My Journey From Yesterday

Mid-Cities Genealogical Society
P.O. Box 407
Bedford, TX 76095

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

Mid-Cities Genealogical Society meets on 1st Thursday of each month at:
Mary Lib Saleh Library
Meeting Room
201 N. Ector
Euless, Texas
6:30 pm. – Social
7:00 p. m. – General Meeting - Visitors are welcome

2016 MCGS General Meetings Calendar
April 7, 2016

Speaker

Jane Aronhalt, Past MCGS President

Topic

The New Ancestry Web Interface

May 5, 2016
Speaker
Dawn Youngblood, Ph.D.
Tarrant County Archivist

Topic
Records in the Tarrant Country Archives

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Jane Aronhalt: I started researching in 1994 when a cousin ask if I would partner with him in researching our family line. Since I did not have a computer, the deal was, I would do all the talking and gathering of facts, and he would enter everything into a family history computer program. However it wasn't long before I had more than what my cousin could keep up with. So, with the help of Marilyn Hay, I purchased my first computer.

Because I have had so much help from the members of MCGS, I wanted to be part of a group that helped others find their families. I became a board member and served as President, Vice President, Program Director, and Seminar Coordinator.

On December 15th Ancestry.com moved all U.S.-based subscribers to a new version of their Web site, with the intent to enhance the ability to tell an ancestor's story, coupled with tools to make research easier and to organize media more efficiently. I will review the changes to the site, and demonstrate the new locations of some of the most popular commands.

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It is the First Day of the Month:
Back Up Your Genealogy Files
From Eastmans Online Newsletter
April 1, 2016

It is the first day of the month. It's time to back up your genealogy files. Then test your backups!

Actually, you can make backups at any time. However, it is easier and safer if you have a specific schedule. The first day of the month is easy to remember, so I would suggest you back up your genealogy files at least on the first day of every month, if not more often.

Of course, you might want to back up more than your genealogy files. Family photographs, your checkbook register, all sorts of word processing documents, email messages, and much more need to be backed up regularly. Why not do that on the first day of each month?

Free Access to Catholic Parish Register Indices Provides My First Link onto the Emerald Isle!

Contributed by Bernard N. Meisner

Although just over half of my great-great grandparents were born in Ireland I had never been able to trace any of them to their place of origin in Ireland. Last summer the National Library of Ireland announced it had digitized its collection of the registers from the majority of Catholic parishes in Ireland and Northern Ireland. Originally microfilmed by the National Library in the 1950s and 1960s, the registers are said to be the only record of many of the Irish people who lived during the 18th and 19th centuries, since civil registration didn't begin until 1864, and the 1821, 1831, 1841, and 1851 census returns were burned in the Public Records Office fire on 30 June 1922.

In March, to celebrate their release of the first index to the registers, Findmypast announced a week of free access to all their Irish records. Findmypast also promised their index of the parish registers would be freely available forever. Also, Ancestry made their Irish records freely available during the week leading up to St. Patrick's Day.

My great-great grandparents John and Anne (McCrory) Kearney arrived in Philadelphia from Liverpool on 30 May 1850. With them were their two year old son Barney (Bernard) and infant daughter Mary. For the passenger list John indicated he was a farmer and the family intended to settle in Pennsylvania. Over the years I've traced their lives in Pittsburgh, ending with their deaths in 1864 (Mary), 1890 (John), 1898 (Anne), and 1906 (Bernard). Headstones and death registers indicated the birth years for John and Anne, an exact birth date for Bernard, and Anne's maiden name was given in her newspaper death notice. In the 1880 census enumeration it was recorded that John, Anne and Bernard had been born in County Down, Ireland, while Mary had been born in England. With three births and a marriage occurring in Ireland, I felt confident I could differentiate the family from others with similar names.

Having already uploaded that branch of my family tree to Findmypast I started a search for their birth and marriage records in the parish registers. Selecting "Search for his/her birth record" quickly resulted in only one indexed baptism record each for John (on 31 Jan 1817) and Mary (on 10 Nov 1821), both in Aghaderg Parish, Dromore Diocese in County Down. John's parents were listed as James and Mary Kearney; Anne's parents were listed as Peter and Rose McClory. Four more triple great grandparents I could add to my family tree and at least a parish, if not the smaller townland subdivision, as a place of origin.

With a bit of manipulation of the search parameters I eventually found a baptismal record for a Berd Kearney (on 3 Jun 1846), parents listed as Jno Kearney and Anne McClory, in a record set entitled: "Ireland Down St Colmans Annaclone (RC) baptisms 1834-1913." Both the FamilySearch wiki and the National Library of Ireland had links to county maps that revealed Annaclone/Annaghlone and Aghaderg parishes were adjacent.

Assuming Bernard was the couple's first child I initially provided a marriage year of 1845 for John and Anne but, with Findmypast's default search range of ±1 year, no matching records were returned.

It was only after I expanded the date range that I found a marriage record for John Kearney and Anne McClory in Dromore Parish (24 Jul 1843). The county map revealed Dromore Parish lay just to the north of Annaclone Parish, where Bernard was baptized, so it seemed possible I had the correct couple. In fact, when I examined the image of the parish record I noted "Anaghlone" was written at the top of the pages, suggesting the marriage actually occurred in the same parish where Bernard was baptized.

Although John and Mary were married in June 1843 I could find no baptized children, other than Bernard, for whom they were listed as the parents from 1843 (when they were married) through 1849 (when Mary was born in Liverpool, England), in the Aghaderg, Annaclone or Dromore registers. The three year interval between children continued after John and Anne settled in Pittsburgh.

The Irish Times' *Irish Ancestors* Web site provides information regarding all known copies of the parish registers. Since no registers are available prior to 1800 for the parishes where the Kearneys lived in Ireland it is unlikely I will find earlier generations of the family.

Having a branch of my family tree uploaded to Findmypast resulted in some quick finds of two of the baptismal records. However, it did take further investigation and experimental manipulation of the search parameters, in addition to some reviews of wikis and other sites, before I could find the marriage and son Bernard's baptismal records. In the end the free access to the Catholic Parish Register Indices provided my first link onto the Emerald Isle! I now have some locations in The Old Country where I can place a pin on a map and say, "My ancestors lived there!"

Note: Once I found Bernard's baptismal record in the St Colmans record set, I located the image in the collection on the National Library of Ireland Web site. That site allows the user to input a parish name, a record type – Baptism, Marriage or Burial – and a month and year to browse the images. So, why didn't my Findmypast searches find that record? When Ancestry made its records available I navigated to the image with Bernard's baptism recorded and selected the "Show Index" icon. I discovered the surname had been indexed as "Keanny" rather than "Kearney!" I confirmed the record had been indexed as "Keanny" on Findmypast, too. This raises the question of whether both companies are using the same index of the records.

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Legacy of Texas Salutes the Alamo Defenders

"Thermopylae had her messenger of defeat, the Alamo had none"
From: Legacy of Texas **On Behalf Of** Legacy of Texas March 6, 2016

The Alamo Defenders

On this day [Mar 6] in 1836, the fortified compound of San Antonio de Valero Mission, under siege for thirteen days by the Mexican army under General Antonio Lòpez de Santa Anna, was subjected to an early morning assault. After a fierce battle, lasting for perhaps some 90 minutes, the defenses of the **Alamo** were overrun and all the defenders were killed. The chapel fell last. The slogan "Remember the Alamo!" subsequently became a rallying cry for the Texas Revolution, and the **Alamo** became a shrine to fallen Texas heroes.

What of real military value did the defenders' heroic stand accomplish? Some movies and other works of fiction pretend that **Houston** used the time to raise an army. During most of the siege, however, he was at the Convention of 1836 at Washington-on-the-Brazos and not with the army. The delay did, on the other hand, allow promulgation of independence, formation of a revolutionary government, and the drafting of a constitution. If **Santa Anna** had struck the Texan settlements immediately, he might have disrupted the proceedings and driven all insurgents across the Sabine River. The men of the Alamo were valiant soldiers, but no evidence supports the notion advanced in the more perfervid versions that they "joined together in an immortal pact to give their lives that the spark of freedom might blaze into a roaring flame." Govenor Smith and the General

council ordered Neill, Bowie, and **Travis** to hold the fort until support arrived. Despite all the victory or death" hyperbole, they were not suicidal. Throughout the thirteen-day siege, Travis never stopped calling on the government for the promised support. The defenders of the Alamo willingly placed themselves in harm's way to protect their country. Death was a risk they accepted, but it was never their aim. Torn by internal discord, the provisional government could not deliver on its promise to provide relief, and **Travis** and his command paid the cost of that dereliction. As Travis predicted, his bones did reproach the factious politicos and the parade ground patriots for their neglect. Even stripped of chauvinistic exaggeration, however, the battle of the Alamo remains an inspiring moment in Texas history. The sacrifice of Travis and his command animated the rest of Texas and kindled a righteous wrath that swept the Mexicans off the field at **San Jacinto**. Since 1836, Americans on battlefields over the globe have responded to the exhortation, "Remember the Alamo!"

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DISCOVERING *A GOLD MINE*
A Member's Story--Contributed by Rod Ashford

My husband and I were traveling in Oregon in the summer of 2014 chasing down family history. My husband grew up in Oregon and all his family roots for several generations are there. We decided to go to Polk County, the place where his Ashford great-great-grandparents, his great-grandparents and his grandparents lived in the last half of the 1800s and the early part of the 1900s. We were looking for the cemetery where his great-great grandparents were buried. We knew absolutely no family members who lived in that area, but since we had GPS on our vehicle, and we had the location for the cemetery that seemed to be a pretty easy task.

Following the GPS directions, we turned off the main road onto a dirt road which appeared to be leading to a farm. There was farm equipment, farm buildings and standing crops all around, but no people in sight. Continuing down a rutted dirt road, and driving alongside corn fields we continued to follow the GPS directions until the voice told us we had arrived at our destination. Looking around, we did not see a cemetery anyplace. There was a fence and a stand of tall trees to our left and standing corn to our right. Ahead were more fields of corn. This was looking like GPS didn't have a clue where that cemetery was. The challenge at the moment was how to turn around on that dirt trail without running over some farmer's corn.

We drove back out to the highway and saw a house directly across the road.   We thought perhaps whoever lived there might be able to direct us to the cemetery. It turned out that no one was home at that house except about 20 dogs in cages who all let us know that unless we were there with food, we probably weren't welcome.

We continued on the main road in the direction we had been traveling until that road dead ended into another farm-to-market road with a sign directing us to the community of Peedee a few miles to the left. That turned out to be a wide spot in the road with a filling station and an auto mechanic shop. We stopped at one of the trailer houses to see if someone could point us in the direction of the cemetery. My husband knocked on the door . . . and knocked on the door . . . and knocked on the door. Finally, someone came to the door. When questioned, she had no idea where the cemetery was that we were looking for. She did, however, indicate that a little further along that road there was a church, and that there was a pioneer cemetery at that church. Score!

We found the church, but no sign of a cemetery! In any direction! So we turned around and headed back towards Peedee. A little ways down the road we passed a street on our right with the name "Ira Hooker Road." Now Ira Hooker was my husband's four greats grandfather. I yelled for him to stop! There was a house right on the corner.   I suggested that we stop and ask whoever lived there if they knew anything about that cemetery since Ira Hooker was buried at the cemetery we were looking for. My husband announced that he wasn't asking anybody else for directions! The end! I assured him I had no problem asking directions.

We pulled up to the farm house. There was a screen door at the front wooden door. I knocked on the screen door. A sweet little voice from inside invited me to "Come in." I opened the screen door and meet a little granny lady who was all smiles. I told her that I noticed that she lived on Ira Hooker Road, and asked if there were still any Hookers living anywhere around there. She said that she thought she remembered her mama mentioning the Hookers. I ask who her mother was and I didn't recognize the name she gave me.

Then I ask who her grandmother was. That was a name I knew well. I opened the door and told my husband to turn off the car engine and come in. We were *with* family. The sweet little lady turned out to be my husband's second cousin, once removed. Her grandmother and my husband's great grandmother were sisters. Her name was Alberta. Alberta knew exactly where the cemetery was that we were looking for. In fact, she took us there. The cemetery turned out to be on the opposite side of the stand of tall trees next to the cornfield. Then Alberta took us to the pioneer cemetery "by the church." It was actually at the top of a hill overlooking the church and the whole valley. That's where "her people" were buried.

The caveat was that the following summer, in 2015, we went back to see Alberta. She was overjoyed to see us. She hauled a big box full of photographs down from upstairs and we spent the afternoon going through old photos with her telling us stories about all the people. We were able to record our visit with her and scan lots of old family photos.

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TNG 11 is Now Available

From: Eastmans Online Genealogy Newsletter   March 18, 2016

The Next Generation of Genealogy Sitebuilding (usually abbreviated to "**TNG**") strikes me as an example of the wave of the future for genealogy software. It can be used by one person alone as a personal genealogy program, somewhat similar to RootsMagic, Legacy Family Tree, Family Tree Maker, Reunion, GRAMPS, Mac Family Tree, Heredis, and other genealogy programs that many of us have installed in our own computers for years. However, as a cloud-based program, it also has the capability to be a genealogy management program for use by groups of people, whether it might be used by two cousins working together on the same family or by a 100 members (or more) of a genealogy society to document all the people with a particular surname or perhaps all the early settlers of a town.
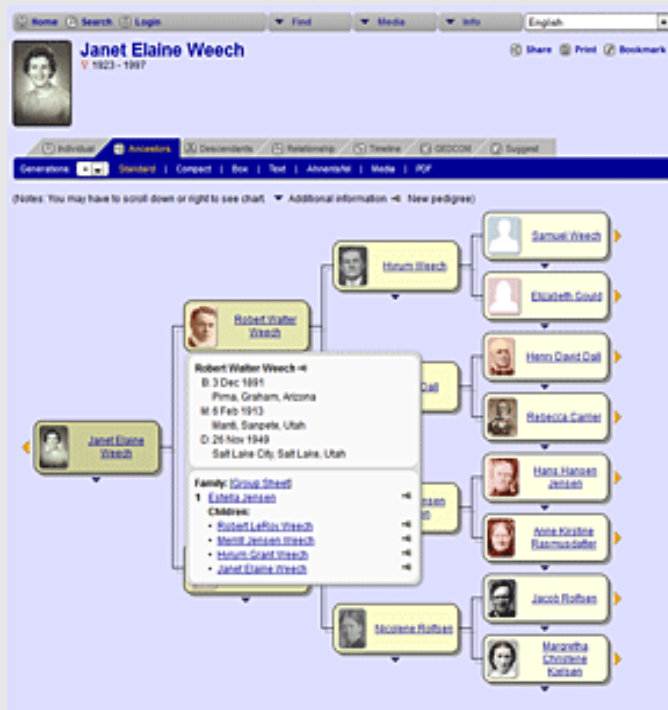

TNG is not one of the better-known genealogy products. Yet everyone I know who uses TNG seems to love the program. Its users seem to be the best cheerleaders for TNG. Just ask any user of TNG. To learn more about **The Next Generation of Genealogy Sitebuilding (TNG)**, look at http://www.tngsitebuilding.com. To see examples of how others are using the program, ok at http://www.tngsitebuilding.com/usersites.php.

Now Darrin Lythgoe, the creator of the Next Generation of Genealogy Sitebuilding ("TNG"), has announced a significant new upgrade for the program:

SANDY, UT: A major upgrade for **The Next Generation of Genealogy Sitebuilding** (or "TNG"), is now available from Next Generation Software. TNG 11 includes many new charts and features, including the ability to track DNA tests. Existing users can purchase the upgrade at a discount by returning to their previous download page.

This release also includes a new template design, translations for two additional languages (Arabic and Slovak), and dozens of other improvements. These include fan charts, data validation reports, heat maps and the ability to run a Google search on an entire web site.

In a continuing effort to make TNG sites more mobile friendly, several pages and tables have also adapted a more responsive design. Changes have also been made to allow TNG to remain compatible with the latest versions of PHP and MySQL

For those already running TNG, upgrading to the new version should be fairly easy and should take less than 15 minutes. Helpful videos are also available to walk users through the process and to highlight new features and other processes, but an option also exists to pay for the upgrade to be installed for them. TNG makes it easy to put your genealogy on your web site in dynamic fashion. It uses a database to store your information, so the pages are created at the time they're requested. When you want to make a change, you only need to upload your GEDCOM file again, or enter the new facts directly online. TNG also allows you to link photos and other media to the people in your tree. You're in total control, so you can update your information or customize the look and feel any time you want.

TNG is commercial software ($32.99 USD one-time license fee). In order to run TNG, your web site must support PHP (a programming language) and MySQL (the database). Existing users may upgrade to the latest version online for $14.99 or $16.99, depending on their currently installed version. The first version of TNG was published by Darrin Lythgoe in 2001

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The Truth About St. Patrick

From Eastmans Online Newsletter   March 19, 2016

March 17 is celebrated by millions of Irish descendants every year. They all know the "facts" about Saint Patrick. Or do they?

St. Patrick wasn't Irish, and he wasn't born in Ireland. Patrick was probably born in what is now England, Scotland or Wales around A.D. 390. Most agree that St. Patrick's parents were Roman citizens living in the British Isles. Therefore, Patrick himself was a Roman citizen even though he was born somewhere in what is now Great Britain. He was living in Scotland or Wales (scholars can't agree which) when he was kidnapped at age 16 by Irish raiders and sold as a slave, reports Catholic Online. He spent years in Ireland herding sheep until he escaped. He eventually returned to Ireland where he spread Christianity.

St. Patrick did not bring Christianity to Ireland. Christianity was introduced into Ireland by a bishop known as Palladius before Patrick began preaching in Ireland. However, St. Patrick apparently had more success at converting the Irish to Christianity than did Palladius.

Legend has it that St. Patrick ran all the snakes out of Ireland. If he was the one to drive snakes out of Ireland, we have to congratulate him on also eradicating all signs of prehistoric snakes. You see, nobody has ever found a fossil of a snake in Ireland! Ireland apparently never had snakes in the first place, due its glacial history and geographical location.

The "wearin' of the green" also should not be linked to St. Patrick's Day. Early depictions of St. Patrick always showed him wearing blue garments. In fact, King Henry VIII used a gold Irish harp on a blue flag when he declared himself king of Ireland, according to the Smithsonian. But

political discord also affected colors and as the people of Ireland distanced themselves from the British crown, green eventually became associated with Ireland (and the country's rebellion) long after the death of St. Patrick.

Corned beef is not a classic St. Patrick's Day dish nor even an Irish dish. In Ireland, corned beef has always been a rarity. Instead, a type of bacon similar to ham is more common. According to *Irish Cultures and Customs* at http://irishcultureandcustoms.com/2Kitch/aCBeef Cabge.html, "The truth is, that for many Irish people, Corned Beef is too 'poor' or plain to eat on a holiday: they'd sooner make something more festive."

In the late 19th century, Irish immigrants in New York City's Lower East Side supposedly substituted corned beef, which they bought from their Jewish

neighbors, in order to save money. However, cabbage is certainly a common Irish ingredient in many meals.

The traditional St. Patrick's Day parade is not traditional, at least not in Ireland. The first documented St. Patrick's Day parade was held in New York City, not in Ireland. Eighteenth-century Irish soldiers fighting with the British in the U.S. Revolutionary War held the first St. Patrick's Day

parades. Some soldiers, for example, marched through New York City in 1762 to reconnect with their Irish roots.

Other parades followed in the years and decades after, including well-known celebrations in Boston, Philadelphia, and Chicago, primarily in flourishing Irish immigrant communities.

And then there is the green beer…
No, it isn't Irish either. ********************

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Drilling started at the Breckenridge field in 1918, but the boom did not really get underway until 1920, when the town saw the arrival of thousands of workers and speculators, who threw up acres of tents and shacks in the classic oil boomtown manner. From a population estimated at 1,500 in January 1920 the town grew to 30,000 within a year. Activity was frenzied as some 200 wells were put down inside the city limits; hoards of gamblers, liquor sellers, and prostitutes were on hand to provide recreation. By July the town acquired its first railroad, the Wichita Falls, Ranger and Fort Worth, which was soon joined by the Cisco and Northeastern. After three exciting years, oil production slowed, and the town lost much of its population, although it held its place as a commercial and oil production center. By 1930 the population had fallen to 7,569, and the town had 480 businesses. The **Great Depression** brought the population down further to 5,826 in 1940. The population was 6,605 in 1950, 5,944 in 1970, 5,665 in 1990, and 5,868 in 2000. In the 1980s Breckenridge was still a center for petroleum-related industries and was a retail and shipping center for the county.

From:
https://tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/hfb05city

4A | Local & Texas | Star-Telegram
March 14, 2016

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Basil Clemons Photograph Collection

Elks Lodge Charity Show, Breckenridge, 1926

TIME FRAMES

The Breckenridge Lodge of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks staged a charity show in the Breckenridge High School auditorium in 1926.

The Breckenridge oil boom was at its height, and pioneer local photographer Basil Clemons was there to record the event.

The women of the Colonial Chorus, pictured here, are wearing elaborate costumes. Other charity

show acts documented by Clemons were the Baby-face Chorus and the Oriental Chorus, both costumed exquisitely.

The Basil Clemons Photograph Collection comprises some 18,000 images that document the development and decline of this oil boom town from 1919 to 1948. Other subjects of Clemons' lens include circuses, fairs, Wild West shows, retail establishments, street

scenes, ranches, sporting events, fires, floods and the oil field.

The University of Texas at Arlington Libraries offer a rich and diverse collection of materials on the history of Texas and the Southwest. Each week in Time Frames, readers get a glimpse of the past with an image from Special Collections. 817-272-3393; library.uta.edu/special-collections.

BRECKENRIDGE, TEXAS. Breckenridge, [is] the county seat of Stephens County, . . . …It originated about 1854 as Picketville . . .

Breckenridge served as the court and local trading center for several quiet decades until 1916–17, when oil discoveries at Ranger occurred.

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