



TEXAS RESEARCH RAMBLERS GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. Officers
2. Last Meeting
3. Treasurer's Report
4. Next Meeting
5. Future Seminars and Trips
6. FYI
7. Success Stories
8. Websites
9. Historical Moment
10. GenQuip

OFFICERS for 2005-2006

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

LAST MEETING

On behalf of President Dan Castillo, VP Mary Elizabeth Dresser opened the June 28, 2006, meeting of the Research Ramblers at the College Station Utility Service Center. Guests included Dan Boone, brother of James Boone, Joe Ellison, Colleen Batchelor, Regina Opersteny, Lorne Dunham, and Pete Krauter of the Grasssyville Cemetery Association.

Successful Ramblers in their genealogy work include Lynn Griffin, who went to Chicago and found her parents' marriage certificate; and Ellen Horner, Robert and Carol Lyon, who went to the Brazos County Courthouse and filmed the 1921-22 alien registrations book.

Congratulations to Ray George, who has been elected to a 2 year term to represent Brazos County in the 11th Texas Silver-Haired Legislature. Created in 1985 by the Texas Legislature, the non-partisan organization serves as a forum for Texas Seniors (60 or over) and is our voice in Austin.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Sue Foy reports the ending balance as of June 27, 2006, was \$8,636.28.



Our speaker was **Mr. Gerron Hite**, Cemetery Preservation Coordinator of the Texas Historical Commission. Mr. Hite's presentation revolved around three areas: **Surveying Historical Cemeteries, Historic Texas Cemetery Designation Process, and RIP: Restore Investigate Protect.**

Establishing purpose of the **survey**, its use, tools, rules and best practices were major points surveyors need to consider.

Criteria for consideration into the **Historic Texas Cemetery Designation Process** is that the cemetery must be 50 years old and deemed worthy of preservation. Official recognition by the Texas Historical Commission **and** recording in the deed records to alert present and future landowners that a cemetery exists on the property are just two reasons to apply for designation. A medallion and plaque will be erected on the cemetery site.

The **RIP** program includes old forgotten cemeteries on private land. Once the cemetery information is recorded, the information is added to the THC Historic Sites Atlas, which helps protect cemeteries from endangerment.

If you have questions, you can contact Mr. Hite at gerron.hite@thc.state.tx.us or call him

Based on information Mr. Hite gave us, I asked **Ellen Horner** about cemetery preservation in our area. The following is a **Q & A** summary of the interview:

Q: Do the Research Ramblers have a process started for a Historic Texas Cemetery Designation?

A: This is a very intense, in-depth process and will require many hours of research for each project. The actual process has not begun, but the idea to work on such a designation for Wesson Cemetery, which is within the city of Wixon Valley, has been planted with Ruby Andrews, mayor of Wixon Valley. Wesson has one identified Confederate veteran.

One of the time-consuming efforts is identifying land owner deeds in the Brazos County Deed Records.

Q: Do we already have any cemeteries designated by the Texas Historical Commission?

A: An actual list has not been prepared. However, Alexander, Bickham, Boonville, Bryan City, Carter, College Station-Shiloh, Old Rye Field, Texas A&M, Moravian, New Church-Edge, and Wixon are either designated as a historical cemetery or an individual buried in the cemetery has an historical marker. Wixon has 17 identified Confederate soldiers; the Wixon Cemetery Association placed the veteran markers. Two more have been identified and will receive veteran markers.

Q: Do you have any suggestions for our readers about your committee's past, present, or future work?

A: Past: Volunteers have been extremely dedicated and thorough; without them the project could not have accomplished the preparation of 20 cemetery recordings already online.

Present: There are 100 identified cemeteries in Brazos County; volunteers continue the job of recording, preparing and uploading the transcriptions; continue the identification of cemeteries not listed on our website.

Future: Complete recording Brazos County cemeteries; then include counties adjacent to Brazos County.



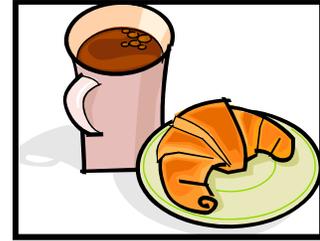
The picture on the **left** was taken before clean up at Wesson Cemetery.

The picture on the **right** is the same marker taken after the A&M United Methodist Church Project Clean-Up Day on April 1, 2006. Congratulations to Rev. Gene Lovering and his cleanup crew for the work they did at Wesson Cemetery.



NEXT MEETING DATE AND PROGRAM

We will have a short business meeting at the College Station Utility Service Center, located at 1601 Graham Rd. in College Station, on July 26, 2006, for a social. Bring **two** things: something suitable, i.e., easy to eat, for a brunch **and** a sample of your family history, so we can share ideas with each other. Drinks, including coffee, will be provided. Send Mary Elizabeth the name of the state and some surnames you are researching. I can see we are going to have more to talk about than we have time.



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.

*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.

*Every **last Wednesday** of the month: Research Ramblers will meet at College Station Utility Service Center at 9:30 a.m. Everyone is invited to eat at a local restaurant after the meeting.

*Every **4th Monday**, Roots Magic Users will meet at the Bryan Public Library on the second floor from 9:30-11:00 a.m. except during the summer.

*For workshops **around the state**: <http://www.rootsweb.com/~txgenweb> , which will give you the full information on seminars/conferences around the state.

***September 9, 2006**: East Texas Genealogical Society presents an all day seminar with Trevia Wooster Beverly. For more information, contact Scott Fitzgerald at (903)-592-6576 or scottfitzgerald@tyler.net

FYI: Information from others

Star of the Republic Museum's recent publication, *Notes* (Vol. 31: No.2, p.1, 2006), has an article about the summertime clothing of 19th century women. There appears to be little difference in the summer styles and winter styles for the frontier woman. Year round, women typically wore dresses with long, full skirts and long sleeves. In winter, the petticoats were made from wool or flannel, and sometimes quilted for extra warmth. Summer petticoats were made of cotton and linen. Regardless of the season the ankle was not to be exposed.

Because women desired skin as smooth and pale as possible, to give the impression that she was a lady who did not have to work outdoors, she wore a bonnet during the hot summer months.



Englishman Richard Gooch commented on the American style of bonnets in 1834: “The preposterous length of their bonnets exceed anything I ever saw in England even at the time when the lady’s hat was made a subject of ridicule in our English Pantomimes.”

For more information and pictures go to <http://www.starmuseum.org>

Perhaps the bonnets were a joke to some, but the ladies were protecting themselves from the sun. Good for them!

SUCCESS STORIES

Congratulations to Sally Koestler, who has been honored for her web site in the July 2006 issue of *Internet Genealogy* , vol 1 no. 2, p. 31 by Cindy Thomson of Ohio. The article, “Branch Out: Putting Your Family History on the ‘Net’”

WEBSITES

gerron.hite@thc.state.tx.us is where you can reach Mr. Hite, our last speaker, with any questions about cemetery preservation.

www.txshl.org will get you to the Silver-Haired Legislature website for additional information on the group.

www.sallysfamilyplace.com will take you to Sally Koestler’s website. We have Sally to thank for supporting the Rambler organization information and newsletters before the Ramblers had their own website.

HISTORICAL MOMENT

An icon of the old west is the Texas Longhorn. Part of the history of Texas revolves around this noble beast.



From <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/cattle>

Cattle drives in Texas began, according to *Handbook of Texas On-Line*, as early as 1830 when opportunists drove surplus Texas cattle from Stephen F. Austin's colony eastward through treacherous swamp to New Orleans, where animals fetched twice their market values. After statehood during 1840's and 1850's some cattlemen drove their cattle northward to markets.

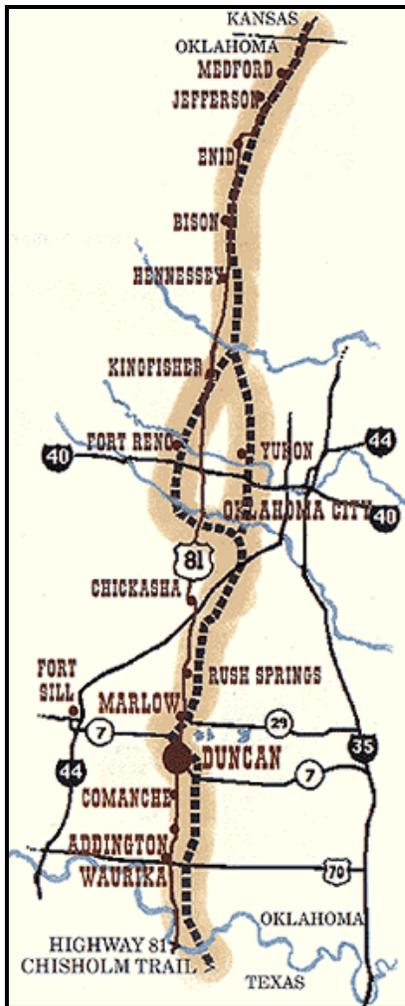
The first recorded large cattle drive occurred in 1846, but their hey-day was from 1866 to 1890. In 1866 Texans drove more than 260,000 cattle to assorted markets. In that same year Oliver Loving and Charles Goodnight established the famed Goodnight-Loving Trail to New Mexico. However, most Texans drove their cattle to Kansas City or Sedalia, Missouri where the railroad facilities shipped them eastward, especially to meatpackers at Chicago.



Information on The Chisholm Trail and the Western Trail can be found at <http://www.co.wilbarger.tx.us/cattle.htm> along with the above picture and other pictures.

With the end of the War, cattlemen needed a new route to market their cattle. Joseph McCoy, an enterprising promoter, was the first to see promise in a shorter, more direct route through Indian Territory to the new railheads slowly moving west through Kansas Territory. Working a deal with the railroad, McCoy built cattle pens and a new hotel at the railhead in Abilene, Kansas, then hired surveyors to mark a new route back south to Texas.

<http://www.onthechisholmtrail.com/trai.htm> provided the information above and the map below.



They began with a route almost due south to Wichita, then followed Jesse Chisholm's trade road 220 miles to his trading post on the north Canadian River. From Jesse's trading post, they headed almost due south to Texas to the closest practical Red River crossing along the way, later known as Red River Station. With a safe, easy route from Texas across Indian Territory to Abilene now marked, McCoy distributed handbills throughout southern Texas inviting cattlemen to bring their herds to Abilene. Thus, the Chisholm Trail, a great commercial roadway of the time, was born.

GENQUIP

“Aging? It takes a Lifetime.”
Silver-Haired Legislature

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