



# My Journey From Yesterday

Mid-Cities Genealogical Society

P.O. Box 407

Bedford, TX 76095

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

June 2013

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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

July 11<sup>th</sup>

Speaker:

**Richard Monroe**

Program: Peters Colony and  
Immigration to Texas

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



## JUNE SPEAKER:

*Tony Hanson*

## TOPIC:

*Personal Digital  
Preservation for  
Genealogists*

Tony Hanson will introduce participants to the Digital Archiving process and provide information about how it applies to genealogical materials. Specific recommendations for creating a directory structure, creating meaningful file names and incorporating descriptive metadata will be presented. Relevant preservation file formats will be discussed and recent developments in archival media will be reviewed.

Mr. Hanson currently serves as WebMaster of the Dallas Genealogical Society.

## MEETING NOTICE

Monthly meetings will resume in our regular meeting room at the Library. Refreshments will be provided.

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Dr. Gopal Raju and wife, Chaya

**Save the Date**

**ANCESTRY DAY** in Texas will be Saturday, September 21, 2013 at the Arlington Convention Center. More details to come.

**SEE TERRI O'NEILL TO VOLUNTEER FOR THIS  
IMPORTANT EVENT!**

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GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY**

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Please contact Carole Crawford,  
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in your name or contact information.

## SERENDIPITY

by Robin Tyree

In the summer of 1986, my husband and I decided to research my dad's family line in Louisiana. I had not researched his line, as my mom and he had divorced when I was 7, and he had died when I was almost 20 without knowing him. We arrived in Many, Louisiana about dusk and decided to find a hotel before going to the cemetery where I knew he was buried. I had an overwhelming feeling to stop at the hotel on the east side of the road.

We went in and the lady behind the desk upon glancing up and quickly back to her paperwork stated "Hi Sue, I'll be with you in a moment." I just waited until she looked up again and said, "My name isn't Sue, it's Robin." She stood there a second and said, "I could swear you were Sue Moore." I didn't know anyone by that name and went ahead and registered, polite conversation ensued and she asked why we were in Louisiana. I stated we were here to research my family and to find my grandmother's grave.

She then stated, "I'm from here, who is your grandmother?" I said Edna May Rivers Moore and she said, "Edna May's not dead, she lives in Vidor." Vidor was about two hours away in Texas. As I hadn't seen her in about 12 years, I put it in the back of my mind to try and contact her before leaving Louisiana and went to our room.

Two hours later there was a knock at my door and standing there was my grandmother and two ladies I didn't know. One looked so much like my little sister, I just stared.

Grandmother said, "Is that you, Robbie?" This was the nickname she and daddy had called me when I was little. I said yes, and we hugged and laughed and hugged some more. Sue was my first cousin and Lois, her mom, was daddy's sister. I learned a lot about my daddy and his family. We went to the graveyard the next day and saw daddy and grandpa's graves and thoroughly enjoyed ourselves. We were sorry to leave and I felt a great loss. Mark and I went back to Idaho, for him to go to school.

We talked a few times and then on Dec 12, 1986, I had a strong feeling again to call my grandmother and learned she was in the hospital. I called her there, and she said she was so happy to hear from me again. We talked for a few minutes, and because she was tired, I told her goodbye. She died on the 14th. I miss her and my dad and wish we could have been closer.

Serendipity, just plain luck, or the guidance of the Holy Spirit - call it what you want but it does happen.

From *Genealogy Today*

*Editor's Note: Have you experienced a case of "serendipity" while researching your ancestry? Let me publish it in this newsletter!*

## WE NEED YOUR PHOTOGRAPHS !!

The planning phase for our **35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Party** on August 1st is well 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!

### MEMBER NEWS

We are saddened to learn of the passing of Jerry Post, and extend to his family our deepest condolences.

### CHECK THESE OUT!

#### FAMILY CHARTMASTERS

[www.Familychartmasters.com](http://www.Familychartmasters.com)

The Family ChartMasters pedigree chart creation tool, Family ChArtist, is a great way to make a decorative 8.5x11-inch chart for scrapbooking, framing or gifting. Type your data or upload a GEDCOM and choose one of the simple pedigree chart designs. Then edit your information and choose from hundreds of borders, backgrounds and embellishments. You even can use your own pictures. Print your chart for free or order a large professionally printed version.

#### ZAPTHEGRANDMAGAP.COM

[www.zapthegrandmagap.com](http://www.zapthegrandmagap.com)

Author Janet Havorka dishes up a fun way to help the youngsters in your life catch the genealogy bug. Download pedigree charts with kid appeal as well as a 35-page *My Time Magazine* activity book – it's full of questions to ask grandparents and places to write down genealogical information.



### MEMBER SPOTLIGHT:

*Terry Bradshaw  
O'Neill*

Mid-Cities Genealogical Society members had a table set up at the now-defunct North Hills Mall in the summer of 1982 during a community event in order to publicize the Society and recruit new members. One of the displays was a large map of Scotland which caught my eye, so I wandered over to see what they had to offer. My paternal grandmother's parents were both born in Scotland, and she had given me a compiled genealogy of my grandfather's family which had piqued my interest in family history. Beyond that, I knew nothing about genealogy or researching my family history. In short order, I was convinced by enthusiastic MCGS members that joining the Society was just what I needed to learn more. After attending my first meeting, I joined, and was immediately mentored by Frances Malcolm. She held a "mini-getting-started-workshop" at her home for 3 newbies, and under her guidance, (as well as MCGS regular meetings) we were on our way. The Fort Worth society was hosting the NGS Conference that fall, but unfortunately I was unable to attend. Frances insisted that I attend a lecture on Virginia research by Lloyd Bockstruck, who was the supervisor of the genealogy section of the Dallas Public Library, thus adding to the firm foundation provided by MCGS of my genealogical education. Exposure to Lloyd's excellent teachings led me in turn to other seminars, lectures and conferences hosted by the Dallas and Fort Worth Genealogical Societies. In addition to Frances Malcolm, MCGS members Mary Stultz, Evelyn Cushman, Jo Bulin, Barbara Clampitt and Weldon Hudson were the guiding forces in my path of discovery. The following year, 1983, I attended the NGS Conference in Raleigh, NC, as that is where my research had led me. I had always believed that I descended from a long line of Virginians in my paternal lineage, but that notion was soon put to rest as I learned more about my family's origins. The compiled genealogy that my grandmother, Elsie (Harvey) Bradshaw, bestowed upon me revealed two intriguing ancestors: Stephen Moore, a Revolutionary War soldier, and Richard Stanford, US Congressman representing the state of North Carolina. Stephen Moore was born in New York City, and on the death of his father, inherited the property at West Point on which the US Military Academy would be built. At the beginning of the Revolutionary War, Stephen Moore moved his family from West Point to the area of Orange County, NC. Richard Stanford was first elected to the House of Representatives in 1797 and served until his death in 1816. Both these ancestors offered wide paper trails to follow, which I have been pursuing for over thirty years.

My husband, Ken O'Neill was a commercial airline pilot for 30 years, which afforded me the opportunity to do a lot of on-site research and attend many of the national genealogical conferences in the places of interest to me. I have been able to mine the manuscript collections of the University of North Carolina's Southern Historical Collections and Duke University's Perkins Library, the North Carolina State Archives, the New-York Historical Society, the New York State Archives, the Historical Society of Pennsylvania and countless other repositories around the

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**AND VISIT THESE BLOGS:****CLUE WAGON**[www.cluewagon.com](http://www.cluewagon.com)

Funny and opinionated, Kerry Scott holds forth on subjects as diverse as “The Worst Question in Genealogy” and why “You cannot merge other people’s family trees into your family tree. Ever. EVER. NOT EVER.” This former corporate HR executive started blogging about how to get a job. Genealogists will be glad she now likes “dead people” instead. “Spending my time with dead people is awesome. They never send dumb chain emails or make you sit through three-hour meetings in windowless conference rooms. They don’t sexually harass each other and you never have to fire them and then help them clean out their desks. Dead people rock.”

**THE GENETIC GENEALOGIST**[www.thegeneticgenealogist.com](http://www.thegeneticgenealogist.com)

The latest technological twist in genealogy isn’t online but in our DNA, and who better to explain it than blogger Blaine Bettinger, a genealogist with a PhD in biochemistry. As he explains his mission, “The Genetic Genealogist examines the intersection of traditional genealogical techniques and modern genetic research. The blog also explores the latest news and developments in the related field of personal genomics.” If you want more of Blaine Bettinger’s clear and commonsensical insights, you also can download a free e-book, *I Have the Results of My Genetic Genealogy Test, Now What?*

**THE ASSOCIATION OF GRAVEYARD RABBITS**[www.thegraveyardrabbit.com](http://www.thegraveyardrabbit.com)

This blog is a hopping headquarters for a network of “graveyard rabbits” (and their own associated blogs) dedicated to transcribing tombstones and documenting local cemeteries in words and pictures. As such, it gives digital ink to a variety of interesting voices while offering insight into broad trends in cemeteries of yesterday and today, as well as fascinating facts about cemeteries around the world.

(As shared by *Family Tree Magazine*,  
May/June 2013)

**Terri Bradshaw O’Neill (Continued)**

country. In studying the Moore and Stanford lineages, and their many collateral branches, I have learned that one must not rely on compiled genealogies or family histories to be complete or accurate, but use them as a starting point for your own thorough research. In 1991, a Moore family reunion was organized by descendants of Stephen Moore whom I had never met. When I was contacted about the reunion, I was delighted to get to know other descendants of Stephen Moore whose names I was only vaguely familiar with from the pages of *Our Webb Kin of Dixie*, that compiled genealogy given to me by my grandmother a decade before. One of the “new” cousins I met at this time was Dr. Victor Moore of Georgia. He in turn, put me in contact with Marguerite Roll of Arizona. Marguerite was not a Moore descendant, but was researching the Moore lineage in order to obtain the Moore coat of arms as a gift to friends, and she had hired the Lancaster Herald at the College of Arms in London to obtain the arms. The problem was, the Herald could not verify the lineage to the Berkshire, England, Moores of Fawley, as had been believed by Moore descendants in America for over 200 years. What followed was a 4 year period of intense study and correspondence on both sides of the Atlantic, with the result being that the Moores of Fawley lineage was disproven, and was replaced by another (corrected) Moore lineage. The Moore Family Reunion at West Point in 1991 was the catalyst for forming a Moore family research group that continues to this day, and we continue to make discoveries large and small. Most significant in recent years is the location of the original pastel portraits of Stephen Moore’s parents, Col. John & Frances (Lambert) Moore of NYC; a family bible record showing the true birth date of Stephen Moore’s eldest son, Robert; and a portrait of Stephen Moore shown in his British NY Provincial Militia uniform during the French and Indian War. During the Revolutionary War, Stephen opted for the Patriots, thus providing me eligibility for DAR membership. Congressman Richard Stanford served during the War of 1812, so I am also a Daughter of 1812.

I can’t emphasize enough the value and importance of educating oneself on sound research methods, new developments in technology and ever-increasing availability of online records. Networking with other researchers, contact with family members in all branches and on-site research in the localities of your family’s residences play an important role in successful research. By doing so, you position yourself to recognize surprising, significant and relevant discoveries when you encounter them.

It is said that genealogists never finish, and I firmly believe that to be true. I intend to continue the study of my family’s history and genealogy until I run out of time. My two daughters, Shawn & Kimberly, are interested in my discoveries, and of my seven grandchildren, several are interested in the historical aspects of my studies. Since 1994, I have volunteered at the Dallas Public Library’s Genealogy section every Tuesday. I have been a contributing editor to the New York Genealogical & Biographical Society’s quarterly publication, *The Record*, for the last four years, which has helped hone my writing & research skills. When not researching and writing, my husband and I take full advantage of his retired status and flight privileges by traveling extensively.

The chance encounter with MCGS members at North Hills Mall all those years ago certainly changed the direction of my life and put me on the path of discovery that I’ve been pursuing ever since. I think Frances Malcolm would be proud of the results of her careful guidance.

## MyHeritage Launches Record Detective™ to Accelerate Family History Discoveries

Global family history network makes technology breakthrough that turns dead-ends into new leads

PROVO, Utah, and Tel Aviv, Israel, May 13 2013: MyHeritage, the popular family history network, today announced the launch of Record Detective™, the first technology of its kind to automatically extend the paper trail from a single historical record to other related records and family tree connections.

Record Detective™ turns historical records into “smart” objects that determine which people they are about, and conducts further research about them. Records found in MyHeritage’s digital archive, SuperSearch, will now include a summary of additional records and individuals in family trees relating to them, thanks to the Record Detective™ technology. This will provide users with new information and clues to take their research to new directions.

Examples of how Record Detective™ benefits users:

- When a user finds a gravestone photo, Record Detective™ is capable of automatically finding and displaying who was buried there, and providing a link to the person’s family tree, plus birth, census and marriage records and even newspaper articles about that person.
- For users viewing a page in a digitized yearbook on MyHeritage, Record Detective™ will show the people mentioned on the page in their respective family trees and allow users to learn more about their families and get in touch with their relatives (subject to privacy protections).
- When viewing a record in the US census collection, Record Detective™ will provide census entries of the same person in former or subsequent years, and do this for the entire household. The additional information could include newspaper articles about the person’s son or the immigration papers of his parents.

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## What’s in A Name? For Genealogists, Perhaps a Clue!

Contributed by Bernard Meisner

*“Names are a valuable source of information. They can indicate gender, marital status, birthplace, nationality, ethnicity, religion, and position within a family or even within a society. However, naming practices vary enormously across the globe.”*

*A Guide to Names and Naming Practices.*

What’s in a name? What is the origin of your name? Names are important to us as genealogists since they can be clues to help us determine whether two or more individuals might be related. Name can be important to other walks of life, too. The above quote is from an article prepared for Interpol, the international police organization!

Naming [conventions](#) can be culturally based. Even when those conventions change over time, genealogists who are familiar with the naming conventions observed during the lifetimes of their ancestors can use that information when faced with a brick wall.

The motivation for this article came from a news story I heard a while ago. Iceland maintains a list of 1,853 approved female names, and 1,712 male ones. Parents must select a name from those lists or seek permission from a special committee. A woman by the name of Bjork Eidsdottir told the priest she wanted to call her daughter Blaer. Only after she was given that name in baptism did they discover the name Blaer, which means "light breeze," was considered a male name, not approved for girls. For the past 15 years, until a court recently ruled that the name was legal for a girl, Blaer was known on official documents as “Stulka,” which translates to “Girl” in English.

Icelandic genealogists face other challenges, since they still don’t use family names. In Iceland a person's surname indicates the first name of the person's father or, in some cases, mother. For example, the Icelandic explorer Leif Ericson was the son of Erik (The Red) Thorvaldsson who, in turn, was the son of Thorvald Asvaldsson. Blaer Bjarkardottir, mentioned above, is the daughter (“ardottir”) of Bjork Eidsdottir.

Norway, Sweden and Denmark previously followed similar naming conventions. Other countries also have laws that restrict what names can be given to a child. Similar to Iceland, Germany and Denmark require parents to pick from lists of approved names.

In some cultures it was customary to name children after the saint who was celebrated on the day they were born. When I was young, a frequent visitor to our church and school was a priest we knew as Father Blaise. He once told us he was actually born on February 2<sup>nd</sup> but, since that was Candlemas Day, his parents chose to name him after St. Blaise, whose feast day was the following day, February 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Here in the United States parents have great leeway in naming their children. I have a cousin who has two sons by her former husband. Each son has a different surname. Son #1 has the family name of his father, while Son #2 has the family name of his mother.

My mother’s Uncle Stuart (everyone called him Stuart) was actually named Christopher Stuart, as the priest refused to baptize him unless he was given a “Christian” first name!

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## Record Detective (Continued)

The new technology is highly accurate with almost no false positives.

To maximize its benefits, the technology behind the Record Detective™ uses an innovative technique called the Transitive Conclusion Trail. For example, it can link a death record to a birth record of the same person, by first linking the death record to a matching person in a family tree with the same death date, then linking that person through his parents to the same person in another family tree, this time having a birth date, and then use that extra information to locate the birth record of that person. During the process checks are made to ensure the lack of contradictions, and conclusions are made only if they are statistically solid. Users are not aware of the calculations behind the scenes, and are only handed the related information with confidence scores. This way Record Detective™ helps users find relevant information they may have never found on their own.

## Licensing

To extend the benefits of this new technology to the wider community, MyHeritage is making Record Detective™ available for license to other family history websites and services that provide historical records, with revenue sharing. By adding just a few lines of code to their webpage, partners can harness Record Detective™ and display for each record, other records and family trees related to it, providing better value for users. Interested parties can contact [bd@myheritage.com](mailto:bd@myheritage.com).

"We're excited to unveil Record Detective™ - a major addition to the tool arsenal of any family history enthusiast", said Gilad Japhet, Founder and CEO of MyHeritage. "Record Detective™ makes a single discovery more interesting and rewarding by linking to more information about the same person. With this powerful new technology, our users will be able to make even more exciting discoveries. This is an industry first, and a testament to our focus on creating truly innovative technologies for family history."

A summary of any record can be viewed for free and users can choose between affordable pay-as-you-go credits or a Data subscription for full unlimited access to all historical records.

## What's In A Name? (Continued)

My parents weren't very creative in naming my sister and me. My sister and mother share the same first name, which was also the name by which my grandmother was known (it was her middle name). I've been told that name came from a character in a book my great grandmother was reading when she was pregnant with my grandmother. Although I might have been named after either my father or grandfather, since they were both named Bernard, I believe my name comes from my father.

To further complicate matters, I was baptized in St. Bernard's Church! The first Bernard Meisner, as I've taken to calling him, was my great granduncle. As was the custom at the time and place of his birth in Bavaria, he was named after his godfather, Bernard Schenk.

For years I've faced a brick wall concerning the origins of my great-great grandparents Daniel O'Hara and Mary Judge. A naming pattern popular in England in the 1700s and 1800s was:

- The first son was named after the father's father
- The second son was named after the mother's father
- The third son was named after the father
- The fourth son was named after the father's eldest brother
- The first daughter after the mother's mother
- The second daughter after the father's mother
- The third daughter after the mother
- The fourth daughter after the mother's eldest sister

Did Daniel and Mary follow that naming convention with their children? If they did, I could deduce the names of their parents from the names of their children! When I reviewed how their son James O'Hara and his wife Margaret (my great grandparents) named their children I noted:

- First son, Daniel (same name as his father's father)
- Second son, John (same name as his mother's father)
- Third son, James (same name as his father)
- Fourth son, Harry William (a partial exception to the rule?)
- Fifth son, William (same name as his father's eldest brother)
- First (and only) daughter, Anne (same name as her mother's mother)

It appears my great grandparents did follow much of the cultural naming pattern! So, if my great-great grandparents, Daniel and Mary, also observed that pattern, then Daniel would be the son of William and Mary O'Hara, and Mary would be the daughter of James and Sarah Judge, since they named their children:

- First son, William (potential name of Daniel's father?)
- Second son, James (potential name of Mary's father?)
- Third son, John (an exception to the pattern?)
- Fourth son, Daniel (same name as his father)
- Fifth son, Thomas (potential name of Daniel's eldest brother?)
- First daughter, Sarah (potential name of Mary's mother?)
- Second daughter, Mary, (potential name of Daniel's mother?)
- Third daughter, Marian (a variant of her mother's name?)
- Fourth daughter, Helen (potential name of Mary's eldest sister?)

So, if you're facing a brick wall in your research, consider whether a cultural naming convention in use at the time and place where they lived might provide clues to finding a way around that brick wall.