



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>

January 2013

Volume 36 Issue 1

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

January 3rd
"Ask the Experts"
Workshop

(Submit your questions (in as much detail as possible, please) to Sandra Crowley at sandrac@tx.rr.com before the January 3rd meeting to explore possible solutions. Please include "Genealogy Question" in the subject line)

February 7th

Speaker:

Rusty Brenner

Program: Cemetery Restoration

March 7th

Speaker:

Bernard Meisner

Program: Mining the Gems in Civil War Pension Files

Dallas Genealogical Society
Spring Lecture
March 16th, 2013

Keynote Speaker:

Paula Stuart-Warren

Topics and registration information available at

www.dallasgenealogy.org

OBITUARY

MARIE ANN ELIZABETH DOBRANICH TALBOTT

(1953 – 2012)



Marie Ann Elizabeth Dobranich Talbott went to heaven on Friday, December 28, 2012. Service: 11 AM Saturday, January 5, 2013, at Calvary Lutheran Church, 7620 Baker Boulevard, Richland Hills, Texas, 76118 (Old Highway 10 at Booth Calloway), with visitation one hour prior to the service. Following the service, there will be a catered gathering at the church from noon to 1:30 PM. Interment: 2 PM Saturday in Bluebonnet Hills Memorial Park. Memorials: In lieu of flowers, the family asks that memorials be made to National Kidney Foundation.

IN MEMORIAM

Our good friend, Marie, passed away suddenly on December 28, 2012. A very active member of Mid-Cities Genealogy Society, she served as treasurer, vice-president and newsletter editor. She was a tremendous asset to the Society, often the first to volunteer to help with various projects. Although a gifted conversationalist, she was uncomfortable speaking before a group. In addition to genealogy, she loved scrapbooking, sewing and quilting, and traveled as often as she could. Marie was always up for a road trip, especially when it involved genealogy research. She was an interesting person because she was so interested in so many things herself.

She is survived by her husband, Rick; son Kyle and his wife, Genny, who are expecting their first child any day; daughter, Kristie and husband, Reagan Renner, their twins, Payne and Phynlee (21 months); mother, Edith Cron Dobranich; sisters, Kathy, Sharon and Diana; and brother, James. She was preceded in death by her father, James Dobranich, Sr.

On a personal note, Marie was a great friend. While dealing with my own health problems and undergoing a spinal tap, she was at my bedside holding my hand the entire time. She even had to help the young intern who was performing the test.

A terrific traveling companion, we traveled often and were always planning our next trip. She was always up for an adventure and didn't mind taking little detours. She even attended my mom's family reunion, and when everyone wanted to know who she was, she told them she was with my dad. My dad loved it and went right along with her joke.

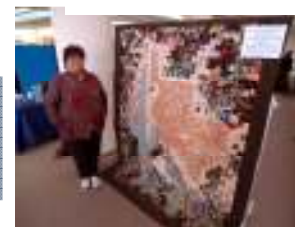
I am so glad I had the opportunity to see her having a wonderful time with her family just before Christmas. She loved being a grandmother and looked forward to meeting the newest addition to her family.

I will miss her smart, witty sense of humor and her big, caring heart.

By: Jane Misener Aronhalt



GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN



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GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY**

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Please contact Carole Crawford, ruanyone@yahoo.com, to report errors in your name or contact information.

OBITUARY

MCGS member, Mary Anna Callaway, lost her mother, Beulah Misener Johnston, on Saturday morning. Mrs. Johnston was also the great-aunt of Jane Aronhalt.

Beulah Juanita Johnston, 95, passed away Saturday, December 29, 2012, in Grapevine, Texas.

Beulah was born August 25, 1917 in Collinsville, Oklahoma and resided in the Kansas City and Overland Park, Kansas areas for many years. She worked as a medical record librarian there. She was preceded in death by her husband, Forrest B. Johnston. She was a member of Oates Drive Baptist Church in Mesquite, Texas.

Survivors include her daughter, Mary Anna Callaway of Bedford, Texas; granddaughter, Deanna Yount and husband, Marshall, of Dallas, Texas; granddaughter Lydia Valtchanov and husband, Velentin, of Euless, Texas; and three great-grandchildren, Katerina, Alex and Nick Valtchanov.

Memorial Service: January 2, 2013 at 1:00 PM at Muehlebach Funeral Home in Kansas City, Missouri.

Memorials: In lieu of flowers, donations in her memory may be made to the Alzheimer's Association.

MCGS WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

Contributed By: Jane Aronhalt

There is a saying that "When a door closes, a window opens." In this case, the "door" is the Irving Genealogical Society, and MCGS is proud that we could be their "window." For many years IGS was a vibrant and functioning part of the Dallas/Fort Worth genealogical family. Sadly, they have decided to disband, and Mid-Cities extended an invitation to their members to join us and continue to be involved. Their many skilled and experienced genealogists will be a valuable addition to our Society, and we look forward to getting to know them and learn about their family history.

Barb Tsirigotis
Mary K. Weber
Judy Gafford
Mary Moorman
Kathy Pryor
Bill Matthews
Penny M. Lawhorn
Arline Grigsby
Sherry Johnson
Martha Hardin
Dorsey Denton
Ruth Bowen

Joyce Bentley
Eva Kellogg
Colleen Stanglin
Evelyn McClure
J. D. Bayne
Mary Archer
David Navorska
Betty Mizell
Melba Johnson
Susan Eldridge
Ruth Cottrell
Dr. Alan & Betty Miller

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

Our "Hospitality" position remains open. If you are interested in filling that vacancy and would like to take a more active role at MCGS, please contact Jane Aronhalt.

DEADFRED

First **FindAGrave**, then **DeathIndexes**, and now **DeadFred**. This site, in spite of its name, has nothing to do with mortality. Click on “Meet Fred” if you’re curious about Fred, but this is a “genealogy photo archive” run by Joe Bott. Think of it as a photobase – a database of photos.

Photos can be frustrating. Even if you have them, many of our short-sighted ancestors neglected to label them, leaving you to guess who the handsome fellow in the bowler hat was. And they tend to stray. An elderly relative passes away and the estate management company sells all the family memorabilia. By the time you hear, it’s too late.

DeadFred allows us to indulge our love of photos and rescue them as well. The web site serves as a sort of middleman, helping pictures get to those who will appreciate them most or in front of those who might be able to identify the mystery people staring out from them. You can upload your own or search others’ (by name, location, etc.) to see if perhaps a distant cousin posted one of a shared ancestor. And if you’re one of the fortunate ones, you might trip across one of your own ancestors.

Back when the site first launched, I was asked to write a review, so I tested it by posting a mystery image from my own collection. It shows half a dozen children in costumes (apparently a class play) and was taken around the 1910s. I knew that someone in my family was in it, but that’s all I knew, so I put it on DeadFred, noting that it was from Jersey City and had been owned by my grandmother, Beatrice Agnes (Reynolds) Shields.

I wrote the article and forgot about it until I received an email about six months later from someone saying she also had Reynolds ancestors from Jersey City. I didn’t get terribly excited until I read the rest of the message, and it became clear that the writer was descended from the first family of an immigrant ancestor of mine, James Reynolds. I count myself among DeadFred’s success stories.

- Excerpt from:
Who Do You Think You Are?
By Megan Smolenyak,
Chief Genealogical Consultant

IT’S YOUR LIBRARY: USE IT, OR LOSE IT!

By: David Obee – Excerpt from *Internet Genealogy*, Aug/Sep 2012

It’s odd, in a way. At a time when governments around the world seem committed to cutting funding for libraries and archives, family historians are using the resources from those government-funded institutions more than ever. There’s a catch, though. We are using material that has been collected and preserved by these institutions – which were funded using money from taxpayers – without leaving our homes.

That’s one of the benefits of the internet age, this chance to update our family trees while wearing slippers, listening to music and quenching our thirst. And we can do this whenever we want; our work is not confined to the opening hours of the libraries and archives the way it once was.

Who needs the hassle of leaving the house, dealing with traffic and finding parking? We can find what we want on the web, on sites run by government agencies or by commercial interests. We are living in a digital wonderland, and our family trees have never been easier to expand.

But there is a downside to this, and it’s a big one. We are sending the message that these venerable institutions, the sources of so much information for us, are no longer needed.

Check the reading rooms, and you’ll see what I mean. Not that long ago, it was next to impossible to find a spot to sit, and we had to reserve time on the microfilm machines. Now, the crowds are gone, and the machines are gathering dust. Even the greatest family history library of them all – you know, the one across from Temple Square in Salt Lake City – has seen a significant drop in traffic, and has cut its hours. We’re finding so much online, it seems, we don’t see the need to head to Utah.

Many libraries and archives have cut hours and reduced service. And if the politicians have their way, there will be even more cutting – and that will translate into reduced access to not only the records these institutions hold, but also the trained professionals who know how to use them properly. But no government has an unlimited pool of money, and there are hundreds of competing demands from taxpayers. What’s easier to cut than services that seem to be fading anyway?

The irony is that the material we use online would not be available if not for the efforts of the dedicated librarians and archivists. They fuelled that wave of internet resources, that wave that is looking more and more like a tsunami aiming straight for the very same libraries and archives.

Keep in mind that much, much more could be in digital form – but money is needed to make it happen.

What can we do? Let’s start with a commitment to devote some research time to the physical resources, even if it means taking time from the virtual ones. Let’s go back to some of the libraries we used to haunt, and make more visits to the archives and their rich storehouses of documents.

This will show that we care, but it might also help our research as well. As much as we’d like to think it’s all on the internet, it’s not. We still have a lot to gain by showing our faces in libraries and archives. We need to make it hard for anyone to justify cuts to libraries and archives. So let’s get back in the habit of using these places from time to time.

David Obee is the author of several genealogical guides, as well as
*The Library Book:
A History of Service to British Columbia.*