



RAMBLERS' RAMBLINGS

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JANUARY 2010 MONTHLY MEETING

The Texas Research Ramblers started off the New Year with a program given by member Jerry Markowich on digital photo management. Jerry used some of his personal pictures to show how members could enhance their photo albums using less expensive programs.



Jerry Marowich

2010 FEDERATION OF GENEALOGICAL SOCIETIES

Registration is now open for the Federation of Genealogical Societies Conference to be held 18-21 August, 2010 in Knoxville, Tennessee. The outstanding program will feature 73 key note

speakers, 173 presentations, 13 luncheons with speakers and two four hour workshops.

Tennessee was the first state added to the 13 colonies and many families migrated west from Virginia and North Carolina through this area, which should make this conference very attractive to Ramblers researching family ties to these Southern States.

FEBRUARY 2010 MONTHLY MEETING

The February program was one of those occasions where several people's ideas came together to make an excellent program. Mary Elizabeth Dresser made a survey back in 2009



Shelby Rowan

and passed it around at one meeting and the survey indicated that the most important topic according to the Ramblers membership was **Internet Research**.

About the same time Rambler Shelby Rowen presented an idea about a program on internet research, without having knowledge of the recent survey. Shelby took the idea and communicated via the Ramblers Mail Serve to gather the URL of sites used by most members and published them in a booklet form for quick reference.

Thanks to Shelby Rowan for a job well done.

FIRST TRIP TO SLC

By Sue Foy

Ten Texas Research Ramblers left College Station on September 27, 1994 for Salt Lake City. We spent a week in that beautiful city and made good use of the family research information at the LDS Family History Center.



L-R Francis Martin, Gladys Mitchell, Julie Wasson, Liz Crompton, Misses Collier, Sally Koestler, Annie Lee Gresham and Mary Collie Cooper. Sue Foy is taking the picture.

Our Howard Johnson Hotel (which is now the Salt Lake Plaza Hotel) was just in front of the library so all we had to do was step out the back door, cross the alley way & we were at the library. The weather was unseasonably warm but the flowers were beautiful and the people were all very friendly. We attended the choir rehearsal in the Mormon Tabernacle on Thursday evening and took a Grayline tour of the city on Sunday morning. Had Sunday dinner at the Olive Garden.

Does anyone use Family Tree Maker version 2008? I'm trying to help someone but my version is older (and much more user friendly!!! Or maybe I've just figured mine out and can't learn new tricks!) So I need to find someone else to help. If you can help, please call me at 979- 822-2769. Thanks Shelby Rowan



Who is this man? That's what Dan and Joyce Louis want to know. "So they are negotiating to place an ad in a Norwegian newspaper."

"Hello Inger-Marie,
I send you here the text of an advertisement for you to translate, and the photo will come by second email. Of course, I would like to keep the ad as inexpensive as possible. If you see ways to shorten the text without losing meaning, please do so, and use your judgment about editing this text. I think the picture could be useful as small as 5 cm tall. Could the ad run for two days, on a weekend?"

Thank you for translating and for sending me a price. After I get a price I will respond to ask you to run the ad or not to. I will send the photo as a second email."

THE AD

'An American seeks relatives of a Norwegian ship captain, born 1846 in Trondheim area, who brought his own vessel to Galveston, Texas, USA by 1868. The captain used the alias "James Johnson." He became a bar pilot for the Port of Galveston. He helped rescue the crew of the wrecked ship, *Virginia Dare* in 1871. He married Lizzie Menke in Galveston in 1879. One child, John Hagstat Johnson, lived past infancy. James' other children were named Ida Johana, James Martin and Albert Sidney. James died in 1883, a respected fire department warden and member of the International Order of Odd Fellows and a bar pilot. His sister's name was Ingeborg. DNA has been tested. Respond by email to Dan Louis at dlouis1938@aol.com.'

"Inger Marie, for your information, a bar pilot was a ship pilot who went aboard incoming foreign ships to guide them into and out of the port. The fire department was a volunteer organization."

Mary Collie Cooper Lecture

On February 23, 2010, Rambler members and guests attended the Mary Collie Cooper Lecture, held at St. Mary's Catholic Church in College Station, Texas.

Speaker for the event was Lloyd deWitt Bockstruck, retired Supervisor of the Genealogy Department, Dallas Public Library. Mr. Bockstruck is well-known as lecturer, author of books and articles, recipient of many awards, and an outstanding genealogist who gives his audiences information with knowledge and ready wit.



His handout containing 48 possible sources for information about ancestors information about researching females: from vital statistics to finding naming patterns and records and from a suit in chancery to discovering that a Scots-Irish widow reverted to her maiden name. He cited

Sharon DeBartolo Carmak's *Guide to Discovering Your Female Ancestors* as the best handbook on this subject.

The second session was about Pennsylvania, with an 8 page handout of bibliography about the Keystone State: census, compendia, correspondence, ethnic groups, immigration and naturalization, land records, newspapers, probate records and vital statistics. Mr. Bockstruck informed the group that: Philadelphia was the largest city in the new world from 1682 to 1776; early records stated that an *inmate* was a renter, roomer or boarder and owned no land; 1620's Welsh immigrants may not have had last names; because of the Quakers, there was no militia before 1740; after 1740; serving in the militia was voluntary.

After lunch the third session was devoted to discovering more about an ancestor's military service. A bibliography referenced federal and state-wide guides and military unit histories, bounty land and pension records, and battle histories. Brockstruck added there may be memoirs of fellow military men or wills made before combat, or records of hiring a substitute to serve. Deed books may contain a record of court martial; tax lists may indicate "pacifist".

Mr. Bockstruck was gracious in answering questions and the audience was reluctant to end the meeting. Attendees were indeed treated to a wealth of information, delivered in style.

WANTED

YOUR STORIES

Angelina Genealogical Conference

The 14th Annual Angelina College Genealogy Conference will be held July 15-17th at Angelina College in Lufkin, Texas. This year's conference will feature two guest speakers **Barbara Brixley Wylie**, who is completing a term on the Association of professional Genealogist's Board of Directors and currently serves on its Chapter Review Committee as well as bring Secretary of **APG's** Lone Star Chapter. And guest speaker **John Vincent Wylie**, a professional genealogist for 19 years and in his second term as a national secretary of the Association of Professional Genealogist. John is past president and current library liaison of the Grand Prairie Genealogical Society. In addition to the guest speakers, Pat Gordon is giving an all day presentation on **Genealogy in the Digital Age: Using Digital Cameras, Scanners & Editing Software**.

Learn how to digitize your genealogy records with either a digital camera or scanner. Then discover touch-up techniques in editing software to improve the appearance of those faded photos and aging documents. Learn ideas and techniques to use when writing your family genealogy.

Kevin Myers is presenting a two-day session on **Land, Lots of Land**. Learning the ins and outs of Land Records. This is a two part, all day course designed to help the researcher understand land records. You will learn to figure how land was distributed to your

ancestor; accurately interpret and record what you find, maximize your research with microfilm and published abstracts; and plat land by hand and with software. This hands-on course is limited to 25. Supplies needed for land platting course: protractor, ruler, (6" is fine with millimeters as well as inches), simple calculator and pencils.

Rambler members need to go online and check out the Angelina Conference. You can't get more "bang for your buck" than this three day conference!

BRYAN EAGLE STORY

On Sunday 7 March 2010, the Bryan Eagle published Kayla Slimp's article **A Slice of History**, which told three stories of past genealogy research by Mary Elizabeth Dresser, Jane Horn and Henry Hanson along with information about the Rambler organization and its current projects.

Mary Elizabeth's story told about her great great great grandfather Albert Gallatin, the Secretary of the Treasury from 1801-1814. Jane Horn shared a letter from her great great grandfather to his wife during the Civil War. Henry Hanson shared a brick wall proving his great grandfather changed his name.

MARCH RAMBLER MEETING

Ramblers who were not able to attend the March meeting missed an excellent opportunity to learn more about **PERSI**. Sue Kaufman, director of the Clayton branch of the Houston Pubic Library, gave the

Ramblers a presentation on the ins and outs of the periodical collection at the Allen County Library in Fort Wayne Indiana.



Sue Kaufman

The periodical collection, the largest in the world on *Genealogy Quarterly's*, is indexed by surnames and places. Sue Kaufman spent six years of her 20 year career as a genealogy librarian at Fort Wayne, Indiana the largest genealogy periodical collection, second only to Salt Lake City.

Sue is currently the President-Elect of the Texas State Genealogical Society and is also a director of the Federation of Genealogical Societies Board. The Ramblers should now be primed for a group trip to Fort Wayne Indiana.

HAPPY EASTER

PERSEVERANCE PAYS OFF

Story by Jane A. Maxwell

In August 2001, my sister and I went to Abingdon, Virginia. One of the stops was to the Washington County Historical Society where I found a listing in the county cemetery book, **High on a Wind Hill (HOWH) Vol. II**, for a cemetery (#383) that listed my great great grandmother Juliet Willoughby Owen. There was no location given and no one at the Historical Society knew where the cemetery was or who had turned in the survey. Over the years, I wrote and asked if a location for the cemetery had been found, but it had not.

In August 2005, I went back to Abingdon and to the Historical Society. While looking at a newsletter collection from Sullivan County, Tennessee, I came across a note about an old Willoughby cemetery near the intersection of King College Road and Trammel Road in Bristol, Tennessee. This made me wonder if the cemetery in the book was the one noted in the newsletter. My great great grandmother, who was a Willoughby before she married, lived in Sullivan County, where it adjoins Washington County, Virginia on the Tennessee-Virginia border. Although I looked for this cemetery, I could not find it. The Historical Society people said they would send someone

to look for the cemetery that winter when the weeds and snakes would be less prevalent. Good intentions got lost, however and no search was made.

In August 2006, I tried again, this time asking a Sullivan County genealogist by email if she knew of anyone who had surveyed the cemetery in Bristol. She forwarded my request to Troy Taylor in Bristol who responded to me and said he knew about the cemetery and would look for it in December. I told him I believed it might be the same as cemetery #383 in **HOWH Vol. II**.

In January 2007, I wrote to Mr. Taylor to give him my new email address. A few days later, I received a reply from him and attachment giving the information he had found at the cemetery, which proved it was the one listed in **HOWH**. He also said he would send me photographs of the headstones, which he did. This not only answered my questions, but also gave the Historical Society information to update its cemetery book.

NEWSLETTER STAFF

Mary Jane Millender - - Editor & Brickwalls

Joyce Louis - - Queries & Programs

Kate Thomas - - Genealogy lessons

Jane Maxwell - - Websties

Henry Hanson - - Photographs