

Billy W. Sills Center for Archives/FWISD

presents

Max Courtney

“James Courtney: Soldier, Farmer, Enigma”

February 8, 2014



James L. Courtney lived from 1846 to 1943. He was born in rural East Tennessee, moved to Missouri as a boy, and fought in the Union Cavalry during the Civil War. The exploits of his regiment, including the battle of Nashville and Wilson’s last cavalry raid through Alabama, are recounted in history—but letters from his commanding officer lend a human side to the story. After the war, Courtney moved to Texas, passing through Fort Worth, and settling in western Falls County. There he would marry the daughter of retired Ranger Captain Thomas H. Barron and live out his life as a farmer. The years just before his move to Texas are shrouded in mystery, leading some to claim that he was none other than the outlaw Jesse James.

Max Courtney, a previous Billy Sills lecturer, is a chemist by training, and a forensic scientist in his day job. He also is an amateur historian who loves to share his findings. He has studied the life and times of James Courtney (his great grandfather) since 1978. In 1979, Max compiled and transcribed a five-year diary kept by James Courtney (1871 – 1876), which describes in some detail the day-to-day life of people in rural central Texas.

Max is an outstanding researcher. You are sure to leave this presentation well informed and entertained.

Join us for coffee and “nibbles”
beginning at 9:30 a.m.

Saturday morning, February 8, 2014

10:00 to 12:00

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NO ADMISSION FEE