



# 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 2012

Volume 35 Issue 6

Sandra Crowley, President

Mid-Cities Genealogical Society meets the 1<sup>st</sup> 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.

## 2012 MCGS GENERAL MEETINGS CALENDAR

**July 5<sup>th</sup> – Speaker: Barbara Lancaster**–“Analyzing Old Photographs”

**August 2<sup>nd</sup> – Ice Cream Social & Election of Officers.**

**Speaker: Kelvin Meyers**–“My Ancestor the Texas Ranger- Proving his service”

**September 6<sup>th</sup> – Speaker: Marilyn Hay** – Family Tree Maker 2012

**October 4<sup>th</sup> – Speaker: Kathleen Kent**, Author of “The Heretics Daughter” and “The Trader’s Wife”. Ms. Kent will be reviewing “The Trader’s Wife”

June 7, 2012

Barbara Brixey Wylie



Old Handwriting & Our Ancestors Vocabulary

**ELECTION OF OFFICERS**  
Nominating Committee for 2012-13 needs three at large members to help select upcoming officers. Please contact Sandra Crowley or Jane Aronhalt if you can serve on this committee. The first meeting will be held in June.

## Bicentennial - The War of 1812

David A. Norris, Family Chronicle, Jan/Feb 2012

Overshadowed by the Revolution and the Civil War, the War of 1812 was nonetheless a major event in US and Canadian history. Similar to other early US wars, military service and pension files, and militia rolls are available, as are numerous period newspapers and government documents.

Fought between Great Britain and the US from 1812 to 1815, the war was largely a side result of the longer 1793-1815 conflict between France and Great Britain. Although the US was neutral, both major powers seized American ships to prevent trade with the other side. Britain added the issue of impressments, halting US ships on the high seas and forcing sailors to join the Royal Navy. West of the Appalachians, Americans blamed the British for inducing Indian attacks on their settlements.

The young United States had only a small army and navy, far outweighed by the power of British Army and the Royal Navy. But, Britain was locked in a war with Napoleonic France and its European allies, so forces available for North American service were limited. US strategy hinged on harassing British merchant shipping at sea with privateers, and seizing the British possessions in Canada as a bargaining chip for peace negotiations. The British, in turn, concentrated their efforts on land invasions into the Northern states from Canada and seacoast raids, including a large incursion into the Chesapeake Bay that resulted in the capture and burning of Washington, DC. A final major British invasion, aimed at the Mississippi River, was stopped at the Battle of New Orleans in early 1815.

The effect of the War of 1812 on your ancestors depended on where they lived. Other than the northern tier of states, the Chesapeake Bay and Louisiana, most of the US was spared from direct contact with British forces, other than coastal raids. West of the Appalachians, military action was, for the most part, against Indians who were at least nominally allied with Britain.

The National Archives in Washington, DC holds abundant records for soldiers and sailors in Federal service. An 1872 report by the Commissioner of Pensions estimated that 527,654 Americans performed military service during the war years. However, only 63,179 were in the regular army, navy, and marines “serving twelve months or more”. The rest were militia, more than half of whom served less than three months; 147,200 of them served less than 30 days.

**Military Service Records:** At the National Archives volunteer soldiers in the War of 1812 have a “compiled military service file”. A good starting point is the 234-reel National Archive Microfilm Publication M602, Index to Service Records of Volunteer Soldiers Who Served During the War of 1812. Familysearch.org offers online access to over 622,000 images from this microfilm series. The set is also available at the Internet Archive, [www.archive.org](http://www.archive.org).

**Pension files:** Military pension files often have a lot of material dealing with families. Widows or dependent children had to have proof of their relationship to an eligible veteran,

## How Good are CDs for Archival Storage?

No one can say for sure when your CDs will fail—longevity estimates range from three years to several centuries. But you face three major dangers:

**Failure:** “CD rot” is an unscientific term that describes what happens when the dye layer of a CD disappears. Research has shown that inexpensive CDs are more prone to failure than quality ones.

**Damage:** Scratches on either side of a disc can destroy your data. Even something as simple as pulling a CD out of a sleeve can cause nicks and scrapes.

**Obsolescence:** Let’s imagine for a moment that your CDs actually will last for centuries and never become scratched or damaged. Do you really believe your descendants will have CD readers 100 years from now?

When buying recordable CDs, choose a brand that uses phthalocyanine dye, such as Mitsui Gold. Are these guaranteed to last forever? No, but you can be certain you’re getting a quality product. If you’re scanning a large collection of old photographs, I recommend storing them on an external hard drive and/or with an online backup service. Burn one set of CDs as backup and extras to share with relatives. Remember the acronym LOCKSS: Lots of Copies Keeps Stuff Safe.

By: Sally Jacobs, FTM Online

Philip Conrad Norwine  
1931-2012

Phil passed away Easter  
Sunday, April 8, 2012 in  
Seattle, Wash. His wife Jan,  
was a long time member of  
MCGS before they moved to  
Seattle.

Terri Bradshaw O’Neill  
attended the ceremony for a  
DAR memorial on the grave of  
MCGS member, Frances  
Malcolm.

## Bicentennial - The War of 1812 continues:

so there may be copies of marriage certificates and statements about the places and dates when children were born. The drawback with the War of 1812 pension files is that rules were so strict, that many veterans and widows did not live long enough to qualify for them. For decades, there were only “invalid” (disability) pensions for veterans, and widow’s pensions for husbands killed during the war. Service pensions, granted for military service without regard to disability, began only in 1871.

With the National Archives and the FGS, Fold 3.com has embarked upon an ambitious project to scan and place online all War of 1812 pension files, at <http://go.fold3.com/1812pensions>. When completed, there will be about 7.2 million pages from the roughly 180,000 pension files. The collection’s images will be available for free.

At Fold3.com, the 1812 pension files are arranged by state (with categories for naval pensions and regular US troops), the first letter of the surname, and then by surnames. The 1812 pensions have not been available on microfilm, so they are being scanned, in color from the original papers.

**Bounty Land Warrants:** The US granted “bounty lands” to encourage enlistment during the war. Qualified veterans received a bounty land warrant, a document entitling them to so many acres of public land. Many Revolutionary War veterans also received bounty lands, and the practice continued as a reward for military service through 1855. Bounty land districts were on the frontier, far from where most veterans lived. Most grantees sold their bounty lands to speculators, rather than settling on their land.

Bounty land warrant files are combined with the National Archives pension files. You can also view the warrants on microfilm, available at FamilySearch.org, or online at the Internet Archive at [www.archive.org](http://www.archive.org).

**Regular Troops:** Besides the great numbers of militia and volunteers in the War of 1812, there were also the “regulars”, the soldiers of the permanent US Army regiments. Compiled service files were never put together for regular soldiers, so researching them is a bit more complicated. Officers can be found in Francis B. Heitman’s *Historical Register and Dictionary of the United States Army, From Its Organization, September 29, 1789 to March 2, 1903* (2 vols), which is available at Google Books, the Internet Archive, and other sources online. For enlisted men, a good source is the 81 reel National Archives Microfilm Publication M233 “Registers of Enlistments in the US Army 1798-1913.” The collection is being placed online at FamilySearch.org. State militia records are generally kept by state archives or state libraries.

**Naval and Privateer Records:** Naval records in the National Archives are more complicated to track down than those for the army. Information is more plentiful for officers than enlisted men. Pension files, which assemble details of a sailor’s service, are very helpful when they exist. Other than the men mentioned in Fold3.com’s service records for the Lake Erie sailors, searching for enlisted sailors may involve sorting through shops’ muster rolls and other papers at the National Archives.

War of 1812 officers are found in William Callahan’s *List of Officers of the Navy of the United States and of the Marine Corps, from 1775 to 1900.....*, available online through the Naval History and Heritage Command (NHHHC) at [www.history.navy.mil/books/callahan/reg-usn-i.htm](http://www.history.navy.mil/books/callahan/reg-usn-i.htm).

The Ships, History Branch of NHHHC offers the Dictionary of American Naval Fighting Ships online at [www.history.navy.mil/danfs/index.html](http://www.history.navy.mil/danfs/index.html). The 10,000 listings include all War of 1812 US warships.

By the War of 1812 years, there were roughly 400 newspapers in the United States. Contemporary newspapers are good sources for information on privateers. Unfortunately for genealogical purposes, newspapers devoted much of their space to tedious transcriptions of speeches and political editorials, crowding out room for local news. However, you may find ancestors mentioned in newspapers, especially officers, in the collections of such sites as Genealogybank.com and Newspaperarchive.com.

## MID-CITIES GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY'S

### Officers:

**President:** Sandra Crowley  
(817) 571-9939

[scrowley01@hotmail.com](mailto:scrowley01@hotmail.com)

### Vice President:

Marie Talbott  
(817) 455-6253

[mtalbott1953@yahoo.com](mailto:mtalbott1953@yahoo.com)

**Secretary:** Michael Sullivan  
(817) 354-4843

[michaels8@prodigy.net](mailto:michaels8@prodigy.net)

**Treasurer:** Bonnie Baker  
(817) 562-3242

[smyles200us@yahoo.com](mailto:smyles200us@yahoo.com)

### Executive Board:

#### Comm/Web Master:

Bernard Meisner  
(817) 545-6512

[bernardmeisner@cs.com](mailto:bernardmeisner@cs.com)

**Membership:** Marilyn Hay  
(817) 379-4214

[mm3651@verizon.net](mailto:mm3651@verizon.net)

#### Correspondence Secretary:

Ruth Tipton Smith  
(817) 605-8909

[rstipton56@gmail.com](mailto:rstipton56@gmail.com)

**Greeter:** Sammy Harrison  
(817) 602-2141

[sammy.hyh@gmail.com](mailto:sammy.hyh@gmail.com)

**Historian:** Mary Moore  
(940) 648-8764

[evermoore54@gmail.com](mailto:evermoore54@gmail.com)

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

[hpox@swbell.net](mailto:hpox@swbell.net)

#### Newsletter Editor:

Jane Aronhalt  
(817) 285-9945

[jaronhalt@tx.rr.com](mailto:jaronhalt@tx.rr.com)

#### Parliamentarian:

Bernard Meisner  
(817) 545-6512

[bernardmeisner@cs.com](mailto:bernardmeisner@cs.com)

**Hospitality: Vacant**

**Publicity:** Evelyann Kelly  
(817) 988-2055

[evelyann@shamrockpromotions.com](mailto:evelyann@shamrockpromotions.com)

#### Seminar

**Coordinator: Vacant**

Please contact Jane Aronhalt  
[jaronhalt@tx.rr.com](mailto:jaronhalt@tx.rr.com) if you find  
any errors in your name or  
contact information.

## Share Your 1940 Census Finds!

Now that the 1940 U.S. Census is here, what new information have you found about your ancestors? Did this census help you break through a brick wall? What surprises were there? Were family secrets uncovered? Did something make you laugh? Cry?

Were any of your ancestors chosen to answer the supplementary information questions?

Did anyone supply misleading or incorrect information? (A friend found that her maternal uncle told the census enumerator her Slovak-speaking grandmother was a naturalized citizen, which was false, as proven by the Alien Registration Form she submitted later in 1940. He also said she only had two children, instead of five. He harbored a deep distrust of government authority his entire life, and may have felt the detailed questions on this census were too personal.)

*Send your stories to [jaronhalt@tx.rr.com](mailto:jaronhalt@tx.rr.com). We'll publish the most interesting ones in the upcoming issues of the Newsletter.*

## 1940 Census Society Indexing Contest is Here

The 1940 Census Indexing Project is sponsoring a society indexing contest that offers some great prizes for participating society winners. There are a couple of categories, depending on the size and activity of each society's group. Requirements and prizes will vary for each category. Join MCGS as an indexer! Not only are you helping fellow genealogists find their family members more quickly, but you are also helping MCGS compete for one of these valuable prizes.

### Grand Prize for Per Capita Production on the 1940 Index

The grand prize will be awarded to the society with the highest average number of records indexed and arbitrated per person by a society with 2 or more people in their indexing group. They must have a 95% or higher indexing accuracy average. **Prize: A mini-conference presented at your society location. The total value of this package is \$6,000! This prize includes:**

- 4 genealogists, each teaching three sessions (Speaker fees, travel, and accommodations are included).
- A syllabus of the conference presentations on a USB drive, CD, or print format (depending on the actual number of attendees).
- Your society provides the site for the conference or we can provide a local FamilySearch family history center where the conference can be held.

Competition will go from April 2nd and continue until the 1940 US Census project is completely arbitrated; after which the winner will be announced.

### Runner up Prize for Per Capita Production on the 1940 Index

A second place prize will be awarded to the society with the second highest average number of records indexed and arbitrated per person by a society with 2 or more people in their indexing group. They must have a 95% or higher indexing accuracy average. **Prize: The prize will be a 1/2 day webinar mini-conference, for a value of total value of \$1,700. This prize includes:**

- 4 one-hour Family History Library sessions of your choice
- A projector
- An HD webcam
- An annual subscription to GoToWebinar (a webinar provider service)
- A laptop computer

Competition will go from April 2nd and continue until the 1940 US Census project is completed. The winner will be announced one week after the last state is arbitrated.