

February
2007

Connections

The E-Letter of GENCOM The Computer Genealogy Group
Editor: Patricia Minton Bettis

February 25 Meeting
Sunday afternoon 2:00 Hamilton Library



Marguerite Hudson is a member of the original staff
at Bossier Community College...

With a Master's degree in English and many years
of teaching, she is the ideal person to help us with
writing our family histories

I am sure many of our members know her, she
served on the Bossier Parish School Board, for sev-
eral years, is well known in the community.

Presenting:

A CIVIL WAR LOVE STORY!

Marguerite Hudson
Introduces her new book

Whiskey Chitto Woman•

Based on remembrances of the stories her grandmother told
about her father, Aaron Johnson, and his wife Ellen.

After he lost a leg in the Battle of Mansfield, she hitched up the wagon,
drove across the uncharted land to Alexandria
and brought him home ...

To a life that neither could have imagined before the war changed their world forever!



On-line Research Tips

World-Cat

**The world's largest network
of library content and services .**

Long a librarians secret...

Now available to all!

If you wonder what library—anywhere
in the world—

might have the book you seek...

Ask World-Cat!

What is WorldCat?

WorldCat is the world's largest network of library content and services. WorldCat libraries are dedicated to providing access to their resources on the Web, where most people start their search for information.

What am I searching?



WorldCat.org lets you search the collections of libraries in your community and thousands more around the world. WorldCat grows every day thanks to the efforts of librarians and other information professionals.

WorldCat.org lets you:

- * Search many libraries at once for an item and then locate it in a library nearby
- * Find books, music, and videos to check out
- * Find research articles and digital items (like audiobooks) that can be directly viewed or downloaded
- * Link to "Ask a Librarian" and other services at your library
- * Post your review of an item, or contribute factual information about it

You may need to have an active offline membership with a WorldCat library to view/download content or check out materials through its Web site.

What will I find?

Illustration: Some of the media icons you'll see in WorldCat results You can search for popular books, music CDs and videos—all of the physical items you're used to getting from libraries. You can also discover many new kinds of digital content, such as downloadable audiobooks. You may also find article abstracts and their full text; authoritative research materials, such as documents and photos of local or historic significance; and digital versions of rare items that aren't available to the public. Because WorldCat libraries serve diverse communities in dozens of countries, resources are available in many languages.

Can I check something out?

It depends on whether you have an active membership with a library that owns the item, and whether that library's Web site permits remote checkout of an item. WorldCat.org lets you find an item of interest and then locate a library near you that owns it. Usually you will link directly to the item record on the library's Web site. The actions available to you on that page will vary from one library to another. You may be able to join a waiting list, reserve the item, check it out or even have it shipped or delivered.

Editor's Note: I keyed in Stephen Van Rensselaer (4th GG) and 20 libraries that hold books about him came up. Including Cornell, Harvard, Library of Congress , several State University libraries.. Mailing address of each library (And mileage from Shreveport). You have the author's name and title of the book,complete information .

Looking Forward to the February meeting!

I know you will enjoy Marguerite Hudson's presentation! She is expecting her book to arrive from the publisher just before our meeting date. All of you who have published know what an exciting experience that is.

She and her husband Bill had such fun researching material during the ten years that she was writing it. They spent a great deal of time in the parishes where her ancestors came from, studying even the details such as the flora and fauna of the area.

Be sure to think of your questions about writing and publishing. This will be a good opportunity to learn some of the finer points!

An addition to our program!

Jeanice Vaughn wants to show everyone what she created from the software program that we discussed in December. The program is called Photo Story 3 by Microsoft.

The first file is pictures from her vacation in 2006. It's called The Stratmann Home. The other file she will show is called The ABC Kids.

President' Day in February

The History of the Holiday

The original version of the holiday was in commemoration of George Washington's birthday in 1796 (the last full year of his presidency). Washington, according to the calendar that has been used since at least the mid-18th century, was born on February 22, 1732. According to the old style calendar in use back then, however, he was born on February 11. At least in 1796, many Americans celebrated his birthday on the 22nd while others marked the occasion on the 11th instead.

By the early 19th century, Washington's Birthday had become a bona fide national holiday. Its traditions included Birthnight Balls in various regions, speeches and receptions given by prominent public figures, and a lot of revelry in taverns throughout the land. Then along came Abraham Lincoln, another revered president and born on the 12th of the month). The first formal observance of his birthday took place in 1865, the year after his assassination, when both houses of Congress gathered for a memorial address. While Lincoln's Birthday did not become a federal holiday like George Washington's, it did become a legal holiday in several states.

" This has made the third Monday in February a day for honoring both Washington and Lincoln, as well as all the other men who have served as president.



I wonder how many of our members have a family legend saying that they are descended from an American President?

I recently learned that Robert Lewis is descended from George Washington through the Parkes, line, George Washington's mother. I have always been told that my grandmother's mother was a cousin of GW, also through his mother. I have not proved this relationship, but found internet cousins from descendants of other siblings of that GG that had been told the same stories. (I remember my father saying that he endured the same ridicule when he claimed the relationship, that I did when I proudly announced the kinship when I was about 8 years old.)

Lets take a few minutes at the meeting to tell our stories. Anecdotal or Proven ? It will be fun!

OBTAINING LARGE WALL CHARTS

There has been much discussion of large wall charts on Roots-L of late. The following suggestions might be more acceptable to those with an artistic flair and who are accustomed to doing this sort of thing by hand. For computer devotees like most of us; I think we would be more comfortable using the charts with our Genealogical software, gluing them together and taking to Kinkos or Office Depot to be copied. Do you know that Kinkos now offers free software that will allow to prepare your copy on your own computer and send to them for printing? The description of the charts might give us some ideas for developing our own. Here are the suggestions from the Roots-L group:

THE FAMILY PEDIGREE CHART

The "Family" Pedigree Chart is a working Chart "score sheet" It presents a quick summary of one's knowledge of his/her ancestors and the proof of the information as derived from primary sources. The chart was developed over a number of years by finally combining a normal "Pedigree Chart" with part of a "Family Group Sheet" By filling in the spaces as information becomes available, the genealogists can keep a record of work and anyone following can easily build upon the work without repeating it. And it can be folded for fitting in most typewriters or a book. The chart is unique in that lines are given upon which to write Source References.

This Chart can be obtained from:

CHET & GERI

Young Explorations

Specialty Genealogy Charts

1901 Morgan Avenue Claremont CA. 91711

BUT..... the chart I really love, that I have on the wall is 24 x 36, and it is like an onion skin or perhaps special drafting paper. You write in pencil to fill out the chart, then it is possible to erase, make changes and corrections and then to recopy the chart, these would be called "white prints."

You adapt the chart to your needs using blank areas in the center. Some possibilities:

1. Include spouse & children of # 1 & ancestors.
2. List Revolutionary or Civil War Ancestors.
3. Add photographs (after copying) or drawings
4. List accomplishments of #1
5. Document more generations of one line to a Mayflower ancestor or to royalty
6. Add name of compiler or person presented to.
- 7 Use names of all children in one family as #1
8. Add color (after copying) by using permanent marking pens.
9. Maternal side & Paternal side.

ORDER CHART FROM:

Jeanne Everett 19650 Old Ridge Road South Bend, Indiana 46614

Finding Ancestors on Census without Index The Value of City Directories

By Rhonda Mc Clure (August 16 Genforum)

Q: The soundex for my ancestors in the 1910 Illinois census is lost - something about an accident in filming and then originals destroyed before the accident was noted. Can I find them in the census if I know their address in Chicago? -- Kay

A: There are times when we discover that either there isn't an index to the census that we need or as in your case, that something has happened that results in our family being omitted. While we tend to panic when we think there is no index, especially when dealing with a large city, such as you are, there are ways to narrow the search effectively to a small enough section of the census that line-by-line searching is no longer a daunting task.

These suggestions work best when working with some of the more recent census records, though the principles can be applied to earlier years as well.

It is possible to find people in a big city in the census without an index.

City Directories

Because you already know the city where your ancestor was living, you have solved the biggest problem. As such you can first turn your attention to city directories to aid you in your research.

Through city directories you can get the needed information to begin to narrow down the number of enumeration districts that you will have to search through. But many are unaware of how they can access city directories.

The first place to begin such a search is at your local Family History Center. You will want to search the Family History Library Catalog. You will find many city directories available on microfiche and microfilm. Because they are alphabetized, you can first search the city directory and then begin to determine where in the city they were living.

Enumeration District Maps

There are some often-overlooked aids that can be of use to you in this situation. For the 1880, 1900, 1910 and 1920 census there are descriptions of the enumeration districts on microfilm. They are also sometimes referred to as Enumeration District Maps, though they do not actually have graphic maps as you might expect.

Instead each state is broken down by Supervisor's District and there under by Enumeration District. For each enumeration district there is some sort of description, followed by the county and any possible special instructions. In some cases the population for the particular ED is also included.

Available on microfilm through the National Archives and the Family History Library, among other repositories, you actually have easy access to these enumeration district maps. Even public libraries with good genealogy departments are likely to have these microfilms.

Using the Maps

Once you have found your ancestor in the city directory, you will need to turn to the maps to determine the enumeration district. As you work with the maps, you will begin to get a feel for the organization of the listings. Some of them are very detailed, listing the outer boundaries of the ED. When used in conjunction with the maps that are often located in the front of city directories, you can begin to see how they canvassed a given city.

You may discover that your particular street is listed in more than one enumeration district. Even if there are three

or four enumeration districts that need to be searched, that has still greatly reduced your work. And you are not actually having to go line-by-line looking at each surname.

How do you find your person without going line by line? Well the street names are included in the census. This means you can scan the census pages looking for the street name rather than having to search names of all the people on the page. This can greatly reduce the time it takes to search a census for your ancestors.

In Conclusion

While this system isn't as simple as finding them in a soundex and going right to them, you will get to broaden your experience with city directories. You also do decrease the amount of time it takes to search the census, making it a doable task rather than an insurmountable research problem.

The Library of Congress

Is making more and more of its maps, prints and photographs available online at www.loc.gov. The Learning Page is the educator's portal into the American Memory Collection and features digital images of these items in this amazing collection of documents, photographs, audio recordings, and maps on United States history. Teacher created lesson plans are there to get you started! <http://memory.loc.gov/learn/> Show students a picture of a real sod house when reading *Sarah Plain and Tall* or *Little House on the Prairie*. Show an image of Japanese immigrants on the west coast when reading *Grandfather's Journey*. Make a real world connection when reading historical fiction or doing historical research by using primary sources. Many genealogists are using the American Memory resources with their interviews ..

The resources of this enormous library are available to us now, with the on line databases and the digitization of thousands of its books. IF you would like to make a Photo Story of your family and their migration, remember this source for maps and pictures.

The LDS Church is indexing the 1900 Census so that it will be available online FREE of CHARGE.

They are taking volunteers to do that. If you are interested in reading about this project or volunteering,

go to www.familysearchindexing.org

Also Indiana Marriages Ohio Tax Records New England Historical Society

Volunteers extract family history information from digital images of historical documents to create indexes that assist everyone in finding their ancestors.

Current and Upcoming Projects

Vast libraries of digital images are organized into a variety of projects, each with unique guidelines and rules. Read about what is being indexed now, and see what is coming in the future.

Volunteer

Everyone is invited! Join the thousands of volunteers who are creating automated indexes to valuable family history records. You can also volunteer with participating genealogical and historical societies.

Install Software

Click Install

Now to download and install the FREE software to your computer. Read about computer specifications here.

In 30 minutes you can help people find their ancestors!

1852 NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS SOLVE GENEALOGICAL MYSTERIES.

It is New Year's Eve 1852 and Henry HYDENWELL sits at his desk by candlelight. He dips his quill pen in ink and begins to write his New Year's resolutions.

1. No man is truly well-educated unless he learns to spell his name at least three different ways within the same document. I resolve to give the appearance of being extremely well-educated in the coming year.
2. I resolve to see to it that all of my children will have the same names that my ancestors have used for six generations in a row.
3. My age is no one's business but my own. I hereby resolve to never list the same age or birth year twice on any document.
4. I resolve to have each of my children baptized in a different church--either in a different faith or in a different parish. Every third child will not be baptized at all or will be baptized by an Itinerant minister who keeps no records.
5. I resolve to move to a new town, new county, or new state at least once every ten years--just before those pesky enumerators come around asking silly questions.
6. I will make every attempt to reside in counties and towns where no vital records are maintained or where the courthouse burns down every few years.
7. I resolve to join an obscure religious cult that does not believe in record keeping or in participating in military service.
8. When the tax collector comes to my door, I'll loan him my pen, which has been dipped in rapidly fading blue ink.
9. I resolve that if my beloved wife Mary should die, I will marry another Mary.
10. I resolve not to make a will. Who needs to spend money on a lawyer?

Now isn't this why we are finding what we are??? ha ha ha

The President's Message

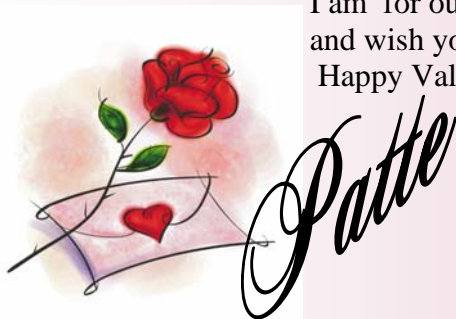
Patte Bettis



Valentines Day reminds us of how much our friendships mean to us... How much our lives are enriched by these associations. I remember a theme of *one* of my favorite contemporary writers. He said, *There is something special about the bond between those who share an enthusiasm.*" We have discussed that before... laughing about the reaction of an acquaintance when we were excitedly recounting a breakthrough in our genealogical quest..... and realizing that the other party did not understand, and apparently could not care less. This makes us appreciate our genealogical cronies even more...Knowing that with them, we have a forum for our questions, and our discoveries.. assured that our stories will be met with interest and helpful suggestions— if desired.

So, again Dear Friends, let me tell you how grateful

I am for our association,
and wish you a
Happy Valentine's Day!



**JULY 2007 ANGELINA COLLEGE
GENEALOGY CONFERENCE -
Lufkin, Texas**

REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN for the July 2007 Conference.

Take a look at the full program, speakers, registration form, etc. at \

<http://www.angelina.edu/genealogy.htm>

To see a schedule grid go to <http://etxquest.com/acg>

GENCOM

Officers

2006-2007

President: Patricia Bettis

Vice President: Margaret Clark

Treasurer: Charles Byrd

2nd Vice President and

Technical Advisor : Robert Franklin

Membership Chairmen

Margaret and Will Mc Gilvray

C.D. Librarian and

FTM Consultant : Don Davis

Social Chairmen:

Julious Windham, Dorothy Rosson,

Thelma Windham

GENFEST Coordinator:

Carolyn Franklin

Historian: Jeanice Vaughn

Newsletter Editor: Patricia Bettis

pbettis@sport.rr.com

Our dues are still just \$15.00

The GENCOM year begins in July

Checks may be sent to Treasurer

Charles Byrd

2529 Brown Circle

Bossier City, LA. 71111