



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>

February 2014

Volume 37 Issue 2

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.

2014 MCGS GENERAL MEETINGS CALENDAR

March 6, 2014

Kathleen Kent:
"The Outcasts"

April 3, 2014

Bernard Meisner:
"Applying Family Naming Conventions
to your Genealogy Research"

May 1, 2014

Carl Oehmann:
Topic to be Announced

June 5, 2014

Earl Armstrong:
Topic to be Announced



FEBRUARY SPEAKER:

Meg Hacker
Director of Archives
National Archives at
Fort Worth

TOPIC:

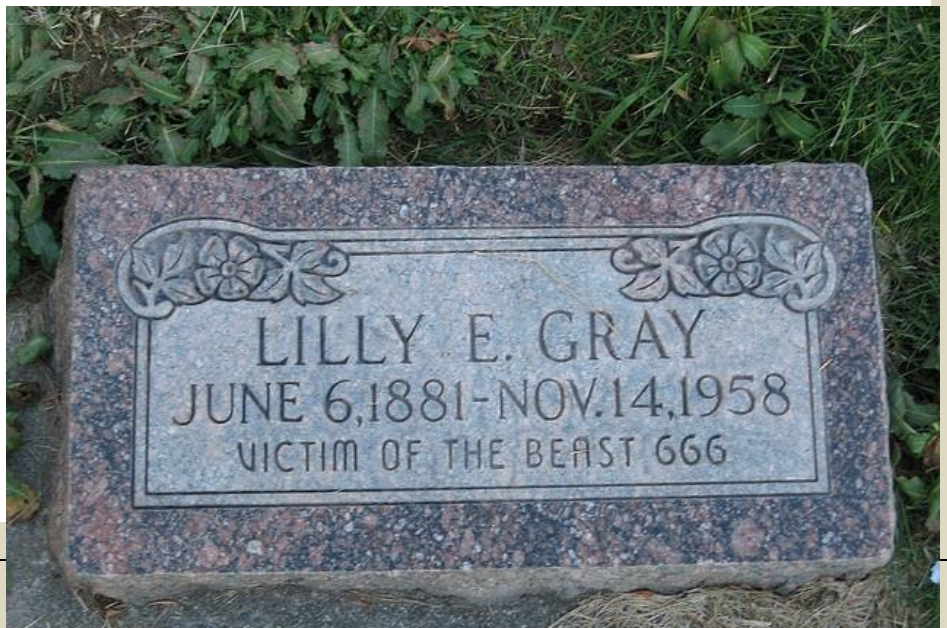
Fort Smith

Born in Florida and raised in West Texas, Meg has been with the National Archives at Fort Worth since 1985. She received her B.A. in American History from Austin College and her M.A. in American History from Texas Christian University. Texas Western Press published her thesis, *Cynthia Ann Parker: The Life and The Legend*.

She has presented to numerous historical and genealogical societies, archives and library associations, teacher in-services, and classrooms on a wide assortment of topics including: Chinese exclusion, repatriation oaths, genealogy, immigration records, Native American records, 19th century Fort Smith criminal cases, maritime records, and basic strategies for researching at the National Archives.

HOW'S THIS FOR A HEADSTONE?????

(Google "Lilly E. Gray" to Learn the Lore and the Legend)



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MEMBER
SPOTLIGHT:

MARY MOORE

A member of MCGS since 2001, Mary retired in 2009 following 31 years of service in the Accounting Department at Frito Lay/PepsiCo Inc. She met her husband, Mike, in 1993 and married a year later. On Valentine's Day 2002, they received custody of their son, Gavin. He was three years old at the time and is now a High School sophomore. "We have been through many challenges over the last 12 years, but we feel very blessed to have him in our lives."

Her interest in genealogy was sparked when a cousin gave her a copy of a photo of her great-grandmother's parents. "I started wanting to know more about them and began asking questions of family members who were still living. It started with that one photo, and I now have more than 6,000 people in my tree!"

Her most challenging ancestor is Elcanah Hogan, born in Overton County, Tennessee and adopted by a Hogan at a very young age. The Overton County Courthouse burned and there are no records of his birth or his mother's maiden name. Mary has been searching for his biological father for several years now.

The "surprise" of her family tree was learning that her great-grandfather on her father's side reportedly stabbed a man in Oklahoma and left his family, never to be seen again. Her grandfather was 10 years of age at the time.

Mary loves going to courthouses to research, but says so much is now available on Ancestry, she finds a lot of information online. When time allows, she enjoys visiting cemeteries and taking photos for Find-A-Grave.

In addition to her passion for genealogy, Mary also enjoys quilting and scrapbooking.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Wayne James, Maria & Tom McDaniel, David Metzgar, John Pinkerton and Phylecia Schooling.

DALLAS GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

2014 WRITING CONTEST

The Dallas Genealogical Society has announced its 2014 Writing Contest for original material on topics of interest to genealogists and family historians. The contest is open to members and non-members of the DGS. Hobbyists, transitional, and professional genealogists are welcome to submit entries. Submissions may include genealogies, family histories, and case studies that demonstrate use of genealogical methodology, techniques, and sources.

While the DGS has a goal of preserving Dallas area history, subject matter for the competition is not limited to the local geographic area except as defined in the contest Rules and Guidelines. Entries will be judged on accuracy, clarity of writing, and overall impact and interest. They may not have been previously published. The submission deadline is April 1, 2014. Winners will be announced in July 2014.

First Prize is \$500, Second Prize is \$300 and Third Prize is \$150.

Complete Rules and Guidelines are available at:

<http://www.dallasgenealogy.org/Info/Guidelines.pdf>

“Once again, this is an opportunity for genealogists and family historians to preserve some of their family history and to achieve recognition for their work,” said Marianne Szabo, Director of Publications Content. “The contest offers a unique venue for researchers to tell part of their story.”



**DALLAS SPRING
LECTURE
MARCH 22, 2014**

KEYNOTE SPEAKER:

LAURA G. PRESCOTT

Registration is open for the Dallas Genealogical Society Spring Lecture, 2014, to be held Saturday, March 22, 2014 at the J. Eric Jonsson Central Library. The keynote speaker is Laura G. Prescott, a professional researcher and writer.

Laura graduated with a B.A. in History from Dartmouth College in 1980, ultimately putting her degree to good use over a decade later when she discovered a latent passion for genealogy. She worked for the New England Historic Genealogical Society for seven years before starting her own research business. Originally from Charleston, West Virginia, she has lived in New England for over 35 years.

Laura is past president of the Association of Professional Genealogists and a consultant for Fold3.com. She lectures and writes for national audiences on a variety of genealogical topics. Her specialties include the use of manuscripts in genealogical research, genealogy on the internet, online military records, and merging history with genealogy.

Her articles have appeared in *Ancestry*, *New England Ancestors*, *Genealogical Computing*, *NGS Magazine*, and *Digital Genealogist*.

Topics will include:

Playing Hide-and-Seek with Ancestors in City Directories. Explore the history and growth of city directories, discover their value to genealogists researching urban and suburban families, and learn tricks and tips in using them to trace family migrations, address changes, careers, and events.

Timelines: Placing Your Heritage in Historical Perspective. Match historical events to an ancestor's life, or synchronize one ancestor's events to another's through timelines. Literally the outlines of our ancestors' lives, timelines lead us to solutions and surprises.

Treasures within the Ivory Tower: Finding Family in Academic Archives. College and university libraries are historical repositories for their communities and their special collections are overlooked resources. Your ancestors did not have to attend a college for you to find them through this unique town-and-gown connection. Learn where to look, what you can find, and the most efficient techniques to get the information you seek.

The Rest of the Story: Using Manuscripts to Create a Family History. Tap into great repositories of historical treasure! Discover where to find information about your ancestors in special collections and why manuscripts and artifacts are essential to building your family's story. Registration is open online or via email. For more information visit www.dallasgenealogy.org.

The Legal Genealogist: The Comforts of Home

Posted January 11, 2014
(contributed by Barb Lancaster)

The Potbellied Stove



Although it may come as a surprise to members of our families, genealogists are – for the most part, at least – normal people with normal lives and normal concerns. And once you accept that notion as true, it follows as the dawn follows the dark that the big topic of conversation among genealogists this past week was . . . the cold.

That awful biting bitter terrible below-zero cold so very much of the country experienced. The snow. The ice. The power outages. The freezing pipes.

There was no running water at my grandparents' farm in Central Virginia when I was growing up. You got water by lowering a bucket into a well on a porch that was open to the elements. And you used the outhouse down by the barn if you could reach it – and a chamber pot in your room if you couldn't.

My grandmother finally let us put a bathroom and running water into the farmhouse around her 80th birthday – she'd been a widow for years by then.

(Continued next column \Rightarrow)

(\Leftarrow Continued from Left Column)

And what passed for central heat (a propane stove) didn't arrive in the farmhouse until after my grandmother's death when she was nearly 97 years old.

For the 45 years my grandmother lived there, with husband and kids, then husband and grandkids, then with grandkids and/or one or more grown kids during the decades she was a widow, the singular source of heat in that farmhouse was a series of potbellied stoves.

During the day, as many people as would fit would gather round the potbellied stove in the dining room – a kind of central community room to the farm. That's where we ate and where we watched the grownups play cards and where we listened, oh how we listened, to the stories.

If the farm was really crowded, as it often was during Christmas visits, the kids would be banished to one of the two bedrooms that had their own potbellied stoves. I seem to recall best that a big responsibility of older cousins was convincing younger cousins not to touch the stoves.

If you were lucky as a winter visitor to the farm, you got to sleep in one of the bedrooms with a potbellied stove. The theory was that you'd use just enough wood to last until morning by allowing in just enough air to keep the fire burning low but steadily.

It never worked in my family's room. We would always wake to a freezing room and pray that some adult who knew how to operate the stove would get up and start a new fire before the need to use the chamber pot would force us out from under the covers.

Once the new fire was started, of course, about forty-'leven kids would pile out of bed and huddle around the stove. You've seen those chicken rotisseries where the chickens go round and round to cook evenly? Well, think kid rotisseries: you'd huddle up around the stove until your front got hot and your backside was freezing, then you'd turn around until the opposite was true.

One of the great regrets of my life was getting old enough to "graduate" out of the family bedroom to the middle room. It was, in reality, little more than the second floor walkway above the breezeway, so there was no heated room below to send warmth up through the floorboards – and it didn't have a stove of its own.

In the summers I really hated that room. There were always three of us in a double bed: my older sister, Diana, and an even older cousin, Kay, and me. The bed sagged in the middle. Guess where I got to sleep, as the youngest?

In the winters, the sleeping arrangements were a little better, except I was always about half afraid that under the weight of a cousin on one side, a sister on the other and about a half-ton of blankets, I might smother.

And it was so cold. Cold enough that more than one kid actually did stick to a chamber pot. Cold enough that you hoped you had room to bring your day clothes into the bed and dress under the half-ton of blankets before getting up. Cold enough that it wasn't unusual to wake up with a patch of ice on your pillow where your breath had frozen.

And lest you think I'm exaggerating – after all, how cold can it have been in the southern state of Virginia anyway? – I went and took a look at the weather in the town nearest to the farm that has records going back to when I was a kid and we'd spend late December and early January on the farm.

The low temperature in Louisa, Virginia in January 1957 was -5F; -3F in 1959; -4F in 1961; -9F in 1962; and -4F in 1964 and 1965. So how did our ancestors get through those terrible cold winters? The way my family did . . . in the 1950's, 1960's, 1970's and beyond. And maybe better than we do today, when we expect – and sometimes can't get – electricity, running water . . . and central heat.