



TEXAS RESEARCH RAMBLERS GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

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OFFICERS for 2006-2007

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

LAST MEETING

On January 31, 2007, Research Ramblers held their first monthly meeting at the new place, the A&M United Methodist Church Annex Fellowship Hall. President Dan Castillo called the meeting to order, and heard from the committee heads, who gave us some insight into future events. Some things to keep in mind are the following:

1. Helen Wolf pointed out that we will have a Silent Auction at our **July** meeting, so you may want to send/bring some items, priced if possible, to her. These items that you may not have use for now may be beneficial to someone else.
2. Dan noted that we will be voting on some By-Law changes at our next meeting.

We had two visitors at our meeting—Carolyn Glass Warren, and Hazel Smith. Ramblers welcome you, ladies.

Bill Page, our speaker, presented information to help us break through the Irish Brick Wall. We may think we have had problems finding land records or census information here in the states, but if you multiply that problem tenfold, you can become aware of the immense problem searching in Irish records.

Historically, the Irish people did not trust the government, and for good reasons. The Irish government officials encouraged people to turn their valuable documents over to the Archives section of the government.

Then, in 1922 a fire in the Archives Building burned all those collected records. So, it will take some time for people to develop resources to restore those documents if it is possible.



Luckily, we have sources near us that may prove as useful as going to Ireland. Based on the six-page packet provided by Bill based on his own research, we do have sources as close as Carnegie Library in Bryan, Texas; Texas A&M University in College Station, Texas; and Clayton Library in Houston, Texas.

Bill also emphasized using *Ancestry*'s "All databases" feature to zero in on Irish research topics. In addition, Bill provided a number of mostly free websites to search for the illusive ancestor.

Bill's Tips:

1. You will have more hits of references if you are searching for a common name rather than an uncommon name like "Scoates."
2. Consider the idea that your ancestors may have split up. Some may have gone to Australia or Canada rather than New York.
3. Following a failed rebellion or "rising," emigration spurts occurred.

By doing your own vast research on this topic, Bill, because you “did not know anything about it,” you have provided us with direction and motivation to pursue that illusive Irish ancestor.

Thank you for sharing your research and speaking skills with us.

TREASURER’S REPORT

Sue Foy reports that the total Rambler funds as of 1/31/07 was \$7,474.05.

NEXT MEETING DATE AND PROGRAM

We will meet at the Annex Fellowship Hall of the A&M United Methodist Church, 417 University Dr. in College Station, on February 28, 2007, at 9:30 a.m. Kristy Roe, Deputy Tax Assessor Collector will be our speaker on February 28th. She will talk about records that are available to the public in tax offices, what is accessible locally, and how things may be used and copied. This includes very old records as well as recent ones.

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.

Mark your calendar: March 14, 2007

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.

Mark your calendar: February 21, 2007

Every **last Wednesday** of the month: Research Ramblers will meet at the Annex Fellowship Hall of the A&M United Methodist Church, 417 University Dr. in College Station at 9:30 a.m. Everyone is invited to eat at a local restaurant after the meeting.

Mark your calendar: February 28, 2007.

Every **4th Monday, Roots Magic Users** will meet at the Bryan Public Library on the second floor from 9:30-11:00 a.m. **Mark your calendar: February 26, 2007**

For workshops around the state go to

<http://www.rootsweb.com/~txgenweb/GenSociety/txsem.html>

which will give you the full information on seminars/conferences around the state.

1. The Williamson County Genealogical Society on **March 17, 2007**, in Round Rock, Texas (<http://www.rootsweb.com/~txwcgs/index.htm>)
2. The Genealogical Society of Kendall County (Boerne) on **April 14, 2007**, in Boerne, Texas (<http://www.rootsweb.com/~txgskc/>).

FYI: NEW ACTIVITIES

1. **Orientation for Beginning Genealogists**, sponsored by Texas Research Ramblers, will be offered for anyone interested in finding out more about starting his search for ancestors. The session will be held on **Tuesday, February 20, 2007, from 9 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. at the home of Sue Foy, 804 Vine St. Bryan, TX.** We welcome anyone who is new to Ramblers and guests. We also welcome anyone who wishes to refresh their knowledge of the first steps of family research that should be taken. Space is somewhat limited, so please R.S.V.P. to Sue. You may want to call Sue, 846-7392, e-mail her at bsfoy2@suddenlink.net, or hit the "Reply" button on the MailServ message.
2. **Internet for Genealogy Research**, sponsored by Texas Research Ramblers, will be held for anyone interested in doing internet research. Meetings will be in the Computer Lab at Bryan Public Library (upstairs) from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. on **March 6, 2007.** Because only 11 computers are available, it may be wise to call or contact Sue Foy or Gail Sewell.
3. **MacRamblers**, sponsored by Texas Research Ramblers, will be offered for anyone interested in learning how to use your Mac computer effectively. They will meet on **March 7, 2007,** at 9:30 a.m. at the home of Georgianne Bigam, 3812 Stillmeadow Dr., Bryan. Contact Georgianne for details.

SUCCESS STORIES



A round of applause goes to the Education Committee's presentation of the Mary Collie Cooper Lecture Series held at the A& M United Methodist Church Annex Fellowship Hall on January 23, 2007.

Richard Hooverson, guest lecturer, and Mary Elizabeth Dresser chat for a moment prior to the beginning of the meeting. A number of guests and members turned out to hear our noted speaker.

Mr. Hooverson, distinguished genealogist, entertained and informed Ramblers about the trails our ancestors took to cross the nation from the east coast to the west coast. He got our brains to thinking by asking this question:



If you know the ethnic origin of your ancestor, as well as his religion, surname, history, places he had been, and the routes, what does that equal?

The answer is an educated guess. The complete answer does not come quickly or simply.

So, to help us locate our ancestor, Mr. Hooverson concentrated on two components of the equation: **History** and **Routes**.

History

1. A review of the significant historical time periods, such as after the War of 1812 until 1852, settlers moved down the Erie Canal, down the Ohio River to the Mississippi River and on to New Orleans.
2. Key events that may have affected our ancestors included the Old Migration from 1845-1880's.
3. Financial Panics causing recessions, depressions, and bad times for our ancestors occurred in 1819 and 1873, which drove people to go to Texas or South America.

Routes

Some significant trails included the overland routes of 1850, such as the Oregon Trail, the Mormon Trail, the California Trail, and the Pony Express routes.

In addition, we learned, re-learned, or reviewed what the point from which all townships were measured. We did the same with Warranty Deed, Quit-Claim, and Mortgage, and Grantor/Grantee.

TIPS: To follow the movement trail of your relative, remember these items:

1. Know the economic situation of your ancestors' **county**.
2. Check the 1850 Census for place of birth of **all** members of the family.
3. Also, check the 20 people **before** and **after** your ancestor's name to pinpoint some relatives or associates that moved with him.
4. If you can trace an ancestor to 1850, but you cannot find any trace of him before, check the **date that country was formed and what that county was called prior**. Then delve into that the census of the prior county name.
5. Do **not** discount water travel southward on the Atlantic coast and around the southern border on to Galveston, Texas.
6. Finally, don't discount the **Invisible Ancestors**, those who don't leave a paper trail, such as the urban ghetto worker, railroad workers, miners, and outlaws.



Interspersed in his lecture were pictures, jokes, and answers to Ramblers' questions. We appreciate the research Mr. Hooverson did and presented to us.

Many thanks to Mr. Hooverson for his work and presentation.

HISTORICAL MOMENT

February is Black History Month. Let's play a game. You guess who I am by my picture and my words.



1. I was born a slave, and grew up to become one of the greatest American educators. I advised two presidents and wrote a best-selling book about my life. My name is ?

2. I worked to improve opportunities for black students. I also worked for women's rights. I advised several presidents. My name is ?



3. I was a civil rights leader. I was a minister who preached nonviolent protests against injustice. In 1964 I won the Nobel Prize for Peace. I also worked against the Vietnam War and against poverty. I wrote several books. My name is ?

4. I was the first woman in America to be president of a bank. I belonged to a group that worked to help the poor and elderly. My name is ?



Pictures courtesy of www.wikipedia.com and information courtesy of *The Houston Chronicle*, February 3, 2007, p. 2. of "The Mini Page" by Betty Debnam.

Answers to the Black History leaders are as follows:

1. Booker T. Washington (1856-1915)
2. Mary McLeod Bethune (1875-1955)
3. Martin Luther King, Jr. (1929-1968)
4. Maggie L. Walker (1875-1955)

Of interest to our own locality is the new
Brazos Valley African-American Museum.

Check out the new museum located at
500 E. 20th St. in Bryan. The hours are Monday-
Friday, 1-5 p.m. and Saturdays 10 a.m.-4 p.m.



GENQUIP:

Remember this radio show and movie?

After the Lone Ranger saved the day and rode off into the sunset, the grateful citizens would ask, "Who is that masked man?" Invariably, someone would answer, "I don't know, but he left **this** behind." **What did he leave behind?**

Remember the early tv shows?

The title of this tv show came from the line of music, "Get your kick_____."
What is the name of the tv show?

Answers:

1. **A silver bullet**
2. **"Route 66"**

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