



TEXAS RESEARCH RAMBLERS GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. Officers
2. Last Meeting
3. Treasurer's Report
4. Next Meeting
5. Future Seminars and Trips
6. FYI: Tips from Others
7. Success Stories
8. Websites
9. Historical Moment
10. GenQuip

OFFICERS for 2005-2006

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

LAST MEETING

President Dan Castillo greeted members and visitors, Violet Gilbert and Nancy Hanson. We salute new members, Bud and Pat Fisher, John and Marcie Vitopil, and Nancy Hanson.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Sue Foy reports the ending balance as of 4/26 /2006 was \$8,361.15.

PROGRAM

Doug Bell presented an extremely informative program on the "Forgotten Census," which are also known as the non-population schedules. Doug focused on three major areas: **Content, Location, and Usage.**

Content: Doug gave us a thorough depiction of all the schedules; not only Schedule 1: Population Census, but also Schedule 2: Slave 1850-1860; Schedule 3: Mortality 1850-1880; Schedule 4: Agriculture 1850-1880; Schedule 5: Industry 1850-1880; Schedule 6: Social Statistics 1850-1870; and Social Statistics 1880.

Location: Since the schedules' location varies state by state, we need to check different sources, such as Ancestry.com, state archives, regional archives, university libraries, such as the University of North Carolina and TAMU, historical societies, state libraries, and local libraries, such as Carnegie Library and the L.D.S. Library. Carnegie has books that have charts noting locations of microfilm for non-population census.

- **Note:** When you go to Carnegie, Doug suggests that you ask for the book containing the year, the name of the schedule, and the state you are interested, for example, "the 1880 LA Agriculture Schedule." Carnegie keeps the LA and TX non-population schedules.

Usage: Through the non-population schedules, you can.....

*find a lot of personal information to personalize family histories

*separate similar family surnames

*study extended families, because families clustered together in business, marriages, and moves from 1700 to WWI

- **Strategy:** Check the population schedules first, locate the occupation, and then go to the Industry schedule. Then check the other schedules

NEXT MEETING DATE AND PROGRAM

We will meet at the College Station Utility Service Center, located at 1601 Graham Rd. in College Station, on May 31, 2006, at 9:30 a.m. The speaker, Karen McQueen, will discuss "Texas Clerks' Responsibilities of the Office of County Clerk."

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.
- 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:** an Education Committee workshop on Lineage Societies will be held at Bryan Public Library second floor at 9:30 a.m.
- **August 23, 2006:** an Education Committee workshop on DNA will be held at our usual meeting place, CSUSC. More information later.
- **September 1, 2006:** Final payment for Salt Lake City trip room
- **September 10, 2006:** Deadline for airline ticket purchase to Salt Lake City
- July meeting: **possibly** a brunch to display your collections of genealogy memorabilia

FYI: TIPS FROM OTHERS

Misconception: A common surname is always difficult.

Challenges:

- Too many possibilities
- Keeping track of the common-named family when a family member relocates

Advice: Consider that each family may have kept to a single town. Some families with very common last names went in for elaborate first names, and you can always hope that the (family's) marriages are to people with unusual names.

Some authors have specialized in particular surnames, so certain common surnames are good because someone else has already worked extensively on them, like Harris or Wilson in New England. Also, realize that a name that appears common in one locale may not be common in another.

Tips: Look for elaborate first names or unusual occupations—other things that can make up for a common surname.

For more information, check out Henry Hoff's article, "Mr. and Mrs. Smith," in Ancestry magazine, March/April 2006, p. 38.

SUCCESS STORIES

About non-population schedules---

Nancy Hanson found the name of a great grandmother on a **Mortality Schedule in AL**. As Henry Hanson put it, “Who would have thought she would attend one meeting in five years and the program would lead her to a” find” the next day. Moral to this story: Attend the meetings, listen to the programs, then follow up by doing research. Don’t just file the handout.”

Bill Page writes, “Because my Reeses left **NO** family papers and few oral traditions, this information [non-population schedules] is vital in telling their stories. Some information he shared with us from his book are as follows:

From an **1850 Marshal Co., MS, Census of Agriculture**, Bill found not only the crops they grew, but found other information. He writes, “Although nearly 80% of their neighbors grew cotton, the Reeses did not. Instead, Absalom was one of a small number of hay farmers. In one year his farm produced two tons of hay. Of the eighty farms listed before and the eighty farms listed after the Reese farm on the Census of Agriculture, only three of those 160 farms produced enough hay to have that crop listed on the census.

From an **1850 Franklin Parish, LA, Slave Schedule**, Bill found that Joshua and Lucinda Holden then owned three slaves: a 62-year-old man, a 60-year-old female and an eight-year-old girl.

From an **1870 Van Zandt Co., TX, Products of Industry Schedule**, Bill found that Lucinda’s son, Matt, owned a cotton gin. The census gives detailed information on this gin: “He owned two steam-powered machines, each being four horsepower. Matt had \$1810 invested in this equipment. He employed six adult men for about five months each year. During that time he paid out just over \$600 in wages. In 1869, his gins processed 300,000 pounds of raw cotton, producing some 200,000 pounds of seeds and 100,000 pounds of clean cotton.”

Just in this short summary we have seen how Nancy Hanson and Bill Page have found information in the “forgotten census.” Thank you Nancy and Bill for sharing your research tips with us.

WEBSITES

Having trouble with those pesky alternate spellings of surnames? Try these sites to get below the top layer of surname search:

<http://www.searchforancestors.com> is a site that not only tells the meaning of the surname, but provides a map showing where the families were living in the U.S in 1920. Alternate spellings are accessible through their link which takes you to Roots Web’s Soundex Converter.

<http://resources.rootsweb.com>. Once the Soundex code is listed, for example, B650, the site displays other surnames sharing this Soundex Code. How many spellings can you find for one surname?

<http://www.ellisland.org> is a site that allows you to type in your ancestor's surname and other information if you know it. Alternate spellings are given also.

HISTORICAL MOMENT

So, far, I bet you have correctly answered 8 out of 8 questions. Sharpen your pencil as we test our knowledge again, based on the article by Ann Dingus called "TexEd" in the February 2006 Texas Bound magazine, p. 14.

1. Mirabeau B. Lamar was a poet, soldier, and statesman who was Texas' third president. What does his middle initial stand for?
 - a. Bartholomew
 - b. Bubba
 - c. Buonaparte
 - d. Benedictine

<http://search.msn.com/images>

2. The Mier Expedition, an 1842 raid by Texans across the Rio Grande, resulted in the Mexicans' capture of some 176 men, who were forced to draw lots to determine their punishment. What signified death?
 - a. A piece of paper bearing a drop of blood
 - b. A piece of paper marked with an **m** for **muerte**
 - c. A black marble
 - d. A black bean

www.austincc.edu

3. A popular revolutionary flag bore a picture of a cannon and which of the following slogans?
 - a. Victory or Death
 - b. Live Free or Die
 - c. Come and Take It
 - d. Fire at Will

<http://www.comeandtakeit.com>

4. Which of the following was better known as Ol' Betsy?
 - a. Davy Crockett's rifle
 - b. Davy Crockett's wife
 - c. Sam Houston's mother-in-law
 - d. A cannon used at the Battle of San Jacinto

www.tntrivia.com

Answers: 1. c 2. d 3. c 4. a

GENQUIP

Thanks to Lucy Patton for the poem she found in the August, 2005, issue of Mature Living magazine.

My Family Tree

I always meant to do it—
Trace my family tree.
Find the things, folks, and events
That led a path to me.

Talk to the oldest folks
Was advice from my research.
Learn about their stories
From back before my birth.

Take their voices, read old diaries,
Take video shots as well.
Collect their photos, old papers, and such,
For they have lots to tell.

I always meant to do it,
But time went flying by.
Until I find that the oldest one
On my family tree...is I.

-Velma G. Warder

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