



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 2016

Volume 39 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

Eules, Texas

6:30 p.m. – Social

7:00 p.m. – General Meeting

Visitors are welcome

2015 MCGS General Meetings Calendar Speaker:

-January 7, 2016

Mary Moore, MCGS Member
Topic: "How to Plan Family Reunions"

February 4, 2016

Laura Weekley

Topic: "What Can You Do with the Results of your DNA Test?"

Like Us on Facebook

I have not failed. I've just found 10,000 ways that won't work.
Thomas Edison

Speaker for January Meeting



MARY MOORE has been a member of MCGS since 2001. Shortly before joining, her interest in genealogy was initiated after she received a photo of her great grandmother's parents. It started with them and, as genealogists know, it is a journey that never ends!

Mary joined **Ancestry.com** soon after getting into genealogy and found several others searching for her two times paternal great grandfather, Elcanah Hogan. The

"searchers" all started communicating and the idea was formed to have a Hogan Family Reunion. The first reunion was held in 2002 and over 100 people attend. Most of these were from those who met on Ancestry through genealogy. They had a second reunion this past June 2015.

Mary retired from Frito Lay/PepsiCo after working in their Accounting Department for 31 years. She now has more time to spend on her hobbies which include genealogy, scrapbooking and quilting. She also loves to spend time in cemeteries taking photo's for requests from ***Find A Grave***.

You don't choose your family. They are gifts from God.
Desmond Tutu

**MID-CITIES
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
OFFICERS:**

President: Bonnie Baker
(817) 562-3242

smyles200us@yahoo.com

Vice President: Kellie Merk
(817) 467-0587

k.merk@sbcglobal.net

Secretary: Patsy Harrison
(817) 287-8127

chuck@gmail.org

Treasurer: John Pinkerton
(817) 860-1743

bjpinkerton@sbcglobal.net

EXECUTIVE BOARD:

Comm/Web Master

Bernard Meisner

(817) 379-6512

bernardmeisner@cs.com

Membership Marilyn Hay
(817) 379-4214

mhay@nabem.net

Correspondence

Secretary: Ruth Tipton
Smith (817) 605-8909

Greeter: Leah Chance
(817) 417-4623

ihchance@sbcglobal.net

Historian: Mary Moore
(940) 648-8764

evermoore54@gmail.com

Room Setup:

Still need a volunteer

Newsletter Editor:

Peggy Poole

(817) 243-9990

glynnp413@aol.com

Parliamentarian: Bernard
Meisner (817) 379-6512

bernardmeisner@cs.com

Hospitality: Anne Taylor
(972) 254-1604

ataylor42150@gamil.com

Publicity: Evelyn Kelly
(817) 988-2055

fourthgentx@yahoo.com

Seminar Coordinator:

Sandra Crowley

(817) 571-9939

sandrac@tx.rr.com

**Gleanings from the Texas State Genealogy Society's 2015 Family
History Conference –Part II**

(Part I: is in the December 2015 Newsletter)

Bernard N. Meisner

When I gave a brief report at the November MCGS meeting about the Texas State Genealogy Society's Family History Conference that was held in Austin October 30-November 1, I was asked, "What did you learn?" I promised to write a summary for our Newsletter. Understand there were as many as five concurrent sessions at any given time, and I could only attend one talk at a time. That said, here are some things I learned.

Part II:

Courthouse Research.

- Understand most courthouse staff members are primarily focused on current records, rather than the historic records that you are interested in. Your goal is to get to the record room, so begin by asking one brief, specific question.
- Look for your ancestors first in the index of buyers/grantees, then look for them in the index of sellers/grantors. (They have to have bought land before they can sell land!)
- Continue searching the index of sellers for at least 20-40 years after to your ancestor has moved away or died, because it may take that long before their land is sold and the deed is recorded.
- Photocopy or abstract the deeds pertinent to your research. Always record the acreage, consideration, description, and witnesses. Note both the deed and recording dates. Read any acknowledgments.
- Disputes over land, such as trespassing and boundary locations, were the primary reason for lawsuits in the 19th and early 20th centuries. Civil suits were also used to divide property when heirs couldn't agree how the land should be divided. Search indices of court cases for your land-owning ancestors.
- Presenter John Sellers stated his research has indicated there have only been three cases of a complete loss of records due to a courthouse fire: Butler (April 1853) & Franklin (December 1890) counties in Alabama, and Twiggs county (February 1901) in Georgia. In all other cases, either not all the records in the building burned, or many/some of them were at another site. Always check with the local genealogical/historical society to determine what records survived.
- Counties that were formed out of a burned parent county often transcribed deeds from the parent county to begin their records, and this could have been done prior to the fire.
- Land records, in particular, would be recreated if they had burned, since you couldn't typically sell land without proof that you were the legal owner! After a fire the county clerk often offered to re-record deeds at a discounted price.

Web Links.

- Interment.net <<http://www.interment.net>> is a publisher of cemetery transcriptions for use by genealogists and local historians.
- Stanford University's Data Visualization Web site <http://web.stanford.edu/group/ruralwest/cgi-bin/drupal/visualizations/us_newspapers> plots over 140,000

- newspapers published over three centuries in the United States. The data come from the Library of Congress' "Chronicling America" project, which maintains a regularly updated directory of newspapers. Read the instructions prior to viewing the interactive map.
- The Google Translate Web site < translate.google.com> and free App (for both Apple and Android smart phones) are useful tools for translating text and, in the case of the App, spoken words and phrases) from one language to another.
- TARO (Texas Archival Resources Online) < <http://www.lib.utexas.edu/taro>> makes descriptions of the rich archival, manuscript, and museum collections in repositories across the state available to the public. *In most cases, the collections themselves are NOT available online.*

Next Year

The Texas State Genealogy Society's 2016 Family History Conference will be held October 28-30, 2016 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in downtown Dallas. Keynote speakers will be Judy G. Russell (*The Legal Genealogist*) and Cyndi Ingle (*Cyndi's List*).

Part I: is in the December 2015 Newsletter

*A man finds room in the few square inches of the face for the traits of all his ancestors; for the expression of all his history, and his wants”
-Ralph Waldo Emerson*

The following is Ancestry.com blog relating to its recent announcement to discontinue the sale and support of Family tree Maker by the end of 2016:

More Information on Family Tree Maker Desktop Software

Kendall Hulet, Senior Vice President of Product Management

Here are three key things I'd like to re-assure you of after reading through your comments:

1. We are fully committed to supporting Family Tree Maker through at least the end of 2016 with all available support from member services, including technical issues, product issues, updates and attention to the product. You will be able to use the software, exactly as you do now, including TreeSync, for at least the next year.
2. We are exploring possible relationships with other desktop software solutions that would make it possible for their products to integrate with Ancestry.
3. We are exploring options to bring more reports and related functionality from Family Tree Maker into the online service.

We've put together an FAQ to address many of the other questions you've raised. Our member services team is also available for further questions.

What happens to Family Tree Maker at the end of next year?

We are committed to helping our users through this transition. Towards the end of 2016, we will assess our progress toward a smooth transition for our customers and review our support commitment at that time.

After January 1, 2017, features that require connectivity to Ancestry, such as TreeSync, uploading and downloading trees and media, and Web Search, may no longer be supported. Most Family Tree Maker features are designed to work offline, and should continue to function unless a change on your computer, such as an operating system update, causes the functionality to break.

Will features such as charts, reporting and publishing be made available on Ancestry?

We are continuously exploring new options to make the experience better for all users and currently we're looking into ways to bring desired features from Family Tree Maker into the online experience – such as report functionality or the ability to replace one instance of a change throughout your entire family tree.

Will third party providers be able to integrate with Ancestry family trees?

We are exploring possible relationships with other desktop software solutions that would make it possible for their products to integrate with Ancestry API. Stay tuned.

What happens to the family tree I've created using Family Tree Maker? Will it continue to be accessible?

You will continue to be able to access your data through the desktop software beyond Jan. 1, 2017, however over time there will be a gradual degradation of features. You can always export your tree and save it.

When will you stop selling Family Tree Maker software?

We will stop selling the desktop software on December 31, 2015, however we will continue to fully support Family Tree Maker at least one full year until January 1, 2017. Until January 1, 2017, you will be able to continue to use the product and its full functionality, as you do today.

Which versions of Family Tree Maker will Ancestry continue to support?

Ancestry will continue to support all versions of Family Tree Maker at their current functionality until January 1, 2017.

Will I be able to download my full tree?

You can continue to download trees as a GEDCOM file. Users can also download and save historical records and media attached to individuals in their family trees.

Is Ancestry looking to sell Family Tree Maker, as you did with MyCanvas?

Presently there are no plans to sell Family Tree Maker software.

If you have inquiries regarding Family Tree Maker, please reach out to our [Member Services team](#). We'll also provide updates on [our blog](#) as needed leading up to January 1, 2017.

- See more at:

<http://blogs.ancestry.com/ancestry/2015/12/09/more-information-on-family-tree-maker-desktop-software/>

Only a Genealogist regards a step backwards as progress

Family Tree Maker Alternatives: Great Offers, and What I Do With My Tree

December 16, 2015 by [Lisa](#) From Lisa Louise Cooke's *Genealogy Gems*: http://lisalouiscooke.com/2015/12/family-tree-maker-alternatives/?utm_source=December+17%2C+2015+newsletter&utm_campaign=FTM+follow+up&utm_medium=email

Are you a Family Tree Maker user looking for place to transplant your master family tree? Here are some great offers and my personal strategy.

With the imminent demise of Family Tree Maker software, many users find themselves preparing to transplant their trees elsewhere. But many are still trying to decide upon the ideal spot. [RootsMagic](#) and [MyHeritage.com](#) have both responded with attractive Family Tree Maker alternatives. Both companies are sponsors of the free Genealogy Gems podcast and both offer excellent products. It just depends on what works best for you. While you're doing your homework, consider these offers:

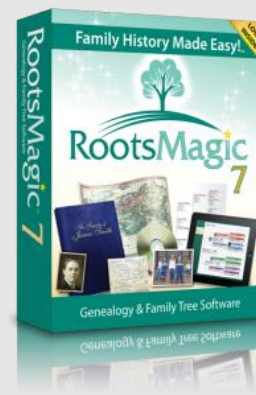


RootsMagic Family History Software: Discount on Software, with Special Add-Ons and Training

“If you're a Family Tree Maker user, we understand that change isn't easy,” states a recent [RootsMagic press release](#). “But with a little of your time and a little [help](#) from us, you'll be just as comfortable with [RootsMagic](#) as you were with Family Tree Maker.”

“For a limited time, we are offering Family Tree Maker users the full-version of RootsMagic for the

amazing low price of only \$20. We will also include the printed book, “Getting the Most out of RootsMagic” absolutely free (a \$14.95 value). To make the transition as painless as possible, we've set-up a special website at www.FTMUpgrade.com that includes training videos, testimonials, and more. You must visit www.FTMUpgrade.com to receive the discount.”



I am a [RootsMagic](#) user myself, as I've stated in the past ([click here](#) to read why). I particularly love the wide range of support for learning to use Roots Magic. [RootsMagic](#) offers a [recently-updated Mac version](#) of its software, too. If you're still not sure, you could try [RootsMagic Essentials](#) first for free, then easily upgrade in the future.



MyHeritage.com Family History Website: Free Unlimited Tree Hosting

“At [MyHeritage](#), we believe there is still a place in the world for genealogy software,” says an email I received from [MyHeritage's](#) Chief Genealogical Officer, Daniel Horowitz. “There is value in the ability to work offline, and enjoy more powerful functionality that many websites cannot offer. We also believe that people should be able to discover and preserve their family

history on whatever platform they are comfortable with. That's why we are constantly innovating new technologies and enhancing our website, mobile apps and our Family Tree Builder genealogy software.

We are delighted to offer FTM users who move to *MyHeritage*, and who choose to sync their family tree with their *MyHeritage* family site, unlimited tree size capacity on their online family site, which is normally limited to 250 individuals on a free account.”

MyHeritage.com started as a family tree and family networking website, so its roots for tree-hosting are deep. The site hosts the most geographically diverse trees in the world, which is a great reason for anyone searching for international relatives to have a family tree there. Their Family Tree Builder software is free, so there is no financial risk for downloading and using it. Having a tree on the site that syncs to your home tree will provide you with a degree of convenient, free security: your tree will be backed up in two physical locations at all times (one on the software on your computer and one on the site).

For me, the bottom line continues to be control over my master family tree—and all the other files on my computer. So for me, the answer is to

1) Use RootsMagic as my master database on my desktop computer and download the app to my mobile devices;
2) Upload sections of my trees periodically to genealogy websites as I’m researching those lines in order to generate new leads and connections. (Doing this on MyHeritage led to my first ever connection with a distant German cousin!);

3) Use a cloud-based computer backup system that automatically backs up my entire computer (including *RootsMagic* files) on an ongoing basis. This protects me from losing files due to theft, disaster at my home, computer crashes, and anything else that threatens my data. I use [Backblaze](#) as the official backup service for Genealogy Gems, and I love it. It’s super easy, reliable and affordable (about \$5 a month!). [Click here](#) to read more posts on cloud-based computer backup services.



Replacing Family Tree Maker, Part 1: How to Scrub Your Data

From *Eastmans Online Genealogy Newsletter* December 21, 2015

Following the recent announcement of the “retirement” of Family Tree Maker, many users of that program are planning to switch to a product made by a different producer. Of course, anytime you move data from one program to another, maintaining both the accuracy and the completeness of that data is critical. Keith Riggle has written the first of a multi-part article that addresses the problems and offers suggestions as to “how to do it right.” Keith writes:

“That’s the goal of this article: to help you identify areas where your FTM tree is non-GEDCOM compliant and start cleaning them up. Please note that this article is not about correcting factual errors in your tree.”

The rather lengthy article contains numerous screenshots showing how all this is done. I will suggest that all Family Tree maker users should read Keith Riggle’s article in the *Genealogy Tools Blog* at <http://goo.gl/pJDh7G>

My thanks to newsletter reader Carl Sorensen for telling me about this article.

[MCGS NEWSLETTER Editor’s Note: At the end of Keith’s Riggle’s article, is a list of all 13 articles. These can be found at:

<http://genealogytools.com/replacing-family-tree-maker-part-1-how-to-scrub-your-data/>]

List of Articles

[Part 1: How to Scrub Your Data](#)

[Part 2: How to Get Your Tree out of FTM](#)

[Part 3: Importing Your FTM Tree into RootsMagic 7](#)

[Part 4: Importing Your FTM Tree into Reunion 11](#)

[Part 5: Importing Your FTM Tree into MacFamilyTree 7](#)

[Part 6: Importing Your FTM Tree into Family Tree Builder 7](#)

[Part 7: Importing Your FTM Tree into Heredis 2015](#)

[Part 8: Importing Your FTM Tree into Gramps 4](#)

[Part 9: Importing Your FTM Tree into iFamily for Mac](#)

[Part 10: Importing Your FTM Tree into GEDitCOM II](#)

[Part 11: Importing Your FTM Tree into Legacy Family Tree 8](#)

[Part 12: Importing Your FTM Tree into Ancestral Quest 14](#)

[Part 13: Importing Your FTM Tree into Family Historian 6](#)

SERGEANT ISAAC REEVES, CSA

written by J. J. Kennedy

Contributed by MCGS Member Kathleen Kennedy

On June 6, 1860, Isaac Reeves was living in DeKalb County in the Northwestern corner of Alabama near the settlement of Duck Springs and Yancy in the Wills Valley. This date would have a profound effect on his future and the future of his family.

Abraham Lincoln had just been elected President of the United States. For the previous forty years the issue of slavery had been fermenting. The expansion of the country to the west put the Slave States of the South and the Free States of the North on a collision course. The balance of power in Congress was at stake.

In 1820 Congress had passed the Missouri Compromise, which allowed Missouri to enter the United States as a Slave State and Maine to enter as a Free State. This retained the balance between slave and Free states. Also contained in the Compromise was a provision for admitting future states. A dividing line at the latitude 36'30" was drawn across the country to separate future slave and Free states. North of the line "free," south of the line "slave." While the Compromise did not completely solve the problem, it did reduce the tension for a time.

Then in 1854 Congress passed the Kansas-Nebraska Act, which effectively negated portions of the 1820 Missouri Compromise. The 1854 Act now allowed states to decide for themselves the issue of slavery. The states could vote to be free or slave. Both sides feared a loss of power in Congress and the South had the most to lose. The institution of slavery was becoming difficult to justify in a country founded on the principle of liberty of the individual.

Lincoln's election as a Republican and supported by the abolitionist movement, brought the nation to the boiling point. Shortly after his election, southern states began to vote to secede from the Union. On January 11th 1861, Alabama voted 61 to 39 to secede, then on April 12th Confederate cannons fired on Fort Sumter, South Carolina and the Civil War officially began. It was in this world and time that Isaac Reeves lived.

He was twenty six years old, married and with a young son, when he left home and traveled to Montgomery, Alabama to

enlist on June 4, 1861. He held the rank of private in the 10th Alabama Infantry commanded by Cadmus Wilcox. Isaac was assigned to company I, which consisted of men from DeKalb County. They adopted the name and called themselves the



Gains Mill Battleground

Yancy Guards." General Wilcox's brigade was under General James Longstreet in the Army of Northern Virginia.

The first taste of battle for Isaac and the Yancy Guards came on December 20, 1861 at the "**Battle of Dranesville**" in Virginia, northwest of Washington, D.C., where the 10th is known to have suffered 21 killed and 64 wounded.

In March 1862, union General George B. McClellan, commanding the Army of the Potomac began the "Peninsula Campaign" with of capturing the city of Richmond in order to bring a swift end to the war. McClellan's march began at Fort Monroe on the southern end of the peninsula in Virginia, bordered by the James and York Rivers.

General Joseph E. Johnson, commanding the Army of Northern Virginia, was sent to oppose McClellan. The 10th Alabama took part in battles at Yorktown and Williamsburg during the campaign. As the union Army pushed its way up the peninsula, General Johnson was wounded at the battle of 7 pines.

He was replaced by General Robert E. Lee. History records the significance of that change in command, noting that Robert E. Lee became one of the greatest generals in this country's history. He is known for defeating opposing armies twice his size with brilliant military tactics.

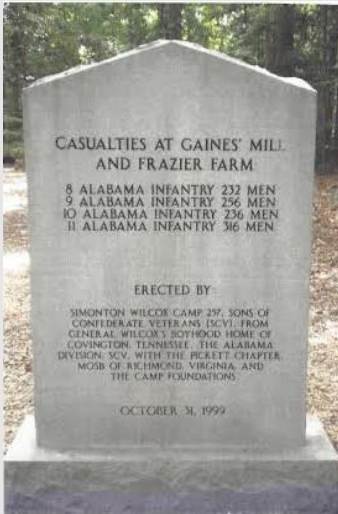
On June 26 1862, continuing through July 1, five significant battles were fought, which became known as the "Seven Days Battle" with the fate of Richmond and the south at stake; the second battle on June 27th was the battle of Gaines Mill.

By this time, Isaac Reeves had risen from the rank of private to sergeant, still serving with the 10th Alabama company I. At The battle of Gaines Mill, his unit was on the right flank of the Confederate line. To get to the point of attack and meet the Union line, General Wilcox had to lead his men through the Boatswain's Swamp to engage the enemy. Dense forest, mud, and water made crossing the area almost impossible. But cross they did, slamming into the Union line and routing the Yankees.



Boatswain's Swamp

Sadly' this was Isaac's last battle. He was one of the 236 casualties the 10th Alabama lost in the battle. He was mortally wounded and died eight days later, leaving a wife and son without a husband and father. When the "Seven Days Battle" was over, the South was victorious.



Richmond was saved and the war continued for three more years.

On April 9, 1865, General Robert E. Lee surrendered the Army of North Virginia at Appomattox Court House in Virginia and with that, the war over for the 10th Alabama.

The war left the residents of DeKalb County devastated; with its economy in ruins. Isaac's wife eventually remarried and, with her son and

new husband, left Alabama, eventually ending up in Cherry Creek, Mississippi after a brief stop in Tennessee.

In 1901 Isaac's son, George Anderson Reeves, the "a" now replacing the "e" in Reeves, took his family to East Texas, where two remaining "Reaves" still reside, great grandson Harry Tracy Reaves in Canton, and great granddaughter Margaret Reaves Douglas in Athens.

Though Isaac Reeves, and most of the men of the Yancy Guard, never owned a slave they were caught up in the war over slavery. They answered the call to defend their homes and families from the "invaders" from the North. They fought bravely and honorably for that noble cause. For that, Isaac's family can be proud.

FROM: [HTTP://WWW.FOXNEWS.COM/SCIENCE/2015/10/02/RARE-PHOTO-SHOWS-JESSE-JAMES-WITH-HIS-KILLER-SAYS-FORENSIC-ARTIST.HTML?ICID=MAING-FLUID%257CBON-MOBILE-TEST3%257CDL23%257CSEC24_LNK24%2526PLID%253D-1542042756_AMP-BON-MOBILE-TEST3](http://www.foxnews.com/science/2015/10/02/rare-photo-shows-jesse-james-with-his-killer-says-forensic-artist.html?ICID=MAING-FLUID%257CBON-MOBILE-TEST3%257CDL23%257CSEC24_LNK24%2526PLID%253D-1542042756_AMP-BON-MOBILE-TEST3)

DIGGING HISTORY

Rare photo shows Jesse James with his killer, says forensic artist

By Arden Dier Published October 02, 2015

[Newser](#)



File photo - Jesse James portrait. (Library of Congress)

Few photos have been found of notorious outlaw Jesse James. Even fewer show James and his assassin Robert Ford—but one has apparently just been authenticated. Lois Gibson, a forensic artist with the Houston Police Department, says an undated tintype photo shared with her shows James seated next to Ford, the partner in crime who ultimately killed James in 1882 in an attempt to collect reward money, reports the *Houston Chronicle*.

Sandy Mills reached out to Gibson after collectors in Washington state scoffed at the photo passed down from her grandmother, who told Mills her family had concealed James in their Missouri farmhouse in the 1870s.

Her grandmother, who died in 2006, wanted Mills to sell the photo and use the money to buy land. But for 13 years, "nobody wanted to listen. We got no respect from anybody," Mills says.

"Then we found Lois." The photo "was taken when the two men trusted each other and the younger Robert Ford wanted a picture of himself with the man who had become

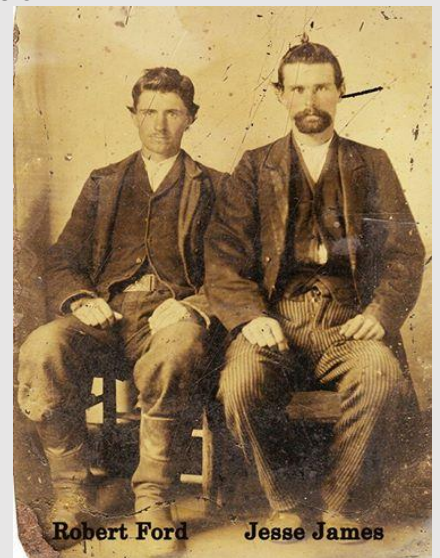
a legend in his own time," Gibson writes on Facebook, per [CNN](#).

The *Chronicle* points out that Gibson's work identifying faces has earned her the Guinness World Record for "most successful forensic artist." Indeed, *Houstonia Magazine* reported in an August profile of Gibson that at least 1,266 criminals have been positively IDed because of her portraits, which she produces 120 of each year.

In this instance, she compared a scanned copy of the image to other photos of

James, focusing on the hairline, brow bone, eyes, cheeks, and the distance between the nose and the upper lip.

She's "positive" the image is legit. "This is it, just huge, like finding a T-Rex leg bone," she says. A rep for RR Auction in Boston says the photo could fetch \$2 million, but he wants to see more analysis.



(A famous Civil War photo turned out to be a hoax.)

This article originally appeared on [Newser](#). [Expert: Lost Photo Shows Jesse James and His Killer](#)

MCGS MEMBERSHIP FORM

2015 – 2016

(Membership form September 1, 2015 to August 31, 2016)

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____ Email _____

Please check one: _____ Renewal _____ New Member

Individual Membership: \$20.00 _____ Couple: \$25.00 _____

Surnames you are researching

How did you learn about the MCGS?

Mail completed form with your check/money order:
 Mid-Cities Genealogical Society
 P. O. Box 407
 Bedford, TX 76095-0407

<http://www.rootsweb.com/~txmogs>

<https://www.facebook.com/TXMCGS>



OFFICIAL USE

Date _____

Check No _____

Amount _____