



TEXAS RESEARCH RAMBLERS GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

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OFFICERS for 2005-2006

President: Daniel Castillo
Vice-President: Mary Elizabeth Dresser
Secretary: Georgianne Bigam
Treasurer: Sue Foy
Corresponding Secretary: Helen Wolf

Death of Rambler Member: Clancy Ferguson, longtime member and friend of Research Ramblers, passed away on March 31, 2006. A memorial to Clancy will be presented to Carnegie History Center. If you wish to donate, please send a check to Sue Foy, 804 Vine St., Bryan, TX 77802-4349.

LAST MEETING

On March 29, 2006, the Research Ramblers met at the C.S.U.S.C. in College Station. Guests included Pat and Bud Fisher and Evelyn Crane, who is Dan Castillo's mother-in-law's mother-in-law from TN. Our newest members, Wayne Schmidt and Janellen Cole were

present too. Sue Foy gave us an addendum of new members to add to our Membership Directory.

Mary Elizabeth Dresser, on behalf of the Program Committee and the Long Trip Committee, reported the following:

1. Expenses for the Mary Collie Cooper Memorial Lecture on February 22, 2006, totaled \$960.62.
2. Of the two long trips, Ft. Wayne has been canceled, but interest in the Salt Lake City trip is high. If you plan to go to Salt Lake City, October 15-22, 2006, you need to send Sue Foy your \$100 commitment fee to help pay for the airplane and room deposit by May 31, 2006. If our signed up numbers go below 10, we lose the existing contract and will have to set up a new contract, so we want to be careful about sticking with our commitment.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Sue Foy reports the ending balance as of 3/29/2006 was \$6,436.68.

BRICK WALL SOLUTIONS

The topic to solve revolved around James Evan White. The goal was to find any information prior to 1880 about family, prior residence, etc.

Suggestions from the Rambler audience included the following:

1. Check the Amnesty Records
2. Evans may have been his mother's maiden name.
3. Check Dallas County Funeral Home records.
4. Check into MS Orphans court Records.
5. Check into a will or guardianship records.
6. Consider that "White" may be the Anglicized version of "Weiss."

Our program speaker was Floyd Jones, who concentrated on three main points: Advice, Headstones and Markers, and Artifacts.



He strongly advised we visit the POW camp in Hearne. If we go on the first Sunday afternoon in the month, we can get in for \$1. Also, we need to visit the Brazos Valley Museum to learn about local history.

Then he gave us abundant information on application for a headstone or marker for installation in a private or a state veteran's cemetery. In addition, we learned the difference between a Military record and a Pension file, prompting a discussion on presidential pardons

of Confederate soldiers. Dr. Jones also gave us a “State Archives Referral List” for addresses of all states. Then he gave us a copy of a brochure, “Civil War Regimental Histories” published by a free-lance researcher. Finally, he gave us an example of an application for “Membership to Sons of Confederate Veterans.”

If anyone did not receive any or all of these handouts, look for them to appear on MailServ.

Now, to the artifacts-----

Do you know what Floyd is holding in this picture?



Floyd bought this Confederate States buckle and belt at Canton from a gentleman who had bought it up north at an estate sale.

Now, do you know what Bliss is holding?



This cavalry 1860 model sword once belonged to Confederate Sgt.-Major William Tate from North Carolina, and Floyd has documentation to show proof of authenticity, original ownership, bill of sale, and other information in a notebook he showed us.

Many thanks to Floyd Jones for the informative and entertaining presentation.

NEXT MEETING DATE AND PROGRAM

We will meet at the College Station Utility Service Center, located at 1601 Graham Rd. in College Station, on **April 26, 2006**, at 9:30 a.m. The speaker, Doug Bell, will discuss the “Forgotten Census.”

FUTURE SEMINARS AND TRIPS

- Every **2nd Wednesday** of the month: a trip to Clayton Library in Houston. Meet at Sam’s Club Parking Lot prior to 6:45 a.m. \$7.50 to your driver. Sack lunch. Contact person: Bliss Wolfe, 696-0170 or (even better) cell ph# 255-2429.
- Every **3rd Wednesday** of the month: Computer Genealogy Users Group, headed by Bill Adams, will meet at the Exit Teen Center, 1600 Rock Prairie Rd., at 9:30 a.m. Everyone is invited to eat at a local restaurant after the meeting.
- Every **last Wednesday** of the month: Research Ramblers will meet at College Station Utility Service Center at 9:30 a.m. Everyone is invited to eat at a local restaurant after the meeting.
- Every **4th Monday**, Roots Magic Users will meet at the Bryan Public Library on the second floor from 9:30-11:00 a.m. Circle April 24th on your calendar.
- For workshops around the state: <http://www.rootsweb.com/~txgenweb> , which will give you the full information on seminars/conferences around the state.
- **May 24, 2006**, the Education Committee is sponsoring a workshop at Bryan Public Library on Heritage Organizations and Membership.
- **August 23, 2006**, the Education Committee is sponsoring a workshop at the CSUSC, our usual meeting place, on DNA. Two excellent workshops coming up. Be looking for additional information.

SUCCESS STORIES

From the collected wisdom of our Ramblers provided in our Brick Wall sessions, we have received valuable tips for our own research. For the printed word, we get valuable information from our workshops, lectures, and programs. Sometimes, though, we yearn to actually hear the “voice” of an ancestor.

Curt Witcher, in his article, “Finding the Voices of Our Families” ([Ancestry](#), January/February 2006, pp. 55-7) suggests one way to possibly discover the written and audio “voices” of your ancestors is to explore the websites of local and state libraries, local and state archives, and local and state historical societies in the specific geographic locale where your research has led you. In addition, the Library of Congress’ Veterans History Project and states’ oral tradition projects could help us find an ancestor’s “voice.” Here are some websites he suggests.

WEBSITES

www.loc.gov/vets is the gateway to a database and tips to capture the words/story of a 20th century veteran. An example is a 44 minute video recording of the training experiences and WWII unit experiences of George Smith Wilkerson.

www.h-net.msu.edu/oralhist/projects.html , a website for an oral history initiative hosted by Michigan State University and is called Humanities and Social Sciences Online.

<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem> is the website of the Library of Congress' American Memory Project, which has over 9 million digitized images. An example is "Prairie Settlement: Nebraska Photographs and Family Letters, 1862-1912."

I hope you find the "voice" of your ancestor. It takes time, but the rewards are invaluable.

HISTORICAL MOMENT

How did you do on the Texas History quiz in last month's newsletter? I bet you correctly answered 4 out of 4 questions. Sharpen your pencil, because we're going to continue our quiz on Texas history, taken from the article by Ann Dingus called "TexEd" in the February 2006 Texas Bound magazine, p. 14.

1. Why do we remember Susanna Dickinson?
 - a. She was the Florence Nightingale of the Battle of San Jacinto.
 - b. She was the only Anglo woman at the Alamo.
 - c. She was a barmaid who served as a spy for Sam Houston.
 - d. She sewed the first flag of the Republic of Texas.

2. Which of the following statements is false?
 - a. The Republic of Texas had its own navy.
 - b. More Alamo defenders were from Tennessee than from any other state.
 - c. Early Texans, regardless of ethnic background, were known as Tejanos.
 - d. William Barret Travis and James Bonham knew each other as boys in South Carolina.

3. At the Battle of San Jacinto, Texas soldiers cried, "Remember the Alamo! Remember Goliad!" What happened at Goliad?
 - a. Mexican soldiers set fire to a Protestant church, killing nine civilians who had taken refuge there.
 - b. Thirty wounded Texans at a field hospital were summarily shot in a surprise Mexican attack.
 - c. Three hundred forty-two captured Texas soldiers were executed by order of Santa Anna.
 - d. Santa Anna abducted two popular residents of the local bordello.

4. Sam Houston held many political offices, including the presidency of the Republic of Texas (twice). Which of the following positions did he never hold?
 - a. Governor of Tennessee
 - b. Governor of Texas
 - c. U.S. senator from Tennessee
 - d. U.S. senator from Texas

Answers: 1 b 2 c 3 c 4 c

The Movies:

Another historical film about Texas is the 1948 film **Red River**. According to the **Texas Monthly** review (Feb 2006, p. 134), “John Wayne’s performance as a psychopathic fascist, who represents the foundation of the Texas ranching industry is perhaps his greatest role.” The movie is “relatively accurate historically with no sugar coating of the way Texas ranchland was stolen from Mexican cattle barons, the Reconstruction economy that left ranchers cattle rich and cash poor, and the reasons that the Chisholm Trail to Abilene, Kansas, supplanted the dangerous route to Sedalia, Missouri.”



GENQUIP:

The name “Texas” comes from the Hasani word “tejas” meaning friends.
“Tejas” is not a Spanish word for “Texas.”

The Research Rambler Newsletter is published by the Texas Research Rambler Genealogical Society, P. O. Box 11195, College Station, Texas 77842-1195. Helen Kunz, hkkunz at cox.net