



Connections

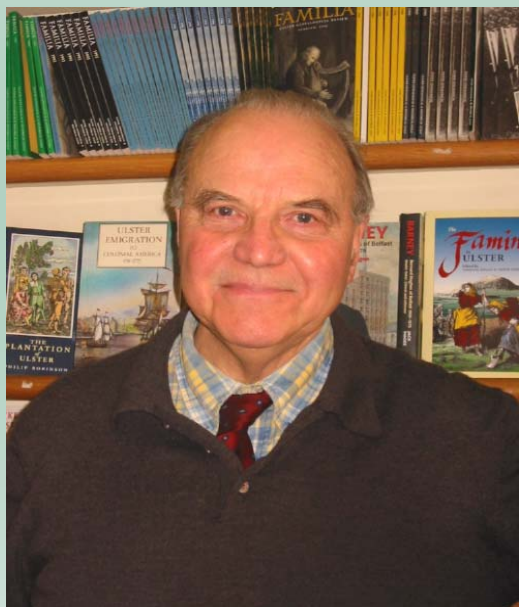
March 2009

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

March 15 Meeting

1:30 Sunday Afternoon Hamilton Library

Want to discover your Irish and Scots-Irish Ancestors?



Dr. Brian Trainor

Are you tracing your Irish roots? Do you know the background of your ancestors? Were they Irish or Scots-Irish? Want to know more ...

Find out more at Hamilton Library 2111 Bert Kouns at a special Irish and Scots-Irish seminar from the Ulster Historical Foundation, on Sunday 15th March from 1.30pm to 4.30pm.

Speakers from Ulster Historical Foundation will be here to present an Irish and Scots-Irish Research seminar programme sponsored by the GENCOM, Ark-La Tex Genealogical Association and Friends of Genealogy.

They will be able to offer participants practical tips about Irish and Scots-Irish research. The event will include three presentations which explore how to use the sources for Irish research, the story of the Scots-Irish migration to America, and recent developments in online records for Irish genealogy. The afternoon seminar will also include time for a question and answer session. The event is aimed at beginner and the seasoned genealogist alike.

The presenters are from one of Ireland's foremost genealogy research organisations and publishing houses and they will give advice on what to do and where to go next.

Your Irish genealogy is waiting to be discovered. What better way to celebrate St Patrick's Day itself, than by making a start on your Irish and Scots-Irish ancestral quest.



Historical Timeline

Ulster Historical Foundation

1603 – Treaty of Mellifont brings to an end the Nine Years War

1603 – James VI of Scotland becomes James I of England

1603 – Death of Elizabeth brings to an end the Tudor period.

1607 – Flight of the Earls

1609–11 – Beginning of the Plantation of Ulster

1641 – Outbreak of rebellion

1642 – Beginning of English Civil War

1649 – Charles I beheaded, monarchy abolished.

1660 – Monarchy restored, Charles II becomes King.

1688 – William of Orange invited to become king of England.

1690 – Defeat of James II by William III at the Battle of the Boyne

1745 – Jacobite rebellion

1750 – Beginnings of the Industrial Revolution

1776 – American Declaration of Independence

1778 – Irish Volunteers formed

1798 – Rebellion involving United Irishmen

1801 – Union of Great Britain and Ireland

1805 – Battle of Trafalgar

Welcoming our Speakers

With over 50 years' experience of serving Irish people everywhere, let the Ulster Historical Foundation help you begin your journey home.



Fintan Mullan, Exe. Dir. Ulster Historical Foundation-

. There will be three presentations which explore how to use the sources for Irish research, the story of the Scots-Irish migration to America, and recent developments in online records for Irish genealogy. The afternoon seminar will also include time for a question and answer session. The event is aimed at beginner and the seasoned genealogist alike.

Where is Ulster?

Ulster is the northern most province of the island of Ireland. It is composed of the six counties of Northern Ireland – Antrim, Armagh, Down, Fermanagh, Londonderry, and Tyrone – and the three border counties of the Irish Republic – Cavan, Donegal and Monaghan.

Why Ulster?

From the Anglo-Norman invasion of Ireland in the twelfth century (c. 1169) until the end of the Nine Years War (1603), Ulster remained the most Gaelic of all the Irish provinces. From the Ulster Plantation (c. 1610) to the present day, it has become the most culturally diverse part of the island. The clash of cultures, political doctrines and religion – the maelstrom that was seventeenth century Ireland – has bequeathed to Ulster a rich historical narrative: creating a distinct heritage as captivating and intriguing as the brooding and dramatic landscape itself.



The Editor's Notes

Patte Bettis



Greetings Everyone: I hope you are keeping up your social calendar carefully....There are so many exciting events this month.

We are just delighted to be working with Ark-La-Tex Gen. Assn. and Friends of Genealogy, to bring the Irish program to Shreveport. GENCOM is a member of the Federation of Genealogical Societies, and we are expected to promote genealogical research in our communities. We can be proud to help sponsor the program featuring these two well known speakers.

Dr. Trainor has spoken to the National Societies and is recognized as the ultimate source for Irish research. They travel to the United States and Australia where the Irish migrated to help descendants get in touch with their roots....and to promote the Ulster cause.

GENCOM tries to provide a time to study each of the major nationalities that make up our ancestors. But, we have not had an opportunity to learn about the Irish research before. The program will also include help with Scots-Irish records— which will be of interest to many of us.

April Meeting— DISCOVERY DAY!

How many times do you make a new discovery that you find so exciting that you can't wait to share it with your friends? I do— quite often!

Perhaps, an all encompassing website, an accessory, an update to a computer program...An unfamiliar methodology...(If you subscribe to Roots L, I will bet you have this experience often!) Be thinking what wonders you want to share at the April meeting! This should be great fun! **Remember, our purpose is to stay abreast of Technology in Genealogy.**

FGS sent us the programs for the National Conference in Little Rock in Sept. You can pick one up at the sign-in table Sunday. Every topic imaginable being addressed and all the finest speakers! Lets go!

Patte

The February Program:

Hugh Rutherford presented a program on Native Americana research. Of special interest was his description of :CHOCTAW_CUSTOMS —
A Matriarchal Society



- By Len Green

- The earliest written information available is from the diaries of a now anonymous French authority who wrote extensively about the Choctaws and is quoted in the research of John R. Swanton. The anonymous French source says: "When a youth wishes to marry, he goes to find the father and mother of the girl whom he desires. After having made his request he throws before the mother a string of glass beads, and before the father a breechclout. "If they take the presents, it is a sign of their consent, and then the youth leads the girl away to his home without further ceremony. From this moment the mother can no longer appear before her son-in-law. If they are obliged to stay in the same room they make a little partition between them for fear lest they see each other. They (Choctaw men) may abandon their wives whenever they wish, and take many of them at a time. I saw one who had (was married to) three sisters. When they marry a second time they take the sister of the dead wife, if she has one, otherwise a woman of the family. From other research, it is apparent that the French source saw only through European eyes, touching only the surface of the courtship and marriage customs of the ancient Choctaw. He could not possibly have grasped the basic tenet of family life among the Choctaws or realized that in actuality the family government of the Choctaws was a benign matriarchy. In ancient Choctaw society, the woman was considered the "giver of life" and as such was the most powerful person in the family. On the other hand, the man was "abi" or the "taker of life. "When a young man married, he had by custom to choose a wife from some iksa (clan) other than his own. And, after marriage, he had to live and work with the clan of his wife. At festivals, dances, ball games or general council meetings, the married man sat, worked or played with his own family and clan. And his wife and children had to live and work with the clan of his wife. Should a family be broken by divorce or death, the woman kept the children and the house. All the man was entitled to retain were his eating dish, his weapons and his clothing .If divorce were involved, the procedure was simple. If the man wanted a divorce, he gathered up his bowl, weapons and clothing and left. If the woman wanted a divorce, she merely had to place his clothing, weapons and eating bowl outside the door of the house. By this sign, he knew he was no longer welcome.

- Unlike the Europeans and many other Indian tribes, the Choctaws lived longer lives and did not practice the custom of early marriage or promiscuous behavior among teenagers. To be ready for marriage, a girl had to be between the ages of 20 and 25 years, and the prospective husband was required to be between the ages of 25 and 30. It was believed that if a couple married before they were "ripe" the children would be weaklings and runts, thus making the tribe ultimately weaker, smaller and susceptible to its enemies. Choctaw parents also did not like to see their children married into another band whom they opposed in ball games, and intermarriage with members of other tribes was discouraged. polygamy, or the taking of more than one wife, was tolerated within certain limitations. And, such action was usually triggered by the wife rather than by the husband. Should one of the wife's sisters reach "old maid" age without being claimed by a husband or should a husband be killed leaving the wife's sister a widow, she might urge her husband to take the sister as an additional wife. Thus in a family with many sisters, a husband might find himself married to, and living in the same house with, several wives. The additional wives had all of the privileges and duties of the original wife, with a single exception. Only the original wife was allowed to eat from the same bowl or dish as her husband. Should a Choctaw's wife die, he would generally be married again to one of her sisters. Or, if no sister were available, he could possibly marry a cousin or other relative. The Choctaws practiced two customs which might seem strange because the reasons for these customs have become lost to history. After the marriage, the bride's mother could no longer look upon the face of her son-in-law. Though they might talk to each other, they must be hidden from each other by some kind of screen. When nothing else was available, they had to cover their eyes with their hand. This must have made life very difficult for the mother-in-law, particularly when the family was traveling or were encamped for hunting or festivals. Many mothers walked about with their heads down, so that they might not accidentally see the face of a son-in-law. Can you imagine the problem of a mother with several married daughters and as many sons-in-law in the same camp? To some extent, this custom continued to exist until the early 1800s.

Date: Mon, 09 Feb 2009 09:41:05 -0600
From: Genealogy Data <gene-data@earthlink.net>

Subject: [ROOTS-L] **Help Save the Notarial
Archives in New Orleans**

**I received the following email from the scholar,
Winston De Ville.
I'm sharing with you in case there is anyone on
the list who would like to do as this email suggests
and write a letter to help save the famous
Notarial Archives in New Orleans.**

Renee



URGENT

Again, you are called upon to support a campaign to preserve one of the major resources for Mississippi Valley (e.g., French Illinois, Missouri, Arkansas, Indiana) for Gulf Coast (from the Rio Grande to Pensacola), for Louisiana historiography and genealogy. These documents relate not only to New Orleans, but to all colonial posts and settlements. Whether you live in Louisiana or not whether you do research or not, your help is urgently needed. Please, /please/, urge everyone in your purview - e.g., newspaper columns - to help, too.

/Please, take time to read Sally Reeves' excellent report (below). Then, if you feel as strongly as I do about the issue, write a real-letter to

Ms. Dale Atkins, Clerk of the Civil District Court
New Orleans Notarial Archives
1340 Poydras Street
New Orleans, Louisiana 70112

Real-letters are more effective than e-mails, but if you won't do otherwise, please, use Ms. Atkins' e-address: daleatk@orleanscdc.com <mailto:daleatk@orleanscdc.com>

Ms. Reeves' letter follows:

Dear Everyone:

I would like to thank all of you who have written to Dale Atkins expressing your support for the Notarial Archives Research Center, forwarded emails, and copied stuff to me.

This is the latest as I understand it.

First, the issue is the Notarial Archives Research Center (3rd floor, Amoco Building) not the main office (5th floor). The Research Center holds the 18th, 19th, and part of the 20th century notarial volumes as well as the Plan Book collection.

Not only the historical community but also the abstracting community uses it every day, because it has so many 20th century volumes.

There is no way that they can move the 20th century volumes back up to the 5th floor, since it is full there

. This is why the stacks are so spaced out up there. The case is different on the 3rd floor (Research Center) where with miraculous luck, we were able back in 1998 to secure the corner of the building where Amoco had kept its exploration drawings; the floor load capacity there is 75 p/sf as opposed to everywhere else where it is 50 and under. This is why we were able to install the compact shelving there, allowing us to put all of the 18th and 19th century volume in one stacks area. It is an optimum situation for the records, low enough that hurricane and tornado winds can affect it only a little bit, and not too low for other hazards. During Hurricane Katrina, the building was both flooded and looted, but neither the flood waters nor the looters touched the area.

There are three parts to the issue:

1.

Preserving the collection

2.

Preserving access to it IN New Orleans

3.

Securing the jobs of the staff who were terribly demoralized the last time I was there (recently).

Ms. Atkins will have the final say, but I think with the support those three parts have been receiving, she will know that there will be a huge outcry if she moves to close the Research Center.

I have explained to her how it took blood, sweat, and tears to create that special part of the Archives, that it isn't a luxury to have it, but only what history and righteousness had demanded for decades, and that the nice surroundings we put in there were designed to change attitudes about the old records, showing people that we had respect for them and that the user should also.

I also reminded her that the new legislation requires her to put monies aside for the historical records; and that the one Supreme Court case cited in Revised Statutes comments that the Louisiana State Supreme Court's decision was that clerks of court had to err on the side of giving the public access to records.

I have received two very nice responses from Ms. Atkins, who appears to be very sensitive to the issues. I think she realizes or is beginning to realize the importance of the collection from all the mail she has been getting. She has asked to meet next week and talk about ways to keep the Research Center open.

For the past 149 years the Notarial Archives has been a cash cow, and it will be again. About 8 months ago, filings dropped off about 50%. Eleanor Farnsworth told me yesterday that the real estate community hit a low in sales from Hurricane Gustave through December, but that it has picked up and "always picks up right after Mardi Gras." So we may be at the darkest point before the dawn of additional filings. Usually the Notarial Archives gets business "on the way up" and also "on the way down," since foreclosures, tax liens, and second mortgages and the rest of the misery index all have to be filed as legal documents. We are advising Ms. Atkins not to do anything irreversible that will limit access or ruin the Research Center, but to hold on until things get better. In the mean time, "please keep those cards and letters coming."

Thank you, Sally Reeves

(*Sally Reeves is President of the Louisiana Historical Society*)



Carolyn's Corner
Carolyn's Corner

Carolyn Franklin

This month I will share more web sites that I have enjoyed visiting.

Midi Juke Box

To save to your computer

Right click on the title

Left click on "SAVE TARGET AS"

<http://www.geocities.com/Heartland/Woods/7822/juke.html>

Great Recipe Site

<http://www.diamondavid.com/bluejay/Sunrise/ucookin2.php>

Newspaper headlines from around the world.

great site to place on your desktop:

<Http://WWW.newseum.org/todaysfrontpages/flash/default.asp>

Newspapers Online

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

Medical Library Association:

Deciphering Medspeak

<http://www.mlanet.org/resources/medspeak/index.html>

Free University Courses

from MIT (Massachusetts Institute of Technology).

If you ever wanted to study anything in college, visit this website. Almost every course taught at MIT is available online for free to the public. You can't get a degree with these courses and you won't have access to the instructors, but the vast amount of knowledge is amazing. These are the actual courses taught at the University...Architecture, Math, Engineering, Literature, Business Management, Biology...plus hundreds more. They even have older courses archived. All the course study materials, course outlines, etc.

<http://ocw.mit.edu/OcwWeb/web/home/home/index.htm>

Photo Editing made Fun and it's free

PICNIC is aimed at the non- expert

You may crop, add borders, correct red eye and add special effects

<http://www.picnik.com>

Well that's all for this month.

Carolyn



The President's Message



Bob Franklin



I want to thank Hugh Rutherford, a former GENCOM President and outstanding genealogist, for his presentation on Native American research at the February meeting. He highlighted the problems that genealogist will encounter while researching Native American ancestors and expanded on many tips to help in a successful research experience. We are always glad to have Hugh as a guest speaker, but we also invite him to become a participating member once again.

The March meeting promises to be a true Saint Patrick's Day celebration. The Ulster Historical Foundation of Northern Ireland will present the program for the March meeting. Featured speakers will be Finlan Mullan, Executive Director and Dr. Brian Trainor. The lecture topics will include: "Emigration from Ulster to North America in the 18th Century", "Irish and Scot-Irish Research 'Not always at the bottom of the pile'", and "Developments in online records for use in Irish genealogy." The lecture will be co-sponsored by GENCOM, Ark-La-Tex Genealogical Association, and Friends of Genealogy. The meeting will be March 15th (3rd Sunday) at the Hamilton/South Caddo Branch Library from 1:30 till 4:30 p.m.

I also want to remind everyone that Don Davis will be conducting a Family Tree Maker class and workshop on Wednesday, March 18th at the Broadmoor Branch Library from 1:00 till 3:00 p.m. This workshop is geared for experienced Family Tree Maker users, as well as beginners. This will be an opportunity to pick up on that advanced Family Tree Maker tricks or just learn the basics.

Here's a little Saint Patrick's Day trivia. Saint Patrick's Blue refers to a blue associated with Saint Patrick, the patron saint of Ireland. Although Saint Patrick is often depicted in green today, before the 20th century the saint was more often shown wearing blue garments. The color green that is associated with Ireland and Saint Patrick's Day in today's times may have caught on through the phrase "the wearing of the green" which means to wear a shamrock on your clothing. It is believed that Saint Patrick used the shamrock, a three-leaved plant, to explain the Holy Trinity.

Happy Saint Patrick's Day!

Bob

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Dues are still just \$15.00

Checks may be sent to Treasurer

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