



RAMBLERS' RAMBLINGS

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A SIGNER'S FAMOUS GREAT GRANDSON

BY SHELBY ROWAN

Dear Readers,

I did end my last column saying that I would tell you about the children of the second half of the Signers next time, but I'll get back to that in the next column. I've been most anxious to tell you about one very interesting descendent I discovered who is a bit down the line - a great-grandson and it might take two or three more columns to get to *greats* if I stick to chronological order. So out of order I want to tell you about Marcus Aurelius Goodrich. Marcus was born in San Antonio on November 28, 1897, to Benjamin Briggs Goodrich, a grandson of the Signer, Benjamin Briggs Goodrich, making Marcus a great-grandson. None of the Benjamin Briggs Goodriches seem to have used Sr, Jr, III, IV, etc., but by my count, Marcus' father was the third, but the two names, Benjamin and Briggs, separately and together, run through the Goodrich family.

Marcus had many claims to fame throughout his lifetime so let's start at the beginning - which try as hard as I can, I can't tell you much about. All his biographies agree that he was born in San Antonio and then say, "ran away at age 16 to join the Navy." I've searched the 1900 and 1910 census records looking for Marcus, his father Benjamin or Briggs as he often went by, and/or his mother, Helen Goodrich. I did find father Benjamin, going by the name Briggs, on the 1900 census, living with his mother, Virginia Churchill, now widowed, Mr. Goodrich and Mr. Churchill both deceased. Briggs is only 20 and listed as single. His June 1880 birthdate would have made him only 17 when Marcus was born. Where Marcus and Helen are, I cannot find! Nor would *Fold3* give me any clues as to Marcus' early entry into the Navy. I

suspect he lied about his age and maybe his name at that point also. But all his biographies state that he not only served in both World Wars, but was a naval officer in both wars.



OLIVIA & MARCUS GOODRICH

Whenever one googles the name Marcus Aurelius Goodrich the first thing that pops up is that he was married to the actress Olivia de Havilland and that she was his fifth wife and he was her first husband. However, much of his life occurred before their six-year marriage ended in 1952.

He graduated from Columbia University in 1923 and worked in Philadelphia for a few years before heading to Hollywood where he began writing screen plays and treatments. Webster says that treatments in Hollywood are "a thoroughly developed guide that outlines how a screenwriter would adapt your book into a fully developed screenplay...the first step to drafting a screenplay." The treatment that he is most famous for is *It's a Wonderful Life*.

The majority of his writings were about navy stuff. He wrote for the *New York Times* and the *New York Herald Tribune*. After 14 years of research, writing and rewriting, Marcus published the novel *Delilah* in 1941. It was a story about life on a World War I warship and was a best seller that year.

The New Yorker called it the "novel of the year." It was subsequently republished in several languages and distributed in many countries.

James Michener called Marcus the "brightest light on the horizon." And Olivia de Havilland said that she was drawn to him because of his "vigorous ideas, robust spirit and lively conversation." He had lived all over the world and never lacked for stories to tell, none that had to be made up!

He had a daughter, Helen, with his second wife, Caroline Sleeth. Helen outlived her father, but she died in 2006. Marcus and Olivia had a son, Benjamin Briggs Goodrich, (the IV by my count?) but he died in Paris at age 42, just weeks before his father in 1991. He was a mathematician and died of complications of Hodgkin's Disease that had been diagnosed when he was teenager. None of the obituaries indicate that there were any grandchildren.

Marcus retired in 1963 and until his death on October 20, 1991, lived a very quiet, obscure, meager life in Richmond, Virginia. To quote just a few phrases from some of his biographers:

"In the 1920s he frequented the same Parisian bars as Ernest Hemingway, Gertrude Stein....became a character named Aurelius Goodney in the 1929 Wylie novel *Babes and Sucklings*....the publication of *Delilah* made him fame and fortune and the envy of everyone."

When Marcus left the limelight in the 1950s he said that he wanted to pursue the "truths about human nature, religion and history." He promised a sequel to *Delilah*, but that never happened and although he wrote almost daily, he never published anything else. He moved to a nursing home after a stroke near the end of his life. He was driven by curiosity and his theory was that if he ever figured things out then he could quit!

A most remarkable man! I thoroughly enjoyed reading every scrap I could find about him and believe I'll see if I can find a copy of *Delilah* and find out why it was best seller!

See you at a Ramblers meeting soon.



Traveling with Henry Hanson on.....

HIS GENEALOGY TRAILS



Ramblers already know that my wife Nancy and I are Gary Blair's Women's Basketball fans and enjoy traveling to support the team throughout the season and during NCAA playoffs.

This past March, we traveled to Chicago to attend the Sweet Sixteen Women's Basketball tournament to watch the Aggies play Notre Dame.

During this trip we met Mack and Martha Bostick of College Station. They drove to Chicago in their car; we rode the charter bus to the tournament.

After returning home, I became challenged to trace Mack's Bostick family back to see if it could be a collateral line to my and Jane Ranck's Bostick line. Jane and I have a common connection through my great aunt, but we are not actual bloodline relations.

My genealogy research into their Bostick family was all together different than mine. I traced my line and Mack's back to England and did not find one common link. But what I did find on Mack's line *blew my socks off!*

Mack's third great grandfather, Sion Record Bostick, left Alabama with his family in 1822 to claim his land grant in Texas. Sion, born in 1822, was the son of Levi T. Bostick and Martha Hill. The family arrived in Shelby County, then relocated to San Felipe (the capitol of Texas at that time); later they moved to the site of present-day Columbus in 1832. Levi Bostick died there in 1833.

When he was only 15 years old in 1836, Sion Bostick enlisted as a private in Capt. Moseley Baker's company of Col. Edward Burleson's First Regiment Texas Volunteers and fought in the battle of San Jacinto. Bostick was listed as a member of Capt. William H. Patton's Columbia Company at the time of battle.

As the first 18 minutes of the battle of San Jacinto came to an end, soldiers were given the task of rounding up Mexican prisoners as they were routing and scattering into the shallow water of Galveston Bay. Sion Bostick and two other Texians, Joel Robison and James A. Sylvester, captured several horses and rode out several miles from the San Jacinto battleground, searching for more runaways. The Texians found, hiding in tall grasses, a man dressed as a Mexican army private. When Bostick, Robison

and Sylvester brought their captured private into Houston's camp, Mexican prisoners along the way started saluting their prisoner and murmuring the words *El Presidente*, and it was then that the three Texians realized their prisoner was actually Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna, not a young, scared Mexican private.



SANTA ANNA STANDS BEFORE SAM HOUSTON

Sion Record Bostick did not end his military career at San Jacinto; on March 21, 1862, the forty-one-year-old Bostick enlisted in Company B of the Fifth Texas Infantry Regiment of the famed "Hood's Texas Brigade."

Sion Record Bostick died in San Saba in 1902 and is buried in the San Saba Cemetery. His memoir of the Texas Revolution, dictated when he was past 80 years of age, was published in the *Southern Historical Quarterly* in 1901. In 1973 a Texas Historical marker was placed at his gravesite in San Saba.

And the above story about Sion Bostick and his two fellow Texians finding General Santa Anna is the reason that "my socks blew off." It was the first time I ever found their names prior to this recent family research. Not many Texas history books ever identify the three young men who found Santa Anna and brought him to the wounded Sam Houston.



GENEALOGY MANUSCRIPTS: one writer's adventures in publication

BY MARY ANN THOMPSON

My grandmother got me interested in genealogy when I was in my teens and when I attempted to get information from my older relatives, they were very cooperative. I collected bits and pieces during my school years and after my marriage in 1960.

One of my ancestors, Thomas Atchley, was a Revolutionary War soldier; he and his family came to Sevierville, Sevier County, Tennessee from Virginia. There were many descendants who remained in the



THOMAS ATCHLEY HOME

area; enough that an Atchley reunion was (and still is) held every August in Sevierville. My Atchley relatives wanted to update an Atchley genealogy book that had been published in the 1930s and was out of print. There was an Atchley who was willing to pay to have it published and they just needed someone to do the work. Knowing nothing about publishing a book I volunteered to update it and the fun began (meetings, collecting information, more meetings, struggling with the index, etc.) The book was published in 1965 and everyone seemed pleased with it. As I look back now, I realize how little I actually knew and think that the book could probably have been a lot better.

I kept working on my different family names over the years as we moved from place to place. When the children were born, I'd put the genealogy aside but always came back to it when I had time. I eventually collected enough information on my husband's Thompson line to think about publishing a book. I hesitated because I had only taken the line back to 1828, the date Samuel Thompson died in McMinn County, Tennessee. I finally decided to publish anyway, hoping that getting it out there might enable other descendants to get in touch and contribute more information.

I had a genealogy book with the exact look that I wanted, so I got in touch with the author and she told me of her experience with the publisher. I decided to use them and it worked out perfectly. BookCrafters in Chelsea, Michigan and I dealt mostly by mail since I was in Plano, Texas at the time. The book was published in 1993. I ordered 250 books at a cost of \$3412.34. I had a list of the Thompsons who were interested in copies; I had spent years getting in touch with them and collecting their information. I had decided to number the copies so I would have a record of who purchased each one. I also wanted them in libraries and I had the idea that it would be great to have at least one in each state (I didn't reach that goal; only 28 states). Libraries usually don't have the resources to buy genealogy books so authors will have to donate their books. I checked for genealogy libraries and started mailing books to them. When one book was returned from Vermont because there wasn't space for it in their small collection, I started contacting the libraries first to see if they were interested.

Dealing with the Thompson book took years, but I finally sold or donated them all. Then I had nothing to do so I started putting the finishing touches on my mother's Wade family manuscript. I really wanted Tennessee Valley Publishing, Knoxville, Tennessee to publish this book but when I called, they had just discontinued publishing books. I tried to talk him into it but he said he was just too old to keep doing it. He then told me about Gregath Company, Inc., Wyandotte, Oklahoma that he knew was a reputable company that published family and local histories. I got in touch with Carrie Cook, publisher, and decided that this company was perfect for me. The Wade book was published in 2011 and I ordered 50 copies at a cost of \$3003.76. Again, I had a (much shorter) list of Wades who were interested and some genealogy libraries to which I would donate books. Again, there was the cycle of mailing the books, contacting the libraries, etc. The manuscript I had left was my Morris line, my maiden name. I got in

touch with Carrie at Gregath again and we arranged for the publication. This time I ordered 25 books at a cost of \$1633.00; the book was published in 2013.

I heard from a lot of Thompsons after publishing the Thompson book and in 2016 I had enough additions and corrections to publish a second edition. It was twice the size of the first edition. Again, I got 25 copies from Carrie at Gregath at a cost of \$1869.00.

Over the years I've been working on all my lines and in 2018 I decided to publish a book on my husband's Babb line, a history of Seth Babb, a Revolutionary soldier from Virginia. This time I ordered 20 copies at a cost of \$906.20. Now, in 2019 I am talking with Carrie to publish my seventh book; this one on my grandmother's Emery line. This one will honor her as the one who first encouraged my interest in genealogy.

I realize that the cost of publishing your family history can vary greatly. I chose to use a quality publisher because of my time spent on the projects and because I wanted the best books possible. I have worked over the years and have saved money to fund these books. I can be frugal on many things but not something that is so important to me.

There are many depositories that will accept unpublished manuscripts. If publication is not feasible, then consider donating copies of your manuscripts to local libraries, genealogical societies, the state library, etc. and national depositories that will accept them.

***GENEALOGY MANUSCRIPTS...one writer's adventure in publication** will continue in the Winter 2019 issue of *Ramblings*. In Part II, Mary Ann Thompson will offer suggestions on why, how and where to donate published family manuscripts. She will also include addresses with each library site she suggests.*

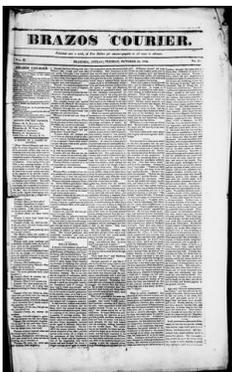


LET TEXAS BE TEXAS!

REPRINTED FROM COPANO BAY'S TEXAS READER

Just like Texans today, our Texian forebearers understood there was something special about Texas and they worried about becoming too much like the United States.

In the summer of 1840, a gentleman identifying himself only as "Marmaduke" wrote a letter to the editors of the *Brazos Courier* (published in Brazoria County until December, 1840) expressing the fear that Texas was losing its sense of itself. Marmaduke didn't like that new towns popping up across the Republic were being given names recycled from elsewhere.



He worried that "names which we can properly call our own, such as Galveston, Brazoria, Velasco and Houston will disappear and give way to others as foreign and as inapplicable to as Nashville, Cincinnati, Alabama and Virginia. There are places in Texas already known by the last mentioned names; and if this kind of puerile imitation continues till every state has its namesake in Texas, it will be no easy matter to

understand which of the two countries is alluded to in conversation. Since we have so little that is national, in the name of patriotism, let our names at least be made so; and with this view let such as are peculiarly Texian be generally adopted."

And what are "peculiarly Texian" names? In Marmaduke's words they are: "original names which have become known as belonging to Texas, whether of English, Spanish or Indian origin. They comprise most of the names of our streams and localities as they existed up to the time of our independence."

To demonstrate his point about the absurdity of applying old names to new places, Marmaduke included in his plea the following missive he imagined could be written by a Texian land speculator in the not too distant future.

It was addressed to: Nova New-Orleans (formerly Austin), on the New Mississippi River (formerly Colorado River) and dated April 15, 1847:

"Dear Sir,

Four hours after leaving the house at Canton I arrived at London Euphrates Bayou. I had intended by the way to look at the unsold lots of Mount Olympus, but I passed the place without knowing it."

...And in his letter he also mentioned places in his journey that might, in the future, be called Cairo, New Jerusalem, the Ganges (formerly Cow Creek), Rome, Mount Ida and Babylon. Marmaduke ends by writing, "A bill is before Congress to change the name of the Republic and I presume it will pass. Both houses are unanimous in wishing to drop the name of Texas, which they very justly assert is neither of Anglo-American, European, Oriental or Classical origin, and is moreover a name which has never been given to any other country before and was never heard of till this country became known.

The members are, however, much divided as to the new name to be adopted in its place. Among those proposed are New North Carolina, New Arkansas, Macedonia, and Munster."



HOW MANY WAYS CAN YOU SPELL A SURNAME?

BY HENRY HANSON



How many times have genealogists told us to learn how to spell a name at least five different ways? I already knew my grandmother's brother's surname Reddin was misspelled as Redding when he was hired to work for a Texas company in Port Arthur. His entire family stayed with that spelling even though I maintained it in my genealogy database as Reddin. That spelling of the Reddin name made it easier when using the Roots Magic index.

Then I received an email from Ancestry that I had another match. This young lady (Kris) had started building a pedigree chart, but only listed her mother's surname as Redding and her grandmother's as Halse. Her grandmother was married to a Redding. Since you can't work very well with only two generations and a surname, I decided to send Kris an email and ask her a question or two and if I received a reply, then maybe I could solve this girl's questions and add another family member or two to her family tree.

Kris replied that she was born in San Francisco and her grandmother's maiden name was Halse, the name shown in the Ancestry pedigree. This information was a key in that I could now narrow my research down to only those Redden/Reddin/Redding family members who had married or lived in California.

My search turned up a 2nd cousin, Howard Elbert Redding, born in 1934 in Brazoria County, Texas, and married a Janette Albertson, born in 1934 in Minnesota. They married in Brazoria County, Texas in 1954. Howard moved to California and he and Janette had four children between 1955 and 1962.

Using *Family Search*, I found a marriage record for Howard and Kathleen Halse in 1963 and I shared that information with Kris, my Ancestry contact. She talked to her mother and she gave me her mother's full name and birth date: Rina Chantel Redding, born 22 December 1963. Kris also told me her father was Eugene Gordillo and that her married name was Hardy.

Rina, Kris' mother, decided to take an Ancestry DNA test and now had confidence she would get her money's worth. When she shared her email, I gave her a *rtf* of my Reddin Family. Now Kris and Rina, with a little help from Ancestry.com and an email, have solved one of their family questions on their paternal side. I hope they have the same results on their Halse side.



Why We Research Our Ancestors

**I am bound to
them, though I cannot
look into their eyes
or hear their voices.
I honor their history.
I cherish their lives.
I will tell their story.
I will remember them.**

Author Unknown



UPCOMING RAMBLER PROGRAMS

BY JERRY NELSON

25 Sept. 2019 - "DNA" by Jane Magill

30 Oct. 2019 - To Be Announced

20 Nov. 2019 - Joint Meeting with the Computer Users Group

GENEALOGY COMPUTER USERS GROUP

BY JERRY MARKOWICH

18 Sept. 2019 - "How to Create a Family History Book"

16 Oct. 2019 - "Twenty-Nine Superb Websites Less Traveled by Family Historians"

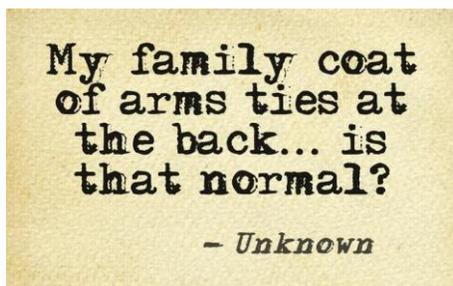
20 November 2019 - "Family Tree Maker Software"



BY JANE MAGILL

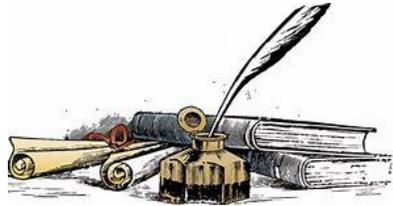
09 OCT. 2019 - "Meeting Famous People for Your Family History"

(This meeting will be held in the Bush Library classroom.)





Help!! We need our Ramblers members to send us their stories for publication in *RAMBLINGS*...they can be personal brick wall stories, family histories, book reviews, places you've visited for research or any article you've found interesting. Each story we publish will not only be read by our membership but also by online researchers who find our quarterly newsletter on the web. You may open closed genealogy doors for many, including yourself. So please contact us.



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