

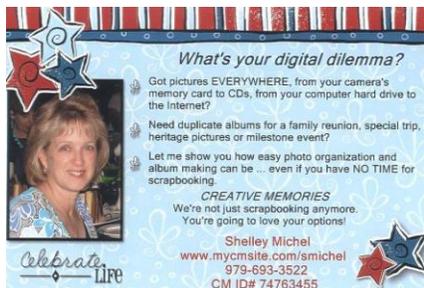


RAMBLERS' RAMBLINGS

Volume XIX Number ONE, SPRING & SUMMER 2009

JANUARY PROGRAM

Spring started when Mary Hamlin and Shelly Michel shared a new computer program called “Story Book Creator Plus,” which allowed Mary to import her family pictures and documents into a format that allowed her to publish family history while also enhancing her old photos. “Story Book Creator Plus” is a **Creative Memories** product.



Shelly Michel

Shelly Michel, a **Creative Memories** consultant, made suggestions on scrapbooking that every genealogist needs to know about proper care and display of old media.

Shelly demonstrated how she enhanced and lightened old brown photos and documents, removed stains and then weaved them in with documents and family memorabilia to make a family history book, which, in turn, could be preserved in a Creative Memories style or have it hard bound.

FEBRUARY PROGRAM

Shirley Ferguson presented a program on “Encapsulation,” demonstrated how to encapsulate heritage documents, illustrating how this process protects material as opposed to laminating. Shirley had several items for members to see and catalogs from vendors where members could purchase encapsulating supplies.

MARCH PROGRAM

Jack Selden of Palestine, Anderson County, Texas and the author of *Return, The Parker Story*, detailed the fascinating history of his wife’s family, the Parkers. Cynthia Ann Parker, a ten year old girl captured by Comanche Indians on May 19, 1836 and rescued from the tribe in 1860 by Texas Rangers under the command of Lawrence Sullivan Ross. Many Ramblers bought Jack’s book after the meeting.

BRAZOS COUNTY INTEREST

Confederate Veterans Memorial

During April the local **Sons of Confederate Veterans**, local Sul Ross Camp#1457, celebrated Confederate Memorial around the Brazos County Cemeteries by placing Confederate Flags on the graves of Veterans in the Brazos Valley. Henry Hanson volunteered to mark Bestor South's grave in the South Cemetery on Gardens Acres Street in Bryan, which is located across the street from Mary Collie Cooper's home.

Bestor South, born December 9, 1826 in Alabama, moved to Brazos County in 1852 and married Martha Henry Hardy in 1854. The Souths had eight children and the South Cemetery had its first burial when Charlie died in 1885. In 1902, David South's infant son Johnnie, was buried there and the last family member buried in this cemetery was Bestor, who died 27 October 1904.

Bestor South served in Company I of the 21 Regiment of the Texas Cavalry in the Confederate Army during the War of Northern Aggression as the picture of the Veterans plaque commemorates.



Sue Kaufman

APRIL PROGRAM

The Ramblers started April off when 13 members attended a workshop on April 22 at the Teen Exit Center where they spent the morning encapsulating many heritage documents and pictures thus preserving them from the destruction of time.



South Cemetery

April's program speaker was Sue Kaufman who gave the Ramblers updates to the Clayton Library in Houston, including the new, completed restoration to the old Clayton home and its surrounding buildings. The carriage house now features a meeting facility where the Friends of Clayton meet and as well as hold other genealogical functions. Sue reported that the Clayton home is now much like it was when the Clayton family lived there.

MAY PROGRAM



Helen Horner

The May monthly meeting included a committee report from the Cemetery Committee Chairperson Helen Horner who stated that the Reliance Cemetery would be online soon. Helen said there were over 400 pictures of tombstones.

Mary Jane Millender reported that an effort to reestablish the Rambler Newsletter was underway and she and the newsletter committee would meet in June when several members returned

from vacation. She gave a brief outline for future newsletters, which will now be a quarterly rather than a monthly publication.

Rodger Kroppa gave a very good program on taking pictures at cemeteries, which was followed by a walk - around workshop on June 6 at the College Station Cemetery. Participants found graves, took pictures using the proper equipment, marked the graves' locations and transcribed the tombstones' information.

During the May meeting, Mary Elizabeth Dresser passed out a survey, asking members their preferences for future program topics. The 12 most popular subjects are: internet research, courthouse research, libraries, dating old photographs, sources & documenting, wills & probate, organizing, land records, vital records, immigration & naturalization, genealogy correspondence.



Rodger Kroppa

JUNE PROGRAM

The June program was presented by Patrick Janis of College Station. Patrick started studying his family genealogy at the age of 13 following his grandfather's funeral. Patrick was curious and wanted to find out why people were conversing with his relatives in a strange language. Thirteen years later Patrick found himself standing in the living room of his long - lost cousin in eastern Moravia.

Patrick has conducted extensive parish register research in the Czech Republic, visiting more than 100 courthouses and libraries in 26 states. In 2001 Patrick became one of the founders of the Texas Czech Genealogical Society serving as its first President. He has lectured at more than two dozen genealogical conferences.

Patrick's "Organizing Your Genealogy Files in Seven Easy Steps" are:

1. Get your basic data into a computer database. .
2. Compile an Ahnentafel table with you as #1, your father as #2. Etc.
3. Count your ancestors using your documentation.
4. Set up your filing system.
5. Empty all those boxes and folders and place them into binders.
6. Further organize each binder with tab dividers and sort by categories.



Patrick Janis

7. Enjoy and share your genealogy.

BRAZOS COUNTY INTEREST

BRAZOS COUNTY IMMIGRANT

Vincent Joseph Millburger arrived by boat in Galveston from Prussia around 1890. His future wife, Mary Hebron from Bruno, Czechoslovakia, arrived on the same boat. They were married and bought a farm in East Bernard, Wharton County, Texas, but eventually moved to a 70-acre farm in Bryan, where their son, Francis Joseph, was born March 11, 1915. Vincent was working as a gardener at Texas A&M when he died in 1922. His son attended Stephen F. Austin high school, graduated in May, 1934, and went to work for Texaco in Matagorda County and in 1940 married Lillian Cole.

Like many young American men, Francis Joseph served in World War II. Joining the army in 1943, Millburger was attached to the 9th tactical division of the air corps and had basic training at Fort Sill, Oklahoma. Seventeen days after D Day, Millburger was serving in the European Theatre for the duration of the war. Upon returning home from the war to Bay City, Matagorda County, Texas, Francis Joseph observed St. Augustine grass being removed from one home and replanted in a new lawn elsewhere. Millburger - - in 1949 - - planted commercial sod on his wife Lillian's four acres and this was the beginning of a new business. These acres became one of the largest and most successful sod farms in the United States. On retirement, Millburger's sod business became Turf Grass of America, owned and operated by his three sons.

Turf Grass of America received the contract and planted the sod for the new Astros ballpark, now known as Minute Maid Park, along with the Houston Texans' Reliant Stadium and also Kyle Field in College Station.

Francis Joseph Millberger passed away in Bay City, Texas on June 4, 2009. A funeral mass was held at 2 p.m. on June 6, 2009 at the Holy Cross Catholic Church in Bay City with the Rev. Casey Jarzombek officiating. Entombment followed at Roselawn Cemetery Park in Van Vleck.

GENEALOGICAL REMINDER

(Henry Hanson)

Make a list of at least five different ways to spell relative's surname when doing research. I was reminded of that when I received an e-mail from Erin Kracht, a 2008 student in the X-tra Education Genealogy Class. Erin told me she knew her great great grandfather, John O'Keefe, and great great grandmother, Mary Hickey, were in Sandusky, Ohio in the 1860s, but she could not find either one listed anywhere.

I went to the new LDS Search Labs' site and input Ohio, United States and then input John O'Keefe and it showed there were ten screens of John O'Keefes. Then I decided to switch to Mary O'Keefe, hoping that it might shorten the search, but there were ten screens of Mary O'Keefes too. I decided to stay with Mary O'Keefe because it might list Mary's parents and if I saw the name Hickey then I would know that I had correct Mary O'Keefe.

On the third screen the search engine picked up O'Keefe spelled **Keefe**, but still phonetically the same. So my next step was to go the Federal Census for 1860. Sandusky County had more **Keefe** listed in that census than any other county in Ohio. Erin was able to overcome her brick wall by researching Keefe and O'Keefe as she later found her grandfather in Idaho listed as O'Keefe.

QUERIES

Nancy Hanson is looking for any information on her great great grandfather, William A. Bell, born about 1812 in Georgia. The 1850 Santa Rosa County, Florida census shows his wife as Cinthen, born about 1818 in Georgia. Nancy believes that Baldwin County, Alabama might have been the area where they were born in the early 1800's. Write Nancy at hah@suddenlink.net



Mary Collie Cooper Lecture



Cemetery Workshop



Cemetery Workshop