



Connections

The Newsletter of GENCOM, The Computer Genealogy Group Editor: Patricia Minton Bettis

September 28 Meeting
Sunday afternoon 2:00
Hamilton Library
Al Taglavore

“Better Understanding the Digital Camera”
“Your Camera as a Tool”

Al is aware that most of our members are using digital cameras in their research. He will show us how to make the most of this most important tool!

Program Committee member Leroy Terry was working with him on the Fair Park Reunion and realized how expert his old friend had become in photography.

So, Leroy talked to him about presenting a program for us. Al plans to present tips on white balance, exposure adjustment, exposure metering and using depth of field. (*How many of us (Other than myself) use the default settings and have little idea of what the camera's settings mean?*)

He will briefly explore photo editing software and adding sharpness to a photo.

A most valuable subject for our special interests will be tips on using the Macro mode to copy records, and documents

He says “Sharing knowledge about making quality images for use in research papers and web sharing will be my goal!”



Al Taglavore

GENEALOGY CD-ROM Library

Don Davis



Over the past year the use of the CD's has dwindled to a trickle. There has been less than 2 dozen CD's checked out during this time period.

During the recent GENCOM Board meeting the matter was discussed and the decision was reached to open the Library to all current members. There will be no dues collected to utilize them. I have been bringing the disks to each meeting with hardly any body asking about them. To reduce the wear and tear on the disks we are posting a list of the CD's. If you wish to use the disks let me know which disk you would like and I will bring them to the meeting or you can come by my home and pick up or exchange disks.

With the internet and all of the on-line programs there is so much information available now These become guides to find other information

If you want to find out which CD's pertain to you families go to the following website:

<http://www.genealogy.com/ifftop.html>

You do not have to subscribe to Ancestry to use this.

Don

Editor's Note

The entire list will be sent within the week Go through it and make a list of what you would like to see.

Don is having knee surgery, so we will wait a few weeks to see how he wants to distribute the CDs and notify you..

Report of Annual Meeting of GENCOM Board And Program Committee

We met in August and planned many of the year's programs as well as activities for- GENFEST 2008.

We want very much to present programs that will not only be interesting and entertaining, but will be an aid in our research.

Our October meeting will feature a new Q&A period when members will be invited to describe their problems and seek help.

. Don Zesch who belongs to a South TX Genealogical group says it is a popular feature of their meetings. Bernie Conradi remarked that is the way he begins every one of his Windows meetings. "He said , If I don't know the answer, or Bob Franklin doesn't, someone in the group will!

Don also suggested that we make a survey to see what programs the members suggest. This was discussed at length and plans were made to combine this with the program that Roy Henderson is presenting...making a survey of members special areas of expertise, and forming a panel to answer questions.

So, be thinking what brick walls you would like help with....and how you can help others!

If you have program suggestions please discuss them with Bob our any member of the Program Committee.

Program Committee
Patte Bettis
Roy Henderson
Joy Stephenson
Don Zesch
Leroy Terry
Glenda Conradi

Genealogies on Demand



Produce your family history book with the click of a mouse or a lot of personal help—print-on-demand services make self-publishing quick, easy and affordable.

Ready to transform years of family research into a published book? With print-on-demand technology, it's now easier—and more affordable—than ever. Read our Q&A to learn how the process works and decide whether it's right for you.

What is print-on-demand?

Print-on-demand (POD) publishing allows authors to create books electronically, then order small quantities of "hard copy" books—or even single copies. What's the big deal? Traditionally, publishers required orders of 1,000 copies or more—far more than most family historians need.

What does POD offer family history writers?

Family historians may be the experts on their ancestries, but they're often not professional writers, designers or computer whizzes. POD providers address genealogists' diverse needs with a range of offerings. Automated services such as Lulu <www.lulu.com> allow computer-savvy customers to upload electronic manuscripts, returning inexpensive, professionally bound books within weeks. Such services offer no editorial review, so what you submit is what you get. (Need to hire a genealogical editor? Find one on the Association of Professional Genealogists Web site <www.apgen.org>.) It can take several tries to get a product with no typos, so budget time and money for multiple proofs before committing to bulk orders. Those who need help with layout, design, image scanning, or even typing

need a more comprehensive POD service, such as that provided by Ron Engstrom of The Genealogy Printing Co. <www.genealogyprinting.com>. "We take the book in, look it over, and give it what it needs. We can take almost any project and make it look great." About 10 percent of his clients don't even use computers; they send cut-and-paste hard copy originals and he takes it from there.

Be prepared to pay for assistance. Full service companies either charge separately for manuscript preparation or build the cost into their book charges. Professional help will definitely give novices a better result, though, so if you want to create a family heirloom, it may be worth the cost.

How do I prepare my manuscript?

More preparation yields better and less expensive POD experiences. Type your manuscript, electronically if possible. Scan images and pedigree charts (or have them scanned) at a resolution of 300 dpi or more. Next? "Look at other people's books and Figure out what you want in yours," advises Ann Hughes of Gateway Press <www.gatewaypress.com>, who's been helping genealogists self-publish since 1975. "Do you want just data? Do you want pictures?"

Then decide how much manuscript preparation you can handle. Most people with computer experience and determination can do much of the work themselves.

Both Engstrom and Hughes even offer written guides to help you.

Although InDesign and PageMaker are the preferred publishing software, Engstrom says many clients use Microsoft Word. "I would suggest using a program you can handle. Choose the one you use best."

The publishing process will vary among POD providers, but should include reviewing a hard copy before ordering a batch.

Some providers offer extras such as copyright and ISBN registration, but those aren't necessary for a project you'll just share with family. (You still keep rights to your work without a formal copyright registration.)

POD PROVIDERS

Here's a sampling of services to explore your POD options-to find more companies, type

"print on demand" into a search engine.

. BookSurge

<www.booksurge.com>

. Gateway Press

(800) 296-6687, ext. 204,

<www.gatewaypress.com>

. The Genealogy Printing Co.

(800) 200-2782,

<www.genealogyprinting.com>

. Lulu

<www.lulu.com>

How do costs compare?

Most POD providers allow you to purchase small print runs and order extra copies later,

but cost per book goes down as quantity goes up. If you need 50 copies, order them together. Color printing costs more-about 10 times the price of black and white. Your binding type, paper, size, and cover material

also affect your bottom line. No-frills POD services run as little as \$6 to \$30 per copy, with minimal setup fees.

Some genealogists hope to save money by printing their own documents, but that can be pricier than you think. Ink-jet printouts can cost more than \$1 per color page or 20 cents per black-and-white page. A local copy center may charge about half that, but POD can produce a more professional product for around 15 cents per color page or two cents per black-and-white, plus a few dollars per book for a paperback binding. (Prices will vary.)

After all the effort you've put into writing your family history, it makes sense to investigate whether POD is right for you. It just may make the difference between a ho-hum book that gets shelved by relatives

and a coffee-table attraction that will

From: "Myra Vanderpool Gormley"

<myravg@wamail.net>

Subject: [ROOTS-L]

Examining Family Legends To: "Roots Webb" \

On Puget Sound

I received a note from a cousin lately in which was included (copied faithfully) an old letter purportedly written by one member of the family in Virginia to his nephew in Texas in 1879 regarding the family: It said: "[our immigrant Virginia ancestor] is said to have been the son by a first marriage of a very wealthy man on the marches (confines) of Wales in England. His mother having died in his early infancy, his father married a second wife by whom he had issue. The estates were entailed so that they would have descended to the eldest son. During the absence of the father, the stepmother had the first born kidnapped and sent to Virginia. It so happened that a company of Gypsies were in the neighborhood at the time, and the stepmother persuaded her husband that the gypsies had stolen his son. Immense rewards were offered but, of course, without results.

" Interesting, I thought, and then it hit me -- my husband's family has almost an identical family legend pertaining to one of his early New England lines. I wonder how frequently this legend is found in American families? I know most of us are aware that the "changed our name at Ellis Island," or descend from "three brothers," or the various "Indian princess" legends appear in many lines, but is the "devious stepmother selling the oldest son by the first wife to 'gypsies' so her son would inherit" a common legend, too?

I'm just curious about this particular legend and suspect there may be different versions of the tale out there. Would like to hear them. Both of these tales I've heard pertain to 17th-century American families but in different colonies. Is this legend found in other families? --Myra Vanderpool Gormley, CG -----

----- Message: 4 Date: Mon, 25 Aug 2008



Carolyn's Corner
Carolyn's Corner

Firefox

Many are now using Firefox at their Web Browser.

Here are some Firefox shortcuts.

http://www.mouserunner.com/FF_Shortcuts1Printable.html

Fun with your grand's

<http://www.oddcast.com/home/demos/tts/frameset.php?frame1=talk>

The model will say anything you type. Clever how this is presented!

When you move the mouse around, the model's eyes follow the pointer.

When you write something in the left space and then click on "Say it," she says it!

You can also change persons doing the talking and the language they speak.

Downloading Guide

Do you ever hear the phrase "Download It" and wonder "what do I do now"?

Here is a great tutorial from World Start that explains it all.

<http://www.worldstart.com/guides/download.htm>

PowerPoint

If you do not have MS PowerPoint or a PowerPoint viewer on your computer you are missing a lot.

Here is a link to Power Point viewer 2003 <http://snipurl.com/2fz9>

Try the world start tutorial above and download the viewer and install it. Then let me know and I will send you some wonderful slideshows.

Well that's all for this month.

Make your plans for GENFEST coming up on November 8th.



eVetRecs:

Request Copies of Military Personnel Records

Welcome to our online military personnel records request system.

Use our system to create a customized order form to request information from your, or your relative's, military personnel records. You may use this system if you are:

- A **military veteran**, or
 - Next of kin of a **deceased**, former member of the military
- ✦ The **next of kin** can be any of the following: surviving spouse that has not remarried, father
- ✦ , mother, son, daughter, sister, or brother.



If you are **not** the veteran or next of kin, you must complete the [Standard Form 180](#) (SF 180).

See [Access to Military Records by the General Public](#) for more details.

How to Initiate a Request for Military Personnel Records:

1. Click on the "Request Military Records" button below to start. This will launch a separate window.
 2. Enter the required information in the system to create your customized request form.
 3. There are 4 steps that you need to navigate. The system will guide you through the steps
 4. and tell you exactly which step you are on.
 5. **Print, sign and date** the signature verification area of your customized form. If you don't have a printer,
 6. have a pen and paper handy and we will guide you through the process. This is important because
 7. the Privacy Act of 1974 (5 U.S.C. 552a) requires that all requests for records and information be
 8. submitted in writing. **Each request must be signed and dated by the veteran or next of kin.**
- Mail or fax your signature verification form to us, and we will process your request. **You must do this**

within the first 20 days of entering your request, or your request will be removed from our system.

REQUEST MILITARY RECORDS



Welcome to FamilySearch Labs

FamilySearch Labs showcases new family history technologies that aren't ready for prime time. Your feedback will help us refine new ideas and bring them to market sooner. Have fun playing with these innovations and send your feedback directly to our development teams.

The FamilySearch Labs blog has the latest scoop on our current projects.

Current Projects • FamilySearch Indexing

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

•Record Search

Record Search is a quick and easy way to search millions of historical records for clues about your ancestors. Click on a map to see what records exist for a geographic area or enter what you know about an ancestor, click search, and see matching records - all online. We're adding millions of new records so be sure to check back often.

• Life Browser Prototype

With the Life Browser we are exploring possible ways to get to know ancestors through pictures, records, stories, maps, timelines and collaboration.

Try dragging and dropping records to attach them as evidence. Zoom in on records and photos. Annotate artifacts. Not everything works, but we are interested in your feedback on the concepts.

• Pedigree Viewer

See and interact with a large pedigree or descendency.
(requires [Adobe Flash Player](#))



The President's Message



Bob Franklin



As we gear up for a new year at GENCOM, I'd like to share with you some of the things that came out of the August board meeting. The August board meeting was a huge success, as we nailed down a few important issues for the upcoming GENCOM year. We will continue to meet at the Hamilton/South Caddo Branch of Shreve Memorial Library. We are making a few changes to the CD Library. Don Davis will update us on the changes to the CD Library at the September meeting, and has promised a report on the new Family Tree Maker 2009.

GENFEST is scheduled for Saturday, November 8, from 10:00 AM till 3:00 PM at the Hamilton/South Caddo Library. Please note that GENFEST has been move from October to November. We will have more details and sign-up sheets at the September meeting. Be thinking how you can contribute to GENFEST with a demonstration or genealogical display.

The guest speaker for the September 28th meeting will be Al Taglavore. Al will share his expertise in digital photography to the group. I'm looking forward to Al's visit, as he always has a few tips and tricks to improve the image that comes out of a camera.

Bob Franklin

DUES ARE DUE

Still only \$15.00

Bring to the meeting or mail to

Charles Byrd

2529 Brown Circle

Bossier City, LA. 71111

GENCOM

Officers

2008-2009

President: Robert Franklin

Vice President: Roy Henderson

Treasurer: Charles Byrd

Membership Chairmen

Margaret Mc Gilvray

Jean Whitaker

C.D. Librarian and

FTM Consultant : Don Davis

Social Chairmen:

Julious Windham, Dorothy Rosson,

Thelma Windham

Technical Consultant:

Bernie Conradi

GENFEST Coordinator:

Carolyn Franklin

Historian: Jeanice Vaughn

Facilities Chairman: Hallie Bellotte

"Connections" Editor: Patricia Bettis

pmbettis@comcast.net

"Connections" Columnist: Carolyn Franklin

Dues are still just \$15.00

Checks may be sent to Treasurer

Charles Byrd

2529 Brown Circle

Bossier City, LA. 71111