



2010

# Connections

The Newsletter of GENCOM, The Computer Genealogy Group Shreveport, LA Editor: Patricia Minton Bettis  
<http://www.gencomnla.org>.

## May 23 Meeting

2:00 Sunday Afternoon Hamilton Library

### *Special Memorial Day Program*

**Presented by FOG**

**Friends of Genealogy**

The "WHO/WHAT/WHEN/WHERE/WHY & HOW  
Of Obituary Research "



Friends of Genealogy, Inc. will present our program on May 23, beginning with an introduction to the Find A Grave website followed by an overview of their current obituary project for the Genealogy Department at the Broadmoor Library. This project began with a card file (now containing some 20,000 cards of obituaries from prior years) and in 2009 progressed to searchable files on CDs containing almost 50,000 current obituaries



Clara Woods, Denise Chessen, Brenda Randall, Elsie Jones shown scanning obituaries to place on CDs to preserve them!

# A Truly Altruistic Endeavor

Editor's Note **Patte Bettis**

*I am pleased to have this opportunity to express my admiration for this group. Until the recent formation of TRIGEN, I knew only that they were reputed to be excellent genealogists. When I learned of their Obituary Project I was amazed that they would engage in a project of such vast proportions. Truly this is a Service Organization! Their purpose is to find and preserve the obituaries that hold so much information for coming generations. Such dedication to "The Cause" is most impressive, These ladies give their time and work together, every Thursday morning,, clipping, scanning and placing these records on CDs. They monitor most of the small town newspapers of Louisiana ...a list of these will be available at their program on the 23 rd.*



## **Janine Dunlap, FOG Editor and Webmaster**

Janine Dunlap, took these pictures of the ladies at work and also a picture of the obit card file, at my request.

She says, "We have put some 45,000 to 50,000 obits on CD for the library; I don't have a clue as to the count on the card file, but there are 80 drawers and couple hundred cards per drawer, probably 16,000 to 20,000 cards. We are gathering obits from both online sources and small-town newspapers. We hope this presentation will result in some interest from GENCOM members in volunteering to help preserve these in-print and on-line details that are often "here today and gone tomorrow".

!

".



Obits on file



**Nelda Click and Jimmie Jean Bowman**

The FOG ladies made a trip on April 21-22 to St. Francisville. As a surprise to the historians at Rosedown Plantation, Jimmie Jean Pace Bowman presented them with two large binders on the Turnbull Family. This was the result of many, many years of hard work, honoring her late husband, who was a Turnbull descendant, Nelda Click and other FOG members have done computer research to fill in the missing links, find documents, etc. Since then Jimmie Jean talked by phone to two of the younger family members who are interested in genealogy. This is an example of the group's strong focus on North Louisiana genealogy.



**Clara Woods, Denise Chesson,  
President, Brenda Randall,  
Elsie Jones**

Scenes from the April Meeting  
Don Davis presented



*Washington D.C. Memorials at Cherry Blossom Time  
The History of the Tombstone and  
Interpreting Gravestone Symbols*

Don had prepared a 30 page handout book which will be a valuable addition to any genealogy library. Subjects included: A History of the Tombstone, Cemetery Records and Gravestones as genealogical proof, and How to get started with Cemetery records, other sources. The Symbolism of Gravestones, Dating Gravestones Tomb Stone Rubbing, Photographing Tombstones. Part of his presentation was devoted to Military Cemeteries and the detailed description of the Flag Folding Ceremony. A list of pertinent Web Sites was also included,



We welcome Cathy Williamson, new member,  
guest of Don Zesch



Break Time •-  
Our thanks to Nan and Doug Vaughn



*Carolyn's Corner*  
*Carolyn's Corner*

*Carolyn Franklin*

**This is most interesting!**

<http://www.infoplease.com/yearbyyear.htm> I checked the years my parents and kids were born. Amazing how much we forget.

**To many to count Recipe Resources**

<http://www.wtv-zone.com/Joker/Kitchen.html>

The snipping tool is a program that Microsoft has included in Windows Vista, and Windows 7. The Snipping Tool is a nice little program. You open the program, draw a box around the part of the screen that you want to take a picture of, and it automatically copies it to the clipboard, and opens a window that allows you to add notes to your picture and save it, or even send it in an email. If you are using Windows XP, you can still use some of it's built in tools to do the same thing as the snipping tool.

When you have an image on your screen that you want to save, press the "Print Screen" key on your keyboard. This will copy an image of your entire desktop onto the clipboard. Then just open your favorite image editing program and past the image there. Once you have pasted your image, you can crop it, or make any changes you want before saving it.

Website with Grocery Store Prices

<http://www.grocerysavingtips.com/grocerystores.htm>

**The Haynesville Shale**

If you are someone you know are interested in the Haynesville Shale, here are some Oil & Gas sites.

[http://sonris-www.dnr.state.la.us/www\\_root/sonris\\_portal\\_1.htm](http://sonris-www.dnr.state.la.us/www_root/sonris_portal_1.htm)

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

**Convert Word, Excel and PowerPoint docs to PDF**

If you create a document in any of the listed programs and the recipient does not have that program or a free reader from Microsoft installed on their computer they cannot read your file. However, if you know this you can convert the file to a PDF before you send it and anyone can read it.

<http://www.commerce.uct.ac.za/Services/PDF%20Generator/>

**Nostalgic Music**

*To bring a smile to your face and set your feet a-dancin'* You can make a folder on your computer. I call mine music. After you open this web page, if you see a song that you would like to hear left click on the name then click PLAY

If you want to save it to your music folder, Right click on "Save Target As" and scroll to your folder, click SAVE...

<http://roseck1.tripod.com/jukebox-nostalgia.html>

Enjoy,



## The WENDS of Texas

Two years ago GENCOM focused attention on our German ancestors. We find that most of us have some families who originated in the different provinces. Don Zesch has done extensive research on those who came to Texas and Thais Reinmuth shared with us her recent trip to visit her ancestral German villages a few months ago. Roy Henderson is over there now! if anyone descends from this fascinating group, do let us know (I found this article on the Wendts of Texas in the [Texas Handbook Online](#). If you have not discovered this fabulous research tool... do check it out~).PMB

Early Wends practiced many distinctive customs, of which perhaps the most noticeable to outsiders was the German Lutheran custom of wearing black wedding dresses by Wendish brides—to represent the grief and hardship of marriage!



The Wends (also known as Sorbs or Lusatian Serbs) are a Slavic people concentrated in East Germany near Bautzen and Cottbus in an area long known as Lusatia. They speak Sorbian, which is divided into two dialects, Upper Sorbian and Lower Sorbian. The language was originally written with Gothic letters, although since 1937 the Latin alphabet has been used. Wends have never had an independent nation, and their homeland has always been surrounded by Germans. During the Middle Ages the Wends survived the raids and massacres of German Eastland horsemen; especially during the Nazi years they were pressured to assimilate the German culture, and gradually they have adopted the German language and many customs, although they still retain a separate identity. In 1840, before overseas migration began, there were about 164,000 Wends in Lusatia.

In the 1980s there were only 60,000. Outside Germany, most of the Wends settled in two areas, Australia and Texas. The desire for better economic opportunity was probably the main reason for Wendish immigration to Australia and to Texas a few years later. Although scholars dispute the role of social and religious factors in the process, Texas Wends commonly express the belief that their forefathers came here solely for religious freedom.

Around 1848 small groups of Wends began immigrating to Australia, where many Germans had already settled. These pioneers sent letters home, many of which were published in local newspapers, and which influenced Wends still in Europe. A small group of Wends came to Austin County around 1849–50 and were quickly absorbed into the German community. In 1853 a group of thirty-five Wends left Bremen for Texas. They were shipwrecked off the coast of Cuba, but eventually made their way to Galveston, and from there to the communities of New Ulm and Industry.

In the fall of 1854 a newly established congregation of nearly 600 conservative Lutheran Wends, led by John Kilian, left Germany to join their countrymen in Texas. The group constituted the only mass exodus of Wends.

Traveling first by railway and steamship to Liverpool, England, the Wends embarked on an English ship, the Ben Nevis, for the journey to Texas. While in Liverpool, however, a number of Wends contracted cholera, and seventy-three of them died on board the ship. After a three week stop in Queens-town, Ireland, to remove the sick and fumigate the ship, the Ben Nevis sailed for Galveston, where it

arrived on December 15, 1854. Galveston was having a yellow fever epidemic. From December to January the Wends walked the eighty-five miles to New Ulm and Industry. Two lay leaders of the congregation, Johann Dube and Carl Lehmann, went on ahead thirty miles and purchased a league of land in what is now Lee County. At first services were held in one room of Kilian's two-room house, but the group set aside ninety-five acres for a church and school, later called St. Paul's. This was the first Missouri Synod Lutheran church founded in Texas and is thus the mother church not only of the Wends, but of all conservative Lutherans in Texas. After their first tiny log church was erected, individuals purchased farm acreage and town lots, built crude dugout houses for shelter, and established what became the community of Serbin. In 1860 Serbin had a post office. After 1871, however, a new railroad connection made nearby Giddings the business and commercial center of the region, and Serbin declined in both population and influence.

Over the years, due to religious dissension and economic pressures, the Wends spread throughout south central Texas. Today the leading Wendish centers are in Lee, Fayette, Williamson, Coryell, and Bell counties, especially in the towns of Serbin, Warda, Giddings, Fedor, Manheim, Loebau, Lincoln, Winchester, La Grange, Thorndale, Walburg, Copperas Cove, The Grove, Vernon, Swiss Alp, New Ulm, Industry, Noack, and Aleman. Substantial numbers of people of Wendish descent also live in Houston, Austin, and Port Arthur. While most Wends consider themselves Germans, they have maintained an ethnic identity. Early restrictions against intermarriage have relaxed over the years. Nevertheless, many individuals still claim there have been no intermarriages in their families since the arrival of the Ben Nevis.

Early Wends practiced many distinctive customs, of which perhaps the most noticeable to outsiders was the German Lutheran custom of wearing black wedding dresses by Wendish brides to represent the grief and hardship of marriage. This custom died out by the 1890s. Religious conservatism militated against wearing bright colors, dancing, secular singing, or any other kind of frivolity. The Wends valued education, and today St. Paul's still has an accredited parochial school. Church congregations regularly paid for the higher education of promising young men who wanted to become pastors or teachers. In the 1980s Concordia Lutheran College in Austin still received considerable Wendish support.

The proximity of German neighbors eventually resulted in cultural assimilation and adaptation. At the time of their migration, most of the Wends spoke Wendish and German, and those who spoke only Wendish learned German after they moved to Texas. Most of the Wends in Serbin and all of the Wends who settled elsewhere had adopted German as their primary language by the time of World War I. The shift from Wendish to German is documented in the Giddings *Deutsches Volksblatt*, the principal German-language paper in the area. The newspaper, although largely written in German, also contained articles or letters in Wendish. Wendish, however, was gradually supplanted, reflecting the general shift to German language. By the 1930s the language had begun to die out in Texas, and few people remained who were still completely fluent. In the 1980s only a few people could still speak the language. In rural Wendish areas German continued to be used for church services until after World War II, but today it has also largely died out. The Texas Wendish Heritage Society, founded in 1971, actively seeks to preserve and, whenever possible, revive remnants of the Wendish culture.

One project involves an attempt to translate and publish all early Wendish documents. The society, which had about 350 members in 1994, maintains a Wendish museum at Serbin and annually participates in the Folklife Festival of the University of Texas Institute of Texan Cultures at San Antonio. The art of Easter egg painting has been maintained as a Wendish tradition. Wendish Fest, an annual festival held at Serbin in September, celebrates the Wendish heritage of the area.

BIBLIOGRAPHY: Anne Blasig, *The Wends of Texas* (San Antonio: Naylor,

1954; rpt., Brownsville: Springman-King Printing, 1981). George Charles



Texas Wildflowers April 2010  
All you Texans Enjoy!  
(Courtesy of Roy Henderson)



April 14, 2010

## Digitizing a 1778 Shipwreck on Cape Cod

The mighty British man-of-war HMS Somerset was wrecked off Truro, Massachusetts in 1778 during the Revolutionary War. With 64 mounted guns and a crew of about 400, the Somerset was a very large British warship.



It was involved in several notable battles of the Seven Years War and the American Revolutionary War.

On the night of 18 April 1775, Paul Revere rowed across Boston's Back Bay, quietly passing the anchored HMS Somerset in the darkness. Once he reached land, Revere jumped on a horse, and rode to spread the alarm of the next day's battles in Lexington and Concord. Had the night sentry on board the HMS Somerset been more alert to the nearby rowboat, the course of American history could have been dramatically different.

The HMS Somerset also served as the flagship of Admiral Samuel Graves at the Battle of Bunker Hill. During the battle, the Somerset fired its guns toward the American's newly constructed fortification. However, the vessel's cannons could not be elevated high enough to reach the hilltop ramparts and proved little more than a loud nuisance to the Americans preparing for battle.

The HMS Somerset was wrecked when she ran aground on Cape Cod in a storm in 1778. At least 21 sailors perished attempting to escape the foundering ship via long boat. However, many of the crew survived the violent grounding. As the sky cleared the following day, a detachment of militia marched to the site and, under the command of Captain Enoch Hallett, the survivors of Somerset were taken as prisoners of war.

The ship was visible for some years but eventually was swallowed by the shifting sands of Cape Cod. A few days ago, the currents on Cape Cod uncovered the wreck of H.M.S. Somerset. More than a dozen heavy, water-soaked ship timbers were sticking out of the sand at low tide recently. The timbers, most likely uncovered by the heavy winter storms, last poked up out of the sand about five years ago. They also appeared once in the 1970s and once in the 1870s.

The ship was visible for some years but eventually was swallowed by the shifting sands of Cape Cod. A few days ago, the currents on Cape Cod uncovered the wreck of H.M.S. Somerset. More than a dozen heavy, water-soaked ship timbers were sticking out of the sand at low tide recently. The timbers, most likely uncovered by the heavy winter storms, last poked up out of the sand about five years ago. They also appeared once in the 1970s and once in the 1870s.

The National Park Service is taking the opportunity to have the wreck scanned. Land surveyors hired by the Cape Cod National Seashore created the first digital archive of the remaining visible timbers of the wreck using a three-dimensional laser scanner. The surveyors also identified the wreck's exact longitude and latitude measurements using global positioning, according to the Cape Cod Times.

The idea is to create the first permanent digital archive of the wreck of a ship that played a critical role along the East Coast during the War of American Independence. The digital archive can be used by future researchers and historians. It provides precise, 3-D images of the wreck if it were to ever be destroyed — or disappear, never to return.

Posted by Dick Eastman on April 14, 2010

# GENEVENTS

May 8: ALTGA (Randle T. Moore Center at 1:00pm; Reed Mathews; "A Peek at the 1940 Census"

- May 15: ALTGA (Broadmoor Branch Library 9:30am - 12:30pm); Beginner's Genealogy Class - (Pre- registration at Broadmoor Library Required)

May 22: ALTGA (Broadmoor Branch Library 9:30am - 12:30pm); Theme: "How to Become a Good Genealogist or Family Historian" includes Q & A Panel with moderator: Phil Adderley; NGS Home Study Course Display; "Local, State, Regional, and National Learning Opportunities"; plus a guided tour of the Genealogy Department (Pre-Registration at Broadmoor Library Recommended)

May 23 GENCOM Monthly meeting with FOG describing their obituary preservation project and showing use of Find-A-Grave. Lise Taylor will introduce the program and give an overview of the project

August 14: ALTGA Annual Seminar: Speaker - John Sellers, Location: Broadmoor Methodist Church, 3715 Youree Drive, Shreveport (Note: More details to follow)

- October 16 GENFEST Annual GENCOM Fall Festival "Dinner on the Grounds" and all day displays and events scheduled.

Judy Riffel, editor of Le Comite' des Archives de la Louisiane, Inc compiles meetings from the Genealogical/Historical societies in Louisiana on a quarterly basis and lists them on a pdf file at <http://www.lecomite.org/>

*Thanks to Jim Johnson for some calendar entries*

***WHO DO YOUR THINK YOU ARE?** Has ended for the season, You will find a final wrap-up of the programs (citing sources) in Suzanne Adams letter on our webpage <http://www.gencomnla.org>.*

.Lise` @ The Library  
*Lise` Taylor*



[https://www.ci.shreveport.la.us/cmt\\_web/internet\\_disclaimer.asp](https://www.ci.shreveport.la.us/cmt_web/internet_disclaimer.asp)

Are you one of those researchers looking for family members in the city owned cemeteries of Shreveport - It's 2 am and no one is in Genealogy for you to call to look up you family name, well fear no more - there is a website maintained by the city that lists most of your loved ones interred in Greenwood, Oakland and Jewella. I say most because they are still working on completing the project.

[https://www.ci.shreveport.la.us/cmt\\_web/internet\\_disclaimer.asp](https://www.ci.shreveport.la.us/cmt_web/internet_disclaimer.asp) use this link to the website, read their disclaimer and then click the continue button on the lower right hand side to the screen, this takes you to the next screen, giving you the choice to search by Section, Deceased Name, Interment Date or ID. Click the radio button next to your search choice; this automatically takes you to the next screen. Follow normal search patterns from there.

It's easy and so nice to be able to do at home. Just remember we miss you when you don't come to the Genealogy Department.



## The President's Message



*Roy Henderson*



When you receive this month's CONNECTIONS, our son Roy and I will be in the western part of Europe. If we can manage it, we will take a trip to Kropp and Berganhusen, Schleswig-Holstein in northern Germany, just south of Denmark. We will try to find the Reimer and Aye ancestral homes, pre 1610 to the present. Perhaps we will locate some of Roy's Reimer cousins and perhaps their surviving parents, many of whom were visited by my late wife Dorothy and her aunt Margaret Aye Reimer in 1953.

Much of today has been studying old maps, photos, birth & death certificates, four certificates of citizenship and letters that have been collected over the years by Dorothy and me. There is even an Ellis Island Passenger Record that shows her Uncle Hans Reimer's age on arrival from his place of residence, Kropp, S-H, Germany, the Ship of Travel (Tyrrhenia) from the Port of Hamburg arriving on November 19, 1923, his age and manifest number 0029. I am trying to locate a journal that Dorothy wrote during her three months in Germany 57 years ago. Perhaps one of our sons has it now. That is okay for the whole idea for the visit is to meet, photograph and conduct oral interviews so that it can all be pulled together in a bound binder for the four sons and our grandchildren.

The family of five Reimers that we knew in this country has all passed away. Dorothy's mother, Dora Aye Reimer gave a descendants chart to me that was created after World War II that re established old Reimer family properties confiscated during the Russian occupation of their area of Germany. The chart showed all the Reimers, spouses and children for five generations. The chart document was the first hand source for being able to post our children's five Reimer – Engelland ancestors and three generations of Aye-Hansen ancestors and decacy.

The notes, material and the maternal lineage or our immediate family of four sons and their children will be lost if it is not organized into some sort of publication and an organized file that can be protected for the future. The challenge for all of us is to research, collect, record, organize, file and publish what we find into a readable text for our families and their succeeding generations. I am so grateful that my mother in law made the property secession chart available to me. Hopefully there is more information waiting for us in Schleswig-Holstein.

*Roy L. Henderson*

*April 24, 2010*

# GENCOM

## Officers

2009-2010

President: Roy Henderson

Vice President: Jim Jones

Treasurer: Charles Byrd

Membership Chairmen  
Margaret Mc Gilvray

Jean Whitaker

FTM Consultant :

Don Davis

Social Chairmen:

Nan and Doug Vaughn

Technical Consultant:

Bernie Conradi

Historian: Jeanice Vaughn

"Connections" Editor:

Patricia Bettis

pmbettis@comcast.net

"Connections" Columnists:

Carolyn Franklin

Lise` Taylor

Dues are still just \$15.00

Checks may be sent to Treasurer

Charles Byrd

2529 Brown Circle

Bossier City, LA. 71111