



My Journey From Yesterday

Mid-Cities Genealogical Society

P.O. Box 407

Bedford, TX 76095

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

January 2015

Volume 38 Issue 1

Bonnie Baker, President

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

Mary Lib Saleh Library
Meeting Room, 201 N. Ector
Euless, Texas
6:30 p.m. – Social
7:00 p.m. – General Meeting
Visitors are welcome.

2015 MCGS GENERAL MEETINGS CALENDAR

JANUARY 8, 2015

Mary Louise Garcia:
County Clerk, Tarrant County
Topic: "Keeper of the Records"

FEBRUARY 5, 2015

1L. Vaughn Oliver, KSJ:
The Sons of the Republic of Texas
SAR Chapter President 2010-2012

MARCH 5, 2015

Lynelle Moss:
Topic: Family Search

APRIL 2, 2015

Lisa Louise Cooke
Topic: "How to Reopen and Work a
Genealogy Cold Case:"

**APPLICANTS APPLY: Newsletter
Editor needed for MCGS. Please
contact President, Bonnie Baker**

Myths, Hoaxes & Scams » Common Genealogical Myths »

***Found on www.cyndislist.com. You will also find
other related articles about the following myths.***

Myth: Everything in print (books, CDs, databases, Internet) is accurate and reliable

All the data contained within a book, on a CD, in a database, or on the Internet was compiled and put there by a human being. And human beings have been known to make mistakes. Information created by others can be a great clue for you to use in your own research, but you should always follow up with actual records yourself.

Because 'heraldry' mills produced and sold coats of arms for any practically any surname for decades, a myth grew in American culture that every family has a coat of arms, or at least one exists for every surname.

Myth: Family Fortune

Wouldn't it be nice if you came into an inheritance from a long-lost relative or friend? It does happen, but not very often. So if you receive a notification in the mail from an "estate locator" saying that there is an unclaimed inheritance waiting for you, beware. You could be the target of a slick con artist.

Myth: Family Legends & Stories

Our research almost always starts with stories that are told to us by family members. Sometimes we hear those stories over and over again through the years. Keep in mind that stories can change as time passes. Sometimes they are embellished and certain details are inserted or omitted. Interpretations of stories, along with fading memories, can mean that your family stories aren't quite true. However, most stories do have a bit of truth to them. It is your job as a genealogist to search out the records to prove or disprove the details in those stories.

Myth: Indian Princess

Why? Well, there is no such thing as a Cherokee princess. They're not real. We never had princesses, and we still don't, unless you count the winners of beauty pageants. "**Princess**" may be a very poor translation for the daughter of a chief. Cherokee chiefs were not kings. They were chosen by the community, and there were always multiple chiefs, both peace chiefs and war chiefs, at the same time. The daughter of a chief was more like the daughter of a mayor or a governor than a princess. She certainly wasn't going to inherit any throne. But many people were ignorant of this, and Americans have been fascinated by royalty for a long time, so it is likely that "chief's daughter" or even "prominent person's daughter" may have gotten translated as "princess" by mistaken or romantic-minded white people.

**MID-CITIES
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY**

OFFICERS:

President: Bonnie Baker
(817) 562-3242

smyles200us@yahoo.com

Vice President: Marilyn Reid
(817) 656-0192

mmbbreid@tx.rr.com

Secretary: Patsy Harrison
(817) 287-8126

chuck@gmail.org

Treasurer: HP O'Mary
(817) 283-7264

hbox@swbell.net

EXECUTIVE BOARD:

Comm/Web Master:

Bernard Meisner
(817) 545-6512

bernardmeisner@cs.com

Membership: Marilyn Hay
(817) 379-4214

mm3651@verizon.net

Correspondence Secretary:

Ruth Tipton Smith
(817) 605-8909

rstipton56@gmail.com

Greeter: Leah Chance
(817) 427-4623

lhchance@sbcglobal.net

Historian: Mary Moore
(940) 648-8764

Evermoore54@gmail.com

Room Setup: HP O'Mary
(817) 283-7264

hbox@swbell.net

Newsletter Editor:

Position Open

ruanyone@yahoo.com

Parliamentarian:

Bernard Meisner
(817) 545-6512

bernardmeisner@cs.com

Hospitality: Anne Taylor
(972) 254-1604

Ataylor42150@gmail.com

Publicity: Evelyn Kelly
(817) 988-2055

evelynn@shamrockpromotions.com

Seminar Coordinator:

Sandra Crowley
817-571-9939

sandrac@tx.rr.com

Myth: Learn all about your surname in mail-order books, certificates or scrolls

A variety of companies sell mass-produced items for thousands of surnames. Among these are one-page "surname histories," products showing a coat of arms, and books that feature addresses of individuals who share the same last name. Millions of people buy these products, hoping they will learn something about their own family histories. However, people with the same last name do not necessarily belong to the same family

Myth: Name changed at Ellis Island

In reality, it is highly unlikely that this happened. The Immigration and Naturalization Service has a good article on immigrant name changes that explains why this wonderful story is a myth: the clerks at Ellis Island didn't write down names. They worked from lists that were created by the shipping companies. What usually happened was the emigrant bought a ticket from an office near his home. So, the seller probably spoke the same language and transcribed the name correctly. In cases where the name was recorded incorrectly, it likely occurred in the old country, not at Ellis Island

Myth: The 1960 US Census is unreadable due to technical obsolescence

The actual schedules were microfilmed and will be available in the year 2032.

Myth: The courthouse burned and ALL the records were destroyed

If you are working with a locality that has suffered a loss of court records, you must devote all your genealogical and historical knowledge and effort to the project. First, survey any extant records as well as all existing indexes found at all archives. Seek out other types of records, such as church, business, private and government documents that may help fill in gaps.

Myth: The LDS Church has everyone's completed genealogy

We often hear "the Mormon church has everything." Most non-genealogists believe this means that the church (The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints) has a completed genealogy for everyone on file. The truth is that the church has the largest collection of genealogical records necessary for people to research their own family history. The collection is available to everyone, including people who are not members of the church. Explore the library catalog to see what is available

Myth: There were three brothers...

For some reason, the "brothers" story is always about three brothers, not two or four. There never seems to be a sister either. In the most common version of the story, one brother goes North, one South and the third West.

Myth: You can find your completed family history on the Internet

I can't tell you how often I've been asked "where is THE database?" You know, the database with everyone's genealogy in it. There is a general misconception that all records are online and that you can do a quick search to find your family. The only way you are going to find your own family tree on the Internet is if a close cousin has already done the research and published the data online. Otherwise, you will have to learn to do genealogical research in order to locate the records of your ancestors that are both online and offline.

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2014 – 2015

(Membership from September 1, 2014 to August 31, 2015)

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Please check one: _____ Renewal _____ New Member

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How did you learn about the MCGS? _____

Mail completed form with
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