

October  
2007

# Connections

The E-letter of GENCOM, The Computer Genealogy Group

Editor: Patricia Minton Bettis

## GENFEST

October 27

Saturday 10:00-4:00

Hamilton Library

10:00 Welcome: Bob Franklin

10:00-12:00 Genealogical Software

Demonstrations and Displays

12:00 Dinner on the Grounds

1:00 GenSmarts demonstration by Don Davis

*(GenSmarts is known as Artificial Intelligence for the genealogist )*

2:00 Program by

"The Scottish Society of The Louisiana Hiellands, Inc."

Delilah Darden will play the Highland fiddle  
and tell the story of the banning of the bagpipes.

Jim Whittington will present

"Scottish History and Culture"

3:00 GENCOM Monthly Meeting

4:00 Adjournment

# GENFEST Schedule

## GENFEST Displays

Genealogy DNA Project ..... Julious Windham  
142 Years of Masonic Lodge Records.....Roy Henderson  
Heritage Scrap Books.....Margaret McGilvray  
Digital Scrap Books..... Jeanice Vaughn  
Members will be on hand to explain displays and answer questions.

These are software demonstrations with a computer:

The Master Genealogist Software ..... Joy Stephenson  
Roots Magic Software .....Pat McDowell  
Family Tree Maker Software .....Don Davis  
GPS and Map Software .....Will McGilvray  
Genealogy and the Internet.....Don Zesch  
Exploring Windows XP & Vista.....Bernie Conradi  
Photo Editing Software.....Glenda Conradi



# Carolyn's Corner

## Carolyn's Tips and Tricks for October

### Online Bill Pay

Have you neglected to set up an Online Bill Pay Account with your bank of Financial Institution because you were not sure how to start?

Here is an online tutorial that tells the steps for setting up bill pay with your bank and online bill pay offered by your service providers (Phone Company, Mortgage Company, etc)

<http://banking.about.com/od/bankonline/f/setupbillpay.htm>

### Virtual University

The fall 2007 Calendar of online classes at Virtual University has been announced . You can, learn web design and how to improve your writing skills and how to build or repair a desktop PC. There are also 7 classes in Paint Shop Pro, beginning to advanced.

All classes are taught online so you can study from home in your spare time. It is good if you have a personal web site to post assignments. This lets you get grades for each lesson and receive a certificate of completion, however it is not necessary. You can just do the assignments and save them to your hard drive to review at a later date.

You may sign up for up to 4 different subjects. The cost for one or all four is only \$20.00. I have taken some of these courses myself and was well satisfied.

Fall classes start Monday, October 15. To view courses and descriptions, visit <http://vu.org/calendar.html>

Work in two windows at once.

One of the things I like most about my new wide screen monitor is I can view two documents at one time without having them revert to the taskbar.

You can also do this with Windows XP

To arrange two windows (documents) side-by-side, open both documents, web pages etc. One will be minimized in the task bar. Hold the Ctrl key while right-clicking the minimized window. Then click on "Tile Vertically" and your two windows appear side by side and stay there while you work easily between them.

And now for some fun.

Piano Lady's WAVs

Select an artist and click on a song to play

<http://www.pianoladynancy.com/wavs.htm>

Till next month

Carolyn

# Disk Cleanup <http://support.microsoft.com/kb/310312>

*Contributed by Carolyn Franklin*



The Disk Cleanup tool helps you free up space on your hard disk by searching your disk for files that you can safely delete.

You can choose to delete some or all of the files.

Use Disk Cleanup to perform any of the following tasks to free up space on your hard disk:

1. Remove temporary Internet files.
2. Remove downloaded program files. For example, ActiveX controls and Java applets that are downloaded from the Internet.
3. Empty the Recycle Bin.
4. Remove Windows temporary files.
5. Remove optional Windows components that you are not using.

6. Remove installed programs that you no longer use.

You can start Disk Cleanup, by doing any of the following:

Click Start, and then click Run. In the Open box, type cleanmgr, and then click OK.

-or- Click Start, point to All Programs, point to Accessories, point to System Tools, and then click Disk Cleanup.

or In Windows Explorer or My Computer, right-click the disk in which you want to free up space, click Properties, click the General tab, and then click Disk Cleanup.

## Remove Files Stored on Your Hard Disk

To remove files stored on your hard disk that you no longer use, follow these steps:

1. Click Start, and then click My Computer.
2. Right-click the disk in which you want to free up space, and then click Properties.
3. Click the General tab, and then click Disk Cleanup.
4. Click the Disk Cleanup tab (if it is not already selected), click to select the check boxes next to the files that you want to remove, and then click OK.
5. Click Yes to the proceed with this action, and then click OK.

## Remove Windows Components

To remove Windows components that you are not using, follow these steps:

1. Click Start, and then click My Computer.
2. Right-click the disk in which you want to free up space, and then click Properties.
3. Click the General tab, and then click Disk Cleanup.
4. Click the More Options tab, and then under Windows components, click Clean up.

The Windows Components Wizard starts.

5. In the Components list, click to clear the check box next to the component (s) that you want to remove. A shaded check box next to a component indicates that only some of its subcomponents are installed.

If you want to remove a subcomponent, click Details, click to clear the check box next to the subcomponent (s) that you want to remove, and then click OK.

6. Click Next.
7. In the Completing the Windows Components Wizard page, click Finish.
8. Click OK, click Yes to proceed with this action, and then click OK.

## Remove Installed Programs

To remove programs that you no longer use, follow these steps:

1. Click Start, and then click My Computer.
2. Right-click the disk in which you want to free up space, and then click Properties.
3. Click the General tab, and then click Disk Cleanup.

TEXAS GHOST TOWNS \*\* 'lost' towns

Date: Fri, 21 Sep 2007 11:49:59 -0500

Inactive for sometime, this list has been moving in the past few days ...

While it is headed GhostTowns, you might just find that it valuable to your genealogical research.

Looking for a TEXAS town that is no more? Here is the place to ask! Then you'll be off and running to find out who lived there when and what happened?

Is the remnant of a cemetery or buildings still visible?

And if you had ancestors who lived there, tell the rest of us who & when - and where they went afterwards ... that migration event might help others seeking what happened to their own ancestors.



<http://lists.rootsweb.com/index/usa/TX/misc.html#TX-GHOSTTOWNS>

Note that you can browse the archives first if you'd like to. Then join us! I always recommend the use of these RootsWeb Mailing Lists --- if you need it only for a short time to get your question posted and watch for the answer (believe me, someone will), you can very easily unsubscribe. And just maybe YOU can answer a question for someone

Subject: (HGF-2) NEW YORK TIMES ... may other newspapers follow ...

Date: Fri, 21 Sep 2007 11:41:26 -0500

The New York Times will stop charging for access to parts of its Web site, effective at midnight tonight. The move comes two years to the day after The Times began the subscription program, TimesSelect, which has charged \$49.95 a year, or \$7.95 a month, for online access to the work of its columnists and to the newspaper's archives. TimesSelect has been free to print subscribers to The Times and to some students and educators. In addition to opening the entire site to all readers, The Times will also make available its archives from 1987 to the present without charge, as well as those from 1851 to 1922, which are in the public domain. There will be charges for some material from the period 1923 to 1986, and some will be free.

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## Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission

Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission operates historic sites and museums throughout Pennsylvania and administers historic preservation programs and ...

[www.phmc.state.pa.us/](http://www.phmc.state.pa.us/)



The Pennsylvania State Archives has added over 300,000 images of land records to the Web, that can be accessed at The Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission's Web site, at [www.phmc.state.pa.us](http://www.phmc.state.pa.us) The additions include warrant registers (1733-1957), patent indexes (1684-1957) and the Philadelphia Old Rights index.

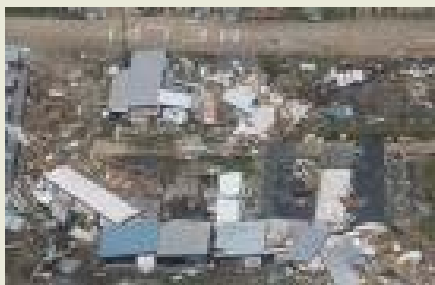
When you reach the site click on RESEARCH to the left ... Genealogy - Land Records - Records Holdings - Digital Documents ---Be sure to read the instructions as there are several sets of documents you can search; a lot of the available documents are in PDF format so make sure you've got Adobe Acrobat reader.

Enjoy! Trevia Wooster Beverly

Editor' Note

*Our sincere thanks to Houston GENCOM member Bob Reed ,who monitors Trevia Wooster Beverly's work and relays choice entries to us. ( We are flattered to have a faithful stringer who contributes such interesting material! PMB*

## Louisiana Research and Resources ( *After Katrina* )



( I copied this from another email group I belong to I know there are a few GENCOM members with Louisiana roots)

As for the status of any records in New Orleans (hard copies): -- the Notarial Archives are currently closed (this is the vast repository of all records in New Orleans prior to the early 1900s.) The building it was in was significantly damaged -- virtually every window in a 35 story building blown out, and papers flown about, but no water damage (well, a little rain around the edges.)

Plus, this archive contains some 40 Million records, the vast, vast majority of which are not computerized, catalogued or indexed, only about 10% are. Indeed, if you do NOT know the name of the Notary Public who made the record it is impossible to look up something for all records are "catalogued" by the Notary. Say, for instance, your grandfather stayed in New Orleans for a few months, did something official, and that was Notarized. It's in the records --but if you Do Not know the name of the notary there is no way to find it with outgoing through hundreds of original indexes (if that notary even made one,) page by page, by page -- 10,000s of pages. If you know the name of the Notary, say Mr. Thibodaux, then if Thibodaux made an index it might run to several volumes, inches thick, and in order of date of instrument made -- not by name. If the Notary made no index (25% or so did not,) then you need to go page by page through each of that Notaries bound copies of instruments.

The Loyola Ave branch of the public library is open, but with limited hours. This is the other great repository of records in New Orleans, mostly court documents, and incredible obituary and marriage record card catalogues (the former in the basement the latter two on the 3rd Floor. However: Anything they had in their basement is in a precarious state -- which was all the old stuff -- due to significant water damage -- much of it is in Boston Mass. being dried out. The records went back to 1803 They are currently operating at about 50% of staff.

If your ancestor spent any time in New Orleans and did anything remotely official then it is in one of these two repositories. It is a quirk of Louisiana law that many transactions of incredible diversity made between two people were "Made" by an " Act" before a "Notary" -- or was "Passed" before a Court and thus there's a record. Pretty much 75% of all the records of Louisiana prior to the Purchase in 1803 are in the State Archives in Baton Rouge -- however, if they are not microfilmed they're basically unavailable. They are considered to valuable to let mere folks handle them, so they are slowly being microfilmed, and somewhat loosely catalogued or indexed. The rest scattered around the state made it through unscathed.

The City of New Orleans itself actually kept no records related to people per se-- that is, Notaries Records are a Parish and State matter, not a City matter, and thus the City had no authority over those records. Since most transactions were notarized they were Parish records, and see Notaries Archives above. There is no " records" repository of the City of New Orleans itself, other than current matters. Immigration records were Federal, and just not kept. City Court records were in the basement of the Loyola Public library if before the early 1930s, and in the City Court houses if later -- various ones, around the city, and mostly are currently out of commission in one way or the other. Basically, the Court system in New Orleans is closed -- at best it operates out of temporary space in Gonzales and Baton Rouge. The property records are also divided between the Notaries Archives if before the early 1900s -- and in the Recorder of Mortgages on Loyola Avenue if later, after 1985 they were computerized -- but -- they were kept in the Basement! Need I say more? They're working on the problem now. The office is so closed there hadn't been a property transfer in New Orleans since the Big K came through until just about early December. So -- anyone trying to do ancestor research in New Orleans at this time should keep in mind Katrina and the damage it caused - balanced with the paucity of records in the first place, or the lack of a convenient look up system for early records. Except property records, oddly though, are incredibly easy. There are indexes of Vendors and Vendees (Sellers and Buyers, in that order.) --

## NARA Changes Fee Schedule

From the ST Louis Genealogical Society Newsletter  
(Contributed by Don Zesch)

After many years of no increase in cost, the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA), has announced a fee increase for copying files, effective 1 October.

Type of record Order form # Fee

Passenger arrival lists

NATF Form 81 \$25.00

Federal Census requests

NATF Form 82 \$25.00

Eastern Cherokee applications to the Court of Claims

NATF Form 83 \$25.00

Land entry records

NATF Form 84 \$40.00

Full pension file more than 75 years old, (Civil War and after), up to and including 100 pages.

NATF Form 85 \$75.00

Full pension file (pre-Civil War) NATF Form 85 \$50.00

Pension documents packet (selected records)

NATF Form 85 \$25.00

Bounty land warrant application files

NATF Form 85 \$25.00

Military service files more than 75 years old

NATF Form 86 \$25.00

Self-service electrostatic copies will be \$0.25 per page in the Washington, D.C. area and \$0.20 per page at regional archives and presidential libraries. NARA staff-made electrostatic copies will be \$0.75 per page.

When this new fee schedule was first announced, there was a bit of controversy over the proposed rates. Many genealogists thought the prices were being raised unfairly. But NARA officials elicited public comment and then actually listened to constituents before they made their final decisions. In this case, writing letters and sending e-mails to "the powers that be" paid off by a lowering of several of the fees that were deemed to be unreasonable. The final document as posted in the Federal Register on 17 August 2007.

## Texas State Genealogical Society 2007 Conference at Tyler "A Map to Your Family History" November 9-10, 2007



Holiday Inn Select 5701 S Broadway Ave  
(903)561-5800

Speakers *The Genealogy Guys*  
George G Morgan and Drew Smith  
Visit their websites at [www.genealogyguys.com](http://www.genealogyguys.com)

Conference details at TSGS Website  
[www.rootsweb.com~txsgs](http://www.rootsweb.com~txsgs)

### Louisiana Historical Records Advisory Board

**GENCOM has received a notice from Jay Dardenne, Secretary of State inviting any interested members to participate in these public hearings:**  
**Thursday, Oct 11 at LSU Archives Baton Rouge**  
**Wed. Nov.7. LA Tech Library, Ruston**  
**Wed. Jan9,2008 ULL Dupree Lib. Lafayette**  
**Thurs. Feb 21 2008 UNO Library N.O.**  
**Pre- registration is requested by e-mailing [clefibre@sos.louisiana.gov](mailto:clefibre@sos.louisiana.gov)**

**The Mission of the Louisiana Historical Records Advisory Board is to assist in support coordinate and advocate the identification, collection, preservation, management, use and accessibility of records that document all of Louisiana's people communities, organizations, businesses and governments.**

*Editor's Note As noted in the story on page 6, regarding the state of Louisiana's archives in the wake of Katrina. I thought those of you from LA. might wish to be involved in this effort! PMB*

## The President's Message



Bob Franklin



September was our first regular meeting after the start of the new GENCOM year.

Bernie Conradi, our Technical Adviser gave a Windows report that reminded us to keep Windows and our Anti-virus programs updated. Folks it's imperative to keep Windows patched and all programs updated. Each month Bernie will give a Windows report to keep us abreast of any new updates and technical information we may need to keep our computers running smooth.

Our speaker for September was our very own Pat McDowell. Pat kept us on the edge of our chairs with her "Adventures in Genealogy" presentation. Pat is an outstanding and colorful speaker that delivers useful genealogy information with a tint of humor. Many thanks to Pat for her "Adventures in Genealogy" presentation.

Looking down the road to our next meeting is the October GENFEST 2007, which will be a great opportunity to have a hands on experience with some of the most popular genealogy software available today. Thinking about a new computer, then you'll definitely want to visit the Vista table.

Also on hand will be Photo Editing, Scrapbook, Internet, GPS/Maps, and DNA tables.

After Lunch there will be a GenSmarts presentation and a program by "The Scottish Society of The Louisiana Hielands, Inc."

Mark you calendar for Saturday, October 27, 10:00 am to 4:00 pm.

See you at GENFEST! Bob

# GENCOM

## Officers

2007-2008

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Our dues are still just \$15.00

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## WELCOME

New Members

Juanita Edwards

Roy Henderson