

My Journey from Yesterday Mid-Cities Genealogical Society P. O. Box 407 Bedford, TX 76095

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

November 2015

Bonnie Baker, President Issue 11

Marilyn Hay was born and raised in Fort Worth, TX, attended East Texas State

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.

2015 MCGS General **Meetings Calendar Speakers:** -November 5, 2015 Marilyn Hay, MCGS Member Topic: "US GEN"

-December 3, 2015 Christmas Social—Begins at 6:30 p.m.

-January 7, 2016 Mary Moore, MCGS Member Topic: "How to Plan Family Reunions"

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WWW.FACEBOOK. COM/TXMCGS

Website page to peruse:

http://www.genealogyintime.co m/articles/top-100-genealogywebsites-of-2015-page02.html



Volume 38

Enforcement. She immediately began work with the Dallas Police Department where she remained for 32 years.

Marilyn became interested in genealogy when her aunt gave her letters written by her GGG grandfather during the Civil War. After retirement, she found interest in genealogy field trips to cemeteries all over the Metroplex and beyond. She volunteers to fulfill photo requests from Find A Grave and tries to fit in a research trip now and then. Her Criswell family came to Texas in

1831 and participated in the Texas Revolution. She believes that is why she is so interested in genealogy and a BIG fan of Texas. She also teaches iPhones, iPads and an Online Genealogy courses in the Senior Ed program at Tarrant County College.

Announcement

CHRISTMAS SOCIAL: The December 3, 2015, meeting is our annual Christmas social. We will begin around 6:30 p.m. As far as food is concerned, it will be pot luck. MCGS will provide the meat dishes and everyone else is asked to bring a dish to share. FOOD DONATION: You are asked, if you care to do so, to donate nonperishables food goods for Six Stones organization.

(About 6 Stones: It is New Hope Center's mission to provide emergency assistance of food, clothing and other resources to families in need. On average, they serve around 300 individuals each week.

6 Stones is building a coalition that provides solutions to meet the needs of the community. In all they do, they are: Christ-centered, Unified, Honorable, Respectful, Compassionate, Service Oriented).

GIFTS: We will also exchange gifts as we have in the past. A gift should NOT cost more than \$5.00. It should be wrapped and the exchange will take place during the reading of, "A Wright Family Christmas."



MID-CITIES GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

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IN MEMORIAM:

On Sunday, September 20, 2015, at age 79, MCGS's dear friend and member,

HP O'Mary, passed away and now rest in peace. HP was born on February 06, 1936, in Hampton, Arkansas, to William Thomas and Vaudie Jane McWhirter O'Mary. He was preceded in death by his parents; a brother, Roy Bell O'Mary; and a sister Patricia Ann O'Mary.

He is survived by his wife, Joan Westphalen O'Mary whom he married on December 20, 1959, in Dallas County, Texas; three sons and daughtersin-law, Adam and Sheila O'Mary of Ft. Worth, Clayton and Tamatha O'Mary of Azle, and Randall and Laura O'Mary; two brothers, Franklin O'Mary of Kentucky and George O'Mary of Arkansas; two

sisters, Sarah Jane Russell of Hampton, Arkansas and Lucy Rowland of El Dorado, Arkansas; seven grandchildren and numerous nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

He was a retired Foreman for a tool company and a faithful member of the *Primitive Baptist Church*.

As a dedicated member of MCGS, he served as treasurer several times and was always someone who could be counted on to help whenever and whenever needed. He took it upon himself to become the "set up" person for the monthly meetings. He will truly be missed.

MCGS Vice President Kellie Merk: In my family I am known as "The Texan," and as you can guess by the moniker, I was born in this great state. My Mom was from West Virginia and my Dad was from Ohio. I took my first genealogy class over 20 years ago at Tarrant County College. My teacher's name was Rita, but the person in the class that made genealogy come alive for most of us was Ed Wilson. He introduced me to this MCGS where I met several other society members including Francis



Malcom. Neither of these people are here anymore, but they were great mentors and friends. I learned quite a lot! Francis emphasized knowing how to do genealogy the old fashioned "hard way," and Ed advised me to learn computers. I learned both, and I haven't looked back.

> FYI: Youtube Video on cousin 1, 2, 3 X's removed https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BBt5v7k0314

Indicators that you're a geneaholic:

From- http://members.home.nl/sjouwke/genealogie/jokes.htm#indicators

-You introduce your daughter as your descendent.

- You've never met any of the people you send e-mail to even though you're related.

-You can recite your lineage back eight generations, but can't remember your nephew's name.

-You have more photographs of dead people then living ones.

Brave Women of the American Revolutionary War Era

From: Genealogy Bank NEWS, August 2015

When we think of the American Revolutionary War we reflect on the sacrifices and bravery exhibited by the men of the era. We tell the stories of heroes like George Washington and John Paul Jones. But what did women do during the Revolutionary War era? What were these early American women like? We tend to believe that they were "just housewives," more "delicate" than women of a latter era. Sure, they were tough due to lack of technology, access to medical care, and the hardships they faced. But how tough were they?



Illustration: "Heroism of Miss Elizabeth Zane" depicts Elizabeth Zane's legendary feat of retrieving gunpowder during the siege of Fort Henry during the American Revolutionary War. Lithograph by Nagel and Weingaertner, 1851. Source: Library of Congress.

When we look at our Revolutionary War foremothers, in some cases they were so to tough that they kicked butt and didn't bother to take names. Yes, that's right. Our Revolutionary Warforemothers were TOUGH!

Hannah Gaunt

My first introduction to this was from my own family history research: the story of Hannah Gaunt of South Carolina, daughter of Israel Gaunt who was a Quaker. Now let me set the scene for you. It seems that Israel was known to have some money. During the war, three Tories decided to go over to the Gaunt house to relieve Israel of that money. After sunset, the would-be robbers rode up to Israel's home and asked for lodging. The Gaunts refused their request. One of the men, a guy named Hubbs, rode up to the kitchen door and asked Mrs. Gaunt for some water. When Mrs. Gaunt went to get the water, Hubbs jumped into action and entered the house. Mrs. Gaunt yelled to her husband so that he could lock the other doors, preventing the other two outlaws from getting in. Suddenly Hubbs drew his pistol and aimed it at Mr. Gaunt's chest.

Now, let's stop there. Here is Mr. Gaunt with a pistol to his chest while his wife and daughter look on, seemingly helpless. Two other outlaws who would do them harm are outside waiting for their chance to grab the family's money. What do you do?

Well if you are Hannah Gaunt you leap into action: you wrestle the bad guy for his gun and pin him to the ground. According to this later 1859 newspaper article recounting the episode:

"...she held him with an iron gripe [sic], notwithstanding his violent struggles to release himself, and his plunging his spurs again and again into her dress and her limbs. While the Amazonian damsel thus pinned him down, her father snapped two loaded muskets at his head..."

Weekly Wisconsin Patriot (Madison, Wisconsin), 22 January 1859, page 3

Finding himself thus cut off from his companions, and in peril of capture, the outlaw drew his pistol, with an oath, and presented it at the breast of Gaunt. At that instant Hannah Gaunt, the old man's daughter—a young woman possessed of the powerful frame and unflinching courage of her father, sprang suddenly forward, and threw up the pistol; its contents entered the ceiling, and she closed in a desperate struggle with the intruder.

Hannah succeeded in throwing Hubbs on the floor, where she held him with an iron gripe, nothwithstanding his violent struggles to release himself, and his planging his spurs again and again into her dress and her limbs. While the Amazonian damsel thus pinned him down, her ather snapped two loaded muskets at his head; but both missing fire, he "clubbed" the last, and with it beat his foe till the stock was broken into fragments, and the barrel bent; then eeizing a stone of fourteen pounds" weight, dashed it at his head.

Mary Hooks Slocumb

So was Hannah Gaunt the only woman who had a fighting spirit? Certainly not; we know that some women during the American Revolutionary War fought on the battlefields, while others protected their homes. Newspapers reported on these brave women's exploits.

This 1851 newspaper article, a review of Mrs. Elizabeth F. Ellet's 1850 three-volume book **The Women of the American Revolution**, recounts on of the stories from that book involving a very brave woman: Mary Hooks Slocumb. One night after having a dream where she saw her soldier husband injured from battle, she took to her horse and rode all night alone, approximately 60 miles, to reach the battle where her husband's unit was. Although he was not one of the injured, many others were – and Mary ignored the sounds of cannon fire and tended to their needs. So that readers would not get the impression that Mary was anything but a lady, the article added: "Through Mrs. Slocumb could ride a horse, shoot a pistol, or take part in many masculine employments, she was not inattentive to many feminine duties..."

Daily National Intelligencer (Washington, D.C.), 19 June 1851, page 3

Elizabeth Zane

After bioding up the wounds of several soldiers, her husband, who had been in pursuit of the enemy, came up, and we may imagine his surprise at seeing his wife, whom he had but a day before left sixty miles distant. She remained during the day rejoicing with the victors and ministering to the wounded, and at midnight again mounted her mare and started for home. They wished her to stay until morning, and they would send a party with her, but she told them no party could keep up with her ; so hastening back, she returned to her home and child, which she reached in safety.

Though Mrs. Stocumb could ride a horse, shoot a pistol, or take part in many masculine employments, she was not institutive to more faminine duties; she carded, spun, wove, cut, and made all the clothes worn by her husband during the Southern campaign, and the material of her own dress was manufactured by her own hands.

Women volunteered to do all sorts of tasks to help the Revolutionary War effort, often at great risk. This 1849 newspaper article recounted the story of Elizabeth Zane's bravery during a British attack on the American Fort Henry. After two days of holding the enemy at bay, the patriots were running out of gunpowder. They needed someone to run through enemy fire to a nearby block-house and retrieve more. At first, when asked, none of the men would volunteer. Finally a boy said he would do it, which of course prompted the men to volunteer. The men then started arguing about

She replied that they had not a man to spare from the defence of the fort, and if she should fall, she would scarcely be missed. She then divested herself of such of her clothing as would impede her speed, and ran till she came to the door of the blockhonse, where her brother, Colonel Zane hastened to receive her. The Indians, when they saw her bound forth, did not fire a gnn, but called out aloud, 'Squaw, squaw, squaw,' When she told her brother the errand on which she came, he took a tablecloth and poured into it a keg of powder — She then sallied back to the fort with all the buoyancy of hope. The moment she was outside of the block-house, the enemy poured a leaden storm at her, but the balls went whistling by without doing her any injury.

who should go – when the sister of Colonel Silas Zane (who was in the outside block-house) volunteered. Another of her brothers was in the fort, and he didn't want her to run the risk. The old newspaper article reports:

"Her brother thought she would flinch from the enterprise, but he was mistaken. She had the intrepidity to dare, and the fortitude to bear her up in the heroic risk of her life."

Her brother tried to talk her out of it, but Elizabeth was resolute. She ran to the block-house unharmed, and then returned to the fort with the precious extra gunpowder through a volley of enemy bullets.

Mrs. Porter Philbrook

The bravery and heroism of American women during the Revolution continued to be discussed long after the fighting ended. Newspaper obituaries and memoirs noted those women and their acts of valor during the Revolutionary War period. Even latter-day women who displayed strength and cunning were likened to their Revolutionary mothers, as in this case involving an 1850 home burglary that of Wilton, New Hampshire. In telling of her bravery in apprehending a burglar while her husband was away this 1850 newspaper article said she performed: "`a deed of daring'...which would not be unworthy of the bravest of the 'women of the Revolution.'''

As Mrs. Philbrook was preparing to retire for the night, she heard a noise and found a burglar breaking in – whom she confronted and subdued.

But the gallant Mrs. P. was not thus to be cheated of her prey and the fruits of victory. She was close upon him, like an eagle upon his game, and at the very instant he was making the leap, she caught him by the coat tail and laid him flat across the sill. Giving the rascal a no very gentle or very slow pull back upon the floar, she seized him by the throat and there held him securely till assistance came. Light developed the robber to be a man of notoriously bad reputation, belonging in the neighborhood. He had a couple of accomplices outside, who fled on the approach of Mrs. P. The victor held her prisoner in durance two or three days, till her lusband's 'eturn, when he was suffered to depart on promise of good behaviour. Mrs. P. is a small, slender woman; but no

Mrs. P. is a small, slender woman; but no one will doubt that she has courage equal to any emergency.

National Aegis (Worcester, Massachusetts), 25 December 1850, page 2

What did your Revolutionary War-era ancestress do? Probably more than you imagine. While you might think that these women sat at home and waited, more likely they were involved in something to assist in the war effort. In some cases they were true heroines.

Cain Russell kills his wife, Etta Jane Submitted by Jane Aronhalt Find a Grave Memorial #34936735

Mrs. Etta Marriott Russell was shot and killed Wednesday morning, August 1, 1917 by her husband, Cain Russell, at their home on a farm southeast of Birmingham. The weapon he used was a shot gun and the wound was made in the back of her head, causing death instantly.

Three sons were at work in the fields at the time of the shooting but Ralph was near enough to hear the report of the gun and ran to the house and found his mother lying dead. He called the other boys and they called neighbors and relatives by phone and took care of their father until help came and he was placed in charge of the sheriff.

The cause for the shooting is not known or any special family quarrel which may have caused Mr. Russell to have become so enraged or so crazy as to kill the woman who had been his life partner for so many years.

There are ten children, four sons and six daughters, two of whom are married. Their home for many years was in Harrisburg Township, having moved to Birmingham only three or four years ago. Mrs. Russell's maiden name was Etta Marriott, being a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Marriott of Bentonsport.

The only witness of the shooting was a five year-old daughter. The 10 children range in age from 23 years to about 10 and half months. The two married daughters are Mrs. Peter Core of Bonaparte Township and Mrs. Glenn Hootman of Birmingham. Mrs. Russell was 45 years of age.

Mr. Russell is in jail at Keosauqua. He is 47 years of age. He was once before the insanity commissioners but in some manner escaped being sent to a hospital. He now seems to be a nervous wreck.

It was not considered necessary to hold a coroner's inquest, the remains being taken care of promptly by the Birmingham undertaker.

Cain Russell died March 27, 1930 in the insane ward at Anamosa, Iowa. No family member claimed his body. It is believed that he had Huntington's disease. Huntington's disease is an inherited disease characterized by the progressive loss of brain and muscle function. Early symptoms of HD are mood swings, depression and irritability. The most characteristic initial physical symptoms are jerky, random, and uncontrollable movements called chorea. The final result is a slow, ugly death. Children of parents with HD have a 50-50 chance of inheriting the disease. HD carries a huge stigma. Many families with HD cover it up, and many face discrimination. Surrounded by fear and ignorance, in many ways Huntington's is stuck in the Dark Ages. For the following history of this family devastated by Huntington's, I refer to a family history written by my 3rd cousin 2x removed, Robert Tipton Biggs, <u>"Knowing</u> <u>Mama: The Discovery of a Family"</u>.

We start with the marriage of Adam Cline and Amelia Hobson in July of 1831. It is believed that Amelia carried the gene for Huntington's that affected 5-7 generations of her descendants. They had 9 children, Harriett (Robert's 3rd great grandmother), Martha, Elizabeth, Sarah (my 3rd great grandmother), Mary Ann, Eliza, Adam, Melissa, and John. Four of the nine children died from Huntington's.

From Amelia's descendants:

Her daughter Harriett was declared legally insane in 1887 and she died in 1889. Family stories say that Harriett's daughter-in-law kept her in a locked outbuilding and fed her through the bars of the door. Harriett's daughter Molly died in the Iowa State Asylum from HD. Her daughter Ida killed herself by drinking carbolic acid. Harriet also had several grandchildren and great grandchildren die from the disease.

Her daughter, Martha died of the disease in 1892. Martha's daughters Mary Ann and Maggie both died from HD. Maggie died in the Iowa State Asylum in 1926. Martha's son, Samuel, also died in 1911 at the Iowa State Asylum. His wife filed a petition of annulment and won, claiming that he was insane at the time of their marriage and that no one in the family had warned her. In 1915, Martha's son, Cain went before the County Insane Board to be committed by his son-in-law. The attempt was unsuccessful. Eighteen months later he kills his wife (see obit above). Martha's youngest son, George died from HD, as did his daughter Velda. Several other grandchildren died from the disease.

Daughter Melissa died in 1885 in Missouri. Melissa's daughter Millie, while pregnant with her seventh child, traveling by covered wagon to Colorado, fell ill in Oklahoma. Her husband upon arrival in Colorado took her to a hospital in Denver where she died. Of her descendants they following died of HD, two grandsons, 1 granddaughter, 4 great-grandsons, 3 great-granddaughters, 1 great-great grandsons, 3 great-great granddaughters.

Amelia's youngest child, John died from the disease in 1906. He had 1 son and 1 daughter, 2 grandsons, 2 greatgreat sons that died from the disease.

As you can image, the fear of having passed down the gene for HD was a constant worry. Some parents advised their children not to have children. Today there is genetic testing for the gene. But it is still a slow, ugly death.

The following is a response to last month's Newsletter article "Thanks to Genealogists and DNA, a Man with No Name Finally Knows His Real Identity"

From: Jim Barrett <parino@flash.net>
Subject: Re: MCGS October Newsletter5

Ms. Poole,

I have no intention of taking away from the wonderful work that CeCe Moore and the group of search angles (angels) she work with did. Together they spent 1,000's of hours working on the case of Benjaman Kyle.

Not mentioned in the interview provided by your link is the years of effort that led up to CeCe becoming involved. My wife, Janelle Magness Barrett, is one of your life members. Many years ago I was also a member.

I'm the administrator of the Powell Surname DNA Project. I first learned of it in February of 2009. On February 10, 2009 I received a request to accept Benjaman into the Powell project because he had several close Y-DNA matches with members of the Powell project.

On November 30, 2012 I contacted CeCe Moore, who I already knew, asking for her help with a *23andMe* customer who refused to share match information with three kits she controlled. CeCe already knew about Benjaman but she had not been active in his search. She became very active at that point and the rest is history.

Family Tree DNA (FTDNA) provided several kits to aid in tracing Benjaman's family. *23andMe* had sent me a free kit which I passed on to Benjaman. The International Society of Genetic Genealogist (ISOGG) took up a collection to pay for an autosomal test from FTDNA and Benjaman paid for his own test form Ancestry. CeCe and I are both members of ISOGG.

With the information provided by his matches and a tremendous amount of research on the part of the search angles (angels) they were able to find what they believe to be his family. One of his brothers agreed to take an autosomal test which FTDNA provided. The results showed that the two men were full siblings.

I thought you would be interested to know that an ex Mid-Cities member had a very small part in Benjaman's search. Thanks for mentioning his story!

Jim Barrett - Timpson, TX

Response:

Mr. Jim Barrett Dear Mr. Barrett,

Thank you so much for such a detailed view of the DNA work which was done on behalf of Mr. Benjaman Kyle. I will include your letter in the next Newsletter so that our readers can share in this story.

Peggy Poole Editor

October 1, 2015

Mention "The Cloud" and inevitably some folks look exasperated and wonder aloud "what exactly is the Cloud?" and "what do I need to do to be using the Cloud?"

The phrase "the Cloud" is actually something that the marketing powers-that-be came up with. It's a concise way to get the public to think of computing as something that happens off-site. Bottom line: The Cloud is the Internet and massive data centers.

Ever since we got our first computer at home, we've been inserting floppy disks and CDs to install software. All the 'magic' happened right on our own PC. But all that software had to be manufactured and distributed, and then replaced and re-manufactured as technology zoomed ahead and new advances in computing occurred.

Enter the Internet, and all of a sudden we found ourselves interacting with websites and online tech tools that didn't reside on our computer. As the Internet grew and became stronger and faster (and more entrenched in our daily lives) it became obvious to tech companies that delivering software, and updates of that software, would be cheaper and faster if done via the Internet and digital downloads. Makes sense.

At a recent seminar I presented (see the article further down) I talk about the future of technology and genealogy. One area I discussed was Cloud Computing. Software is becoming an endangered animal, and The Cloud is where, more and more, we are doing our computing and storing our files. Adobe and Microsoft are two huge companies that have moved to Cloud based versions of their famous software suites.

And not only are we storing more files than ever before on The Cloud (files transmitted via the Internet to massive data centers maintained by companies like Amazon, Apple, and Google), but we are backing up the files that remain on our personal computer on The Cloud. You ARE backing up, right? If you aren't, or you haven't automated your back up with a Cloud based service, now is the time! Next week you'll hear two incredibly compelling reasons to do so on Genealogy Gems Podcast episode 184. Backblaze is the official sponsor of the Genealogy Gems Podcast and protects all of my files. Please visit

www.backblaze.com/Lisa today if you haven't protected your genealogy files yet. This is a lot of computing change in a short period of time. I think it's a positive change. At the rate that we are collecting data, and generating photos and videos, our PCs alone would get bogged down quickly Inexpensive and abundant Cloud storage frees us from the worry of maxing out our hard drive, and allows us the freedom to dream and research BIG. I like that!

I've got several video classes for all of you Genealogy Gems Premium Members about



Genealogy News You Can Use

- We Dig These Gems! New Genealogy <u>Records Online</u> - September 25
- <u>Find Your Family History in WWII</u>: WWII Yearbooks
- <u>RootsTech 2016</u>: Open for Business!
- <u>Google Alerts for Genealogy</u>: "Not What They Used to Be?"

DID YOU KNOW? From: Genealogy Humor http://history.loftinnc.com/Humor.htm

There are some unusual laws on record in towns and communities across the country. Here are a few that will make you smile:

- "In Barber, fights between cats and dogs are prohibited."

- "In Charlotte, women must have their bodies covered by at least 16 yards of cloth at all times."

- "In Dunn, it is illegal to drive cars through city cemeteries for pleasure; cars may not be driven on sidewalks; it is illegal to throw rocks at a city street; and no person shall spit on a city street."

-"In Forest City, you must stop and call city hall before entering town in an automobile."

Thank you note the society (MCGS) received for the donation made to "Preserve the Pensions"



Federation of Genealogical Societies

P.O. Box 200940, Austin, TX 78720-0940 A 501(c)3 non-profit organization *linking the genealogical community*



September 30, 2015

Mid-Cities Genealogical Society PO Box 407 Bedford, TX 76095-0407

Dear Colleagues,

Thank you so very much for your generous gifts for the Preserve the Pensions project to digitize the pensions of those who served in the War of 1812, America's "second revolution." The Federation of Genealogical Societies, its board and its members, is most grateful.

You may be aware that Ancestry.com has generously committed to match each donation, so your generous \$ 1,000.00 gift will digitize TWICE as many pages! Thus far, we are pleased to report that the campaign to preserve these valuable documents is over half way toward the \$3.4 million dollar goal. With your help, we are pushing to complete the fundraising effort during 2015 to mark the end of the War of 1812 bicentennial.

In order to keep our digitization schedule on track, we need more contributions. Would you please encourage a friend, family members, or your society colleagues to also make a taxdeductible gift today? Then, please share your enthusiasm for this effort on Facebook or other social media outlets and remember to "like" us on the Preserving the Pensions Facebook page.

Thank you once again. I am deeply grateful for your valued partnership in this historic community genealogical endeavor to make these images FREE forever!

With sincere gratitude,

D. Joshua Taylor President

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