



# TEXAS RESEARCH RAMBLERS GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

Bryan-College Station, Texas

Volume XVIII, No. 3 March 15, 2008

<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



A big welcome to our newest members, Anne Orrell, Elmer Mooring, Milton L. Woodall, Stanley Wells, Ellen Stanton, and Irene Speer.

Following the business portion of our February 27, 2008, meeting, Jane Cohen introduced our speaker, Nancy Wright Brennan, Certified Genealogist, from San Antonio to the 56 member audience. An authority on the Huguenots, Ms. Brennan crafted a presentation about Huguenots—history, contributions, and research recommendations.



Colorful trio-Joyce Louis, Nancy Brennan, and Bliss Wolfe

### Who were they?

The Huguenots were French Protestants who were members of the Reformed Church established about 550. The name “Huguenots” was used as a nickname first in Geneva, Switzerland, where many had fled from France.

**Where did it all begin?** Shortly after the 95 thesis of 1517 were nailed to the church door in Whittenberg, Protestants were being oppressed for their different religion. The first Lutheran heretics were burned in France.

## Inside this issue:

<b>Officers &amp; Last Meeting</b>	1
<b>Next Meeting</b>	2
<b>Future Seminars &amp; Trips</b>	3
<b>FYI: Registration</b>	4
<b>Success Stories</b>	5
<b>Historical Moment</b>	6
<b>GenQuip</b>	6

## Texas HistoryMonth

### New Books:

**Texian Macabre** by Stephen L. Hardin

**The Secret War for Texas** by Stuart Reid

**At the Heart of Texas: 100 Years of the Texas State Historical Association, 1897-1997** by Richard B. McCaslin

**Who were the Reformation leaders?** Martin Luther, John Calvin, John Knox, and Theodore Baza led the movement in Europe while Henry VIII led the movement in England. In France the Reformation leader was Wm. Farel (1489-1565). By 1551 the first Reformed Church was established in Paris, France, and by 1559, Huguenots composed 10% of the French population.

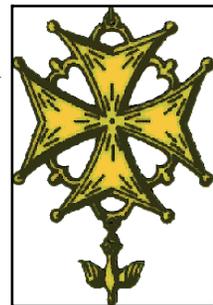


**Why did they leave France?** 8 religious wars would induce most people to leave. Then Henry IV of France (1553-1610) helped bring about a compromise between the Catholic Church and the Protestants by instituting the Edict of Nantes in 1598, to give French Protestants the right to worship freely in 20 specified towns, the right of civil equality, and the right of education for French children. The Edict decreased the pressure of leaving France until Louis XIV (1638-1711) revoked the Edict of Nantes in 1685, thus denying Protestant children the right of inheritance, as well as making all Protestant marriages null and void. Even though the French Protestants were forbidden to emigrate, 400,000 were able to escape.

**What were the results?** The “brain drain” from France was a “brain gain” for the Netherlands, Germany, Scandinavia, Great Britain, Ireland and the U.S. It wasn’t until the French Revolution did the Huguenots become citizens. Today Protestants in France number about 1 million or about 2% of the population.

**Recommendations:** First, trace your ancestor backwards. If he or she had settled in New York, Virginia, South Carolina, New England, or Pennsylvania, perhaps they were Huguenots, who had changed their French name to fit in with society. Secondly, if you can trace your ancestor to Europe, the Netherlands, or Scandinavia, then perhaps your ancestor was a Huguenot who fled France in the 1600’s.

**Huguenots today?** In France, the [Huguenot cross](#) is the distinctive emblem of the Huguenots (*croix huguenote*). It is now an official symbol of the *Eglise des Protestants réformé* (French Protestant church) and Huguenot descendants are proud to display this piece of jewelry as a sign of their *re-connaissance* (recognition).



[http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/e/ee/Croix\\_huguenote.gif](http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/e/ee/Croix_huguenote.gif)

In the United States, you can contact the National Huguenot Society, you can contact a state registrar, such as Nancy Brennan at [nwbrennan@sbcglobal.net](mailto:nwbrennan@sbcglobal.net) or write to her at 6 Barcom Ct., San Antonio, Texas 78218. You can also go to the NHS web site at <http://www.huguenot.netnation.com> to learn more.

We heartily thank Nancy Brennan for a splendid history of a group of courageous people.

#### **NEXT MEETING:**

On March 26, 2008, we will meet at Senior Circle to hear speaker Joyce Cavanaugh, Ph.D., Texas Co-op Ext., College Station, Texas, on the topic, “Who Gets Grandma’s Pie Plate.”

## FUTURE SEMINARS AND TRIPS:

Every **2nd Wednesday** of the month: Ramblers travel to Clayton Library in Houston. Contact **Bliss Wolfe** for details or sign-up sheet at the meetings. **April 8, 2008**, is the next trip.

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: March 19, 2008.**

Every **last Wednesday** of the month: Ramblers will meet at the 2nd floor Senior Circle rooms of the College Station Professional II building, 1651 Rock Prairie Rd. in College Station at 9:30 a.m. **Mark your calendar: March 26, 2008.**

The **Roots Magic Study Group** meets on the **4th Monday** of each month (except December, May 29, Memorial Day, June, July, and August) on 2nd floor of Bryan Public Library. The next meeting will be on **March 24, 2008**. Every Rambler is welcome.

**May 3, 2008:** Bay Area Genealogical Society will have a seminar with noted genealogist, Christine Rose. Check the BAGS website at: [www.txbayareagen.org](http://www.txbayareagen.org) for seminar information.

**April 12, 2008: The Mary Collie Cooper Memorial Lecture** will be held on the 2nd floor, at the Active Advantage/Senior Circle auditorium of the College Station Professional II building, located at 1651 Rock Prairie Road in College Station, Texas. John Sellers is our speaker.

**April 26, 2008: Austin Genealogical Society** will have a seminar featuring Susan Kaufman from Clayton Library. For more information, go to [www.austintxgensoc.org](http://www.austintxgensoc.org).

### FYI: The Month of March

- Women's History Month: Visit the National Women's History Project to listen to speeches that made history at [www.nwhp.org/resourcecenter/speeches.php](http://www.nwhp.org/resourcecenter/speeches.php).
- March 2: The Texas Declaration of Independence was framed and issued by the Conventions of 1836 at Washington-on-the-Brazos. More can be found at <http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/TT/mjtce.html>
- **March 17: St. Patrick's Day:** If you want a traditional Irish bread for your Irish festivities, here is one family's recipe: Eily's Irish Soda Bread

4 cups flour

3 heaping teaspoons baking powder

1/2 teaspoon salt

1/4 cup sugar

1/2 to full box caraway seeds

3/4 to full box raisins

2 to 2 1/4 cups buttermilk

Mix all ingredients and knead with plenty of flour and a little more for good measure. Cut mixture in half, form two blobs, and put in pie tins. Slash a cross on top of each loaf and put in oven at 375 degrees for 30 to 45 minutes. Remove bread from plate, cool, serve with butter.

Lisa McCole, "To Get It in Writing," March/April, *Ancestry*, p. 15.



**FYI:**

The NGS Conference will be held in Kansas City, Missouri from 14-17 may 2008. To download the full pdf of the conference brochure go to: [www.ngsgenealogy.org/2008NGSRegistrationbrochure.pdf](http://www.ngsgenealogy.org/2008NGSRegistrationbrochure.pdf) . For just the registration form: [www.ngsgenealogy.org/Conferences/2008ConRegForm.pdf](http://www.ngsgenealogy.org/Conferences/2008ConRegForm.pdf)

Speaking of registrations, our own seminar is just around the corner. Do you need a registration form? If you do, just print the one below and send it to Sue Foy.

The program will begin at 9:30 and run until approximately 3:30 and includes a box lunch and handouts.

Our speaker, John Sellers, has been involved with Genealogy for 23 years and has spoken a number of times at genealogical conferences. He has been a faculty member of the Angelina College Genealogical Conference for the past 8 years. When he is not lecturing or researching in the courthouse, he is a loan officer with City National Bank of Sulphur Springs, Texas.

Registration Form  
Mary Collie Cooper Lecture  
April 12, 2008

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

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Registration fee of \$25 for members, or \$30 for non-members will include hand-outs and a box lunch.

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

**Deadline for registrations is Friday, April 4, 2008**

Mail registration form & check payable to Texas Research Ramblers to:

**Sue Foy, Texas Research Ramblers, P.O. Box 11195, College Station, TX 77842-1195**

## Success Stories:

On February 12, 2008, Ramblers provided the 2<sup>nd</sup> of 6 Orientation Sessions. The purpose was to teach others how to get started in research and was presented at Bryan Public Library and Carnegie Library. March 18th will be the last session.

During the 6 sessions students will learn about the 4 generation chart and the family group sheet, the Census, using the computers at Carnegie to find information on websites, such as US GenWeb, using books and film, and finally how to organize all their information.



Elmer Mooring and Stanley Wells are getting ready for the session.



Anne Orrell is ready to get started in her family research.



Lillian Beasley, Christine Hyman, and JoAn Dean visiting before the session begins.



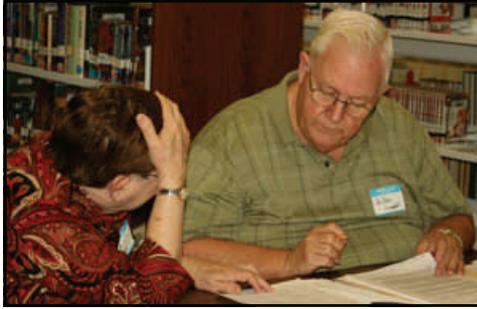
Teacher Patti Kruger and Ellen Stanton looking over some fine points of research.



Linda Ferguson and Sue Foy test out the computers in the lab.



Headmistress Gail Sewell thinks it is time to get started. They have a lot to cover. Patti Kruger, Shelby Rowan, and Bob Cohen are helping too.



Teacher Sue Foy describes some data to Milton Woodall.



Rhoda Haynes, Gail Marion, and Mima Barrett get ready for the sessions too.

**IN MEMORIAM:** Harry Oswald, born July 29, 1927, died March 1, 2008. He spent his early years in Portland, Oregon. He served in the U.S. Navy and Marine Corps at the end of WWII and during the Korean Conflict, and later graduated from Oregon State University with a degree in Civil Engineering. He is survived by his sons, Karl and John, a daughter, Catherine Brandt, daughter-in-law, Diane Oswald, and grandchildren, Bobby and Michael Brandt and Scott and Emily Oswald.



### HISTORICAL MOMENT:

Never in history has there been a better time to be in debt. While a blemish on a credit report might mean loans are harder to come by, consider what your ancestors might have faced:

- Debtors prisons go back at least to the Hammurabi Code (1795-1750 BC), when, as an alternative to jail time, a debtor could pledge himself, a family member, or a slave as a *mancipium* to work off the debt.
- Ancient Roman law allowed debtors to be cut into pieces and distributed proportionally among creditors; later laws provided for seizure of property and “*infamia*,” or shame of the debtor.
- In England, the 1542 Act Against Such Persons as Do Make Bankrupt marked the beginning of laws that allowed imprisonment of debtors, liquidation of assets, and eventually included capital punishment or loss of an ear for perjury or fraud committed by a bankrupt.
- By the mid- to late-19th century, debtors prisons were abolished in the United States and the UK, although certain factors surrounding current debts (failure to pay child support, tax evasion) can still land a person in hot water and potentially behind bars.

“Great Time for Debt,” *Ancestry*, March/April 2008, p.54.



### GENQUIP:

Genealogy is like potato salad-  
When you share it with others, it's a picnic.



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