



TEXAS RESEARCH RAMBLERS GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Volume XVI, No. 6, June 15, 2006 Bryan-College Station, Texas

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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

LAST MEETING

President Dan Castillo called the May 31, 2006, meeting of the Research Ramblers to order. Minutes were approved and committee chairs gave their reports.



WELCOME!

TREASURER'S REPORT

Sue Foy reports the ending balance as of 05/31/2006 was \$ 8,532.10. Then Sue and Dan explained the investment of \$5,000 to be used as a source for seminars, etc.

Following several committee reports, Jane Cohen introduced speaker Karen McQueen, County Clerk of Brazos County. After a brief overview of the County Clerk's responsibilities, Karen suggested the audience ask questions they may have, which prompted discussion on many topics, including the following:

1. County records: open and closed records
2. Vital records on-line for Harris Co.
3. Encapsulating documents
4. Warranty deed, deed of trust, and release of lien
5. Surveys/abstracts
6. Cattle brands
7. Hand held scanners and digital cameras allowed in the courthouse

An interesting service the county provides is the safekeeping of a will in a courthouse vault for \$5.. The owner keeps a copy of his will. Then the child of the owner of the will must produce a copy of the parent's death certificate to get the original will.

To reach Karen, go to kmcqueen@co.brazos.tx.us. If you want to see information on Brazos County cemeteries, go to www.co.brazos.tx.us.

Then, if you click on **Brazos County Roads and Subdivisions-2005**, you can zoom in on a map with cemeteries that are marked with a cross. A pretty nifty way to quickly access the cemeteries.



NEXT MEETING DATE AND PROGRAM

Our June meeting will be “Cemeteries and the Texas Historical Commission” by Mr. Gerron Hite, Texas Historical Commission, Cemetery Preservation Coordinator. Cemeteries are among the most valuable of historic resources, for they can reveal information about historic events, religion, lifestyles and genealogy. Names on grave markers serve as a directory of early residents.

Be sure to join us on June 28, 2006, at the College Station Utility Service Center, located at 1601 Graham Rd. in College Station at 9:30 a.m.

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 cell phone# 255-2429.
- ◆ Every **3rd Wednesday** of the month: Computer Genealogy Users Group 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 on the second floor of the Bryan Public Library from 9:30-11:00 a.m. except during the summer.
- ◆ **June 21, 2006**: City of College Station Exploring History Lunch Lecture: “Preacher Tales from the Brazos Bottoms” at CS Conference Center, 1300 George Bush Dr., 11:30-1:00 p.m. Presenter is Pastor Sam Hill.
- ◆ **August 23, 2006**: Education Committee Workshop on DNA at CSUSC. Max Blankfeld of Famiy Tree DNA, a DNA testing lab in Houston, will be the speaker.

For workshops around the state: <http://www.rootsweb.com/~txgenweb>

- ◆ **June 24, 2006**, Walker Co. Genealogy Family History Fair: www.wcgen.com
- ◆ **July 20-22, 2006**, 10th Annual Angelina College Genealogy Conference: www.angelina.edu/genealogy.htm

<http://>



FYI: Stories from Others

“Summertime and the livin’ is easy...” Right? If you’re into day trips, you may want to take Gerald E. McLeod’s advice and go fishing at Indianola. He states in his article in **Spotlight** magazine of the June 8, 2006, edition of **The Eagle**, p. 15, that the “area is prime waters for redfish, sea trout, and flounder.”



<http://www.ghostowns.com>

Indianola was once a thriving community. This picture shows what Indianola, “Texas’ Queen City” looked like before a rash of problems. After she had endured hurricanes in 1851, 1875, and 1886, as well as a devastating fire and yellow fever epidemic in 1867, Indianola became known as “Texas ‘Queen of Ghost Towns’”. Indianola could have rebuilt, but the amount of silt and sand blown in by the last storm made the bay too shallow for the ships that mattered.

After the Civil War, the glut of cattle made beef valueless. Cattle were slaughtered for their hides and tallow, and the meat was left to rot. Experiments were conducted, equipment built and Indianola was the first port to ship refrigerated beef to Eastern markets in 1869.

For more history of this city, go to <http://texascapes.com> .

To see an exhibit about Indianola, Mr. McLeod suggests dropping by the Calhoun County Museum, 301 S. Ann St. in Port Lavaca. If you would also like to go fishing, call the Indianola Fishing Marina at (361)-552-5350.

SUCCESS STORIES

Have you been searching for a male ancestor who was born between September 1873 and September 1900? Echo King, AG, in his article, “Searching the Home Front” in the Nov/Dec issue of **Ancestry** magazine, 2005, p. 39, states that perhaps the largest single source of US WWI records are the 1917-18 draft registration cards. Even if your ancestor did not fight in the war, a card on him may exist.

Such was my case. I found my ancestor’s information at Ancestry.com, but the same information could also be found at National Archives Southeast Region in Atlanta, GA; on microfilm at NARA, #M1509; or at the Family History Library at Salt Lake City.

From the registration card I found out that my great-uncle had a wife and child, and his occupation was a collector in San Antonio, Texas. He was of medium height and had a slender build. He had brown eyes, black hair, and was not disabled. It is a good feeling to visualize an ancestor when you do not have pictures.





WWI trench construction

To help us visualize some of the WWI duties of our ancestors, we can find pictures and read memoirs.



WWI trench clearing

WEBSITES

First hand accounts, whether from your own ancestors or their contemporaries, can add a perspective you won't find in any history book. Look to the following locations for first-person details on the WWI experiences. These sites were supplied by Nov/Dec 2005 **Ancestry** magazine. The above pictures were taken from the first website listed below.

www.firstworldwar.com/diaries/index.htm

www.pbs.org/greatwar/resources/reading.html#personal

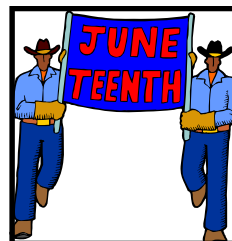
www.landscaper.net/ww1memoirs.htm

www.bbc.co.uk/schools/worlwarone

www.aftermathww1.com

HISTORICAL MOMENT

June 19, 1865 is a turning point in the history of Texas. Gen. Gordon Granger arrives at Galveston to announce that slavery has been abolished, an event commemorated today by the festival known as Juneteenth.



September, 1865 is when the Bureau of Abandoned Lands (the Freedmen's Bureau) charged with helping former slaves make the transition to freedom.

Refugees, Freedmen and begins operating in Texas,

GENQUIP

“Antiques are things one generation buys, the next generation gets rid of, and the following generation buys again.” Anonymous



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 verizon.net is editor.