In Memoriam:

JANE ANN MAXWELL
June 30, 1936-------March 4, 2015

Jane Ann Maxwell was born on June 30, 1936 to Frank and Eve (Pederson) Maxwell in Austin, Texas. Jane was a graduate of the University of Texas School of Journalism. During her enrollment she was a member of the University of Texas Show Band of the Southwest. Jane’s career, spanning forty years, began at Lamar College in Beaumont, Texas and ended at Texas A &M University where she retired to pursue her passion for genealogy of the Maxwell and Pederson families.

Jane was predeceased by her parents and by her only sibling, Margaret Maxwell Bauer. She is survived by her nephew, Charles M. Bauer, two nieces, Margaret B. Lampton and Virginia B. Salmon, three great grand nephews, Charles E. Bauer, Mark P. Lampton and William M. Bauer, and three great nieces, Lauren Lampton, Sarah Sarran and Alexis M. Bauer.

Jane will be forever remembered for her smile, her hints on Scandinavian research techniques, new genealogy sites on the web and friendly reminders about the next
This year is the 800th anniversary of the signing of the Magna Charta. Some of my ancestors helped write it and then forced King John to sign it in 1215 in a meadow just outside London, England.

Robert Fitzwalter and Saer de Quincy were my 26th or so great grandfathers. First cousins and life-long friends, they grew up in England in the 1180s. By 1215 they were two of the richest and most powerful men in England and bitter enemies of King John.

They and other rich, powerful barons accomplished a truly remarkable feat: They forced King John to sign a paper guaranteeing he would abide by the laws which governed England, the Charter of Liberties and several other new laws to boot.

I wish I had their genes, but after so many generations their genes have been re-assorted and my genetic makeup is no more similar to theirs than it is to any other English person. I would like to think that I inherited some of their spirit. It was that indomitable spirit of Robert Fitzwalter and Saer de Quincy that brought about the situation which forced King John 800 years ago to sign the Magna Charta, the most important document in English history and one of the most important ones in American history as well.

The Magna Charta was the first document to force the King to obey the laws. New laws, some of which we call the Right to Due Process, were added to the Magna Charta. These Due Process clauses guaranteed that no one, not the king, not the army, not the police could keep a person in jail without a legal reason. In 2015, all nations derived from
England include this “due process” clause in their constitutions. In the U.S., it is in the 5th and the 14th amendments to our constitution, which guarantee that you can't be held in jail for more than 24 hours without being charged with a crime. These rights are also found in many of our state constitutions.

King John, also one of my ancestors, was overall an awful monarch. He was known to lie and to cheat his people; he was a bully. He demanded hostages in an age when hostages were well-treated; however, John both abused and killed his hostages, including his own nephew, Arthur, and a well-known lady, Mathilda de Braiose and her son, William. When my ancestors confronted the king about his behavior, they had their lands confiscated and were exiled from England without trials.

Another of my ancestors, John's great grandfather King Henry I, developed an excellent system of laws for England, based upon old English and Roman laws, which gave England one of the best legal systems in the world. It was formally proclaimed the Charter of Liberties or Coronation Charter in 1100. John’s father, King Henry II, built on Henry I’s legal system and formed a framework for administering and enforcing laws and conducting government in England. This system, called the Civil Service, still works in England along the same lines Henry II set up so many years ago.

King John especially disliked Robert Fitzwalter and Saer de Quincy because of one incident which seems to have triggered a life-long feud. In 1203 Fitzwalter, de Quincy and their armies of knights had helped John fight the French in defense of Normandy, then a separate country under English control. The pair had been entrusted with the defense of Vaudreuil Castle in the Seine valley, a key point in the Normandy’s defense. John apparently told Fitzwalter and de Quincy the defense of the castle was impossible and to let it go. Later John disputed this, claiming the pair just ran away from the fight, giving the castle to the enemy.

Soon after Fitzwalter and Saer de Quincy were exiled; part of their lands were taken by the king. King John eventually realized that he needed both barons back in England. He returned their lands and homes after they gave him a ransom.

By 1204 John had lost most of the lands on the European continent that England held when he began his reign in 1199. He also had managed to almost bankrupt England because of his inept handling of the wars against France. John began to levy huge taxes on the barons and to confiscate lands from landowners to build up his coffers so that he could fight more wars against the French to regain the lands he had lost. The barons deeply resented their heavy taxation and the king’s illegal land grabs.
In 1213 Stephen Langton, the newly-appointed Archbishop of Canterbury and head of the Church of England, which was a very powerful position, became concerned when King John confiscated lands and withheld money from the Church. Langton held a meeting with all the English barons in St. Albans Abbey, located about 20 miles north of London. In October 2014, King John taxed all the English barons more heavily. Many refused to pay. Sensing John’s weakness after his latest failure in France, the rebel barons met in Bury St. Edmund to discuss tactics against the king. In January 1215, the barons demanded from the king a written charter confirming ancient liberties granted by earlier kings of England in the Coronation Charter or Charter of Liberties. The Archbishop agreed.

Later that spring, more barons sided with my ancestors and marshaled their forces to fortify their castles in preparation of a fight. Robert Fitzwalter was elected head of the rebel barons...he called himself “Marshal of the Army of God and Holy Church.” Fitzwalter and de Quincy had the support of 23 of the most powerful barons and their knights in England.

John, losing his power base, agreed to give the barons an answer to their demands later that spring. However, John reported his situation to Pope Innocent III and began to assemble a mercenary army to fight all the barons and their knights. In April 2015, the barons again presented King John with more specific demands, but John rejected them.

After several meetings, a document was produced, which William Marshal, the king’s chief advisor, encouraged King John to sign. The document stated that John would have to obey England’s existing laws in the Charter of Liberties plus a few more laws. At first, the king refused. But the barons threatened to go to war against him and to drive him out of England. William Marshall made King John realize that the barons could and would do that if he did not sign the document.

In mid-June 1215, at the urging of William Marshal and Stephen Langton, who knew that King John and his army could not defeat the barons and their knights, agreed, reluctantly, to sign the document and made it a Grand Degree or Magna Charta. So in a meadow at Runnymede just west of London, King John was forced to sign the Magna Charta in front of 25 barons and 15 prominent religious leaders of England. William Marshal and the Lord Mayor of London signed it as well. However, King John never actually signed it. He affixed his seal.
Many historians write that William Marshall was the unsung hero, having persuaded the difficult king of his untenable situation. He managed to convince King John to give up his power and to sign it in front of his hated enemies, the English barons and knights.

THE HISTORY CENTER, A RESEARCH GEM IN DIBOLL, TX
BY MARY JANE MILLENDER

Have ancestors from Angelina County, East Texas? Especially Diboll, Corrigan, Burke or Lufkin? You do? Then please continue reading while I tell you about The History Center in Diboll, a small lumber town located about an hour and 45 minutes northeast of Bryan/College Station on Highway 59. A beautiful part of Texas...a few hills with pine, magnolia, yupon and dogwood trees, just waiting to be admired. But if you have ancestors who lived in that part of East Texas, there’s more for you than just the beauty of that area. A research gem awaits you, complete with East Texas hospitality.

Recently, my husband Jack and I continued our search for more information on several elusive East Texas ancestors of mine when we left Lufkin and drove just 11 miles to check out The History Center in Diboll. Right on the highway we found the site, a relatively-new 11,500 square-foot genealogy library, designed in the architectural style of the Arts and Crafts movement. Inside, we found a librarian who, after learning the names we were researching, made trips back into the archives and brought out old newspapers, scrapbooks and clipping files for us. He even offered to make all our copies for us.
While I researched, Jack walked around the building, finding educational exhibits, which present an understanding of that region’s impact on present and future generations. The History Center’s growing collections also include manuscripts, maps and more than 70,000 vintage photographs of East Texas life dating from the late 19th century.

The only problem we found with Diboll’s History Center? We just didn’t allow enough time for our research there. But we will return soon.

**MY FAVORITE HISTORIC CHARACTER: HARRY S. TRUMAN**

*BY HENRY HANSON*

I love history and that is probably because my father gave us several history lessons at the supper table, back when TV was limited by a burned out vertical alignment tube and no money to pay a repairman to repair it. As a result of those history lessons, my favorite reading subject was biographies written by specific authors, most favorably David McCullough and H.W. Brands.

In 1992, David McCullough won a Pulitzer Prize for his biography on Harry S. Truman and I was attracted to this book when my wife Nancy and I were following the Texas A&M Women's Basketball team to the Big 12 Conference Tournament in Kansas City. One year we visited the Truman Presidential Library in Independence to see and read many things mentioned in this biography.

Harry S. Truman was born 8 May 1884 in Jackson County, Missouri, the first of three children born to John Anderson Truman, a farmer and mule trader, and his wife, Martha Ellen Truman. Harry was named in honor of his maternal uncle, Harrison Young, but his parents couldn’t decide on a middle name. After more than a month, they settled on simply using the letter “S” as a tribute to both his maternal grandfather, Solomon
Young, and his paternal grandfather, Anderson Shipp Truman. His ancestors left Kentucky much like Daniel Boone and his family, all of Scot-Irish ancestry to settle in western Missouri. Truman grew up on the family farm in Independence, Missouri, and did not attend college. He worked a variety of jobs after high school. After five years, he returned to farming and joined the National Guard.

When World War I erupted, Truman volunteered for duty. Though he was 33 years-old—two years older than the age limit for the draft and eligible for exemption as a farmer, he helped organize his National Guard regiment, which was ultimately called into service in the 129th Field Artillery. Truman was promoted to captain in France and assigned Battery D, which was known for being the most unruly battery in the regiment. Truman captured the respect and admiration of his men and led them successfully through heavy fighting during the Meuse-Argonne campaign.

After the war, Truman returned home and married his childhood sweetheart, Elizabeth “Bess” Wallace, with whom he had one daughter, Mary Margaret.

In 1919, Harry Truman and Army friend Eddie Jacobson took a lease on a space in downtown Kansas City and opened a men’s furnishing store. The business failed at the start of the Great Depression in 1922, and Truman owed $20,000 to creditors. He refused to accept bankruptcy and insisted on paying back all the money he borrowed, which took more than 15 years.

About this time, he was approached by Democratic boss Thomas “TJ” Pendergast, whose nephew James served with Truman during the war. Pendergast appointed Truman to a position as an overseer of highways; after a year he chose him to run for one of three county-judge positions in Jackson County. He was defeated when he ran for a second term. Truman ran again in 1926 and was elected as a presiding judge, a position he held until he ran for senator.

On the 14 May 1934, Truman was selected by the Pendergast organization to run for the United States Senate. In his first term, he served on the Senate Appropriation Committee, which was responsible for allocating tax money for FDR’s New Deal projects, and the Interstate Commerce Committee, which oversaw railroads, shipping and interstate transport. He initiated legislation that imposed tighter federal regulation on the railroads, which helped him establish his reputation as a man of integrity. By the time Truman was up for reelection in 1940, Thomas Pendergast had been convicted of tax evasion and associated with voter fraud, and many predicted Truman’s connection to Pendergast would result in a defeat. Truman’s reputation as a frank and ethical man helped him win reelection, albeit narrowly.
When FDR had to choose a running mate for the 1944 presidential election, he deemed his acting vice president, Henry Wallace, unacceptable. Since some thought that Roosevelt might not survive his fourth term, the vice presidential pick was especially important. Truman's popularity, as well as his reputation as a fiscally responsible man and a defender of citizens' rights, made him an attractive option.

Roosevelt and Truman were elected in November of 1944, and Truman took the oath of office on January 20, 1945. He served as Vice President just 82 days before Roosevelt died of a massive stroke, and he was sworn in as President on April 12, 1945. With no prior experience in foreign policy, Truman was thrust into the role of Commander in Chief, made the decision to use the atomic bomb on Hiroshima and Nagasaki – ending World War II.

The 1948 election polls indicated that Truman's reelection was all but impossible. So certain of the victory the "Chicago Tribune" famously went to press with the headline "Dewey Defeats Truman" before many polling locations had released results. The final outcome was a win for Truman with 49.5 percent of the vote, compared with Dewey's 45.1 percent, and was one of the greatest upsets in the history of American elections. Truman was sympathetic to those who sought a Jewish homeland. A Jewish homeland in Palestine was widely popular in the United States, and Jewish support could be key in the upcoming presidential election. Although advised not to favor a free and independent Israel, Truman said he had few Arabs among his constituents.

Truman made the decision to recognize Israel on May 14, 1948, eleven minutes after Israel declared itself a nation. Israel remains our closest ally in the Middle East today. A former player of the Texas A&M Volleyball team, Megan Pendergast was a descendent of Michael Pendergast, the brother of Thomas Joseph “TJ” Pendergast, the Democratic boss of Kansas City, who gave Harry S. Truman his political start, a man I think was the best President of the United States ever.

THE BLUEBONNET, OUR STATE FLOWER FOR 114 YEARS

BY MARY JANE MILLENDER

In 1901, the Texas Legislature decided it was time to name a floral emblem for the state of Texas. Not an easy choice or task. During that legislative session, the competition was fierce. Several other plants were introduced for consideration and it soon became decision time. But then Austin members of the National Society of Colonial
Dames of America arrived carrying a large painting of bluebonnets, which strongly supported their choice for our state flower. And what was the bluebonnet's competition? The cotton boll and the prickly pear cactus, both good representatives of Texas. One legislator spoke out in favor of the cotton boll as cotton king in Texas during those days. And the cactus? It, too was a strong competitor as a young man from Uvalde, Texas stood up and spoke long and eloquently on the cactus' virtues...so eloquently, in fact, that he earned the nickname "Cactus Jack," which followed him even when he was elected Vice President of the United States years later: “Cactus Jack” Garner from Uvalde.

So how did the bluebonnet win? Thanks to the National Society of Colonial Dames of America and their large oil painting, the bluebonnet was chosen. Their choice for state flower was the *Lupinus Subcarnosus*, better known as *buffalo or bluebonnet*. It was passed into law on March 7, 1901. This 6th generation Texas thanks to the Colonial Dames of America for a job well-done. The cotton boll and cactus can be found in many states, but the bluebonnet lives in Texas...it’s pure Texan!

As historian Jack Maguire wrote, “It's not only the state flower, but also a kind of floral trademark almost as well known to outsiders as cowboy boots and the Stetson hat. The bluebonnet is to Texas what the shamrock is to Ireland and the cherry blossom is to Japan, the lily to France, the rose to England and the tulip to Holland.”

March is here, warmer weather is close by and the bluebonnet will soon be in full bloom in Texas. Chapel Hill and its surrounding hills and its bluebonnets are waiting for us and our cameras. Happy 114th Birthday to our state flower, the Texas bluebonnet!
SHELBY ROWAN, NEW GENEALOGICAL CONSULTANT FOR
THE STAR OF THE REPUBLIC OF TEXAS MUSEUM

On March 6, 2015 in celebration of the 179th anniversary
of the signing of the Republic of Texas' Declaration of
Independence, Shelby Rowan was invited to give the
invocation at the Descendants' Luncheon at the Star of
the Republic Museum in Washington-on-the-Brazos.

Shelby has also been asked to serve as the genealogical
consultant for the Star of the Republic Museum for the
next six months to continue the search for living
descendants of the signers of the
Texas Declaration of Independence.

THE CENSUS TAKER
BY UNKNOWN AUTHOR

“We’ll I’m surely glad to be home, that I am. I tell you another day like this one and I
am a good mind just to fill them papers out on memory and
be done with it. Here, put these socks over their next to the
fire to dry out, will you? Got down yonder this mornin and
everyone in Household 451 through 486 was gone. Some big
shindig going on down there. Good thing the folks in 441
could tell me who they all was. Here, reckin you could go
over some of the writin on this here page? Got smeared a bit
in the rain. I think you you can cipher most of it..

“Then them folks down in the holler got suspicious over a
census. Said, and derned if they had a point, what difference did it make who they was?
Was them guvment folks up in Washington going to come down here to say howdy do? So
they finally let me write down they last name and first initial, but I think they wuz havin
a bit of fun with me when they listed who lived in the house. Saw some winkin going on
and I believe I got the same house in two or three places. It been a day, woman. Honey, git that paper out of Johnny’s mouth, will ya? I worked all day on that thing, and no call to let him go chewin it up.

"Went up the river a piece and tried to get that done fore it come a downpour, but run into trouble there too. Ole Man Jenkins curr dog run me off and I tell you, ain’t no call to get eat up over such a thing as this. They ort to be a limit what a man does for this country. Was lucky man down the road mostly knew Jenkins was nigh on sixty years old and was living there with this woman and five youngins from his first marriage plus a passel from the second. We gave em good Christian names. Best be doin something bout this pen. It gives out on me half way through See you havin trouble too. Johnny! Hand that here, Boy!

"I would ruther fight grandpap’s British than mess with that feller out on the ridge. He got out his shotgun soon as he seen me comin and I went to’other direction. Had Jones tell me about him instead, and he didn’t rightly know the feller’s first name...said they called him “Squirrel,” and it was ok just to put that cause wasn’t nobody around here claimin him no how, and they for sure didn’t want the guvment knowin there was any relationship. That coffee done? “Then got over to Smiths, and old Hoss was in a nervous fit so wasn’t no getting information there. His woman having another youngin and he looked like he could run right through me when I went to askin how many youngins he had now. High tailed it out of there, and Miz Hart helped me straighten that household out. Think we got most of the names straight, and as he had had a youngin a year for the last ten, ages purty close too. Now look what Johnny went and done!

“I tell you, next time this come around I ain’t gonna be no where in sight. Farmin a heap easier, and I figger there folks round here what can read and write and cipher and ain’t no good fer nothing else we can spare for this foolishness. Pass me another tater, will you?"

EDITOR'S NOTE: Maybe it was this census taker who, during a very early census in Houston, listed me as “Baby Girl!”

TRIVIA QUESTION: Who was called “the female Paul Revere” and actually rode twice as far as Revere to alert colonists about approaching British troops? Answer on page 17.
UPCOMING RAMBLERS PROGRAMS
BY SHELBY ROWAN

April 22, 2015......."Spain in the American Revolution," Bob Cohen

May 27, 2015........"Genealogical Help from the General Land Office in Austin," James Harkin

June 24, 2015......"How Irish Slavery Affects Our Search for Ancestors," Shelby Rowan

GENEALOGY COMPUTER USERS GROUP
BY JERRY MARKOWICH

April 15, 2015.........."How to Use Ancestry.com..The Mother Load..The Find and Keep Everything?"

May 20, 2015..........."What Is Your DNA, and Why You Might Want to Learn More About It"

June 17, 2015.........."Newspapers.com..There Are a Number of Web Sites Where You Can Explore Newspapers from Years Past"
Without today's plethora of personal grooming products, early Texas settlers had to be resourceful to satisfy their grooming needs. Yes, they had pesky whiskers, dirty hair, chapped lips and hands, rotten teeth and bad breath, but they had few manufactured goods to alleviate these problems.

Francis Sheridan, an Englishman who visited Galveston in 1839, observed that the “ceremony of the toilet appeared to be a matter of little importance” to the Texians, conducted on the principle of a pirate’s wash---or “a lick and a promise.” The term “lick” in this sense means a “quick and casual cleaning,” and “promise” likely refers to the promise to do a better job the next time.

The practice of self-shaving did not become commonplace until after the invention of the Gillette safety razor in 1895. Prior to that, the straight razor, or cut throat razor, was the tool to use, and many preferred to let a barber handle the task. Much safer.

In the early to mid-19th century, bathing was encouraged once a week, and it usually was only with water and a sponge. The only soap that was available was lye soap, which was very harsh on the skin and was best left for washing laundry.

The first commercial deodorant was produced in 1888, known by the brand name “Mum.” Before then people relied on strong perfume, when available, to cover up their natural body odor. Nevertheless, since most everyone smelled, it wasn't considered offensive.

There was no such thing as shampoo until the 20th century. Prior to that, some men would use lye soap, but it left a dull film behind. Women rarely washed their hair, rather brushed it often with a conditioning oil. Mixing an ounce of borax with half an ounce of camphor power then dissolving it in a quart of boiling water would make a solution that, when cooled, would provide a rinse for hair. Some women believed that blonde hair was a reflection of high moral standards and would try to bleach their hair with various mixtures, such as combining diluted barium, potassium hypochlorite and lemon juice. Dying hair a darker color could be achieved with the use of henna.

The first manufactured toothbrushes were made with an ivory or bone handle with bristles from natural materials, such as boar hair. Patented in 1857 by H. N. Wadsworth, the natural bristles attracted bacteria and the bristles easily fell out. Francis Sheridan reported seeing a “gentleman reflectively picking his teeth with a Bowie knife.” Pure
pulverized charcoal mixed with honey was recommended to whiten teeth, and Peruvian bark mixed with limewater was a good cure for bad breath.

**SANTA ANNA’S “STUFF”**

*REPRINTED FROM THE TEXAS READER, COPANA PRESS*

If you explore museum collections you will notice we have a lot of Santa Anna’s stuff. How did we (Texas) get it, and how did it end up in such diverse collections? Mostly it is the result of the “booty auction” held April 26, 1836, where officers and men bid on the spoils from the Battle of San Jacinto.

Most purchased practical things like saddles, mules, and muskets. But there were finer things to be had. Here’s an assortment of Santa Anna’s stuff, some from the “booty auction” and some acquired by the men.

*Santa Anna's Leg. And Santa Anna's Other Leg.* The Napoleon of the West lost his left leg below the knee in 1838, during the Pastry War with the French. Yes, the Pastry War was a real thing, not some new show on the cooking channel. France used the supposed looting of a pastry shop in Mexico City ten years earlier as an excuse to blockade Mexican ports and capture Vera Cruz.
The flesh and bone leg was buried with military honors, and Santa Anna, without missing a step, continued to plague the Mexican Republic on a leg made of cork.

The leg on the left was captured by the Fourth Regiment of Illinois Volunteer Infantry at the Battle of Cerro Gordo in 1848.

**Santa Anna’s Saddle.** It was purchased at the ‘booty auction’ by a group of Texian officers and presented to General Sam Houston. It now resides at the Sam Houston Memorial Museum in Huntsville, Texas.

**Santa Anna’s Gold Snuff Box.** Now at the Bullock Texas State History Museum in Austin, Texas. El Presidente had it on him when he was captured at San Jacinto.
*Santa Anna's Sword.* Santa Anna, of course, had many swords during his career, but this one is special: a cavalry saber presented to him when he became President of Mexico in 1833. At that time he was talking a good Federalist game and many in Texas thought he would be their savior. But Santa Anna could change with the wind and he soon became the Centralist's Centralist.

The sword is inscribed "Lo de Sta Anna - Presidente - Mexico - 1833. It has been in a private collection since the 1940s.

*THE “JUNEFLOWER”*

*I'm always late..could it be that my early ancestors sailed on the “JUNEFLOWER”?*
**A reminder to non-members of the Texas Research Ramblers Genealogy Society:**
Ramblers meet the last Wednesday of each month at the A&M Methodist Church on University Blvd. at 9:30 a.m. Come early (9:00 a.m.) and enjoy coffee and conversation prior to our monthly meeting, which always features a “How-To Research Genealogy” information program.

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**Answer to Question:**

**SYBIL LUDINGTON**

Paul Revere is famous in the history of the American Revolution: he was the silversmith who rode through the night of April 18, 1775 to warn his fellow revolutionists that British troops were on their way toward Lexington, Massachusetts. It was a successful call to arms! Many historians doubt that he actually yelled, “The British are coming;” more likely he was knocking on doors to awaken fellow colonists to the approaching danger. His ride covered about **20 miles**.

Two years later, on April 26, 1777 at 9 p.m., another rider was sent out on a cold, rainy night to warn of British troops on the march, this time they were heading toward Danbury, Connecticut. But this rider was a very young girl, the 16-year-old Sybil Ludington, daughter of Col. Henry Ludington, and her late night ride was to alert nearby farmers of the 2,000 British troops marching toward their area and to rally her father’s militia members to rush to join him in the defense of Danbury.

*Sybil Ludington and Star*

Sybil knew the roads well, rode a horse she had trained and used a long stick to knock on doors and to prod her horse to run on the wet roads. She rode approximately **40 miles** that night, returning to her home at dawn. And she, like Paul Revere, was successful: her father’s whole regiment assembled at the Ludington home the morning of April 27. However, they could not save Danbury, but fought the British as they left town.

Historical markers tracing Sybil’s route are placed throughout eastern Putnam County,
NY and a large sculpture commemorating Sybil’s ride is located on the shore of Lake Gleneida on Route 52, Carmel, NY.

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