



July 24 Meeting 2:00 Hamilton South Library



Celebrating GENCOM's 14th Birthday !

In January we began focusing on our special project for the year 2005...**Writing our Memoirs and Family Histories**. We continue addressing the many subjects that are involved in writing and publishing...including photographs. In May Dr Joy Stephenson showed us how to scan our old family pictures, to get them in order to modify and renew, and have them ready to place in our Family Tree scrapbook or other virtual or real publications. We continue in July with :

Thanks to all you loyal members, we are a viable organization, enjoying our avowed purpose " *To create, foster and maintain interest in the responsible use of technology in Genealogical Research* " Each year has brought new and exciting developments for us to explore! **PMB**

GLENDA CONRADI Presenting:

PHOTOGRAPHY AND EDITING DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHS

Learn how to

Preserve those Precious Photographs for Posterity!



Editing and repairing damaged and faded photos. Glenda will discuss use of several different photo programs !



Glenda Conradi

July 24 is also Election Day

2005-2006 GENCOM OFFICERS

I, Patricia Bettis, am pleased to continue as President

Margaret Clark will also continue as Vice President

Charles Byrd as Treasurer

Don Davis as CD Librarian and Family Tree Instructor

Julious Windham and Dorothy Rosson as Social Chairmen

We regretfully accept the resignation of Alice Mc Rae as membership Chairman. We are most grateful for the many years of fine service she has given us...and, sincerely hope that her health will allow her to be back to our meetings soon.

Margaret and Will MC Gilvray have consented to take on the office of Co- Chairs for Membership!

Computer Advisor : Robert Franklin



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And more Site- Seeing

As is our custom at our July Anniversary meeting...we send a special invitation to our past presidents who were so instrumental in developing our organization.

Patte's Page



Exciting news! We have created a new office!. (Though, perhaps we are a little late getting around to it.) Since Computer is an integral part of our GENCOM name, it is only fitting that we have a Computer Chair on the board.

When I asked for program preferences a few months ago, I was surprised that so many responded with requests for computer related programs. Since virus programs have invaded our world, we really need to know how to protect the valuable data stored on our machines. It is increasingly important to all of us to be more knowledgeable about these threats....and I feel that our organization should try to provide that information. Robert Franklin has shared his expertise on the subject with us a few month ago and continues to advise when we have asked for his help. We are fortunate to have such a well informed member.

We have always tried to observe a balance of Genealogical and Computer oriented programs. I look forward to Bob's help in presenting interesting and up to date computer related subjects in the future. His program last month on making Genealogical slide presentations demonstrates the breadth of his interests. We are delighted to add the position of Computer Advisor, and to welcome him to the board!

I hope you will find the Adobe format a convenient form for our newsletter. I feel that communication is the key to a successful, -close-knit organization. With no postal or printer charges, it does seem to be the wise choice! We have yet to learn if there are any problems receiving it, if as many as 8 pages will be accepted by the servers. But, experimentation is part of GENCOM's thinking, so we will learn! We do want everyone to be a part of our newsletter. When you find a website or program useful-- do share it--your input is much appreciated...

Although we will hold no meeting in August, we will be working on the German Genealogy program for September and will have a meeting of those who are going to present it---sometime during the month

We are also planning for our October GENFEST. As October is Family History Month, GENFEST is also our observation of that recently proclaimed celebration. I note that many of the desktop publishing and photo programs now offer family tree designs on all sorts of things. Lets be thinking what we can display at our GENFEST--- and also, what guests or vendors we might like to invite! Looking forward to seeing you at our Birthday Celebration July 24!

Patte



Site Seeing!

Cant decide which search engine you prefer? Google or Yahoo?

Now, you can combine the two. Gahoo!Yoogole is a search site that returns links from both Yahoo! and Google. Just enter your search term and you're returned a split screen. Yahoo! is on one side; Google, the other. You can also check out news and images. There is one downside: Since each gets half a page, things are a little crowded. But you may find it worthwhile. Check it out at: <http://www.gahooyoogle.com/>

ANIMATED ATLAS

Some of asked about the software program Ani-map...an excellent resource that shows the development of counties and states. You will enjoy this web-site with a similar purpose.

If you missed it: <http://www.animatedatlas.com/movie.html>

RAOK

Subject: Random Acts of Genealogical Kindness

Hi Everyone,

It has been recently brought to my attention that many people have never heard of our site, Random Acts of Genealogical Kindness (aka RAOGK) which is located at <http://www.raogk.org/>. Our site is not new, it has been around for six years.

The purpose of RAOGK is to make the acquiring of documentation of your research without having to pay for travel costs, hotel/motel fees and trying to plan vacation time around research time. We have around 4600 volunteers around the world to do the legwork for you at their cost. Successful genealogical research is based upon people helping people. Our volunteers unselfishly provide information available in their area to those who live far away. The cost to use the website is free, but reimbursement of the volunteer's expenses for copying, film for pictures, etc., is expected.

Don Zesch shares this site!

INDEX TO THE MILITARY ROLLS OF TEXAS

This is a site some Texas researcher might be interested in knowing about.

<http://www.mindspring.com/~dmaxy/> Don Zesch

PAT MC DOWELL SEND US THIS FROM EASTMAN'S NEWSLETTER

KENTUCKY DIGITIZES LAND DOCUMENTS

Tucked in the state Capitol's cavernous basement is an office cubbyhole containing volumes upon volumes of large books tracing the history of land in Kentucky. Those books, many of which have been hidden from the public eye for years, are now available worldwide on the Internet. They're part of the collection in the Secretary of State's Land Office. Now, historians, genealogists and those who are just plain curious can go online, at www.sos.ky.gov, and access a plethora of scanned images of historical land documents.

And there are more available every day. The agency launched its redesigned Web site late last month, giving people fingertip access to thousands of handwritten historical documents. You can read more about this valuable new online resource at

<http://www.kentucky.com/mld/kentucky/news/state/11772453.htm>

Site Seeing

Carolyn Franklin sends us this from Kim Kommando:

Newseum is a site that puts front pages of 426 newspapers at your fingertips. And the selections not only span the country, but the globe.

The papers are arranged geographically on a map. Just click to select the paper you'd like to view.

Or, if you prefer, you can select from a list. Organize the papers by location or by name. But if you want a closer look, you'll need Acrobat Reader. And remember, they're updated daily, so they're always current!

TO VISIT THIS SITE, [Click here](http://www.newseum.org/todaysfrontpages/flash) <http://www.newseum.org/todaysfrontpages/flash>

LEROY TERRY SENDS US THESE:

www.keyhole.com

I was checking for satellite images of Dennis when I found this website. After going to it download the free Google Earth program. It is rather large but well worth it. This satellite image can be zoomed and moved all around. I located our camp on Black Bayou out from Houston easily with it. You can also put in an address and it will go to it. Use the zoom bar to zoom in and out

Some fabulous free sites that EVERYONE should be familiar with!

MANY FREE CENSUS INDICES

- <http://www.usgenweb.org/>
- <http://www.us-census.org/>
- <http://www.usgennet.org/>
- <http://www.ahgp.org/>
- <http://www.alhn.org/>

- **Family Tree MAILING LIST**

- You might want to join the mailing list dedicated to FTM. Wonderful list with helpful and knowledgeable folks. Just send a blank e-mail with the word subscribe as the subject to: FTM-L-Request@rootsweb.com

Now would be a good time to discuss those sites (that are not owned by Ancestry) where one can find good low cost or free content. I will start off with

www.augustaarchives.com which

<http://www.rays-place.com/>

a Lot of CT and MA vital records free for the looking at Rays Place..many county histories NY CN and MA, ME

<http://www.memoriallibrary.com/> Which houses the 1895 Atlas among other goodies.

Special News

AN EXCITING NEW SOURCE:.

THE ENCYCLOPEDIA OF GENEALOGY

<http://www.eogen.com>



The Encyclopedia of Genealogy serves as a compendium of genealogical tools and techniques. It provides reference information about everything in genealogy except people. Look to the Encyclopedia of Genealogy to provide explanations of how to look up your family tree, explanations of terms found in genealogy research, including obsolete medical and legal terms. It will describe locations where records may be found. It also will describe how to research Italian, German, Polish, French-Canadian, Jewish, Black, Indian and other ancestors. In short, the Encyclopedia of Genealogy will serve as your standard genealogy reference manual. The Encyclopedia of Genealogy serves as a clearinghouse of genealogy techniques: where to find records, how to organize the data found, what the terminology means, and how to plan your next research effort.

The Encyclopedia of Genealogy will grow through the addition of articles written by genealogists. In fact, YOU can help by adding content: your own knowledge and expertise can help others. You can add content, missing information, even correct errors. That is the beauty of it. By adding 'nuggets', it becomes a gold mine of user information to benefit all researchers.

It will be a continual 'work in progress' as new material is added and existing content improved. While now only in its infancy, it is growing fast. There are currently over 400 articles as well as many definitions of genealogical terms, abbreviations, archaic legal and medical terms, etc. There is an alphabetical index in addition to a robust search feature. Just reading through the index is enlightening educational experience.

While anyone can view the information in this encyclopedia, you must register before you can edit or add information. Registration is free, and there are no obligations.

The requirement to register was added only to reduce the possibility of someone "spamming" the encyclopedia and other inappropriate conduct. Only information that you are legally entitled to contribute can be posted, such as: words that you wrote or public domain information or words from others that you have a legal right to republish. There are complete instructions on how to submit information and even a 'sandbox' where you can practice adding and modifying text.

- This exciting service has the potential to become a major resource for all genealogists. Take a moment to go online and check it out.
- The URL is: <http://www.eogen.com/>. Just think of the possibilities and potential of such a collaborative system. WOW!

18th Century Indexing Methods

There is increasing interest in indexing with the digitization of our records. There is a lot of criticism of both Ancestry and Heritage Quest, when the scanned records are difficult to read or in error.

Wendy Elliot recently spoke to the San Diego Genealogy Group on the subject of 19th century indexing methods. There were some true revelations --- some interesting reasons why we can't find records for our ancestors.

Some common problems prevail with differences in spelling and reading old handwriting, others pose more of a challenge. Some records could be indexed by first

names, others by record name type (e.g. probate). And probate records may be indexed by the executor's, administrator's or commissioner's name, rather than

that of the deceased. Deeds, while a bit more straightforward, may be indexed under one name but include 'et. al' (and others) where you may find your ancestors.

If you see 'et ux', it indicated that the wife's name is included in the document. Deeds may have both grantor, grantee indexes but earlier records may only have a

grantor index. If property was sold for back taxes, it may be indexed under 'Sheriff' or 'State of' as grantor. In different areas, records could be named something else

(i.e. conveyances vs. land records).

Also, terms we use today may signify something different then. 'Jr.' was not necessarily a son, only a younger persons of the same name (cousin, nephew). Some records may have been filed by date as 'loose papers' which should not be overlooked. In cases where a court house may have been destroyed, documents may have been re-recorded at a later date, requiring extended research dates.

Tax lists should not be overlooked but could be indexed by first name. Ministers, soldiers and others may have been exempted and be listed under 'N'. For colonial states, 'quit rents' tax lists may not be kept with other tax lists.

Above all, be flexible in spelling variations and don't presume a similar name is not your family. Sometimes a search by first name may find your lost records.

Are You Practicing 'Safe Genealogy'?

You have worked for many years to document your family history and want to be sure your work will be available for future generations. You have included many living relatives -- children, grandchildren and cousins - so they can share in discovering their genealogy connections and will be part of the family chronicle for coming generations.

But, with heightened concerns about privacy, do you really have the legal or moral right to include their personal information - names, dates, family relationships, etc. - in documentation that could be open to the public, particularly if you plan to publish a book or go on the web.

In this information age, a lot of information is already out there about each and every one of us. We no longer are anonymous to the world. Just Google your name and see what you find. This issue, however, goes beyond that of privacy. It is also one of courtesy and consent for those living individuals in your files. Some have suggested that, prior to releasing any information in the public forum that a written release form be obtained from every named living person. While this would be ideal, it is not very practical. Another approach is to remove the personal information (e.g. dates, place names, etc.) and show only the person's name.. Something to think about!

CIA RELEASES ITS LATEST FACTBOOK UPDATE

The Central Intelligence Agency's World Factbook has been updated. This book includes a lot of information about individual countries.

Each entry includes a map and short description of the country's background. There are seemingly endless details on each country's economy, geography, demography, etc. Really, if you need a quick refresher on a particular country, this is the place to look.

The Factbook is intended for government use. But it is available to everyone. Check it out at:

<http://www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook/index.html>

Download it today and see why people have been buzzing about the software. Files are compatible with Microsoft Office, so the switch is virtually painless.

TO VISIT THIS SITE, GO HERE:
<http://www.openoffice.org/product2> Free software great reviews!

You have here a collection of enough exciting sites to keep you all busy and entertained for the rest of the summer! I spend a lot of time surfing (obviously)...and enjoy sharing my serendipitous finds.

Quoting Roderick Haig- Brown

"I have fished through fishless days that I remember happily and without regret!

PMB

GENCOM OFFICERS

2005-2006

President: Patricia Minton Bettis
Vice President: Margaret Clark
Treasurer: Charles Byrd
CD Librarian: Don Davis
Computer Advisor: Bob Franklin

Membership Chairmen:
Margaret and Will MC Gilvray

Social Chairmen: Julious Windham
Dorothy Rosson



July is the beginning of our fiscal year and the renewal of GENCOM dues.

Dues remain at \$15.00 for family.

If you cannot attend the meeting you may send your check to our treasurer:

Charles Byrd
2525 Brown Circle
Bossier City, LA. 71111

