



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 2014

Volume 37 Issue 6

Jane Aronhalt, President

Mid-Cities Genealogical Society meets
the 1st 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.

2014 MCGS GENERAL MEETINGS CALENDAR

July 3, 2014

Terri O'Neill:

Finding the Portraits of Your Ancestors

August 7, 2014

Ice Cream Social

September 4, 2014

Dreanna Belden:

The Portal to Texas History

October 2, 2014

Meg Hacker:

19th Century Fort Smith
Criminal Cases

NOTICE:

The June meeting will convene in the
Genealogy Room at the library.



JUNE SPEAKER:

Earl Armstrong

TOPIC:

**Writing Your Family
History**

Earl spent the first nine years of his life growing up in Oklahoma City. His family moved several times after that and they spent time living in California, New Mexico, Kansas and Arkansas before returning to Oklahoma. As a teen, he moved to Dallas, Texas and then back to Oklahoma where he graduated from high school in 1959. He wrote for his high school newspaper and created cartoons. In 1960, he joined the U.S. Air Force and trained as a weather observer at Chanute AFB in Illinois. The last thirteen months of his Air Force enlistment was in Seoul, Korea. After mustering out, he tried different occupations and finally settled on being a draftsman. Eventually, he became a supervisor for a design department and eventually earned a degree in Industry and Technology from East Texas State University and three years later his Master's degree. He began a rewarding career as a mechanical design engineer and ended his formal working days as a supervisor for Abbott Laboratories, a major pharmaceutical company, where he was responsible for company-wide document distribution and software storage. He retired in 2000. Along the way, he wrote numerous short articles for various small publications.

Earl and his wife, Pat, have traveled to every state in the U.S. and have visited several areas of the country doing genealogy searches. She is an avid user of Ancestry. He's a published author in several genres including children's stories, newspaper articles, a short booklet on spider webs, a book on cellular health issues, and recently authored a personal history and biography for a retired surgeon plus many other miscellaneous writings. For over five years, he taught a very popular senior education class on memoir and life story writing at Tarrant County College in Fort Worth. In addition, he also periodically teaches a class on weather.

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your name or contact information.



**MEMBER
SPOTLIGHT:
EVELYNN KELLY**

You might like to know how my ancestors came to be in Texas and how I came to be interested in my genealogy.

As was common in the days when I was in what is now called middle school years, when my mother's father died, her mother came to live with us and I loved having my grandmother keep my sister and me while my mother worked in our small, family owned business. Because of the wonderful stories my grandmother told me while I was dressing her beautiful, long black hair and/or doing her nails, I developed early on an interest in our family. It seemed like all those people she talked about were still living and doing interesting things like going off to fight in the Civil War! Actually, my mother's family was so southern in outlook that when "the war" was mentioned, they were referring to the Civil War.

My grandmother's father-in-law was one of four sons each of whom was married and the father of children when the war started. Being of fiery Scots-Irish descent, they all wanted to fight in the war but one of them would have to stay behind to watch after the women and children. My great grandfather got the short straw, so he didn't get to go to fight!

My mother's first ancestor to come to Texas, emigrated from Tennessee in 1828 and was given a league and a labor of land by the Mexican government after he swore allegiance to that country and said that he was catholic. (This was the legal requirement and, even today, to own land in Mexico, one has to be a citizen. It's possible to have a very long term lease if one is not a citizen, but a non-citizen cannot purchase land.) Because of him, we are entitled to apply for the First Families of Texas certificate.

Because of my grandmother's indoctrination, when I first went to work for the Air Force and worked with a sergeant who was a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, he had fallow ground in which to further my interest along in my mother's family. He gave me my first charts – remember those legal size forms printed horizontally – which I laboriously filled out. Then, for some reason, after that flurry of activity, my interest lay dormant for a number of years.

In recent years, I met a lady at one of the chambers of which I am a member who had written a book about her family, incorporating pictures and recipes. She had self-published it before publishing on demand existed and graciously gave me a copy after finding out that I was also interested in genealogy.

Final Words from Fallen Warriors

By Andrew Carroll
(From AARP Bulletin May 2014)

Since the early days of the Revolutionary War, American soldiers have been writing letters that shared their fears, hopes for the future, and love with those who waited anxiously behind.



John Ross Wallar volunteered to serve as a drummer boy in the Civil War when he was only 15 years old. He was shot in the leg and languished in a military hospital for days. From his bed, he dictated a short letter to his family before he died:

Dear Sister father Mother and friends I recieved your letter But I don't think I Ever shall see another that you write this is Friday night But I don't think I will Live to See Morning But My Kind friends I am a Soldier of Christ I will Meet you all in Heven My Leg Has Bin taking of above My nee I am Dying at this time so don't Morn after Me fore I Have Bleed and died fore My Country May God Help you all to pray fore Me I want you all to Meet Me in Heven above Dear Sister you wanted to Know if My Leg would be Stiff God Bless Your Soul Sister I will be Stiff all over be four twenty four ours. My wound Dresser is writing this Letter fore Me when you get this Letter write to Alexander Nelan fore I wont Live till Morning so good By My friends May God be with you all good by God Bless My poor Soul.

Evelynn Kelly, Continued

As a result of her gift, I started work on a book about my mother's family and then it dawned on me that I am the product of two lines; not one! So, I also began working on my father's family lines and renewing acquaintances with his relatives. We have since reinstated the annual family reunion of his mother's people and it's wonderful getting to know my cousins on that side. Seems that several of these cousins are also researching our family so we are able to combine notes at our reunion as everyone brings their binders to share their research. Ancestry.com has really been a help to all of us!

My father had told me that when he was initiated into the Masonic Lodge, his father and his grandfather were both on the initiation team. Knowing that, visiting the Lodge Hall and seeing my grandfather's picture in the line of Grand Masters made quite an impression on me. I was able to get a lovely plaque showing all the presidents of our country who had been members of the Masonic Lodge (the majority) and I had a brass plate added to it with verbiage reading, "donated in memory of my father, John Grady Hill, my grandfather, Nathan Alberton Hill and my great grandfather, John Bell Moring, all members of this lodge," and my name is below. It hangs today in that little lodge hall in Hannibal, Texas.

Something that has always intrigued me is that musical talent runs in both my lines and since talents are inherited, it was a revelation when my cousin in Idaho who is a certified genealogist discovered that one of our lines originated in Wales as the Welsh are noted for their musicality. Also, when I had my DNA done, I found that we had ancestors from Moravia. Moravians are also known for their musicality. So, no wonder all of us are musically talented – it's in our genes!

My most challenging ancestor is my great great grandfather Michael Oliver Jenkins whose birth resulted from his mother's being raped by a Cherokee brave in North Carolina. My ancestor was brought up by his aunt and his ancestry was hidden probably for two reasons: his "shameful" origination and half breeds were being forcibly removed to the reservations. So, there is no way I can think of to determine the identity of his father.

I do know that Michael Oliver emigrated to Green County, Tennessee and there married the daughter of a farmer, John Freshour, whose grandfather, John Freshour, had come down from Pennsylvania. After the war in which Michael Oliver served in the Confederate calvary, the Reconstruction Yankee government took his land as they did that of many other Confederate veterans so Michael Oliver and Mary Ann came to Paris, Texas.

My father's father is from Mississippi and he was one of those who wrote "Gone to Texas" on a piece of cardboard, stuck it on the door, and in the company of one of his cousins, never looked back!

So this is how my ancestors came to be in Texas.

FAMILY TREEMAKER WORKSHOP

Saturday, August 16, 2014

Noon to 4:00 PM

Presenter: Marilyn Hay

Learn how to:

- Navigate Family Treemaker
- Add Photographs
- Add Ancestors to your Tree
- Customize and Print Reports

Sessions at FGS 2014

The Federation of Genealogical Societies (“FGS”) and co-hosts, the San Antonio Genealogical and Historical Society and the Texas State Genealogical Society, will welcome the nation’s genealogists to San Antonio, Texas, 27-30 August, 2014 for the [FGS 2014 Conference](#), “Gone to Texas.”

Sessions at this year’s FGS 2014 conference include a wide array of offerings from many of the nation’s leading family history experts and genealogical organizations. Dirk Weissleder, national chairman of the German Federation of Genealogical Societies, will present a session on German research trips, sponsored by FamilySearch.

Each day of the conference features a track, “Ethnic Origins,” focusing on different ethnic groups, including German, Polish, English, Hispanic, Eastern European, Irish, Scots-Irish, Scottish, Native American, and African American. If you have Texas ancestors, you don’t want to miss the “Texas and Neighboring States” research track.

Love workshops? You are going to be very pleased with the selection of ten exciting workshops at FGS 2014. Topics include photos, self-publishing, DNA, and many more options. Staff from the Texas State Archives and the Texas General Land Office will also be on hand to offer workshops in Texas research. Limited space is available in these workshops and they always fill up quickly, so be sure to sign up early!

For those of you who have attended FGS conferences in the past, you will notice a few changes. We have paid attention to your surveys and comments and will offer some new features at this conference.

Breaks between classes will be 45 minutes during which you can shop our wonderful vendors, enjoy a 30-minute “mini-session,” or take in a vendor demonstration. The choice is yours.

San Antonio is a destination. With that in mind, there will be no planned group event for Thursday evening. Enjoy this free evening to stroll the Riverwalk, take in an IMAX movie, walk over to the Alamo, or take a riverboat ride. The choices are endless.



Not Your Grandmother's Genealogy!

Has it been a few years since you attended a national genealogy conference? Family history and genealogy have not stood still while the rest of the world changes. The Federation of Genealogical Societies is hosting their 2014 Conference in San Antonio, Texas, August 27-30. You’re invited to attend and see what you think of the updates to genealogy.

Presentations will come in a number of tracks:

- Records
- Methodologies
- Military
- Transportation
- Online resources
- Genetics
- Midwest and neighboring states, including repositories & religious communities
- Federal records
- Technology
- Migration and immigration
- Writing, speaking, and publishing
- Ethnic origins and records, including European, German, African American, and British Isles

Check the program on the conference web site for specific presentations.

The exhibit hall, several workshops, plus evening social programs Wednesday and Friday, round out a full genealogical experience for the last week of August. The San Antonio Historical and Genealogical Society Library will be offering extra hours during the conference.

Learn More about FGS 2014 and Stay Connected

- Visit the conference website at <http://www.fgsconference.org>.
- Find the latest news on the conference blog at <http://www.fgsconference.org/blog>
- Like the conference on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/FGSconference>.
- Follow the conference on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/fgsgenealogy> and hashtag #FGS2014.

Attend FGS 2014 and Visit the Missions of San Antonio

The Federation of Genealogical Societies (“FGS”) and co-hosts, the San Antonio Genealogical and Historical Society and the Texas State Genealogical Society, will welcome the nation’s genealogists to San Antonio, Texas, 27-30 August, 2014 for the [FGS 2014 Conference](#), “Gone to Texas.”

While attending the conference, go early to visit the historic five missions, established in the eighteenth century by Franciscan priests from Spain. Today, the five missions (Alamo, Mission San José, Mission Concepción, Mission San Juan, and Mission Espada) represent the largest concentration of Spanish colonial missions in North America.

- **Mission San Francisco de la Espada**
- **The Alamo**
- **Mission San José y San Miguel de Aguayo**
- **Mission San Juan Capistrano**
- **Mission Nuestra Señora de la Purísima Concepción de Acuña**

Learn more about the [FGS 2014 Conference](#) at [www.fgsconference.org](#) and [The Missions of San Antonio](#) on the FGS conference blog at [www.fgsconference.org/blog](#).

How Genealogy Became Almost as Popular as Porn

From *Eastman’s Online Genealogy*
May 31, 2014

Genealogy is the second most popular hobby in the U.S. after gardening, according to ABC News, and the second most visited category of websites, after pornography. It’s a billion-dollar industry that has spawned profitable websites, television shows, scores of books and — with the advent of over-the-counter genetic test kits — a cottage industry in DNA ancestry testing.

Writing in *Time Magazine*, Gregory Rodriguez describes the changes and growth in genealogy. As he writes, “Now I understand why so many millions of Americans love it. Genealogy is fun.”

Read more at: <http://goo.gl/v9koDT>.



John Philip Colletta to Speak at DGS Summer Symposium

July 11-12, 2014 at the Dallas Public Library

The Dallas Genealogical Society will host its two-day Summer Symposium Friday and Saturday, July 11-12, featuring John Philip Colletta, Ph.D., as our featured speaker.

The Symposium’s theme will be *For Today’s Generation and Tomorrow’s: The Many Ways to Preserve Family History*. There has been much interest in the genealogy community lately about how best to preserve your family history, and these eight sessions will bring John’s considerable talents and experience in that area to attendees:

- *Organizing Your Materials for a Genealogy or Family History: Fundamental Choices and Essential Considerations*
- *How Do You Know?: Documenting Your Multi-Generational Record*
- *Turning Biographical Facts into Real-Life Events: How to Build Historical Context*
- *Evidence from Material Culture: Using Artifacts in Researching and Writing about Ancestors*
- *Principles of Good Writing and Good Storytelling*
- *Using Original and Derivative Sources: Evaluating Evidence*
- *Publishing Your Genealogy or Family History: Choices and Essential Considerations*
- *Writing a Narrative Family History: The Pitfalls and Snares!*

John resides in Washington, D.C., where for twenty years he worked half-time at the Library of Congress and taught workshops at the National Archives, while laying the foundation for his career in genealogy. Today Dr. Colletta lectures nationally, teaches at local schools, and conducts programs for the Smithsonian Institution’s Resident Associate Program. He is a faculty member of the Institute of Genealogy and Historical Research at Samford University (Birmingham, AL), the Salt Lake Institute of Genealogy, and Boston University’s Certificate in Family History program.

He has also been an instructor and course coordinator for the National Institute on Genealogical Research (Washington, D.C.), the Genealogical Institute of Texas (Dallas), and the Genealogical Institute of Mid-America (Springfield, IL).

His publications include numerous articles, both scholarly and popular. He has written two manuals: *They Came in Ships: A Guide to Finding Your Immigrant Ancestor's Arrival Record* and *Finding Italian Roots: The Complete Guide for Americans*. He also wrote one “murder-mystery-family-history” -- *Only a Few Bones: A True Account of the Rolling Fork Tragedy and Its Aftermath* -- that tells the story of Colletta’s great great grandfather, Joe Ring, who moved his family from Buffalo, New York, to Rolling Fork, Mississippi, after the Civil War.

New England Holocaust Institute and Museum is Closing

From *Eastman's Online Genealogy*
May 30, 2014

A man who opened a small Holocaust museum in western Massachusetts a year and a half ago says he's shutting down because there just isn't enough interest. Rare photographs of life in the concentration camps are there, as are records Nazis kept on Jews and prisoners. Owner Darrell English says the New England Holocaust Institute and Museum in North Adams will close June 30.

MCGS Editor's Note

A year or so ago, my family and I visited the Holocaust Museum in Dallas. The atmosphere in the museum was somber, the proverbial "you could hear a pin drop." The images were difficult to take in.

Though very, very small, it features letters, clothing and other artifacts of that terrible time. The central exhibit, however, was the railcar used to transport victims to the camps. About one third the size of today's railcars, approximately 100 men, women and children were packed in each car, wall-to-wall humans with no room to sit or lie down, no ventilation, no food, no way to sleep, nowhere to relieve themselves. Sometimes the journey was 2-3 days, with no stops along the way. Many died in route, from heat exhaustion, starvation or other illness.

While my family and I were browsing the exhibits, in walked (with the aid of a walker) an elderly, white haired gentleman. He was tall and held himself with much grace. Clearly revered, the museum staff scurried to accommodate him, situated him at a small table in the lobby and helped him unload several books. This man was Mike Jacobs, a founder of the museum and author of *Holocaust Survivor*.

I purchased his book, which he kindly agreed to autograph. He wrote, "Remember, Never Again" and "With all Good Wishes." He also penned, "**Have Hope, Believe, and Think Positive.**" The latter was his mantra for surviving the unthinkable.

It saddens me that people seem to have forgotten this horrific time in history, and that these museums are closing because of lack of interest. Our young people do not realize that their hobbies of texting, facebooking, movie-going and other luxuries could be snatched away in a second. It is not out of the realm of possibility that it could happen in this country.

When Joe Ring's country store burned to the ground with five unfortunate victims sleeping upstairs, the incident was investigated as mass murder, robbery and arson.

Dr. Colletta appears frequently on podcasts and local and national radio and television. He is featured in Episode Four of *Ancestors*, the ten-part KBYU-TV series, as well as its sequel. He has received many professional honors, including fellowship in the Utah Genealogical Association and distinguished service awards from the Dallas Genealogical Society and the National Society, Daughters of Colonial Founders and Patriots.

The Teaching Company has just released Dr. Colletta's 15-lesson course, *Discovering Your Roots: the Fundamentals of Genealogy*, as one of their *Great Courses* on DVD or CD with an accompanying manual.

He has been a speaker at DGS previously, and those who have heard him either in Dallas or elsewhere know he is a knowledgeable, experienced and entertaining speaker.

Visit www.dallasgenealogy.org for additional information about John, topic descriptions, and registration information.



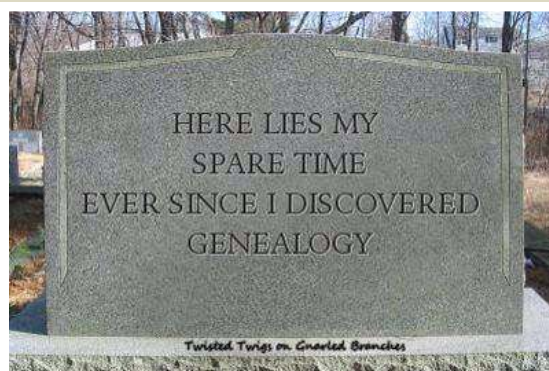
Mid-Cities Genealogical Society Presents a Free Workshop— *DNA and Your Family History*

Saturday, October 11, 2014
at the Euless Public Library
201 N. Ector Drive, Euless, TX 76039

Speaker:
Debbie Parker Wayne, CGSM, CGLSM



SAVE THE DATE



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2013 – 2014

(Membership from September 1, 2013 to August 31, 2014)

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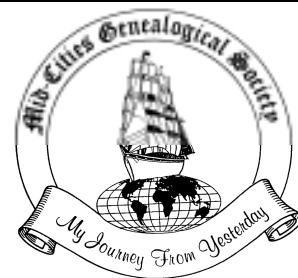
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