



TEXAS RESEARCH RAMBLERS GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

Bryan-College Station, Texas

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<http://www.texasresearchramblers.org>

OFFICERS for 2006-2007

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

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LAST MEETING



Thanks to **Helen Wolf's** preparation of donated research materials, Ramblers could peruse the Silent Auction items for bargains. Sales, which netted about \$152.50, will be used to purchase supplies for the Rambler library.

Then, **President Dan Castillo** called the meeting to order. The minutes of the last meeting were accepted by the 31 members without corrections.

Using an overhead projector, Dan described the items of the Treasurer's Report that culminated in a balance of \$7,276.73. Ramblers accepted the Treasurer's Report following a motion by **Ellen Horner** and a second by **Bill Lay**.



Henry Hanson announced that an encapsulation workshop will be held on August 22 at the Teen Center on Rock Prairie Rd. **Ellen Horner** reported that the listing for five cemeteries is just about ready for uploading to our website.



Novella Hronek gets drinks ready for the brunch.

Dan Louis, moderator, and a panel of new members **Mina Barrett** and **Harry Oswald**, discussed their odyssey in genealogy and what the club had done to help them.



Mina, who uses a Mac, said that **Georgianne Bigam**, helped her with communicating with PC users. **Harry** pointed out that he realized early on that he had started too late. "All the old folks were dead. We should all start at age 20." A lively discussion between audience and panel ensued. For example, **Harry** said the

\$400 DNA test had not helped him, but **Dan Castillo** pointed out his 12-marker test had shown close connections to a Palestinian living in Bethlehem, Israel. Hmmmm.....

President Dan reminded members of the proposed slate of officers for 2008 which had been submitted by the nominating committee.

Doris Emshoff won a Roots Magic computer program door prize donated by **Sue Foy**.

After the program it was time to eat! These ladies are ready to get started.



Summary of the meeting is courtesy of **Joyce Louis**, and pictures of the meeting are courtesy of **Nancy Hanson**. Thank you, ladies.

NEXT MEETING

At the July 25th meeting in the Annex, we will be voting on the following slate of officers:

President: **Mary Elizabeth Dresser** (Sep. 1, 2007-Aug. 31, 2009)

Vice President: **Dean Duncan** (Sep. 1, 2007-Aug. 31, 2008)

Recording Secretary: **Georgianne Bigam** (Sep.1, 2007-Aug. 31, 2008)

Treasurer: **Sue Foy** (Sep.1, 2007-Aug. 31, 2010)

Corresponding Secretary: **Rodger and Pat Koppa** (Sep.1, 2007-Aug. 31, 2009)

Jim Boone, Chair

Joyce Louis, Member

Henry Hanson, Member

Sue Kaufman, Manager of the Clayton Library, Center for Genealogical Research, will be our speaker at the next meeting. Sue's experience includes working 20 years in the field, including 6 years at Allen County Library at Ft. Wayne, Indiana. We are fortunate to have her at our meeting. If you bring your questions, she may have your answers.

FUTURE SEMINARS AND TRIPS

Every **2nd Wednesday** of the month: Ramblers travel to Clayton Library in Houston. Contact **Bliss Wolfe** for details.

Every **3rd Wednesday** of the month: Computer Genealogy Users Group will meet at The Exit, 1520 Rock Prairie Rd. in College Station, at 9:30 a.m. Everyone is invited to eat at a local restaurant after the meeting. **Mark your calendar: July 18, 2007.**

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. **Mark your calendar: July 25, 2007.**

July 19-21, 2007 Angelina College Genealogy Conference in Lufkin, Texas. For more information, go to <http://www.angelina.edu/genealogy.htm>

August 22: a workshop on encapsulation. 9:30-12:00 at the Teen Center. Bring your own materials for a “hands-on” operation.

Contact Mary Elizabeth Dresser if you wish to join the Ramblers on August 12-19, 2007: Ft Wayne, Indiana, Allen County Library OR on October 14-21, 2007: Salt Lake City, Utah, Family History Library

FYI: Ready to share your family story? According to the July/August 2007 issue of *Ancestry* magazine, p. 11, Ancestry.com users can now enlist the site's Audio Storytelling service to help. Subscribers and their invited guests need nothing more than a phone—home, office, or cell—to tell their story and attach the recording to their online family tree. The service is available to all Ancestry.com members. Check it out at <http://media.ancestry.com/audio/aboutus.aspx>

SUCCESS STORIES

Recently, 3 Ramblers, **Mary Elizabeth Dresser**, **Georgianne Bigam**, and **Sue Foy** went to the DAR Library in Washington, D.C. The library is open to anyone but there is a \$6.00 fee for using the library if you are not a member of the DAR. They do have a lot of reference material that is not available at any other library and they also can access the application forms for DAR members.

You can also check out the patriot index to see if any of your ancestors are listed and if someone has gone into the DAR using that same patriot. **Sue Foy** found application forms for three more patriot ancestors that she can use as supplements. She knew the men were patriots but was not sure how to make the connection.

HISTORICAL MOMENT

Indian Ancestry—What a complex issue for genealogists! To find clues for locating our ancestors, we have to go back to what we may think is the beginning, move forward in time, then go back to our family stories and resource materials for names and dates. Whew!

According to *Encyclopedia Smithsonian*, the older view of the first Americans, called the Clovis culture, was they were small bands moving on foot across the middle of the land bridge between Siberia and Alaska to reach unglaciated lands to the south. However, emerging evidence suggests that people with boats moved along the Pacific coast into Alaska and northwestern Canada and eventually south to Peru and Chile by 12,500 year ago.

Scientists have found possible lithic (pertaining to (1) stone and (2) lithium, a highly reactive metallic element in stone) precursors to the Clovis culture. The Solutrean culture of Western Europe, dating between 24,000 and 16,500 years ago, shows a similar lithic technology to that used to produce Clovis tools. http://www.si.edu/Encyclopoedia_SI/nmnh/origin.htm

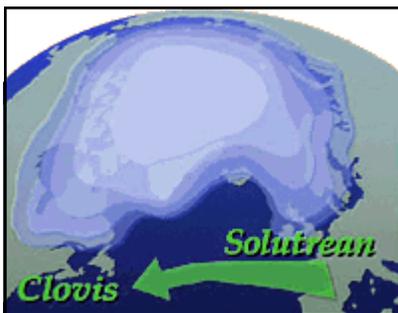


Clovis tools, <http://www.crystalinks.com>

According to another source, archaeologist Dr. Bruce Bradley said that both the Solutreans and the Clovis folks made beveled, crosshatched bone rods, idiosyncratic spear points of mammoth ivory, and triangular stone scrapers.

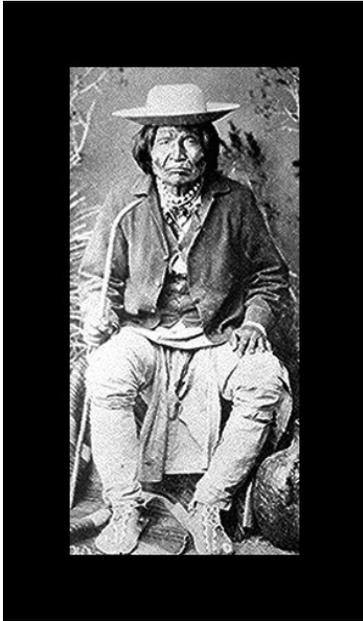
And while independent invention could account for these similarities (i.e., finding the same solutions to the same questions), the oldest Clovis tools are not on the Great Plains, or in the Great Basin or Southwest of the U.S. - where they should be if the Clovis people trickled in from Siberia and then fanned out across the continent

- but rather they are found in the eastern and southeastern regions of the U.S. It's possible that Ice Age Europeans may have crossed into North America by boats, hugging the edges of the great ice sheets that stretched from Greenland westward to what is now upstate New York.



Possible boat route
<http://www.crystalinks.com>

Jared Diamond, author of the Pulitzer Prize Winner, writes about differing developments of societies in his book, **Guns, Germs, and Steel**. He points out, “The oldest unquestioned human remains in the Americas are at sites in Alaska dated around 12,000 B.C., followed by a profusion of sites in the United States south of the Canadian border and in Mexico in the centuries just before 11,000 B.C.” So, now we know when Indian bands first appeared in North America.



<http://www.archives.gov>

These are interesting theories, but let's fastforward to Texas Indians now. Have you seen any lately? Where did they all go? According to *Handbook of Texas Online*, a few generalizations about all Texas Indian groups can be made.

First, diseases introduced by Europeans nearly decimated them, especially after mission and military institutions brought people in contact so they could be infected. Between 1528 and 1890, 30 major epidemics—mainly smallpox and cholera—wiped out perhaps 95% of Texas Indians.

Secondly, Texas became a “horse-and-gun” frontier for Indians located between competing European powers. The French and English traders from the East introduced firearms to the Indians in order to purchase peltry from them and win them as allies in both trade and war. Also, the Spanish introduced horses to the Indians. Groups that had both guns and horses had a powerful advantage over others.

Horse culture promoted nomadic living because of the pastures needed for their horses. Also, raiding helped the Comanches circumvent Spanish attempts to control trade and regulate access to horses.

Spain realized they needed to settle Texas in order to prevent French movement toward Mexico and New Mexico, so Texas became a buffer to protect Spanish possessions.

San Antonio, Texas, was a mixed blessing to both the Indian bands and the Spanish. While affording some protection from Apache raids, the growing settlement also attracted Apache raids.

The Apaches, however, had a problem more severe than the Spanish—the Comanches. Forming bands that acted autonomously from each other, the Comanches had no band leader that could control them.



<http://www.somosprimos.com>

Increased Comanche raids led Mexico City to conclude that peace treaties were useless. Besides, Mexico was distracted by Spain's involvement in the Napoleonic Wars and Mexico's War of Independence in 1821. Texas was the neglected fringe of a collapsing empire.

<http://www.tsha.utexas.edu>

What happened to the Indians after Spain lost control? Another important story—later.

Four Ramblers who have been doing Indian ancestry research include **Melanie Welch, Joe Ellison, Rod Martin**, and the late **Clancy Ferguson**.

Melanie is now looking into the Alabama-Coushatta Connection. Her ancestor, the Indian wife of John W. Dunn, possibly stayed at the reservation during the Civil War.

Joe's great-grandmother was a Navasot Indian. He has been looking into the Navasot tribe and Tonkawa tribe.

Rod, researching the La Cours of LA, found descendants of Francois-Xavier Rouensa, a chief of Kaskaskian tribe by going to <http://www.tulane.edu/~woodward/rouensa/index.htm>

Phyllis writes that **Clancy's** line was Iroquois from Michigan. His great-grandmother was Cherokee and went on the Trail of Tears to Oklahoma, but he never found her name on the rolls, because only men's names were listed.

RAMBLERS: IMPORTANT NEWS

The Rambler fiscal year begins on September 1st and Sue will begin collecting dues at the July 25th meeting. **Individual** dues-\$20.00 and **couple** dues-\$35.00.

If you plan to pay in **cash**, it would be helpful if you would put the money in an **envelope** with your **name** on the outside. **Checks** should be made payable to "**Research Ramblers**." Checks can also be mailed to Sue Foy @ 804 Vine St., Bryan, TX 77802-4349.

The **deadline** for payment of dues in order to be included in the 2007-2008 yearbook will be **September 10th**. Prompt payment of dues also helps the Rambler Executive Board prepare a budget of operating expenses.

Some Texas sites in the summertime include the twin fawns pictured here.

Photo courtesy of Paul Kunz



Summertime and the livin' is easy. Fish are jumpin'

In case it is too hot to go fishing, you may want to grab one of the books that Glenn Dromgoole's has chosen for any Texas library.

1. **The Time it Never Rained** by Elmer Kelton about the drought of the 1950's.
2. **The Train to Estelline** by Jane Roberts Wood about a teacher in a one-room school in West Texas.
3. **Lonesome Dove**, by Larry McMurtry about cowboys and turned into a TV series.
4. **The Original Adventure of Hank the Cowdog**, the first of John Erickson's lovable series, popular with kids and adults.
5. **The Longhorns** by J. Frank Dobie, which explains the historical significance of Texas longhorn, the cattle drive and the cowboy.
6. **Texas Cowboy Cooking** by Tom Perini, probably the best-selling (and Best) Texas cookbook ever published.
7. **A Personal Country** by A.C. Greene, maybe the best book ever about West Texas.
8. **Goodbye to a River** by John Graves, often considered the best book about Texas, period.
9. **Interwoven** by Sallie Reynolds Matthews, a memoir by a pioneer woman about life on the Texas frontier.
10. **Lone Star Literature**, edited by Don Graham, an impressive anthology that includes pieces by more than 60 great Texas writers.

The Bryan-College Station Eagle, Sunday, December 31, 2006, p. D2

GENQUIP

Did you ever run across something like this in your research of land boundaries?

Churchel Fulshear bought 2 and 5/100 acres of land which was described in part as "starting at a post oak of 30" diameter marked with an X....then south 98 varas to a post 8 feet south of an ant hill..."

And you wonder where that ant hill is now. Courtesy of **Joyce Louis**

The Research Rambler Newsletter is published by the Texas Research Rambler Genealogical Society, P.O. Box 11195, College Station, Texas 77842-1195.
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