



Connections

February
2008

The E-Letter of GENCOM The Computer Genealogy Group
Editor: Patricia Minton Bettis

February 24 Meeting 2:00 Sunday at Hamilton Library

The second of our
ADVENTURES IN GENEALOGY SERIES




Ed Conley will share the story
of his Civil War ancestors:
Cornelius, James and
Captain Perry Conley
of the Partisan Rangers of West Virginia.

“Brother Against Brother”

There is much factual material on Captain Conley. Several W. Virginia histories tell his story. The census of 1860 discloses that he was then twenty-three years of age and was living in the Minnora neighborhood in Calhoun County, with his wife, Lucinda, and two children.

He is said to have been six feet three inches in height, and with powerful muscular development and great endurance. From his youth he had been the leader of his group; he could outrun, outfight and out-lift anybody in his section. It was not at all difficult for him to enlist his band of partisans, but when he took to the hills as a guerrilla his brother, James, made his way to the nearest recruiting post to enlist in the Federal army!



Ed Conley has done a great deal of research on this line, has made several trips to West Virginia and is still accumulating data. The Civil War continues to fire the imagination of writers everywhere, and the concept of Brother Against Brother is a popular theme, so new information emerges. Often from the pages of Civil War soldier's journals and diaries.

Ed invites members to take this opportunity to introduce your Civil War ancestor. If you have a diary or old letter or a particularly interesting Pension Record, do bring it for all to see!

It is often said that Civil War records provide the most important body of records for the American Genealogist. So, we like to address the subject every year or so!

Nancy Hart

From West Virginia born about 1843-1846, in Raleigh, NC.
While still an infant, her family moved to Tazewell, Virginia.
Died: 1913, buried on Mannings Knob, near Richwood, WV.

Civil War telegrapher Marion H. Kerner made the exploits of Nancy Hart famous in an article published in Leslie's Weekly in 1910.

Nancy Hart: Confederate Spy

At the outbreak of the Civil War, Nancy Hart, a young resident of western Virginia, joined the Moccasin Rangers, a Confederate guerrilla unit made up largely of residents of Calhoun County. Only about 15-18 of age at the time, her legend claims she was already an expert with rifles, pistols, and riding a horse, her level of proficiency said equal to any man of the region.

The young Ms. Hart soon began serving as a scout for the Confederacy, and according to some accounts she performed scouting duties for General "Stonewall" Jackson. She also acted as a spy, posing as a farm girl who offered the sale of vegetables and eggs to Federal troops. After learning what she could, she then reported her findings about the enemy's plans and activity in the region.

Not long after a large reward was offered for her capture in 1862, Ms. Hart was apprehended by Union forces lead by Lt. Col. Starr, 9th West Virginia, and held prisoner in a makeshift jail, located in a two-story house in present-day Summersville, WV.

According to tradition, Ms. Hart was a striking young brunette, of exceptional beauty, which is credited with playing havoc with the Union guards. During one evening she managed to grab the pistol from her naive young guard, with which she shot the guard dead with a single shot. Leaping out an open 2nd-story window, and stealing Lt. Co. Starr's horse, she managed to escape behind Confederate lines.

About a week later, on July 25, 1862, Nancy Hart guided forces in an attack against the federal forces at Summersville, consisting of 200 Confederates, led by Major R. Augustus Bailey, of Patton's 22nd Virginia Infantry. During the engagement many of buildings in Summersville were burned, and Lt. Col. Starr was among the Federals taken prisoner.

Following the end of the Civil War Ms. Hart married Joshua Douglas, the couple making their home at Spring Creek, in



Nancy Hart. Confederate Spy

An itinerant photographer, who just happened to be traveling through the Summersville area not long after Nancy Hart's capture, took the photo shown above.

According to some traditional accounts, Ms. Hart is frowning in the photo because she had been "forced" to dress-up for the posed portrait. Apparently one of Ms. Hart's biggest objections was due to her being required to wear a Union soldier's hat.

The Hart Family

In the Civil War, two of the Hart sons would fight for the North and one daughter (Nancy) the South, the "Rebel of the Family". At the beginning of her adolescence fourteen or fifteen, she didn't want to be like other women who married and lived on farms. The Daughter of Steven and Mary Hart collected intelligence, conducted sabotage and gathering contraband behind Federal lines,

Nancy Hart served as a Confederate scout, guide and spy, carrying messages between the West Virginia Confederate armed forces. **Hart** family had strong feelings both for and against the Civil War. Roane County was part of the struggle of "brother against brother" "father against son" "sister against brother" and "neighbor against neighbor."

Nothing better illustrates this than the **Hart** family **Stephen and Mary Hart** of Roane County West Virginia.



FAMILYSEARCH LABS
FUTURE TOOLS TO DIG UP THE PAST

I have eagerly awaited news of this project. Shirley Huss and I attended two out of state genealogical conferences this year and the speakers at both were most enthusiastic and excited over this Family Search site. When I engaged the speaker from the Family History Center, I had hoped that she would have information on it's progress. I did not know that the beta was up and running, and they are eagerly seeking researchers to work with them on perfecting the software to be used with the databases.

Our loyal, and adventurous researcher member Don Zesch, who spends his winters in Texas, just sent me the following url which gives us access to the site and describes the plans for it.

A note from a member of the Tip of Texas Genealogy Society gives the details!

Subject: [TOTGS] New LDS Family Search program

Date: Sun, 10 Feb 2008 19:35:36 +0000

This is the URL to log on to, and register your email address, to access the NEW index and the images for millions of files from the LDS that are already getting on line.

<http://search.labs.familysearch.org>

Note From PMB : I went to Google and keyed in Family Search Labs and it came up. You do have to register (it was immediate)... I checked the available sources and found death records for all the children of my Edge ancestor who had gone to Ohio in 1823. DO check these if you have Ohio ancestors... SO much information...often maiden names of wives and former addresses!

Using these records will teach us how to more effectively use search engines, as well as give us access to many new records! Most exciting!

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They caution that it is still "in the works", and may be slow at first - but I've been working it for several hours and the images load VERY quick.

<http://search.labs.familysearch.org>

If anyone was not yet aware, they are underway to scan and make indexed images available for most of their millions of rolls of microfilm - estimated to take almost ten years, with a million volunteers working at it!•



WELCOME TO FAMILY SEARCH LABS

(Opening screen)

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

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Record Search

Record Search helps you identify your ancestors by letting you search millions of indexed records and by letting you browse images of records that have not yet been indexed. Quickly you can begin to uncover information about your ancestors that may have required days and or weeks of work.

(requires Adobe Flash Player)

Updated 21 Dec 2007 to version 0.3. Read more about Record Search on the Labs blog. Record Search

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Family Tree

The FamilySearch Family Tree is our effort to take the great things we learned from the Pedigree Viewer and the Life Browser and combine them into a more full-featured application. Use the interactive pedigree viewer to see and navigate a tree and drill down on individuals. (requires Adobe Flash Player)

Note: Currently this prototype can only be accessed by those who already have a login for new FamilySearch. We hope to have a demo account available soon.

Updated 18 Jan 2008. Read more about the Family Tree on the Labs blog. Family Tree

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Standard Finder

With Standard Finder you can search for a standardized name, date or place based on your input. The Standard Finder will present the standards that will be used in future releases of new FamilySearch. Come and try out your historical and current entries and understand how the system will interpret your input. Use filtered results to see what we think the best match would be or uncheck filtered results to see all the possible standards. Then send us feedback on how the system can do better.

Added 27 Nov 2007. Find out more on the Labs blog Standard Finder

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Research Wiki

The FamilySearch Research Wiki forms a community of research experts and interested genealogists that share up to date information on how to research sources for information about your ancestors. The larger the community the more useful the data is, so come and be a part.



Carolyn's Corner
Carolyn's Corner

This month I will share with you
some interesting WEB sites
I have recently visited.

1. **All my Faves.** This is a website that has many good links organized by category. Examples, maps, search, weather, sports, magazines, news etc. Check it out. <http://www.allmyfaves.com>
2. **Music.** Here you will find full-length songs (mostly country) from all eras. These are full-length compressed WAV files. The songs are listed by the Artist's names. <http://www.pianoladynancy.com/wavs.htm>
3. **Check out your zip code...** This is very interesting. Just put your zip code in the block and see all the information You get back. <http://zipskinny.com/>
4. **Windows Keyboard and Function Keys.** This site explains all you can do with them. <http://www.internet4classrooms.com/winkeyboard.htm#f12>
5. **What was happening in a certain year?** Look up your own or a relatives birthday and find out what was going on. Replace the number 1900 with the year you were born or any other date and read the news for that year. <http://www.infoplease.com/year/1900.html>
That is all for this month.



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A Few More States that Post their Data Online
(Other than Cindy's List)

OHIO

Ohio Death Index 1913-1944

Very good, but just the basic data.

I still use it often.

<http://www.ohiohistory.org/dindex/>

Obituary Index 1830-present

Free abstract info, but charge for full obit.

<http://index.rbhayes.org/hayes/index/>

Delphos, Ohio & Marion Twp, Allen Co., OH

1909-1953

Go to bottom of page & click on green typed Line.

<http://www.delphos-ohio.com/history/death>. Htm

Allen Co., OH cemeteries

<http://www.delphos-ohio.com/history/cemeteri.htm>

Clark Co. Public Library Obituaries (Index)

<http://guardian.ccpl.lib.oh.us/obits>

Online Ohio Death Records & Indexes

A list of Ohio free sources (almost all free)

Good list site for good sites.. The list tells you if the site is free or not.

<http://www.deathindexes.com/ohio/index>.HTML

Cleveland Public Library Necrology File

Full obituaries.

<http://dxsrv4.cpl.org/WebZ/Authorize?>

Sessionid=0&next=/HTML/obit.HTML&dbchoice=1:dbname=necr&bad=HTML/authofail.HTML&

Cleveland News Index

(for obits index)

<http://www-catalog.cpl.org/CLENIX>

MARYLAND

MD State Archives

A little complicated, but good.

http://mdvitalrec.net/cfm/dsp_search.cfm

PENNSYLVANIA

York County Archives

Old records of: Births, Deaths, Bonds, Charters, Deeds, Naturalizations, Marriage, Liquors Licenses,

R The Historical Society of Pennsylvania

<http://www.hsp.org/default.aspx?id=21>

WEST VIRGINIA

WV Division of Culture & History*****

<http://www.wvculture.org/vrr/> Hurray for WV!

e, 02 May 2006 16:15:11 -0500

Marriages Added to Vital Records Index

The Wisconsin Historical Society announces the addition of marriage records to the Wisconsin Pre-1907 Vital Records Index located at www.wisconsinhistory.org/

What is left from the 1890 Census

The remnants of the 1890 census have been filmed and are available through many sources. There are only three rolls of microfilm containing the records. Only about 6,000 names are listed on these precious pieces of our past.

According to the National Archives, the ONLY surviving U.S. census records for 1890 are as follows:

ALABAMA-Perry County; two precincts only.
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA-two precincts only.
GEORGIA-part of Muscogee County- town of Columbus only
ILLINOIS-only one precinct in McDonough Co.
MINNESOTA-Rockford precinct in Wright Co.
NEW JERSEY-Jersey City in Hudson Co.
NEW YORK-two townships in two counties: Westchester and Suffolk.
NORTH CAROLINA-two townships in Gaston Co, and one in Cleveland Co.
OHIO-Cincinnati in Ellis Co, and Wayne township in Clinton Co.
SO DAKOTA-one township in Union Co.
TEXAS-three precincts in Ellis Co, one in Hood Co, parts of two precincts in Rusk, two in Trinity Co, and one in Kaufman

The Eleventh Census of the United States taken in June 1890 would have provided a wonderful study of our country if available today. Over 47,000 enumerators usually chosen by political appointment, distributed the schedules in advance to give the residents time to complete the forms. Once completed the population of the US topped over 62 million individuals.

Shortly before publication in 1896, the original 1890 special schedules for mortality, crime, pauperism and benevolence, special classes, and portions of the transportation and insurance schedules were damaged and finally destroyed by the Department of the Interior. According to a 1903 census clerk the general population schedules seemed to be in good shape at that time. However, disaster struck in the afternoon of January 10, 1921, when a building fireman reported seeing smoke in the Commerce Building where the schedules were located in the basement. The fire department was called and the fire was contained to the basement level of the building. However, water flooded most of the area. After the fire was extinguished, no immediate surveys were done of the damage. The records were allowed to remain soaking in water overnight and the next morning when the damage was assessed, the census director, Sam Rogers sent a note to the Secretary of Commerce reporting:

...a cursory examination show that the census schedules from 1790 to and including 1870, with the exception of those for 1830 and 1840, are on the fifth floor of the Commerce Building and have not been damaged. The schedules of the censuses of 1830, 1840, 1880, 1900 and 1910 have been damaged by water, and it is estimated that ten percent of these schedules will have to be opened and dried and some of them recopied. These schedules were located in the basement in a vault considered at the time to be fire and waterproof, but the archivist discovered a small broken pane of glass, which allowed water to seep in damaging the schedules located in low shelves."

The 1890 schedule did not fare as well as it was located outside the vault. Approximately 25 percent of these schedules have been destroyed and it is estimated the 50 per cent of the remainder have been damaged by water, smoke and fire. The cause of the 1921 fire was never determined. The remaining schedules of the 1890 census abandoned by the government, survived for many years. Rumors speculated that Census Director Sam Rogers had recommended that the schedules be destroyed. The public and historians were outraged and began a letter writing campaign which resulted in everyone being told that the records were NOT going to be destroyed and plans were being made to provide a suitable archive. In May of 1921, the census remained in temporary storage and the new census director William Steuart reported that they would gradually deteriorate, so they were returned to the census building for storage at his order.



Ann, wife of Brin Wojcicki, Co-founder of GOOGLE ,
is launching her biotech company **23andme**

Now Anne Wojcicki is planning to tap into the rise of online global networking to help people make sense of their own genetic information.

And if her business expectations are anything to go by, she shares much of the ambition and drive of her husband, the billionaire co-founder of Google, Sergey Brin.

Co-founder of biotech company 23andme, Wojcicki has been at the World Economic Forum in Davos this week to drum up interest in the European launch of the web-based DNA service.

"We'd like to reach 98pc of the world, that is our goal," says Wojcicki from beside her fledgling company's booth on the first floor of the Belvedere Hotel. "You have to have high standards to get anywhere in life, and if genealogy continues at its current rate, what we're offering will soon become a standard part of people's lives."

Named after the number of chromosomes that make up each person's genome, 23andme operates by analysing saliva samples to build up a picture of their client's inherited traits, ancestry and, in time, personal disease risks. Customers send in their saliva - along with a hefty cheque for \$999 - and four to six weeks later receive their results online.

They have a personal profile set up outlining anything from their athletic ability to their food preferences and sleep habits. If they chose to do so, customers can then exchange their information with family and friends to build up a better understanding of both themselves and their ancestry.

It may seem far-fetched, but Wojcicki, 33, and her 47-year-old business partner Linda Avey reckon their service represents the future of social networking. In the same way that the likes of MySpace, Facebook, You Tube and Flickr allow users to share information - in the shape of videos, photos or instant messaging - Wojcicki and Avey can see a time where people worldwide will share and compare their genetic details.

The pair declined to say how many customers they've had since their launch in the US in November. "Amazing"

Civil War Widows' Pension Files to be Digitized

The National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) and FamilySearch have announced a partnership to digitize case files of approved pension applications from widows of Civil War Union soldiers.

The agreement will kick off with a pilot project to digitize, index and provide access to 3,150 pension files. When that's done, FamilySearch, along with records site Footnote.com, plans to digitize and index all 1,280,000 pensions in the series.

Oh, happy day!

That's a huge step toward easing genealogists' research and restoring their good will toward NARA, which recently doubled pension file ordering fees to \$75. Pensions aren't microfilmed, so paying the fee,

visiting NARA in Washington, DC, or hiring an on-site researcher are currently your only options.

Widows' pension application files often include supporting documents such as affidavits, witnesses' depositions, marriage certificates, birth records, death certificates, and pages from family Bibles.

According to the announcement, the digitized records will be free at Family History Centers, with an index free on the FamilySearch Web site.

Images also may be available for a fee on a commercial site. The digitized pension records also will be free at NARA facilities, and NARA will get gratis copies of the record images and associated indexes.

This is part of a broader partnership announced today, in which FamilySearch staff will camp out at NARA five days a week with high-speed digitization cameras. Ultimately, it'll mean you have ready access, through FamilySearch and Family History Centers, to court, military, land, and other government records dating as early as 1754.

FamilySearch | Genealogy Industry | Military records
10/23/2

<http://timeanddate.com/calendar/>
(<http://timeanddate.com/calendar/>)

(<http://www.timeanddate.com>) on right side of page are calendar's, click on "any year calendar" and when new page opens, type in the year you want at top (defaults with year 2008).



You can learn the day of the week you were born, Remember the old rhyme ...

Monday's child is fair of face,
Tuesday's child is full of grace,
Wednesday's child is full of woe,
Thursday's child has far to go,
Friday's child is loving and giving,
Saturday's child works hard for a living,
And the child that is born on the Sabbath day
Is bonny and blithe and good and gay.

CONFUSING DEFINITION IN OLD DOCUMENTS:

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Mistress - Not necessarily a married woman. A term of respect for any married woman.

Gentleman - Used to describe a retired man of wealth or education.

Housekeeper - Once meant property owner and could be used for male or female.

Domestic - Once meant a housewife and not necessarily a servant.

Inmate - As used in the Pennsylvania Archives, refers to a man living in the home of another person - not necessarily a person in an institution. It may also mean someone who did not own the real estate on which he resided.

Freeman - As used in Pennsylvania Archives, meant a young man not yet married.

Alias - Usually meant illegitimacy. The surname of the father and mother were jointed. It did not have a criminal meaning.

Senior or Junior - These terms did not necessarily refer to father and son. If two men in the same town had the same name, the older was "Senior" and the younger "Junior" even if they weren't related. In earlier times, a Father might have done the same in naming his sons.

Niece - This could refer to any female relative but usually a granddaughter.

Nephew - This could refer to an illegitimate son but usually a grandson.

Cousin - A cousin might be a nephew or uncle.

Brother - This term could refer to an adopted brother but could also mean an in-law or lodge or Church brother.

Domestic - A wife called a domestic because she was "at home".

Crazy - Usually meant a person who was ill or in generally poor health, not necessarily mentally ill.

SOME MILITARY DEFINITIONS:

"Associators" were volunteers who had sworn to protect their homes by any means.

"Rangers" were scouts who guarded the frontier and were usually formed from the militia who were the "home guard", along with the "State Line," these were similar to the National Guard.

The Editor's Notes

Patte Bettis



Searching for Prisoner's Records

National Archives Record Group 109. There is a section called "Records relating to prisoners, oaths, and paroles": NARA Microfilm Publication M598. These are records of Confederates held in Union prisons.

Records of Union soldiers held in Confederate prisons can be found in National Archives Record Group 249, Records of the Commissary General of Prisons.

MapMachine: Civil War Edition
<http://java.nationalgeographic.com/maps/civilwar/>

A special by the National Geographic MapMachine project. This site allows you to explore an interactive map of over 5,200 U.S. Civil War battlefields and historic sites. You can get detailed descriptions of 384 major battlefields and view the 25 sites most in danger of being lost.

For help with military records. I've compiled this list of online sources and guides that may be helpful...

Directory of Online Military Indexes & Records (covers Revolutionary War to Vietnam)
<http://www.militaryindexes.com/>

Online Civil War Indexes, Records & Rosters
<http://www.militaryindexes.com/civilwar/>

How to Order Civil War Pension & Service Records
<http://genrootsblog.blogspot.com/2006/07/civil-war-pension-service-records-tips.html>

If the above URL is too long go to:
http://genealogyroots.googlepages.com/blog_highlights

How to Find World War One Draft Cards 1917-1918
<http://www.genealogybranches.com/worldwaronedraftcards.html>

Article: Obtaining My Dad's WWII Service Record by Randy Seaver
<http://randysmusings.blogspot.com/2006/08/obtaining-my-dads-wwii-service-record.html>

Article: World War II Military Records by Randy Seaver
<http://randysmusings.blogspot.com/2006/08/world-war-ii-military-records.html>

If the above 2 URLs are too long go to: <http://randysmusings.blogspot.com/>

Genealogy Roots Blog (for finding online records & resources)
<http://genrootsblog>

Greetings All:

In that incredibly busy month of October... I made up a new roster to give out at GENFEST. With all the excitement that day, I forgot about it and took it back home with me. I planned to bring it to the November meeting. However, I was ill in Nov. and couldn't make the meeting...so it was January before they were finally distributed... at this point, about as valuable as yesterday's newspaper. Many of us had changed servers so the addresses were out of date. Wasted effort, to be sure.

However, all is not lost. Jeanice Vaughan, our artistic and clever Historian is going to make us a state of the art roster with photographs of each member with the listing!

This is a big job. And a time consuming one. My sincere thanks to Jeanice for her contributions to GENCOM~ She plans to start taking pictures at the February meeting.

Margaret Mc Gilvray send us this website tip... (Warning! You may become so engrossed you will spend the rest of your day there)

"Will and I put this one in our Favorites: You might want to do the same, it has just about everything! Lots of good sites!"

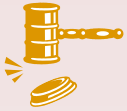
<http://www.allmyfaves.com/>

Valentine Customs

In the Middle Ages, young men and women drew names from a bowl to see who their valentines would be. They would wear these names on their sleeves for one week. To wear your heart on your sleeve now means that it is easy for other people to know how you are feeling.

Happy Valentine's Day

The President's Message



Bob Franklin



I have downloaded the FamilySearch Indexing program and completed two batches and uploaded them.

The download and install was very simple and easy. To start the process you must sign up as a volunteer, then download and install the software. After the indexing program has been installed, you connect to the www.FamilySearchIndexing.org web site, download an image of original records and then use the software to create the index.

The image is displayed in the top of the computer screen while the data is entered in the lower part of the screen. After all data is entered, you click on "Submit a Batch" and all your entered data is uploaded to the FamilySearchIndexing site.

The first batch took me about 60 minutes and the second batch only required 30 minutes to complete. The process was simple and straight forward.

This is a great way for each of us to give back to the genealogy community, so I urge you to go to <http://www.FamilySearchIndexing.org> and take a look.

Bob

There are several articles in this issue of Connections that describe what is planned for the Family Search Indexing project.

We encourage everyone to go to the Family Search Labs site and see what exciting plans are in the works! Lets be a part of it!

GENCOM

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2007-2008

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