My Journey From Yesterday

Mid-Cities Genealogical Society
P.O. Box 407
Bedford, TX 76095

Mid-Cities Genealogical Society meets the 1st Thursday of each month at:

Euless Public Library
Meeting Room, 201 N. Ector Euless, Texas
6:30 p.m. – Social
7:00 p.m. – General Meeting
Visitors are welcome.

2013 MCGS GENERAL MEETINGS CALENDAR

December 5, 2013

Christmas Party!
6:30 PM – 8:00 PM

January 2, 2014

Marilyn Hay:
"My Canvas"

February & March 2014

To Be Announced

WELL WISHES

MCGS member Carole Beeler of Hurst is currently undergoing treatment for cancer. Our thoughts are with her and her family with many prayers for a complete recovery.

LIKE US ON FACEBOOK!

www.facebook.com/TXMCGS

NOVEMBER SPEAKER

Lynell Moss

TOPIC

What's New at FamilySearch.org

Lynell Bennett Moss is a 6th generation Dallasite. She has been researching her family, as well as others, since 1968 in courthouses, libraries, archives and online. Lynell has held leadership positions with the Plano Family History Center for 21 years including Technical Services, Director, Consultant Trainer and has served as Director of the Great Family Search Conference for a period of 10 years. She has been involved in beta testing programs for FamilySearch for 16 years and indexing FamilySearch Historical records for seven years.

Lynell is a member of the Dallas Genealogical Society, Texas State Genealogical Society and National Genealogical Society.

YOU WON'T WANT TO MISS THIS YEAR'S
CHRISTMAS PARTY!!

In addition to FELLOWSHIP, FOOD and GAMES, one lucky member (guests not eligible) will win a Flip-Pal Scanner!! Each member who attends will receive a ticket to enter the drawing. WHAT exactly is a Flip-Pal Scanner?? Read all about it on Page 5 of this newsletter!

As always, everyone is asked to bring a potluck dish; MCGS will provide the meat and drinks (tea/soda). Please bring a non-perishable food item for donation to the Food Bank and a wrapped gift if you want to participate in the gift exchange (limit cost to $5.00 or under).

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Please contact Carole Crawford, ruanyone@yahoo.com, to report errors in your name or contact information.

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT:

Leah Chance

I served as an educator in the HEB ISD for 26 years, first as an elementary teacher for nine years, then a Library-Media Specialist at Bedford Junior High for 17 years. My husband, Jim, and I recently celebrated our 50th wedding anniversary. Jim taught high school math for 33 years. We have a son and daughter, both graduates of L. D. Bell High School, as well as four grandsons.

My membership in MCGS began about 20 years ago, when I received an invitation to join from Francis Malcolm, a great researcher and genealogy teacher. I first became interested in genealogy 44 years ago when my mother, Mildred Fritz Hayes, and my grant-aunt, Johnnie Pennington, sat and shared all the family history they knew. Francis had given family sheets to me to record all the known data about all lines of my family. Those notes were stored until a time when I had the opportunity to begin the research.

My children attended Texas A&M, and both my mother and great-aunt were deceased. I began my research as a way to honor my mother and to deal with my grief over her sudden death. How I wish I had not delayed that research, because I have discovered so many family facts that mother would have enjoyed!

The ancestors most challenging to me are my great-grandparents, Henry William Hayes (1863-1918) and Clara May Harrod (1873-1936). Henry's obit indicates he was born in London, London County, England. Family lore stated that he was born in London, came to the United States at age 15 without parents or siblings, and never discussed any family. My earliest documented date for Henry being in the United States was July 3, 1890 in Gratiot County, Michigan when he married Clara. Very close DNA matches indicated that he was more likely to have been Irish. Clara was adopted by Thomas Henry Harrod and Jane Humphrey in late 1879 at age seven. Her death certificate indicates her birth father as being Henry Fell/Fehl from Ohio, but no name was listed for her birth mother. After 20 years of research, the birthplace and parents of both Henry Hayes and Clara Harrod Hayes remain a mystery!

My favorite ancestor is usually the one I am currently researching. However, one of my favorites is Abraham Bledsoe (1737-1801), who was born in Virginia, was a Long Hunter with Daniel Boone, and served in Dunsmore's War and French and Indian War.

The ancestors I would most like to talk with are Catherine Ann Noble (Welch) Bryant (1833-1866) and James Madison Bryant (1831-1923) – my second great-grandparents who were listed as orphans in the 1850 Hopkins County, Kentucky census. In 1853, she and Catherine (Stull) Swearingen Noble (1801-1834) signed to sell 4,000 acres of a military patent land in Hopkins County, Kentucky that had been issued to John Steed in 1789. They are the only women to sign to sell this land. Catherine Swearingen's mother was a Noble, and she was married to Noah Noble, the fifth Governor of Indiana. I would ask Catherine Welch Bryant, "Who were your parents, how are you related to Catherine Swearingen and what common ancestor did you share?"

The most surprising fact uncovered during my research concerned Johannes Philipp Mahr/Moore (1754-1820), born in Dudenhofen, Germany and two brothers. They were taken from the family farm and shipped to Quebec, Canada to fight for the English in the

Leah Chance (Continued)

Revolutionary War (1776-1778). He was a Private in a Hesse-Hanau Regiment (Hessian soldier) who was a POW from 1777 to 1778. He escaped in Buckingham County, Virginia on October 10, 1798 while being marched back to New York to be shipped back to Germany. He stayed in Virginia where he reared his family.

My preferred method of genealogical research is the courthouse. My husband has been very willing to drive to several other states for courthouse research, and many times we had ancestors in the same general areas, so he had a list of names, dates, questions, etc., to search while I searched my lines.

In addition to genealogy, I also enjoy reading, travelling and time spent with family.
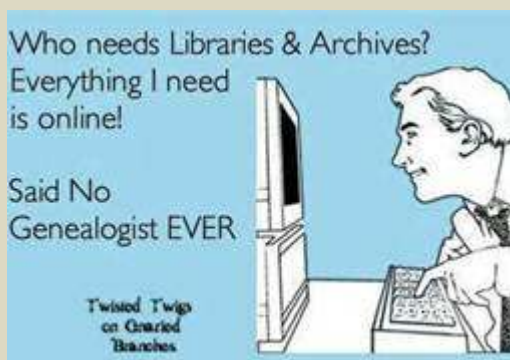
My bucket list includes visiting Dudenhofen, Germany to locate the area where Johannes Philipp Mahr/Moore lived to conduct additional research about his family; locating the children's home in Michigan or Ohio from which Clara May Fell Harrod Hayes was adopted in 1879; and discovering the parents of Henry William Hayes and learning whether he was English or Irish. I have recently taken the DNA test for ethnicity.

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MICROSOFT ONENOTE
CHECK IT OUT!

If you have the Microsoft Office package of Word, Excel and PowerPoint, you probably have OneNote. It's essentially a virtual notebook that includes the same elements as a physical notebook – pages, section tabs, grouped sections and more. You can have notebooks for each surname you're researching, localities and specific tasks. After you set up your system, it's easy to organize your research (no more shuffling stacks of paper).

To learn more about using Microsoft OneNote for genealogy, **visit The Paperless Genealogist blog**:

<paperlessgenealogy.blogspot.com/2011/11/well-ive-started-using-microsofts.html>

GenealogyBank and Digital Sanborn Maps:
Exciting New Additions to the Dallas Public Library

Carolyn Davis, DGS Director of Publicity

(Contributed by Sandra Crowley)

GenealogyBank, a resource from NewsBank, Inc., is a database comprised of the following collections:

- *Historical Newspapers (1690 - 1999)* is a newspaper archive that features over 1000 titles covering 320 years of fully searchable historical newspapers printed in small towns and big cities throughout the U.S. Find old newspaper articles, obituaries, birth, and marriage records, sports articles and stats, photographs, advertisements, and more.

- *Historical Books (1749 - 1900)* provides the complete text of more than 11,700 books, pamphlets, and printed items including: genealogies, biographies, funeral sermons, local histories, cards, charts and more.

- *Historical Documents (1789 - 1994)* includes military records, casualty lists, and Civil War pension requests, widow's claims, orphan petitions, land grants, and other interesting historical documentation. Two of the prominent titles in this collection are the "American State Papers" and the "US Congressional Serial Set."

- *America's Obituaries (1977 - Current)* often provides ancestor names, dates, birthplaces, marriage info, death records, and other relevant family history information.

- *Social Security Death Index (1937 - Current)* contains more than 92 million death records for individuals with US Social Security numbers.
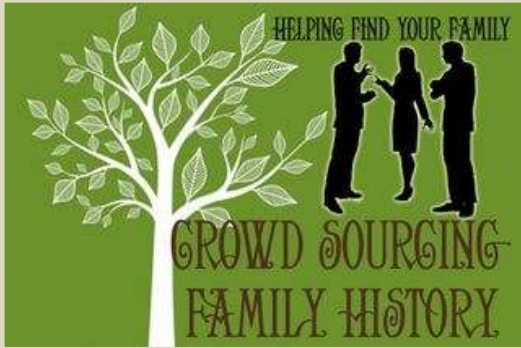
If you live within the city of Dallas and have a DPL library card, you can connect to GenealogyBank from home via their web site: http://dallaslibrary2.org. Click on the Databases tab on the home page, then scroll down to "NewsBank Online Service," and then choose "America's GenealogyBank" from the list. If you don't have a library card, you can still access these databases via the public computers available at all Dallas Public Library locations: http://dallaslibrary2.org/hours.php.

The Dallas Public Library has also expanded its geographic coverage of the **Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps**. For some time, the digitized maps that provide detailed property and land-use records maps have been available for Texas cities and towns. Now you can access maps for more than 12,000 U.S. towns and cities. The maps cover the time period from the mid-1860s to 1970 and depict the commercial, industrial, and residential sections of these towns and cities. From the Library of Congress web site - "the maps were designed to assist fire insurance agents in determining the degree of hazard associated with a particular property and therefore show the size, shape, and construction of dwellings, commercial buildings, and factories as well as fire walls, locations of windows and doors, sprinkler systems, and types of roofs. The maps also indicate widths and names of streets, property boundaries, building use, and house and block numbers."

Like GenealogyBank, the Sanborn Maps can be accessed in two ways - from home, if you live within the Dallas city limits and have a DPL Library card, or from the public computers at any DPL physical location. From the Databases tab on the Library's home page, scroll down to "Texas Digital Sanborn Maps". The title of the database link has not yet been updated to reflect the new geographic coverage.

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CrowdSourcing Genealogy

As defined by Dictionary.com:

crowd·source
[kroud-sawrs, -sohrs]
verb (used with object), verb (used without object),
crowd·sourced, crowd·sourc·ing.
to utilize (labor, information, etc.) contributed by the general
public to (a project), often via the Internet and without
compensation.

(From *Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter* – October 24, 2013)

Would you be willing to pay $5 to have someone send you a picture of your ancestral village, or great grandma's house? One new crowdsourcing project hopes to makes this possible.

Actually, crowdsourcing has already been used several times in genealogy. Perhaps one of the biggest crowdsourcing projects of all times was the indexing of the 1940 U.S. census in a joint initiative between the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA), Archives.com, FamilySearch.org, findmypast.com, and other leading genealogy organizations. Literally hundreds of thousands of indexers around the world helped create a great resource and make it available to other genealogists. (See https://familysearch.org/blog/en/1940-census/ for details.)

More recently, on September 13–15, crowdsourcing volunteers from around the world joined together with FamilySearch.org to index and arbitrate 134,986 Italian records (approximately 400,000 names). Participants were invited to index and arbitrate over 35,000 Italian records in just 48 hours—slightly more than the previous high. (Details may be found at http://goo.gl/nfZDny.)

Ancestry.com has a similar project underway using volunteer indexers and dozens of local genealogy societies have been using volunteers for years to index local records. The recent Random Acts of Genealogical Kindness was actually a crowdsourcing project, although I don't recall the site's owner as ever using that term. That site went offline following the owner's death and a number of newer web sites have since appeared, each claiming to be a "replacement" for Random Acts of Genealogical Kindness. None of the replacements has been as successful as the original, however.

Now Eric Proffitt is organizing a similar project. His project plans to be a bit more formal than the others, including hiring software developers to create specialized software to allow millions of transactions between people doing family history and amateur genealogists.

Eric reports his family recently spent $1,200 hiring a professional genealogist to visit his wife's ancestral village in Ukraine and send pictures to Eric and his family. As a result, the family was able to see the great, great, grandmother's school, learn about cousins who are still alive, and got a feel for the culture of the area. However, the end result was expensive.

Eric writes, "This got us to thinking: what if we could create a place where normal people like you and me could help each other find their families?? For instance, if I wanted a picture of my Keith Family Castle, but couldn't afford to fly to the Scotland, I could post my request and have someone who already lives there take the picture and send it to me for as little as $5!"

Eric Proffitt has now created **Crowd-Sourcing Genealogy**, an online place where people can connect with other, normal people to access things such as gravestones, church records, marriage licenses etc. without having to travel across the world, or without having to pay $1,000's of dollars will take Family history to a whole new level.

You can read more about this project at http://www.indiegogo.com/projects/crowd-sourcing-genealogy.

Flip Pal® mobile scanner

Preserve and protect memories...share them with loved ones

Memories and stories bind families together. How will you preserve and share yours? With the Flip-Pal mobile scanner, no longer will your precious photos, documents and other memories be scattered, lost or hidden. Have fun and enhance your creativity, then share your memories with family and friends. And save time in the process. Take advantage of the patented flip-and-scan technology to scan photos safely while still in the album or frame.

Mobile – Scan Images Anytime, Anywhere

- Compact, lightweight and durable
- Cordless. Not attached to a computer
- Battery powered
- Stores scans on a memory card (like the one in your digital camera)

Accurate – High Quality Digital Image

- High resolution retains the detail
- Color true to original
- 600 and 300 dpi resolution settings

Couple wed at Air Force Academy

Versatile – Scan Small to Large Originals

- Photos, drawings, quilts, even small objects like coins or jewelry
- Newspapers, bound books, albums and magazines
- Stitching software for larger originals

Keep Your Memories Safe – Scan Photos in Place

- Patented flip-and-scan technology: Remove the lid, flip the scanner over and place it on the original
- See-through window for framing the original
- Safeguard important documents and images and store in a safe location

Easy and Quick

- Push one button to scan in seconds
- No computer required to scan
- Just take your SD card to your computer and turn on your creativity