



RAMBLERS' RAMBLINGS

Volume XIX Number Two

FALL 2009

At the June meeting, Georgianne Bigam introduced members of the Nominations Committee Gail Sewell and Dean Duncan. Jane Horn was nominated for President and Lillian Beasley and Sue Thomas for Co-Corresponding Secretaries. The election will be held during the July meeting and will be followed by a brunch..

JULY MONTHLY MEETING

Henry Hanson reported that the August program will be given by Gloria Candelaria from Victoria on *Spanish Surname Research*. September's program will be given by Anne Boykin of College Station, on *Brazos County History* and in October, Diane Houston from the State Archives and Library will be our guest speaker for the monthly meeting.

The Nominating Committee made its recommendations for new officers and the members elected - Jane Horn, President, and Lillian Beasley and Sue Thomas, Co-Corresponding Secretaries.

A brunch followed the election.

AUGUST MONTHLY MEETING

The monthly meeting was called to order with recognizing visitors and a short business. Outgoing President Mary Elizabeth Dresser called newly - elected officers to the front of the

room; President Jane Horn, Corresponding Secretaries Sue Thomas and Lillian Beasley were charged with the duties of their office.



Mary Elizabeth Dresser gives new officers an official introduction and commission.

Gloria Candelaria, author, historian and genealogist from Victoria who has studied Texas history for almost 50 years, presented a program on *Researching Spanish Surnames*. Gloria, whose own ancestors helped found San Antonio in 1731, incorporated in her talk a short history of Spain in the 1400's to explain the methodology used by priests to record births in which their record depended on the month and the day followed by the maternal and paternal names.



Gloria Candelaria

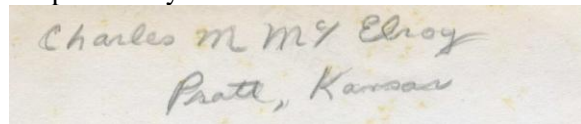
MORE ON MILLBERGER

Last Quarter the newsletter had an article written about the obituary of Francis Joseph Millberger born in Bryan, which listed his father as Vincent Millberger. Bill Page replied that he found on microfilm. Vincent Millberger's declaration of intent to be naturalized: "Vincent Millberger ... declares upon oath that he is a natural born citizen of Austria ... he was born in Moravia ... he is 23 years of age; that he emigrated to the United States of America and arrived at the port of Galveston ... on the __ day of October 1885 ... sworn to before me, this 5th day of November 1894 ... at Bryan ...".

SUCCESS STORY

by Sue Swann Foy

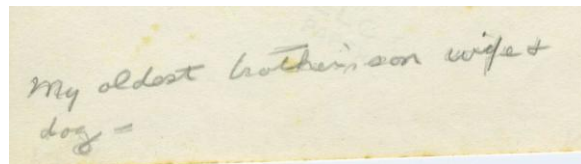
Never discount the value of following through on an obscure clue that appears in your family history. In 2004 I was working on an album for my paternal grandmother and came across two pictures. I did not know the people in the photo; on the back of one was the note that "this is Charlie's house." The other photo was of four people on the porch. The picture was circa 1950 when my grandmother had gone to Kansas with her brother-in-law to visit relatives. The back of the picture says



Charles M McElroy
Pratt, Kansas

Clue #1 Charles M. McElroy, Pratt, Kansas

then a note that says:



My oldest brother's son wife &
dog -

Clue #2- My oldest brother's son, wife & dog

I did not have anyone by the name of **Charles M. McElroy** in my genealogy database; the only data that I had for my grandmother's oldest

sibling was his name and birth date. I looked in Switchboard.com for a McElroy living in Pratt, Kansas and I wrote to the **Vernon Price McElroy** listed, asking if he was related to the McElroy family in Kansas. I got no answer ...

In May of 2009, I received a letter from a lady in Kansas. When I opened it, the date of 9/24/04 caught my eye and I read, "We're sorry to take so long to reply. My husband says that the names William and Hugh McElroy are familiar, but he doesn't know why." She then gives these names: Charles Vernon McElroy – grandfather; and Vernon Price McElroy, grandfather.



Gladys McElroy, my grandmother, Susie McElroy Swann Barr, Leonard Wilhelm, Charles McElroy - May 1950

The letter then picks up with the date 5/3/09 with more family information and asks if there was a relationship. I wrote, telling the lady that I did not have any of these names in my database and felt that there was no relationship.

Then a little "angel of genealogy" tapped me on the shoulder and said, "Sue, stop and think! Do some research." And I did. I found Charles Vernon McElroy on the 1900 census in Pratt, Kansas living with his father William Price McElroy! This was indeed the name of my grandmother's oldest brother.

Then the pieces to the puzzle fell into place and I had another very close collateral family. My new cousin-in-law's daughters were interested in the family history and one of them had a collection of old photographs, which included a picture of William Price McElroy and his first wife, Hattie Van Skike.

She also sent pictures of three young ladies and I suspect one of these is my grandmother and her two sisters. I can see a resemblance even if I cannot verify it.



William Price McElroy & Hattie

My g-grandmother died shortly after my grandmother's birth in 1874. Susie McElroy Swann, my grandmother, was given to a childless cousin and she was not raised in the McElroy home although she kept in touch with her siblings over the years. She was not formally adopted until 1913 when the family left Missouri to come to Texas. I have a copy of the original document verifying her legal adoption!

Susie M. Swann married Sam Barr in 1943 when she was age 69 and they had 17 happy years together.

THINGS TO REMEMBER

Salt City Trip in November

Sign up for monthly trips to Conroe Library & Clayton Library in Houston.

1850-1880 AG SCHEDULES

by Kate Thomas

Few sources of information are more beguiling or possibly more difficult to locate than one of the so-called nonpopulation census schedules. These schedules, taken at the time of the U.S. population census, include the mortality, social statistics, manufacturing and agricultural schedules.

But it is the agricultural schedule that contains the most interesting information about how individuals lived in the 19th Century. If your ancestor lived in one of perhaps 12 states between 1850 and 1880, then count yourself among the lucky few and lay plans to track down the agricultural schedule for your ancestor.

These records offer a fascinating snapshot of what great –great-grandfather Joe was doing and how well he was doing in more detail than almost any other document available. From them you can learn how many milch cows, cattle, oxen, asses and mules, horses, sheep, and pigs he owned.

Want to know what crops he raised? That information is available, too. Such as the amounts of acreage used for each kind of crop, the number of poultry, and the number of eggs produced.

From these, we learn Texas farmers raised a lot of corn, sweet potatoes and cotton. But they also produced butter, wheat and wood among other items. Sometimes, the records raise questions. For example, what was great-great-uncle Marshall doing with 90 horses in 1860? Southerners, including Texans, ate what we would consider today an inordinate amount of sweet potatoes. But not great-great grandfather George. Instead, this through-and-through Scots-Irish raised Irish potatoes to feed his growing family.

The agricultural census also reveals how well your ancestor was doing economically. Respondents answered questions about the value of their improved and unimproved acreage, the value of their tools, the value of animals killed

during the year, and the total value of the livestock and farm. With all this information, especially if the family remained in place for several decades, you'll be able to determine how they fared and possible reasons for a move. For example, did they sell or buy land during the interim? Did the land seem to be as productive over time?

That's the good news. Even better news: the Texas records are readily available at the *Carnegie Center of Brazos Valley History* in Bryan. So if you had relatives living in the state between 1850 and 1880, you should be able to locate them. But here's the hitch: The records are not indexed so be prepared to do some scrolling through the microfilm.

Moreover, not all state records have been microfilmed. According to the Compendium of Historical Sources, the agricultural nonpopulation schedule is available on microfilm in the National Archives for the following states and the district of Columbia: Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, Montana, Nevada, North Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Vermont, and Halifax County, Virginia. Others may be available through individual states, but it will take some research to locate them. For example, the Wisconsin Historical Society had that state's schedule whereas those for Michigan are held by the Bentley Historical Library at the University of Michigan.

To locate records for other states, Carnegie librarians Nan Ross and Shirley Ferguson recommend checking with local libraries, university libraries or state archives. They also advise calling ahead to insure individual records are available, if you are planning a research visit. Be forewarned: statewide compilation of statistics, which also may be part of the institution's collection, are not the same as the individual records.

FINDING THE UNEXPECTED GENEALOGICAL NUGGETT

by Ferol Jenkins

Ferol Jenkins and her brother have long known that they have a "Smidge" of Caddo blood. According to their mother it was so little Indian blood "that if you get nose bleed you are out of the tribe." Their Uncle Bill said Ferol was of 1/8 Indian heritage. He claimed to be one quarter Caddo. Ferol's great grandfather Williams had married a Caddo woman.

Lo and behold, Ferol happened to visit the Brazos Valley Museum of Natural History on June 18 for the opening reception of a Caddo exhibit. "I never knew much about the Caddo nation, so the exhibits at the museum were wonderfully informative. But the best part was that in the mix was a picture of my Caddo great grandmother's step-father." His Anglo name was George Washington and he was something of a hero, Ferol said. He led Caddo troops in the confederate Army in the Civil War.

Ferol was delighted to see the picture and is still looking for information on great-grandmother and great great-grandmother.

The staff of the Ramblers' newsletter wants to thank those members who sent their *Success Stories* for publication. If we didn't include all of these this time, they will be in our next issue. And for those of you who have stories not yet written, please take time to do so - - -

We're all anxious to know how you tore down your own genealogical brick wall.

Thanks for your help

Ramblers' Newsletter Staff

Michigan State Library

By Jane Maxwell

In August, Jane Maxwell reported that the August 2009 issue of the *National Genealogical Society* publication provided a snippet about the Michigan State Library and its budget woes.

It appears that on July 14th Michigan Governor Jennifer Granholm issued an Executive order calling for the elimination of the Department of History, Arts, and Libraries.

The order calls for moving all the authority, responsible personnel, equipment, collections and budgetary resources of these three departments to the Michigan Department of Education.

A Michigan Senate Committee is holding hearings on legislation, which would move these departments under the *Secretary of State* and make recommendations on how to proceed before the Executive order takes effect.

Budget cuts during rough economic times could effect many states, including our own. This sad news from Michigan could make the program in October more interesting when Diane Houston from the Texas State Archives and Library attends the Ramblers monthly meeting to present her program on *State Land Records*.

Newsletter Staff

Mary Jane Millender – Editor and Brickwalls

Joyce Louis – Queries and Programs

Kate Thomas – Genealogy Lessons

Jane Maxwell - Websites

Henry Hanson - Photographs



Call to Order



Ramblers doing what they do best



Mystery Question:

Where and What is this?