



My Journey From Yesterday

Mid-Cities Genealogical Society

P.O. Box 407

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

March 2013

Volume 36 Issue 3

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.



MARCH SPEAKER:

BERNARD MEISNER

**TOPIC:
MINING GEMS IN A CIVIL
WAR PENSION FILE**

2013 MCGS GENERAL MEETINGS CALENDAR

**April 4th
Speaker:**

Judy Knight

Program: Respected Lawyer to Counterfeiter

**May 2nd
Speaker:**

Paula Perkins

Program: With a Click of a Button, Demystify and Unlock the Secrets of Finding Family Records

**June 6th
Celebration:**

35th Anniversary of MCGS

**July 11th
Speaker:**

Richard Monroe

Program: Peters Colony and Immigration to Texas

**August 1st
Ice Cream Social**

**September 5th
Speaker:**

Mic Barnett

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

What originally began as a limited regime of protections for soldiers, widows, and orphans, eventually morphed into a system of old age pensions for almost one third of the elderly population. Most Union Army soldiers, their widows, or minor children applied for a pension.

Pensions were initially granted to soldiers who suffered war-related disabilities, and widows and orphans of soldiers killed in action. Later they were expanded to any Union veteran who served for at least 90 days, was honorably discharged, and suffered from a disability, even if not war-related. Eventually, old age itself declared a disability.

Bernard will use the records of his great grand uncle, John Fierst, and his cousin's great grandfather, Peter Lenaghen, to demonstrate the genealogical gems that can be found in a Civil War pension file. Pension applications generally contain supporting documents such as: discharge papers, affidavits, depositions of witnesses, narratives of events during service, marriage certificates, birth records, death certificates, pages from family bibles, and other supporting papers.

Members of state mustered militia units and locally raised home guard units were ineligible to apply for a pension. Not all pension files are stored at the National Archives. Whatever pensions granted to Confederate veterans were administered by the states in which they were living. If there was anyone still alive who had a claim against the pension in roughly, 1928, then NARA probably won't have the file. It was considered an active record and is still in the legal custody of the Department of Veterans' Affairs. Genealogists should submit a Freedom of Information Act request to Veterans Affairs for the file, recognizing it may take anywhere from a couple of months to a year or longer to receive the copies from the VA.

ANCESTRY DAY: SAVE THE DATE!!

As reported at the February meeting, we are EXCITED that **ANCESTRY** has invited MCGS to host a Workshop on September 21, 2013. Mark your calendars and plan to volunteer! Details to follow as they become available. Contact Sandra Crowley for questions and volunteer opportunities.

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GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY**

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SPEAKING OF THE CENSUS

The following article appeared in *The Vernon Clipper*

Vernon, Alabama, September 19, 1879

(Contributed by H.P. O'Mary)

THE CENSUS LAW

The following points of the census law will be of interest to many of our readers. The Superintendent of Census shall be appointed by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, with an annual salary of \$5,000. The Secretary of the Interior may appoint a chief clerk, six clerks of class four, ten clerks of class three, fifteen clerks of class two, and such number of clerks of class one and of copyists and computers, at salaries of not less than \$700 nor more than \$1,000 per annum, as may be necessary.

The Secretary of the Interior shall, on or before March 2, 1880, designate the number, whether one or more, of Supervisors of Census to be appointed within each State or territory, who shall be residents of the State or territory. The Supervisors shall be appointed by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, the total number not to exceed one hundred and fifty. Each Supervisor shall designate to the Superintendent of Census suitable persons, and with the consent of said Superintendent, employ such persons as enumerators within his district (one for each subdivision) residing therein, who shall be selected solely with reference to their fitness and without reference to their political or party affiliations, according to the appointment approved by the Superintendent of the Census. Each Supervisor shall, upon the completion of his duties to the satisfaction of the Secretary, receive the sum of \$500 in full compensation for services rendered and expenses incurred by him, except an allowance for clerk hire at the discretion of the Superintendent of the Census. The compensation of enumerators shall be ascertained and fixed as follows:

In subdivisions where the Superintendent of Census shall deem such an allowance sufficient, an allowance not exceeding two cents for each living inhabitant, two cents for each death reported, ten cents for each farm, and fifteen cents for each establishment of productive industry enumerated and returned, may be given in full compensation for all services; and no claim for mileage or traveling expenses shall be allowed in such subdivisions; Provided, that the subdivisions in which the above rate of compensation shall apply must be designated by the Superintendent of Census at least one month in advance of the enumeration; and no account of the time occupied in enumerating shall be required for the purpose of ascertaining and determining the compensation of enumerators in such subdivisions. For all other subdivisions, rates of compensation shall be fixed in advance of the enumeration by the Superintendent of Census, with the approval of the Census, with the approval of the Secretary of the Interior, according to the difficulty of the enumeration, having reference to the nature of the region to be canvassed, and the density of sparseness of settlements, or other considerations pertinent thereto; but the compensation allowed to any enumerator in any district east of the one hundredth meridian shall not exceed an average of four dollars per day or ten hours actual field work each; and the compensation allowed to any enumerator in any district west of the one hundredth meridian shall not exceed six dollars per working day of equal length. The subdivision assigned to any enumerator shall not exceed four thousand inhabitants, according to the Census of eighteen hundred and seventy. Provided, that in the Territories and in the States admitted into the union since eighteen hundred and seventy, the Supervisors of Census may appoint additional enumerators in cases where, in his judgment, the census cannot be properly taken in thirty days by reason of the increase of population or the physical features of the said district. It is reported that Alabama will have four Supervisors. No appointments will be made until March of next year.

RootsTech 2013

March 21 – 23, 2013
Family History & Technology
Conference
Salt Palace Convention Center
Salt Lake City, Utah

Visit <http://rootstech.org/about>
for details and registration

2013 LEGACY FAMILY TREE WEBINAR SCHEDULE ANNOUNCED

Millennia Corporation is pleased to announce that registration is now open for its 2013 Legacy Family Tree Webinar Series. Choose from more than 40 classes from genealogy's leading educators (over 60 hours of free genealogy education) on topics ranging from genealogy technology to DNA to in-depth research methodologies and evidence analysis.

Sign up for one or for all of them today (so you don't forget later) and you will receive a reminder email both one day and one hour prior to the live event. Register at www.LegacyFamilyTree.com/webinars.asp.

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MEMBER SPOTLIGHT:

MARILYN HAY



Serving the City of Dallas as a police officer for over 32 years, Marilyn was one of the first 12 women working in patrol. Women in law enforcement at that time were not as prevalent or accepted by their male counterparts. She was often a victim of mean-spirited pranks as a rookie. Men didn't want women on the force; their wives didn't want them in the squad car with their husbands. Eventually, Marilyn won over the wives, then the husbands.

A single Mom, she raised one son, Josh, now 25, who has also entered law enforcement as a police officer in Alvarado. "He just bought a house in Joshua, and I am very proud of him." Her 81 year old mother, Iris, lives with her in Keller. Says Marilyn, "She is more active than I will ever be at her age!"

Marilyn first became interested in genealogy at the age of 17 when her great aunt gave her 10 letters written during the Civil War, to and from Marilyn's ggg-grandfather. "I read the letters and wondered who he was, and that is when the bug bit me. I learned genealogy on my own, and that is why my early research isn't sourced. I found MCGS in approximately 1985, and that is when I learned to do genealogy the correct way."

Marilyn's "brick wall," as some of you may already know, involves her grandparents. Her father was born when his father was aged 52, so by the time she asked her father who his father's parents were, he replied, "I don't think he had any." After 39 years, Marilyn doesn't think he had any either. "My father told me he didn't ask questions about his grandparents, and they never told him. I only know that my grandfather was born in Georgia in 1864 and was orphaned at an early age and raised by maiden aunts. That is all I know to this day."

Marilyn has two favorite ancestors. One was her ggg-grandfather, Joseph Henry Shafer. She loves reading the Civil War letters describing his march through Georgia with General Sherman. Her other favorite is her ggg-grandfather, John Yancy Criswell, Sr., who brought his family to Texas in 1831. He and his sons were involved in the Texas Revolution. She would also love to talk with her gg-grandfather, John Yancy Criswell, Jr., as he, too, was involved in the Texas Revolution and the Mexican War as a Texas Ranger.

She loves cemetery hopping with her friend and fellow genealogist, Mary Moore, for Find-A-Grave. "We try to get out to the cemeteries in nice weather to help others prove dates. People think we're crazy to visit old cemeteries, but we love it!"

Marilyn's other hobby is computer technology. "I spend entirely too much time on my computer and other people's computers. If someone has a computer problem, I will do my best to help."

Some of you may have attended her classes at Tarrant County College where she teaches Genealogy, FamilyTree Maker and how to use the iPhone, among other things.

Though she doesn't have a "bucket list," Marilyn remains passionate about learning who her grandfather's parents were. And finally, she would like to join the Daughters of the Republic of Texas.

HAVE YOU BEGUN YOUR MEMOIR?????

At our January meeting, Sandra Crowley and Terri Bradshaw O'Neill proposed a challenge to the membership to write a memoir as a legacy for future generations. The challenge was inspired by Curt Witcher's banquet lecture during the TSGS 2012 Conference in November.

So get started! Leave an important legacy for your family to cherish!



Dallas Genealogical Society Presents SPRING LECTURE 2013

Records, Research & Stories

Keynote Speaker:

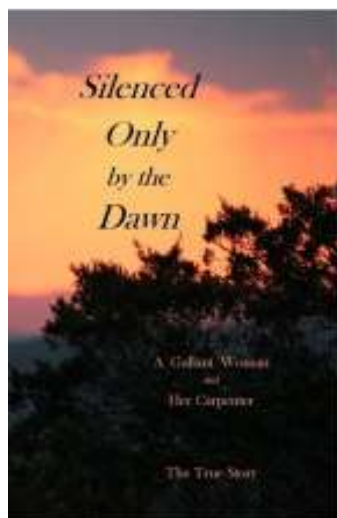
Paula Stuart-Warren

March 16, 2013

Refer to February Newsletter, or visit the Dallas Genealogy Society web site, for topics and speaker information!

SILENCED ONLY BY THE DAWN

By Merry Baker Langlinais
Visit merrylanglinais.com to order



Merry Langlinais is eager to make her newly published book, *Silenced Only by the Dawn*, available to all those with an interest in genealogy. The book tells the compelling story of one family, their westward movement from South Carolina and Southern Maryland in the 1700s, to Georgia, through Alabama, on to the Mississippi after the Civil War and finally settling in Texas. Members who research Grayson, Bandera, Bexar and Kerr Counties in Texas, Tuscoloosa and Randolph Counties in Alabama, and Oktibbeha County in Mississippi will find it particularly interesting, as will those researching Doughty, Parker, Prickett and Lee family lines, and to a lesser extent Gates, Miller, Caddell, Wright and Hudspeth families.

EXCERPT FROM EASTMAN'S ONLINE GENEALOGY NEWSLETTER

January 28, 2013

How to Find Information on a Specific Site

Here is a simple trick I have used dozens of times and yet I discovered recently that several of my friends didn't know about it. Google searches are great at finding information on the Web, but Google also frequently floods you with too many hits. Finding what you want is difficult if Google found 10,000 occurrences of the words you want to find.

If you happen to know the exact web site that has the information you seek, you can tell Google to search only that one web site. For instance, let's say that you think you saw an article on paperless genealogy in a past edition of Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter, and you wish to read the article again. Go to <http://www.google.com> and enter the following into the search box:

site:eogn.com paperless genealogy

The key here is to use the search term "site" followed by a colon to specify a search of only that one web site. Note there is no space after the colon. I find the www is optional so I usually omit those letters.

The above search will find any articles on www.eogn.com that have both the word "paperless" and the word "genealogy" somewhere on the same page. Of course, the word "genealogy" appears frequently in this newsletter, so I might specify a more specific search by using quotes:

Site:eogn.com "paperless genealogy"

This search with quote marks specifies to search www.eogn.com for the exact phrase "paperless genealogy." That is, it looks only for occurrences of the word "paperless" immediately followed by the word "genealogy."

You can also perform exactly the same search (and a lot more) by using Google's Advanced Search page at http://www.google.com/advanced_search. If you are not familiar with Advanced Search, I suggest you go to http://www.google.com/advanced_search and try it now. That page can help you quickly narrow your searches to exactly what you seek.

I must admit, however, that using the normal Google search page with the term "site:" followed by the web address is so quick and easy that I normally use that. I do use Google's Advanced Search page frequently for more advanced searches.