



# BYTES & BRANCHES

Genealogy Computer  
Society

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**Marvin will bring us up to date on  
digital imaging on October 13**

## A new approach to Programs

In the future, Don will no longer be responsible for our programs.

You, the members, will decide the topic and the speaker. This does not mean you have to be the presenter, although you may.. You are responsible for arranging a program of interest. This will not only relieve Don of some of the load, but it will give us more variety in our programs. To include the information about your program and the presenter in our newsletter, you need to give Don the information at least two weeks in advance

**If you are not listed below as a sponsor for a program,  
please volunteer for one of the open dates.**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Sponsor</b>	<b>Topic</b>
October 13, 2001	Marvin Tedjamulia	Going digital
November 10, 2001	Bill Reace	The Master Genealogist
December 8, 2001	Jane Splawn	
January 12, 2002	Beth Mitchell	
February 9, 2002	Bob Sapp	
March 9, 2002	Gene Sidwell	
April 13, 2002	John Smith	
May 11, 2002	Tia Magbee	
June 8, 2002		
July 13, 2002		
August 10, 2002	Glen Engels	
September 14, 2002		
October 12, 2002	Marvin Tedjamulia	
November 9, 2002		
December 12, 2002		

At the last meeting, Charley Cannon talked about an interesting questionnaire that was sent to Civil War veterans in the late 1800s. Following is an example of a answered questionnaire that was supplied by Charley.

### CIVIL WAR QUESTIONNAIRE

The chief purpose of the following questions is to bring out facts that will be of service in writing a true history of the Old South. Such a history has not yet been written. By answering these questions you will make a valuable contribution to the history of your State.

1. State your full name and present Post Office address.

Answer James F. Vunkannon, Sunshine or Old Mens Home #989 Rayburn Blvd. Memphis, TN

2. State your age now.

Answer Eighty four (84) years.

3. In what State and county were you born.

Answer Miss. Grenada, Grenada County, Dec. 12, 1837.

4. In what State and county were you living when you enlisted in the service of the Confederacy, or of the Federal Government.

Answer Polk County, Missouri.

5. What was your occupation before the war.

Answer Mill-wright and Engineer.

6. What was the occupation of your father.

Answer Mill-wright (Contracting)

7. If you owned land or other property at the opening of the war, state what kind of property you owned, and state the value of your property as near as you can.

Answer one-fourth interest in unfinished mill property \$10,000.00 whole property.

8. Did you or your parents own slaves. If so ,how many.

Answer Did not (none)

9. If your parents owned land, state about how many acres.

Answer About 300 acres.

10. State as near as you can the value of all the property owned by your parents, including land, when the war opened.

Answer About 6,500 six thousand five hundred dollars.

11. What kind of house did your parents occupy? State whether it was a log house or frame house or built of other materials, and state the number of rooms it had.

Answer Frame house with two rooms (built temporarily in a new country)

12. As a boy and young man, state what kind of work you did. If you worked on a farm, state to what extent you plowed, worked with a hoe, and did other kinds of similar work.

Answer Mechanical in Mill building.

13. State clearly what kind of work your father did, and what the duties of your mother were. State all the kinds of work done in the house as well as you can remember--that is, cooking, spinning, weaving, etc.

Answer Mechanical as a super tending millwright. She did the household work and doing the sewing and knitting for the family together with the cooking.

14. Did your parents keep any servants? If so, how many?

Answer None. My mother and sisters did the housework; the boys did the out of door work.

15. How was an honest toil-as plowing, hauling and other sort of honest work of this class- regarded in your community? Was such work considered respectable and honorable?

Answer Respectable, and honorable as also commendable.

16. Did the white men in your community generally engage in such work.

Answer Yes, and no disgrace

17. To what extent were there white men in your community leading lives of idleness and having others do their work for them?

Answer No extent, as every body was a worker.

18. Did the men who owned slaves mingle freely with those who did not own slaves, or did slaveholders in any way show by their actions that they felt themselves better than respectable, honorable men who did not own slaves.



Answer They did. They did not.

19. At the churches, at the schools, at public gatherings in general, did slaveholders and non-slaveholders mingle on a footing of equality.

Answer They did.

20. Was there a friendly feeling between slaveholders and non slaveholders in your community, or were they antagonistic to each other.

Answer There was no antagonism unless some one who wanted to stir up strife comes in.

21. In a political contest in which one candidate owned slaves and the other did not ,did the fact that one candidate owned slaves help him in winning the contest.

Answer No, I have no recollection of anything of the kind.

22. Were the opportunities good in your community for a poor young man - honest and industrious - to save up enough to buy a small farm or go in business for himself?

Answer Yes, if he were industrious.

23. Were poor, honest, industrious young men, who were ambitious to make something of themselves, encouraged or discouraged by slaveholders.

Answer Encouraged, if industrious, by all.

24. What kind of school or schools did you attend?

Answer The old time log school, except one school which was private and taught by a Presbyterian Minister for one or two years.

25. About how long did you go to school altogether.

Answer For about five years, but not scholastic years. If we got a few months in any one year we did well.

26. How far was it to the nearest school?

Answer Sometimes two or three miles and sometimes not more that 1/2 mile.

27. What school or schools were in operation

in your neighborhood.

Answer Sometimes public or free schools, and some were pay terms such as were common in those days.

28. Was the school in your community private or public?

Answer Sometimes one and sometimes the other

29. About how many months in the year did it run?

Answer About three months.

30. Did the boys and girls in your community attend school pretty regularly.

Answer They did.

31. Was the teacher of the school you attended a man or a woman.

Answer Both as I had both

32. In what year and month and at what place did you enlist in the Confederate or the Federal Government.

Answer At Bolivar, Polk County, Mo. Dec. 1861. I was in the Missouri State Service for about six or seven months prior to that time under General Sterling Price.

33. State the name of your regiment, and state the names of as many members of your company as you remember.

Answer In the Mo. State Service, Colonel Jesse L. Craven Regiment, General Jas Rain's Division. I have forgotten them as it has been so long ago and they as far as I can find out are quite, if not all dead. (..quite old if not all dead)

34. After enlistment, where was your company sent first.

Answer In the Confederate service to Springfield, Mo.

35. How long after your enlistment before your company engaged in battle.

Answer The first regular battle after enlistment in the Confederate service was the battle of Elk Tavern or Pea Ridge, Ark.

36. What was the first battle you engaged in.

Answer In Mo. State Service, Oak hills or Springfield where General S. Lyons was killed.

37. State in your own way your experience in the war from this time on until the close. State where you went after the first battle - what you did, what other battles you engaged in, how long they lasted, what the results were; state how you lived in camp, how your were clothed, how you slept, what you had to

eat, how you were exposed to cold, hunger and disease. If you were in the hospital or in prison, state your experience here.

Answer After the battle of Elk Horn or Pea Ridge we went to Ozark, Ark. After which General Price was ordered to move to Des Arc, Ark. and from there to Memphis, Tenn. We were mounted and under the command of Colonel Bob McCulloch to Des Arc where we were dismounted and our horses sent with a detail to Texas to graze by order of General Vandorn. After our arrival at Memphis we together with all dismounted men were organized into the 3rd Mo. Cavalry under the command of Lt. Colonel D. T. Samuels, who was a half brother of the James Bros. He was killed in front of Atlanta on the Sand Town road while officer of the day on the skirmish line. We were sent from Memphis to Corinth, Miss. and from there to Tupelo, Miss. From there we went to Iuka, Miss. and fought battle there, after which we joined the forces under General Vandorn and marched against Corinth and fought in the battle near Port Gibson, also Bakers Creek or Champin Hill... also the siege of Vicksburg. After the surrender we were paroled and sent to a parcel camp. After we were exchanged we were sent to Mobile, Ala, and then to Meridian, Miss. to meet General Sherman who was moving east from Vicksburg and then to Demopolis, Ala. where I with a lot of others were detailed and sent to the engineer corps where I remained till after the fall of Atlanta... I was ordered to report back to my Company and Regiment and continued with them in General Hoods campaign to Franklin, Tenn. where I was captured and sent to Camp Douglas, Ill. I was in hospital once only at Macon, GA. went there on account of sickness contracted from exposure at Kennesaw Mountain. As to clothing, will say sometimes fairly well...fact, as much clothing as we could take care of most of the time on the move. Slept on the ground usually 3 would sleep together each a blanket and spread one on ground and cover with the other two. To eat we had bacon or beef and corn bread with water to drink. We were not so badly exposed to cold for we generally kept up a good fire in cold weather for coffee, we used white oak acorns parched when we could get them.

38. When and where were you discharged?

Answer Paroled from Camp Douglas after the surrender.

39. Tells something of your trip home.

Answer My father died during the war and his widow my stepmother left Missouri and moved with five small children to Ill. where I went to be of assistance to them as they had been stripped of everything they had in the way of property.

40. What kind of work did you take up when you came back home.

Answer I worked at mill righting, building and repair mills.

41. Give a sketch of your life since the close of the Civil

War, stating what kind of business you have engaged in, where you have lived, your church relations, etc. If you have held an office or offices, state what it was. You may state here any other facts connected with your life and experience which has not been brought out by the questions.

Answer I have been an erecting millwright and contractor, have been County Surveyor and Civil Engineer, also Mayor of the town of Gunnison, Miss. Am incapacitated now from doing manual labor because of a partial stroke of paralysis.

42. Give the full name of your father....born....at....in the county of....state of..... He lived at .... Give also any particulars concerning him, as official position, war services, etc.

Answer William Vunkannon; Don't know; in Randolph County, North Carolina; Rondo, Polk County, Missouri when he died; nothing more than before mentioned.

43. Maiden name in full of your mother.....She was the daughter of ..... and his wife was....who lived at.....

Answer Ellenor Curtis; If I ever knew the name, I have forgotten it. Her surname was Covington. She lived in Lylesville, Anson County, North Carolina.

44. Reference to your parents, grandparents, great-grandparents, etc, not including in the foregoing, as where they lived, office hold, Revolutionary or other war services; what country the family came from to America; where first settled, county and state; always giving full names and never referring to as ancestor simply as such without giving the name. It is desirable to include every fact possible and to that end the ing the facts from loss.

Answer My grandmother Curtis was related to Mr. Chas. Hicks wife of Pee Dee, more than that I do not know as my mother died when I was 8 years of age.

45. Give the names of all the members of your Company you can remember. If you know where the Roster is to be had, please make special note of this.

46. Give here the Name and Post Office Address of living Veterans of the Civil War, whether members of your company or not.

James R. Vunkannon, 989  
RayburnBlvd. Memphis, Tenn.

**\_. Thank you Charley.  
I found it very  
interesting**