



Avoiding Re-research With Research Logs

By Allin Kingsbury

Have you ever visited a library and found a book or film that might have data on one of your ancestors, only to find it looks familiar. Then you realize that you searched the book fifteen years earlier for the same ancestor. If you traveled a long distance and you have limited time, each minute wasted by re-research reduces your time for research and can cause you to miss vital information.

The problem of repeated searches or non-searches because you think it was done can be minimized by keeping a search log. The log is simply a list of sources that you have searched. In the past, the log may have been kept in a notebook. The written entries worked well, especially if searches for a particular name were recorded in separate sections of the log. As this log grows longer, the answer to the question, "Have I looked in ?" takes longer and longer to answer. Today, it is much more efficient to keep your research log on the computer.

Using the computer to log data

You have many choices to record your searches on the computer. Old versions of PAF attempted to solve the complete problem of handling research data with a feature called RDF (Research Data Filer), but it was hard to use and often abandoned by those who did try to use it. Family historians found that the spread sheet software like Lotus 123 and Excel were much easier to use for logs. They seemed to require less time to use and were easier to understand. The researcher who owned a laptop computer could take the log anywhere, and could retrieve the information about earlier searches in seconds. It is difficult to conceive of ways a laptop research log could get any better. Other software options for research logs include the word processor which is less flexible, database programs like Microsoft Access which are more powerful but harder to use, and genealogy programs

like Ancestral Quest which has recently add a research log feature.

Spreadsheets

A spreadsheet is a table originally used by accountants to record and manipulate transactions. When the personal computer became a standard tool for accountants, a number of spreadsheet programs were among the early software tools available for the early PCs. The computer program had several features that made it far superior to the paper spreadsheets. The first was the ability to insert a mathematical formula anywhere in the spreadsheet and have the computer automatically calculate the value of the formula and display the result. This feature guaranteed the spreadsheet software a permanent place in the hearts of accountants. Text could also be entered into any location on the spreadsheet which made the software good for making and editing lists, especially those with numbers such as inventories, checkbook talleys, accounts receivable, accounts payable, and many, many others. Because the table can have a large number of rows and columns, the lists could be very large and complex with little worry about it getting too big except for printing the list. Another key feature that the computer did well was to search or sort the spreadsheet almost instantly. Entries

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Ralph Crandall Speaking at February SVPAFUG Meeting



The Silicon Valley PAF Users Group will have Ralph Crandall as speaker for the February 8, 2003 meeting. He will talk about migration of people into the Old Northwest Territory in the early nineteenth century. Many families from New England, New York and Pennsylvania plus a lot of new immigrants to the US moved West to settle the upper Midwest. For the family historian, this movement can be difficult to trace back to where the family originated in the colonies or in Europe. In addition, Mr. Crandall will also talk about the New England Historical and Genealogical Society and the services it provides for genealogists, particularly its Web site. NEHGS is one of the oldest genealogical organizations in the US and continues as a highly respected organization.

Ralph Crandall now serves as executive director for NEHGS, a post he has held since 1982. He has been on their staff since 1974 when he joined their staff as editor of *The New England Historical and Genealogical Register*. He holds B.A., M.A., and Ph.D. degrees in History from the University of Southern California. He is a member of the American Antiquarian Society, the Boston Athenaeum, the Massachusetts Historical Society, Pilgrim Society, the Society of Colonial Wars, the Colonial

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Avoiding Re-research

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could be sorted by date, transaction number, name, or category in seconds.

The search and sort features simplify several problems of research logs. The time consuming search for a specific title is reduced to seconds. Data entry is easier because you can cut and paste sources from bibliographies and card catalogs available in text format. The computer also gives synergy with other uses for data in your log. Before the trip to a library, a researcher could select from an online card catalog a list the sources to be searched. This list would have all the information for the search log except for blanks to record the results of the searches and dates. Columns containing the date and repository could be recorded in advance of the trip. During or after the trip, all that remains to be added to the data are the results of the searches.

What should be recorded?

The data that should be recorded includes:

- Source title
- Category (vital record, manuscript, published genealogy, etc.)
- Type (book, microfilm, manuscript, etc.)
- Author(s)
- Publisher
- Pages
- Date(s) Written or Published
- Repository
- Call Number
- Names to Search For
- Search Date
- Searched By
- Items Found in Source
- Items Not in Source

There may be other information that you want to record such as RIN or MRIN numbers, database (if you are working on more than one), and columns for comments on specific attributes such as quality of the data and readability of the source. It is easy to add columns after you start a log, but you may lack the information to fill in that column for earlier entries. Remember that adding columns adds clutter to your log and reduces its ease of use. It also makes the printed version wider and may necessitate pasting sheets together for a printed copy.

Enough information about each source should be recorded in the log so that you can create a bibliography of sources used for your research. Should you begin working with other genealogists, they will want to know what sources you have used. Obscure descriptions such as "Kingsbury genealogy" will not do because there are several. The publishing date is very important because later editions of a book or manuscript may exist with corrections and additions to the earlier publication.

Your entry for the type of record should be accurate. If you looked at a microfilm copy of a census, it is not the same record as a published book of census data where the names and ages were transcribed from the original. There is also a difference between having a photo of a cemetery inscription and notes made transcribing inscriptions from many grave stones. If you made a transcription and took it home to extract your family information, the source is your transcribed notes unless you have a perfect photographic memory. If you possess a normal memory, you cannot verify the accuracy of the information without another trip to the cemetery because the notes may contain transcription errors. When the author of transcribed data is known, that individual should be recorded as the author. For a source of transcribed data like the 1880 US Census which was transcribed by thousands of volunteers, it is sufficient to record the name of the publisher. Data that is passed along electronically such as the Social Security Death Index is authored by the Social Security Department of the US Government, and the Web site where you find it is the repository for the data.

If you hire someone to search for records or if you collaborate with another genealogist, you should record who searched for the data. Because your source may actually be various letters or notes extracted from the original by someone else, the correspondence or notes are your source. The exact nature of the source becomes important if you should find a discrepancy between sources later. A check of the original record may verify that the researcher you hired misread a date or place. Extracted data, especially when it is not checked by another person, will often have errors regardless of how carefully the extraction is done. A machine copy or photocopy is usually as accurate as

the original record, unless the image is reproduced so poorly that the copy is much less readable than the original record. In any case the log should indicate that you have an image of the original record in your possession and the process used to make the copy.

The number of repositories in your log is usually small. To simplify the log, you can record a short descriptive standardized abbreviation for each repository in the research log. Then you can have a secondary log listing all repositories. There you can record the following:

- Repository name
- Repository address
- Proprietor or contact
- Phone number
- Number of holdings
- Notes about repository
- Standard abbreviation for the repository

Recording this information in the secondary repository log reduces the number of columns needed for the research log and the width of the repository column which need only to be wide enough for the abbreviations.

Compatibility Saves You Work

The research log entries contain much of the same information that you record in your genealogy program for sources. By typing the information once, you can save time. The sources and repositories recorded in your "to do" list can be copied and pasted to your research log, and from there to your genealogy program. By using the same format to record this data in each place, the copy and paste will be much easier.

Because you will want to sort your log to reorder the entire log alphanumerically based on one or more columns, the data must have a strict and consistent format. If you separate the title, author and publisher into separate columns, it will require separate copy and paste steps for each column to enter the data as a source. If you put all the information into one column, you lose the ability to sort by author and publisher. It is probably better to choose flexibility than to choose simplicity, but you should consider which is best for you in the long run.

Sorting to Find Information

A research log in chronological order may be the least useful format that you

can use to find information that you want to find, but that is the order the data will be entered. To check to see if a source has already been searched, you need a log sorted by source title. If you are going to a library that you have visited previously, you need a list sorted by repository to see the items that you have already searched. You may now want another look at some of those items based on information that you have found since the last trip. Another useful sort is by surname. You can then look at all the sources you have searched for a particular name.

Excel and other spreadsheet programs allow you to sort multiple columns and specify the order for sorting the columns. If you sort on name and then date, you will get a list sorted alphabetically by name and all the entries for the same name will be ordered by date. You should consider how you will use the list as you specify a sort. For example, should you want to check to see if there are some categories of records that you need to find to have all the available information on various individuals, you will want to sort by name category and title. For each name you will get a list sorted by categories and with each category ordered by title.

Printing

If you want a printed log for an individual, or a specific repository, you can select those rows that you want to print with the mouse, click on "Print," and then click on "Selection" to print just the rows selected. If you click on preview, you can see what the printed list will look like and edit the list if you would like to before printing. If the columns are too wide and cause the list to extend past the margin, the columns extending beyond the right margin will be printed on an additional page. By adjusting the font size, reducing column width, reducing margin size, selecting unnecessary columns to not be printed and changing from "Portrait" to "Landscape" mode, you may be able to get all columns between the margins. If not, you will have to trim and paste the sheets together. This is a time consuming nuisance. Column which do not fit on the page will be printed on an additional page. By clicking on "Print Preview" in the "File" menu you can see the pages as they will be printed. Viewing the pages before printing can avoid the need of a second printing.

Never Save After Sorting

You need to save your data every time you edit or add new data to your log. Once you do a custom sort of your log, you have created a special worksheet to use for a specific purpose. You may want to save the sorted data under a new file name if you will need to look at the data. Technically, the data can be resorted to obtain the original list, but no new data is added to the log as you sort. To prevent any accidental change or loss of data, you can avoid replacing good data with bad by not saving when you are sorting or searching the log.

What If I Haven't?

If you have not kept a research log, it is never too late to start. It means you have a lot more work to get started. You can reconstruct a list of sources that you have searched from your notes and memory of past searches. You may not get all the places that you searched, but you should be able to find most of them from your notes. A partial list of searches is much better than none at all.

Conclusion

Every family Historian needs to keep a research log. The time and energy expended will be worth the effort. The spreadsheet is a good way to keep your log. Genealogy software writers are beginning to incorporate research logs in their programs and this may ultimately be the better choice. If you have not kept a research log, you should start now. •

Doc Guidelines in Second Edition

The widespread acceptance of the *Family History Documentation Guidelines* book that was published by the Silicon Valley PAF Users Group in July 2000 has led to the entire first edition being sold out, and a second edition prepared for publication. The new edition will be available in January 2003, with appropriate enhancements to accommodate the changes in PAF 5. An addendum that was available for the first edition covering the PAF 5 changes has been incorporated into the second edition, along with updated screen images and instructions to match the latest version of PAF.

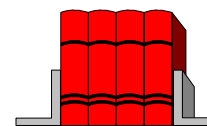
Since the LDS Church has made significant improvements to the FamilySearch.org Web site that will lead to far more information being located on the Internet, we have added four more pages of source citation examples with more Internet-based sources. The book is now 116 pages, up from 104 pages in the first edition. In addition, the references to Web sites have been updated to eliminate links that are no longer active, or that require payment for services.

Except for the additional source entry examples and the updated screen images, the content of the second edition is not significantly different from the original edition. Consequently, we will not be automatically sending copies of the new edition to members of the Silicon Valley Users Group.

More pages, higher printing costs, and increased postage expense will require a small increase in the cost of publishing the *Guidelines*, so it will no longer be possible to include shipping costs in the price of the book. As a result, the book will be sold for \$10 plus shipping costs, which for U.S. destinations will be \$2.50. Shipping costs for foreign destinations will vary and will be specified on the Web site where the book may be ordered (www.svpafug.org). Those who purchase a copy at the monthly meetings will not be required to pay for shipping.

Members of the SV-PAF-UG will be allowed to purchase a copy of the new edition for a special member's discount rate of \$7.50 at the PAF meetings. If members order by mail or order online, the cost will be \$7.50 plus \$2.50 shipping, until July 31, 2003. After that, the price for members will be \$10, plus \$2.50 shipping for mail or online orders.

To receive the reduced price through the www.svpafug.org Web site, members should reply to the confirmation e-mail message (the e-mail message they receive confirming the order) with a note indicating that they are PAF members. They then will be sent a revised confirmation message indicating that the total price, including shipping, is \$10. •



Ancestral Quest™ 2002 Released

By Lesly Klippel

Incline Software has recently released a new version of Ancestral Quest (AQ), a popular genealogy computer program. Some of the new features include a research log capability, spell checker for "Notes," documented pedigree charts, fan chart printing, global find and replace in "Notes" and an industry-first "Collaboration" feature that allows you to keep a copy of your database on the Internet for others to work on.

Collaboration

As explained on the web site, "To work with a "Collaboration File", you place a family file on a central server on the Internet. You allow others to access that file. This means that you and your associates, anywhere in the world, can work together on a single, master file. For example, you would place a family database on this server. Then you would alert appropriate members of your family that this file is available, and give them rights to edit or simply view the data. You and the others then take turns updating this master file. When your cousin updates some information that he or she has found, you will be able to see that information the next time you view that file. When you update the family file with information that you have found, your cousin will have access to that information the next time she works with the file. This can eliminate the need to send GEDCOM files back and forth and Merge the two sets of information." The technical part of this process is further explained on the web site and on the AQ "Help" screens. As stated, this feature will eliminate much GEDCOM transfer back and forth by associated researchers. Each researcher must be using AQ 2002 to participate in the collaboration effort.

Research Log and Source Citation

For those of use who want to reduce the accumulation of paper in our filing cabinets, this feature is a wonderful help. The "To Do" list template allows you to enter the sources you plan to search in general, for an individual or for a list of individuals. The template has fields for a description of the item, a target date by which you would like to complete the search, a category field and a priority number field.

Once the search has been completed, clicking on "Create Source Citation" allows you to enter the information you found as a source citation for the individual or group of individuals. If a hard copy is generated by the search, you can enter your reference number according to your filing system in the field entitled "Home File ID."

If no information was located, the "To Do" item remains with the individual record to show which sources you have searched so you won't search them again. This feature eliminates having to keep a hard copy research log in your files and provides a research record for you and others to avoid duplication of effort. You can sort your "ToDo" list using a sophisticated filter system to pull out only items that meet the criteria that you specify such as a certain category, priority or a particular web site or research facility. You can print the entire list or only selected items from the list to take to the library when you do your research. This is a great feature to save time and paper and keep your records organized.

Notes Enhancements

Among the many added enhancements is a spell checker for the "Notes" field eliminating the need to type long notes in a word processor in order to correct typing errors and then copying the text into the "Notes" field. You can also do a global find and replace in the "Notes" fields in your database to correct an error or add text. The wonderful ditto features are still there which save time in data entry by allowing you to ditto notes from another individual with one key stroke rather than to copy and paste.

Documented Pedigree Charts

You can now include either "Notes" or "Sources" or both with your pedigree chart printouts and saved text files. The notes and sources for the individuals on a particular pedigree chart are printed following that chart with footnote numbers by the individual events that refer to the appropriate sources. You have several format options such as Titles Only, Actual Text, Comments, and/or Source Images. You can save the pedigree chart as a text file and send it as an e-mail attachment that will include the "Notes" and "Sources." This

capability saves you from having to type the notes and sources separately to send to another person.

Fan Chart

A built-in fan chart feature allows you to print a single-page quarter fan, a half fan or an impressive full circle pedigree chart of up to 13 generations. The fan chart can also include the notes and/or sources on succeeding pages, including footnote numbers referring to the sources the same as a regular pedigree chart.

Quick Name Entry

AQ is the only program I know of that allows you to enter names using the space bar to complete names that are already on your name list. For instance, if you are typing "Robert Gordon Jones" and "Robert" is already on your name list, you start typing the name and once you have enough characters typed to identify the name as "Robert," the entire name will appear and at that point, pressing the space bar will complete the name and ready you to start typing "Gordon." Again, if that name is on your word list, typing the first couple of letters will pull up the entire name and pressing the space bar will complete the name without your having to type it entirely.

When entering places, parts of which are already on your name list, typing a comma will complete the name without having to type it entirely and you will then be ready to type the next word in the place. Again, quick entry will complete the name for you if it is already on your name list. In other words, the entire place does not have to be in your word list for "Quick Entry" to complete it for you. The individual components will be completed as you begin to type them. This feature, along with the place field ditto keys, (F8 and F9), makes for very fast data entry.

PAF Compatibility

AQ2002 is totally compatible with PAF 3.x and PAF 4.x files. It can convert a PAF 2.31 file. It can open and read a PAF 5.x file and print reports from it but AQ cannot edit a PAF 5.x file. However, a PAF 5.x can be converted to an AQ file by using the built-in database converter.

Additional Features

Another industry exclusive feature is the ability to imbed multimedia images in a GEDCOM so you can send the pictures in the GEDCOM instead of having to include them as separate files. This does make a large file and is probably best distributed via CDs rather than as e-mail attachments.

The merging of "Sources" and "Repositories" can be done manually by choosing the two Sources or Repositories to merge giving you total control of that process.

There are many other fun features such "Bookmarking" up to nine individuals for quick access to their individual edit screens, Internet searches in several popular sites, the ability to add your favorite sites to the Internet search list, adding a document to the multimedia scrapbook for an individual, and one of my favorites, showing relationships to the root person on the Search Individual screen.

For LDS users, AQ can now import an OUP file which is created when you check a GEDCOM file using the TempleReady program. The OUP file automatically puts the ordinance dates in the proper fields. A complete list of features and explanations can be found on the AQ web site at: www.ancquest.com That web site also contains an e-mail address to contact technical support and there is a mail list that users can join to share tips and ask questions.

Availability of AQ 2002

AQ 2002 can be downloaded at www.ancquest.com or a CD can be ordered on that web site. The cost is \$19.95 for an Standard Edition Upgrade downloaded version if you already own AQ 3.x, \$29.95 for the Standard Edition downloaded version if you are a new user or \$34.95 for the Standard Edition CD. The AQ 3.0 manual is still available and a manual for AQ 2002 will be available soon. •

Ralph Crandall

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Society of Massachusetts, and the St. Botolph Club. He has served on the Board of Directors of the Federation of Genealogical Societies, and was Recording Secretary of the Colonial Society of Massachusetts

Ralph has published articles in a variety of publications, including *Ancestry*, *Library Trends*, and *Family Chronicle*. He is the author of the now classic guidebook, *Shaking Your Family Tree* (revised 2001); editor of *Genealogical Research in New England* (1986); co-editor of *Generations and Change* (1985); and the contributor of *Family Types: Social Structure and Mobility in Early America: Charlestown, Massachusetts in Changing Images in America* (1979).

His genealogical interests include the Crandall and Watrous families, and patterns of geographical and social mobility in early New England.

We are honored to have Mr. Crandall as a speaker at our February meeting. Because of the complexity of the topics the meeting will be from 9:00 to 12:00 Saturday Morning. •

Ask Dr. PAF

"I Give No Answers Before Their Time!"

by Dr. Cornelius D. PAF

Q. How can I know which records were imported into my database from a GEDCOM file. The new ones are mixed up with the old ones.

A. When you start your GEDCOM import you have the choice of reusing RINs whose records had been deleted, or starting the import after the last RIN. Write down the number of the last RIN and you will know that any RINs larger than that are from the newly imported GEDCOM file.

Q. When I click on Export in the File menu or on the Export Icon (not the one for TempleReady for Windows) I get a choice of GEDCOM files. I understand that PAF 5 has problems with GEDCOM files not being read. Which should I choose?

A. The PAF 5 Export screen lets you determine by which type of genealogy program your GEDCOM file will be used. You have a choice of older versions of PAF, Ancestral File or Pedigree Resource File, Temple Ready for DOS, TempleReady for Windows, PAF for OS handhelds, Other GEDCOM 5.5, with a choice of character sets: UTF-8, Unicode, Ansel, Ansi. Many other genealogy programs and the Web sites that accept GEDCOM

files will handle GEDCOM 5.5 with the Ansel character set. This character set allows diacritic marks but you need UTF-8 or Unicode to accept the Asian and Slavic characters. If you don't know which file type to send to someone, ask them what they can import, or use Other with the Ansel character set.

Notice that even though PAF 4 and PAF 3 use the same database you can select either one for creating a GEDCOM file. There is a difference in how the GEDCOM files manage the source citation fields.

Q. When I import a new GEDCOM file and merge the duplicates I find that there are still duplicates. How can I get rid of them.

A. There are several procedures that you can follow. Match/Merge generally doesn't find and merge all the duplicates in the first round.

You can run the Match/Merge again. Look at the various options and try each one. Look at the "Help" screen in the "Match/Merge Options" box, scroll down to Procedures for various methods for merging. Keep scrolling down to Concepts for a basic understanding of the procedure and to suggestions of strategies to use when merging. Right below that are two links to "Solving Problems."

You can print another list of possible duplicate names and manually merge them.

You can look at a list of individuals and note the duplicate names and the RINs. Merge by using the RINs.

Q. Why do I have to choose whether I want to merge a record when I have selected to match by Ancestral File Number or by Unique Record Serial Number?

A. It is possible that the new GEDCOM file includes some changes to the original record. By giving you the choice of what you want to merge from the GEDCOM file you can decide which, if any, changes you want to include in your database. An automatic merge would only happen if both records were complete duplications.

Q. I want to send my mother's sister a GEDCOM file with information about all the ancestors on my mother's line, without any of the records on my

father's or my husband's lines. How do I do that?

A. From your database, click on the type of GEDCOM file to use and then click on Partial and then Select. The

Q. What does the "delete" button delete on the Select Individual screen delete?

A. It will delete the highlighted individual from your PAF file if you have not created a focus list. If you have created a focus list, clicking on the this button will delete all the individuals in the focus list from your PAF file. This is helpful if you want to delete a group of names that you have proved to not be linked to your family lines or any group that you want to delete. If you aren't sure what results you will get from a button, right click on the button to get an explanation. You can also see a definition of a button by clicking on the little question mark next to "x" in the upper right corner of the box and dragging the larger question mark to the button.

Q. How do I remove someone from the selected "Focus" list?

A. Do not use the "Delete" button. Use the Deselect button. Choose individuals or the relationship of those you want off the "Focus" List Don't select "All Ancestral Related." That might deselect all the database. This function only deletes from the "Focus" list, not from your PAF file.

Deselecting a person's ancestors can be accomplished by deselecting that person. Those linked to him/her will also be deselected.

Q. How can I include my mother's ancestors and her descendants without including my father's lines?

A. Select your mother's name, select ancestors in the "Relationship" box, choose the generations of ancestors and choose the generations of descendants for the ancestors: children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, Then change the relationship to descendants, with your mother's name still highlighted, and enter the number of generations. You may have included all the descendants if you asked for enough generations of descendants when you selected the ancestors.

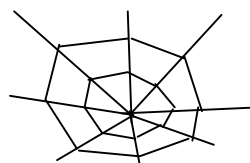
Q. I used a GEDCOM file for "Update My Records" in the TempleReady

program. The results were in a ".OUP" file. I understand that I can't access that in PAF.

A. Although the .OUP file was initially created so that GEDCOM files from other genealogy programs could be used in "Update My Records" it now can be imported into a PAF 5.2 file. The PAF PAL file program can also be used to add the updates for your records from a ".OUP" file. •

All of this pomp and reburial for Johnston could cause some headaches for the family historians who want to record the burial information in a small portion of a computer screen. They may get it in the notes, but the standard data entry cannot accommodate all the reburials nor capture the pomp of the event. •

Spider Webs



News of the Wierd

Lt. Edward J. Johnston was the first assistant engineer on the CSS Atlanta, a ship captured by the Union during the Civil War. Johnston died at Fort Warren prison on George's Island in Boston Harbor 13 October 1863. Last year, his remains were exhumed and reburied beside his wife. Johnston was reburied four times before. He was buried on the prison island where he died. When the fort closed, he was reburied on Governor's Island, then later on Deer Island, which were also closed. In 1939, Lt. Johnston was again re-buried in the Fort Devens Army cemetery. During the 1930s, his family wanted to rebury him, but the moving cost for the steel box containing the deceased and the 1500-pound gravestone was too much.

The latest reburial included a military ceremony at Fort Devens with remarks by officials, a pardon and return of citizenship, eulogy, rifle salute and drummer and fifer. More than a dozen of Johnston's great-great-grandchildren attended. A cortege with funeral home van, vehicles to haul the gravestone and Johnston, honor guard, and state police escorts along the way made a three-day drive to Florida. Sons of Confederate Veterans, United Daughters of the Confederacy, re-enactors and area officials went all out to welcome Johnston with a Confederate honor guard was posted for 11 days at the Oxley-Heard Funeral Home in Fernandina Beach, which has handled burials for many of Johnston's descendants. Finally, the casket was placed aboard the CSS Belle, a navy re-enacting boat, draped with a copy of the CSS Atlanta flag and the bonnie blue flag. The naval procession carried Johnston up the Amelia River to a docking point near Bosque Bella Cemetery where he was finally buried.

Find Census Data

There is a lot of free census data on the Web and it is scattered over many Web sites. To help find the census data that you need, one site has a directory containing more than 10,000 links to these census records. To view the site, go to: <http://www.censusfinder.com>

Newspaper Research

Newspapers can be a big help to the family historian with the obituaries, wedding announcements, gossip columns and local news. Newspapers change ownership, change names, and cease publication, making the task of finding old newspapers difficult. A good source of information is the currently published local newspaper which may have an archive of its old issues and perhaps issues of other local newspapers. Local libraries, archives and historical societies may have the issues that you need. To find what newspapers were published in a locality, *Winifred Gregory's American Newspapers 1821-1936 - A Union List*, H.W. Wilson Co., New York, 1937; is the most comprehensive directory. It is found at most libraries. In it you can find the dates of publication, location, a brief history of the paper and where copies can be found. The Internet has many sites that can help find old newspapers. Some are regional and some are national. You may find such sites using a good search engine. One site for US newspapers is the American Newspaper Repository at: <http://home.gwi.net/~dmb/list.htm>

Ask a Librarian

If you have ancestors from Scotland and have some questions for the experts, the National Library of Scotland now has an *Ask A Librarian* service. They have completed a trial period of six months testing and are now open to the public. To utilize this service, go to the Web site at

www.nls.uk/info/readingrooms/askalibrarian.html and complete the form. The library will answer your query or forward the query to another library that has the resources to answer the question. Because this may take time, you may track the status of your answer on the *Check your Questions and Answers* page. The response is private and you will create a password to access the status.

Norwegian Networking

You can contact other Norwegian researchers and learn more about family history research for Norwegian ancestors at:

<http://www.slektsnett.com/en>

NGS Circulating Library

An anonymous donor has made it possible for the National Genealogical Society (NGS) to add 1,500 new volumes to its circulating library. Any researcher can borrow these books on interlibrary loan. The entire collection is at the Saint Louis County Library in St. Louis, Missouri (e-mail: sollections@slcl.org). To learn more, visit the NGS online card catalog at: www.ngsgenealogy.org/libprecat.htm

Ellis Island Help

Stephen Morse developed a search tool to make the search of the Ellis Island records a single step which was temporarily hosted by Avotaynu, a well known Jewish genealogy publisher. Now these Web pages with the Ellis Island search tool have a new home sponsored by JewishGen and The Statue of Liberty-Ellis Island Foundation. The search capability has been enhanced with capability to search for similar sounding names and for town of origin. Immigrants of the Ellis Island period often came from non-English speaking countries and name changes upon entry to the United States were common. *Family Tree Magazine* has an excellent article in their December 2002 issue about the problems of search the Ellis

Island records. To visit the new Stephen Morse Web site, go to:

www.jewishgen.org/databases/eidb •

Compressed Files Often Cause Confusion

By Richard Rands

Based on the frequency of questions about zipped (or compressed) files, many people appear confused about compression of a PC file, and how to deal with one. When you create a backup of your PAF 5 database, the software uses a special process to effectively squeeze, or compress, the data into a much smaller space than when the file is in normal use. The term *zip* is the computer jargon that describes this process. So when you hear that a file has been *zipped* or *zipped up*, you know that it has been compressed. When you see a file with a file extension *.zip*, you can assume that it is a compressed file.

The process of *zipping* a file is very simple, but unless you understand the process, it can be confusing. To visualize how a file is compressed, imagine that your file in normal format on your computer is similar to a complicated form such as your income tax forms. Unless you have extremely complicated taxes, the majority of the boxes on the forms are blank. In the computer, empty spaces are represented by blank characters that use up just as much space as non-blank characters. When a file is compressed (or zipped), the long repetitions of blanks can be reduced to a single blank character plus a code that indicates how many of them have been eliminated. Any repetition of characters or sets of characters can be compressed using a similar technique. Consequently, a file with lots of repetition can be zipped into a much smaller space.

For example, at the moment my PAF 5 database requires 19.7 megabytes of disk space, but when I create a backup of it, the zipping process reduces it to 3.25 megabytes. That is a reduction of six times! If I were backing up my file to floppy disks, the uncompressed version would require more than 14 floppies. Using the PAF 5 backup routine will put it on 3 floppies with space left over.

The convenience of less space for a backup, however, means that if you

need to recover your file from a backup, you will need to uncompress the file using the restore function – a process that “unzips” the file. PAF cannot use a backup file unless it has been unzipped with the restore function. Both the backup function (zipping) and the restore function (unzipping) are found on the “File” menu in the top left-hand corner of your PAF screen. Earlier versions of PAF did not use the zipping method, but they still require a backup and restore process to function properly.

Zipping a file is not limited to PAF 5 backup files. The two most commonly used PC zipping programs, PKZIP and WinZIP, allow users to compress more than one file into a zip file. For example, if you have a large number of photo images that you would like to archive on a disk, you can use one of these two programs to create a single zip file into which all of your photos can be compressed and then saved to your disk. You can think of such a file as a bunch of files within a file. PKZIP has a companion program called PKUNZIP for unzipping the file, and WinZIP can be used to unzip a file.

PKZIP and WINZIP are very useful programs and well worth the low cost (\$25 and \$29 respectively). PKZIP can be purchased on the Web from www.pkware.com, and WinZip is available from www.winzip.com. PAF 5 has the zipping routine built into it, so that you do not need to purchase a copy of these programs to perform a PAF 5 backup. However, if you wish to compress your own files, you will need to acquire one of the programs.

Often you will receive an attachment to an e-mail message that has been zipped by the sender’s e-mail program. AOL will frequently zip an attachment if it is beyond a certain size, as a way to reduce the amount of time it takes to transmit the message. To read such a file when you have received it, you will need to either have an unzipping routine built into your e-mail reading program (such as AOL), or you will have to have such a program on your computer to perform the unzipping for you.

In any case, you can be certain that if a file has a file extension of “.zip,” but not the PAF5 backup file, you will need to unzip it before it can be opened by the program that needs to read it. •



Spiderwebs

Continued from page 6

Australian WW2 Database

The Australian War Memorial is a searchable database of Australians who enlisted for World War II. The database contains approximately 1 million service records of military personnel who served. The data found there includes the individual's name, service number, date of birth, place of birth and branch of service. If you click on the veteran's name, you can also view dates of enlistment and discharge, rank upon discharge, next of kin, posting at discharge and any honors received. You can search the World War II Nominal Roll by name, honors, service number, and places of birth, enlistment or residence. You may also print a certificate of service for any veteran listed on the site.

To see the World War II Nominal Roll, go to: <http://www.ww2roll.gov.au>

Newspaper Research

Newspapers can be a big help to the family historian with the obituaries, wedding announcements, gossip columns and local news. Newspapers change ownership, change names, and cease publication, making the task of finding old newspapers difficult. A good source of information is the currently published local newspaper which may have an archive of its old issues and perhaps issues of other local newspapers. Local libraries, archives and historical societies may have the issues that you need. To find what newspapers were published in a locality, *Winifred Gregory's American Newspapers 1821-1936 - A Union List*, H.W. Wilson Co., New York, 1937; is the most comprehensive directory. It is found at most libraries. In it you can find the dates of publication, location, a brief history of the paper and where copies can be found. The Internet has many sites that can help find old newspapers. Some are regional and some are national. You may find such sites using a good search engine. One site for US newspapers is the American Newspaper Repository at: <http://home.gwi.net/~dnb/list.htm>

An American Time Capsule

Printed material selected to capture the daily lives of our ancestors are available

on the American Time Capsule Web site to provide users a rich historical perspective for their ancestors times. The material dates from colonial times well into the twentieth century. Visit this site at:

<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/rbpehtml>

Records for England and Wales

For a minimum fee of 5 British pounds, you can search the civil records for England and Wales online. The birth marriage and death records dating from 1837 to the present are available. This minimum fee allows the user browsing time and allows researchers to save, retrieve and print a maximum of 50 index pages. You will need LizardTech's DjVu browser software which is free and works with Windows. It can be downloaded from the Web site. Unfortunately there are no Macintosh or Linux versions. Visit the Family Research Link Web site at: www.1837online.com/

Ask a Librarian

If you have ancestors from Scotland and have some questions for the experts, the National Library of Scotland now has an *Ask A Librarian* service. They have completed a trial period of six months testing and are now open to the public. To utilize this service, go to the Web site at www.nls.uk/info/readingrooms/askalibrarian.html and complete the form. The library will answer your query or forward the query to another library that has the resources to answer the question. Because this may take time, you may track the status of your answer on the *Check your Questions and Answers* page. The response is private and you will create a password to access the status.

Norwegian Networking

You can contact other Norwegian researchers and learn more about family history research for Norwegian ancestors at: <http://www.slektsnett.com/en>

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at the Saint Louis County Library in St. Louis, Missouri (e-mail: scollections@slcl.org). To learn more, visit the NGS online card catalog at: www.ngsgenealogy.org/libprecat.htm

Events

The events listed here are some of the major events that may be of interest to our members who may be travelling or vacationing, live nearby, or who may want to travel to attend an event.

Sharon DeBartolo Carmack

The Sonoma County Genealogical Society will feature Sharon DeBartolo Carmack in a seminar on 22 March 2003 at Sonoma State University in Rohnert Park, California. For details, go to: www.rootsweb.com/~cascgs/carmack.htm

Visit to Appalachia's Ancestral Homelands

The East Tennessee Historical Society 2003 tour on 12-26 May 2003 will include visits to Appalachian villages Dublin, Edinburgh, Belfast, and Shannon, the early home of settlers from Scotland, Ireland, and Northern Ireland. Beside the guided tours, there is ample free time to explore villages and sites on your own. For details, see the ETHS website at: www.east-tennessee-history.org

FGS Conference in 2003

The Federation of Genealogical Societies Conference will be held in Orlando on 3-6 September 2003. Watch for more details.

GENTECH2004

GENTECH2003 has been cancelled. With the NGS/GENTECH merger now completed, the planned GENTECH2003 conference to be held in Phoenix in January became a financial concern. Conferences this year have not been well-attended. The National Genealogical Society and the St. Louis Genealogical Society have begun planning GENTECH 2004 conference to be held in St. Louis, Missouri in early 2004. Watch for further details. •

Classroom Videos for Sale

The video of the Kory Meyerink Seminar, *Tracing German Ancestors Through America To Their Ancestral Home and Beyond*, can now be ordered. The cost is \$20. If a copy of the syllabus is wanted, the cost will be an additional \$7. The syllabus is 64 pages and includes an extensive list of sources for research on immigrants to America and German-American families.

The following videos are also available and can be ordered by mail or through our Web site at www.svpafug.org

- 210 British Isles Research (John Gleed 3/13 1999) 100 minutes Research sources and strategies for ancestors from the British Isles (\$12)
- 211 US Military Records (John Gleed 3/13 1999) 53 minutes Research strategy for individuals who fought in military campaigns for the US (\$12)
- 212 Better Internet Search Techniques (Barbara Renick 11/14/1998) 68 minutes Basic techniques to use the Internet effectively for beginners and Internet users who want to improve (\$12)
- 213 Family Search Data Indexes (Lynn Melville 6/12/1999) 73 minutes The use of the Family Search CD-ROM indexes for those getting started using Family Search (\$12)
- 214 Using US Census Records (Helen Crisman 2/12/1999) 95 minutes How to find ancestors, information which can be gleaned, and some tips for keeping records (\$12)
- 215 Adding Graphics to Your Family History (Leslie Kippel 5/10/1999) 85 minutes How to create beautiful family history books with photographs and clip art (\$12)
- 216 Civil War Research (Grace Marie Hackwell 9/11/1999) 117 minutes A discussion of all the Civil War records available for genealogical information and to learn what an ancestor did during the Civil War (\$12)
- 221 Seminar: Internet Research in the US and British Isles (Alan Mann 3/11/2000) 204 minutes (\$20)
- 303 Finding Obscure Places Using Web Sites (Buck Lyons, September 2000) 100 minutes: a fascinating look at using global positioning for family history including hardware and software needed; finding and getting to places such as cemeteries, obscure places and historical sites; finding maps and marking locations.; and documentation with global coordinates (\$12)
- 304 Documentation Guidelines (Richard Rands, August 2000) 90 minutes: a detailed look at the SV-PAF-UG book, "Family History Documentation Guidelines" and how to use the book for better documentation (\$12)
- 305 Without a Will There's Still a Way, (Judy Svoboda, May 2000) 114 minutes: a thorough look at probate records and how to use them in genealogy research with emphasis on the hard cases where the deceased did not leave a will. (\$12)
- 306 Barbara Renick Seminar March 10 How to do family history research and be successful at it (\$20)
- 307 Contacting Distant Relatives in Norway and Sweden and Exchanging Family History Data by (Einar Bergstead 11 November 2000) A success story about contacting relatives abroad to exchange family history information (\$12)
- 308 Introduction to PAF 5.0 by Richard Rands 10 Feb 2001(\$12)
- 309 Getting the most from U.S. Census (Helen Crisman, September 2001) A look the soon-to-be-released 1930 census and overcoming the problems of finding your family (\$12)
- 310 Using Multimedia with PAF (Janet Brigham, August 2001) A look at the multimedia capability of the PAF (\$12)
- 311 Editing Scanned Photos (Janet Brigham, May 2001) How to remove damage due to dirt scratches, aging and correct for poor lighting (\$12)
- 312 Locating Hard-to-find Ancestors (Karen Clifford, October 2001) Family history research advice from a professional genealogist (\$20)
- 313 How to Become a Family History Author (Darlene Robison, November 2001) Tips on writing your family history from a member and family history teacher in the LDS Church (\$12)
- 314 Tracing German Ancestors Through America to their Ancestral Home and Beyond, Kory Meyerink (\$20)
- Soon to be released:
- 315 PAF for Palm, Janet Brigham Rands (\$12)
- 316 Getting Started With PAF, Richard Rands (\$12)
- 317 Desktop and Genealogical File Management, Buck Lyons (\$12) •



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Articles contributed by readers are welcomed. Articles may be submitted as a text file on PC compatible disk, CD-ROM, or as an e-mail attachment. The editors reserve the right to accept, reject, or otherwise edit articles for publication. Articles are not returned.

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SV-PAF-UG meets monthly, except December, on the second Saturday of the month from 9 to 11 a.m. at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints building, 875 Quince Avenue, Santa Clara, CA. We offer classes and sponsor guest speakers at meetings to help family historians with computer technology and research techniques. Membership dues are \$15 per year (\$20 for Canada and \$25 for other international). Members are offered classes at meetings, mentor help, *PAFinder* (a monthly newsletter published each month there is a meeting), and occasional publications by the group.

Please Contact:

| | |
|----------------|--|
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| Mentor Program | Robert White computer-bob@mindspring.com 408 733 4686 |
| Classes | Leland Osburn 408 243 8348 |
| Questions | Dr. PAF mlharline@aol.com |

The following can be ordered from www.FamilySearch.org or at 1-800-537 5950:

| | |
|---|---------|
| Personal Ancestral File 2.3.1 Macintosh (diskette or CD version) | \$10 |
| Personal Ancestral File 3.01M MS-DOS (diskette version) | \$15 |
| Personal Ancestral File 4.0.4 Windows (CD version) | \$6 |
| Personal Ancestral File 5.1 Windows (CD version) | \$6 |
| Personal Ancestral File Companion 5.0 Windows (CD version) | \$13.50 |
| Personal Ancestral File 4.04 and 5.1 downloaded from www.FamilySearch.org | free |

The following can be ordered from SV-PAF-UG:

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|---|--|
| <i>PAFinder</i> back issues if available, per issue | \$1 (order by mail or purchase at meetings) |
| Videos of classes | see www.svpafug.org for titles and prices |
| <i>Family History Documentation Guidelines</i> | \$10 (see www.svpafug.org for volume price) |