



**TEXAS RESEARCH RAMBLERS  
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER**

Volume XVII, No.1, January 15, 2007 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**

Instead of a regular meeting in December, we had our Christmas Social at Still Creek Ranch for Girls. We had a delicious meal and were treated with a song from the girls living there.

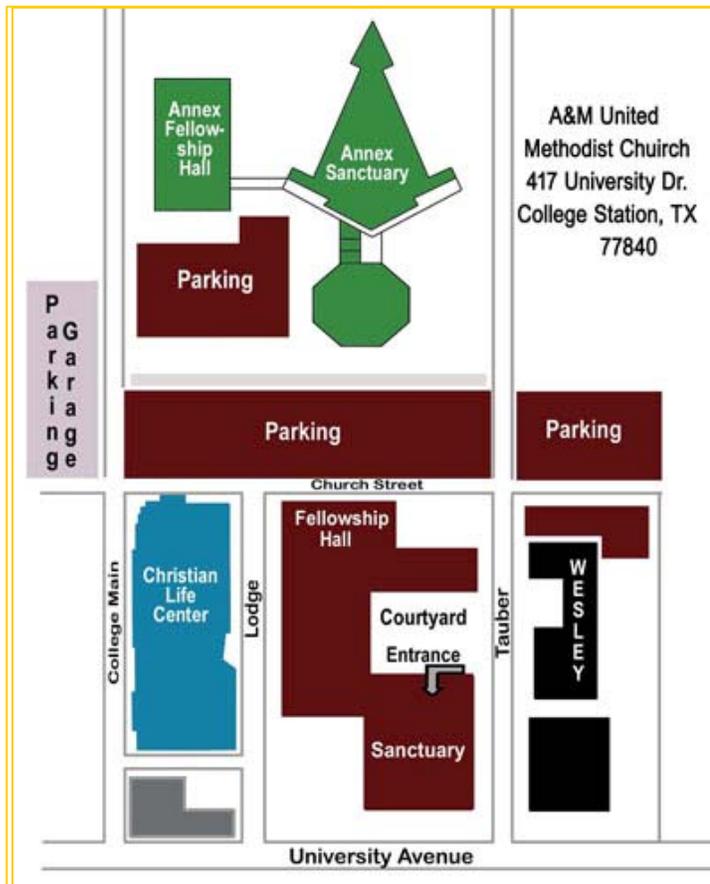
## NEXT MEETING DATE AND PROGRAM

We will meet at the **Annex Fellowship Hall** of the A&M United Methodist Church, 417 University Dr. in College Station, on **January 31, 2007**, 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 **last Wednesday** of the month: Research Ramblers will meet at the **Annex Fellowship Hall** of the A&M 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. Mark your calendar: **January 22, 2007**.

**January 24, 2007**, the Mary Collie Cooper Memorial Lecture will be held at **A&M United Methodist Church Annex Fellowship Hall**. Sign-In is at 8:30, Session I is at 9 a.m., Session II is at 10:15, and lunch at noon. Deadline for registration is **January 19, 2007**. You can use the form below if you still need to send your registration to Sue Foy.

### 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**

**FYI:** How did people get along in the days before co-pays, insurance plans, and modern medical care? What would Great-Grandma do?

**For a headache:**

**Apply cabbage-leaf poultice to forehead.**



**In case that doesn't work, wear a salt herring around the throat.**



The first hospital in America, 1751, the Pennsylvania Hospital in Philadelphia, refused to admit anyone deemed to have an incurable disease, anyone with smallpox, and women who arrived with young children. Additionally, two taxpayers were needed as sponsors for each admitted person to ensure that burial costs could be paid. Patients were to abide by all doctors orders, not wear street clothes, and not to gamble, curse, or spit.

Ancestry January/February 2007 vol 25, no.1, p.34.

## SUCCESS STORIES

### My Sister by Joyce Louis

I tracked my father's line easily through censuses to g-g-grandfathers. Abraham Kipp came to Texas from New York about 1850. He settled where the town of Kemah was to be platted. An historian in Kemah put me in touch with a Kipp in Oklahoma who is researching the family.

The Oklahoman eventually told a first cousin of mine (whom I still have not met) about me. He e-mailed my half-sister to say, "Do you know there is a woman out there claiming to be your half sister?"



**Joyce**

Mother had told me in the 50's that my father had two daughters. I learned their names, **Virleen** and **Sherrill**, from his obituary in 1979.



**Virleen**

In 2005 I found the cemetery where my father is buried. I saw that his 2<sup>nd</sup> wife had died, so I decided to pursue getting acquainted.

Then I received from **Virleen**, my half-sister, an amazingly diplomatic e-mail. She said she could not imagine the father she knew not being in touch with his child, and that she was sorry I had not been included in their family. She said she would like to know about me and would love to get a response.



**Joyce**

She got a long response, very quickly. I told her that this was a red letter day and that I had been waiting 60 years to communicate with her.

I learned that Sherrill, the other sister, had passed away in 2002. Virleen has some male cousins that she seldom sees, has two grown children and one grandchild, and teaches math at Montgomery, Texas.



**Virleen**

We met at Martha's Bloomers in July and talked for 4 hours. We found we are the same height and eye color, both played the flute, taught math and studied French. Since then we have met two more times. Virleen has shared pictures and family stories that I could never have found otherwise. I have a new friend/sister and the resolutions to years of wondering.

## WEBSITES

Interested in maps? Here are three websites that explain three different types of map access, which were described in the January/February Ancestry magazine, pp.16-7.

[www.lib.utexas.edu/maps](http://www.lib.utexas.edu/maps) FREE: Perry-Castaneda Library Map Collection. These free, digitized maps will give you a better picture of what Great-Grandma's birthplace looked like.

[www.gpsworld.com](http://www.gpsworld.com) Magellan 3050T Roadmate GPS. Take this GPS navigation system for visual and voice guidance to ensure you will not get lost on your family history excursion. Not free.

[www.historicmapworks.com](http://www.historicmapworks.com) Historic Map Works. An annual subscription to Historic Map

## HISTORICAL MOMENT

“The Birth of the King Ranch: 1852”

Steamboat captain Richard King did not know he was about to begin a very profitable career in 1852 as he uncomfortably sat on a big horse and surveyed the endless Texas prairie. The 27 year-old New Yorker was tired from his 170-mile trip overland from Brownsville to Corpus Christi.

For the past few years he had been carrying freight on his steamboats up and down the murky Rio Grande. During the recent war with Mexico, he had supplied American troops with badly needed equipment, which had left him financially secure. Now, however, he had his sights on a 17 year-old daughter of the Presbyterian minister in Brownsville, and he had begun thinking about other business ventures to support a wife and family.

King and his friend, Texas Ranger Gideon “Legs” Lewis decided to establish a small ranch on Santa Gertrudis Creek, 45 miles south of Corpus Christi. Their ranch was the modest beginning of the world's largest livestock operation, the King Ranch.

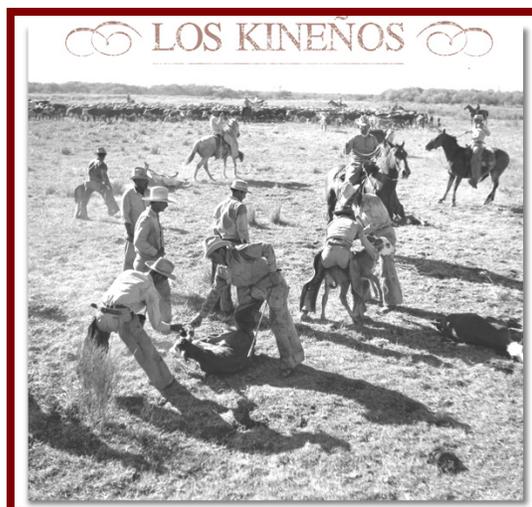
As his cattle industry grew, he also acquired land. From the Mexican owners of the original Spanish land grants, he bought a total of 15,500 acres for \$300. Shortly afterward, he added \$3,000 acres for \$1800. A visionary, he also dammed a small stream on the property. When a drought hit the area soon after, his ranch was the only ranch with a good water supply.



*The resourceful,  
visionary and driven  
Captain Richard King.*

<http://www.king-ranch.com>

As the Santa Gertrudis ranch grew, so did the number of workers. King and foreman traveled to Mexico to buy cattle at a ridiculously low price. After buying all the livestock at a particularly poor village, he offered to take all the people back to the ranch and putting them to work. This was the beginning of Los Kinenos, the “King People.” The following generations remained intensely loyal to the King Ranch.~



www.king-ranch.com

King supported the Confederacy by providing transportation for the export of Texas cotton and the import of European firearms. After the war he invested in a Corpus Christi newspaper, a railroad company, a stagecoach, and an ice house.

By the time Richard King died in 1885, he had truly lived up to his nickname, “The King of Texas.”

Crutchfield, James A. It Happened in Texas. Helena Montana: Twodot, 1996, pp. 40-2.



**FYI:**

Did you make some New Year’s Resolutions? Here are three from Kimberly Powell at <http://genealogy.about.com> :

1. Interview a relative
2. Take a class or learn a new research skill (**Join one of the Ramblers groups that promote Roots Magic or Family Tree Maker.**)
3. Get organized.

**GENQUIP: 1933 BURMA SHAVE**

**LATE RISERS!  
SHAVE IN JUST  
2 MINUTES FLAT  
KISS YOUR WIFE  
GRAB YOUR HAT**

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