

March, 2007

March 25 Meeting 2:00 Hamilton Library

DON DAVIS presents: DNA Research 101

Don Davis will explain in layman terms what Y-DNA is and how it will be used in the future.

With the growing popularity of genetic genealogy, science has become a bigger part of roots research than ever before. Thus far, genealogists have concentrated on finding genetic matches within specific surname groups. This will prove the existence of families in specific areas within countries.

Not only can history hint at genetic links, DNA can point to previously unrecognized episodes in your families past "Oddball test results sometimes signal non-paternity events, Such as adoption, name change, illegitimacies. Through this program you can link with unexpected people and places through DNA testing.

AND

For our computer segment: Bob Franklin will shed some light on Vista!

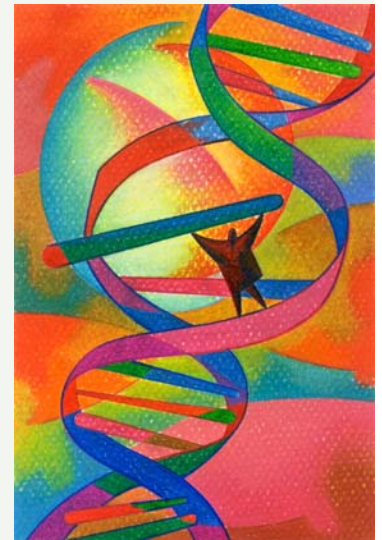
The February Meeting with Marguerite Hudson

I regret that so many of our group were ill and unable to attend the February meeting. Marguerite Hudson' reviewed her new book about her Civil War grand parents "Whiskey Chitto Woman," but actually devoted most of her time to responding to



my request for tips and advice on writing our family stories.

It was a privilege to have such expert advice! She really inspired me to study the art of composition and learn the craft. Perhaps we can persuade her to come and speak to us again at our October GENFEST!



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Lost Cousins

: LostCousins

To: GENCOM The Computer Genealogy Group

LostCousins - a new approach to US genealogy



Who better to help you research your family tree than someone who shares the same ancestors?

The LostCousins website has a unique system that identifies living relatives who share the same ancestors automatically, confidentially, and with close to 100% accuracy.

Recognising that everyone has their own approach to research, and that the very flexibility of the GEDCOM format means that no two files are alike, LostCousins spotted the potential of census data as a way of simply and accurately linking together people who share the same ancestors.

And to ensure that as many people as possible have access to the census data, LostCousins focuses on censuses that are available at the free FamilySearch website.

It's a very simple system - but one that's amazingly powerful. LostCousins members enter brief details for their relatives taken from the census transcripts, then click the Search button. Matches with other members who share the same ancestors are identified within seconds, and - because the data is saved - to search again at any point in the future requires little more than a click of the Search button!

Although LostCousins is new to the US, the system is tried and tested - thousands of researchers with British ancestry have found living relatives through the site since it first opened. The accuracy has been amazing - only a handful of incorrect matches have been reported.

LostCousins was founded in 2004 by Peter Calver, a British researcher who has visited the US more than 40 times over the past quarter of a century. He stills runs the site, and is really excited about this latest expansion: "This is the moment I've been waiting for! With the addition of the US we now cover most of the English-speaking world - it's an amazing opportunity for our members to discover living relatives without having to work through hundreds of false leads".

Using data from just one census is like taking a snapshot of a family tree. And because everyone takes the snapshot at the same time - 1880 in the case of the US census, or 1881 for Britain and Canada - the sophisticated software behind the LostCousins site can quickly identify people who share the same ancestors, even if those ancestors died long before 1880.

Registration and basic membership of LostCousins are completely free. However there are advantages to becoming a paying subscriber, and to celebrate the addition of the US census members who enter the code 1776 when registering will receive a free upgrade to subscriber status that lasts until April 30, 2007.

The LostCousins website can be found at: <http://www.LostCousins.com>

From The St Louis GENSOC Newsletter

Contributed by Don Zesch

By now, it's an old story, but the good news about genealogy on the Internet is "There is a lot of information." The bad news is "There is a lot of information." When you search for an ancestor's surname within a general search engine, among the relevant hits you may find actual records— such as the death certificates posted by the State Archives of Missouri (see Web Resources, May 2006). You are also likely to get hits on any number of sites that allow users to post their family tree information.

One of these, the LDS site, <www.familysearch.org>, should be well

known to most. This column will cover three others: GenCircles <www.gencircles.com/>, WorldConnect <<http://worldconnect.rootsweb.com/cgi-bin/igm.cgi>>, and GeneaNet <www.geneanet.org>.

All three sites allow registered users to upload GEDCOM files of their family trees, and in all cases registration is free.

GeneaNet claims 139,935,420 entries; WorldConnect claims 472,045,366 names and 4,465,025 surnames; I found no stats at GenCircles. GeneaNet is easily the least useful of the three. The search is only name and/or town. There are several other types of searches. However, those are available only with a paid membership of about \$50 per year.

The GenCircles search has fields for first name, last name, father, mother, spouse, birth year and place, death year and place, and one other (marriage, burial, baptism) year and place. You may specify a year field as exact or +/- 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 10, 15, or 20 years. You may choose to include only people with a selectable combination of descendants, notes, or sources. However, a major weakness is that names must be exact. The

FAQ page gives a good overview of what you need

to know for this site.

WorldConnect's search has the same fields with a few differences.

While there are a few less choices for year ranges and no burial or baptism options, there are some significant improvements. The surname can be specified as exact, Soundex, or Metaphone. You can omit living people and omit results where one of the places is blank. You can skip a specific

database (a useful option if you have submitted your own, or if you have already evaluated another). You can restrict to results updated recently (five choices). A "fuzzy search" option applies Soundex to all fields except the surname. The help page is extensive and very useful.

Of course, since the data on these sites has been posted by individual researchers, the quality of the data, and especially the documentation of same, varies greatly. I never take what I find on the Internet (primary source records excepted)

as anything more than a clue. Another potential benefit is that the sites provide contact information on the submitters. What can be downloaded varies by site and by submitter within sites.

With apologies to the Bard: To post or not to post, that is the question.

That is an individual issue I have seen discussed and debated in many

forums. The one caution I would provide is to NOT post information on living individuals. I believe most genealogy programs allow you to do privacy filtering in creating a GEDCOM file. GenCircles and WorldConnect allow you to specify privacy levels; I could not find any such information

at GeneaNet. Do you have a favorite site to recommend? On what type of site would

you like information? Send those suggestions to me at

Special Offer for Genealogist Authors

From the Allen Co. Library in Ft. Wayne Indiana -- one of the largest Genealogy repositories. Also, it is set up like a library, not an archives. Their catalog is online as well and you may do some heavy preparation before visiting the library. The newsletters tell of motels in the area and feature a new one each month. Most discount for genealogists. For those who have published, sending the library a copy of your book is a great way to make sure your work will be viewed by many interested people.

I want to take this opportunity to remind you of a long-standing service of the Allen County Public Library. For many decades, individuals who have not had a desire to officially publish their genealogical work have sent an unbound "master copy" to the Historical Genealogy Department. In exchange for the privilege of allowing us to make one photocopy for our collection, we provide the compiler of the work with one complementary, bound photocopy for his or her collection in addition to returning the original master.

It is a great way to make sure your work is preserved and available for future generations of researchers. In addition, having a copy at our library ensures your work is secure from any disaster that might, heaven forbid, befall your personal library. What to do with the extra copy? How about a "draft" book to pass around at the next family reunion for others to comment upon and update? Or a little surprise gift for the relative or family friend who really helped you out?

If you are interested in taking advantage of this service, just mail your unbound "master copy" to Steve Myers, Assistant Manager, Historical Genealogy Department, P. O. Box 2270, Fort Wayne, IN 46801-2270. Include a note that simply reads, "Photocopy Exchange Program." You'll be glad you did--and we will certainly be glad you did!

Curt B. Witcher

Manager, Historical Genealogy Department

NE Director, Indiana Genealogical Society

Allen County Public Library P. O. Box 2270, 200 E. Berry Street Fort Wayne, IN 46801-2270

CWitcher@ACPL.Lib.in.us 260-421-1226 Fax: 260-421-1386

Online catalogue and homepage: <http://www.acpl.lib.in.us/>

-The Allen County Public Library Historical Genealogy Department in Fort Wayne, Indiana is pleased to announce their electronic newsletter, "Genealogy Gems: News from the Fort Wayne Library." To subscribe to this mailing list send a message with ACPL NEWSLETTER SUBSCRIBE in the subject line to: kspears@acpl.lib.in.us. You will NOT receive a confirmation message; you will just begin to receive the newsletters, which are scheduled to be published



Second or Middle Names



The Devil Is Knocking

Some years ago I asked the question about why so many in earlier years were known by their second name. The response I received may or may not be valid, but it explained in part why in many families siblings of the same sex had the same first name, but had and were known by their second name. For example, male siblings might be called Jean George and Jean Christopher while female siblings might be Mary (Marie) Elizabeth or Mary (Marie) Christina. I might add that in the times I refer to, people in general may have been more religious than many of us are today.

In any case, the idea was that people would be known by their family, friends and themselves by their second name. As such they would normally respond when called by their second name. When the Devil came calling he would know only the first name and would call for the individuals using the first name. Being used to responding only to their second name, when hearing their first name the individual would not respond to the call of the Devil.

Valid explanation or not? Your guess is as good as mine. It does however have a certain logic and believability to it.

This is an Irish legend... for you Irish celebrating St Patricks Day!

US Census Records Mortality Schedules 1850-1880

Finding Deceased People in Non-population Census Records

For the census years 1850, 1860, 1870 and 1880, names and some basic details were recorded for some people who died in the year prior to the census being taken (not all states are included). These records usually have the deceased person's name, age, sex, race, occupation, month of death, cause of death and sometimes other details. Note that some deceased people may have been missed when these schedules were taken.

These census mortality schedules generally cover these dates...

* June 1, 1849 - May 31, 1850

* June 1, 1859 - May 31, 1860

* June 1, 1869 - May 31, 1870

* June 1, 1879 - May 31, 1880

The schedules are not available for all states and years - see the listings below for what states are covered.

Census Mortality Schedules Online

Some census mortality schedules are available online as part of Ancestry's US genealogy records collection...

U.S. Federal Census Mortality Schedules 1850-1880 (requires payment)
A subscription to this database also includes online access to indexes of the census records 1790-1930, and digitized images of the census records from the microfilm. Ancestry's Mortality Schedules Database presently includes some records for various years from these states... Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kansas Territory, Kentucky, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Montana Territory, Nebraska, Nebraska Territory, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Utah Territory, Vermont, Virginia, and Washington Territory.

Census Mortality Schedules on Microfilm

You can find these records on microfilm from the National Archives and the LDS Family History Library (FHL) in Salt Lake City. The FHL microfilms can be ordered from local LDS Family History Centers for viewing and photocopying for a fee. To find these records do a place search for the state you are looking for in the Family History Library Catalog. Click on the state's name and look for the census topics. Then click on the census year you need and then on the "Federal mortality census schedules" listings. You may also find these records listed under the "vital records" topic in the FHL catalog for a specific state. Be aware that these census mortality schedules are not available for all states and years. Here is a list of states that have some census mortality schedules available for various years from 1850-1885 - not all states are covered for all years. You'll need to check the microfilm catalog...

NARA FEES BEING RAISED!

Several members suggested that our members be warned about this significant increase. IF you are planning to order your ancestors pension record... it might be wise to order it NOW!

RESEARCHERS TAKE NOTE!

NARA is increasing fixed-fee order fees, the minimum mail order fee, and fees for self-service and common NARA-made reproductions. Fixed fee reproductions consist of records from high-demand bodies of GENEALOGICAL records

Everyone in the genealogical community is encouraged to submit comments by April 27, 2007, and to spread the word to others to do the same.

Proposed fees:

TYPE OF RECORD, ORDER FORM, FEE

- (1) Passenger arrival lists
NATF Form 81 \$25.00
- (2) Federal Census requests
NATF Form 82 \$25.00
- (3) Eastern Cherokee applications to the Court of Claims
NATF Form 83 \$25.00
- (4) Land entry records
NATF Form 84 \$40.00 (!)
- (5) Full pension file more than 75 years old (Civil War period)
NATF Form 85
\$125.00 (!)
- (6) Full pension file more than 75 years old (non-Civil War)
NATF Form 85 \$60.00 (!)
- (7) Pension documents packet (selected records).
NATF Form 85 \$25.00
- (8) Bounty land warrant application files NATF Form 85 \$25.00
- (9) Military service files more than 75 years old
NATF Form 86 \$125.00

Bounty land warrant application files

NATF Form 85 \$25.00

(9) Military service files more than 75 years old

NATF Form 86 \$25.00

Present fees

(from <http://www.archives.gov/research/order/fees.html>):

Passenger arrival lists

NATF Form 81 \$17.25

Federal Census requests

NATF Form 82 17.50

Eastern Cherokee applications to the Court

of Claims NATF Form 83 \$17.50

Land entry records NATF 84 \$17.50

Land entry records

NATF 84 \$17.75

Bounty land warrant application files

NATF Form 85 \$17.25

Pension files more than 75 years old (complete file)

NATF Form 85 \$37.00

Pension documents packet

NATF Form 85 \$14.75

Military service files
more than 75 years
old\ NATF Form 86
\$17.00

Gettysburg Update

Gettysburg has won the Battle over the casinos. The Pennsylvania gambling regulators have rejected the proposal for a slot-machine casino near Gettysburg. Preservationists and historians rejoice at this victory.

THE BATTLE OF PLEASANT HILL

Re-enactment April 13, 14, 15,th 2007

(The 27th year of celebration and re-enactment)

Event Co-ordination Scott Solice

School Day April 13 Friday

This event draws a large number of children from Sabine, Red River, Natchitoches. Parishes.

School Day is Scott's special project, he feels this day enhances the opportunity to educate the younger generations on the importance of keeping history alive.

The Battle of Pleasant Hill is a tax exempt organization under section 501C (3) of the IRS code. Totally funded by area businesses and friends who donate funds for the re-enactment events.



Alice Smith Byrd

Our little group is saddened by the passing of Alice Smith Byrd, wife of our GENCOM Treasurer...and treasured friend Charles Byrd. Alice had been ill for some time, and suffered a stroke from which she did not recover.

Alice was born and raised in Brookhaven, MS. She and Charles were married in Jackson in April, 1950 and moved to Shreveport in 1968.

She leaves a daughter Connie Beauregard, husband Jonathan, and three fine grandsons, Jonathan II, Charles Alex, and Jackson., who live in Stonewall, and a sister, Maxine Paschall, of Jackson, MS.

Services and burial took place in Jackson on March 13.

Our sympathy is with Charles in his loss. We will remember Alice fondly!



The President's Message

Patricia Bettis



I had a call from Gerald Fussell, our first president this week. As you may remember he spoke to us at GENFEST in October, It seems that a lady in the audience who is a member of the Power Squadron asked him about speaking to their group on the Coast Geodetic Survey. He didn't get her name and wonders if she would like to get in contact with him. *I cant think who this might have been. If you read this send me an e-mail and I will put you in touch with Gerald.*

As I mentioned previously, the flu seemed to strike our members this month, Robert Franklin was also on the sick list the day of our February meeting..... and we became acutely aware of how much he does for us.. Not only has he been setting up the room but he seems to be the only person who can connect the computers and projector properly. Our guest speakers arrived early, then soon after Julious and Dorothy Rosson arrived with the refreshments. There was no one except Julious to get out the chairs and the tables for sign in etc. I will always be indebted to him for setting up the room for us that day. I am at a loss as to know what can be done about the situation. It distresses me greatly to see our members struggling to put up the chairs and I thank each of you who have been so gracious about it,

I have spoken to a librarian questioning the reason for the present ruling for the chairs not being left out.....and will pursue the issue to a higher level. If anyone has an idea for a solution, please tell us.

Until a change in policy is implemented; We would be happy to hire someone for \$20/ \$25 on a Sunday afternoon. We appreciate the facilities of the Library and sincerely hope we can find a solution to the problem. PMB

GENCOM

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2006-2007

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Thelma Windham

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Carolyn Franklin

Historian: Jeanice Vaughn

Newsletter Editor: Patricia Bettis

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Our dues are still just \$15.00

The GENCOM year

begins in July

Checks may be sent to Treasurer

Charles Byrd

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