



TEXAS RESEARCH RAMBLERS GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

Bryan-College Station, Texas

Volume XVII, No. 9 September 15, 2007

<http://www.texasresearchramblers.org>

OFFICERS for 2006-2007

President: Mary Elizabeth Dresser
 Vice-President: Dean Duncan
 Secretary: Georgianne Bigam
 Treasurer: Sue Foy
 Corresponding Secretary: Pat and Rodger Koppa

LAST MEETING

President Dan Castillo called to order the last meeting of his two year term on August 29, 2007. We had 51 members and two visitors, Linda Ferguson and Ruth Humphrey, in attendance. The Minutes by Georgianne Bigam were approved as sent. The Treasurer's Report was approved as presented. Total Rambler funds as of August 29, 2007, were \$16,960.77.

Sue Foy reported that 29 people have signed up, paid up, and are ticket-ready for the Salt Lake City trip in October. Sue and Bliss Wolfe described the successful August 22, 2007, Encapsulation Workshop provided by the Education Committee. Helen Kunz showed a PowerPoint presentation of the August 12-19, 2007, Rambler trip to Ft. Wayne, Indiana, to visit Allen County Public Library and the Federation of Genealogical Societies Conference.



Before the business meeting ended, the Ramblers thanked President Dan Castillo with a gift and a thank you card for his hard work the past two years. Thank you, Dan, for guiding us in such a positive, challenging and visionary manner. We appreciate all that you have done for us.

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Dan Castillo
 President
 2005-2007

LAST MEETING

Our program speaker was Georgianne Bigam, who spoke to us on “Life in Colonial Times and Research.”

To help us understand colonial life in early U.S. history, Georgianne explained that the colonists brought the laws and customs of their former towns with them. According to English law, people of a municipality were responsible for their citizens. The Dorchester Record Book defined some of the responsibilities, such as the fines for poor fences, escaped cattle, and selling property.



Two wars that had a significant effect on the colonists were the Pequot War and King Philip’s War. The Pequot War was an armed conflict in 1637 between an alliance of the Massachusetts Bay and Plymouth Colonies with Native Americans against the Pequot tribe.

The King Philip’s War was a bloody armed conflict between Native Americans and English Colonists from 1675-1676. The war was named after the main leader of the Indian side Metacomet (aka Metacom or Pometacom), known to the English as King Philip.

Besides the overview of colonial life, Georgianne gave us a number of sources based on books and internet sites about colonial research.

Georgianne warned us to be vigilant of the frauds out there. Some of the frauds are the authors of books:



1. Gustav Anjou, a self-professed genealogist in the late 19th and early 20th centuries on the east coast, was accused of fakery.
2. The Horn Papers, first appearing in 1932, were a genealogical hoax consisting of forged records in eastern central United States. The books can be found at Clayton in book form.
3. Frederic Adam Virkus was a genealogist whose data is questionable and unreliable. Mary Cooper had warned us of his information.

Another area of fraud is on the Internet. People can just add their own name to a family history and post it to the internet. So, beware of these frauds.

Georgianne’s suggestions for locating books:

One way to look at books is to check out the e-books, such as an article about the Horn Papers hoax in the *William and Mary Quarterly*, located at Texas A&M University Library.

Another way is to follow Georgianne’s method to Google books to locate sources with your ancestor included. You can find her instructions in the May 2007 newsletter.



NEXT MEETING

Our next meeting will be at 9:30 a.m. on **September 26, 2007**, at the Annex Fellowship Hall of the A&M United Methodist Church. Our speaker, Charles Farnsworth, Ph. D., Coordinator of Instructional Technology, TAMU Veterinary Medicine, will present a program titled "Sharing Your Genealogy On-Line."

FUTURE SEMINARS AND TRIPS

Every **2nd Wednesday** of the month: Ramblers travel to Clayton Library in Houston. Contact **Bliss Wolfe** for details. Also, there is a sign-up sheet at the meetings.

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: September 19, 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: September 26, 2007.**

The Roots Magic Study Group will resume its monthly meetings on the **4th Monday** of each month (except December). The next meeting will be on **September 24th** at the Bryan Library Meeting room. This first meeting will be a time to share, so bring a question, a favorite feature or a tip.

November 9 and 10, 2007: Texas State Genealogical Society, Tyler, Texas. For information, go to www.rootsweb.com/~txsgs

FYI: To save yourself time **before** you go to Clayton Library:

1. www.houstonlibrary.org
2. Click the **Research** tab at the top.
3. On the page that comes up, scroll down and click on **Clayton Library Center for Genealogical Research**
4. On the page that appears, scroll down to the **Explore** section and click on **Clayton Library Holdings**.
5. Scroll down to the third item, **Clayton's Microprint Holdings Database**.
6. Fill in the information. For example, **Country: USA, State: Mississippi, Record Type: Post Civil War**.
7. Double-click on the page title. Then print it up, and take it with you to Clayton. The printout has such information as the cabinet number, the drawer number, the microfilm number, and the roll number.



SUCCESS STORIES

Our success story is the Education Committee's workshop on encapsulation on August 22, 2007, at The Exit in College Station, Texas. This was a "hands-on" workshop where Ramblers learned to preserve documents, letters, or photographs.



In the picture above, Lillian Beasley, on the left, had brought an old marriage certificate issued in Czechoslovakia for her grandparents. Over the years, the document had been rolled up and stored where dust and the elements had not been kind.



After carefully cleaning the dust off with a white glove, you cut the Mylar and stick on the double-sided tape. Bliss Wolfe and Margaret Jones are working on this process in the above picture.



Mary Elizabeth Dresser and Bliss Wolfe brought spray cans of de-acidifier and demonstrated how documents could be tested with a special pen to determine whether or not they were acid-free. If acid was present in the paper, it could be sprayed with the de-acidifier and then encapsulated after it had dried.

Frances Martin and Ruth Cozart are working on a plan.

The group of Ramblers who attended this hands-on workshop seemed to have a good time at this learning session. The consensus was that another such workshop should be given next year.



HISTORICAL MOMENT

Imagine having a bedroom that used to be in an old jail. According to “Old Homes of Fredericksburg” published in the Fredericksburg Standard on Wednesday, November 16, 1955, that is exactly what Mrs. Henry W. Braeutigam’s bedroom was used for when Fort Martin Scott was occupied by U.S. Soldiers over 100 years ago and later by Confederate troops.

Fort Martin Scott, located near Fredericksburg, Texas, protected the people from 1848-53. It served as a first line of defense, keeping the peace and minimizing possible friction caused by an active trade between the Comanches and German settlers. As settlers pushed farther west, Fort Martin Scott lost any strategic significance it might have had and became economically unjustified and militarily unnecessary because of its distance from the front line of forts.



The Fort is located west of Fredericksburg on Hwy 290 and is an interesting place to stop for a visit.

For more information, go to <http://www.fortmartinscott.com>

From late 1852 through 1853 the fort assumed the role of forage depot. The fort was closed in December 1853. During the Civil War the fort had no strategic position, yet in September, 1866, Gen. Philip H. Sheridan ordered elements of the Fourth United States Cavalry to Fort Martin Scott to secure the frontier once again from possible Indian depredations. By the end of 1866 the fort was finally abandoned by military units.

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

The museum at the fort is open Tuesday-Sunday 10 am-5 pm and has replicas of the original rooms.



In 1870 the family of Sue Foy's husband, John, bought the land for 1600 gold dollars and Sue has the original deed for the transfer. John's great-great-grandfather was murdered in a robbery attempt and the murder was witnessed by his grandfather, Henry, who was only ten years old at the time and had to become the "man of the house."

The original guard-house is in the back-ground, but the family added on the front room and a kitchen plus the porch.

These were later removed and the building was converted back to the original guard-house.



This picture taken in 1904 are John's grandparents and their children. John's mother is the girl on the right.

The family had to sell the property in 1959 (three years after Sue and John were married) in order to have enough money to care for John's grandmother. They sold the land to the city of Fredericksburg and it was unoccupied until some time in the late 1980's or early 1990's when the Historical Society decided to renovate the fort.



This picture is of an oil painting Sue's daughter, Jami Bevans, painted for her dad in 1985. She had taken a digital panorama photo and painted from the photo.

Many thanks to Sue for sharing this story with us.

FYI 2:

Ramblers are known for their travels. Recently, a group went to Clayton Library in Houston as the Ramblers do every month. Fortunately, they had a chance to visit with Robert de Berardinis at lunch, who told them about his research for footnote.com, a new website for a variety of records, such as Revolutionary War, Civil War, birth, death, etc. Robert will be taking a trip to England soon to gather data for the website. Try www.footnote.com to check out membership options. Jane Horn has taken a 7-day free trial and has found some fantastic databases.

Robert also mentioned the upcoming workshop for Houston Genealogical Forum on Saturday, November 3, 2007. It will be at the Bayland Community Center, 6400 Bissonnet, in Houston. The morning session is will be on Footnote.com (free). The afternoon session will be on Ancestry.com, possibly a small fee. There will be a box lunch, and each person will pay for his delicious lunch. Robert will be a speaker for Footnote.com. Everyone is invited. Although the information is not on their website www.hgftx.org yet, it should be soon.



Searching on the computer are Jane Cohen and Pat Koppa.



Bliss Wolfe and Jane Horn are checking out Emma Gene Schroeder's Irish info.



Finding the details are Novella Hronek and Helen Kunz.

GENQUIP: Genealogists are time unravelers.

The Research Rambler Newsletter is published by the Texas Research Rambler Genealogical Society,
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