



TEXAS RESEARCH RAMBLERS GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

Bryan-College Station, Texas

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<http://www.texasresearchramblers.org>

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LAST MEETING

On March 26, 2008, President **Mary Elizabeth Dresser**, called the meeting to order. In attendance were 48 members, one new guest/member **Deborah Wheeler**, as well as guests **Ruth Shaw** and **Dottie Mint**, **Joyce Louis'** sister. In addition, we have another new member, **Deanne Rand**. The minutes were filed as sent via email by **Georgianne Bigam**; the Treasurer's Report was filed as read and by **Sue Foy**. Reports were given by **Ellen Horner**, **Henry Hanson**, **Bliss Wolf**, and **Mary Elizabeth Dresser**.

Prior to the meeting **Frances Martin**, **Joyce Cavanagh**, and **Bob Cohen** caught up on old times.



Joyce Cavanagh, Ph.D.
 Associate Professor and
 Family Economics
 Specialist, TAMU
jacavanagh@ag.tamu.edu

“Who Gets Grandma’s Yellow Pie Plate?” comes in part from **Joyce Cavanagh’s** colleagues at Minnesota Extension Service. To lead into this topic, we need to ask ourselves is “What is important to you to transfer?” or “What is our yellow pie plate?” We may think we do not have anything valuable, but we do. This brings up the subject of ownership. Some objects, such as guns, books, linens, and jewelry, are identified on a written document, while others objects, such as real estate, stocks, and mutual funds are identified on a written document.

Even though talking about one’s own mortality and what to do with the “stuff” we have collected through the years may be difficult, not talking about it may lead to some unpleasant experiences for our offsprings. A case in point was the situation where some children/grandchildren were overheard at an estate auction, discussing buying items that had significant childhood memories for them.

For the owner of the items, a chart could be made with these columns:

Describe the Item	Why Is This Item Special?	Who Should Receive it? Why?
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For the children or other potential receivers, a chart could be made with these columns:

Describe the item	This item is special because	If someone else received this item, I’d feel
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Bottom-Line Advice:

1. Make a list. The tape on the bottom of items may come off, so that doesn’t always work.
2. Add a family history note of old pieces, such as name of item, when/how did you acquire it, who else owned it when and how you have used it, and what other memories you have of this item.
3. Include the list in our will or another designated place.
4. Give the “stuff” to the family or to an institution that would allow these “treasures” to be viewed or used.
5. The 5-Star approval suggestion is to give two place settings of crystal, china, and silver to a grandchild to be used on the couple’s special anniversary or birthday.

We thank **Dr. Cavanagh** for her insight and suggestions that will help us decide what to do with our yellow pie plate.



NEXT MEETING

Ramblers next meeting is on April 30, 2008, at Senior Circle. Our speaker, **Bruce Lockett**, will speak on Civil War Steamboats in the area.

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. **May 14, 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: April 16, 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: April 30, 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 last meeting of the year will be on **April 28, 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 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. Registration starts at 8 am.

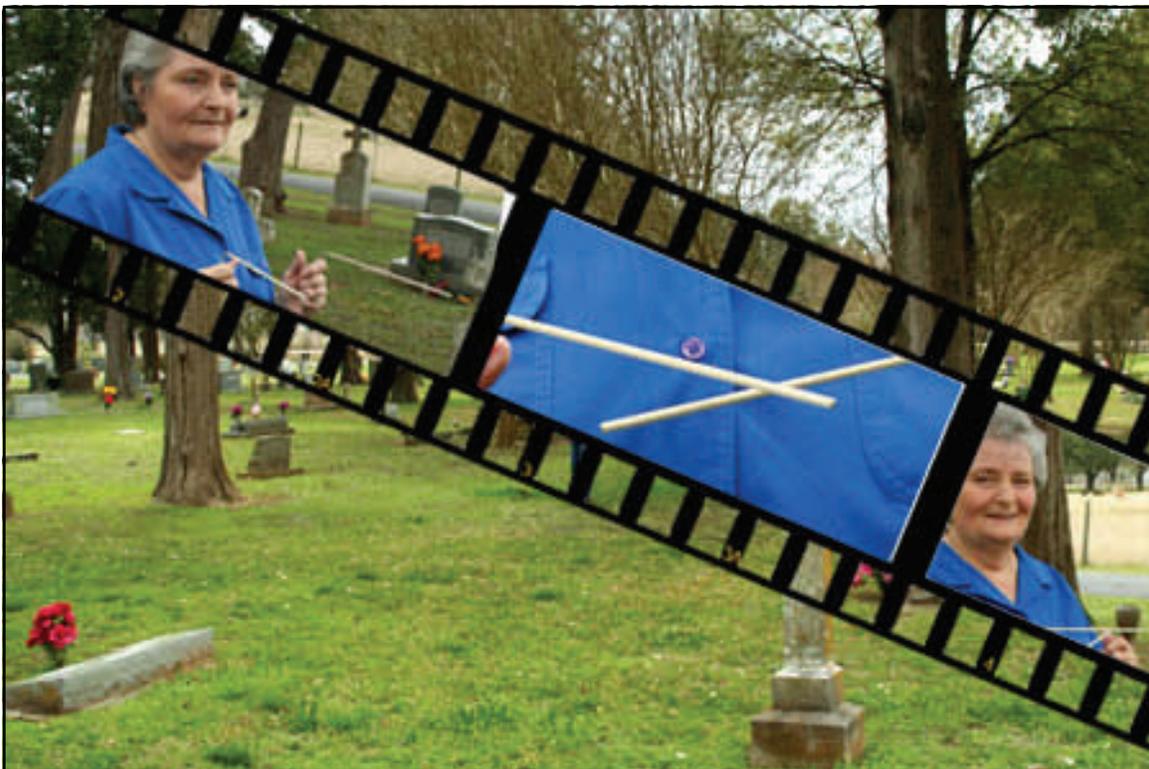
April 26, 2008: **Austin Genealogical Society** will have a seminar featuring Susan Kaufman from Clayton Library. For more information, go to www.austintxgensoc.org.

FYI: Texas is in bloom with beautiful wildflowers. You can travel across the state and may see over 5,000 different species. Two websites to learn more about our flowers are <http://www.wildflower.org/> and http://www.dot.state.tx.us/travel/flora_conditions.htm



FYI: Water Dowsing is an old art, a proven technique, that has been used many years to located water, graves, etc., writes **Christine Hyman**. My dad used to dowsing for neighbors when I was a young child. I was probably 5 years old when he showed me what to do to see if I had the “power.” Dad would go to farms near us to help others find a water vein for digging a family well.

My husband had made divining rods out of two welding rods for me to keep in my family research tote bag. I used them to find known graves and worked my way out from there to see what I could “witch.” The rods are shaped like an L, with the short end held loosely in the grip of my fists. The longer end points straight out in front of me as I walk (as seen in the first filmstrip frame). When I walk over underground water, or a grave, the rods will cross (as seen in the second and third filmstrip frame). As I pass the source, the rods uncross (as seen in the first filmstrip frame).



I have to say that after watching Christine recently dowsing graves at Smetana Cemetery, I had to dowsing too. We were in an area of two “unknown” headstones gravesites. When I walked toward the first headstone, I was about 2 feet from the headstone when the rods crossed. When I repeated the process on the next gravesite, the rods crossed about 6 feet from the headstone. We decided that one gravesite was a child and the other one was the mother.

For more information, read “Grave Dowsing” by Brenda Marble at Miller’s Paranormal Research website: <http://www.millersparanormalresearch.com/>

SUCCESS STORIES:

The final Rambler Orientation Session headed by **Gail Sewell** and her mighty team was held on March 18, 2008. **Elmer Mooring**, an attendee, had these words about the team:

Kudos to the Training Team

The Rambler's team that recently completed the six training sessions, which they conducted at the Bryan Library and the Carnegie Center of Brazos Valley History, did an outstanding job and deserves a big thank you.

I was a student in that series of classes and this was my first introduction to formal genealogical research. The classes were well structured and organized with a good balance between class lecture and hands on practice in library research and online research. The pace was slow enough for us newcomers, yet I believe it was fast-paced enough to still interest the more experienced in the class.

In addition to the class work, the members also took time to introduce the students to Ramblers members. Ms. **Patricia Kruger** went out of her way to ensure that we were all introduced, both at the training and at the Ramblers' monthly meeting. She was also very helpful in individual tutoring and guidance during the hands-on portion.

These classes gave me the incentive to gather up some notes and photos that I have been assembling for the past four years and to finally publish my family history from 1821 to today. As far as I have been able to determine, this is the first that anyone in my family has ever written down about the family. The book is in print and I will arrange to have a copy on display at one of the Ramblers' monthly meetings.

Elmer Mooring
New Member



L to R: **Jane, Eugene Voelkel, Libby Vastano, Bob Cohen**



L to R: **Rhoda Haynes, Christine Hyman, Mima Barrett**



L to R: Sue Foy, Elmer Mooring, Deanne Rand, Gail Marion

Congratulations go to **Elmer Mooring** for getting his book to the printer! We will be looking forward to seeing the book at a Rambler meeting.

HISTORICAL MOMENT:

Name changes can make research a real challenge. Your stories are so interesting, I can't leave any out, so I will tell your stories over the next few issues.

Barbara Brodigan: My maternal grandfather had 5 different spellings for his name; **Menotte** which is what the family is using now. **Minatt** on his marriage license and **Minotti** which is what I think the original spelling was and is on his tombstone and **Minetto** on one of the census and **Monette** on his obit. So I always look for all the spellings when I look. I can not find him coming into the USA, so there maybe another spelling.

Christine Hyman: Most Polish names were changed. Adam's ancestor from Poznan, Poland, was **Martinus Hajman / Martin Hyman**. His family came to Walker & Montgomery County, Texas in 1867.

Hyman is the spelling that we use. Some of the same family are **Heyman, Heiman, Hayman**, etc.

First names.... entered into the Catholic record books at New Waverly, Walker County, Texas Polish / American

Matheo / Mathew; Andreas / Andrew (Adam's grandfather); **Josepha / Josephine**

Ellen Horner: My maiden name **HAUSMAN** was originally **HAUSMANN**. The spelling was changed either during or after WWI due to the hostile attitude towards Germany. However, not all of the family dropped the 'n'.

Evelyn Aldred: How about **Kriebel** to **Graybil**. Another name - **Aldred** from **Aldridge, Oealdred**.

GENQUIP: Names are not always what they seem. The common Welsh name **Bzjxllwcp** is pronounced **Jackson**. Mark Twain

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