



# My Journey From Yesterday

Mid-Cities Genealogical Society

P.O. Box 407

Bedford, TX 76095

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

July 2013

Volume 36 Issue 7

Jane Aronhalt, President

Mid-Cities Genealogical Society meets the 1<sup>st</sup> 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

**August 1<sup>st</sup>**  
**MCGS 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Party  
& Ice Cream Social**

**September 5<sup>th</sup>**  
**Speaker:**

**Mic Barnette**

Program: Immigration to and the  
Settlement of North America Before the  
American Revolution

## OFFICER NOMINATIONS

The following members have been nominated to serve during the next membership year:

President: Jane Aronhalt

Vice President: Bonnie Baker

Secretary: Bernard Meisner

Treasurer: H. P. O'Mary

## Eules Public Library News

Sherry Knight has been promoted and now serves as Library Administrator.



## JULY SPEAKER:

*Richard Monroe*

## TOPIC:

*A Century of Texas  
Immigration  
1820 to 1920*

Richard's great, great, great grandmother, Mary Hughes Webb, asked her husband, Isaac Webb, to stop their wagon trip from Green County, Missouri to Texas after crossing the Red River at Beal's Ferry so she could deliver her daughter, Mary Jane, on November 26, 1843. They arrived in Peters Colony on January 27, 1844. Richard's great-great grandparents, Mary Jane Webb and Howard Cox, were married August 21, 1862 in Dallas County.

Four generations of Richard's ancestors on his mother's side are buried in the pioneer Webb Chapel Cemetery where he has served as a trustee since 1998. Richard has served as an officer of the Peters Colony Historical Society of Dallas County since 2002. He is a life member of the Dallas County Pioneer Association and has served as the Program Chair. He and Jan have volunteered at the yearly Legacies Dallas History Conference for the last seven years.

Jan Jones, Richard's wife, is a researcher, computer graphics expert and partner in most of his endeavors. Married 23 years, they have been ballroom dance partners for 35 years. They share an interest in Celtic music, and Richard has served as a trustee of the Southwest Celtic Music Association. Richard and Jan have volunteered for over 25 years at the North Texas Irish Festival. Jan is a fiber, beadwork and polymer clay artist.

Richard and Jan, 5<sup>th</sup> generation Texans, are both descended from Peters Colonists and other Texas immigrants.

They have made numerous visits to lots of cemeteries including several on their recent trip to Ireland.

Richard served as a Nuclear Reactor Operator aboard the USS John Marshall SSBN 611, earned a BS degree of Mechanical Engineering from UTA, worked in the oilfields of East and West Texas and assembled nuclear weapons at Pantex. He has over 35 years in Quality working with Recognition Equipment Incorporated, the Superconducting Supercollider, and Fujitsu Network Communications.

**MID-CITIES  
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY**

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in your name or contact information.

## HOW DO YOU RESEARCH ONLINE

### From Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter

July 4, 2013

Employees at all the major online genealogy database providers spend a lot of time and effort watching how users perform searches on the site and analyzing the results. The purpose is to learn and to make future adjustments to the site to improve search capabilities. Those who monitor and analyze users say they have noticed that genealogy newcomers typically perform searches in a very different manner than do the "old pros." I suspect the experienced users typically end up with more productive results, although no statistics are available to prove that assumption.

Genealogy newcomers typically search everything at once. For instance, when looking for records on a particular ancestor, newbies typically enter the person's name into the search field and then search through everything at once. If the person has a rather unusual name, that might work. However, most of the time, the newcomer receives hundreds or even thousands of "hits," can't filter out the ones of interest, loses interest, and then goes elsewhere.

In contrast, the experienced genealogist's usually FIRST search for the smallest piece of the many databases as possible.

For instance, the more experienced user will generally enter the name of interest, then perhaps specify only one database (such as the census records for one year), specify only one county, and any other parameters available to narrow the search as much as possible. If the search is unsuccessful and doesn't produce the information needed, the experienced user then expands the search just a little bit and tries again. For instance, he or she might add in the previous census or the following census, and then search a second time. If unsuccessful this time, the experienced genealogist might start a third search by adding in the adjacent counties. And so on and so on.

Bit by bit, the experienced genealogist typically expands the search by a small amount each time. All of the search parameters are based upon what the genealogist already knows about the person of interest. Did he likely live in Monroe County? If so, there is no need to search the entire USA at once. Did he serve in the Civil War? If so, there is no need to search for records prior to 1820 and probably not prior to 1830 (on the first search) as he probably wasn't born yet. (Most Civil War soldiers were under the age of 30 although there were numerous exceptions. Very few were 40 years old or older.)

By focusing the first searches on as narrow a geographic area as possible and as narrow a time range as possible; you greatly increase the odds of finding the one person you seek. If unsuccessful in your search, broaden the search area a bit and the years of interest and try again.

I suspect the experienced genealogists have far better results with their online searches than do the newcomers who jump in and search everything, everywhere, at once. Which would you prefer: Finding one or two people with your ancestor's name, located in the area where he or she lived, in the years he or she lived there? Or will you find 100 men or women across the country with the same name?

## REMINDER!!!

The planning phase for our **35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Party** on August 1<sup>st</sup> continues to be underway.

We are asking our membership to share pictures they may have from past years and email them to Mary Moore at [evermore54@gmail.com](mailto:evermore54@gmail.com).

Please include names, event description and timeframe!

## Who Do You Think You Are Returns To Television

TLC has announced that the fan-favorite reality series will air all-new episodes on the network this summer.

“Who Do You Think You Are” follows the journeys of some of the most well-known names in American popular culture as they reveal unknown details about themselves and their families.

Executive Producer Lisa Kudrow (best known for her role as Phoebe in the hit sitcom Friends) opens doors to fascinating real-life stories and eye-opening revelations that impact their lives today. TLC will air 8 hour-long episodes, which are set to premiere Tuesday, July 23. Celebrities such as Christina Applegate, Kelly Clarkson, Cindy Crawford, Chris O’Donnell and Jim Parsons have signed up for the emotional journey, with additional subjects to be announced.



## MEMBER SPOTLIGHT:

*Bonnie Miller Baker*

Born Bonnie Jeane Miller on September 10, 1949 in Hereford, Deaf Smith County, Texas, I am the third of four children of Joe Jed Miller and Mary Joyce Carr. Prior to marriage, I lived in Hereford, started school in Lubbock, moved to Odessa and then El Paso, eventually returning to Odessa where I graduated from Permian High School in 1968. I was a contestant in the Miss West Texas Contest in 1970, winning the non-finalist Swim Suit Competition and Miss Congeniality awards. I was also named Dorm Sweetheart for one of the men’s dorms and Freshman Favorite for the dorm I lived in.

I attended college for four years at Texas Tech in Lubbock where I met my husband of 41 years, Alan Daniel Baker. We married in Lubbock on April 29, 1972. The minister who married us also performed my sister’s wedding ceremony four years earlier. Our first child, a beautiful baby girl, Jenny Rebecca, was born on June 27, 1976. We welcomed our second beautiful daughter on May 3, 1978, Angie Marie (born by caesarian, so the first week or so she wasn’t quite so cute). Our third child, a son, Beau Daniel, was born on July 16 1981. Also a caesarian delivery, he probably wasn’t really cute the first week or so either. To ease your minds, they are all cute now.

My Daddy was diagnosed with lung cancer on May 28 1981, and died on Oct 1 1981 when Beau was 10 weeks old. I have a picture when Daddy was in the hospital – he is holding Beau and they both are crying, but for different reasons. When Beau was six weeks old, I drove from Fort Worth to Odessa having just had major surgery with a five year old, a three year old and a six week old. The nurses at the hospital wouldn’t let me bring Beau in, so I snuck him in (I am sure the nurses knew) and kept him under the hospital bed, and I would take him out when he needed to be fed and changed and then put him back under the bed. I needed to be with my son and I needed to be with my Daddy, so I improvised. My older brother, Jody, was killed on a motorcycle in 1996, and my younger brother, Doug, suffered a brain aneurysm in 1998. He is an invalid now, lives in San Angelo, and my sister and I take care of all the details to help him live in his own home. My Mother and sister live in Odessa.

I have worked as a real estate agent for about 12 years. I love it. I have the opportunity to go into million dollar homes, and after all, since I am a social butterfly, I meet all kinds of nice people and get paid to do it. I have been the recipient of the Multimillion Dollar Award for several years (no – I didn’t make that much – that is just the total of sales). Pretty cool.

I am a cancer survivor, having been diagnosed with breast cancer on May 28, 1997 (the same day my Daddy was diagnosed with cancer, only 16 years later). I went through surgeries, chemotherapy and radiation. I lost my hair. That was probably the hardest part of my cancer treatment. For women, losing our hair is very difficult emotionally to deal with; I didn’t know I was so vain. I have been cancer free for 16 years and I have hair. Again, pretty cool.

I have three granddaughters and two grandsons – the oldest is five and another one on the way – due in January. My children and their families live in this area, so my husband and I are pretty active and involved with them. I participate in a Bible study group and serve as the chaplain and board member of another organization. I am in a book club, and I do my genealogy. I sew (I just finished making a quilt from the quilt pieces that my grandmother had cut out before 1967 when she died), and I am finishing some curtains that I have been making.

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Who needs Libraries & Archives?  
Everything I need  
is online!

Said No  
Genealogist EVER

Twisted Twigs  
on GenWeb  
Branches





## Summer Institute 2013

“Bits of Yesterday” with Pamela Boyer Sayre and Richard Sayre

August 2-3, 2013

Learn how to take advantage of maps, land and other records. Identify ways to take a fresh approach or explore new avenues of research.

Register online at [www.dallasgenealogy.org](http://www.dallasgenealogy.org)

## Fort Worth Genealogical Society

**Summer Seminar  
August 10, 2013:**

### DNA in Genealogy

Speaker:  
Jane Beck of Family Tree DNA

Trinity Terrace Towers  
1600 Texas Street  
Fort Worth Texas

### FULL FORCE

From *Family Tree Magazine*  
May/June 2013

#### Ancestors in Their Own Words

*“I did enlist in the Confedret Armeey some time Spring 1863 if I member correct but I did not volunturly join the reble army I was conscript contreary to my consent I was taken by the home gards and turned over to the armeey for recruits and I would not enlist and they still held me a prisoner and I remained until general Hyman was shooting the conscripts that would not join the army. I and 13 others was march out and when I saw the 13 men shot down because they would not join the rebels I thought I could joine the army and then I could sooner or lator make my escape and go to the fedrals for I never intended to fire a gun for them, and when the army started for Hellana (Ark) I then made*

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## Bonnie Miller Baker (Continued)

I made a quilt for my sister with pictures of our ancestors. It was beautiful. I also enjoy photography. I actually snapped a picture of a graveyard several years ago, and I captured the image of a ghost in the picture. My aunt, who had a really cute personality said, “You should find out who that grave belongs to and find their family and say, ‘Do you want to see a more recent picture of Aunt Tess?’”

I have been in our genealogy group about 100 years – I can’t even remember when I joined. I have a connection with my 4<sup>th</sup> great grandfather on my father’s side – John Malcolm Miller. He actually founded Richmond, Virginia. He was one of the first senators from Virginia. I have some notes where he had a meeting in his barn and they all sat on hay. I also have a picture of him and his wife from the 1700s. I talked with the lady who sent it to me and told her I looked and looked to see what of him was in me. I finally decided it was the hair. I have always had thick, good hair. I think the hair gene was passed down from the 1700s. When I was in the 5<sup>th</sup> grade my Mother gave me a permanent and left it up all night. My hair has been naturally curly since – I am not sure what that has to do with anything, I just thought you would like to know.

The female ancestors in my genealogy research are the most challenging. I have several women that I can’t find anything about. I think every researcher has these issues. I have church notes from my 2<sup>nd</sup> great grandfather, John Hector Miller, who was a Baptist minister. The notes say he did this and he did that, and then you don’t hear about him for a while. The next thing you hear is that he is saying that you may not believe him but that it never happened, but that he is resigning from the church. His family resigns the next week. I never have been able to find out what happened, but I am sure it has to do with a woman. When it happens to you, you are embarrassed. When you find out and it happened 100 years ago, you say, “Guess what I found out!”

I have often wondered when you die and you see your 4<sup>th</sup> or 5<sup>th</sup> or later great grandparents and other relatives, will you know them? I think you will. If you will listen, you can hear them, and you will know where you came from. Again, pretty cool.

## FAMILIES AND FISHING

Contributed by Jane Aronhalt

Growing up in a small town in Kansas, everyone in my family fished. You fished in ponds, creeks, rivers, and lakes. We would spend the day on the gravel bar of the river. We would bring a picnic, the kids played in the shallow part of the river. And the men would wade upstream to fish in deeper waters. That night we would spread quilts out on the rocks to sleep on while the grown-ups sat around the campfire talking.

I vividly remember going with my dad to dig worms one morning after a night of rain. There is nothing like the feel of that wet dark, rich Kansas mud squishing up between your toes. Dad would dig up a clump of mud with his pitchfork and it was our job to dig out those big, fat worms. I had two coffee cans that needed to be filled with our bait before we could go fishing.

My maternal grandfather, Grandpa Williams, was a soft-spoken man, who made the trip from the nearby town weekly to see his family. He always had hugs and candy for his grandchildren. Every child in the neighborhood knew him as Grandpa, The Candy Man. He often would come by the house to get one of his grandchildren to go fishing with them. Grandpa Williams loved fishing so much that he kept their fishing equipment and bait in the car, so that he and Grandma could stop anytime the fishing bug would bite. If you rode with Grandpa in his car, you had to be able to hold your breath the whole trip because of the smell. The car dealers loved it when he brought his car in for service!

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**Full Force (Continued)**

*my escape and went to the fedrals and joined then; the duty I did in the rebel army was remaining in camp and they told me my Col. Name was Brooks my general was Hyman. I had to joine the rebles or be shot. They told me that they aimed to kill all who did not enlist and they did to my knowledge.”*

Author: James Warren

This General Affidavit of 56 year old James Warren is part of his military pension file held in the National Archives in Washington, DC. Warren lived in Ozone, Ark., and was caught up in the forced conscription that occurred in the border states during the Civil War – making him one of the men who served on both sides during the Civil War.

Although his great-grandson and namesake found Warren’s Union service record, no Confederate military record has surfaced for him. But lack of records isn’t uncommon with forced conscriptions.

Some Southerners supported the Union. You might find evidence among the records of the Southern Claims Commission, both Approved Claims and those Barred and Disallowed. These records are available on the subscription sites [Fold3, www.fold3.com](http://www.fold3.com) and [Ancestry.com](http://Ancestry.com) <ancestry.com>.

After you determine which unit your military ancestor served in, review the pension files for men who served in the same unit. Their files might give additional details on that unit’s activities and might include supporting affidavits from your ancestor. Also look for histories of the unit, as well as local and county histories of the unit, as well as local and county histories that might detail military units from the area. Local histories published around the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century also might discuss forced conscriptions that occurred in the area with testimonials of veterans.

**Families and Fishing (continued)**

One time, they took me on an overnight trip to The Grand Lake in Oklahoma; The Grand Lake had these floating fishing houses. You walk out onto a ramp that led into a floating house with the center of the floor cut out in a square. The square was surrounded with a rail and you sat on folding chairs around the rail and fished into the hole.

My paternal grandfather, Grandpa Misener, was totally different from Grandpa Williams, he was a big teaser. As I was a little afraid of him, I wasn’t sure when he was teasing or not. He was more of a man’s man. He loved to hunt and fish. He often had hunting dogs, and I was sure he liked them more than me. It wasn’t often Grandpa Misener would take one of us girls out on a fishing trip. But one time, with lots of begging on my part, I got to go on a midnight fishing trip.

The reason I wanted to go that night was because they were taking the Jon boat out on the lake. As an experienced fishing grandchild, I had often fished at night but never in a boat. Grandpa made it plain that he didn’t want to take no girl with him. He had a list of things I couldn’t do. I couldn’t get out there and start crying to come home. Like I was a crybaby! He would throw me in the lake if I did. They weren’t taking food and there were no bathrooms out there. I had to bait my own hook (first rule of fishing no matter what your age). And I had to stay awake, because there was no place in the boat to sleep.

And his biggest number #1 rule was..... I couldn’t catch more fish than him.

I was so excited when I got in the boat. Grandpa sat in the front of the boat with a kerosene lantern so Dad could see where he was steering the boat. I sat in the middle seat.

As soon as we found a spot, serious fishing began. Right off the bat I started catching fish. In a short period of time, I had caught three fish. Grandpa was grumbling the whole time about never taking a girl fishing again. I was so puffed up with pride about catching more fish than Grandpa. Neither one of them caught any fish that night.

I eventually wore myself out catching fish, and my Dad made me a bed on the floor of the boat with his jacket. It still is one of my favorite memories, the stars above, the peacefulness of the lake and the motion of the boat rocking me to sleep.

The next memory I have is arriving back home at dawn. Grandpa is lifting me out of the boat and laughing about his granddaughter that caught more fish than him. At that moment, I knew he loved me.

**VOLUNTEERS STILL NEEDED FOR ANCESTRY DAY**  
**September 21, 2013**  
**Arlington Convention Center**

**PLEASE CONTACT TERRI O’NEILL**  
**AND SIGN UP TODAY!!!!!!!!!!**