



My Journey From Yesterday

Mid-Cities Genealogical Society

P.O. Box 407

Bedford, TX 76095

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

November 2014

Volume 37 Issue 11

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.

2014 MCGS GENERAL MEETINGS CALENDAR

December 11, 2014

CHRISTMAS PARTY!

Note: The Christmas Party has been rescheduled from December 4 to December 11 due to availability of the meeting room.

January 8, 2015

Mary Louise Garcia:

Records Available in the Office of the County Clerk

VOLUNTEER NEWS

Leah Chance has volunteered to serve as Greeter, and new member, Anne Taylor, has agreed to serve as Hospitality Coordinator. Thanks ladies!

LIKE US ON FACEBOOK!

www.facebook.com/TXMCGS



**NOVEMBER
SPEAKER:**

Judy Knight

TOPIC:

The Daily Buzz

Judy Allen Knight is a genealogical speaker with over 40 years of experience in family history. She grew up in Texas attending family reunions and learning about her heritage and loves sharing her love of genealogy with others. As a researcher and lecturer, Judy enjoys working with genealogical groups.

She was Past President of Mid-Cities Genealogical Society; District 11 Representative of the Texas State Genealogical Society; 2006 Conference Chair for the Texas State Genealogical Society Conference held in Fort Worth; and 2012 Vendor/Venue Chair for the State Conference, again held in Fort Worth.

Judy has been active in preserving her family cemetery in Tarrant County, Texas. She was instrumental in having the cemetery declared a Historic State Cemetery in 2001, and also coordinated the program for the 125th Anniversary Reunion in 2005. She currently serves as President of the Historic Allen Cemetery Association.

Judy has been a speaker at numerous genealogical societies and workshops throughout Texas, as well as the Regional In-Depth Genealogical Studies Alliance (RIGSA) at the National Archives in Fort Worth.

Judy's presentation will help us gain an understanding of what was happening in your ancestors' lives as well as inventions, food, music and literature that caught their attention in the 1880s and the Gay Nineties.

MID-CITIES GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

OFFICERS:

President: Bonnie Baker
(817) 562-3242

smyles200us@yahoo.com

Vice President: Marilyn Reid
(817) 656-0192

mmbbreid@tx.rr.com

Secretary: Patsy Harrison
(817) 287-8126

chuck@gmail.org

Treasurer: HP O'Mary
(817) 283-7264

hpox@swbell.net

EXECUTIVE BOARD:

Comm/Web Master:

Bernard Meisner
(817) 545-6512

bernardmeisner@cs.com

Membership: Marilyn Hay
(817) 379-4214

mm3651@verizon.net

Correspondence Secretary:

Ruth Tipton Smith
(817) 605-8909

rstipton56@gmail.com

Greeter: Leah Chance
(817) 427-4623

lhchance@sbcglobal.net

Historian: Mary Moore
(940) 648-8764

Evermoore54@gmail.com

Room Setup: HP O'Mary
(817) 283-7264

hpox@swbell.net

Newsletter Editor:

Carole Crawford
(817) 287-9953

ruanyone@yahoo.com

Parliamentarian:

Bernard Meisner
(817) 545-6512

bernardmeisner@cs.com

Hospitality: Anne Taylor
(972) 254-1604

Ataylor42150@gmail.com

Publicity: Evelyn Kelly
(817) 988-2055

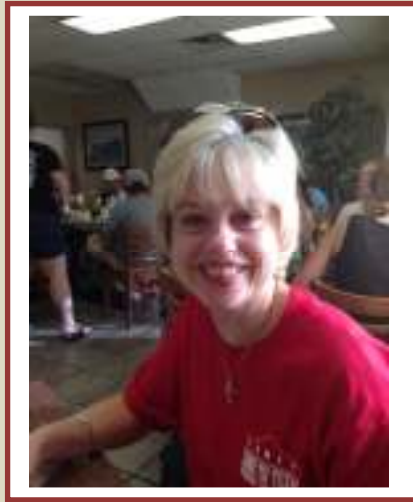
evelynn@shamrockpromotions.com

Seminar Coordinator:

Sandra Crowley
817-571-9939

sandracc@tx.rr.com

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



MEMBER SPOTLIGHT:

LUCY CHRISTIANSSEN

I joined MCGS in September of 2013. I became interested in genealogy as a young girl listening to my mom tell stories about her dad and mom, her childhood, the places she lived and the cousins with whom she spent time. I then spent lots of time asking questions about my dad's grandparents who emigrated from Sweden. It was fun to hear the stories. They fascinated me.

My most challenging ancestor is my husband's great-grandfather, Hans Christiansen. He is difficult to find in the census, and supposedly emigrated from Norway to Sweden. We are not 100% certain of this. I keep looking.

My favorite ancestor would be Swan Swenson Alm. He emigrated from Sweden in 1884. I often wonder why, what his journey was like and what his feelings were upon leaving his country and his family behind. What did he think of America and the opportunities it afforded him? He is also the ancestor I would like to talk with, along with my great-grandmother, Betsy, his wife. I am curious about how they got here and what their life was like – the struggles and the joys.

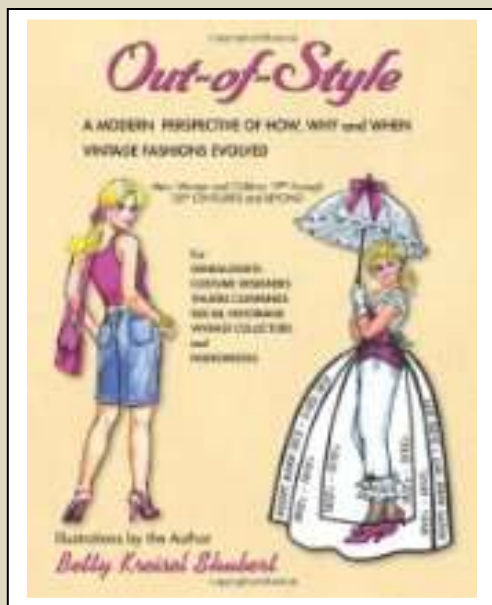
The surprising fact about an ancestor was my great-great-uncle, Sam Strong. He left Nebraska, traveled to Cripple Creek, Colorado and was mining there. His first wife divorced him, after which he found the mother lode and became a very rich man. Unfortunately, the mine exploded (a deliberate act was suspected), and Sam lost part of his fortune. He was eventually killed by the owner of a gambling saloon which he frequented. His estate was divided 50% to his wife at the time and the other 50% divided between his two children. We have visited the mine which is marked with a Colorado historical marker.

I enjoy several types of research, much of which is with Ancestry.com. I have walked many a cemetery taking pictures of gravestones where family members are buried. I have also traveled to courthouses to obtain copies of land records, only to learn that my husband's great-grandfather owned lots of land in Memphis, Texas and when the railroad came through, he made a lot of money at that time. I have so much fun doing this that when I am actually working on it, I can lose track of time just like all of us do.

Aside from genealogy, I also enjoy reading and road trips with my husband. My bucket list includes a trip to Sweden, Montana (a beautiful state) and then an east coast trip for the history side of me to see Virginia, Gettysburg, Philadelphia, Washington, D.C. and the Statue of Liberty.

OUT-of-STYLE: A Modern Perspective of How, Why and When Vintage Fashions Evolved

By Betty Kreisel Shubert



Former columnist and illustrator for *Ancestry Magazine* and Hollywood costume designer, Betty Kreisel Shubert, has published a groundbreaking book inspired by the need of genealogists to date old family pictures, as well as the research needs of costume designers, theatre companies, social historians, vintage clothing collectors, and fashionistas.

Out-of-Style has over 700 of the author's own sequential illustrations that reveal the style clues that date clothes worn by men, women and children in the 19th through 20th centuries and beyond.

Fascinating gems of social history culled from countless sources illuminate the life and times of our ancestors, making this a really good read!

From the Author

One day I found myself walking to our clubhouse with a woman who was on her way to a genealogy club meeting. She was carrying old family photographs that she could not date.

"Show them to me," I said. "I can tell by the clothes about when the pictures were taken.

This simple statement brought an invitation for me to be guest speaker at the next genealogy club meeting and changed my career focus from Costume Designer to Fashion Historian, Author-Illustrator and Columnist for *Ancestry Magazine*.

TIPTON FAMILY ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

Shared by Ruth TIPTON Smith

What follows is the third in a series of stories, biographies and other information shared by our long-time member, Ruth TIPTON Smith, as researched and reported by her and other members of her family. Because of the wealth of information provided, it will be limited to family newsletters, certain biographies and other articles of interest. I have not included bibliographies, source information, detailed lineages nor will it likely be in chronological order as reported herein. - Editor

The Tipton Family Association of America (TFAA), a non-profit organization, was founded to foster historical research concerning the descendants and antecedents of Jonathan Tipton, who died in Baltimore, Maryland in 1757.

Billy

“1989 – Spokane Washington. What was believed to be emphysema was actually a hemorrhaging ulcer. Billy’s youngest son called the paramedics. As the paramedics tried to resuscitate Billy, a startling truth was revealed: The dying man was a ‘woman.’

Dorothy Lucille Tipton was born in 1914 in Oklahoma City. She was only one of the subjects described in *Suits Me: The Double Life of Billy Tipton*, by Diane Middlebrook. In her book, she describes what life was like in Oklahoma during the Roaring 20s, the depression years of the 30s and the war years of the 40s. During this time, it was very difficult for women to break into the music industry. Dorothy was not allowed to play jazz because she was female. In 1933 Dorothy transformed into Billy, a male pianist, saxophone player and bandleader.

Dressed in dapper suits, and with vaudevillian humor, Billy played clubs in the Midwest for nearly 50 years. Jokes about cross-dressing went unnoticed, with only a few knowing the truth. Among those who did know the truth were Dorothy’s parents and brother. Her mother and brother kept in touch with Dorothy and apparently accepted ‘Billy.’ However, in 1934 her father, George William Tipton, disowned her when she took this new route. Before George died in 1975, he provided information to Ervin Tipton. He never indicated that his daughter, ‘Dorothy’, was posing as the male jazz musician ‘Billy.’

Diane Middlebrook explains in detail the life of Dorothy, and her transformation into Billy. No diary or records were left by Billy to indicate the real reason for the change. Ms. Middlebrook interviewed former wives, children, cousins and colleagues of Billy trying to gain insight into ‘why.’ Most of the people interviewed, including his wives and children, did not know until he died that he was a ‘she.’ (I’ll never truly understand that one.) Apparently, Billy was a very private individual. Accounting for the times and her love of music, speculation is she wanted to earn a living doing what she knew best – music – which was a man’s world.”

Stay tuned for more Tipton family history in next issue

Check out this Website:

Funstuffforgenealogists.com

(Shared by Marilyn Hay)

15 Family History Books You Can Read For Free with Kindle Unlimited

Discover Your Family History Online
by Nancy Hendrickson

Hiding the Past (The Forensic Genealogist Book 1)
by Nathan Dylan Goodwin

The Everything Guide to Online Genealogy
by Kimberly Powell

The Family Tree German Genealogy Guide
by James Beidler

The Family Tree Problem Solver
by Marsha Hoffman Rising

101 of the Best Free Websites for Climbing Your Family Tree
by Nancy Hendrickson

The Lost Empress
by Steve Robinson

To the Grave
by Steve Robinson

The Last Queen of England
by Steve Robinson

Climbing Family Trees
by Trina Boice and Tracey Long

101 Best Genealogy Websites
by Editors of *Family Tree Magazine*

Family Photo Detective
by Maureen A. Taylor

Jump Start Your Genealogy Research
by Vickie Chupurdia

The Genealogist's U.S. History Pocket Reference
by Nancy Hendrickson

How to Archive Family Keepsakes
by Denise May Levenick

15 GENEALOGY BOOKS YOU CAN READ FOR FREE WITH KINDLE UNLIMITED

From familyhistorydaily.com/September 27, 2014

Amazon has a fairly expansive selection of genealogy books and a surprisingly large amount of them are available “free” to **Kindle Unlimited** subscribers. For the monthly price of \$9.99, Kindle Unlimited subscribers can read an uncapped amount of books from the more than 700,000 choices available. While some of these books would cost only a few dollars if purchased outright, others cost enough to justify paying for an entire month of the service by themselves.

Kindle Unlimited can be especially valuable if you like to have access to a large variety of research material, but don't want to commit to spending hundreds of dollars at once to build your library. We've put together a list of the most popular and interesting reads in the family history category, as well as some helpful information on how to access these books for “free” with a new or existing subscription.

How do I access books for free with a Kindle Unlimited Subscription?

As mentioned above, Kindle Unlimited is a new service from Amazon that lets subscribers download and read an unlimited number of books per month from 700,000+ choices. The price is \$9.99 each cycle and **you do not need** a Kindle device to access the books (unlike with a Prime membership). This is a real plus for those who would rather read on their mobile phone, tablet or computer than on a Kindle device. Once subscribed, you simply select the “read for free” button on any qualifying book to download it to your kindle, computer or phone.

To read on anything other than a Kindle device, you *will* need the **free kindle reading app**. It's easy to use and available for just about every device. However, if you would like to enjoy your books on a dedicated reader, you may want to consider investing in a Kindle. Kindle readers, like the excellent Paperwhite, are a wonderful way to enjoy digital content without the digital feel. The screens on these devices mimic paper and reduce eye strain considerably.

At LEFT is a listing of free genealogy books.

OCUPSYSHUN - CENCUS TAKER

I am a cencus takers for the city of Bufflow. Our city has groan very fast in resent years & **now in 1865**, it has become a hard & time consuming job to count all the peephill. There are not many that con do this werk, as it is nessessarie to have an ejudashun, wich a lot of pursons still do not have. Another atribeart needed for this job is god spelling, for meny of the pephill to be counted can hardle speek inglish, let alon spel there names.

Courtesy of: Marie Louise Gray

MCGS MEMBERSHIP FORM

2014 – 2015

(Membership from September 1, 2014 to August 31, 2015)

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Please check one: _____ Renewal _____ New Member

Individual Membership: \$20.00 _____ Couple: \$25.00 _____

Surnames you are researching: _____

How did you learn about the MCGS? _____

Mail completed form with
your check/money order to:

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