



Connections

The Newsletter of GENCOM, The Computer Genealogy Group

Editor: Patricia Minton Bettis

REVISITING
GENFEST
2008

November 8
Saturday 10 to 4:00
Hamilton Library
Featuring

***“Genealogy
For a Wired World”***



Thanks to
Everyone who made our
annual GENFEST
memorable!

To
All of you who came
early to set up the room,
Who brought your com-
puters and displays .—
To our experts who
shared their knowledge
so generously

And to you who brought
your special gourmet
dishes that made
“Dinner on the Grounds”
A veritable feast!

We enjoyed visiting with
each other and exchang-
ing genealogical and
computer related tips.

We would love to have
your suggestions for
Future GENFESTS!

GENFEST 2008



Genfest

2008

*Thanks to Roy Henderson
and Don Davis for some
of these pictures from
GENFEST!*



Dinner on The Grounds



GENEALOGY



Bob Franklin conducted the 2:00 business meeting and introduced Julious Windham who gave an update on his fascinating DNA project.. He has found another Windham descendant who went to England recently and shared records of their common ancestor Lord Wyndham of Wotton. They have traced this line to the 1400s! Discoveries such as this make Genealogy most exciting.

Don Davis helping special guest Martha Fitzgerald begin use of Family Tree Maker. Martha is a writer and former columnist for The Shreveport Times.



Congratulations to our favorite couple Julious and Thelma Windham on their 60th Wedding Anniversary!

2008



Wayne Gramling telling Patte Bettis about his trips to Ireland and Germany to visit the birth places of his ancestors!



Glenda Conradi spent the day sharing her phenomenal knowledge of cameras and photography techniques.

She and Windows guru Bernie were kept very busy answering our many questions on computer and digital camera usage. GENCOM thanks them both for their generous support!



Carolyn Franklin, who was in charge of our fabulous Dinner on the Grounds! With the help of Thelma and Julious Windham, and Dorothy Rosson



The October Q&A led by Roy Henderson

Roy asked that the questions be submitted before the meeting. The 14 questions addressed covered a wide variety of subjects including Family Tree Maker, photography, E-mail, Newsgroups, printers, and how to substitute for the A drive on the new computers. A good mix of computer related and genealogical queries resulted in interesting discussions on many topics. Several members suggested that we make this type of program an annual affair.



Web Resources

From The St Louis Genealogy Newsletter
(With special permission from Bob Goode)
Contributed by Don Zesch

The Massachusetts Vital Records Project
at www.mavitalrecords.org is a site to visit
if you have ancestors in early Massachusetts.

The records date from 1600–1849.



As per my usual recommendation, start with the FAQ button on the main page. You can search by either town or surname. The source information at this site is derivative. While you will not see the digitized image of the vital record, you can view the page of the *Tan Books*.

These *Tan Books* were compiled in the early 1900s from both government and private town records. For genealogists, the *Tan Books* area wonderful source of vital records. If you know the town of an ancestor, then start the search by clicking on the town search link. This takes you to the surname index for the town. Find your surname and continue until you select the digitized page of the town's *Tan Book*. In exploring several towns and multiple surnames, there were several pages "not found." However, the editor of the site indicates that the information is constantly being updated. By knowing the town, you can immediately see if the town is contained in the site database. If you do not know the town, then the surname link provides an alternate route to your ancestor's vital record information.

Staying in New England, there is *Rays Place* at www.raysplace.com. Ray Brown is sharing over 5,000 pages of research on New England history and genealogy. He states that the local history section is very good as "they talk about a lot of people in areas where no records were kept in the early years." The layout of the site is simple and easy to navigate. He claims to have over 1,500 local town histories.

Investigating some of the histories, I found most of them to be only a few paragraphs. I did find a couple of town histories with PDF download links. Both of these histories were more substantial in their detail. If you have some ancestors from New England, this is a site to explore. A fifteen-volume digitized collection titled *Colonial Connecticut Records* is available at www.colonialct.uconn.edu/default.cfm These are the colony's public records from April 1636 to October 1776. The home page allows you to browse the fifteen volumes. While you have other search options, I recommend you browse the A–Z index link. Select the index for the time period of your ancestor and click on the letter of the alphabet for the surname. If you find information, you can download a high resolution graphic image (TIFF) of the page(s). For individuals with ancestors in colonial Connecticut, this site presents great opportunity. For the last few months, I have been emphasizing the wealth of information being digitized and placed on the Internet. . Send those ideas to me at webresources@stlgs.org. Thanks. *Bob Goode*

Happy Thanksgiving!

Greetings All:

Bob and Carolyn are enjoying Autumn in the beautiful Smoky Mountains, so we will not have a President's message or Carolyn's Corner this month.

There will be a December issue of Connections. But remember- we do not meet that month.

Lets all enjoy this time to leisurely prepare for a lovely Holiday Season ! Patte Bettis

Genealogy Regrets

According to an informal online poll conducted by genealogist Mark Fearer from Colorado ,here are the top regrets most genealogists have, in order:

1. Not interviewing family members
2. Not citing sources (at all or enough)
3. Not being organized
4. Not noting negative results
5. Not taking genealogy classes sooner
6. Not photocopying records
7. Not keeping a research log
8. Not researching collateral families
9. Not critically evaluating published sources
10. Not identifying photos before it's too late

It's a good idea for all of us to learn from our mistakes, so if you see yourself on this list, remember, it's never too late to right a wrong.

News 'n Notes November 2008 {Thanks to Don Zesch }

GENCOM

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Dues are still just \$15.00

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Happy Thanksgiving **GENCOM**



Thanksgiving in the U.S.

Those of us who are in or from the United States will be celebrating Thanksgiving this week. We don't usually think of this as a genealogy holiday. However, when you think about it, there is a strong "ancestral" connotation involved, even for those of us whose ancestors did not travel on the Mayflower in 1620.

Thanksgiving is a time when we pay homage to all our ancestors who traveled to a strange land to find a better life for themselves, for their children, and for succeeding generations. This is equally true for ancestors who arrived in the twentieth century as well as earlier years. We should all give thanks to our ancestors for helping to establish our American way of life and ensuring that we are a part of it. I would also suggest that Thanksgiving is a perfect time to ask family members what they remember about departed ancestors. This is especially true if there are elder family members at your Thanksgiving table. You may learn more across the Thanksgiving table than you could glean in a dozen visits to a local Family History Center. Best of all, you can learn the personal stories and other tidbits that were never recorded in public records. *Dick Eastman*