



RAMBLERS' RAMBLINGS

Volume XX Number Three Fall 2010

JULY MEETING

A short business meeting was held and the annual election of officers whose two-year terms expired were held. The team of Eugene and Jane Voekel were elected to the office of Vice President, which also assumes the Program committee. Sheila May was elected as recording secretary. A brunch was held following the election.

49TH ANNUAL SALADO SCOTTISH GAMES

Just as they were the vanguards of civilization in other regions of

America west of the Appalachians, the Scots formed the first large group of settlers in Central Texas. This type was indomitable, hard and sometimes ruthless, but always independent, courageous, and had a passionate love of knowledge and freedom. Major Sterling C. Robertson, 2nd generation removed from his Scottish emigrant ancestor, was surveying in Central Texas during the winter of 1823-24. Most of 600 families that he introduced into Central Texas were of Scottish origin. His friend and helper in the pater part of the colony was Alexander Thomson, another Scot. In fact, many Texas counties bear the name of Scots.



The 49th
annual
Salado
Scottish
Clan
Gathering
and
Highland
Games will
be held
Friday,

November 12, through Sunday,
November 14, at the Salado Civic
Center Grounds. There will be
Scottish clan tents, vendors, athletic
games, piping, (several pipe bands will
compete during the day), drumming
and Scottish dancing contests. A
genealogy workshop will be held on
Friday - - the topic will be announced
later.

An evening Tartan ceilidh
(pronounced kay-lee) also is planned.
More information can be found at
[http://www.ctam-
salado.org/Gathering/Gathering.htm](http://www.ctam-salado.org/Gathering/Gathering.htm)

AUGUST MEETING

During the opening ceremonies of the
Federated Genealogy Society's recent
annual meeting in Knoxville,

Tennessee, three Rambler members,
Sue Foy, Ellen Horner and Mary
Elizabeth Dresser, were recognized
with an Award of Merit for service
rendered for past accomplishments.
Henry Hanson attended the Society's
meeting and accepted the awards for
them in their absence. Henry
presented Sue, Ellen and Mary
Elizabeth their certificates during
our August meeting.

Following our business meeting,
Barbara Franz, librarian of the
Genealogy Section of the Montgomery
County Library at Conroe, presented a
program on that library, its layout and
the many books, records and
microfilms it has for genealogists.

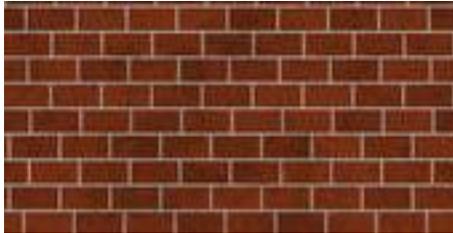
SEPTEMBER MEETING

The Ramblers closed out the month of
September with a program presented
on "Research Land Records." Henry
gave a Power Point Presentation on
researching land records in the
courthouse and how to convert the
linear information to a US Geological
Survey map. A handout containing a
Glossary of Terms, conversion of
Measurements and Surveyors Slang

was given to those present at the meeting.

TEXAS TRIVIA

What was the original name of Austin?



SCALING A BRICK WALL

BY MARY JANE MILLENDER

My first brick wall was discovered as soon as I tried to identify my maternal great grandmother. The name shown on her 1868 Angelina County marriage to my great grandfather Calvin Mantooth was Mary E. Cushman. Well, that was *easy*! Next *easy* step: add her mother's and father's name to the tree. No luck there with any Cushmans. Kept searching then I found Mary E. Cushman's name on a list of indigent widows of the Civil War. A widow? Then Cushman wasn't her maiden name. No, that was her first husband's name: Confederate Lt. Montreal Cushman, killed in the battle

of Mansfield, La., 1864. Another brick added to that wall!

But what was her maiden name? No records of her first marriage could be found and "easy" was a word never again used in this search! Now I began a 5-year struggle to find a window or door in a brick wall that seemed to gain height the more I researched my great grandmother's maiden name.

I searched death records in Angelina County (my grandmother's birth place), but those were destroyed in the 1890 courthouse fire in Homer, Texas, the county seat of Angelina County before it was moved to Lufkin. My grandmother's death certificate? Wouldn't that have her mother's maiden name? Sure it would. But my mother, in her grief, wrongly put her grandmother's name as Mims and by this time in my family tree research, I knew that Mims was my paternal great grandmother's maiden name! Mother had confused and transposed her grandmothers' maiden names. Back to the search.

Maybe the death record of my great aunt (my grandmother's sister) would list their mother's name correctly. Wrong Again . . . it listed Sarah Dixon, their stepmother's name and the only

grandmother my great aunt's family ever knew.

Now, a visit to the old cemetery in Homer, but no maiden name on my great grandmother's tombstone, only Mary E. Mantooth. The search continued.

Next, I turned to online message boards. Many months following my first posted inquiries, I received a message from a distant cousin I had never known existed; she, in turn, contacted another long-lost cousin now living in Arizona, who found a small piece of paper in a box belonging to her grandmother (the g. aunt mentioned above) and in the margin was written Floyd my g. grandmother's maiden name! Down came the brick wall! And an identity and a maiden name were finally bestowed on my g. grandmother. I had finally found a family and a maiden name for a young wife who had lost her first husband in the Civil War; for a 21-year-old widow who found security and happiness, briefly, when she married my g. grandfather, Calvin Mantooth, and for a loving mother who gave birth to five daughters . . . only to die at the young age of 30. An early death and an end to a short life,

a life that truly touched my heart. But now she no longer had to be identified with husbands' surnames . . . she had her own identity! She was a Floyd! And her own personal history was found and now preserved for future generations.



MARY EMMA FLOYD MANTOOTH

Mary Emma Floyd Mantooth's portrait and her lack of true identity had haunted me for years and each time I looked at her picture (it hangs in a prominent place in our home), I silently promised her that I would someday, somehow locate her origin. Thanks to message boards, to recently-found cousins and to a small slip of paper tucked away in an old box in an attic in Arizona, I finally brought down this brick wall!

Now back to my other walls. And more cousins? I hope so!



SAN ANTONIO GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY'S FALL SEMINAR

San Antonio Genealogical Society's 51st annual seminar will be held on Saturday, October 16, 2010 from 9 AM to 4 PM, at the Doubletree Inn on Market Square.

Speaker for the seminar will be John Philip Colletta, PhD., one of America's most popular genealogist speakers. His topic for the seminar will be: *Breaking Through Brick Walls--Use Your Head; Using Newspapers for Family Research; Using Original and Derivative Sources: How to Evaluate Evidence; and How to Assemble and Write a Narrative Family History.*

Cost (includes lunch) is \$50.00 if received before Oct. 1, 2010

Cost is \$55 (includes lunch) after Oct. 1, 2010.

The form for registration can be found at:

<http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~txsaghs2/Pages/News.htm>

Mail your check and the registration form to: San Antonio Genealogical Society, PO Box 790087, San Antonio, TX 78279-0087.



OUR "BATTY" HERITAGE

Texas Reader; Copano Bay Press, Rockport, TX.

When Texas joined the Confederacy in 1861 she brought her *bats* with her. That may not seem like such a grand thing unless you know a thing or two about bats.

For one thing, they congregate. The Mexican Free-Tail bats of Texas have been residing in the same Hill Country caves for hundreds of years.

Also, bats have a very simple sanitation system. It's called *gravity*. Time plus digestion plus gravity is a

formula that has yielded millions of pounds of bat waste on Texas cave floors. It's called guano and the Confederates were glad to have it. Why?

Well, you need three things to make gunpowder: sulfur, charcoal and saltpeter. Men of knowledge could extract saltpeter (potassium nitrate) from the bat guano. Pretty soon Yankees were running from the Rebels' bat-propelled lead.

Mining guano from Texas caves didn't end with the Civil War. Guano has other uses. During the 1870s the Texas Guano Company was shipping ten tons a day out of the Port of Galveston to Scotland. Scotsmen were using Texas guano to produce ammonia on an industrial scale.

SCRAPBOOKING

Today there is a movement in America called "Scrapbooking," which is basically a marketing tool used to sell archival materials and tools for creating, displaying, decorating attractive albums of pictures, paper memorabilia, and other items from coins to campaign buttons. . . and to family histories.



The surprising thing about this marketing ploy is that the scrapbooking consultants encourage . . . and teach . . . not only the hobbyist but the genealogist how to save family heirlooms by using archival materials. And genealogists need this knowledge for saving their papers and photographs for future generations. Librarians have had to deal with the deterioration of paper and the crumbling of book for years.

A scrapbooking consultant will recommend that you photocopy all your newspaper articles onto color photo paper is the best archival - quality material. Have old Polaroid photographs? Copy these also onto photo paper or take them to a photo counter that has color enhancing options. Another option is to scan them into your computer. And remember, the color is **not** going to get better in time.

All archival materials are safe. The adhesive won't take the print off the page. The clear plastic sleeves are Mylar and will not adhere to the pages or photos or remove the print.

These new scrapbooking techniques are great for making heritage albums . . . veterans can include their military history with service medals attached in mylar sleeves along with printed records. Fraternal certificates and pins can be included . . . all safe as if they were stored in an archive.

Many genealogists enjoy decorating the pages with labels and cutouts that enhance the pages with colors for the appropriate season. Be Creative!

One precaution though . . . always remind your pest eradication expert where your albums are located or remove them to another location when your house is being exterminated.

PROTECTION OF HEIRLOOMS

How can the genealogist protect family heirlooms and display them in a way that they can share them with guests and family? Genealogists need only visit a "Hobby Lobby" store to answer this question.



One obvious way is to visit the framing corner. Picture frames are not only for pictures. Quilting squares that were never used and left by a love one can be inserted in a frame and displayed on the wall. A family member who had the chore to clean out the chicken house every Saturday morning and dump it in the garden will never forget his childhood if he uses the old chicken house windows to display other family heirlooms. After the chicken house is demolished and the windows are cleaned, stained, varnished and matted, they make perfect frames to hold treasured family photos.





What do men do with old pocket knives? Shadow boxes are a perfect place to display many items that a man would inherit from his grandfather or maybe even a great grandfather.



So there are many ways men can enjoy family heirlooms, maybe it just takes a woman's touch and a visit to the right store.

TEXAS TRIVIA ANSWER

WATERLOO.



It was a small hamlet located on the North side of the Colorado River, roughly where the Congress Avenue bridge is today. When the capital selection commission visited the site in January of 1839, that area consisted of a few families and a stockade.

NAME THIS CAPITAL CITY



Newsletter Staff

Mary Jane Millender - Editor & Brickwalls

Joyce Louis - Queries & Programs

Kate Thomas - Genealogy Lessons

Jane Maxwell - Websites

Henry Hanson - Photographs