



# TEXAS RESEARCH RAMBLERS GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

Bryan-College Station, Texas

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<http://www.texasresearchramblers.org>

## OFFICERS for 2007-2008

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

## LAST MEETING

President Mary Elizabeth Dresser called the meeting to order. The Minutes were approved as sent and the Financial Report was approved as read. The daughter of Phyllis Ferguson, Jorja Davis was our guest. Welcome Jorja!

**Mary Elizabeth** presented **Helen Kunz** with the first place certificate for the Partner Society Newsletter presented at the Texas State Genealogical Society in Tyler, Texas, on November 9, 2007. The State Genealogical Society sent a \$100 check to the Ramblers. A big thank you to all you Ramblers for your stories and information that made the newsletter fun to create.

Committee Chairpersons announced upcoming events for next year. More details in the FYI section.

Once we finished our business meeting, **Dean Duncan** introduced **Dr. Kate Carte Engel**, assistant professor in the History Department at Texas A&M University. Dr. Engel's topic, "Moravians and Their Sources" was of particular interest to us because the Moravians were obsessive record keepers.

Three areas of interest are the following:

- Origins of Moravians
- Where Moravians spread their philosophy
- Importance of Moravians to genealogists

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**Dr. Kate Carte Engel**  
TAMU History Dept.

**Origins:** After the A.D. 400's, Slavic tribes settled in Moravia. In 1526, Bohemia and Moravia came under Hapsburg family rule for 400 years. Today's Moravia is a geographical region in Czechoslovakia between Bohemia and Slovakia

According to Dr. Engel, John Huss in Prague argued against the abuses of the Catholic Church in Europe. After his death, supporters organized themselves into a group, the Brethren. After suffering persecution by the Catholics, they revived during the Pietist Movement in Germany. Pietists were Christians, mainly Lutherans, who wanted to return to a simple life of early Christians.

The Lutheran Orthodox had become stale because they had focused on the right thing. The result was the rise of German Pietism, similar to today's evangelicalism. A German Pietist noblewoman had raised her grandson as a Pietist. As a young man, the grandson, Count von Zinzendorf knew he wanted to spread the Word of God.

According to Dr. Engel, the Moravians fled from Moravia and Bohemia to Germany, and to Zinzendorf, in 1722. In 1727, the group reorganized. They had some philosophical questions: Are we German Lutherans? Pietists? Or true Moravians? So, they named themselves the New Moravians and their church was the Moravian Church.



**Spread of Moravian Church:** By 1733 Zinzendorf's thinking was to share the new Moravian philosophy with those who did not know about it. Thus, he sent missionary groups to St. Thomas in the West Indies. Then he sent more groups to Africa, Egypt, South America, and the Caribbean.

In 1735 the Moravians immigrated to the British-American mainland on the Atlantic seaboard. Pennsylvania drew their attention because of the native American population. Thus, the Moravians chose Bethlehem as their first location for its proximity to the British settlement and the Native American settlement.

In 1741, the German Lutherans, a.k.a., "Moravian haters," sent their contingent to the Atlantic seaboard too

By 1745 Bethlehem had become a communitarian settlement—not especially to draw people into the religion but to get people to settle there. Many settlers stayed at their large building, the Brethren.

### **Moravian Importance to Genealogists: Record Keeping**

Two types of records they kept were: Community Diaries and Individual Diaries. The Community Diaries kept detailed information like how many eggs we used this week. Individual Diaries kept family history information like children birth date, names, etc.

In addition, each person kept a daily spiritual diary. The whole diary was read at the person's funeral. Excerpts were taken for the Bethlehem Diary. An example was the death records.

Dr. Engel then explained that the **Bethlehem Digital Historical Project** was a joint project of the Moravian College and Bethlehem Public Library. The objective was to meet the genealogy, scholarly, and educational needs of the public.

To check out the website for **The Bethlehem Digital Historical Project**, go to [bdhp.moravian.edu](http://bdhp.moravian.edu). Those with Pennsylvania German ancestors can possibly find their ancestors' records.

To bring the Moravian experience closer to home, Bill Lay pointed out that John Wesley, the Methodist leader, had been influenced by the Moravians.

We thank Dr. Engel for providing us with this interesting information, so we can trace some of our ancestors.

#### **NEXT MEETING:**

Our December meeting will be a Holiday Social on **December 11th at 11:30 a.m.** at **The Glory Inn**, part of **Still Creek Ranch**, which is 8 miles east of College Station, TX.



**Directions:** Exit Harvey Road and go east. Continue on Harvey and stay on it as it turns into Elmo Weedon Road. Drive 8 miles until you see Grassbur Rd. and turn left. Go 1.5 miles and The Glory Inn is on the right at 11333 Grassbur Rd. (look for a white fence and The Glory Inn sign). Call: 1-979-589-3206 if you need more directions.

#### **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. **Mark your calendar for December 12, 2007.**

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: December 19, 2007.**

Every **last Wednesday** of the month: **Starting in January** Research Ramblers will meet at the **2nd floor** Action Advantage rooms of the College Station Professional II building, **1651 Rock Prairie Rd. in College Station** at 9:30 a.m. **Mark your calendar: January 30, 2008.**

The **Roots Magic Study Group** will the **4th Monday** of each month (except December).

**FYI:**

**Henry Hanson** announced that our Mary Collie Cooper Seminar would be in the spring. Cost will be \$25 for pre-registration and \$30 for registration at the door. Look for more information later.

**Ellen Horner** spoke on two projects. One is the Bible Translation Records Project that will go on the website. Sue Foy distributed guidelines for the project. Another project Ellen spoke of was the County Records Project. **Bill Lay** will lead the way on adding to our marriage records. The ones online stopped in the 1870s. We are in the investigative process of determining other county records to add to our Online Data.

**Bob Cohen** pointed out that after December 12, we will be using a new email address for Ramblers. It will be [ramblers@listserv.tamu.edu](mailto:ramblers@listserv.tamu.edu) . More news will be coming from Bob later.

Orientation Sessions for Beginners and Intermediates will be held next year at Bryan Public Library and Carnegie Library. **Gail Sewell** will be in charge of the 6 sessions in February and March.

Speaking of libraries, I talked to **Clara Mounce**, Community Librarian, who said that the Bryan Public Library has added [www.footnote.com](http://www.footnote.com) to their databases. This new genealogical website has something new everyday.

**SUCCESS STORIES:**

Ramblers, through the efforts of **Sue Foy**, Librarian of La Villita Chapter of D.A.R., during the presidency of **Dan Castillo**, donated books to the D.A.R. Library in Washington, D.C. Credit was given for the books August 28, 2007.



Sue Foy, Dan Castillo, and Mary Louise Shelby, D.A.R. Regent

- A copy of the **Brazos County Marriage Records**, Books A&B, and C&D, covering 1843 through 1878, which were compiled and indexed by the Texas Research Ramblers Genealogical Society under the direction of the founder, the late **Mary Collie Cooper**.
- A book, Letters from **Two Brothers 1870-1873** transcribed and published by Mrs. Cooper in 1988. The book is based on letters from the Patrick brothers of Centerville, TX, to their family and each other while they had attended college in Virginia.
- Records of a circuit-riding pastor, Rev. Edward Colfax Swann, from 100 years ago that were transcribed by his granddaughter, **Sue Foy**. Pastor Swann records included church members' names with marriages, births and deaths as well as financial records, scriptures from which he preached each Sunday. Sue has given the original pastoral records to the Missouri Methodist Archives at Central Methodist College in Fayette, MO. Heritage Books has issued a CD, "Archives: Missouri Methodism," which includes the same information and marriage certificates.

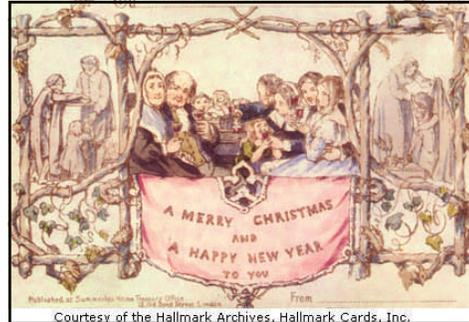
This information was adapted from **Joyce Louis'** article sent to *The Eagle*.

## HISTORICAL MOMENT

Does everybody have their Christmas cards ready to send? It's that time of year. When did the custom of sending greeting cards begin?

Sending greeting cards can be traced back to the ancient Chinese, who exchanged messages of good will to celebrate the New Year, and to the early Egyptians, who conveyed their greetings on papyrus scrolls. By the early 1400s, handmade paper greeting cards were being exchanged in Europe. The Germans are known to have printed New Year's greetings from woodcuts as early as 1400.

The first known published Christmas card appeared in London in 1843, when Sir Henry Cole hired artist John Calcott Horsley to design a holiday card that he could send to his friends and acquaintances.



By the 1850s, the greeting card was more affordable due largely to advances in printing and the introduction of the postage stamp.

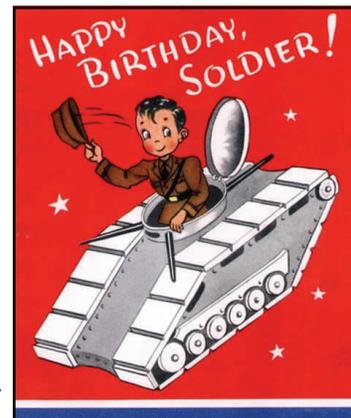


Louis Prang, a German immigrant who started a small lithographic business near Boston in 1856, is generally credited with the start of the greeting card industry in America.

In the 1890s cheap imitation imports forced Prang to abandon his business. Between 1890 and 1906 there was a marked decline in U.S. greeting card production.

Following WWI, new publishers continued to enter the field and healthy competition produced important innovations in printing processes, art techniques and decorative treatments for greeting cards.

During WWII, the industry rallied for the war effort, helping the government sell war bonds and providing cards for the soldiers overseas, such as this birthday card. This period also marked the beginning of its close relationship with the U.S. Postal Service.



In the following years, the public saw a variety of cards—

The 1950s had the studio card— a long card with a punch line.

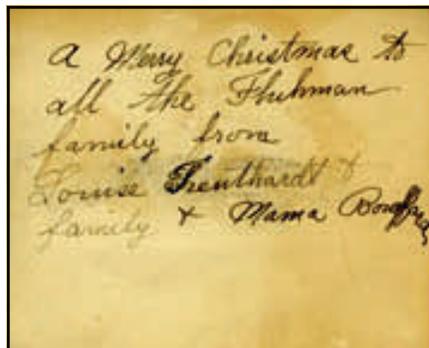
The 1980s expanded into non-occasion cards, a casual reminder of one's connection to another.

The 1990s through today gave rise to electronic greeting cards. I wonder what will come next.

Information and pictures for this article are courtesy of [www.greetingcard.org](http://www.greetingcard.org). Lots more there!

Has anyone found their ancestors' greeting cards? What a treasure if you have.

Sue Foy has shared one of hers with us.



The back of the card was transcribed by Sue to read as the following:

Well, that wraps up our history of greeting cards. Now I have to get to work on mine.

I also want to thank all of you again for contributing to the newsletter all year long, because **you** are what makes the articles so interesting.

**Christmas card to the Fluhmann family from  
Louise Bouffard Treuthardt  
& "Mama Elise Bouffard"  
Circa 1920's**

**Sent to Sue Foy by Clois Cobb, Jr. after the death of  
his mother, Lillie Fluhmann Cobb**



**Nancy Hanson** took this picture during our November meeting of **Mary Elizabeth** presenting me with the certificate, which was for our newsletter winning first place at the Texas State Genealogical Society Convention.

See you at the Holiday Social at Glory Inn of Still Creek Ranch on December 11th at 11:30. A tip for the table will be appreciated by the girls serving us.

### **GENQUIP:**

Only a genealogist considers a step backwards as progress.

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.

