



RAMBLERS' RAMBLINGS

Volume XXI Number TWO SUMMER 2011

THE ENGLISH CLAIM TO TEXAS

7 FLAGS OVER TEXAS ?



In 1629, King Charles I of England granted to Sir Robert Heath all the lands in North America between the 30th and 36th parallels from the Atlantic to the Pacific. The province was to be called Carolana (yes, Carolana not Carolina).

There was one stipulation: The grant covered only those lands "not being then actually in the possession of any Christian Prince or State."

Sir Robert never did anything with his grant. He was no colonizer and besides, he was too busy being Attorney General. It was just a piece of paper to him, so he sold it. It changed hands several times until 1696 when it was acquired by Dr. Daniel Coxe, a former Royal Physician.

Here was a man ready to do something. He sent out a number of expeditions. His idea was to found a colony at the mouth of the Mississippi (called the Meschacebe on English maps of the period).

One of Coxe's boats made it a hundred miles up the river when it was met by a stunned Sieur de Bienville, the French governor of the region. Bienville courteously informed the English captain that the river and its valley were already claimed by the King of France. Oh, that pesky stipulation!

And that looked like the end of things for the Dr. Coxe and his dream of an American colony.

Nearly three centuries later, in the mid 1980s, the Houston Fire Department wanted to expand a maintenance building near Buffalo Bayou, just outside of downtown. They uncovered a whole lot of graves dating back to the Civil War era. Not entirely unexpected. People knew that area had been the old City Cemetery. The graves were supposedly moved in the 1920s to make way for progress, but sometimes they just moved the stones.

Dr. Kenneth Brown, archaeologist at the University of Houston, was called in to investigate. What he found amazed him.

Among the 19th century graves he found nearly sixty "black earth burials." That means the body was wrapped in a shroud and buried without a coffin with organic material piled atop to hasten decay. All were buried with their feet to the east.

Only one group of people ever buried their dead in this manner: the English. The City of London in 1563 mandated this form of burial for persons who died of disease. It was supposed to stop the spread of disease, which was thought to be caused by fumes arising from the deceased.

Ceramic shards and tobacco pipes found in these graves date from the 1600s and are typical of those used in English colonies of that period. Not only that, there had one time been a ten foot moat surrounding the area, and evidence was found of structures built in the English manner.

There is certainly more research to be done, but the evidence looks pretty clear: there was a seventh flag that flew over Texas.

Texas Reader; Copano Bay Press, Rockport, TX.



HOW'D YOU FIND THAT NAME?

Tell us your research experiences with queries to county or state query sites or

with family trees on the internet; were you successful in searching for family information on Ancestry.com or did you just "Goggle" a name? How did you do it? How did you tear down your brick wall? ***Tell Us!***

Joyce Louis gave us this suggestion: she has queries out on lots of ancestors so she never changes her email address in case someone answers years after she first posted her queries. **Do you have suggestions for members? Tell Us!**

WHAT CENSUS CAN TEACH US ABOUT OURSELF



Throughout most of her 86 years, Florence Hand had been haunted by "floating dreams" that always revealed "somebody in the room besides me," she said.

The mystery had taken on legendary status in the family when Hand's granddaughter, Trisha Hand, confronted it. She dove into the millions of U.S. Census documents widely available through your local library.

It turns out Hand did, indeed, have a brother: Albert Taber, who was raised by their grandfather. When Hand found him, he was 87 and living in Florida. Last summer, for the first time in 85 years, brother and sister reunited during an emotional meeting at a Chicago airport.

"I kissed him and he kissed me back," Florence Hand recalled. "It seemed like the

most natural thing to happen, you know? My dream finally came true!"

Taber, who's now enjoying a whole new branch of his family, said he was overwhelmed by the life-changing experience. But as family historians know, it's the personal fragments garnered from census documents that tell the most dramatic stories of American life.

These historical gems often provide clues that, knitted together, can weave a story as cherished as any family tapestry or ancestral tartan.

As Trisha Hand discovered, family research can easily transform into an addictive quest that can change the way entire families see themselves. **Thom Patterson CNN**

A NOTE FROM LDS LIBRARY

BY SONJA NISHIMOTO



Since so many of the Texans have OBerschlesien roots, this will be of great interest. Notice in the link below, the Katowice entries, which is the most useful for the group, with so many of the towns of origin now online. It appears they are working on Opole as well, but not there yet. It is fantastic news.

<https://familysearch.org/search/image/sho w#uri=http%3A//api.familysearch.org/recor ds/collection/1867931/waypoints>

NEWS ON ANCESTRY.COM

BY BILL PAGE



Ancestry has just posted the Confederate pension applications online for Texas and Virginia - other states (apparently) to be added later. These are in a file titled; **US Confederate Pensions, 1884-1958** .

I finally looked at the application for my great grandfather's brother-in-law, who lived in Van Zandt County, Texas.

There were no huge surprises, though I was interested to see that the only land mentioned was the 90+ acres his wife inherited in 1882 - which is listed as being in her name.

I assume they had sold or given away the rest of the family's land prior to that time, perhaps passing it on to their children.

But for whatever reason, apparently the land that was hers they kept - perhaps because it had a fairly nice house on it (her father moved to Texas first, built a house, and her family later moved in with him).

Also, there are two affidavits from men living in Tennessee who served with the applicant.

I'm not sure I'd ever consider the possibility of looking for veterans records in applications for men in other states - it seems obvious, once you think about it.

NEWS FROM FORT WAYNE LIBRARY

BY JOHN D. BEATTY



FT. WAYNE SKYLINE

What are the hallmarks of a great published genealogy? Since *THE GENEALOGY CENTER* houses more than 59,000 volumes of compiled family histories, our staff is sometimes asked for recommendations of outstanding examples in the collection. These books come in many different formats and styles. Some begin with an ancestor from the distant past, often an immigrant ancestor, and trace some or all of his descendants. Others follow an "all my ancestors" format, tracing all known direct ancestral lines of one person. The best genealogies of either type are well-documented with footnotes, allowing the reader to reconstruct the research of the author and locate the original sources of information.

A variety of numbering and arrangement schemes exist, but the best genealogies follow well-established systems that are

familiar to readers. The two most widely used are the so-called Register and NGS systems, which are explained in detail in the National Genealogical Society's publication; "Numbering Your Genealogy: Basic Systems, Complex Families and International Kin" (929.C92nb). The better genealogies will also place families into larger historical contexts, drawing information from a variety of primary sources. By providing more than just names and dates, they attempt to reconstruct ancestral lives. Unproven statements will be clearly labeled, and when conflicting evidence is found, it will be cited. The best works will offer proof arguments, which carefully evaluate all of the pertinent evidence. A well-written and documented genealogy exhibits the skilled craftsman of any great work of scholarship.

Since 1974, the Fellows of the *American Society of Genealogist* have presented the Donald Lines Jacobus Award to writers of outstanding genealogies in an effort "to encourage sound scholarship in genealogical writing."

For a list of the award winners, see www.fasg.org/jacobus_award.html

A personal favorite is *The Burling Books: Ancestors and Descendants of Edward and Grace Burling, Quakers (1600-2000)*, by

Jane Thompson-Stahr, published in two volumes in 2001 (929.2B9248th). Using the NGS numbering system, Thompson-Stahr created a detailed study that is meticulously documented with citations from many primary sources. She also uses proof arguments very effectively.

When more than one man named Samuel Burling lived in New York during the same period, she carefully lays out her evidence that distinguishes them.

Her prologue assesses the challenges in using Quaker records, while the index includes a complete list of names and places.

ANGELINA CONFERENCE

July 14-16 2011

I NEED HELP

My name is Phillip May. I now live in Prairie Grove, Arkansas and am searching for information regarding an ancestor of mine. I found you and your website Texas Research Ramblers and thought you might be able to help me.

My great great grandfather R.A. May (b. 1812 Anson County, North Carolina) packed up his family from St. Francis County, Arkansas and moved to Texas in 1870's. He died in 1878 while in Texas (around Round Rock, TX.) after which the family moved back to St. Francis County, Arkansas, where my great grandfather and grandfather and father all lived and died (will die) - All on the same piece of land! I was born and raised there and would like to return some day.

I am not sure exactly what year the family left for Texas. R.A. May and his family are lost in the St. Frances County census of 1870; couldn't find them in that census, but did find the family minus R.A. in the 1880 St. Francis County census. All my information about R. A.'s death and burial in and around Round Rock, Texas. is from oral history.

I am attempting to find out why they might have traveled to Texas. He wasn't in the Civil War and shouldn't have been outcast by Reconstruction; he owned a farm in Arkansas and shouldn't have been looking for more

land. Was there some other event or circumstance between 1870 and 1880 that could have drawn them to Texas? He wasn't just traveling, because he took his family with him. We believe the intent was to stay, but something changed and they started home and he died on the way home. Oral history says that he was buried on the side of the road, but we hope there is a cemetery or marked grave that he was buried in. R.A. May had a son William (B. 1858 St Francis County, Arkansas), who died in 1878 in Longview, TX and I have no information about his burial either. Do you know of any graves or cemeteries where either of these men may have been buried?

Our genealogy was put together by my aunt, Charlene May Rushing, great granddaughter of R.A. May. R.A. is an abbreviation of a variation of Redden Andson. In our research we've seen Redden Anson, Reading Andson, Reddin Anson; every combination and /or spelling you can imagine, which I'm sure stems from inconsistent literacy/penmanship of the time period.

Thanks for any help you can lend. Sammi May
sammimay@pgtc.com



A LONGSHOT SEARCH

BY JOYCE LOUIS



In 2010 I saw a news clipping in the Brazoria County History Association vertical files, dated 1986, that mentioned a **Tom Fry**, who had been adopted by my very distant, long dead, cousin, Matthews Golden. Mr. Fry was listed on Anywho.com last summer so I telephoned just to see what might happen. I wanted to locate burial plots on private property west of Angleton.

Mr. Fry and I had a pleasant conversation and he said that neither he nor his adopted father nor his adopted grandmother could find those plots when they searched many years back though they had attended funerals in decades past at that site.

However, he did have some photos and letters that belonged to the grandmother of whom he was very fond. His grandmother was Mary Elizabeth Scobey, born about 1856, who was a niece of my great great grandmother, Elizabeth Scobey Justice Kipp, born 1828.

Mr. Fry said he was 85 years old and his children were not interested in these adopted parents, and if I would come, he would give me what he had. I went within a month, and Dan and I took him to lunch. He gave me a celluloid photo album with 20 family photos (some of which were identified) and some significant letters. In one letter a cousin wrote Mary Elizabeth reporting that another cousin's will declared she wanted Mary Elizabeth's two younger

brothers to have "nothing that had ever belonged to her." Mr. Fry said the family story was that those two had "gone outlaw."

Mr. Fry also gave me a gavel that had belonged to Patrick H. Golden, Mary Elizabeth's husband, who had been a labor leader in Dallas and served in the Texas House of Representatives in 1893.

SOCIETY AWARDS

At the May monthly meeting of the Texas Research Ramblers, "AWARDS OF MERITS" were given to Gail Sewell for her hands on



GAIL SEWELL

instructions helping new members with methodologies of genealogy research and to Georgianne Bigam for serving as



GEORGIANNE BIGHAM

Recording Secretary for six years. Georgianne now serves as the Treasurer.

SCRAPBOOK CORNER

FIRST MEETING OF THE BRAZOS COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

January 23, 1978, the first meeting of the Brazos County Genealogical Society was held at the Bryan Library.

Don Dyal told of his experiences in doing genealogical research abroad and made suggestions of how best to handle the difficulties which might arise.

A business meeting was held to organize the group after Mr. Dyal's presentation.

Mary Cooper was nominated by Mr. Landiss as Chairman and was unanimously elected.

Theresa Earle was nominated by Mrs. Landiss as Temporary Secretary and elected.

Don Dyal promised then to find out if we could become a part of a state organization.

A committee was selected to study and develop the organization, by-laws, and constitution of the Society. This committee is composed of Don Dyal, Nan Ross, and Christine Dulaney.

Then another committee was organized to nominate permanent officers. On the committee are Bess Gatlin, Georgia Bell Landiss, and Harry Anderson.

Several suggestions were made to consider before the next meeting: such as how often to meet, what types of programs should be planned, what the dues should be, what other activities we might plan, and where the meetings should be held. It was also suggested that we encourage Colonel Parsons and others in the community to join our group and share their experience with us.

Our next meeting was set for February 20, at the University National Bank in College Station. For the time being we will try meeting on the third Monday of each month.

Mary Cooper suggested that we work on our ancestor charts so we might share these with others. Also, she suggested that we indicate the names and areas we were interested in on 4 x 6 cards which could be kept at the Library or some other designated spot so that each of us could assist others with their search when possible. Mary also said we might want to indicate books or other materials we would be willing to share.

Those attending the first meeting were: Mary Cooper, Eulene Benbow, Christine and Louie Dulany, Joy Brown, Marilyn Harvell, Donald Dyal, Ralph and Naomi McCormick, Harry Anderson, Elizabeth Gatlin, Carl and Georgia Belle Landiss, and Theresa Earle. and Nan Ross.

1978

Chronicle of a local genealogical group

By MARGARET ANN ZIPP
Staff Writer

After the publication of Alex Haley's best-seller *Roots* in 1977, Americans began to take a new interest in their ancestry. In the fall of that year, Mary Cooper taught a genealogy class for College Station Community Education.

"We had such a good time, learned so much and did so much together," Cooper recalls, "that the members of the class didn't want to quit at the end of the semester."

Cooper suggested that they form a genealogical association and meet once a month. The first meeting of the Brazos Genealogical Association was held in January of 1978.

"There were about 20 of us," Cooper says. "The nucleus was that class, and it still is."

Cooper was elected president in 1978 and 1979, and Ralph McCormick held the chief executive office in 1980. Dottie Clark served as president in 1981, and the current president is H. Allen Moncrief.

In the summer of 1979, the association began publishing a bimonthly newspaper which was named the *Brazos Genealogical Advertiser* so its initials would be the same as those of the organization. Cooper is the editor of the *Advertiser*, in which information of special interest to genealogists is printed.

Alphabetized lists of the names on tombstones in a number of burial grounds in Brazos, Burleson, Madison and Robertson counties have been run in the *Advertiser*. Some historical information on the cemetery is included, along with directions on how to reach it.

A complete listing of Brazos County cemeteries published several years ago by E. Broaddus Smith needs to be brought up to date, Cooper says. She hopes the association soon will undertake a complete resurvey of Brazos County cemeteries.

The 1860 census for Brazos and Robertson counties is now running in the *Advertiser*. Texas census records are available in the Texas A&M University Library. Beginning in 1850, everyone living in each household was listed, with his date and place of birth.

"You get a lot of good, interesting information from the census," Cooper says. "It does give you such good clues."

"You may find Grandma Mary Jane listed in the household of James. Now you know that's her father. You know who to look for in the county records. You have a given name."

Genealogical research should begin with the

documents most families have right in their homes, Cooper says, such as old Bibles, letters and diaries. But each generation must be documented before the genealogist moves back to the one preceding it.

"Folks will say, 'Grandpa fought in the Battle of King's Mountain,'" Cooper says, "or, 'We have a great grandmother who was an Indian.' Until you can prove that, you don't know if it's a nice story or if it's really true."

Records of the county where the last verifiable person lived point the way back, Cooper says. The researcher should look at marriage records and, for the 20th century, death and birth records. The latter two categories of vital statistics were not recorded until this century.

Turn to RECORDS, page 4F



Mary Cooper, founder of the Brazos Genealogical Association, uses chalk so she can read the engraving on a headstone in Booneville Cemetery.

Genealogy seminar set

Gene Mathis and Arlee Gowen, both of Lubbock, will be the presenters at a computer seminar being offered by the Research Ramblers and the Brazos Genealogical Association from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Sept. 25 at the College Station Hilton and Conference Center.

Mathis is the system operator for the Texas State Genealogical Society, and Gowen is the society's electronic library chairman. They will discuss TSGS's electronic library, bulletin board and satellite transmission at the morning session and genealogy

software in the afternoon.

If it is paid before Wednesday, the fee for the seminar and lunch is \$18. After Wednesday, or at the door, the inclusive cost is \$20. Checks, payable to Research Ramblers Seminar, should be mailed to Nita Smith, 1004 Ashburn, College Station, 77840. No refunds will be made after Wednesday.

For information, call Mary Collie Cooper, 846-8278, or Sharron Currie, 822-7785.

Saturday, September 18, 1993

Get to root of family trees with computer class help

Learn how to trace your family tree on your home computer. The Texas Research Ramblers and the Brazos Genealogical Society are sponsoring a computer seminar Sept. 25 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Mary Collie Cooper, chairwoman of the Texas Research Ramblers, said the trend in genealogy is moving toward using a home computer to access information and to communicate worldwide.

The seminar covers how to use the Texas State Geological Electronic Library, bulletin board, satellite transmission and special softwares to trace your family history.

The seminar is at the College Station Hilton, 801 University Drive. Registration begins at 8 a.m. The cost is \$20, which includes lunch. For more information, call Mary Collie Cooper at 846-8278 or Sharron Currie at 822-7785.

—Compiled from staff reports

SPECIAL COMPUTER SEMINAR



Sponsored by:
TEXAS RESEARCH RAMBLERS
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Saturday, September 25, 1993
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1993

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