



My Journey From Yesterday

Mid-Cities Genealogical Society

P.O. Box 407

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Visit our Website at: <http://www.rootsweb.com/~txmcgs>

April 2013

Volume 36 Issue 4

Jane Aronhalt, President

Mid-Cities Genealogical Society meets the 1st Thursday of each month at:

Eules Public Library
Meeting Room, 201 N. Ector
Eules, Texas
6:30 p.m. – Social
7:00 p.m. – General Meeting
Visitors are welcome.

2013 MCGS GENERAL MEETINGS CALENDAR

May 2nd

Speaker:

Paula Perkins

Program: With a Click of a Button, Demystify and Unlock the Secrets of Finding Family Records

June 6th

Celebration:

35th Anniversary of MCGS

July 11th

Speaker:

Richard Monroe

Program: Peters Colony and Immigration to Texas

August 1st

Ice Cream Social

September 5th

Speaker:

Mic Barnett

Program: Immigration to and the Settlement of North America Before the American Revolution



APRIL SPEAKER:

Judy Allen Knight

TOPIC:

Respected Lawyer to Counterfeiter

Judy Allen Knight was born in Fort Worth, Texas. She grew up attending family reunions and learning about her family history through two great aunts who gave her a love of her family history and an interest in learning more.

With an elementary education degree from East Texas State University in Commerce, Texas she taught in the public schools for 27 years.

With over 40 years of experience researching family history she has taught Genealogy at Tarrant County College and has spoken at many genealogical society programs and workshops.

She is President of Historic W.V.S. Allen Cemetery Association, Past President of Mid-Cities Genealogical Society in Eules, Texas, Past District 11 Representative of Texas State Genealogical Society and Vendor/Venue Chair for Texas State Genealogical Society for the 2012 Conference in Fort Worth.

ANCESTRY DAY: SAVE THE DATE!!

As reported in the last newsletter, MCGS is EXCITED and honored that **ANCESTRY** has invited our Society to host a Workshop on September 21, 2013.

Planning for this important event will be an ongoing effort for the next several months. **VOLUNTEERS WILL BE NEEDED!**

Please contact Terri O'Neill or Sandra Crowley regarding volunteer opportunities.

Jane Aronhalt will keep us up to date on the latest details at each monthly meeting leading up to the workshop.

If only people came with pull-down menus and on-line help...

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information.

Ellis Island's Servers were Destroyed by Hurricane Sandy

From *Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter*, March 20, 2013



ELLIS ISLAND

The Ellis Island Foundation is appealing for donations, more than what they normally ask for. In the appeal, there are some interesting facts about keeping information safe and available for all. A recent email appeal from ellisland.org states:

As you may know, Liberty and Ellis Islands were severely impacted by the destruction caused by the hurricane. Portions of both islands were flooded, causing power loss, damaged property and most importantly—closing the island to visitors.

At Ellis, all of our technology, digital infrastructure and servers that support the American Family Immigration History Center® were completely destroyed. Luckily, the immigration database was kept offsite and has remained accessible for free at www.ellisland.org. But the cost to replace and install the new equipment is close to \$2 million. This is another compelling reason we are asking for your help. Please consider making a gift of \$50, \$75 or \$100 in support of these important initiatives.

You can learn more at <https://www.ellisland.org>.

ProQuest to Distribute NewspaperArchive To Libraries

Worldwide – From *Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter*, March 11, 2013



US 1-888-815-2887 / Outside Country Call Code: 1-888-815-2887

Want to find birth announcements, marriages, obituaries, and even social gossip about your ancestors? NewspaperArchive often is the place to look. NewspaperArchive.com focuses on small, local newspapers. Those papers typically contain news articles, community news, national news, local news, sports news, current news, classified ads and historical data.

Now you will be able to view NewspaperArchive at your local library if that library subscribes to the new offering from ProQuest. Not all libraries will do that but I suspect that many will.

ProQuest announced today that it is expanding its selection of historical news content as the global distributor to libraries and other institutions for NewspaperArchive.com, a 130 million-page database that captures coverage from local newspapers throughout North America, the U.K., and select countries from 1607 to the present.

ProQuest will offer libraries the option to purchase a perpetual archive rather than just subscriptions. To learn more, visit www.proquest.com or www.newspaperarchive.com.

NGS 2013 Family History Conference

Theme: *Building New Bridges*



The NGS 2013 Family History Conference will be held at The LVH-Las Vegas Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas, Nevada. Mark your calendars for 8–11 May 2013.

The hotel and conference center are under one roof. The LVH is adjacent to the Las Vegas Convention Center, ten minutes from McCarran International Airport.

Visit www.ngsgenealogy.org for registration and conference details.



MEMBER SPOTLIGHT:

**JANE
ARONHALT**

I am an operations manager for a semi-trailer leasing company. I have been in this field for 30 years. I grew up in a small town in Kansas and moved to Texas when I married. I have been divorced for many, many years and have one son, one granddaughter, and two grandsons.

I joined MCGS after the death of my maternal grandfather in 1987. As often happens at a family funeral, stories from the past were told and retold. I thought someone in the family should gather this information. My cousin, Jerry, was also interested and thought we should join forces. The way he worded it, was that I would do the talking and he would enter the information as I collected it. He had a computer and at that time I didn't even know how to turn one on. It didn't take long before I was finding more than he could keep up with. Thanks to help from Marilyn Hay, I got my own computer and learned how to enter my family data.

Benjamin Misener, my 3rd great-grandfather, has been my most frustrating and favorite ancestor. Maybe because he is my brick wall also. He was born in 1826 in Indiana County, Pa. and died 1871 in Vernon County, Missouri. Family story is that at the age of 14, his father sent him to bring the cows in from the pasture, instead he ran away from home. As in all stories he left because of a mean step-mother. The next time he is located is in 1849 in Iowa, where he is married. He was a gunsmith in a very turbulent time in Kansas/Missouri history. The story continues that on his death bed, he claims that he changed the spelling of his last name from Mizner to Misener. And that if we meet someone that spells their name Mizner, we are related. Many other family researchers believe that his father's name was John, but I am still uncertain and have tried DNA from my father to prove the connection. I have had no success with that. DNA did help me locate another cousin descended from Benjamin who lives in Canada.

I would love to have a giant tea party and talk to my female ancestors about their lives. I have so many questions for them. Why they moved from one place to another, what was their day to day life like, what was it like being pioneer settlers, and what was it like for them when the men went to war. What did they do for fun and who was their best friend. What dreams did they have. Why Quakers? As an independent woman myself, I wonder if they felt that their life was as restricted as it seems to be to me.

I also like going to the cemeteries and searching for their graves. This was something my dad and I did together, he was really good at it.

My favorite thing in genealogy is finding old photos. I like putting a face to a person, it makes them more real to me. And I enjoy seeing a family resemblance to other family members. I also like knowing what their professions are, especially if it's not a farmer. I have too many farmers.

I like to garden, read all kinds of books, going to the movies with friends, sitting on the beach and traveling. Bucket list items are a train trip through the Rocky Mountains, an Alaskan cruise, and owning a beach house.

MCGS WRITING CHALLENGE

Have you started your memoir yet? It can be very short, or as long as you wish. Each month, as they are submitted, one will be published in the newsletter. Longer memoirs may be selected to be read at one of our regular meetings. This month's submission should serve as inspiration for your creative muse.

Submissions should be sent to:

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WHAT TO DO ABOUT THE BLACK SHEEP

The Smith's were proud of their family tradition. Their ancestors had come to America on the Mayflower. Their line had included Senators and Wall Street wizards. Now they decided to compile a family history, a legacy for the children. They hired a fine author. Only one problem arose – how to handle that great-uncle who was executed in the electric chair. The author said he could handle that chapter of history tactfully. The book appeared. It said, "Great-Uncle George occupied a chair of applied electronics at an important government institution, was attached to his position by the strongest of ties . . . his death came as a real shock."

(Editor's Note: I discovered a distant relative in my family whose death certificate showed the cause of death as "legal electrocution.")

GRANDMA'S COOKIES

Back in February at our monthly meeting one of our members told me he liked Sugar Cookies and for this past Christmas he made Sugar Cookies. Unfortunately, seemingly no one else in his family shared his love for the sugary confection. He said he had to throw away most of what he made. I told him I, too, liked Sugar Cookies, and I would share a recipe with him.

The following recipe comes from Southern California and from one of the founding Spanish-American families. This recipe is well over 100 years old. Instead of sharing the recipe with just one person, I'm going to share it with all of you.

As a good genealogist, you go out and research every "kook and cranny" looking for the next "gem" to be discovered about your Great Uncle John or Great Grandmother Betsy. When were they born? When and where did they die? Where did they live? Sometimes we have more questions than we have answers, but we keep plugging away, anyway. However, maybe we're not asking all the right questions!

After a loved one has passed away, how many of you have asked yourself or maybe other family members on those special occasions like Christmas or Easter, "Does anyone know how Mother made her special cake? Or maybe it was a special pie? Or maybe it was Aunt June's Noodle Casserole? You know...the one she only made at that special time of the year that everyone liked so well. Well, I bet everyone just looks at each other and shrugs their shoulders, right?!

Well, instead of asking about all those rather cold facts...dates, places, etc., you should be gathering a living family trust for all those recipes your family loves so well. By doing so, you keep your loved one very much alive in your hearts, plus you get to share that special dish with younger family members who never had the pleasure of knowing your loved one. Food is universal. Everyone likes to eat; therefore, everyone wants to know what's going on in the kitchen. That's why the kitchen is the best gathering place when family and friends get together. So next time your family gets together...Bon Appetit!!

1 teaspoon baking soda

½ cup sour cream, room temperature

Stir baking soda into sour cream. Let stand until puffy, 5-10 minutes.

¾ cup (1-1/2 sticks) butter

1-1/2 cups sugar

3 eggs, beaten

1-1/2 teaspoons vanilla

¼ teaspoon salt

4 cups (or more) all-purpose flour

Using an electric mixer, beat butter until it's light and fluffy. Gradually beat in 1-1/2 cups sugar and eggs. Blend in sour cream mixture, vanilla and salt. Stir in 4 cups flour (1 cup at a time), adding up to 2 tablespoons more flour, if dough appears sticky. Wrap and chill 3 hours.

½ cup all-purpose flour

¼ cup sugar

Additional sugar

Preheat oven to 375°. Lightly grease baking sheets. Divide dough into thirds. Wrap and refrigerate 2 pieces. Mix ½ cup flour and ¼ cup sugar, sprinkling your work surface with some of the flour/sugar mixture. Roll 1 piece of dough out to thickness of ¼ inch, working quickly to prevent stickiness.

Cut out rounds using 3 inch cookie cutter or approximate sized tin can. Gather scraps and refrigerate. Re-roll and cut additional rounds. Arrange 6 rounds on prepared sheet. Sprinkle tops with sugar.

Repeat with remaining dough. Bake until lightly golden on bottom, about 10 minutes. Tops should not brown at all. Cool completely before serving. (Can be prepared 3 days ahead and stored in airtight container or several weeks ahead and frozen.) Yield: 25 cookies.

Source: *Bon Appetit* magazine, March 1986 issue, p. 98

- Submitted by Helon Currie