family Tree DNA has a blog where you can learn more about DNA testing and related subjects. <https://blog.familytreedna.com/>

## Research At The Library

The next Research At The Library will be on August 10, 2024. Join Genealogy Friends at W.O. Haggard Library, 2501 Coit Road, Plano from 10:30-1.

11:00 Family Tree Maker Webinar

If you are just getting started or have a question or problem we'll have experienced genealogists on hand to help.

Bring a project you are working on and take advantage of the resources at the library. The library is a FamilySearch Affiliate Library so using their computers you can access records on FamilySearch that you can't see from home.

Hope to see you there.

## Indexing Opportunities

Indexes and abstracts are critical to success in our genealogy research. They make it easier to locate original records that can add to our family stories. Many of the indexes we use were created by volunteers. The best way to give back is to spend some time working on an indexing or transcription project.

I indexed death records and marriage records for two counties in Illinois where I had ancestors for the Illinois State Archives. Choose a project in a location where you had ancestors and you can learn about the place and maybe even find records for your ancestors.

Here are a few opportunities:

FamilySearch Get Involved—Index Historical Records and Verify Places are two ways to help. Pick a collection that sounds interesting and get started. <https://www.familysearch.org/getinvolved/>

National Archives Citizen Archivist Dashboard—You can help make records from the National Archives available. <https://www.archives.gov/citizen-archivist>

Smithsonian Digital Volunteers—This project is transcribing historical documents <https://transcription.si.edu/>

By The People—A project to help transcribe documents from the Library of Congress <https://crowd.loc.gov/>

Washington State Archives Historical Records Project—to increase accessibility to historical records from Washington State <https://www.sos.wa.gov/archives/hrp/default.aspx>

Digital Maine Transcription Project—Helping make Maine History more accessible. <http://www.digitalmaine.net/projects/home>

Geneanet—Collaborative indexing project <https://en.geneanet.org/indexation/>

Conference Keeper—Volunteer opportunities available—<https://conferencekeeper.org/volunteer/>

Cyndi's List—Volunteer Projects—<https://www.cyndislist.com/volunteer-projects/>

Zooniverse—this site has all kinds of projects. Check out the history category. <https://www.zooniverse.org/>

FindAGrave—In addition to uploading photos you can help with transcribing photos <https://www.findagrave.com/contribute>

Billion Graves—<https://billiongraves.com/>

Genealogy Friends of Plano Libraries Presents:

# Research: From Planning to Writing

*September 21, 2024*  
Virtual Seminar

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

Recordings Will Be  
Available for 3 Weeks



**Discover**  
*Your Roots With Us!*

Featuring:



J. Mark Lowe  
Ready-Set-Plan!  
Developing a  
One-Step Research  
Plan



Diana Elder  
Research Logs:  
The Key to  
Organizing Your  
Family History



Lisa Stokes  
Elements of a  
Genealogy  
Source  
Citation



Lisa Alzo  
Writing Your  
Family  
History  
Step-by-Step