

The Genie

*To inspire interest in family history through education, preservation and service.
We're in the family business.*



PUBLISHED QUARTERLY BY

ARK-LA-TEX GENEALOGICAL ASSOCIATION, INC.

P. O. BOX 4463
SHREVEPORT, LOUISIANA 71134-0463

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ARK-LA-TEX GENEALOGICAL ASSOCIATION, INC.

P.O. Box 4463

Shreveport, Louisiana 71134-0463

The Ark-La-Tex Genealogical Association is a Section 501 (c) 3 non-profit organization incorporated in the State of Louisiana.

The purpose of this organization is:

- To collect, preserve and make available genealogical documents and records
- To encourage an interest in genealogy and to sponsor educational programs for its development
- To promote the Shreveport/Bossier City area as having significant resources for genealogical and historical research
- To compile and publish a quarterly publication, *The Genie*, composed of records of genealogical and historical importance, helpful research information, and ancestral queries.



The Ark-La-Tex Genealogical Association meets on the second Saturday of each month from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm at the Broadmoor Branch Library, 1212 Captain Shreve Drive, Shreveport, LA

The membership year is from January 1 through December 31 and dues are \$20.00 annually for individual or same household family memberships. Dues for those members joining in the last half of the year (July 1 - December 31) are \$10.00. Membership renewals are due by January 31 at the "whole year" annual rate. Payment may be made online through PayPal, by regular mail, or at regular meetings. Refer to our website: altgenealogy.com/join.htm for details.

Statement of Publication: *The Genie* is published on a quarterly basis and distributed electronically as a pdf document to members and subscribing institutions that have provided an email address. The Association also participates in an exchange agreement with other organizations that publish similar genealogical publications. Those publications that are received are donated to the Broadmoor Branch Genealogy Department of the Shreve Memorial Library.

We welcome family history and genealogy research articles and records, especially those that are likely to be of an interest to others. Some examples are family pedigree charts, cemetery surveys/records, family and community histories, and transcribed courthouse records. We also accept articles describing a genealogical "brick wall," as well as queries. All submitted material should be typed or very plainly written and sent to our mailing address above or emailed to our editor at thegenie.editor@gmail.com. Please note that *The Genie* cannot be responsible for errors or inaccuracies, but will hasten to publish correction.

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The President's Message

Contributed by Leonard Gresens

The Ark-La-Tex Genealogical Association has continued to bring interesting and informative meetings through the third quarter of 2019. The programs have been designed to keep our research skills sharp and to enable us to make the job of gathering family history easier.

I find it a bit difficult, however, to write about a meeting I didn't attend. I was attending a family reunion in Tennessee for the July 13th meeting, but the reports I received made me wish I hadn't missed this important meeting. First Vice President Kathryn Benson took the reins to introduce two members of the Shreve Memorial Library Genealogy Department. Josh Calk, department head, and Reed Mathews, not only on staff with the library, but also one of our board members, conducted a walk-through tour of the department. They focused on new items and areas as each group was familiarized with the department layout. The Broadmoor Genealogy Department is a treasure, a well-equipped resource center for all our genealogy research with a dedicated staff who are always available and ready to assist. After the tour and refreshments, Josh and Reed answered questions. During this Q&A, both were very open about their involvement in family research. Josh also explained the library is a great place to donate items you may have.

Our August 10th meeting was replaced by our annual genealogy seminar. Once again, I was absent because I was attending a business conference in Phoenix, Arizona, but from all reports, it was fantastic. We have held this seminar at Broadmoor United Methodist Church on Youree Drive for the past several years. The only negative I heard was it was too cold. (I'm not sure how you argue that with the temperature in the 100s outside during the meeting.)

The seminar started with opening remarks by Jim Johnson, a past president of our group and "all-around-go-to guy" with ALTGA. I learned we had an attendee from as far away as Illinois and two attendees who were acknowledged as the oldest. (I didn't hear how old.) Jim introduced the speaker for the day, John A. Sellers, who had spoken at an earlier seminar. It was great to welcome him back.

In the morning session, John presented "History's Role in our Genealogical Pursuits." John focused on locations, historic events, migration events, maps, county histories, and cultural history. The second session was entitled "What's Hidden in Courthouse Records? – Discovering Treasure in Most Unusual Places," showing us that we need to extend our research to include court records, county clerk records, tax assessor records, and trial court records.

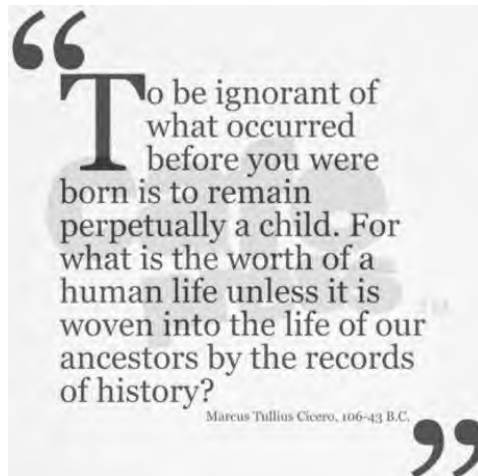
After lunch from Honey Baked Ham & Company, the afternoon session continued with the hidden courthouse records and focused on unusual records that one would not expect to see. John's final session was "Researching Newspapers in Cyberspace!" He focused on the value of newspaper research. This resource can be found on paid and free sites.

Door prizes were given after the breaks, and light refreshments and coffee were available throughout the day. Hearthstone Legacy Publications was the guest vendor with maps and resources to purchase. They also donated a map as a door prize each time we had a drawing. A special thanks to Jim Johnson for spearheading this event and for another successful seminar.

Dr. Gary Joiner was our special guest speaker for the September 14, 2019, meeting. Along with Dr. Cheryl White and Marty Loeshon, he has been searching for William Bennett's grave. Bennett, one of Shreveport's first settlers and one of the founding fathers, was the husband of Mary Bennett Cane. It was believed that when Mr. Bennett died, he was buried on the Bossier City side of the Red River where Bennett's Trading Post was located. However, Dr. Joiner's discovery of an orphan map revealed some long lost history of the old City Cemetery in Shreveport, now Oakland Cemetery, which started this adventure hunt. Joiner and his colleagues began doing their research by funding the project through a Go Fund Me campaign. Ground penetrating radar showed evidence of 26 likely graves on a site believed to be a part of the old cemetery. Joiner's research paid off, and after some digging, more evidence was gathered, which has been sent to forensic labs to prove the evidence of human remains. The story is long from being finished.

Dr. Joiner's lecture kept the crowd of more than 50 attendees captivated for over an hour as he entertained everyone with his knowledge and humor. He promised to return at a later date to share more of his findings with the group. After refreshments, the group enjoyed Sonja Webb's hornbook session and Bits and Pieces. Sonja gave us some useful information on visiting the National Archives and Records Administration regional centers. Each center has different federal government records, and by knowing which types of records the centers hold will keep you from wasting time and traveling to the wrong center.

It's hard to believe we are starting our fourth quarter of the year. Where has the time gone?



Donation of GENCOM Funds

Contributed by Jim Johnson

Recently, the non-profit group GENCOM ended approximately 25 years of existence and graciously donated the balance in their treasury to the Ark-La-Tex Genealogical Association.



Patricia Minton Bettis
1921 – 2013

Some History: In 1993, GENCOM was founded in Shreveport by Ms. Patricia (Patti) Bettis. This was a membership group with a keen interest in both genealogy and computers. This group began during the early days of the internet when few people owned a personal computer. Ms. Bettis had a vision that programs or software could be developed to assist in genealogical research and its documentation. This was also during the time when floppy disks were used to store data. ‘Floppies’ were eventually replaced with CDs, DVDs, and then later with USB flash or thumb drives and external hard drives. Also during the 1990s other ‘cutting edge’ technical gadgets were being placed on the market, such as digital cameras, cell phones, CD players, and scanners. Interest in genealogy continued to grow as more technological advancements were made and early websites such as WWW.Rootsweb.com and WWW.USGENWEB.Com came online.

Under Ms. Bettis’ guidance, GENCOM filled a void by introducing its members to these new gadgets and showing how they might be used to further their genealogy research. Although I have been unable to locate minutes or reports of the GENCOM monthly meetings, I can imagine those meetings during the 1990s era as focusing on a mixture of traditional genealogy research, computer technology, and learning/demonstrating those new tech devices.

An annual educational, as well as fun, event hosted by GENCOM was called GENFEST. As I recall, GENFEST was held in the fall of the year. At that event, members would set up displays around the room to illustrate or demonstrate some aspect of genealogy and would usually include the use of a tech device or perhaps a website. These annual events would take place in the meeting room of either the Hamilton South or Broadmoor Branch Libraries.

Over the years, the group elected a number of presidents and other officers, but Ms. Bettis was there as a principle advisor until her health began to fail in 2012. Patti Bettis passed away on June 25, 2013. Jim Jones served as president from about 2011 – 2016, and the last president was Nancy Menasco in 2018.

Like most non-profit groups, there are years that the membership and enthusiasm grow, and then there are those off years when the membership declines. Due to declining membership, the last GENCOM meetings were held in 2018. After much deliberation, the remaining GENCOM board members/advisors made the decision to dissolve the group and donate the remaining funds in their treasury account (\$3,598.14) to the Ark-La-Tex Genealogical Association. The objectives of ALTGA and GENCOM are similar; therefore, the donated funds will continue to be used to fund genealogical and educational projects. We offer our thanks and gratitude to former members of GENCOM for this generous gift.

The Barn Quilt Trail

Contributed by Leonard Gresens

Sometimes mistaken as originating with the Amish or coming over from England, barn quilts were the brainchild of Donna Sue Groves to honor her mother Maxine and her Appalachian heritage. The idea was to have a painted quilt hung on her barn in Adams County, Ohio. She kept procrastinating until her friends encouraged her to get it done.

The original idea became a more complex idea when Groves, along with the Ohio Arts Council, suggested that instead of a personal tribute, a “sampler” of twenty quilt squares could be created along a driving trail that would invite visitors to travel through the countryside. A committee was created to put forth guidelines and how the trail would be managed. It wasn't long before several barn owners were on board and the work began.

The trail had barely gotten started when Brown County, also in Ohio, began planning and putting together their own trail. Groves has worked with several other communities to plan and start a trail of their own.

While planning our trip to the Ark Encounter and Creation Museum, I researched other things to do. A website for the Boone County, Kentucky, Barn Quilt Trail showed up in my research results. I sent the link to my wife, and she was on board to check it out. As we traveled up Interstate Highway 75, I spotted a barn quilt on a barn along the highway. Well the search was on. By the time we reached the hotel that night, we had spotted four.

In all we were able to find nine or ten; we lost count. We could have followed the trail map the website provided, but we had too many time constraints.



The quilts on the Boone County trail were all quilts from early in the century to the 1930s. The barns were chosen from the countryside also as early as the 1880s to the 1950s. Each owner could choose the pattern and the colors to be depicted. The quilt to the left was chosen by two sisters to honor their father. The colors are John Deere green and yellow, and the design is called broken saw blades. Also in the white field, small deer were incorporated. This was one of the easy ones to find. It was on the way to the Creation Museum.

The website gave longitude and latitude instructions to plug into the GPS. It also gave information such as if it was all right to pull into driveways or instructions not to open a closed gate so the horses wouldn't get out.

Most of the quilt block designs are patterns from years past. I have learned there are several designs and each carries different significant meanings. Quilting has its own vocabulary and is hundreds of years old, so you know it is going to have its own history.

I can list only a few here, but this next one is called a maple leaf.



This next one is called Joseph's Coat. Notice it's not on the side of a barn. This is called free standing, and there are a few of them on the trail.



This last one is the Kentucky Star. Each state has its own quilt block star. Grove wanted the Ohio Star on her mother's barn, but someone beat her to it.



If you would like to see the other barn quilts on the Boone County Trail, the website is www.boonebarnquilts.com. Another website estimates that there are over 7,000 barn quilts in the 48 state and Canada.

Is there a Louisiana Barn Quilt trail? Yes, but it's called the Louisiana Quilt Trail, no Barn! The trail is in south Louisiana, in four parishes: Washington, Tangipahoa, Livingston, and St. Helena. This trail began in 2011 with the Louisiana Northshore Quilt Trail Association. The unique quilt blocks represent the forest, wildlife, or Louisiana cuisine. It is said to be the fastest growing quilt trail in the country. I won't post any pictures, but I'll let you visit the website and learn more. www.louisianaquilttrail.com.

I'm sure when my wife learns of this, she will get her quilting chicks together and organize one in Caddo and Bossier Parish. She's already put in a request for me to make her one. I'm just waiting on which block design she wants.



*Life is Like a Quilt . . .
 Years bound together
 Embellished with family
 And friends.
 Backed with Tradition
 Stitched with Love
 With Cornerstones placed
 Carefully
 To create a one-of-a-kind
 Journey through Time.*

The Prune Picker

Contributed by Pat Walton

Introductory note submitted by past president Glenda Bernard:

I am passing this along because it is so fitting and touching. Chuck Munson, the older man in this article, is one of our members! He attends our seminar every year, and he was in attendance for our August 10 seminar. He recently completed a fifty-hour Amtrak trip to California (and fifty hours back) to visit his roots. He is 94 years young! He has a blog called "The Prune Picker."

The following are comments by Chuck Munson:

Joy Kathleen Newberry is my granddaughter. She and her wonderful family live nearby in West Monroe. We have had lunch together several times lately. Joy has interviewed me and has written two essays about me. They are very complimentary and mostly true. They have been posted on her Facebook and reposted on my Facebook; one of the posts was reposted on the Louisiana Tech University Kinesiology Facebook. (The essay mentions my swimming career at Tech.)

I am really flattered by the comments that these Facebook posts have generated. I have posted them below so that my Prune Picker Blog followers can see what a great guy I am. (and so modest!)

My grandparents got married on June 3, 1944, three days before D-Day. In September of '44 my grandfather was stationed on Peleliu, an island in the Palau Islands. He was a combat engineer for the army. The marines were fighting the Japanese trying to regain the island.

My grandfather was carrying a bag of explosives on his back that he could use to demolish the enemies' pillbox (a concrete dug-in guard post.) A Japanese soldier shot my grandfather one time in each leg. I am so thankful the explosives weren't harmed! Some men made a stretcher by cutting down trees and using their jackets to lay him on. They were in the jungle and he was carried out during battle with bullets flying by. He received his Purple Heart from a general while on the hospital ship. In order to receive a Purple Heart one must be wounded by enemy action. There have been two million Purple Hearts earned and an astounding 1 ½ million were soldiers in World War II.

His battle is called Bloody Nose Ridge. US troops sustained 50% casualties during the eight day battle. The battle at Peleliu resulted in 1800 men killed in action and 8000 wounded.

My grandfather hoped he would be sent home to the states but he says they just sprinkled sulfa powder on his wounds and he was sent back into action after a few weeks of recuperation. The bullets were lodged in his bones and are still there 75 years later!

When he was sent back to the front, he was on the island of Leyte. He was disappointed he did not return to his company of combat engineers. When the war was over, he returned to the states in January of 1946. He was then able to reunite with my grandmother.

My grandfather will be buried in beautiful Arlington Cemetery because he is a Purple Heart recipient. My grandmother's and uncle's ashes are already at his plot.

I have been wanting to tell my grandfather's story. I am so blessed to have grown up with him and that my children have also. He is one of "The Greatest Generation"!



After coming home from the war, my grandfather attended college at Cal Poly in San Luis Obispo, California, using the GI Bill. He failed his entrance exams and was tutored until he could handle college level classes. He graduated from Cal Poly with a degree in engineering. He accomplished this all while his family was growing and working up to three jobs at once to provide for them.

In 2007 my grandfather went from being a Cal Poly Mustang to a Louisiana Tech Bulldog. Louisiana Tech's Department of Kinesiology has offered exercise classes to those 55 years of age and above for forty years. My grandfather has attended the M, W, F 7-8 am swim class for thirteen years. He hasn't missed a quarter. He pays \$54/quarter and an annual fee of \$50 for a student parking decal. My grandfather is very fond of his swim instructor, Smiley Reeves.

Because he is a Tech student, my grandfather gets into college events for free with his student ID. You can see him at most every home game, no matter the sport. My grandfather is always on the go. His social calendar is full! His favorite sport to watch is both boys and girls basketball and volleyball is a close second. He has a favorite place to sit and watch the baseball team and had been there just hours before the tornado tore through Tech's campus in April. The tornado destroyed Tech's baseball field. My grandfather says the baseball field won't be back up and running for two years.

My grandfather has met a lot of friends and acquaintances through his Tech swim class and from attending years of sporting events at the college. He started taking the swim class shortly after my grandmother passed away. They had been married for almost 63 years. It has been a great place for my grandfather to spend time, physically and emotionally.

My oldest, Ethan, will attend Tech in the fall. He will be college classmates with his great grandfather. I think that is so sweet and neat!

The picture is of my middle, Ross, proudly displaying his great grandfather's Tech ID! Go Bulldogs!



Ruth Remembers
HOLLOWEEN IN SPRINGRIDGE

©2017 by Ruth Roberts Frank Berlin

Ann and Erin lived in Springridge, Louisiana. It was a little bitty place about seven miles south of Greenwood, my home town. Springridge was a cross-roads town. On the corners where the two roads crossed, there was a gas station, a grocery store, a cemetery, and a horse lot. The horse lot belonged to Ann's and Erin's father, Mr. John Bass, and their home was just south of the horse lot.

Ann and Erin rode the Caddo Parish school bus to Greenwood every day so we were in school together. Erin and I were in the same grade. Marilyn was eighteen months younger and Ann was a year older than Erin and me. "Little Mamma" was the grandmother of Ann and Erin, and she lived in Greenwood, where we often played together.

Late one October, when we four girls were early teen-agers, Mrs. Annie B., Ann's and Erin's mother, had a big hayride and wiener-roast party down at Springridge. She called it a Halloween Party, and she invited all the young people in Greenwood who went to school with her daughters. Consequently, it was a good size group gathered there. Mother and Daddy took Marilyn, Mary Lou, Betty Lou, and me to the party in Springridge. We were excited to get to attend a party that was "out of town."

On the night of the party, the moon was full, the weather mildly chilly, and the horse-drawn wagons were piled with fresh hay. When the crowd gathered, we kids sought out spots on a wagon and busied ourselves with getting settled. When we were loaded, the wagon drivers started us out on a "tour of the town" which included a drive through the old and lonely graveyard with its crooked tombstones and low, vine-covered fences that marked family plots. As we traveled along, Mrs. Annie B. started playing her ukulele and we sang lustily to ward off the spirits of the night.

The wagon drivers would their way out of the cemetery and out on to the gravel and asphalt road. As we headed south on the road, the metal rims of the wagons made loud crunching noises as they moved over the gravel. The night began to take pm a really spooky feeling.

Soon, the drivers turned off the road and approached a wide gate. One of the boys was asked to jump down and open the gate so the wagons could pass trough. When the wagons had gained access to the field, the gate was closed and we went roaming over land where cattle grazed and past fields of cotton. We traveled near stands of oak trees where the shadows from the moon cast strange sights. Then we came to a huge bon fire blazing in a field. It was so large it lit a great expanse of field where we gathered.

At the fire, we leaped from the wagons and gathered before the blaze to warm ourselves. Essie D. and two or three other helpers were there preparing great food for hungry party-goers. We each selected a stick, stuck a wiener on it and started it roasting over the outer edge of the fire. We ate roasted wieners and roasted marshmallows, drank cold drinks and ate cookies. Then we settled down around the orange flames of the fire and someone started telling a story, a scary story.

One story led to another—each more frightening than the last one. The clouds in the sky often hid the moon light, and the fleeting darkness only enhanced the uneasy feelings we all began to feel. Stories were told about ghosts and spooks and vampires and haunted houses.

And when the haunted house story ended, Ann told us that there was an old house close by that we could enter only at our own risk. That it had been accused of being haunted. With that announcement, the boys, in one voice, yelled, "Which way?"

The house was near enough that we all decided to just "hoof it" over there—and we started out at a trot. As we approached the area near the house, the shadows grew longer and our steps grew shorter. Seeing the vacant windows and a gaping opening at the door caused us to take shorter and shorter steps, and to take them more slowly. Eventually, a couple of boys took tentative steps up to the porch. Then, with all of us providing encouragement, they slowly placed one foot on the porch, then both feet were on the porch. The rest of us crept nearer the porch and the tall columns supporting the roof. Finally, the boys gathered enough courage to walk across the porch to the open and inviting doorway. By then, the rest of us were at the foot of the steps leading to the porch.

Since no ghosts swarmed over us at the time, we all continued to move toward the door opening. And, staying close to one another, we entered the great hallway that ran entirely through from the front to the back of the house. We bravely followed where we had been led, and after a few seconds, we all began to laugh and giggle at ourselves for being frightened of an old and vacant house sitting out in the shade and shelter of great oak trees. We began to roam about the place and we no longer felt the need of having to be in a large group to be safe.

We went from room to vacant room. We peered out the glassless windows. We made noise. We spread our arms and twirled about in the center of the big rooms. We worked to overcome our anxiety about the place and to feel confident that ghosts did not exist in this old and abandoned house.

Well, Harold, of all people, got so carried away with being brave, that he even opened a closed door and stepped up close to display to the rest of us just how courageous he truly was. He lifted his hand and waved it over his head and then waved it into the closet to his right. And when he did, he let out a shriek that would have frightened a goblin. He fell back on to the floor of the room. The scream was frightening enough, but when he hit the floor, we were all paralyzed with fear. We could not move. We just stood there, our hearts about to beat our chests to a pulp.

And as we stared at Harold lying on the floor, we suddenly became aware of something quietly and slowly moving at his feet in the closet. It was another pair of feet and legs! We began to clasp one another, to scream, to cry, to call for help, as we witnessed some thing or someone emerge from the closet, step over Harold, and move out into the room. It was only then that we realized we were witnessing a real, live driver of a wagon standing before us!

Wagon driver or not, we all made tracks out of the “un-haunted” house that night and we ran as hard and as fast as we could back to the warmth and light of the bonfire.

The wagon driver and Harold had provided us with a truly frightening Halloween experience.



A Strong Will

Contributed by Ken Shivley

Author's Note:

*This story was one of many passed down verbally, but I used Ancestry as well as Red River Parish, **Our Heritage Vol. 1** to get more details. I believe it is very important to preserve these stories from our past so that we know what our ancestors often had to endure.*

It was late 1800s. A girl in her early teens was out in a field doing some early spring plowing in Red River Parish, Louisiana, behind a mule on a cloudy, windy day. Her braided hair blew in the cold breeze as she looked back toward a farmhouse where smoke curled upward from a chimney. She hoped the people inside were close to the fireplace and not watching her. She continued plowing down the long rows, getting farther from the house. While at the end of a row way away from the farmhouse, she got the signal she was waiting for. A friendly farm hand let her know all was clear from any prying eyes. She “made her break,” leaving the plow and mule and headed toward another farmhouse in the distance where she believed that she would be treated better.

The girl had become orphaned in 1892 at age seven when her mother died. Her father had passed away just a few years before. No reasons for the deaths of either one were ever given. Now she and her two younger sisters would be split up by well-off older relatives who could have helped them out but instead sent each girl to be raised by a different family. Eventually the river would flood or change course, taking the house and family cemetery. All traces of the girl's childhood would be lost.

The girl's family was descended from immigrants from Antrim, Northern Ireland, and Zurich, Switzerland, and had settled in Edgefield County, South Carolina, in the late 1700s. In time the girl's grandfather, a medical doctor, moved the family to Red River Parish in Northwest Louisiana where he would be active in local politics as well as his medical practice. The three girls' father had farmed a large area of land the family had gradually acquired, and he had owned a paddlewheel steamboat for hauling goods up the river to Shreveport. Their mother always took them down to the landing close to their house, and when they heard three blows from the horn, it was the signal for his return home.

Life had become hard for the girl after losing her family, and she had had to work hard as a field hand. She believed that her escape on that cold early spring day would bring on a better life. As it turned out, she would be accepted by the family whose house she fled to. She would become well educated and would raise many children and stepchildren who would do well in the world.

One day a few years ago, I came across an old black-and-white photo with people I recognized immediately. In the picture, close to a half century had passed since the girl in her teens had run from the plow and her hard life. Now she was sixty and being bent and gray, she seemed so much older. Her outward appearance reflected the years of hard work, world wars, and The Great Depression. She had lost three of her own seven children and had been widowed three times, the third time being shortly before the old photo dated 1945 was taken. But on either side of her were two young men dressed in khakis and with World War II GI haircuts. Each had been to different sides of the world for the past several years while she had taken care of her ill husband and supported her home place by raising chickens and a garden with the money her boys from overseas had sent to her. They had recently returned home within a short time of each other. One was my father and the other my uncle. All of them were smiling, but my grandmother, Varie Kenney Britain Shively Wiggins, showed a bright smile that I had not usually seen on her face. Her boys were finally home.



First United Methodist Church in Jefferson – 175th Anniversary

Contributed by Shirley Partridge

The following brochure marks the 175th anniversary and describes some of the history of the First United Methodist Church located in Jefferson, Texas. The present sanctuary in use today was built in 1883, was recorded as a Texas Historic Landmark in 1965, and entered in the National Register of Historic Places in 1971 as part of the Jefferson Historic District. In 1854, the church bell was cast using the melted silver from 1500 Mexican silver dollars to give it a distinct tone and is still in use today.





First United Methodist Church Jefferson, Texas
Established 1844

First United Methodist Church

305 W. Henderson

Jefferson, Texas

Brenda Lucas, Pastor

Sunday School: 9:45 AM

Worship Service 11:00 AM

HISTORIC FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Jefferson, Texas' oldest Christian congregation

The history of our 175-year-old worship place closely parallels that of Jefferson. When the city was founded in 1840, Methodist Circuit Rider William Stevenson was thought to be preaching here. In 1844 Reverend James Baldrige was appointed first permanent pastor of the new Methodist Episcopal Church, which was housed in a log cabin at our present location. In 1848 the church was financially able to build its first parsonage. A dynamic ministry had begun.

The town and church prospered because of timber, agriculture and river traffic. In 1860 our congregation built a church reputed to be, "the most imposing brick structure west of the Mississippi." That magnificent sanctuary seated several hundred worshipers. A bell peeled from a steeple extending sixty feet above the roof crest. To add a silvery tone to the bell, 1500 Mexican silver dollars were added to the alloy. Sadly, a couple of decades later, subpar construction caused the building to be condemned and demolished.

Because of the Civil War, Reconstruction and the dynamiting of the Caddo Lake log jam, which had made Big Cypress Bayou navigable, Jefferson citizens and Methodist parishioners suffered significant financial setbacks. In 1883 a not-as-prosperous but dedicated congregation built this present wooden sanctuary. The silvery bell from the previous church was included in this sanctuary and still invites residents and visitors to "come to church." A ninety-plus-year-old lifetime parishioner had rung the bell for most of his life.

The interior of the sanctuary is rich in New Testament symbolism. In the center of the ceiling is a large diamond motif that is divided into four triangles. This design is repeated four times on the side walls and twice on the front and back walls. The triangles

represent the Trinity. The four sides of the diamonds symbolize the Gospels. The total of the twelve diamond motifs celebrate the Twelve Apostles. An empty cross at the front of the sanctuary asserts that Christ is no longer on the Cross. He is risen!

First United Methodist Church of Jefferson continues to be an energetic and caring outreach church. In the 1950s we built an educational center with kitchen and fellowship hall to enhance our ministries. In the 2000s, we bought a neighboring building and remodeled it into a youth center which is now called Methodist Activity Center that is available for the entire community. Our Blessings-of-Grace ministry provides food for the hungry through our multi-denominational food pantry. The Backpack Program sends one hundred five weekend meals home with poverty-stricken children each week during the school year. Our Prayer-Shawl ministry provides prayer and a shawl for those needing extra prayer support. Weekly devotions are conducted for the elderly at Magnolia Manor. A hot meal is provided for the football team before each home game—the only hot meal many of these players will get.

In 2015 we discovered that the poverty rate in Marion County was 25%. We formed a committee and decided education was the best way to help. We provide GED and CNA classes and will add more as the need arises. Operation Christmas Child provides gift boxes for children in third world countries. Adopt-an-Angel provides Christmas gifts of choice for poor local children. Women of the church provide disaster supplies for the United Methodist Committee on Relief. This church also pays its fair share of United Methodist state, national and worldwide mission and outreach programs.

Our week begins with Bible study on Sunday at 9:30 A.M., and our worship service starts at 11:00 A. M. with inspiring music and a spirit-filled sermon. Reverend Brenda Lucas is a dynamic preacher, teacher and bible scholar. We hope you will join us. Come dressed as you are! Many of us will be similarly attired. We are a small-town, informal congregation.

Chronological Order of Pastors

James Baldridge	1844-1847	J. C. Huddleston	1919-1920
Daniel Payne	1847	J. C. Carr	1920-1922
Preston Hobbs	1848	A. J. McCary	1922-1923
Robert Crawford	1849	C. A. Tower	1923-1925
R. B. Wells	1850	J. M. Ball	1925-1928
Samuel Lynch	1851	John W. Shoemaker	1928-1931
Dr. Job M. Baker	1852-1855	J. C. Handy	1931-1933
L R. Dennis	1855	James H. Carlin, Jr.	1935-1937
C. Hamill	1856-1858	D. Fownes Windham	1937-1940
John Adams	1858	L. A. Reavis, Jr.	1940-1944
J. L. P. Irvine	1859	Ben Anderson	1944-1946
W. B. Hill	1860	C. E. Harris	1946-1949
C. L. Hamill	1860-1864	James H. Carlin	1949-1950
John H. McLean	1864-1864	C. W. Hearon	1950-1951
Richard W. Thompson	1867-1869	Howard Neilson	1951-1955
R. W. Finley	1869-1871	Robert Greaves	1955-1958
W. Easterling	1871	A. N. Tillet	1958-1963
W. C. Haislip	1872-1875	Ben Anderson	1963
M. C. Blackburn	1875	Richard C. Spinn, Jr.	1963-1966
M. H. Neely	1876-1878	Louis R. Knight	1966-1969
D. M. Proctor	1878-1880	Mark Lewis	1969-1972
M. D. Mountcastle	1880-1882	E. Jewel Strong	1972-1975
T. E. Sherwood	1882-1883	Jerry Neel	1975-1978
Charles E. Lamb	1883-1887	Paul A. Wallace	1978-1982
F. A. Rosser	1887-1888	Gregory A. Megill	1982-1984
O. P. Thomas	1888-1890	Karen Sherman Dorris	1984-1987
S. C. Riddle	1890-1894	Joseph B. Bisby	1987-1990
A. S. Whitehurst	1894-1896	Robert N. Dunegan	1990-1995
G. V. Ridley	1896-1898	Timothy Edwards	1995-2000
L. A. Burk	1898-1900	Jerry Vickers	2000-2003
Rev. Beagle	1900-1904	Robert L. Shelton	2004-2005
A. A. Wagon	1904-1908	Polly D. Standing	2005-2007
H. F. Cunningham	1908-1909	Allison D. Byerley	2007-2013
J. H. Hayes	1909-1912	Jim H. Rieter	2013-2016
C. T. Cumings	1912-1913	Steven C. Newcomb	2016-2017
H. T. Perritte	1913-1915	Benda C. Lucas	2017-
L. F. Brothers	1915-1919		

Cemetery Iconography – Part Three

Article and Photography by Sarah (Sally) Hamer

Memorials reflect our loved ones' interests and passions. After all, what is carved on our tombstones stays with us for eternity, or at least as long as the stone lasts; therefore, examining the icons can tell us a lot about the person buried under a headstone.

We've talked, in past articles, about religious, military, police, and firefighter symbols. This time, we'll discuss how fraternal organizations are often depicted.

Here are a few different examples.



Mr. Cheesman was a proud 33rd degree Mason and also was the Deputy Sovereign Grand Inspector General for North Louisiana. His stone also has an angel above his name.



The Jones family, mother, father, and daughter, were members of Independent Order of Odd Fellows and its sister organization, Daughters of Rebekah, as evidenced by the three chain links at the top of the stone. These links stand for "The Three Link Fraternity," Friendship, Love, and Truth. The IOOF was first documented in 1730, in London, although there may have been lodges under a different name prior to that. They chartered the fraternity in the United States in 1819, promoting philanthropy and charity.

There are still "Odd Fellows" in Louisiana, although I couldn't find a chapter in Shreveport.



The Leaton stone has the three letters engraved inside the linked chain, which is a common depiction.

By the way, “fraternity” was, at least for a time, a word used for both male and female groups sharing common professions or interests.

Mr. Humason was evidently a member of both the Masons and the Odd Fellows, as

evidenced by his head stone. The two organizations are not the same, although both are long-standing, both have similar values, and both use symbols. Masons are probably better known than Odd Fellows.



Freemasons, who often claim a history back to the pyramids, were known for their building guilds by the fourteenth century. Almost every stone building built after that has at least one block with the “square and compass” symbol on it and many headstones follow suit.

The next three stones all have Templar Cross icons. These have a connection with the Masons.



The carving on this stone in Oakland Cemetery is of an elk, depicting the deceased’s association with the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks (BPOE), an American fraternal order founded in 1868.



Last, but not least, are the Woodmen of the World. Woodmen of the World are a fraternal benefit organization organized in 1890. They still exist but are now more known for their insurance.

I was amazed at the age and number of burials with Woodmen stones, especially in Greenwood Cemetery. They are very easy to find, since they often look like a carved tree stump or are covered with leaves.

Here are just a few.



Notice the anchor on these stones. In some places, the anchor is a religious symbol, anchoring the soul to Christ. Other meanings can be as simple as the deceased being a fisherman or sailor. But in the case of the Woodmen, it seems to be part of their fraternal organization.

There are many more symbolic icons on headstones, some that are easy to identify and interpret, some that are so very personal they mean something to the family alone, but most are an interesting window into a person's life, at least at the moment the stone was designed.

Extra:

A few things I've learned about Oakland Cemetery:

One of the oldest burials is one of the most controversial. Rufus Sewall, second mayor of Shreveport, was killed in a duel in 1842.

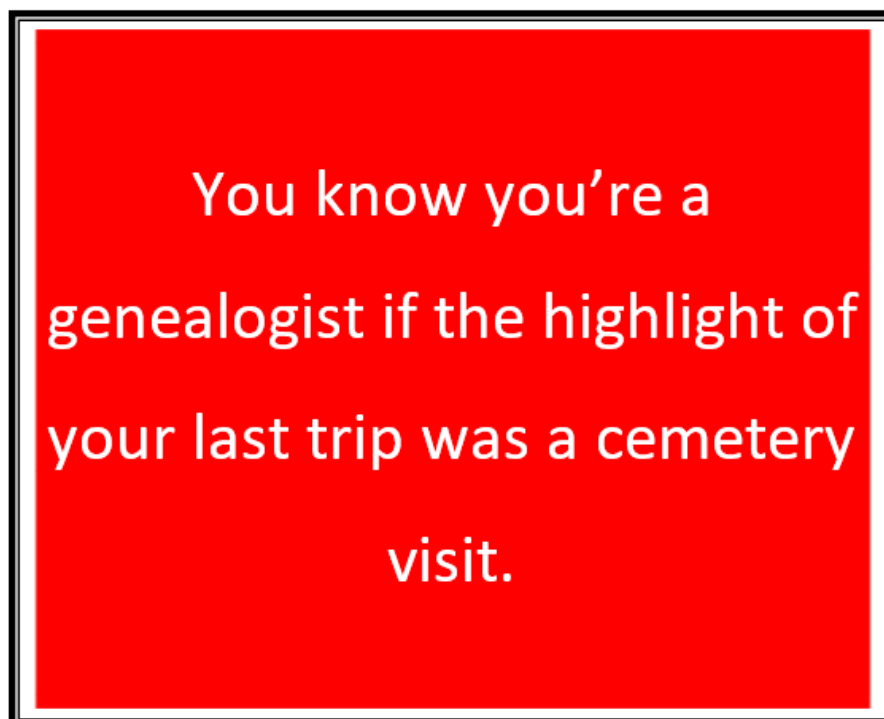
The Shreveport Madam, Annie McCune, is buried here along with a five-year old girl. Was Annie her mother? There are no known pictures of Annie, who was also called the Queen of St. Paul's Bottoms; she was also one of the biggest contributors to charity in the city.

Amanda Clark, born a slave in 1840, owned property in Shreveport, created an old folks' home and made sure her son, Dickerson Alphonse Smith, went to medical school. He's buried right behind her in Oakland.

The Yellow Fever Mound is where around 800 of the many people who died in the 1873 epidemic are buried. Most of them are known, and according to Dr. Gary Joiner, time and date of their deaths is also available. There's a video done by Dr. Joiner with more information.

<https://www.c-span.org/video/?304647-1/1873-shreveport-yellow-fever-epidemic#>

Lt. Eugene Woodruff, one of the great heroes of the Yellow Fever Epidemic, is also buried in Oakland. He was here to destroy the Red River Raft in order to facilitate shipping on the river when the epidemic broke out. He sent his men and his brother away, but he stayed to help; he eventually died from the fever.



August Genealogical Seminar

Contributed by Jim Johnson

Our annual seminar, held on August 10, 2019, was a huge success, with another record attendance! Every seat was filled. We were excited to have genealogist John Sellers as our guest speaker. He is a native of Hopkins County, Texas, President of Hopkins County Genealogical Society, and a former Mayor of Sulphur Springs, Texas. We were also fortunate to have Hearthstone Legacy Publications as our vendor, who brought with them with a large selection of historical maps, biographies, and county histories. Special thanks to Robert and Cheryl Dabbs, owners of Hearthstone Legacy Publications, for donating a door prize (map of choice) for each of our three drawings.

Mr. Sellers' first lecture was "History's Role in Our Genealogical Pursuits." The study of social sciences can produce much information about our ancestors and the environment in which they lived. Historical events influenced where and how they lived, and the use of historical maps can help us determine not only where they lived but help also in tracing possible migration routes. Wars, natural disasters, epidemics, and economic events affected the lives of our ancestors and sometimes created extremely difficult challenges.

The second period began a two-hour lecture titled "What's Hidden in Courthouse Records." Mr. Sellers explained that courthouse research can be both rewarding and challenging. With proper knowledge and technique, a visit to the courthouse can unlock the puzzles of our family research. Many courthouse records are not available online; therefore, it is usually necessary to physically visit the courthouse to complete in-depth research. In some cases, indices to various records may appear online, and those can be useful to begin the search at the courthouse. The terminology used for some courthouse records may vary by state, as well as the name of the county/parish clerk's office that maintains those records.

The last lecture of the day was "Researching Newspapers in Cyberspace." Researching historical newspapers can add a new dimension to research. More and more newspapers are being digitized and are available either on free or subscriber-only websites. All of those newspaper sites offer search capability. Mr. Sellers cautioned that the optical character recognition (OCR) software sometimes misreads some letters and symbols that look alike or that have similar characteristics. The quality of the newspaper or microfilm being scanned may also affect the accuracy of searches.

This year's seminar brought attendees from all over the Ark-La-Tex, from as far away as Mississippi and Illinois. Mr. Sellers is an excellent speaker and well versed in all facets of genealogical research. He did an excellent job of presenting his topics and provided an abundance of useful information.

A Brief History of the Lake Bethlehem Baptist Church 1868-2018

Contributed by Doris Hunt and Isabelle Woods

In 1868, God said, "Let Lake Bethlehem come forth," and He gave the founders a vision. They saw a need, assembled, and made plans for the organization of a church and a house of worship. The visionaries were Reverend Wiley Johnson, Reverend Dave Martin, Deacon John May, Brother Robert Evans, Brother Berry Wilson and others.

Since its organization with Reverend Wiley Johnson as the first pastor, Lake Bethlehem has been led by twenty pastors with Dr. Joseph E. Martin serving two different terms. Other pastors include: Reverend Manuel Griffin, 2nd; Reverend Monroe Claiborne, 3rd; Reverend Art Taylor, 4th; Reverend Isaiah Jones, 5th; Reverend Dave Griffin, 6th; Reverend Marshall Garrett, 7th; Reverend Henry Parker, 8th; Reverend Squire Simms, 9th; Reverend J. G. Stafford, 10th; Reverend Jessie Wells, 11th; Reverend T. J. Edwards, 12th; Reverend J. J. Johnson, 13th; Reverend C. H. Walker, 14th; Reverend J. R. Retledge, 15th; Reverend J. D. Thomas, 16th; Reverend Joseph Martin, 17th; Reverend Harry Blake, 18th; Reverend Joseph E. Martin, 19th; and Reverend Dennis R. Everett, Sr., 20th.



REV. SQUIRE SIMMS
1874-1945



REV. C. H. WALKER
1888-1948



REV. J. R. RETLEDGE
1894-1967



REV. J. D. THOMAS



REV. HARRY BLAKE



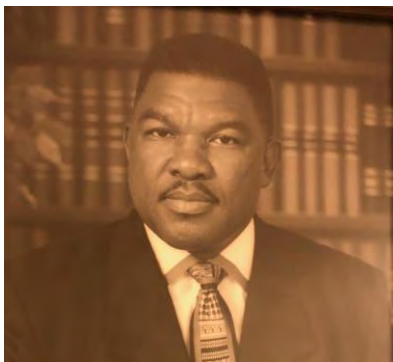
REV. JOSEPH E. MARTIN
1909-1992

In the beginning, Lake Bethlehem was known as a church, meeting one Sunday a month (on the third Sunday). The year of 1960, the 92-year-old church—under the pastorate of Reverend Joseph E. Martin—brought to a close this tradition by adding one more Sunday (first Sunday). Reverend Harry Blake, the 18th pastor, recommended and received approval for making the church what God would have it be, “full-time” (every Sunday) in 1967.

The original building was constructed in 1868. The second edifice was erected in 1919, under the pastorate of Reverend J. J. Johnson, the 13th pastor. On October 20, 1958, under the leadership of Pastor Joseph E. Martin, plans were completed for the third edifice and first masonry structure. This plan became a reality in 1959 and was utilized for 32 years.

Proverbs 29:18 states, “Where there is no vision, the people perish.” Pastor Martin and the Lake Bethlehem Baptist Church had a vision to construct a new edifice for the Lord. A new site was chosen on 3.5 acres located in the 2800 block of Dr. Martin Luther King Drive. With the guidance of the Holy Spirit, the fourth sanctuary for the Lake Bethlehem Baptist Church was completed and dedicated to the Lord on May 13, 1990. The building has a 12,620 square feet sanctuary that seats nearly 1,000 worshipers. The original A & P Grocery Store’s building was renovated into an Educational and Fellowship Hall, named after the late Dr. Joseph E. Martin, with twenty-two classrooms, nursery, and banquet facilities to accommodate 500 people. The completion of the new sanctuary was a dream come true.

After 150 years of service to the Shreveport area, Lake Bethlehem Baptist Church can boast in the Lord of a record number of baptismal candidates and experienced Christians as membership increases every year. Programs are organized within various ministries, including Christian Education (Sunday School), Diaconate Ministry (Deacons and Deaconess), Hospitality Ministry (Ushers, Nurse’ Guild), Media Ministry (Bread of Life Television Broadcast), Men Ministry (Men Talk), Women’s Ministry (Dorcas and Ruth Circles), Youth Ministry (Drill Team and Praise Dancers), Young Adult Ministry (YAM), Music Ministry (Mass Choir, D. Ray Everett Chorale, Male Chorus, Praise Team), Outreach Ministry (Evangelism and Visitation), Lake Connect Ministry, Lake Fitness Ministry and Trustee Board.



REV. DENNIS R. EVERETT, SR.

Under the leadership of Pastor Dennis R. Everett, Sr., a record number of new members have been added to the church family. Various ministries were reorganized to better serve and minister to the members, nonmembers, and the whole community. Additions and improvements include: 1993 - The Eternal Unity Light was installed in the sanctuary; sound system was improved; Multimedia Ministry was developed, furnished and implemented; September 1993 – April 1994: Saturday Academy classes were held; October 1993: The adjacent building was purchased for the purpose of constructing a Family Life Center; June 1994 – The west side of the cemetery was landscaped with a road added; Fall 1997 – The opening of the Lake Bethlehem Service Center.

Early in the pastorate of Pastor Everett, he became mindful of the realization that, “Where there is no vision, the people perish.” This reality prompted him to present “Vision 2000,” with the motto, “A Helping Church for a Hurting World, Meeting the Needs of the Community with Compassion” to the congregation. The membership was very excited and Vision 2000 was put in motion. Because of this vision and the people having the mind of work, many rewarding activities and experiences have been encountered by the membership as well as the Community, City, Parish, State, and Nation.

God blessed us to expand our ministry with the purchase of the old Y.W.C.A. at 700 Pierre Avenue. It is now our Family Life and Learning Center (Lake Life), which has provided opportunities for educational, recreational, and physical support for our church body, as well as a hub for church fellowship and worship. Now Lake Bethlehem is a church in two locations with “The Life Church” meeting at Lake Life under the leadership of Pastor Jamell Simon as the campus pastor.

The scripture states in Hebrew 13:16, “But do not forget to do good and to share, for with such sacrifices God is well pleased.” Our outreach ministry includes: a community Food Bank, a Clothes Closet, Back-to-School assistance, Tutorial services, and Van Transportation for services. We offer support to Grace House, a substance abuse ministry and the Jewell House, a home for at-risk girls. In-reach ministry includes ministry opportunities for all age groups from Children’s Church to the Golden Girls!

In Luke 14:23, the Lord said unto His servants to go into the highways and hedges and compel men to come that His house may be filled. We have been admonished by Pastor Everett to witness and bring at least one, and he has instituted as our church theme for the 2018-2019 church year is “Let’s Go Fishing,” with a church wide evangelistic emphasis.

We move forward from the point in history with a spirit of excitement and expectations beyond our comprehension of what God has in store for us! As we move towards our 150th Sesquicentennial, we leave a sign on the door that reads, “Lake Bethlehem—a church gone fishing....!”



LAKE BETHLEHEM BAPTIST CHURCH
2842 DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING DRIVE
SHREVEPORT, LOUISIANA

Highlighting Our Members

Contributed by Johnnie Covington

A native of Shreveport, **Jean Humphrey**, is a semi-retired registered nurse who now teaches in the community. She earned her degree from Northwestern State. Jean and her husband live in North Shreveport; they have four adult children and four grandchildren. She loves spending time with her family, gardening, and meeting with her book club at her local library. The Humphreys took a wonderful vacation to France and Spain where they saw many beautiful churches from the 900s and museums, but they were sorely disappointed in the small size of the MONA LISA. Jean is interested in genealogy and wants to learn more about the family names Dotie, Humphrey, and May/Mays. She has done some research on the Mays, and they are listed as mulattoes. She found a photograph of a May ancestor, and he looked to be dressed like a Native American. Hopefully that question will be answered soon when she submits her DNA for analysis. Jean found a deed showing that her great-great-grandfather donated five acres of land in the Mooringsport area to be used by the Republican Baptist Church for its church building and cemetery. It was named Republican in honor of the Emancipation Proclamation during the War Between the States. Jean's mother and brother still go to that church today.



Member **Mary Wynn** is a native of Sterlington, Louisiana, where she graduated from Sterlington High School, but her family is from Claiborne Parish, where she now lives with her husband. They have four adult children, six grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren.

Mary retired a number of years ago from Ludlow Packaging in Homer, Louisiana; it is a paper-related industry and is now called Berry Global. Mary worked in accounting and computer systems.

Since retiring, Mary served as the Regent of the Claiborne DAR for six years, and she now serves as the registrar of that group, where she assists prospective members in proving their lineage to a Revolutionary War patriot. She enjoys reading historical fiction and mysteries.

Mary and her sister, Venita Fountain, who is also an ALTGA member, are genealogy partners. They are interested in the names English, Gathright, Crowley, Barron, McClung, McAdams, and Joiner, which is giving them lots of problems. The sisters have traveled together to Richmond, Virginia, twice and to the Georgia Archives just outside Atlanta, Georgia, three times. They have also done research at the State Archives in Jackson, Mississippi.



Ellen Fillippino grew up in Haynesville and Shongaloo, Louisiana, and graduated from Shongaloo High School. Summers were spent working on a large farm. Ellen laughed and said she had to go back to school in September in order to rest.

Ellen now lives in Bossier City, after having retired from Schumpert Hospital. She has a son in Allen, Texas, and a son in Conway, Arkansas, who is married and has a daughter, Ellen's only grandchild.

Ellen is interested in learning more about these names on her father's side: Whitaker, Morphew, Ingle, and Faught, which is also spelled Vogt and Vaught. The Whitaker reunion used to be held in LaGrange, Georgia, where stories were told about a third great-grandfather (Ingle) who was friends with Andrew Jackson.

Another relative, Rev. Alexander Whitaker, baptized Pocahontas and performed the wedding ceremony of her marriage to John Rolfe at St. John's Church in Richmond, Virginia. Ellen has a photograph of herself and her granddaughter posing by the baptismal font and plaque memorializing the occasion.

Family names on her mother's side include Morgan, Fletcher, Holt, Beville, and Beene. The Morgans reportedly came from Wales. A famous country singer and Ellen share a great-great-grandfather, Henry T. Morgan.

The great-grandparents of Ellen's sons, the Fillippinis, came to the United States from Italy and settled in Stratford, Connecticut. They are buried in St. Michael's Cemetery in Stratford. Ellen has found several Fillippini relatives through Ancestry.com. The name was reportedly changed to Fillippino by school officials.



Highlighting our Editor~~Sylvia Powers

Editor's Note:

Johnnie Covington, who is our "Highlighting our Members" columnist, asked me to submit my own "bio" since we have so many new members who may not know who THE GENIE editor is. I was not "officially" the editor in 2016, when a bio of me appeared in THE GENIE, written by former member Marilyn Christian. I was a relatively new member at that time and only an assistant proofreader.

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I was born in an army-airbase hospital in Halls, Tennessee, during World War II. My mother and father were married just two weeks before he shipped out. My dad was gone for twenty-seven months; I was eighteen months old when he first met me. He landed on Omaha Beach on D-Day, June 6, 1944. He participated in the Battle of the Bulge and spent many cold nights in France, Belgium, Luxembourg, and Germany. Most of his service in the European theater was as a tank driver, and he spent many days on the front line.

My childhood dream of someday becoming an English teacher came true; my career in education spanned forty-five years, most of which was spent as an English and reading teacher on the high school level. I retired in 2013 from Northwood High School in Caddo Parish. My undergraduate degree is from Abilene Christian University; my M.Ed. in Administration and Supervision is from Tarleton University, currently part of the A&M System, Stephenville, Texas, and thirty-three additional hours from various other universities. One of the high points of my career was receiving the Texas Teacher of the Year award, while teaching in Burleson, Texas.

My husband's Air Force career of 30 years led us to move several times; for me that included nine states, Germany, and England, (more for him). Sadly, CMSGT Edward W. Powers died at age 48 due to complications related to his Agent Orange exposure while serving in Vietnam and is buried in the Veterans' Gardens at Laurel Land in Fort Worth, Texas. We have one daughter, who was born in Germany and now lives in Texas, and one granddaughter, who is a senior at the University of Arkansas.

My passions are my pets (all of whom are rescues), reading, and traveling; by marrying a career military guy, I fulfilled my globetrotting dream, too. I have visited all but two continents and several countries.



Some of my favorite highlights include five days and nights in the Amazon rainforest with my travel buddy, Linda Lehr, sitting in the middle of the Amazon River late at night viewing the Southern Cross and later climbing Machu Picchu; visiting the aborigines in the Outback in their natural habitat and snorkeling the Great Barrier Reef in Australia with my granddaughter; and spending three weeks on a private photo safari with my daughter and granddaughter in Kenya, after a stay at the Giraffe Manor in Nairobi, home of the Rothschild giraffes.

While we were in Nairobi, we visited the Sheldrick Wildlife Refuge and Orphanage, where we adopted a baby orphan elephant, Mbegu, whom we continue to support.



As a child, I was curious about stories of my family and my Native American ancestry, but DNA shows none of that; however, there is some eastern European ancestry, and some say the Native Americans may have migrated from the Eastern Bloc to Alaska and from there into what we now call the United States. More research is needed!

When researching my roots while applying for membership in the DAR in 2015, however, with the help of the DAR genealogist, I did find a Revolutionary War patriot on my mother's side. As a result, my daughter and granddaughter were also able to become members of the DAR.

My brick wall is finding a document showing that Milas Davidson is my great-great-grandfather. I'm sure he is, but without a document, as they say, "It's hearsay!" Also, all my life my father told me that his ancestry was from Norway; his family name is Davidson. Some derivations of the Davidson surname do originate in Scandinavia, but just this past summer, I found out from a niece who visited Scotland in July (2019) that Davidsons are also Scottish, have their own tartan plaid, were a clan, and had a castle, which is now a hotel. Don't believe everything your family tells you about your ancestors without proof! Other surnames I'm interested in researching are Sipes, Plunk, Hilliard, and Sharp.

One of the most alarming stories I came across during my research (while running down rabbit holes, bird walking, and side-tracking along the way) was the one about my great-great-grandfather Plunk. He was a doctor, and I found an article about how many scalps he had sold on one occasion. After recovering from shock and reading a bit farther, the article revealed the scalps were wolf scalps that he had sold for bounty. Further reading divulged more "scalp" references, one telling about the good doctor being credited with sewing the scalp back on a teenager who had had an unlucky encounter with an Indian.

Like many amateurs (and I must confess, my ADD overtakes me often), I become frustrated with all the trees, charts, and diagrams in the world of genealogy. I go in too many directions, and I don't do a very good job of organizing all my tidbits. I need a one-on-one tutor to keep me focused! Maybe I'm not yet passionate enough.

However, I am fairly proficient at proofreading after so many years as an English teacher, so please share your stories, your family histories, your brick walls, or your research with us at ALTGA. Submit your thoughts and ideas, and don't worry about the commas and such. The hardest thing is putting the pen to paper (or fingers to keyboard if that is your style). We have had some new authors in recent months, and we welcome you!

You can submit your articles to me at

[thegenie.editor@gmail.com](mailto:thegenie.editor@gmail.com)

## Genealogy Expo

*Contributed by Leonard Gresens*

Note by ALTGA President Leonard Gresens:

Our June 8, 2019 meeting consisted of a Genealogy Expo, where members had a choice of groups when they came into the room, not knowing what subject matter would be presented until the presentations began. Then at the end of the meeting, each group did a summary of their presentations. Here are the summaries:

### Land Research

(Contributed by Jim Johnson)

Why Research Land Records? Land records can provide helpful clues to answering questions and providing information about ancestors particularly in times when few other records exist. There are many reasons to research these records. Beginning in the colonial era and with the expansion of America, land was cheap and plentiful. The vast majority of white males owned land and can be found in land records during the 19<sup>th</sup> Century. Land records are one of the few records that exist from the early days of America, and some contain information about families and relationships. Land records also help determine where an ancestor may have lived and the time period he lived there.

Prior to transferring land ownership from the government to individuals, the land had to be surveyed. While the British used a survey system called Metes and Bounds to measure and describe parcels of land in the thirteen colonies, Congress elected to develop and use a system called the Public Land Survey System (PLSS) or Rectangular Survey System to survey land in newly acquired territories that had not already been sold or granted to settlers. There are 30 states that use PLSS. The remaining 20 states, or parts thereof, and including the 13 colonies, that were at one time controlled by British and other governments continue to use the Metes and Bounds system or a system that is similar. The Land Ordinance Act of 1785 established procedures whereby settlers could purchase title to farmland in the undeveloped west. Another important land act was the Homestead Act of 1862 that allowed an individual to claim up to 160 acres in exchange for paying a small filing fee and agreeing to live on the property, make improvements, and cultivate the property for five years.

The documents associated with land transfers can provide many clues to help solve ancestral mysteries. Those documents include land patents issued by the General Land Office for land that was transferred from the government to an individual, as well as land deeds that are issued when land is subsequently transferred from one individual to another. For the 30 public land states, land patent images can be found on the Bureau of Land Management website <https://gloreCORDS.blm.gov/>. These records along with other supporting documents covering the 30 public land states can be found at the National Archives. Land records in the remaining 20 states, including the 13 states that were formerly colonies and that were never part of the

original public domain, can be found at the county courthouse or at the state archives for that particular state.

Land deeds that document transfers of ownership between individuals are found at the county/parish courthouse, usually at the County/Parish Clerk or Registrar's Office. Many of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century and early 20<sup>th</sup> Century land conveyance records, such as deeds and indexes have been digitally scanned and are available on <https://www.familysearch.org>.

### Let's Get Organized: Paper Files by Peggy LaCour & Glenda Bernard

We began with a show of hands to see how long people had been doing family research (wide variety), pitfalls of lack of organization (piles of papers etc. sitting around needing to be addressed, spending time with a "big find" only to realize we had found it once before). The importance of consistency and documenting the accuracy of information was discussed. Tips for organizational success discussed included: set up area for storage and workspace, choose/refine your filing system so it works for you (binders, hanging files, family group sheets, pedigree charts), buy and set up needed supplies, attack the pile of papers and items until everything is filed/organized, and make good use of the clock/calendar by scheduling appointments with yourself to research consistently.

#### Digital Organization by Glenda

We focused on four questions. Do you have an efficient digital file system? (Catalogue source material, how to handle multiple copies - hyperlinks). Do you have a method that did not work? Do you have a consistent order in naming a file? (keywords, include all aspects - who, what, when, where). Do you use a software program that benefits your organization?

### Migration Trails By Kathryn Benson & Margett Ford

Points of interest in determining an ancestor's migration route:

1. Consider factors, other than simply following the shortest route, that include reasons for moving, time frame of journey, methods of transportation, possible obstacles faced.
2. Trips were not quick and required a lot of planning. Location was key, types of land, availability of land, availability of good water, high limestone soil. Also who traveled with the ancestor? Other relatives, church group, etc.
3. Focus on sound principles of research follow known to unknown. Track right ancestor.
4. Use of historical maps an invaluable asset.

The DNA Group session didn't give a summary.

Ark-La-Tex Genealogical Meeting  
**Scan—Storage—Restoration**  
 June 8, 2019  
 Sonja Webb

1. **Why scan documents and photographs?**
  - A. Easily shared with family.
  - B. Can restore damaged photo with restoration software.
  - C. Allows for copies to be backed up.
  
2. **What scanning equipment is available?**
  - A. Flatbed scanners
  - B. Wand scanners
  - C. FlipPal
  - D. Film/slide converters



3. **What are the digital storage options?**
  - A. Computer
  - B. External Hard drive
  - C. Flash drive
  - D. Cloud services
  
4. **What are the physical storage options?**
  - A. Archival Acid free sleeves, boxes and albums
  - B. P.A.T. Photographic Activity Test= measures the reaction of photos to various papers and plastic/P.A.T. tested item is safer to use with photographs than standard plastic products; Pass the P.A.T
  - C. Purchase clear sleeves that are polyester or polypropylene based. Note polyester is expensive.



## Notes:

### Scanning for Restoration

- \* Use a high quality scanner
- \* Use a high resolution scan. 300 dpi or higher; higher the better
- \* Scan in un-compressed file format
- \* Save as a TIFF file format
- \* Dust the photographs with soft photographer 's brush or microfiber cloth
- \* Dust the scanner bed
- \* Scan in color

### Scanner

- \* Use a scanner that can save a TIFF file
- \* Use a scanner that can save in 300 or higher dpi
- \* Flatbed scanner with full features is the best. i.e. can scan slides and negatives
- \* All-in-one printer/scanner does not always produce high quality scans
- \* Mobile scanners may have limited pixel resolution—But FlipPal is good for library and courthouse usage

### Pixel

- \* Tiny dots that make up an image
- \* For restoration purposes “you can’t have enough pixels”
- \* Resolution is dots per inch; DPI or PPI
  - High resolution starts at 300 dots per inch
  - High resolution means more detail revealed in the picture; the higher the resolution the better the clarity of the picture
  - For restoration work the highest resolution used depends on the size of the picture

| Image Size | Recommended DPI |
|------------|-----------------|
| 1" x 1"    | 2400            |
| 2" x 4"    | 1200            |
| 3" x 5"    | 900 - 1200      |
| 4" x 6"    | 600 - 900       |
| 5" x 7"    | 600             |
| 8" x 10"   | 300 - 600       |
| 11" x 14"  | 300 - 600       |

Source: PHOTO RESTORATION KWIK GUIDE. Gary W. Clark. [PhotoTree.com](http://PhotoTree.com) 2013. Website: [www.PhotoTree.com](http://www.PhotoTree.com)

### **Resources: 3**

Clark, Gary W. PHOTO RESTORATION KWIK GUIDE, A STEP BY STEP GUIDE FOR REPAIRING PHOTOGRAPHS WITH PHOTOSHOP ELEMENTS. [PhotoTree.com](http://PhotoTree.com), 2013.

Taylor, Maureen. UNCOVERING YOUR ANCESTRY THROUGH FAMILY PHOTOGRAPHS. Betterway Books, Cincinnati, Ohio. 2000.

Taylor, Maureen. PRESERVING YOUR FAMILY PHOTOGRAPHS. Picture Perfect Press, 2010.

### **Web Sites:**

[www.phototree.com](http://www.phototree.com)

[maurentaylor.com](http://maurentaylor.com)

[www.PrintFile.com](http://www.PrintFile.com)

[www.archival.com](http://www.archival.com)

[archives.gov](http://archives.gov)

## Preserving the Memories of Bossier at the Bossier Parish Libraries History Center

*Contributed by Marisa Richardson, History Center Manager*

Bossier Parish Libraries History Center

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318-746-7717

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The Bossier Parish Libraries History Center is one of the eight BPL branch libraries. Our facility is directly next door to Bossier's Central Branch library. The mission of Bossier Parish Libraries is to open doors to ideas and information by providing access to an array of materials, programs, and technologies that inform, educate, and entertain. The History Center's specific mission is to preserve the history of Bossier Parish. We serve the entire parish of Bossier. The BPL System is about to celebrate its 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2020, so we are looking forward to sharing the story of the library's growth with History Center exhibits.

In the early 1960s, the Bossier Parish Library announced plans to compile a collection of photographs, scrapbooks, and other information related to the history of the parish. These items were indexed and kept at the Bossier City branch. A dedicated History Center opened in 1998, directly behind the Central Branch on Beckett Street. The building features large exhibit spaces, a meeting for public programs, and a storage room for archival material.

The History Center collects and preserves material related to the history of Bossier Parish. Our collection is comprised almost entirely of donated materials and includes newspapers, photographs, historic objects, maps, yearbooks, obituaries, scrapbooks, clothing, and oral history interviews, all with ties to Bossier Parish. Staff members are constantly working to

maintain high standards of preservation for all items in the collection. We create exhibits on local history at both the History Center and BPL branch libraries, offer educational programming, catalog donated items, and share stories of Bossier's past in local newspapers and online. You can also find us on Facebook, where we feature many of our historic photographs.



Caddo Indian diorama



This exhibit is about George Paysinger, an enslaved man in Bossier Parish, who was a skilled carpenter and built this desk. After the desk was found in a barn, his descendants helped to restore it. As a freedman after the Civil War, George Paysinger became a large landowner himself with his land acquisitions totaling 500 acres. In the 1870 census, George was living in



Fillmore with his wife, Malinda, and children - Lawrence, Price, Lucinda, Victoria, twin girls Sarah and Mary, and Malinda. The Shreveport & Arkansas Railroad came through part of George's property in 1887. He received \$425 for the sale of the right-of-way through his land. The sale explains that the Paysinger land had houses, fencing, an orchard, a gin stand, mills, a gin house, fields (corn, cotton, and oat), and a garden. His property also included a Union CME Church, which doubled as a schoolhouse, known as the Paysinger School. George served as one of the school's trustees.

We have over 10,000 photographs in our collection! Our online database, called Past Perfect Online, is available for all researchers at [bossier.pastperfectonline.com](http://bossier.pastperfectonline.com). You can search by specific keywords, topics, and names or you can browse through random images to get a glimpse at the history of Bossier Parish. The Mabel Scanland Jones photo collection is a favorite among History Center staff. Mabel is the daughter of William Henry Scanland, Sr. He was the editor of *The Bossier Banner* newspaper from its start in 1859. His daughter Mabel, who was born in 1886, had her own Kodak Brownie camera that she used to snap photos of her family and friends around Benton and Bellevue. Frequently, when people think of older photos, they expect the subjects to have serious faces and stiff poses. This is not the case with Mabel's photos; rather, she captures candid images of laughing couples, her joking brothers, children playing with pets, and scenes of everyday life in Bossier.



Mabel Scanland Jones (R) and her friend, Lucy Antoinette Wyche Burt (L).  
0000.004.016



Young woman “holding up” the couple seated on a log.  
This photo was captioned “Ogden Girls and Scanland Boy”.  
0000.004.150



Abney Downs washing the handset type forms of *The Bossier Banner* with a lye solution.  
Abney became editor of the *Banner* after his father’s death in 1916.  
0000.004.166

*The Bossier Banner* newspaper is a valuable research tool for the history of our parish. We have large laminated copies of many years of the newspaper, as well as microfilm for nearly the entire run. To help search, we have an index for the years 1859 – 1985. We also have a wonderful microfilm collection for the various other Bossier-centric newspapers throughout the years – *The Bossier Tribune*, *Barksdale Bark*, *Plain Dealing Progress*, *The Planters Press*, and today’s *Bossier Press-Tribune*. Since Shreveport is so close to Bossier, we also have *The Times* on microfilm.

We have a growing selection of online databases for our patrons to use in their genealogical research. While patrons can of course come to the History Center to access these resources, they are available at all branches of the Bossier Parish Library and some are even accessible from home with your library card number! We have Ancestry Library edition, Newspapers.com, and HeritageQuest Online. The History Center is also an affiliate library with FamilySearch. This allows our patrons to access digital genealogical collections on the FamilySearch site. Our History Center staff are eager to assist patrons with genealogy searches, both for beginners and seasoned researchers looking to make research breakthroughs. Patrons do not need to be registered BPL cardholders to visit History Center facilities or to use our research materials and services, but a current BPL card may be required in order for the patron to use select library resources, including the public-use computers. Use of materials in our research area does not require an appointment; however, calling ahead allows our staff to gather materials for you if you are researching a specific topic or family.

The History Center also provides educational programming to our patrons. We offer a popular reading series called R & R (Read & React) with History where a local scholar leads a guided discussion of history-focused books. We also have meetings on the first Thursdays of each month of Pages Past: An American History Book Club. This book club aims to illuminate some of the lesser-known tales from American history. Our selections for the fall include Devil in the White City by Erik Larson, Short Nights of the Shadowcatcher by Timothy Egan, and The Cruellest Miles by Gay and Laney Salisbury. Keep an eye on the Bossier Parish Libraries website to see what new events are coming to the History Center. In 2020, we will be celebrating the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment, which guaranteed women the right to vote. Our exhibits and programming will help commemorate this important milestone in women's history.

If you visit the History Center, you will see some new faces. Long-time History Center Manager, Ann Middleton, retired in April after 15 years of service to our patrons. Ann had a passion for genealogy and we are so grateful for the work she did in building the History Center's genealogical research collection.



Marisa Richardson was hired as History Center Manager in May. Previously, she spent 10 years as Curator of Collections and Exhibits at the History Center. She has a Master's degree in Museum Studies from Indiana University and interned in collections at the Eiteljorg Museum for Native Americans and Western Art in downtown Indianapolis. She worked as a curatorial assistant at the Illinois State Archaeological Survey and also volunteered for a number of years at the McHenry County Historical Society in her home state of Illinois. She is dedicated to sharing the history of Bossier Parish with library patrons.

History Center Manager  
Marisa Richardson



The Curator of Collections and Exhibits position was filled by Randall Palmer in July. Randall graduated from LSU with a Master of Library and Information Sciences. He completed an internship at the History Center during his coursework and then volunteered with us for almost a year. He worked at BPL's Benton branch as a library assistant before starting at the History Center.

History Center Curator  
Randall Palmer

We are very excited with Bossier Parish Libraries' recent plans to build a brand-new Central Library and History Center. The prospective site is directly across the street from our current location. BPL is working with city engineers and our architect to finalize plans and hopes to begin construction by 2020. We envision the History Center as a place with interactive and engaging exhibits, a research room for genealogy and local history, and of course, a storage area to preserve all of our unique historical items and archives. We are dreaming big (but still within the limitations of space and budget) and would love to see the History Center grow into a true destination for Bossier Parish history.



#### Days Gone By

**" The special book upon the shelf,  
Was made with many hands.  
Our ancestors who posed back then,  
All came from different lands.**

**Their pictures were all tucked away,  
And rarely did we see,  
The importance of these treasures-  
The start of you and me.**

**The history of our families,  
Now here in black and white.  
Preserved with special care and time,  
Each page is done just right.**

**When time permits, we take it down,  
And think of days long past.  
Our hopes, our dreams, our heritage,  
All safe and made to last."**

**Author: Unknown**