



Connections

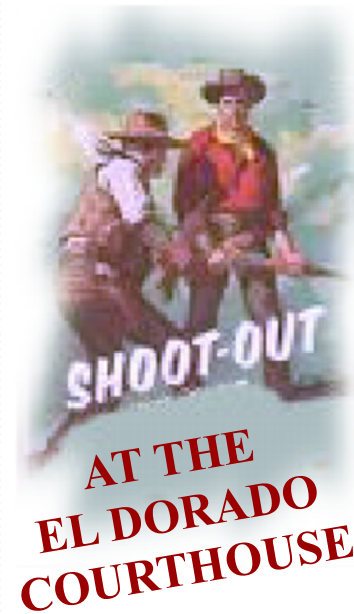
The Newsletter of GENCOM, The Computer Genealogy Group Shreveport, LA Editor: Patricia Minton Bettis

February 24 Meeting
2:00 Sunday afternoon
Hamilton Library
Jim Jones
Presents



THE 1902 GUNFIGHT ON THE EL DORADO COURTHOUSE SQUARE

*The Story of the Parnell-Tucker feud in Union
County Arkansas*



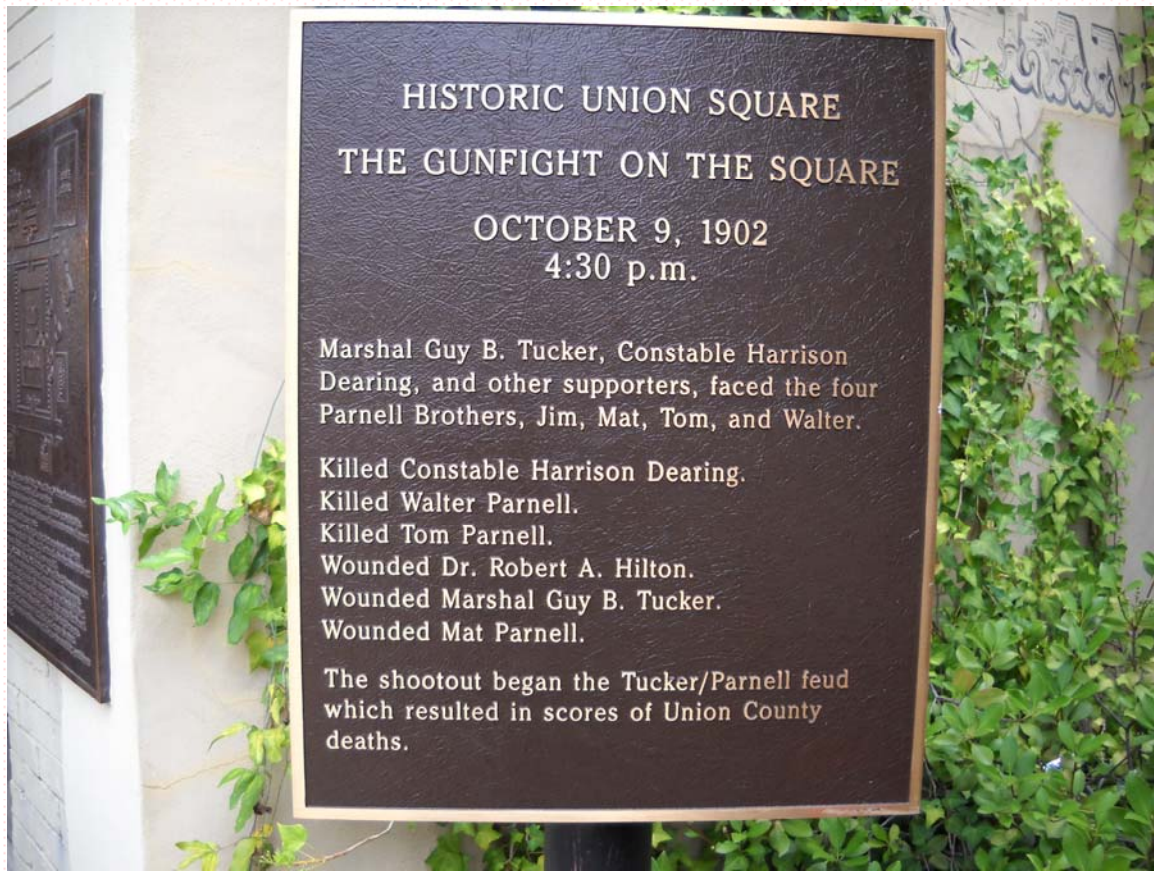
On Thursday October 9, 1902, a blazing gunfight erupted on the courthouse square in downtown El Dorado Arkansas.

On one side was City Marshal Guy B. Tucker, his friend Constable Harrison Dearing and other supporters. On the other side were four of the Parnell brothers, part of a family of local business men and farmers.

The gunfight grew out of a complicated series of events that included a romantic triangle and an argument over a sidewalk.

Three men died that day and it sparked a long running feud in Union County.

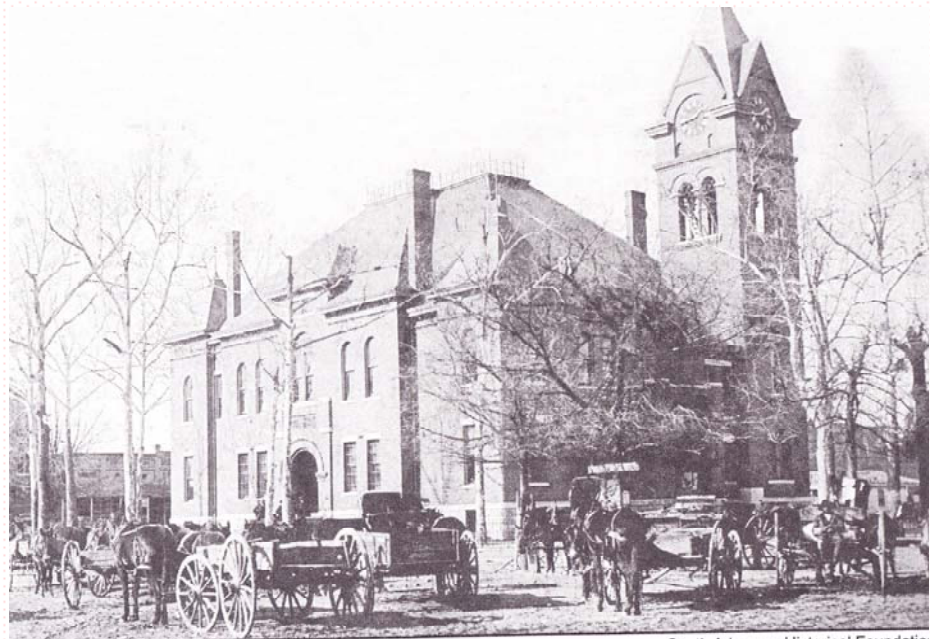
Jim's Great-Aunt Rebecca Ann Jones Parnell was mother of the four brothers....He will present the story from the Parnell point of view!



Plaque that has been erected next to the courthouse square in El Dorado showing some of the details of the gunfight

This is a picture of the El Dorado, Union County, Arkansas as it was in the early 1900's.

The gunfight took place on sidewalk on the right hand side of the courthouse. Plaque next to the courthouse square in El Dorado showing participants and details of the gunfight.



South Arkansas Historical Foundation



This is the perfect time to thank someone who has done so much for GENCOM!

In the seventeen years of existence, our only problem has been in finding a suitable meeting room. We have met in many different places. The logical and preferred spot would be the Broadmoor Library with its fabulous Genealogical collection. However, the stringent regulations concerning the setup of the room made it impossible for us... (For some unknown reason there is a rule set in stone, that the library meeting rooms can not be left with chairs and tables set up and ready for the next use. Everything must be removed and carefully stacked). And there is no one available who could be hired to do it. So, we gave up and moved to Hamilton where we thought we had someone to set up (In addition, Hamilton had a much needed projector at our disposal)

We were quite pleased, initially. However, after a few months we lost the setup person and again we had to rely on some of our younger members to set up the chairs and tables.. A most unsatisfactory arrangement for all concerned. We tried desperately to hire someone with no results for several months. I made a final desperate plea for help In Connections-. Hallie Bellotte responded that she had prevailed on her grandson Josh Stewart to take the job. Words cant express my gratitude. I had watched as some of our members quit coming because they were unable to set up the heavy chairs. And several with heart and knee problems were doing it though they shouldn't,.. and many of us feeling embarrassed because we just couldn't help!

I really had feared that we couldn't continue as things were!

I am sure that most of you who walk in a few minutes till 2:00 to the carefully setup meeting never question who prepared it. I thought you should all know what Hallie has done for us in bringing in her fine, grandson. Tall, handsome Josh joined the Marines in November and is now in training in Paris Island, S.C... It was a pleasure to get to know him and we pray for his safety.

We welcome his younger brother Jonathan who is replacing him.

Our Thanks to Hallie Josh and Jonathan!

Patte Bettis

Scenes from the January Meeting: "Thais' trip to Germany"



Jim Jones reminded us that this is the year that we will write our family histories, and invited us to consult the suggestions offered in the display of books on writing, reviewed and selected by Jim and Roy Henderson.

Every genealogist dreams of "Visiting the Ancestral Village"---and hopefully finding other descendants of your family living there! Last summer, Thais Reinmuth did just that!

She showed scenes from her trip to Germany, "The Land of her Ancestors" with a Power Point Presentation of her trip. Photo albums showed 1 research information and pictures depicting all 6 of her German surnames. She displayed a large map of Europe to show us the route of her trip,

Thais felt that it would take too long to describe, the remainder of her adventure, so we look forward to another program when she will tell us "The Rest of the Story".



Phillip Adderley



Elizabeth Lewis and Frances Hawkins



Joy and Lonnie Stephenson



Nan Vaughn who makes it A PARTY!



Hallie Bellotte and Glenda Conradi

MSKING THE MOST OF FAMILY SEARCH

. Go to familysearch.org. At the top of the home page there is a blue bar that starts with "home"-- the 6th item across is "library." Touch your cursor there, then move down to "library Catalog" and click.

You can search the catalog in eight ways: place, surname, keyword, Title, film/fiche number, author, subject, or call number.

Many people start with a surname search; my favorite is the place Search. Just follow the directions. For example, if I search for Columbia County, Arkansas, it lists types of records available; Click and it lists those records. This will also bring up the land and Will records.

For land and will records, check both the COUNTY and also the STATE.

When you print out call numbers -- don't try to "save paper" by Putting them all on one page. Print out all the info on the book or Film, AND at the top, note WHO and WHAT you want to look for. Write Your results on the same page, even if it's "not found." This is an efficient way to use your valuable library time.

Most of the library's films and microfiche can be borrowed through any of the 4,500+ Family History Centers worldwide. In the U.S.

The fee to order a film to the FHC is \$5.50. Fiche are 15 cents each. Films and Fiche can be viewed only at the FHC. Books cannot be borrowed unless they have been filmed or fished.

Maps of Waterways

Question:

Is there any one good source showing maps of waterways for the states?

As I do more work with

deeds, etc. and rivers and creeks and streams are referenced, I see that I need to know where these are so I can relate groups of families and their whereabouts.

Answer

I like the Geographic Names Information System of the USGS

<http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gnispublic>

You can put in the name of a stream, the state and county, a list of the features with that name. Or, you can leave the name blank, put in the county and state and select, for example "stream" as the type of feature.

When you select the name of some feature, on the right side is a series of maps you can choose to see the feature. One of these is "find the watershed" which I find helpful.

The "GNIS in Google Maps" will give you the usual Google map, with the stream meanders marked with red pins.



Free Online Foreign Language Courses

Would you like to be able to read documents \written in your ancestors native tongues? The Foreign Service Institute is the US Government's primary training institution for officers and support personal of the US Foreign affairs community. Through the use of language programs and studies, the FSI prepares future diplomats and other professionals who are advancing US foreign interests overseas and around Washington, via communication and whatever else those people do. These foreign language courses are published using federal money, which basically means they are public domain, and thus, available to any citizen who's interested in learning a new language.



FSI Language Courses.com is a community-driven site that collects, scans and distributes the Foreign Service language program documentation and audio-tapes to anyone interested in learning Cantonese, Spanish, German, French and Portuguese, among many other languages, all free of charge. The audio tapes have been digitized and now you can listen to these audio files on your computer.

The web site will not make you fluent in any of these languages. However, it will give you a good introduction to each language and will teach you to read documents written in the language.

The site is not affiliated in any way with any government entity; it is an independent, non-profit effort to foster the learning of worldwide languages. Courses are made available through the private efforts of individuals who are donating their time and resources to provide quality materials for language learning.

Available languages include: Amharic, Arabic,, Bulgarian, Cambodian, Cantonese, Chinese, Chinyanja, Finnish, French, Fula, German, Greek, Hausa, Hebrew, Hindi, Hungarian, Igbo, Italian, Japanese, Kituba, Korean, Lao, Lingala, Luganda, Moré, Portuguese, Romanian, Russian, Serbo-Croatian, Shona, Sinhala, Spanish, Swahili, Swedish, Thai, Turkish, Twi, Vietnamese, and Yoruba.

For more information, look at <http://fsi-language-courses.org>.

Posted by Dick Eastman on December 29, 2009

More Camera Copying Experience Recounted



I have long carried both the Canon scanner and Canon SD-1000 very Small digital camera as well as a "netbook" computer. On my recent visit to the wonderful library in Salisbury NC. I used the copier and the scanner for a while then realized that they were both very slow and expensive. I then used the digital camera exclusively. I turned off the flash and put the camera into the MACRO mode. I took as many as 650 photos a day for six days. If I had used a copier it would have put me in the poor house. If I'd used the scanner 6 days would not have been enough to get through all of the books and papers and microfilm available. I still didn't quite finish but 99% of the photos I took have been great. I photographed 1-1/2 rolls of microfilm one frame at a time using a tripod and the mechanical microfilm reader. All of the photos were crystal clear and now I can read them at leisure.

In future I won't bother with the scanner at all.

I did find that I needed a second battery and an extra 4GB memory card to keep going for a full session at the library, often 6 hours.

Good luck,

Jerry Hale
Deltona, FL



Carolyn's Corner
Carolyn's Corner

Carolyn Franklin

I sure hope everyone has survived the bad weather that we have had.
The only thing good about it was I had more time to spend on my computer.

Again, I will share some interesting sites that I have visited.

This is an Amazing Site

Check out some of your old "haunts."

When you enter an address you will see a picture of that place. There's a little map with a little man on it - you can move the little man up and down the block if you need to. I just looked at my childhood home! Really nice website!

<http://www.vpike.com/> Thanks Leroy

I also found these game sites. I don't play games except for video poker and they cut me off because I was playing for free and had won 10,000.00 dollars.

Try these out if you are a game player.

Beach Sudoku <http://games.aarp.org/games/beach-sudoku.aspx?#&cmp=NLC-WBLTR-CTRL-1810-WEEKt>

Spider Solitaire <http://games.aarp.org/games/spider-solitaire.aspx?#&cmp=NLC-WBLTR-CTRL-11510-WEEKt>

Free Online Games

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

And then here is some music for you. This is a great selection of WAVS AND MIDIS music

<http://simplyangel.com/mymidis.htm>

And a little medical stuff Folk Remedies

http://www.health911.com/remedies/rem_indx.htm

That's all for this month.



Valentine's Day Around the World

Amore

Valentine's Day traditions vary according to the country or place in the world. Different people and different cultures have different ideas about how to celebrate this event.

Denmark has its own unique Valentine's Day traditions. A gaekkebrev is a joking letter that is sent by men and includes a romantic verse but is unsigned. Instead of a signature, the man will use a number of dots that are supposed to correlate or to the number of letters in the person's name. If the name is guessed, then the individual will later be given an egg on Easter.

Taiwan celebrates or observes this event two times a year: February 14th and July 7th. On this day, roses are exchanged, the color and amount of roses linked to the intentions of the giver. For example, a single rose means "only love" whereas 108 roses mean "marry me."

In China, Valentine's Day is celebrated not on February 14th but on the 7th of the month. When this day comes around, couples will head to the Temple of Matchmaker to pray. One practice of this country has single women placing needles on the surface of the water when the Vega star is high in the sky.

In England, one custom has women pinning bay leaves to each of the four corners and to then consume eggs with yolks replaced with salt. This was done to ensure that the women would dream about their future husband. Another England custom has women writing down the names of their lovers, attaching them to clay balls that were then placed in water. If any of the pieces of paper surfaced, then this was supposed to be the name of their future spouse.

In Scotland, the event is celebrated with a get together or festival where the unmarried gather. Here, each person will write their name on a slip of paper and then drop it into a hat. The ladies then draw a name and then the men. The females are the ones who pin the name of the person they draw on one of their sleeves or over the heart. The males are expected to pair up with the person who has their name and to give her a gift.

Little-Known Government

Genealogy Service Available

A little-known program of the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) provides genealogy information that may be difficult or impossible to obtain elsewhere. The records include naturalization files, visa applications and citizenship tests, and may reveal family secrets and mysteries.

Under the USCIS Genealogy Program, which started in 2008, requests are usually completed within 90 days. For \$20, the government will run a search of the name, as long as the person is deceased. If there are records available, the government charges additional fees for the files.

In fiscal year 2009, more than 5,300 requests were made, fewer than expected. In addition to relatives, historians or researchers can also request files.

The documents typically include immigration information, often including exact hometowns in their ancestors' native countries. The files often have information on brothers, sisters, aunts and uncles. Many times it is useful to obtain the records of your uncles, aunts, and cousins who also immigrated from "the old country."

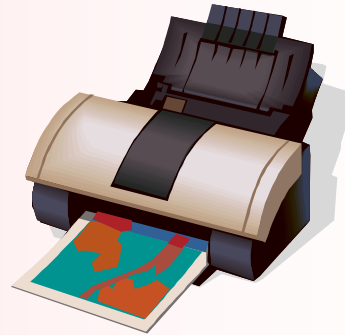
If the immigrant applied for American citizenship, the details are also included in these files. For anyone of Japanese, German, or Italian origin, who lived in the United States during World War II, the documents often include FBI reports about the person's activities, including friends, family, and political activities.

For more information about the program, check out <http://www.uscis.gov/genealogy>.

Posted by Dick Eastman on January 17, 2010 in [Genealogy](#)

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19th Century Naming Patterns:



First son: named for his paternal grandfather.

Second son: named for his maternal grandfather.

Third son: named after father or father's paternal grandfather.

Fourth son: named after father's oldest brother or mother's paternal grandfather.

Fifth son: named after mother's eldest brother or father's maternal grandfather.

Sixth son: named after father's second oldest brother or for mother's maternal grandfather.

First dau: named for maternal grandmother.

Second dau: named for her paternal grandmother.

Third dau: named after mother or for mother's maternal grandmother.

Fourth dau: named after mother's oldest sister or for father's paternal grandmother.

Fifth daughter: named after father's eldest sister or for mother's paternal grandmother.

Sixth daughter: named after mother's second oldest sister or for father's paternal grandmother.

There were all sorts of variations, some covered by rules and some by family decision. It was customary to name the next daughter/son born within a second marriage for the deceased husband/wife. If a father died before his child was born, the child was often named for him. If a mother died in childbirth, that child, if a girl, was usually named for the mother. Another child was commonly named for a child who had died within the family.

State Archives Coming Online

With little fanfare, state governments have been digitizing their historical archives and putting mountains of new information online.

A new website called, logically enough, Digital State Archives, is beginning to sort through this newly-available content, and highlight the crème de la crème. Happily, a good deal of state archive materials are valuable resources for genealogists.

Here are just a few examples to whet your family-history appetites:

- * Alabama's Archives include online records of Civil War and World War I soldiers, as well as an 1867 Voter Registration database including thousands of newly-registered ex-slaves.

- * Alaska's archive collections include probate records, an index to pioneers, and a large collection of obituaries from historical newspapers and magazines.

- * Over at the Illinois Archives, you'll find cemetery internment records, online newspaper archives, and a scary clown!

- * The good folks at the Minnesota Archives, bless their archival hearts, have consolidated many of their historical name lookups into a single Minnesota People Find search page.

- * New York has a wonderful collection of the Harlem Hellfighters WWI Muster Rolls, and a huge Civil War database, while their archiving neighbors in Pennsylvania have their own collection of military records dating back to the Revolutionary War. These links just skim the surface, of course. So much online material is available, and so much is continually being added, that state archives should be a regular internet stopping point for anyone serious about family history research.

Visit the main page of Free Genealogy Tools for more, free genealogical tools.

And don't forget to also check for your family history at Ancestry.com and NewspaperArchive.com. These are subscription databases, but they are among the most powerful research tools available for looking into family roots.

Get Ready for the New “Who Do You Think You Are?” Television Series

A Message from Ancestry.com

Stock up on the popcorn and get ready for the new NBC hit show “Who Do You Think You Are?” The family history-focused series will lead seven celebrities on a heart-warming journey back in time as they discover more about the ancestors who came before them. Lisa Kudrow, who executive produced the show will be featured in the episodes, along with Sarah Jessica Parker, Spike Lee, Matthew Broderick, Susan Sarandon, Emmitt Smith, and Brooke Shields. Ancestry.com is a partner with NBC on the show.



The idea for “Who Do You Think You Are?” originated from a show that has been phenomenally successful in the UK for several years. Since the show aired in 2004, the UK has seen a surge of interest in family history, and we hope and expect the same reaction from “Who Do You Think You Are?” in the United States.

Typically, celebrities play the role of someone else, however in this show they play no one but themselves. Because of this, “Who Do You Think You Are?” really shows the human side of these individuals, who experience a myriad of emotions as they learn their family history. Viewers can’t help but feel inspired and intrigued as they watch the episodes. Naturally, the show will lead viewers to begin thinking about and asking questions around their own family history.

What is wonderful about the show is that, with the celebrity appeal, the genuine emotion they experience, and the family storytelling nature of the show, “Who Do You Think You Are?” is perfectly poised to appeal to the masses – not just professional genealogists or family history experts.

What does this mean for you, as societies and members of the genealogy community?

What that could easily mean for the genealogy community and societies is that more people may want to join your organization, visit your library, or even hire you for family history research. It could mean you receive more interest from the media and increased media exposure for your organization.

Tune into NBC Fridays 8/7c beginning March 5. For more information about the show, go to: <http://www.nbc.com/who-do-you-think-you-are/>.

The potential is great! You and your friends have an important role in making “Who Do You Think You Are?” the next biggest family history phenomenon since Roots!

The President's Message



Roy Henderson



During my recent trip to Kentucky, Ohio and Indiana, two books became bedtime reading. The books are; John Ortberg's *Everybody's Normal until you get to know them* and Robert Morgan's *Boone a Biography*. Ortberg reminds that we often are like porcupines forcing others or ourselves away from fellowship. He also reminds us of how important the community of friends are in our lives. Morgan's well written 530 page biography includes the Boone family genealogy and a brief chronology of Boone's life after extensive research of Boone's life and family. Anyone writing about family would do well to explore these books. When the mail was picked up yesterday, included was the *Estill County Historical and Genealogy Society Newsletter*. It contained an article written by local member John Barnes titled *Daniel Boone's Estill County (KY) Kin* and a *Time Line for Daniel Boone*. I will be happy to share copies if there is interest.

While attending the Annual Lamplight O.D. Henderson Lodge Meeting, I was called on to share with ninety Masons crowded into the 20'x40' 1873 building a brief history of the lodge and its organizer, my great grandfather Rev. Othniel D. Henderson, PM. Afterwards several "ol timers" came forth and revealed several new facts and stories about the history, members and grave sites of early family members.

We are all part of personal communities with very little going unnoticed by our friends. It is exciting when friends add their stories to ours. It is in the acts of sharing that make genealogical study so exciting and travel to sources of information so gratifying.

There are many ways that we can tell our family stories for generations to follow. Publications about families and individuals can reveal much for our genealogy research. That fact is why it is so important for our membership to create a family story publication loaded with facts and stories to pass to future generations. This effort continues to be my challenge to every member of our GENCOM community.

Roy L. Henderson

February 10

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