



April 2009

Connections

The Newsletter of GENCOM, The Computer Genealogy Group

Editor: Patricia Minton Bettis

April 26 Meeting
Sunday 2:00 Hamilton Library
Discovery Day



The Customs and Symbols of Easter



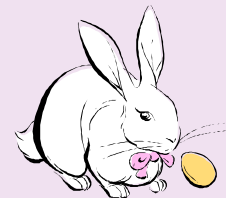
Easter, like Christmas, has accumulated a great many traditions, some of which have little to do with the Christian celebration of the Resurrection but derive from folk customs.

The use of painted and decorated Easter eggs was first recorded in the 13th century. The church prohibited the eating of eggs during Holy Week, but chickens continued to lay eggs during that week, and the notion of specially identifying those as “Holy Week” eggs brought about their decoration. The egg itself became a symbol of the Resurrection.



Just as Jesus rose from the tomb, the egg symbolizes new life emerging from the eggshell. In the Orthodox tradition, eggs are painted red to symbolize the blood Jesus shed on the cross. In the United States, Easter egg hunts are popular among children, and in 1878 Lucy Hayes, the wife of President Rutherford B. Hayes, sponsored the first annual Easter egg roll on the White House lawn.

The custom of associating a rabbit with Easter arose in Protestant areas in Europe in the 17th century but did not become common until the 19th century. The Easter rabbit was said to lay the eggs as well as decorate and hide them. In a way, this was a manifestation of the Protestant rejection of Catholic Easter customs. In some European countries, however, other animals—in Switzerland the cuckoo, in Westphalia the fox—brought the Easter egg.



Discovery Day



***This month everyone will have the opportunity
to share any new resource***

Whether it is:

A new computer software program

a Website

a Genealogical lecture

New hardware

DNA testing

Family reunion

A different method of:

Contacting other descendants of your line

Keeping Genealogical records,

Organizing photos

Making a Family Website



We are all interested in the same things, and with the wealth of

Information available to us today, no one can cover all the sources

available to us. **So, be thinking of the discoveries you have made**

and tell us what you've found !

From: Fintan Mullan
Date: 3/27/2009 9:22:26 AM
To: Patricia Bettis
Subject: Thanks for all your help

The Ulster Foundation Symposium

Patricia

I just got back into the office yesterday after our return from the March tour.

I want to thank you for all your help with the event in Shreveport. We were delighted that the three groups came together to put this show on for us, at such short notice, and we want to thank everyone involved in whatever way for all their help, not least the ladies who assisted you in getting the information packs out during the afternoon. We were impressed that such a good crowd came to see us and they were a very attentive and responsive audience, and also a great bunch of fun. I felt there was a real positive attitude from all the organisers, helpers and those who attended.

We are indebted to you, Libby and the other organisers for taking the risk so late in the day in agreeing to hold the event and want you to know how much we appreciate it. I hope that people will have felt it a worthwhile event to have hosted. And I hope the people who attended will have found it useful in some way our own help in getting the flyer prepared and the other promotional work was instrumental in there being such a good crowd.

It was a pity we had to leave Shreveport so soon but it was a good thing that Libby had us on our way by 6.00am on Monday morning. It was a long drive to Nashville (we arrived about 4.15pm, so just about made it on time).

Many thanks for your help in making the Shreveport event happen, and in making our visit there so enjoyable.

Best wishes, Fintan



Comments and Gleanings from Roy's notes



Roy Henderson

Irish and Scots-Irish Research Lectures by past and present directors of the Ulster Historical Foundation

We are three and we became one on March 15,

2009. It was as another date in history when Scots, Irish and Anglo-Normans came together forming Ulster Plantation. Our three local genealogical societies came together to experience Dr. Brian Trainer and Mr. Fintan Mullin, Directors of the Ulster Historical Foundation past and present. The two speakers shared their fascinating Ulster history and genealogical resource lectures: Immigration from Ulster to North America in the 18th Century, Irish and Scots-Irish Research "Not always at the bottom of the pile" and Scots-Irish Research and Developments in online records for Irish Genealogy respectfully.

Many noteworthy comments were shared by the two experts on Irish Genealogy including:

Immigration in the 18th Century, i.e., Freighters, about 30 each year were known as "Flax Ships" arrived in Ireland to deliver flax for the linen mills. They needed ballast for their return to North American flax export destinations. At that time, Ireland had little product to export, but there were people.

Shipping agencies would solicit passenger in Ireland wanting to immigrate to the New World., " The Land of Canaan" as it was promoted.

In 1618 about 200 Quaker families with about 1000 persons immigrated to Philadelphia.

In 1717 Rev. James McGregor decided to leave Ireland and subsequently took 16 families to North Carolina. They were Presbyterian

"dissenters" a term used for non Episcopalians. They were highly literate people for the ministers were required to teach the three "R's" in addition to religious subjects.

In 1720 William Penn's secretary named Logan encouraged Ulster Irishmen and Scots to come to Philadelphia. They soon were soon were known as Scots-Irish. A label that became commonplace for Ulster emigrants to North America and perhaps elsewhere. In 1740 many coming through Port of Philadelphia settled in Staunton and the Virginia Valley. Many eventually went on to the "Old Southwest." By 1790, one third of the of Kentucky population was Scots-Irish. (Those interested in migration to Tennessee and Kentucky would do well to read: Pioneers of the Old Southwest: a chronicle of the dark and bloody ground by Constance Lindsey Skinner 1877-1939)

Dr. Trainer praised a book by R. J. Dickson who claimed that Londonderry was main port f Scots-Irish departures for the Land of Canaan. He also recognized William Roulston for guide information on researching Scots-Irish roots. "Irish of this country were committed to send money back to Ireland families to come America and the (old) Southwest."

Shiploads of indentured passengers cramped into tight loaded low ceiling cargo holds. They came with many Scots-Irish who were good tenants that became dirt poor and were obliged to indent. The period 1726-1730 were active indenture years. In 1729, they sold themselves into slavery to purchasing landlords and planters. Irish Tenant Rights allowed land to be saleable for cash if improved. Many were forced to sell their land for passage.

1740 - Famine in Ireland with many deaths.

1772 - Presbyterian Ministers took five ships of immigrants to to North Carolina.

1783 - Freedom Movement and United Irish Movement Began.

After Dr. Trainor and the second break for refreshment, Mr. Mullin elaborated on methods and records for searching Irish Ancestry by looking for Patent Rolls known as Fiants ("Let something be done" from the French word Fairs). Their were 16th century "Tudor Fiants." The Irish Fiants of the Tudor Reign from 1530 - 1606 were granted under Henry VIII, Edward VI, Philip, Mary and Elizabeth.

(continued on page 5)

(Roy's Notes)

The Irish Fiants of the Tudor Reign from 1530 - 1606 were granted under Henry VIII, Edward VI, Philip, Mary and Elizabeth.

The 1821 Census of Londonderry survives. Researcher would do well to explore it and also Muster Rolls of Donegal County. Muster Rolls included lists of able bodied men capable of bearing arms.

At the conclusion of the three lectures and the breaks many present took advantage of book and research tool sales table offerings. Most popular purchased was the recommended R. J. Dickson volume, *Ulster Emigration to Colonial America 1718-1775*. Another chosen was *My Roots-Tracing your Belfast Ancestors* by William Roulston.

Each person present received a packet containing tourist brochures, Irish Vacation Planner and a very interesting 36 section foldout about Scots of Ulster that contained a surname map and pocket history that was loaded with information and clues for research in Ireland.

Easter Around the World

Russia

Russians gathered at their churches late on the Saturday night before Easter. At midnight they walked around the outside of the church singing songs. Then, the priest knocked on the door and everyone went in to celebrate the resurrection. He also blessed the food that they brought, which they took home to cook for an Easter feast. When people saw one another throughout the day they greeted each other with a friendly, "Christ is risen."

Poland

In Poland, water was believed to have special healing powers starting at midnight on Holy Saturday, the day before Easter. At the first light, they headed to streams and rivers to bathe themselves, believing it would heal their wounds, beautify their complexion, strengthen their eyes, and bring general good luck and happiness. Afterwards, they did not dry off, but allowed themselves to dry naturally.

The Monday after Easter was known as "Dyngus Day," and was a day when young men would sneak into houses around 5 a.m. and throw water on the girls—often, on those young women they wanted to court. Starting on Tuesday and going to Pentecost, the girls would return the favor by throwing buckets of water at the boys.

South America

In South America, the week before Easter has traditionally been known as "Semana Santa," or Holy Week. Most offices and schools are closed and each day has special traditions and rituals, including church services, processions (often with people on their knees or carrying wooden crosses), prayer meetings, etc.



We extend our sympathy

Thelma and Julius Windham in the loss of their son.

And, we are saddened to learn of the death of

Dorothy Humphrey,
our first Social Chairman.

Among Us

Leroy and Mary Jane Terry



Leroy and Mary Jane Terry entered the Creative Art Festival that was held in Bossier this month. Each entered two paintings. It was a juried show. Both won money, prizes and ribbons for their entries.

Editor's Note: Leroy is multi-talented.. Do you remember, a few years ago when he wrote a fascinating novel —printed it, painted the lovely picture of a Louisiana bayou for the cover and bound it... all most professionally done!

Family Tree Maker Class *presented by* Don Davis



Our thanks to Don for keeping us abreast of FTM updates and changes.



We enjoyed meeting several guests who came to the class. and hope to see them at GENCOM.



Don showing wall size chart that can be made to display data on multiple generations.

NARA Adds Immigration Indexes to its Website

The U.S. National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) has placed three important immigration indexes on their website:

“Germans to America (1850–1897),”
“Italians to America (1855–1900),” and
“Russians to America (1834–1897).”

These were previously available only in book and CD form. For “Germans to America,” the series consists of records of 4,048,907 passengers who arrived at the United States between 1850 through 1897; about ninety percent identified their country of origin or nationality as Germany or a German state, city, or region. In some of the records, passengers identified their country of origin or nationality as France, Luxemburg, Switzerland, U.S., and other places.

“Italians to America” contains records of 845,368 passengers who arrived in the United States between 1855 through 1900. All but one percent identified their country of origin or nationality as Italy or one of the following Italian regions: Lombardy, Piedmont, Sardinia, Sicily, or Tuscany.

Some records are of passengers who identified their country of origin as England, France, Germany, Spain, or United States.

“Russians to America” consists of records of 527,394 passengers who arrived in the United States between 1834 through 1897 and identified their country of origin or nationality as Armenia, Finland, Galicia, Lithuania, Poland, Russia, Russian Poland, or Ukraine.

All the records are from the ports of Baltimore, Boston, New Orleans, New York, and Philadelphia, although most are for the port of New York. You may find name, age, town of last residence, destination, and additional codes for passenger’s sex, occupation, literacy, country of origin, transit/travel compartment, and an identification number for the ship manifest.

The database can be accessed through the NARA website <www.archives.gov/genealogy/immigration>. Scroll down to the section called “Specific Immigration Topics.”

Profiling Our Members
Harry Lazarus,



“In August I will have been a member of NSSAR for 20 years. Both sons are also members.. One great-grandson is junior member (4 years old). The younger great-grandson (5 months old) is awaiting approval. Brother is also a member. I have been president of Galvez chapter (1996) and am presently registrar.”



Picture from the 1995 Colonial Ball

Harry, with his late wife Joann. She is fondly remembered as a fine genealogist who helped many local people qualify for the various hereditary societies. Though a professional genealogist, she regularly volunteered her time at Broadmoor Genealogy Library for many years.



1. Pierre Roy was a soldier in the Ste. Genevieve MO militia. He was called up and participated in the defense of St. Louis, MO May 1770.

His dit* name was Lepense (Pierre Roy dit Lepense).
Born 26 May 1743 1750 in Ste. Genevieve, MO. died 3 May 1791 in Ste. Genevieve, MO.

Married Marie Caron 10 Jan 1769 in Ste. Genevieve, MO. He is my 8th great-grandfather. His great-grandfather (my 11th ggfather was Jean Roy dit Lepense a soldier in the Carignan Regiment sent to Quebec about 1640. He married Jeanne De Richecourt dite Malteau one of the King's Daughters (that is another story). General Galvez sent Lt Governor De Leyba to St. Louis. Don Silvio de Cartabona was military commandant in Ste. Genevieve.

The information for Pierre's Revolutionary War service was found in "Colonial Ste. Genevieve" by Carl J. Ekberg

2. Joseph Duguay Duplassy another 8th ggfather was born on 23 Sep 1729 in Troi Riveres, Quebec, Canada. Died(killed)16 March 1781 in Detroit.

He married Catherine Barrios in Fort Chartes, MO. Catherine was born about 1740 and died in Ste Genevieve, MO about 1783.

His Revolutionary War service was as a Captain and Patriot. He furnished money and accompanied Col Del La Palma against Detroit in 1780. His service is verified by " A History of Missouri" by Louis Houck Vol. 1, Collections of th Illinois State Historical Library Vol II and Virginia series Vol 1, Cahokia Records 1778-1790.

* * * *

The service and the verification of the service is as it appears on the SAR application.

This is a fine opportunity for our male members to join SAR. Harry will bring applications and will be happy to advise you of the requirements for membership.

" *Dit" in French means "say" and in this context, it means "called." In other words, a person might be Pierre Bourbeau dit Lacourse, which means that he had an ancestor named Bourbeau, but he chooses to use the name Lacourse instead. So he is Pierre Bourbeau called Lacourse /(Editor's Note) see following page regarding dit.names

Name Variations

"Dit" Names

One thing that can make it difficult to find your ancestor is that he may have been using a different surname from the one that you expect. You will need to make yourself aware of any "dit" names that might be associated with the surname you're tracing, and if you can't find someone under the name of his child, you may find him under the dit name.

"Dit" in French means "say" and in this context, it means "called." In other words, a person might be Pierre Bourbeau dit Lacourse, which means that he had an ancestor named Bourbeau, but he chooses to use the name Lacourse instead. So he is Pierre Bourbeau called Lacourse.

People might take a dit name to distinguish their family from another family of the same name living nearby. Often it was a sort of nickname, often picked up during service as a soldier. Or it might refer to the place in France where the family originated. Sometimes it was the mother's surname, and sometimes the father's first name was used, either instead of the surname (for example, Hebert dit Emmanuel) or in addition to it (Jeanbard, Castonquay). In any case, very often the dit name was passed down to later generations, either in place of the original surname, or in addition to it.

Some of his children might then keep the original surname (e.g. Barbeau), and some might use the dit name (e.g. Lacourse). After a few generations, it's not uncommon to completely lose the memory of the original name, or to forget which was the original and which was the dit name. The best example of this is the Hudon dit Beaulieu family, where you will often find people listed as Beaulieu dit Hudon. You sometimes might find a name and its dit name hyphenated, as in François Hudon-Beaulieu. In fact, you can generally assume that a hyphenated surname (before 1950, anyway) is the surname plus dit name. Just remember that any Hudon might be the child of a Beaulieu and vice versa.

Some surnames, such as Roy, have had several different dit names. You should be aware that usually a different dit name indicates a different family. For example, Siméon Roy dit Audy and Antoine Roy dit Desjardins were not related to each other. So it helps us to distinguish who's who among their descendants if the descendants use a dit name. Pierre Roy dit Audy will be a descendant of Siméon, and François Roy dit Desjardins will be a descendant of Antoine. If you find a source which tells you, for example, that Pierre Audy is François Desjardins' father, you should be very suspicious.

The sources you use may give the name as it appeared in the original document, or may list all the Hudons and Beaulieus together, under either name. Jette has standardized spellings, and leaves out "de" when alphabetizing, but he is faithful to the original surname of the family. So whether you're looking for a Hudon, a Beaulieu, or a Hudon-Beaulieu, they're all listed together under "H." Other sources may list the same person many different places, and some sources consider Beaulieu to be more common, and therefore they place the Hudons under "B." Don't assume a marriage or birth isn't listed until you've exhausted all possible names and spellings.

And don't forget to check under the many spelling variations that were common. Any name that starts with a vowel, for example, might also be found with an H in front of it (Emond, Hemond, Ayot, Hayot).

with a vowel, for example, might also be found with an H in front of it (Emond, Hemond, Ayot, Hayot). And the "o" sound at the end of a name might be spelled ot, eau, au, ault, eault, eau, aux, eaux, aud, or aut.

Following is a partial list of dit names and their equivalents. You can also find extensive lists of dit names in Jette and Tanguay.

\Acelin - Asselin

- Agnier - Haguenier
- Alarie - Lart
- Albert - Beaulieu
- Allaire - Daillaire
- Amiel - Miel
- Amiot - Lincourt, Villeneuve, Vincelot
- Amirault - Mirault
- Anctil -St-Jean
- Angers - Lefebvre
- Anse - Bernard, Hains
- Arbour - Harbour
- Ardouin - Hardouin
- Arnaud - Renaud
- Arrivé - Delisle, Larrivé
- Artigny - Rouer
- Asselin - Ancelin
- Aubertin - Bertin
- Aubin - Delisle, Mignault, St-Aubin
- Aubuchon - Desalliers, Leloyal
- Audebout - Belhumeur
- Audet - Lapointe
- Audy - Roy
- Auger - Baron
- Babin - Lacroix, Lasource
- Bajolet - Drouet
- Bard - Jeanbard, Jombard
- Baron - Auger, Caillault, Defoy
- Baucher - Montmorency, Sansoucy
- Beaubassin - LeNeuf
- Beaubien - Trottier
- Beauchemin - Petit
- Beaudoin - Courcival
- Beaulieu - Albert, Chauvin, Gourdeau, Hudon, Martin, Moulin, Philippe, Thomas

Editor's Notes I have a complete alphabetical listing of author's examples of dit surnames, let me know of the surname of interest and we will see if it is included.. PMB

Easter Around the World

By Jana Lloyd 07 April 2009



Your ancestors had their own ways of celebrating Easter.

Here are just a few of the traditions they may have observed, wherever they lived.

United States

Although not as commercial as it is now, Easter in the early days of the U.S. was quite similar to the Easter of today. German settlers in the 1700s brought over many of the traditions still in use today, though the holiday was not widely celebrated until after the Civil War.

They introduced the tradition of dyeing Easter eggs, which was done using onion skins, beets, and other natural plants. They also brought the tradition of “Oschter Haws” or the “Easter Hare,” which developed into our modern-day Easter Bunny. Good children were to leave a “nest”—usually a hat or a bonnet—in the barn, where he would deliver colored eggs.

And don’t forget the edible Easter Bunny, also a German invention. But earlier versions were more like a sweet pastry than the modern day chocolate versions.

England

Many people throughout England participated in “Pace Egg Plays.” The word “pace” came from the Old English word “pasch,” which meant “Easter.” The plays usually included a theme of rebirth, or resurrection, where a hero was killed by a villain and then brought back to life.

Another tradition occurred on “Maundy Thursday,” or the Thursday before Easter. The ruling king or queen would wash the feet of a number of poor people, the number being determined by the age of the monarch. This washing was in remembrance of Christ having washed his disciples’ feet during the Last Supper. “Maundy” is a Latin word for “command,” coming from Christ’s command that his disciples always remember him when they drank wine or ate bread.

Sweden

In Sweden, citizens participated in a tradition called “birching” during the week of Lent. Since Easter usually came at a time when the ground was frozen and the branches still bare, people cut birch branches down and tied colored chicken feathers to the boughs. Then they would beat each other with the branches, both to cleanse them of evil and to remind them of the beating Jesus received on his way to being crucified.

Germany

One popular German tradition that spread throughout Europe was “egg dancing,” in which any number of eggs were laid on the ground and an individual or couple performed a dance among them, trying not to break any of the eggs. The form of the dance varied greatly depending on when and where it was performed—some egg dances included twelve eggs, some as many as 100. And occasionally the dancing individuals were blindfolded.

France

In France, no church bells were to play from Good Friday, the Friday before Easter, until Sunday morning, in order to represent Christ’s silence in death. Many parents told their children that the bells flew to Rome to visit the pope during that time. This tradition is still held today.



Carolyn's Corner
Carolyn's Corner

Carolyn Franklin

Hope that you are all enjoying this beautiful spring weather.
This month I will share some interesting places I have visited on the World Wide Web.

1. How to find files on your computer in Vista. (VIDEO)

<http://www.dummies.com/how-to/content/how-to-find-files-on-your-computer.html>

2. Midi Music

<http://www.purplepassiongraphics.com/Music/midi.html>

To save the song to your computer
Right click and left click on "Save Target As"
To play it, double click the name of the song on the web page.

3. Just leave it up to Google to come up with something like this!!!

Here's a number worth putting in your cell phone, or your home phone speed dial: 1-800-goog411. This is an awesome service from Google, and it's free -- great when you are on the road. Don't waste your money on information calls and don't waste your time manually dialing the number. I am driving along in my car and I need to call my beauty shop and I don't know the number. I hit the speed dial for information that I have programmed. The voice at the other end says, 'City & State.' I say, 'Stonewall, LA' He says, 'Business, Name or Type of Service.' I say "Stonewall Hair Works". He says, 'Connecting' Stonewall Hair Works answers the phone. How great is that? This is nationwide and it is absolutely free!

Click on the link below and watch the short clip for a quick demonstration.

<http://www.google.com/goog411/>

4. Radio on your computer. Leroy sent me this one.

Click on the different tabs such as "Channels" and pick out an era after it loads. You can also enter an artist name or a song. Fun to play around with.

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

Thanks Leroy.

5. Check a Symptom

Feeling bad? Go to this site and check out your symptom.

<http://www.healthcentral.com/symptom-checker/>

6. 'Surf Solitaire'

Surfs up! [Try your hand](#) at this beach version of the classic "Free Cell" card game...

<http://games.aarp.org/games/surf-solitaire/surf-solitaire.aspx>

Well that is all for this month



The President's Message



Bob Franklin



President's Message

With the joint efforts of GENCOM, Ark-La-Tex Genealogical Association, and Friends of Genealogy the March meeting was a great success. Dr. Trainor and Fintan Mullan supplied a wealth of information on Irish and Scots-Irish research during the three hour meeting. I want to thank everyone that made this event possible. I encourage the area genealogical groups to continue to work together to enhance our genealogical research.

OK folks, the April meeting is just around the corner, so get ready to share your favorite technology discovery that makes your genealogy research easier or more rewarding. The April meeting will be a "Discovery Day" for new technologies in genealogy. The meeting will be April 26 (4th Sunday) at Hamilton/South Caddo Branch Library at 2:00 p.m.

I want to thank the Social Committee: Julious Windham, Dorothy Rosson, and Thelma Windham for the many years of outstanding service they have provided GENCOM in this capacity. They will be retiring as of June, so we will be needing some volunteers.

Happy Easter

Bob



We are delighted'
to welcome
new member

Nelda Click

1

GENCOM

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2008-2009

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Dues are still just \$15.00

Checks may be sent to Treasurer

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