



**July
2008**

Connections

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

July 13 Meeting

**2:00 Sunday Afternoon S. Caddo- Hamilton Library
Our Annual Reunion
Celebrating our 16th Anniversary!
Speaker: John Andrew Prime**

"THE ART OF THE OBIT The changing face Of the FINAL WORD!"

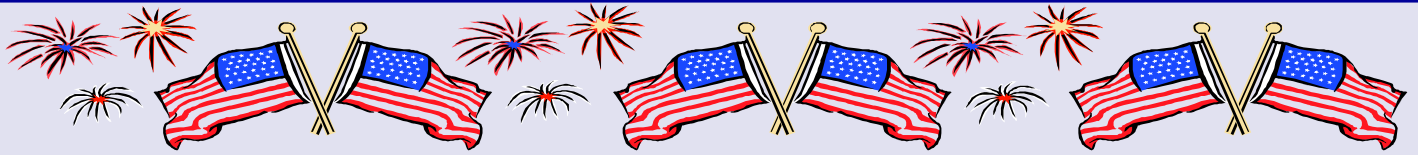


John is co-author of **"Images of America—Barksdale Air Force Base"** with **Shawn Bohannon**. Published in 2002. (Like many of us, he is from an Air Force family, born in Ramstein , Germany where his father was stationed.)

He is an authority on the B-52 and is Military Affairs Director for the Shreveport Times. an expert on all of our country's wars and an avid Genealogist!

Established in 1933 as the "World's Largest Airport," Barksdale Air Force Base covers 23,000 acres of Northwest Louisiana and is one of our nation's greatest military assets today.





Proposed Slate of Officers for 2008-2009

Our thanks to those who served on the Nominating Committee:
Joy Stephenson and Julious Windham, chaired by Don Davis.
This is the proposed slate of officers which will be presented at the July meeting.
Nominations will be accepted from the floor.

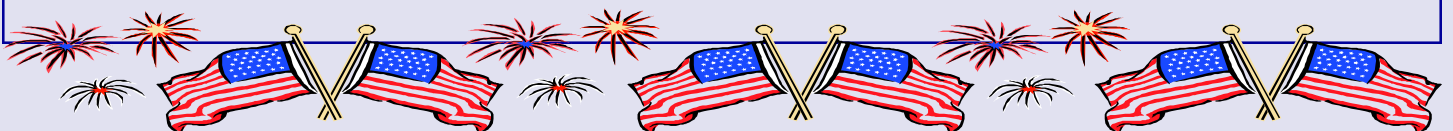
President: Robert Franklin
Vice President: Roy Henderson
Treasurer: Charles Byrd

Chairmen:
Membership Chairman: Margaret MC Gilvray
Social Chairmen: Julious and Thelma Windham, Dorothy Rosson
Family Tree Maker Consultant and C.D Librarian: Don Davis
Technical Consultant: Bernie Conradi
Facilities Chairman: Hallie Bellotte

GENFEST Co- coordinator: Carolyn Franklin
Historian: Jeanice Vaughn
Newsletter Editor: Patricia Bettis

Program Committee

Roy Henderson
Leroy Terry
Don Zesch
Joy Stephenson
Patte Bettis





Honoring our Past Presidents



On our 16th Anniversary

Gerald Fussell 1991-1992

Hugh Rutherford

Julious Windham

Joy Stephenson

Don Davis

Rose Worrell

Patricia Bettis

Robert Franklin

Our Purpose

Sixteen years ago, GENCOM was organized to provide a forum for discussion and mutual assistance in the relatively new field of computer aided genealogy.

We have tried to maintain a balance of genealogical and computer related subjects for our programs. We think it important to, use both traditional sources and to keep abreast of the latest in technological advances .. It is our purpose to create, foster and maintain interest in the responsible use of technology in Genealogical Research.



Carolyn's Corner
Carolyn's Corner

Cool, Safe and Happy Summer:

I hope everyone is having one. This month I am sharing with you some web sites and computer tips that I frequently use. I hope they will be helpful to you.

Gas Prices

Just enter your zip code in the site below, and it tells you which gas stations have the cheapest prices (and the highest) on gas in your zip code area. It's updated every evening.

<http://autos.msn.com/everyday/gasstations.aspx?zip=&src=Netx>

Music link

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>

There are also directions on how to save a song to your computer.

Obtaining Vital Records- Where to Write

<http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/howto/w2w/w2welcom.htm>

Keep Track Of Website Information

I got tired of losing scraps of notes I made about websites I would like to visit. I bought a very small spiral tablet, labeled it Websites to Visit, and put it near my TV and radio. Now I note all the interesting stuff in one place. I can browse the sites when I have time.

Computer Shortcuts

This is a list of common computer shortcuts that I frequently use I keep this list in a notebook next to my computer as I cannot possibly remember them all.

Ctrl Z ,It simply undoes your last action, example, the sentence you accidentally deleted. Programs vary in the number of times you can undo something, but some will let you Ctrl Z all the way back to the beginning as you may need to use when editing photos. And remember, there is a redo command, just hit Ctrl Y.

- Ctrl B, applies bold, Ctrl I italics, or Ctrl U, to underline. Text must be highlighted (selected).
- Ctrl P prints whatever is in an active window.
- Ctrl Backspace erases an entire word at a time, instead of a letter..
- Ctrl Enter inserts a page break in Word.
- In Outlook express and Windows mail hit Ctrl N to compose a new message, Ctrl R to reply to a message.

Carolyn



Happy 4th
Of July!



Pictured: masthead of
The Alva, Oklahoma newspaper.
Alva is home of Northwestern State
College where I met and married my
late husband.
(The Santa Fe station pictured)
Patte Bettis

This is a wonderful site for finding U.S. newspapers. <http://www.usnpl.com/>

They are listed by state and town....many other indexes are listed by the name of the newspaper which makes it very difficult to find a particular locality. This list shows college newsletters also.

Note: I looked for a newspaper in Alva Oklahoma where both my mother and I went to college. at Northwestern State ..The above picture is the newspaper mast head... Picturing the railroad station from which my new husband and I boarded the train— to go to introduce him to my family in October 1938. The College Newsletter is also available through the listing.

Newspapers in small towns represent a treasure trove for the genealogist, but historically confined their archives to bound volumes tucked away in storage. Locating information from the past often required the time-consuming activity of traveling to the town and physically searching through often fragile, bound newspaper pages.

WorldVitalRecords gives you access to this completely searchable digital archive that features only small-town newspapers back to 1846.

We are missing a great source of information if we aren't taking advantage of the old newspapers that are online now. They are becoming much easier to findwith indexes such as the one listed below.

Newspapers | How to Find Newspapers |
How to Find Your Ancestor in an Old Newspaper |

Newspapers

One of the best and most underused resources in genealogical research is newspapers. Researchers dismiss them for a variety of reasons - my family wasn't important enough to be mentioned; the little town we came from probably didn't have a paper, and even if it did, those old issues probably don't exist anymore; they're too hard to find; or they're too hard to search. All of these are valid concerns, but the genealogical details and historical context that can be found in newspapers make it worth the effort.

There's actually a reasonably good chance that your family may be mentioned in a newspaper. Many 19th and 20th century papers, for example, routinely included obituaries, or at least death or funeral notices for residents in their area. In the 1900s, birth, wedding and milestone anniversary announcements became quite standard. If your family was somewhat prominent in the area in which they lived, they may appear in the society page or column, but even relative unknowns show up for reasons such as being a party to a legal action, winning a prize at a county fair, or dying accidentally (in fact, if you ever receive a death certificate giving "killed" or "accident" as the cause of death, consider it your duty to search local newspapers for that time period). Earlier papers contained less personal information, but you may still find a brief mention of a pending marriage or abrupt death as far back as the late 1700s.

Even if your family does not appear, however, newspapers are still worth searching because they give you context - a sense of the place and time in which your ancestors lived. Unlike today's papers, you're not likely to find much information about world events in these older papers. What you will find, though, is how your ancestors were affected by local happenings such as extreme weather conditions or a county election. You may find ads for local businesses (maybe even their own!) or descriptions of local events of note such as school, church or political functions. A chronicle of the events of an area, and that alone makes it a valuable tool in your research.

How to Find Newspapers

Admittedly, finding the newspaper that may have recorded pieces of your ancestors' lives can be a bit of a challenge. To begin your search, you will need two pieces of information: 1) the area in which your ancestor lived and 2) a specific time frame.

Ideally, you'll want to know the town in which they lived, but it's a good idea to also know the name of the county, state, and larger towns. Start locally and work your way up to the larger areas as needed. Newspapers, like any other business, came and went over the years, so you'll want to know what timeframe you're looking for to save yourself the trouble of looking for a paper that didn't even exist in the years in which your target ancestor lived.

What if you have the name of the town in which your ancestor lived, but can't find it anywhere on present day maps? Have a look at some gazetteers to see if you can learn about name changes over the years. Go to the Gazetteers extra for some online assistance with locating and using gazetteers.

Once you've defined the time and area, the next step is to find where these old newspapers can be found today. Because of their fragility, most old papers have been microfilmed for use by researchers. To find out where these microfilms are located, you have several options. If you still live in the same area as your ancestors, your first plan of attack should be to go to the local library. If they don't have the microfilms there, they should be able to direct you to them or perhaps to newspaper abstracts that have been published in book form.

Even if you don't live in the area, you might want to consider calling or writing the library as it may be possible to borrow the microfilms on interlibrary loan. If you are unable to find the newspaper through the local library, try the state library or archives. The state library collection should be almost complete, and most state libraries participate in interlibrary loan programs with other state libraries. State and county historical and genealogical societies are also an excellent resource for locating old newspapers (and newspaper abstracts).

If you live too far to visit or the librarians you've contacted are unable to assist you, it's time to consult some finding aids such as newspaper directories. These resources will help you identify which libraries or repositories have editions of particular newspapers for given time periods. Some of the better known newspaper directories are Clarence S. Brigham's *History and Bibliography of American Newspapers, 1690-1820*, Winifred Gregory's *American Newspaper* (which covers 1821-1936), Ayers *Directory of Publications*, and Lubomyr R. and Anna T. Wynar's *Encyclopedic Directory of Ethnic Newspapers and Periodicals in the United States*. Many public and genealogical libraries have these directories.

If you have easy access to a local Family History Center, you may also want to search the FHL Catalog by the locality -- state, county, city - and then under the subject of newspapers. While the FHL does not hold many local newspapers, it does have indexes to and abstracts from quite a few.

How to Find Your Ancestor in an Old Newspaper

Once you locate a newspaper that serviced your ancestor's town, you'll want to have as narrow a timeframe in mind as possible, as most old newspapers are not indexed. The best approach is to start by searching for a known life event such as a death or marriage. This will allow you to focus on just a few days.

Of course, you'll always want to take the time to check if, in fact, there is an index! Most newspaper indexes only contain names extracted from major articles, but the potential time savings makes it worth a look. Anita C. Milner's *Newspaper Indexes: A Location and Subject Guide for Researchers* (Metuchen, N.J.: Scarecrow Press, 1977-82) is a useful resource. For some areas, an obituary index, sometimes called a "necrology file," may be available through the local library or genealogical society.

If your ancestors' names do not appear in any indexes, then prepare to scroll. Obtain the microfilms for the time period of interest and scroll through each issue page by page. Yes, it takes some persistence, but the discoveries almost always make it worthwhile! At a bare minimum, you will soak up the era and develop an understanding of the place in which your ancestors lived which few other means could possibly give you.

One final word of warning: be prepared for what you might find! Just as today, scandal and sensational topics of all kinds were favorites subjects in newspapers. You may find that your ancestor died a gruesome death or committed a crime or was found inebriated in public. Contrary to popular belief, today's vices are not really new and one or two of your ancestors may have practiced a few. There just might be a few skeletons in the closet!

INDIAN RESEARCH TIPS

Site Seeing



Roots Magic Users

Did you know that you can view a map of the various locations in your RootsMagic database?

Select Lists . Place list from your RootsMagic menu to bring up a list of all the places you have entered in RootsMagic. Simply highlight a place and click the "Online Map" button. RootsMagic will open Virtual Earth to display a map of that place.

With Virtual Earth you can view not only cities and towns, but streets, railroad tracks and more. You can even switch to an "Aerial" mode which will let you see a satellite image of your place. You can zoom in and out to see more or less detail about the place. This feature really does need a high speed internet connection, but if you have one, this can be a fun and useful feature to see the locations your ancestors lived. ----



You can locate all the various Indian Census on www.censusfinder.com

Or you can Google Indian Nations Census. This site will give you the census by year, state, and tribe.

It also has the Final Rolls, Old Settlers, Dawes Roll and Chapman Rolls. There is also some information on where the various tribes were sent.

What is the WorldGenWeb Project ?

. The WorldGenWeb is a non-profit volunteer organization that is dedicated to the free use and access of public domain genealogical information. To further this goal, the WorldGen-Web uses internet websites to create "local repositories" of information that researchers worldwide can access. Each project website (generally) will contain local resource addresses of county, country public records offices, cemetery locations, maps, library addresses, archive addresses, and association addresses including Family History Centers or other genealogical or historical societies, and some history and culture of the region. websites. To answer other questions you may have about the WorldGenWeb Project we'd invite you to visit our Frequently Asked Question (FAQ) page

INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT THE CENSUS: By Shirley Hornbeck

The Constitution called for a census of all "Persons . . . excluding Indians not taxed" for the purpose of apportioning seats in the House of Representatives and assessing direct federal taxes. The "Indians not taxed" were those not living in the settled areas. In later years, Native Americans everywhere were considered part of the total population, but not all were included in the apportionment figures until 1940.

Before we can really do justice to documented ancestors in the area west of the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers, we need to sort through the older states and counties, so that we don't keep repeating the same mistakes that were published by others.

At one time (as early as 1728 or as late as 1863) a person shown as being born in VA might have actually been born in IL (1781-1818); IN (1787-1819); KY (1775-1792); MO (1755-1792); NC (1728-1803); OH (1728-1803); PA (1752-1786); TN (1760-1803); WV (1769-1863).

The government did not provide printed forms or even paper until 1830. If was up to each assistant to copy his census return on whatever paper he could find and post it in two public places in his assigned area.

Those who saw and could read them were supposed to check for discrepancies or omissions. The highest pay rate, two cents per person, barely covered expenses, especially where settlers were scattered and living in places that were difficult to find or access.

Our thanks to our Past Presidents

Our 1st President Gerald Fussell
Hugh Rutherford

Joy Stephenson
Julious Windham
Don Davis
Patricia Bettis



**“Remembering our Past—
Honoring Our Presidents—**

And Welcoming the Future

We look forward to another exciting season—
Exploring all the new developments
In Genealogical Research.

Happy 14th Birthday GENCOM

Dear Friends:

Don't miss this celebration of our 16th Anniversary!
Every July we honor those who have been so influential in the success of our organization. We hope that all our past presidents and charter members will be able to attend...

We have a very special speaker with John Andrew Prime. He is not only an award winning writer, but a fine historian and an avid genealogist —most knowledgeable of Internet research techniques. We are honored that he is taking time from his incredibly busy schedule to be with us!

*And, our annual meeting includes the installation of our new slate of officers.
Do come and bring a guest!*

GENCOM

Officers

2007-2008

President: Robert Franklin

Vice President: Margaret Clark

Treasurer: Charles Byrd

Membership Chairmen
Margaret Mc Gilvray

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

Newsletter Editor: Patricia Bettis

pmbettis@comcast.net

Dues are still just \$15.00

Checks may be sent to Treasurer

Charles Byrd

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