



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 2015

Volume 38 Issue 7

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**

Date-July 2, 2015

Speaker:

Bernard Meisner MCGS Member

Topic: Techniques and Strategies for
More Effective Online Searching

As more and more genealogical material becomes available through the Internet it has become essential to formulate efficient searches to find the relevant information about your ancestors. One must not only know where to look for the information, but how to find it. This presentation will cover how to determine what information is available, where it is located, and how to use search tools such as filters, wildcards, relationships, complementary data sources, and tailored search engines to improve the likelihood of finding it.

August 6, 2015 Ice Cream Social/New Officers

September 3, 2015 Lynell Moss, Family Search.org

October 1, 2015 Sandra Crowley, MCGS Member, "Digital Scrapbooking"

November 5, 2015 Marilyn Hay, MCGS Member, "US Gen Website"

December 3, 2015 Christmas Party

Bernard N. Meisner

began researching his family over 25 years ago and enjoys sharing lessons learned from those experiences, including his mistakes. Although he knew only one grandparent (his maternal grandfather) he has successfully identified all of his great-great grandparents and several triple-great grand-parents. He is past president and current parliamentarian and social media chair of the *Mid-Cities*



Genealogical Society, and is a member of the *National Genealogical Society*, the *Federation of Genealogical Societies* and the *Texas State Genealogical Society*.

Bernard recently retired from the National Weather Service Southern Region Headquarters where he was the Acting Chief of the Science & Technology Services Division. He is certified as a consulting meteorologist by the American Meteorological Society and holds a teaching certificate from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. He has taught at the Universities of Texas, Oklahoma and St. Thomas (Houston). A native of Pittsburgh, PA, he has visited almost every community named Pittsburgh/Pittsburg in the United States.

Bernard earned a B.S. in physics/German from Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh, and an M.S. and Ph.D. in meteorology from the University of Hawaii.

NOTICE: Election of officers for the year 2015-2016 will be held during the August 2015 meeting which is Thursday, August 6. At the July 2 meeting, a slate of candidates will be presented. There will also be an opportunity to take nominations from the floor.

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Family Historians Go Online to Identify Unknown Soldiers and You Can Help

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission says it has seen a steep rise in cases where amateur genealogists and historians believe they have solved the mystery of unidentified war graves. Similar efforts are underway in the U.S. and in European countries that were the scene of World War I and World War II battles.

The ability to search old war records easily online and the popularity of family history programs such as *Who Do You Think You Are?* and the *Missing In Action Recovery and Identification Project* of the University of Wisconsin at Madison have led many to turn amateur historian and try to identify the graves of missing ancestors.

Hundreds of thousands of members of the armed forces still have no known graves after the First and Second World Wars. Large numbers of bodies were never identified and lie



only with headstones marked "Known unto God." But with millions of war records put online in recent years and the ease of searching them, there has been a dramatic increase in people turning detective and attempting to work out what happened to their lost relatives.

You can read more in two online articles: *Army of family historians go online to identify unknown soldiers* at <http://goo.gl/Sfq02t> describes efforts in the United Kingdom and the Commonwealth countries while *Madison-based scientists aim to bring home MIAs the military missed* at <http://goo.gl/VQJZmx> describes similar efforts in the U.S.

Do you have comments, questions, or corrections to this article? If so, please post your words at the end of [this article](#) in the Standard Edition newsletter's web site where everyone can benefit from your words. You might also want to read comments posted by others there.

From: Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter - Plus Edition

ISSN: 1544-4090 Vol. 20 No. 22 - June 1, 2015
©1996-2015 by Richard W. Eastman

From: Eastmans Online Genealogy Newsletter Thu, Jun 4, 2015 1:18 am

Free, Week-Long Seminar for Beginning and Intermediate Genealogists

The Family History Library and the Research Specialists of the United States and Canada Reference team are offering a free, never before offered, week-long seminar in October of 2015 in Salt Lake City. The focus will be exclusively U.S. research. The classes will be ideal for beginning and intermediate genealogists interested in learning about U.S. records, FamilySearch resources, and Family History Library collections. Many of the classes will also be offered as webinars for those who can't make it to Salt Lake City.

For more information and to register for the course, see the United States Research Seminar wiki page

at: https://familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/United_States_Research_Seminar.

Announcing a New Genealogy Website: Twile

I took a brief look at this web site this morning and it looks good. It is new so it doesn't yet have a lot of information but it certainly shows promise. The following announcement was written by the folks at Twile:

New Website Lets Family Historians Share What They Find

Twile aims to make Genealogy more engaging for the whole family. Sheffield, UK, June 2, 2015 - Twile (www.twile.com) allows family historians to create rich, visual timelines of their family history, made up of milestones and photos from their ancestors' lives. Genealogy services, like MyHeritage and Ancestry, focus primarily on providing access to historical records. Twile, on the other hand, helps users get a visualization of

8A Monday, May 18, 2015

www.star-telegram.com

Tarrant

Time Frames



J.W. Curtop Photograph Collection

What is now the University of Texas at Arlington began as Arlington College in 1895. Local merchant Edward Emmett Rankin persuaded the co-principals of the Arlington Public School, Lee Hammond and William Trimble, to found a private institution offering quality education for primary, intermediate and secondary students.

Called Arlington College, it struggled financially, and in 1902 trustees reached an agreement with James M. Carlisle to open a military school on the former Arlington College grounds. First called Carlisle's School for Boys, the school operated from 1903 to 1913 as Carlisle Military Academy. Though the academy "officially" accepted male students

only, at least eight young women are known to have graduated from it.

These three young women attended Carlisle Military Academy in 1910: from left, Jessie (Bardin) Wardell, Ethel (Roy) Brown and Eunice Taylor.

The college had five other name changes until 1967, when the Legislature passed the bill creating the University of Texas at Arlington.

The University of Texas at Arlington Libraries offer a rich and diverse collection of materials on the history of Texas and the Southwest. Each week in Time Frames, readers get a glimpse of the past with an image from Special Collections. 817-272-3393; library.uta.edu/special-collections.

the information and easily share it with their family.

“We’ve found there is a family historian in pretty much every family, who gathers as much information as they can about their heritage,” said Twile co-founder, Paul Brooks. “Unfortunately, most of their family will never see any of it, either because it isn’t shared or because it’s hidden away in notes and scanned documents that are difficult for most people to digest.”

Through online surveys and conversations with genealogists, Twile found that most family historians keep their research behind website logins, on their home computer or in physical boxes. They typically share their findings verbally and rarely give access to online or offline files.

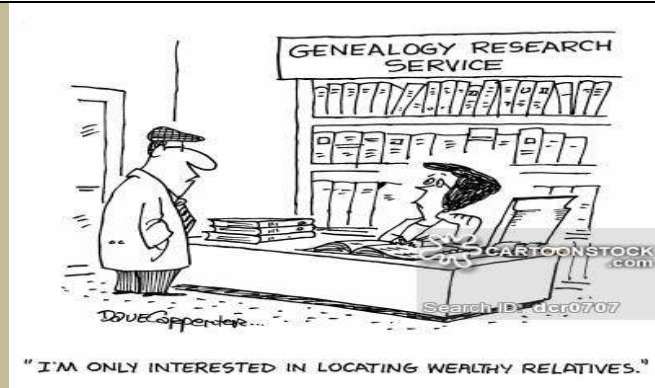
Paul said, “There is a real danger that all of the family history that’s been uncovered will be lost, unless it’s shared and someone else continues the work. We’re aiming to give genealogists a place to privately share their family history - a way that will make the younger generations want to explore the history and contribute to it.”


The website is completely free to use, allowing users to build or import their family tree and create a timeline by uploading photos or adding milestones - such as birth, marriage and death - for anyone on the tree. Twile Plus is a premium subscription service and is available for £19.99 per year, giving access to a wider library of milestone types.

About Twile


Twile, based in Sheffield and Manchester UK, was started in 2013 by Paul Brooks and Kelly Marsden. Both with young families, they were looking for a way to give their children a record of their early years and a knowledge of their ancestors. While the website is aimed primarily at family historians, it’s also designed to encourage the rest of the family to add their own, more recent content.


Twile launched as part of the **DotForge Accelerator** in Sheffield UK and has since been backed by Creative England (who bring capital through the Government’s Regional Growth Fund) and a number of





Lisa Louise Cooke's
Genealogy Gems





I've been busy putting the finishing touches on my brand new presentation *Google Update! Everything New for Genealogy that You Need to Know* which debuts at the Southern California Genealogical Society Jamboree in Burbank, CA this weekend. . . . **However, Google waits for no one**, and true to form they continue to announce ongoing innovations. I put their most recent announcements in the "good, better, and best" categories. Here they are:

Good: Bolded Answers in Search Results
"Google is now bolding answers in the search results, not just the query or the synonym of your query in the search results,"



reports Search Engine Land. Maybe you've noticed this already. You Google the question, "What county is Chicago in?" Instead of the

UK angel investors, including Lee Strafford, one of the original co-founders of Plusnet, which was sold to BT Group in 2007.

Note added by Dick Eastman: £19.99 is equivalent to \$30.56 US at today's exchange rate.

Do you have comments, questions, or corrections to this article? If so, please post your words at the end of [this article](#) in the Standard Edition newsletter's web site where everyone can benefit from your words. You might also want to read comments posted by others there.

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search results highlighting key search terms you used, the highlighted results actually answer the question. So helpful and fast!

Better: Free Roaming Abroad (Genealogy Road Trip Anyone?)

Google's wireless plan is looking at providing free roaming while abroad. **Mashable.com** reports that Google is exploring the ability to "offer wireless plans that will allow people in the U.S. to use their smartphones abroad without roaming charges....The plans would include voice calls, text messages and data, which would cost the same regardless of customers' locations."

Best: Chromebit computer plugs into HDMI port

ReadWrite.com recently featured Google's new Chromebit, "a Chrome OS computer the size of a candy bar that plugs into a TV's HDMI port. This device, manufactured by Asus, is the latest in a line of 'computers on a stick,' a type of gadget we're likely to see a lot more of."



How cool this is for on-the-go computing, or for sharing family history info on your computer on a big screen. At a reported retail price of less than \$100, these technologies may be as wallet-friendly as they are portable. Keep an eye on this technology!

Thanks for listening friend. I'll talk to you next week,

P.S. Thank you to everyone who sent in condolence wishes this past week after the news of my husband's mothers passing. We appreciated your prayers, and are safely home from our travels.

Genealogy Tips: How to Find Female Ancestors in Newspapers

From: GenealogyBank Newsletter, June 2015 GenealogyBank.com

How do you find stories about your mother, grandmother, great-grandmother and other female ancestors in the newspaper? Sometimes that can be easier said than done, but here are a few tips to help you search for those elusive female ancestors.

What Types of News Articles Feature Women?

While the digitization of newspapers provides us the luxury of finding newspaper articles we weren't specifically looking for, knowing what type of articles feature women can make it easier to focus your searches. It's hard to imagine all the different types of articles a mother could be mentioned in, but reading copies of your ancestor's local newspaper can be helpful. A few types of news articles to consider include the following.

Food & Recipe Newspaper Articles

What's the best thing your mom cooks? Do you have memories of grandma's homemade pies at Thanksgiving? Don't forget that she could have been featured in the pages of the food section of the newspaper for her culinary prowess. Recipe contests sponsored by the newspaper or food companies, requests for recipes, or sharing a favorite recipe were all occasions for women to be published in the local newspaper.

For example, this article from a 1951 Texas newspaper about a pear recipe contest includes the names and addresses of the female judges and the winners. Even three-year-old Peggy Womack, who accompanied her mother to judge the entries, is mentioned.

Mrs. Friedli's Pineapple-Pear Pie Judged Winner of Recipe Contest

By SANDAL ENGLISH

The Dallas News' housewife-readers committee had a difficult time selecting pear recipe winners this week.

The recipes which made the finals after testing by home economists of the Lone Star Gas Company, were so delicious that the judges deliberated for some time before reaching a decision.

Here are the winners chosen by Mrs. James R. Redding, 2631 California Crossing; Mrs. J. D. Womack, 10116 Womack Court, and Mrs. A. H. Kramer, 2901 Northwest Highway: Mrs. Calvin Friedli, 9939 Kilarney Drive, first place; Mrs. T. H. Kimball, 2563 Emmett, second place; Mrs. Frank Cumming, Sherman, third place.

Three-year-old Peggy Womack, who explained proudly that she would be four soon, came to the judging with her mother. She was much interested in sampling the dishes, but couldn't quite decide which one she liked best.

The judges also awarded five honorable mentions: Mrs. L. W. Rivenbark, 3532 Granada; Mrs. H. M. DeFir, 804 Grandview, Mrs. F. W. Vivion, Blossom; Mrs. Frank Barnette, 4131 Hawthorne, and Mrs. M. A. Clark, Rockwall.

Here is Mrs. Friedli's first-place recipe.

PINEAPPLE-PEAR PIE

Ingredients: Three-fourths cup sugar, 1 tablespoon flour, 2 eggs, 1 small can crushed pineapple, 1 medium can pear halves, juice of 1 lemon, 1 baked pie shell, whipping cream.

Method: Combine sugar and flour, add lemon juice and juice drained from pineapple and pears, and cook over low heat, stirring constantly until quite thick. Add

well-beaten eggs, and cook, beating with egg beater for an additional ten minutes.

Place drained halves of pears, round side up, in baked pie shell. Pour crushed pineapple around the pears. Then pour half of cooked mixture over the fruit. Cool and spread with whipped cream. Pour remainder of cooked mixture over whipped cream and serve.

Mrs. Kimball's recipe uses canned pears with angel food cake, and is a dish quickly made.

Use the 33c size, round angel food cake, she advises.

ANGEL CAKE

Ingredients: One large can pears, 1 cup pear juice, 1 box vanilla pudding, 3 cups milk, $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ cup sugar if family likes desserts quite sweet, 1 tablespoon plain gelatin soaked in $\frac{1}{4}$ cup water, 1 teaspoon vanilla flavoring, 1 small round angel food cake.

Method: Make pudding according to directions, using 3 cups milk. Add vanilla, sugar and gelatin which has been soaked in $\frac{1}{4}$ cup water for five minutes; cool to lukewarm. Split cake into three layers. Spoon three tablespoons sauce, 3 tablespoons juice on first layer, set in bottom of bowl slightly larger than cake. Cover with sliced pears. Repeat with second layer, then add top layer of cake. Pour over remainder of juice, and then remainder of sauce.

Chill twelve hours, slice and serve with whipped cream.

Mrs. Kimball said that red jelly used between the layers makes the dish extra-pretty.

Mrs. Cumming's winning recipe follows:

CUSTARD PIE

Ingredients: Six eggs, 1 can evaporated milk (13 fluid ounces), 3 cups canned pears, sliced; 1 teaspoon vanilla, $\frac{1}{4}$ teaspoon nutmeg.

pour over pears. Arrange in one mold or individual molds. Chill until set. Serve with mayonnaise to which a small amount has been added.

Also pretty to look at and good to eat is Mrs. DeFir's idea.

BAKED PEARS WITH WINE SAUCE

Ingredients: Six winter pears, $\frac{1}{2}$ cup water, 1 cup sugar, 1 tablespoon cornstarch, 1 tablespoon butter, 2 tablespoons cold water, $\frac{1}{4}$ cup port or other sweet wine.

Method: Peel pears, cut in half and remove cores. Arrange in baking dish. Boil sugar and $\frac{1}{2}$ cup water together until sugar is dissolved. Pour over pears. Cover and bake in moderate oven, 350 degrees, until pears are tender (forty-five minutes). Drain hot syrup from cooked pears. Combine cornstarch with 2 tablespoons water, and stir slowly into pear syrup. Bring to boil and cook, stirring frequently, about fifteen minutes or until thickened and clear. Add butter and wine. Pour over pears. Serve warm or cold, with cream or whipped cream topped with maraschino cherry.

Mrs. Barnette's recipe is to be served burning.

PEARS AFLAME

Ingredients: One No. 2 $\frac{1}{4}$ can pear halves, 1 cup syrup from pears, $\frac{1}{2}$ cup sugar, 1 17-ounce can strained cranberry sauce, or cranberry juice cocktail, lemon extract.

Method: Place pear halves in casserole. Combine syrup, sugar and cranberry sauce. Cook five minutes and pour over pears. Bake

Dallas Morning News (Dallas, Texas), 9 March 1951, page 22

Genealogy Tip: Remember that women may be mentioned using their husband's name so don't forget to try searching for her as Mrs. John Smith or Mrs. J. A. Smith.

Women's Interest Pages

Women's Interest pages printed all types of articles about women's activities including causes they supported and clubs they were a member of. You can find mentions of events and articles that report on meetings at members' homes complete with an address.

Such is the case on this Clubs page from a 1926 Washington newspaper, which includes mentions of the WCTU (Women's Christian Temperance Union), sororities, fraternal auxiliaries like Order of the Eastern Star, and Soroptimists. Awards women won, their names, addresses and even two photos can be found on this page.

CLUBS

W. C. T. U. TO GET OUT DRY VOTE

Interest Increases in Approaching Annual Convention in Los Angeles.

WOMEN WHO WOULD BE INTERESTED in attending the annual convention of the Woman's Christian Temperance Union will be held in the First Methodist Church in Los Angeles, Calif., from September 14 to October 1.

Increased interest will be shown in the annual convention of this union, the world's greatest of the Women's Christian Temperance Union, who will have special chapters of the Union in every state.

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MRS. ALTRA PERRY CURRY, who will figure prominently in the coming of the new Old People's Chapter House.



CLUBS OUTLINE SEASON'S WORK

Programs Relate to Music, Dramatics, Arts, Literature and Economics.

PROGRAMS in the coming of the seasonal season, the programs of the clubs will be presented to the members. Some early spring local organizations have made and made national attention for their season of music, dramatics, arts, literature and economics.

IN THE successful staging of these programs great attention has been given to the details. Some of the clubs have the music and have some dramatics. Some have the arts and some have the literature. Some have the economics and some have the music. Some have the dramatics and some have the arts. Some have the literature and some have the economics.

MISS LUCILLE MANTON, active in the social and philanthropic work of the Home Club.



CENTURY PLANS FOLK MUSIC STUDY

Program Will Cover Development and Influence in Foreign Countries.

THE next season of the Century Company will be devoted to the study of folk music in foreign countries. The program will cover the development and influence of folk music in various countries.

THE study of folk music has been the subject of the program of the Century Company. The program will cover the development and influence of folk music in various countries.

SOROPTIMISTS SHOW RAPID GROWTH

Programs Relate to Music, Dramatics, Arts, Literature and Economics.



Cruise thru the Mediterranean

Forty-five days of luxurious travel through seas that two thousand years ago witnessed tremendous battles for world supremacy—thirty-four days ashore in nations that offer incomparable sightseeing... All this on the Fourth Annual Mediterranean Cruise leaving New York City February 12, 1927 aboard the magnificent cruise ship, Empress of France.

Seattle Daily Times (Seattle, Washington), 22 August 1926, page 60

Our female ancestors enjoyed club activities and membership in varied organizations in the area your ancestor lived that she may have been a member of. Remember that she could have belonged to a group that believed in a cause she was passionate about (WCTU or League of Women Voters), was part of her church (Dorcas Society or Relief Society), or an auxiliary to an organization where her husband was a member (Women's Relief Corp, Order of the Eastern Star).

There's no doubt that being a mom and wife could get you in the paper as well. Whether it was for the birth of a baby, celebrating a wedding anniversary, attending a family reunion or even traveling with a child, your ancestress could be mentioned.

Great information about one family can be found in this report in a 1905 Idaho newspaper of the reunion attended in Texas by Mrs. J. F. Shellworth of Boise, Idaho. There are many names and much descendant information presented in this old newspaper article.

NOTABLE FAMILY REUNION

Account of Affair Attended in Texas by Mrs. J. F. Shellworth of Boise.

The issue of the Comanche, Tex., Pioneer Exponent for last Friday contains an account of the reunion of the Campbell family near that place which was held a week ago Wednesday. Mrs. J. F. Shellworth of this city attended the reunion, being the only person there from outside of Texas. Of the affair the Exponent gives the following account:

"On the ninth day of August one of the largest and oldest families of Comanche county assembled in reunion at the old C. C. Campbell homestead two miles southeast of Comanche.

"The parents of this family, Charles C. and Julia A. Campbell, were native Texans and came to Comanche county in 1854 or 1855, being the third family to settle in the county.

"There were 21 children born to this parentage, all full brothers and sisters, and of the 13 children now living 12 were present at the reunion. Of this family all were born in Comanche county except the two eldest, one of whom was born in Jefferson and the

I have to admit my favorite part is the last paragraph that states:

"Of this large family there is, nor has been, no stain on their moral characters, nor have any of them been arraigned before a court of justice as far back as the family history records."

"Of this large family there is nor has been no stain on their moral characters, nor have any of them been arraigned before a court of justice as far back as the family history records."

Idaho Statesman (Boise, Idaho), 18 August 1905, page 6

Gossip & Social Columns

Don't forget that gossip, social or "around town" articles provide opportunities for piecing together your female ancestor's life. These short mentions often tell of the everyday activities she participated in like going shopping, traveling or even becoming ill.

For example, in this section of a 1904 Michigan newspaper entitled "News of Michigan Towns," women are listed partaking in such activities as attending funerals, moving, attending club meetings, teaching, entertaining and in one instance passing away from a lengthy battle with consumption (TB):

"Auburn, May 4.—Miss Lillie Miller, who has been suffering for the last six months with consumption, passed away April 30. Burial took place Monday morning at Midland. Miss Miller was with her parents during most of her sickness and death."

<p>UP</p> <p>AUBURN</p> <p>Auburn, May 4.—Miss Lillie Miller, who has been suffering for the last six months with consumption, passed away April 30. Burial took place Monday morning at Midland. Miss Miller was with her parents during most of her sickness and death.</p> <p>Miss Edith Baldwin, who teaches in the southwest part of the township, will close her school Friday.</p> <p>Miss Mary Holmes, teacher of the private high school, closed her school April 29. Her pupils have done excellent work and much credit is due Miss</p>	<p>Holmes in the sacrifices she has made to carry on this school.</p> <p>Miss Mary Holmes has taken up the work in the Dunham school which H. P. Wilson left. There will be five more weeks of school.</p> <p>Appropriate exercises were observed by the school Arbor day. Several fine trees were planted and the teachers and pupils enjoyed a part of the afternoon in the woods hunting flowers.</p> <p>Rev. Mr. Rutledge spoke in the Methodist Episcopal church Sunday morning. He represents the State</p> <p>DOWN</p>
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Saginaw News (Saginaw, Michigan), 4 May 1904, page 3

It's All in the Name

I have discovered that often when I wasn't able to find something in a digitized newspaper it was because I wasn't searching my ancestor's name the way the newspaper printed it. It's always when I think the name can't possibly be printed as Miss Philibert or M. B. Philibert that I'm proven wrong.

Genealogy Tip: Create a list of variations of your ancestor's name and then add various spellings and misspellings to that list.

Keep a list of those name variations handy, and on that list have two parts. In the first part, write out all the

variations of the name she could have used throughout her life. Such a list for one of my paternal great-grandmothers looks like this:

- Mary Bell Chatham Mary Bell Philibert
- Mary Chatham Mary Philibert
- M.B. Chatham Mrs. Oscar Philibert
- Miss Chatham Mrs. O. J. Philibert

I add all the creative ways Chatham and/or Philibert can be spelled, my list starts to look like this:

- Mary Bell Chatham Mary Bell Philibert Philibert Phillibert
- Mary Chatham Mary Philibert Philibert
- M.B. Chatham Mrs. Oscar Philibert Filibert
- Miss Chatham Mrs. O. J. Philibert Philburt

get the idea of how many variations you may amass. Not sure how a name could possibly be misspelled? Ask a first or second grader. They will sound out the name and base their guess on phonetics, something that others may have done when spelling your ancestor's name.

Before you give up on a genealogy search, always try another variation of your ancestor's name.

Keep Track of Your Family History Research

As you research, keep a timeline of your female ancestor's life so that you can determine what types of newspaper articles you might find during various times of her life, such as birth notices when she could be having children, or notices about her death.

Because **GenealogyBank** is constantly adding new newspapers, you will need to conduct your search at least every month to find new results.

It's no secret that I love the information that historical newspapers provide about our female ancestors. Finding mom (or grandma or great-grandma) is made easier when you know how to search. Honor your foremothers by locating stories about their lives in the newspaper. Good luck with your searches!

Also From: **GenealogyBank NEWS, June 2015** **GenealogyBank.com**

Monthly Update: GenealogyBank Just Added 19 Million More Records!

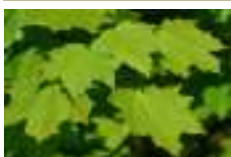
Every day, GenealogyBank is working hard to digitize more newspapers and obituaries, expanding our collection to give you the largest newspaper archives for family history research available online. We just completed adding 19 million more U.S. genealogy records, vastly increasing our content coverage from coast to coast!

- A total of **463 newspaper titles from 50 U.S. states plus the District of Columbia**
- **All 463** of these titles are newspapers added to GenealogyBank for the first time!
- Newspaper titles marked with an **asterisk (*)** are **new to our online archives**
- We've shown the newspaper issue **date ranges** so that you can determine if the newly added content is relevant to your personal genealogy research

Did You Know

From: <http://www.answers.com/article/1234182/15-medieval-hygiene-practices-that-might-make-you-queasy>

One Medieval Hygiene Practice that might make you Queasy: What was the "Groom of the Stool"?



Leaves or Moss as Toilet Paper: Neither rich nor poor people had toilet paper. Poor people used leaves or moss to wipe their bottoms while the rich used lamb's wool instead. Kings had a royal bum wiper known as the "**Groom of the Stool.**"



"According to this genealogy website, I'm 60,765228th in line to the throne!"

HOW IT ALL BEGAN by Rod Ashford

In 2006, five years after the death of my father, my siblings and I were together for a family reunion. We began to discuss all our first cousins and where everyone might be. We thought that one was a realtor in the San Francisco Bay area and I knew one of them lived in Bremerton, Washington. There were originally sixteen of us but one had already passed away. My siblings and I were six of the sixteen.

When I returned to Tucson, AZ where I lived at that time I began to use the internet to search the San Francisco Bay area for a realtor named Ashford. Finding none I did a name search for him and three people with his name showed up. I called the first one on the list and getting no answer I left a message.

The next morning while I was on my way to work my cell phone rang. When I answered, it was my first cousin. I pulled over and we had a long talk and he told me where his two sisters lived.

My sister had gone to high school with a gal who might be able to tell us where another cousin lived. She contacted her friend and found out this cousin lived in Winnemucca, NV and gave me her telephone number. My cousin in NV told me how to contact her brother.

I used the internet again to contact our cousin in Bremerton, WA. Now we definitely knew where 13 of the living cousins were. The other two are still missing nine years later.

Another thing happened and it may be the most important. As I was looking through some of the things my Mother had sent me one more time I found this picture.

It is a picture of fifteen of the Ashford cousins (my little sister had not been born yet) taken at a Church of God camp meeting in 1951 or 1952. Because I had email addresses for most of the cousins, I sent this picture to them so they could help identify who's who.

One of the cousins I found lived in Phoenix, AZ, so my wife and I decided to visit her. As we visited I found out that before our deceased cousin died, he had been collecting genealogy information on the Ashford family, and she had a copy of the data he had found. She made me a copy and this is how I got started doing genealogy.

We had so much fun identifying the kids in the picture that we decided to have a first cousins reunion. The cousin in Phoenix agreed to host a gathering which was held in January 2007.

Eight of the fifteen first cousins descended on her place on Friday and we started talking, talking and still more talking exchanging stories about our growing up years. By-the-way, this reunion was planned around the fact that the last living member (Uncle Herman) of our parents' family would be in Phoenix that weekend. He and his wife came to our reunion on Saturday.

After lunch on Saturday the question of pictures came up. "Had anyone brought pictures?" Out came the large envelopes, Christmas card boxes and other assorted containers full of photos of unnamed people. I didn't get ours out right away because I didn't want to seem snobbish. You see, my wife is Miss Organization and every, well almost every, picture we own is in an album and they are labeled. They asked if I brought pictures, so I reluctantly got out our album of the Ashford family. They were amazed.

Uncle Herman sat on the couch and began looking at the photos and naming those he could. This was a godsend. On the ones he didn't know he would remark, "Those Ashford's never labeled anything."

On Sunday the other cousins plotted against my wife and me and asked us if we would take all the pictures home, scan them, make a CD and return the photos to their proper owner. We gladly did this.

In 2010 when Uncle Herman had to be placed in a nursing home, his daughter-in-law cleaned out his house and sent me four large envelopes of mostly black and white family photos. She and Herman's daughter had sorted the photos by family groups as best they could but this still left one large package of about 100 pictures with no names or dates.



My wife has a very good eye for faces and can pick out the same person in different photos so we were able to reduce the list of unknowns to about 50. We scanned the knowns and unknowns and posted them on ShutterFly so everyone could look at them.

After Uncle Herman passed away in 2012 I received another large envelope of pictures. Most of them were of people we knew.

We are having our fourth first cousins reunion this summer in Anacortes, WA, and I am sure there will be new stories told. We are still missing two cousins but all family groups have been in attendance to at least one of reunions.

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