



## **TEXAS RESEARCH RAMBLERS GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER**

Volume XVI, No.12, December 15, 2006 Bryan-College Station, Texas

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### **OFFICERS for 2006-2007**

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

### **LAST MEETING**

President Dan Castillo called the meeting to order. He welcomed two members, C.B. Loan and Bookman Peters. Then he reminded us of several things: One is we will not merge with Brazos Valley Genealogical Society. Also, we talked about the upcoming events.

On January 24, 2007, Richard L. Hooverson will speak at the Mary Collie Cooper Memorial Lecture. Registration is at 8:30 AM with the first topic beginning at 9:00 AM. Following a question/answer period, we will have lunch and be through by 1:30. Since only 80 may attend, you may want to send in your registration form to assure a place for yourself.

Topics for the lecture are the following:

**WESTWARD HO: AMERICAN SETTLEMENT PATTERNS**

**WATERS WEST: THE ERIE CANAL AND GREAT LAKES**

Mr. Hooverson has been appointed to the Texas Historical Records Advisory Board and is the first professional genealogist to be a permanent member. Besides being a member of a number of genealogical societies, he is also a Fellow of the Texas State Genealogical Society. In addition, Mr. Hooverson writes the "Musings and Gleanings" column for *Heritage Quest*.

### Registration Form

**Mary Collie Cooper Memorial Lecture - Richard L. Hooverson  
Wednesday, January 24, 2007**

**A&M United Methodist Church Annex Fellowship Hall  
College Station, Texas**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_ **City:** \_\_\_\_\_ **State** \_\_\_\_\_ **Zip Code** \_\_\_\_\_

**Registration fee of \$7.50/ind or \$12.50 per couple (Members) or \$10.00/Ind or \$15.00/ Couple (non-members) will include hand-outs & a box lunch.**

**Sandwich choice (Please check one):** Ham & Swiss [  ] Turkey & Swiss [  ] Chicken Salad [  ] Tuna Salad [  ]

**Attendance is limited to 80 individuals - first come, first served.**

**Deadline for registrations is Friday, January 19, 2007**

**Mail registration form & check payable to Texas Research Ramblers to:  
Sue Foy, Treasurer, 804 Vine St., Bryan, TX 77802-4349**



## TWO REMINDERS:

Starting in January, we will meet at the **Annex Fellowship Hall of the A&M United Methodist Church**, 417 University Dr. in College Station, Texas.

If or when your email changes, please contact Sue Foy for the database and for MailServ.

Dan then turned the program over to program chairperson, Mary Elizabeth Dresser, who gave the program on “The Great Migration.”



Mary Elizabeth shared information that from 1620-1640 a large number of immigrants came from England to New England. The purpose of their migration, characteristics of the immigrants, and the effect on us as a people were three major areas on which Mary Elizabeth concentrated.

Purposes for migration included a desire to break completely from the Church of England, a desire to purify the Church of England, a desire to have a voice in the political process of their country, and a desire not for riches but to lead their lives the way they wanted.

A typical immigrant was well-educated, skilled in a craft, came from urban areas, and had a mid-range income. Because they knew each other well, they tended to marry within their own social circle. They kept good records and journals, which benefited following generations.

Effects on us as a people are still evident today. One was the work ethic. Today we work smart and hard and tend to not waste time, which goes back to the early 1600's when frivolity was frowned upon by many people.

Another effect was the naming pattern established in the 1600's. Not only do we see Biblical names today, but we also see the process of name giving. For example, the mother's name is given to the first daughter and the father's name is given to the first son. Revolution was another effect. Because we were not satisfied with the British form of government, we rebelled. Once the war was over, we had to work together to find a solution that suited most people.

A final thought is the term “thermidor”. Originally, the term referred to the end of the Reign of Terror in England. Historians now use the term to a situation in which people, tired of fighting, take control, to prevent anarchy. In this way the people can move on with their lives. Perhaps we can apply the term in today's world.

## Christmas Social: December 7, 2006.

Ramblers gathered at Still Creek Ranch for Girls for a luncheon. Our meal, which was prepared by the girls, was delicious.



After we ate, we were entertained by some Ramblers as they answered the question,

“How are you related to

Santa Claus”?



We were also treated by a short concert by the young ladies, who sang “Noel” to us.



Many thanks to Elaine Vernon for her work in

making this occasion festive and fun.

## TREASURER'S REPORT

Sue Foy reports the ending balance as of /2006 was \$ 8,437.96.

## NEXT MEETING DATE AND PROGRAM

We will meet at the **Annex Fellowship Hall of the A&M United Methodist Church**, 417 University Dr. in College Station, on January 31, 2006, at 9:30 a.m. The speaker, Bill Page, will discuss Irish Research.

## FUTURE SEMINARS AND TRIPS

Every **2<sup>nd</sup> 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 **3<sup>rd</sup> 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 Annex Fellowship Hall of the United Methodist Church, 417 University Dr. in College Station at 9:30 a.m. Everyone is invited to eat at a local restaurant after the meeting.

Every **4<sup>th</sup> Monday**, Roots Magic Users will meet at the Bryan Public Library on the second floor from 9:30-11:00 a.m. **NOTE: We will not meet in December.**

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

### **FYI: Salt Lake City breakthroughs:**

**From Lynn Griffin:** You may find that county boundaries change. When searching for her Dad's ancestor, Lynn found that Knox County, where last year had found information, was made out of Greene County, which had earlier been Washington County. On her last day at Family History Library, she found the names of her dad's ancestor in Greene County Tennessee Deeds microfilms of the original North Carolina land grants. So, check for county name changes.

**From Jean Louis:** Check the records closely. She found that family members traveling together might not be listed together on the same page of a ship's manifest. Last year she found Jens Hagstat arriving on the Cambria in 1869. Then in Utah this year, she stumbled across an Iver Hagstat. When comparing the two she found they were on the same ship, arriving the same day, though several pages apart in the manifest. So, read all the way through a manifest of interest.

### **SUCCESS STORIES**

**Jane Thompson** relates the following story:

In order to verify the death of my ggf in a South Carolina hospital, I wrote to the **SC State Hospital** in **2005** asking them to verify that he had died in this hospital. My ancestor appeared twice on the 1850 census-one listing him as a farmer and the other listing him in the hospital. The SC hospital called me twice stating that they were looking for the record but had not found it. They sent forms to be filled out which I completed and returned. They called again to request a death certificate and I replied that as far as I knew, death certificates were not available in 1850.

**By 2006** I had given up receiving any documents from South Carolina when I suddenly received a phone call from a lady who said that I might try writing the **SC Dept. of Archives and History** and she gave me the address. I wrote them immediately and received their reply stating that they had three pages showing the admission date and the removal date and requesting an order for payment in order to forward the copies to me.

There was precious little information in the documentation but I did discover that my ancestor had died in the hospital less than three months after he was admitted.

**Note: You may want to insert the date when you finally received the copies of the documents.**

## WEBSITES

<http://www.ushist.com> is the place to order replicas of 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century children's toys. Once you are at the home page, go to the **19<sup>th</sup> Century Props** section and then go to the **Toys and Games** section.

## HISTORICAL MOMENT

### Deck the Halls and Ho! Ho! Ho!



'Tis the Season we think of giving gifts. If you scan the advertisements these days, you see such items as a Kitchen Center, a piano system you can plug into your TV, and a Barbie B-Book that has 30 learning games in English and Spanish.

Do you remember your own childhood toys? Not quite as sophisticated as those now, but we had fun with them.

I started researching the toys and games of the children of the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries and found in their ads that they were not that different from what we had or heard about. See what you think.



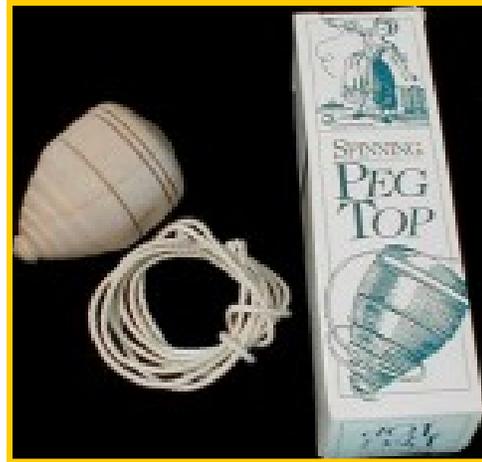
**Cloth Ball:** These tough balls are made from canvas. They're about the size of a softball and can be used for countless games. Many kids could be kept busy for hours with just one of these balls and a stick for a bat. At least 1860s on.

**Bilbo-Catcher (Bilboquette) :** The toys of the cup and ball family have been favorite childhood amusements for many centuries, unchanging in their basic form but marvelously various in the specific designs. The object of the cup & ball game is to swing the wooden ball into the cup, which is not at all as simple as it appears to be.



**Dolls:** Your little girl will love these adorable stuffed cotton dolls, just as much as little girls did in the 18th century. Each one is patterned after a typical Colonial resident circa 1770. These 12" high characters have wonderfully detailed outfits.

**Tops:** The whip top may be the most ancient member of the toy top family, thought to have originated in the Far East and making an appearance in manuscripts as early as the 14th century AD. At least 5 types of tops were known in England by the 16th century, including peg tops, whip tops and hand-spun tops. Toy tops brought to the new world colonies by European settlers would not have been the first tops on the North American continent, however. Tops of all kinds were very popular with North American Indian tribes, who often played their top games on the ice.



## GENQUIP

With the Christmas Season here, look at the following song titles and figure out the real name for the Christmas Song:

1. *Far Off in a Feedbox*
2. *Array the Corridors*
3. *Monarchial Triad*
4. *Nocturnal Noiselessness*



**Answers:**

1. **Away in the Manger**
2. **Deck the Halls**
3. **Three Kings**
4. **Silent Night**

May you all have a blessed Christmas. See you next year!

The Research Rambler Newsletter is published by the Texas Research Rambler Genealogical Society, P. O. Box 11195, College Station, Texas 77842-1195. Comments to Helen Kunz, [hkkunz at verizon.net](mailto:hkkunz@verizon.net)