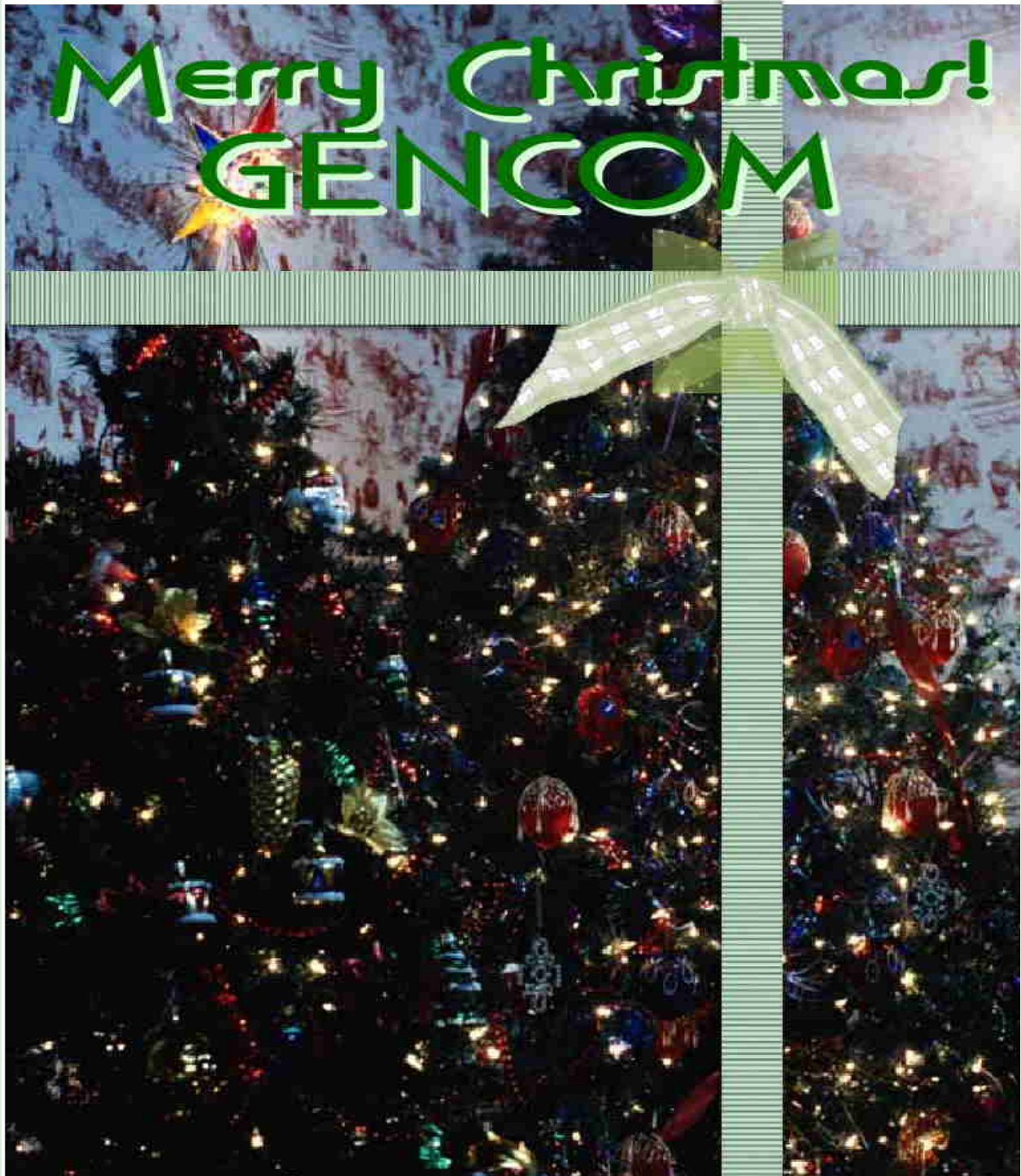


December
2006

Connections

The E-letter of GENCOM, The Computer Genealogy Group

Editor: Patricia Minton Bettis





The January 28 Meeting

Sunday 2:00 Hamilton Library

An Exciting new technological breakthrough!

Leroy Terry



Presents

TEXT ALOUD



*TextAloud uses voice synthesis to convert text into spoken audio.
Listen on your PC or create MP3 or WMA files for use on portable
devices like iPods, PocketPCs, and CD players.*

- *Directly open Word, PDF, and HTML files*
- *Advanced Pronunciation Tools*
- *Toolbar plug-ins for Internet Explorer, Firefox,
and Outlook*
- *Optional premium voices for a wide variety
of accents and languages*

Leroy has used this program to record his family data!

The November Meeting

Jim Whittington tells us about the history and production of Coat of Arms and Heraldry

Photos by Glenda Conradi



Social Chairmen Julius Windham and Dorothy Rosson-- who make every meeting a party!

I asked Jim about the pith helmet he wore, and when they were used. This is his response:

In the latter part of the nineteenth Century, when the Empire had troops in tropical countries ..such as India. The one I was wearing dates from the Boer War in Africa...it has a "khaki " cover. The name of the color comes from India...named for an Indian town.

They were being used in the 1870's during the Zulu War...they were issued in white in that event. The top fixture can be unscrewed, and a spike inserted. That was worn in full dress. The English Marine corps in full dress still wear the white helmet with the spike.

Jim is an absolute treasure trove of historical information. We enjoyed and greatly appreciated the two programs he gave for us in 2006.



Will and Margaret Mc Gilvray, Membership Chairmen Margaret has inspired many of us to try to make the beautiful Heritage Scrapbooks like hers. Another talented member sharing her ideas!



Convert your old 8 mm movie film to DVD!

Submitted by Leroy Terry



Here is something that might be of interest to our members. I have no interest in this place of business, just found it while searching the web. I had several old rolls of 8mm movie film lying around that were taken many years ago. I found this place that takes 8 and Super 8mm movie film and digitally converts it to a DVD that will play on the TV with a DVD player. The quality of the DVD that I received from them is actually better than the original old film. The DVD will also play on the computer with Windows Media Player or other programs such as that. They also convert slides and photos to DVD, but I have not used them for that. I imagine a lot of us have old 8mm film lying around and without a projector, they are of no use. This is a way to save old memories. Here is their web site:

<http://www.mymovietransfer.com/>

Penny Postcards

Submitted by Carolyn Franklin

Can you believe there was a time when postcards only cost a penny to send? Well, from this site, you will see a huge collection of postcards that once were.



To browse the cards, click on the name of the state's postcards you'd like to view. For example, Alabama. Click on that and you'll get a listing of the postcards for that state, organized by county. Click a thumbnail to see the postcard in a larger size.

Types of Postcards – Here you can learn all about the different types of postcards that have existed and see how they have changed over the years. Starting with postcards in 1898 to the present day! Originally, only the post office could manufacture postcards, but you can find them everywhere now!

About the Web site – Here you will learn all about the Web site. It pretty much covers the basic stuff and answers questions that may be asked frequently.

Submissions – If you have a postcard you'd like to submit to this collection, you'll definitely want to check out this section. Here you will find all the information and rules for submission.

This is an amazing collection of postcards that offers an interesting look into the past and an amazing progression of postcard evolution!

<http://www.rootsweb.com/~usgenweb/s.../ppcs/ppcs.html>

(If you are making a scrapbook, you might strike gold with these. I found a picture of the college in OK that I attended “Lo these many years ago!”) PMB

GRANDMA CLIMBED THE FAMILY TREE

There's been a change in Grandma, we've noticed
as of late,

She's always reading history, or jotting down
some date.

She's tracing back the family, we'll all have pedi-
grees,

Grandma's got a hobby, she's Climbing Family
Trees....

Poor Grandpa does the cooking, and now, or so he
states

He even has to wash the cups and the dinner
plates.

Well, Grandma can't be bothered, she's busy as a bee-

Compiling genealogy for the Family Tree.

She has no time to baby-sit, the curtains are a fright-

No buttons left on Grandpa's shirts, the flower
bed's a sight-

She's given up her club work, the serials on TV;
The only thing she does nowadays is climb that
Family Tree.

The mail is all for Grandma, it comes from near
and far-

Last week she got the proof she needs to join the
DAR.

A monumental project - on that we all agree,
A worthwhile avocation - to climb the Family
Tree.

She wanders through the graveyard in search of
date and name-

The rich, the poor, the in-between, all sleeping
there the same.

She pauses now and then to rest, fanned by a gen-
tle breeze

That blows above from the Father of all our Fam-
ily Trees.

Now some folks came from Scotland, some from
Galway Bay-

Some were French as pastry, some German all the
way.

Some went West to stake their claims, some
stayed there by the sea, Grandma hopes to find
them all as she climbs the Family Tree.

There were pioneers and patriots mixed with our
kith and kin-

Who blazed the paths through wilderness and fought through
thick and thin.

But none more staunch than Grandma - whose eyes light up
with glee

Each time she finds a missing branch for that Family Tree.

Their skills were wide and varied from carpenter to cook-
And one - alas- the records show, was hopelessly a crook.
Blacksmith, farmer, weaver, judge, - some tutored for a fee,
Once lost in time, now all recorded on the Family Tree.

To some it's just a hobby, to Grandma it's much more -
She learns the joys and heartaches of those who went be-
fore.

They loved, they lost, they laughed, they wept - and now for
you and me

They live again in spirit around the Family Tree.

At last she's nearly finished, and each of us are exposed -
Life will be the same again - this we all suppose.

Grandma will cook and sew, serve crullers with our tea,
We'll have her back, just as before that wretched Family
Tree.

Sad to relate, the Preacher called and visited for a spell -
We talked about the Gospel and other things as well.

The heathen folk, the poor, and then--'twas fate it had to be
Somehow the conversation turned to Grandma - and the
Family Tree.

We tried to change the subject we talked of everything-
But then in Grandma's voice we heard that old familiar ring.
She told him all about the past, and soon 'twas plain to see
The preacher, too, was neatly snared by Grandma and the
Family Tree.

He never knew his Granddad, his mother's name was ---
Clark?

He and Grandma talked and talked, while outside it grew
quite dark.

We'd hoped our fears were groundless, but just like some
disease, Grandma's

become an addict - she's hooked on Family Trees.

Our spirits filled with sorrow, our hearts sank with dismay,
Our ears could scarcely believe the words we heard our
Grandma say,

"It surely is a lucky thing that you have come to me,
I know exactly how it's done, I'll climb your Family Tree!"

.....Author Unknown

Submitted by Ed Conley from his CONNOLLY FAMILY
WEBRING *We can laugh at ourselves, cant we?*

Submitted by Don Zesch

Pension Statements ~ Southern Campaign Revolutionary War

<http://jrshelby.com/>

sc-links/rwpensions.htm#p

Don Zesch sends us this easy to use chart of Revolutionary Pension Records. (It includes the battles in which the soldier fought, sometimes lists injuries and other information.)

TIP: When revisiting this site, it is a good idea to click Reload/Refresh in your browser. It changes almost daily.

While the intent of this site is to create an index of on-line Revolutionary War pension statements relevant to the Southern Campaign, generally if a soldier were from Virginia or Maryland, they have in some cases been included even if it were later discovered that none of their service were to the south. Disability affidavits are included if injury occurred at an identified Southern Campaign action.

In viewing non-PDF transcriptions, readability can often be improved by "turning off" page style formatting. E.g., in FireFox, this may be done by clicking on View, Page style, No style.

SCAR Applications with this icon are from "Revolutionary War Pension Statements, maintained by Will Graves on the site of the online newsletter Southern Campaigns of the American Revolution. All applications found there are simultaneously full-text searchable. Clicking on the link at top of any of these applications will take you to the full index for this invaluable website.

The President's Message

Patte Bettis

As we reiterate—Quite often —The avowed purpose of GENCOM is to stay abreast of any technological developments that have a genealogical application. In these fifteen years, many innovations that benefit our research have attracted our attention.

Since our work can be described as the search for and the storing, and preserving of data to prove our ancestry—the access to the fruits of our efforts is equally important.

As technology develops and changes come about so rapidly, there is fear that the methods we are using may become obsolete. Much is written about the different storage devices and their limited shelf life...and the possibility that these precious records will be unreadable for some reason by a future generation.

Recently, Epson announced a new printer and a revolutionary improvement in the ink used in the cartridges. It is called Claria..and bears looking into, as they claim that it will last for two hundred years!.

Another new and most exciting method of saving our family histories is to be demonstrated at our January 28 meeting. Leroy Terry who gave us the memorable talk on the importance of writing our auto biographies in January two years ago, has another fascinating proposal to share with us.

At that first meeting of the New Year in 2005, he opened his program by asking us "How important would you consider an autobiography of your Great Great- Grandfather?"

We all agreed this would be invaluable...and he replied "Well, only you can do that for your descendants!"

Many of us we re moved to start writing those accounts and with his continuing encouragement we do not forget the importance of following through with our good intentions.

Leroy has discovered this fabulous program, and has put his, as well as his wife Mary Jane's family data on CD with this Text Aloud program. The voice is a well modulated male voice, very pleasant and expressive. Unlike the earlier voice synthesizer programs. This is a most exciting development and I am sure we will think of many uses for this program. My first thought was a friend who is losing his vision from macular degeneration.

I do appreciate all of you contributing your discoveries to our well of knowledge.....And thanks to you who submit the information on the great Websites and software programs that you discover.. You keep the hunt engrossing for all of us!

Patte



Merry
Christmas
Greeting

*You
Light
Up My Life*
Patte Bettis