



# My Journey From Yesterday

Mid-Cities Genealogical Society

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

April 2014

Volume 37 Issue 4

Jane Aronhalt, President

Mid-Cities Genealogical Society meets the 1<sup>st</sup> 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.

## 2014 MCGS GENERAL MEETINGS CALENDAR

**May 1, 2014**

**Carl Oehmann:**  
World War II Records

**June 5, 2014**

**Earl Armstrong:**  
Topic to be Announced

**July 9, 2014**

To Be Announced

### NOTICE:

The April and May meetings will convene in the Genealogy Room at the library.



### ***APRIL SPEAKER:***

**Barnard Meisner**

### ***TOPIC:***

Applying Family Naming  
Conventions to your  
Genealogy Research

Bernard N. Meisner began researching his family over 25 years ago and enjoys sharing lessons learned from those experiences, including the mistakes. Although he knew only one grandparent (his maternal grandfather) he has successfully identified all of his great-great grandparents and several triple-great grandparents. He is past president and current secretary, parliamentarian and webmaster of the Mid-Cities Genealogical Society.

Bernard supports his genealogical addiction by working as the Acting Chief of the Science & Technology Services Division of the National Weather Service's Southern Region. He is certified as a consulting meteorologist by the American Meteorological Society and holds a teaching certificate from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. He has taught at the Universities of Texas, Oklahoma and St. Thomas (Houston). A native of Pittsburgh, PA, he has visited almost every community named Pittsburgh/Pittsburg in the United States.

Bernard will describe some traditional naming conventions from various cultures and discuss how they can be used to provide clues for identifying family members and even crack a brick wall or two. He will also review some rather unique names that have been bestowed on children by their parents.

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!!!

Dorothy Norred  
Gayla Seymour  
Ruth Cottrell

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your name or contact information.

## STOP RESEARCHING AND START WRITING YOUR FAMILY HISTORY

*From FamilyHistoryDaily.com  
Posted by Biff and Nancy Barnes – February 8, 2013*

How much research is enough?

Do you know genealogists who say “I want to write a family history book, but I need to finish my research first?”

Somehow they never get to their book. More research leads to new avenues of information that should be explored. They charge off seeking the vital records of previously unknown ancestors. You have to admire their dogged determination. Just a bit more research and they'll be ready.

I thought about those dedicated researchers recently as I was reading *Practicing History*, a collection of essays by historian Barbara Tuchman, winner of two Pulitzer Prizes, one for *The Guns of August*, an account of the first month of World War I, and the second for *Stillwell and the American Experience in China*. Tuchman offered a great piece of advice on when to quit researching and begin writing.

She said:

The most important thing about research is to know when to stop. How does one recognize the moment? . . . One must stop before one is finished; otherwise, one will never stop and never finish. I had an object lesson in this once in Washington at the Archives. I was looking for documents in the case of Pedicaris, an American – or supposed American – who was captured by Moroccan brigands in 1904. The Archives people introduced me to a lady professor who had been doing research in United States relations with Morocco all her life. She had written her Ph.D thesis on the subject back in, I think, 1936, and was still coming for six months each year to work in the Archives. She was in her 70's and, they told me, had recently suffered a heart attack. When I asked her what year was her cut-off point, she looked at me in surprise and said she kept a file of newspaper clippings right up to the moment. I am sure she knew more about United States – Moroccan relations than anyone alive, but would she ever leave off her research in time to write that definitive history, and tell the world what she knew? I feared the answer.

How does one avoid this fate? Family history research can be a lot like US – Moroccan relations. The research will never be completed. If you want to get a family history book written you have to, at least temporarily, stop researching, start taking an inventory of the information you've already gathered and start to consider how you might organize that information in a book. When you begin to plan the book, two things will probably happen. First, you may find that you have much more information than you realized, and that you don't really need more research to fill in your outline. Second, you will know exactly what you will need to find to write the book so that your future research switches from infinite to specifically limited.

If you want to write a book, you have to begin writing it. There will be time for more research when your book is published.

## WINDOWS XP SUPPORT ENDS APRIL 8: WHAT ARE YOUR OPTIONS?



On April 8, Microsoft will cease all support to consumers who are still running Windows XP. On the same day, the company will also end support for Office 2003. This is despite the fact that millions of PC owners are still running Windows XP.

I always felt that Windows XP was the most useful version that Microsoft ever produced. Windows Vista, Windows 7, and especially Windows 8 always felt like "downgrades" to me.

If you are one of the many XP or Office 2003 users, you can be assured that your computer will **NOT** stop running on April 8. However, you do need to know the risks involved when running obsolete software. You also need to consider your options and decide if you want to stay with what you have or if you need to upgrade to a later version of Windows or to Macintosh or Chromebook or Linux or perhaps to a tablet computer.

Brian Burgess has written an article that I suggest every Windows XP user should read: *Windows XP support ends April 8: What are your options?* It is published in the GizMag web site at <http://www.gizmag.com/windows-xp-support-end-options/31218>.

If you are a casual PC user and your computing mainly consists of surfing the Web, social media, email, music, YouTube, casual games, and some light word processing, you might want to know that a Chromebook can do all of that. You will need an internet connection and a Google account to access services like Google Drive, Gmail, Google Docs, Google Music, and others. Chromebook laptops typically cost \$200 to \$300 or so. I own a Chromebook and can tell you it is a great, and inexpensive, computer for the casual user. Brian Burgess briefly describes Chromebooks in his article.

(From *Eastman's OnLine Genealogy Newsletter*, March 19, 2014)

## CHANGING MOURNING CUSTOMS

*From FamilyHistoryDaily.com*

*Posted by Vi Parsons – February 3, 2013*

In Colonial America mourning was simple; no special clothing and no elaborate meals or wakes. When a person died, the family buried them simply and with little ceremony.

During the early 1800s, when a death occurred, a carpenter was asked to build a coffin. The deceased was dressed in a shroud and laid out at home for viewing by family and friends. A brief funeral service was held, and the burial done as soon as possible.

When Prince Albert died, Queen Victoria's elaborate mourning ushered in the era of Victorian Mourning Customs. Fear of death was not as prevalent as the fear of not being properly mourned. Fashion magazines published rules of etiquette and clothing styles.

Mourning attire for a man was simple. He was expected to wear a black suit with a black armband and a wide black crepe hat band for the funeral and for the next three days. After that, he dressed normally, worked and conducted business as usual. If he had young children, he was encouraged to remarry as soon as possible so the children would have a mother.

Much more was expected from a woman. She was required to be in deep or full mourning for her husband the first year, and half mourning for another year. Deep mourning required an entire wardrobe of black crepe. Parasols, gloves, handkerchiefs, even undergarments were dull black, without lace or bows. She wore a veil in public and jewelry was not worn the first year. During the remaining period, jet black jewelry was acceptable. A popular trend was to incorporate a lock of the deceased's hair into mourning jewelry. During the Civil War, a widow wore a bonnet, not a hat. Her personal life was affected; no social activities and definitely no fun or laughter. Interested suitors could tell when her mourning time was about over, because she could wear pearls or amethysts. After a respectable time, a widow could send out black-edged cards telling her friends and family that her time of heavy mourning had passed and she was ready for visitors.

When someone died, all the members of the household and servants began deep mourning. Children wore black, and babies were dressed in white clothing trimmed with black ribbons. Curtains were drawn and clocks were stopped at the time of death. Mirrors were covered because of a superstitious belief that the spirit of the deceased could become trapped in the reflective glass. Black crepe or a black wreath was hung on the front door. Funerals for children were white, including white gloves on the mourners, white ostrich plumes on the horses, and a white coffin for the child. Funeral invitations were sometimes issued. The receiver was expected to attend the wake or funeral, and limited excuses were accepted. Funeral Cards were printed and displayed in the general store and other businesses to spread the news, even before it could be printed in the newspaper. During the Civil War, death notices were printed immediately or even handwritten, and a circuit rider would deliver them to families and businesses. In the early to mid-twentieth century, letters mailed or telegrams delivered included a black border around the edge or on the back flap, an advance warning to the recipient that a death had occurred. Who could have anticipated that the 21<sup>st</sup> century "Extreme Generation" would adopt its own mourning custom of attending funerals wearing t-shirts, shorts and flip flops!

## LISA LOUISE COOK: WELCOME TO NORTH TEXAS!!

Lisa Louise Cooke is the owner of *Genealogy Gems*, a genealogy and family history multi-media company. She is Producer and Host of the *Genealogy Gems Podcast*, the popular online genealogy audio show. Her podcast brings genealogy news, research strategies, expert interviews and inspiration to genealogists in 75 countries around the world, and recently celebrated it's 1 millionth download!

Lisa is the author of a variety of multi-media materials including the [Genealogy Gems Premium](#) website subscription, and four books: [Turn Your iPad into a Genealogy Powerhouse](#), [How to Find Your Family History in Newspapers](#), [The Genealogist's Google Toolbox](#), and [Genealogy Gems: Ultimate Research Strategies](#), and the video series [Google Earth for Genealogy](#).

In addition to *Genealogy Gems*, Lisa works closely with *Family Tree Magazine* as producer and host of the [Family Tree Magazine Podcast](#), a regular article author for the magazine, and curriculum developer and instructor for [Family Tree University](#).

Lisa's offerings are not limited to online. She is a sought after international genealogy speaker. Whether in person or online, Lisa strives to dig through the myriad of genealogy news, questions and resources to deliver the gems that can unlock each genealogist's own family history treasure trove!

Family is not just a priority professionally. Lisa is a doting wife to Bill, the proud mom of three daughters, and has added the role of Grandma to her resume. She counts her blessings every day for the love, fulfillment and laughter that family brings to every aspect of her life.

*If*

### A STORY IS IN YOU

*it has to come out.*

*William Faulkner*

IT'S THAT TIME AGAIN:

### ARBOR DAZE 2014 The Ultimate Family Festival

April 26, 2014, 9 AM to 8 PM

April 27, 2014, 2 PM to 6 PM

MCGS will be on site and would love to talk  
with you about Genealogy!

Enjoy arts and crafts, entertainment, great food and more!

## The Most Engaged Library Users are Also Biggest Tech Users

From Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter, March 18, 2014



Pew Research  
Internet Project

Some people believe the Internet, along with e-books, will drive traditional libraries out of business. A new study by the Pew Research Center disputes that assumption. In fact, the study found that Americans who are the most highly engaged library users tend to be the biggest technology users.

Although more Americans than ever are reading e-books (28% of adults ages 18 and older, as of January 2014), few have abandoned print entirely; just 4% of readers read e-books exclusively. Still, many Americans say they would be interested in exploring a range of technological services at public libraries, from personalized reading recommendations and online "Ask a Librarian" services to media kiosks and mobile apps.

You can read the Pew report at:

<http://www.pewinternet.org/2014/03/13/library-engagement-typology>.

**WE ARE PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE** that Mary Moore has graciously agreed to continue her role as Historian for MCGS. Thank you, Mary!

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(Membership from September 1, 2012 to August 31, 2013)

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