



Evaluating Family History Data on the Web

By Richard Rands

I recently searched the Web, trying to resolve some misinformation about my second-great-grandfather, William Edward Partington. William was from Preston, England, and emigrated to Utah as a member of the LDS Church in 1843 when he was seven years old. At age 20, he married Annie Elizabeth Cowley, who gave him nine children before she died suddenly in 1872, leaving him with a large family of young children at age 36.

The family records get messy at that point. All the records agree that William remarried and raised a second family of nine or ten children, but the given name of his second wife and the marriage date are hard to verify. As I was searching the Web, I encountered the following inquiry posted on a genealogy message board:

Any information on the ancestors of Ingar Anderson, born 12 Jan 1856 in Ostraodarslo, Sweden, and died in Logan, Cache, Utah, on 8 Aug 1923. She married William Edward Partington in Feb 1857. Thanks!

Born in 1856 and married in 1857? What a prime example of the caution we all need to have as we search any source, especially the Web, for our family history! Further searching uncovered a marriage date to an Inge Anderson in March of 1875 and another in March of 1879. How can we sort out the facts from the errors, and how can we determine the value of the sources?

The first fact to remember is that there are many people who don't care very much whether the details are accurate. Just as long as they have a name and an approximate date to fill the field, they seem to be satisfied. A christening date will be used as a birth date without the slightest distress. I have discovered an entire erroneous ancestry linked to a line because someone found a name of someone who was born about the right time in a nearby place.

Fact number 2 is that there are no well known sites on the Web that verify family history details when they are posted. Some may be more reliable than

others, but the fact remains that no Web site manager has the time or the resources to check all data that are posted to their sites. There are some sites where sources are listed, giving you a chance to verify the authenticity of the information, but often, when a source is listed, it is a questionable source. For example, many listings will simply reference the LDS Ancestral File as the source. Keep in mind that the Ancestral File is a secondary source without documentation of primary sources. Some sites will indicate that the source of their data is a GEDCOM file from FamilySearch.org, or information from another member of the family. All of these are secondary sources and are subject to error that can cause misleading conclusions and a lot of wasted time.

For example, most of the entries on the Web for William Partington are similar to this one:

Sources:

- 1. Repository:
Name: Family History Library
Salt Lake City, UT 84150 USA
- Title: Ancestral File (TM)
- Author: The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints
- Publication: June 1998 (c), data as of 5 JAN 1998

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Using Custom Events and Attributes

By Lesly Klippel

Using the "Custom Events and Attributes" feature of PAF, you can add spice to your family history database, organize the information you have about your ancestors, and record all that miscellaneous data in your memory or in your pile of papers that may be ultimately discarded and lost to posterity. It's a feature of the PAF program that many people ignore, either because they don't know how to use it or because they are used to putting all their miscellaneous data into the "Notes" field. Read on to learn how easy it is to put information into the "custom events" fields and some advantages to doing so.

A custom event or an attribute can describe a happening or a characteristic about a person. Either one can be entered on the "Edit Individual" screen or on the "Marriage" screen. They can be printed as an option on family group sheets, ancestry wall charts, descendency wall charts, custom reports, Ahnentafel and Modified Register books and they are automatically included on individual summary sheets. In addition, custom events can be included on Web pages. Also, you can create a focus list by searching on a particular event or combination of events. For instance, you can find everyone in your database with red hair if you have included that attribute in the "Physical Description" event field.

Some custom events and attributes are standard on the Edit Individual screen. They are the items most commonly known about a person such as Title, Aliases (Also Known As), Nickname, Cause of death, Physical description, Ancestral File number and Custom ID number. Some of these events are automatically printed on reports and forms and some are optionally printed. Experiment with the various forms and options and click on "Preview" on the "Print" screen so see what information and formats are included. Then you can edit the data to make the report read

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logically. For instance, the cause of death should not be capitalized because in the printout of the books, it appears in the sentence "The cause of death was..."

Adding a Predefined Event

To add a custom event or attribute, click on "Options" on the "Edit Individual" screen and choose "New Event/Attribute" from the menu. A list of predefined events is displayed from which you can choose what you want. If you choose a predefined event, a template will be displayed with the fields specific to that event. For instance, if you choose "Occupation," the date, place and description fields will be displayed in which you can enter the pertinent information.

TIP: do not capitalize the occupation since it appears in a sentence in the printouts. You may want to add a conjunction before the occupation such as "a" before bookkeeper to make the sentence logical.

Use the "Print Preview" feature liberally to make the sure your entries will make sense in the printouts.

Some of the events on the list that I find particularly useful are emigration (exiting a country) and immigration (entering a country), naturalization, marriage license date (that date is often the only one you have to identify a marriage), military service, missionary service, probate and will (those dates differ from the death date), residence and religion. All of these are important events in a person's life and they provide information needed to further research on the person and his or her ancestral line.

Do experiment with each event you choose in order to get the right sentence format for reports. For instance, under the "Hospitalization" description, I had to type "for an operation for colon cancer" in order to properly complete the sentence starting with "He was hospitalized..." Another example is physical description. In the sentence "He was..." the description "5'10" with light brown hair and blue eyes" reads better than merely stating "5'10", light brown hair, blue eyes." You don't want to wait until you start to print forms and books and then find that you have to go back and rewrite all your custom events.

Marriage Custom Event

Creating a custom event concerning a marriage can be done from the "Edit

Marriage" screen which is accessed in the family view by double-clicking the marriage block. Again, you would click on the "Options" button and then follow the procedure outlined above. Check the "Print Preview" of the various reports to see where the marriage custom events are located and to see if the wording is logical. In the books, for instance, engagement information is located in the paragraph telling about the couple's marriage and the default sentence reads "He got engaged [date] in [place]."

Remember that the books can be saved as text files and opened and edited in your word processor where you can change or delete custom event sentences as desired.

Creating a New Custom Event

If the event you want to record is not on the predefined event list, you can create one to fit your need. On the "Edit Individual" screen, press "Options," "New Event/Attribute" and choose "New." The "Define Custom Event" template now appears to let you format the event. Create a title describing the event such as College Degree, Volunteer Position, Health Problems (important for medical genealogical research) or Bad Habits (if you are feeling whimsical). You can always mark it "Confidential."

Next, type a short title which the program will use if there is not enough room on the report for the full title. Then choose an abbreviation which, again, will be used when space is limited in a report. Next you must choose the wording you want for this event on reports and printouts. For instance, under Volunteer Position, I chose Date and Place and typed "He was a %6 in %4 in %5." which created this sentence in the books: "He was a volunteer fireman in 1936 in San Francisco."

Constantly check the wording in your custom event by choosing the various printouts on the Print menu and clicking the "Preview" button. Zoom in to see what the wording looks like in the report. You can change the date, place and description on the "Edit Individual" page, but to change the properties of the custom event, click on "Edit" and choose "Individual Event List." Highlight the event you want to change and click the "Edit" button. You will then have the "Define Custom Event" template displayed so you can make

your changes. A similar procedure will allow you to delete a custom event by choosing "Delete" instead of "Edit."

Advantages to Using Custom Events

While much of the information included in the custom events options can be entered into the "Notes" field, you might not remember to include everything you know about a person that you want to record for other researchers and for your posterity. Using the predefined events in the "Custom Event/Attribute" list jogs your memory about those things that most certainly will eventually be lost if not recorded.

Another advantage to using the custom events is that in the book printouts, they are included in logical sequence and wording, saving you a lot of typing in the "Notes" field. They are easier to edit or delete than if they were in the "Notes" field and each field can be searched separately in a "Focus" list. You find them in the "Possible Fields" list under the heading "User Events." You can thus search your database to find all the volunteer firemen, people who died of a particular ailment or those with a particular physical description. Other examples of "Focus" list items include those who immigrated in a certain time period or resided in a particular place. The uses for custom events is unlimited and learning to use them can improve the quality and appearance of your PAF database. •

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On the other hand, a source such as the USGenWeb site that contains a transcription of marriages from a newspaper archive such as this is certainly a significantly more reliable source:

18 Feb 1857 FHL US/CAN Film
0026587 item 5

Married, Salt Lake City, 14 Feb 1857,
William Edward PARTINGTON and
Annie Elizabeth COWLEY.

Similar listings from cemetery records, county vital records, or parish records will be equally substantial.

Some sites will give rudimentary source information, such as this:

[5489] [SOURCE] James Thompson Family History. E-mail – james.thompson@doubleday.g

This hopefully will lead to a current contact who can validate the details, or can provide more reliable sources.

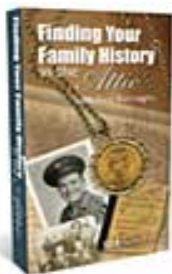
The first recommendation for evaluating the information you discover is to plot out the time span of the dates. Often you will note discrepancies in birth dates and marriage dates. Seek out narrative stories about your family members. Often a statement in a story will help sort out an incorrect date. For example, the fact that someone fought in a particular war may clarify which of two birth dates is correct. An age listed in a trade guild directory may be a crucial clue. Note which children were still at home and which had already left home when later siblings were born. That will help identify photos, and will make sure that the dates are consistent. Look for naming patterns that were used by the family. Try to verify ancillary details such as occupation, religion, education, and military service.

Be careful of records passed on by descendants who are more than one generation removed. A granddaughter of William Edward Partington recorded an incorrect date for his second marriage. She could be right and the IGI and all the other records could be wrong. The way to be sure is to prove one of the dates to be wrong or find a reliable source for one of the dates.

In general, you should view any family history information as clues in a puzzle that need to be checked out and verified. Above all, be sure to enter a source, no matter where you discovered the information such that those who follow you will know exactly how reliable the source of the information is. •

Recently Published

Video: *Finding Your Family History in the Attic*



Tony Burroughs, a popular genealogy lecturer, is the narrator of a videotape produced by 123 Genealogy called *Finding Your Family History in the Attic*. In the video, Tony tells how to find family treasures in your home or the home of a relative. 123 Genealogy is a small company which produces genealogy videotapes.

Tony Burroughs teaches genealogy at Chicago State University and has written the book, *Black Roots*. He has appeared as an expert in seven episodes of the PBS television series, *Ancestors*, and on the television programs *ABC World News Tonight* and *CBS Sunday Morning*. He lectures throughout the United States and Canada and has been quoted in the *New York Times*, *Jet Magazine*, *People Magazine*, *Time Magazine*, and other publications.

The videotape is set in a typical American Home, and Tony goes from room to room, pointing out the information that can be found rummaging through old family photographs, the family Bible, old records, and family heirlooms and memorabilia. Information is analyzed to determine authorship and date recorded to judge the accuracy of the data. You learn what things to look for in examining each of the items to gather information for your family history. Tony also comments on how to preserve, copy and display many of the artifacts.

Finding Your Family History in the Attic is 73 minutes long, and sells for \$19.95 plus shipping. You can order it online at: <http://www.123genealogy.com>

Online Roots



Online Roots, How to Discover Your Family's History & Heritage with the Power of the Internet, by Pamela Boyer Porter, is one of a new series of books from the National Genealogical Society and published by Rutledge Hill Press. The book describes U. S. genealogy sources on the Internet, and tells how

and where to find the information that you need. It also tells how to use the Internet to do research to locate sources not available on the Internet as well as online sources. The book is not a list of sources, except for a list of major online repositories. There is an emphasis on keeping track of and recording sources of data and verification of the data. The author explains how to find information on living and recently living people by using sources like the Social Security Death Index and online telephone directories.

Online Roots, How to Discover Your Family's History & Heritage with the Power of the Internet is a 310-page book which lists for \$19.99. You can order it by ISBN 1401600212 at your bookstore or online at: <http://www.momemorylane.com/> •

Software of Interest

Family Historian



Family Historian 2.1 is a new upgrade to the Windows genealogy program created by Simon Orde from England. Family Historian can accept all records and fields (tags) from any GEDCOM (5.5) file and is unusual because the program uses a GEDCOM file as the database. There is no translation required to import and export GEDCOM files and therefore no loss of information in the translation process.

Entering and editing data in Family Historian is easy and intuitive. There are places for all the basic data: names, dates and places for birth, death divorce, baptism, marriage, and so forth. As information is entered, you are invited to enter the source for the information. Although you can work with a text display, you can also work with a pedigree or descendent display, complete with images of the individuals if they are available. The "All Relatives" display makes it easy to

quickly zoom in and out to edit specific individuals and to move from one part of the family to another. Screenshots at: <http://www.family-historian.co.uk/tour/Tour1%20-%20The%20Diagram%20Window.htm> show the power of the charts available as display options.

Family Historian can compare and merge two or more GEDCOM files. Before doing a merge process, you can see how the results of the merge will appear. You can then let Family Historian do the merge, or override any aspect of the merge. You can also do the merge everything manually, using the information generated in the compare process.

The “Events & Attributes” section is a place to record full details of events in the lives of the individuals or families. The large number of pre-defined events such as birth, death, baptism, marriage, and divorce are available, but you can create any event type that you want and use it exactly like you would use a standard event. The attributes are facts about a person, such as religion, residence, occupation and affiliations. Family Historian comes with many standard attributes, but you can easily add additional attributes of any type. The additional events and attributes will all be stored in GEDCOM format, and will be clear to users of the Family Historian program, but other genealogy programs may have difficulty interpreting the new categories or may discard them.

The support for source citations and for notes is good. Events, attributes, and data items can each have multiple source citations. Family Historian only requires each citation to be entered only once, and you can link the citation to as many events as necessary. There is no limit to the number of notes used. Your records can also be linked to external documents which can be stored as separate files or embedded into the family tree file. There is no limit to the numbers of spouses, children, sets of parents, pictures, multimedia files, notes, or source citations. A group picture or multimedia file can be linked to each of the individuals in the file. Each individual can be linked to the spot he or she appears in the picture, making identification of the individual in the picture easy. You can have multiple versions for names, dates, places with separate sources for each

one. It is a good way to track conflicting data until the discrepancies can be resolved.

The Query Engine is another useful feature of the program. Using it is like asking questions to a family historian who knows all the answers. For example, you could ask for the following:

- the first names of the girls who were descendents of an ancestor
- the age of your ancestors when they died

Family Historian has a set of standard queries, but you can easily create a query to get the information that you need. The data from a query can be printed in several formats or copied to a clipboard and transferred to other programs such as a word processor or spreadsheet program. A custom query could also be used to prepare a GEDCOM file or to split a database into smaller databases. The query engine can be used to create custom reports or lists. There is a list of standard reports which are commonly used. All reports can be saved in HTML (Web) format, Rich Text Format (RTF), or plain text.

Each report is configurable. While viewing the report, you can change the style, format, page layout, and the content. The “Reports” window allows you to preview any report and browse it online. You can use a report to edit or correct data in the database. You may switch back to any Family Historian window without closing the “Reports” window. Multiple “Report” windows can be open at the same time.

Those who have used Family Historian version 2.0 users will like the following new features added with version 2.1:

- A new facility for creating named lists such as bookmarks, work-in-progress records, famous people, a “ToDo” list for a planned trip
- A new “Tools” menu facility to out-of-sequence events, attributes, children, spouses, or LDS ordinances
- A new “Backup/Restore” facility to store backup data in ZIP format
- Fast-find edit controls for “Name” and/or “Record ID” in the “Records” window
- New “Preferences” options

Family Historian runs under Windows 95, 98, ME, 2000, NT4 or XP, but not under Windows 3.1 or earlier versions.

The program has a retail price of £49.95 (about \$82) and a free upgrade is available to version 2.0 users. There may be discounted prices at some dealers. Family Historian ships with a 48-page printed Quick Start Tutorial booklet. For more information, go to: <http://www.family-historian.co.uk> •

News of the Weird

Bill Seeks Access to Insurance Company Records

Records are made available for family history research for strange reasons. To illustrate this point, consider the bill headed through the Illinois legislature which will require every insurance company that does business in Illinois to make public any records that show the company once insured slaveholders for injury or death of their slaves. A company that may have merged with or acquired another company must search each predecessor's archives and release information about policies issued to slaveholders that covered their slaves. The bill, sponsored by Rep. Monique Davis (D-Chicago), was inspired by a law passed five months earlier when the Chicago City Council approved a similar law and made Chicago the first major U.S. city to require all businesses seeking contracts with the city to search their records and reveal whether they profited from slavery. The sponsor, Alderwoman Dorothy Tillman, says the purpose of the city ordinance is to expose the horrors of slavery and begin a national dialogue on reparations for the practice of slavery. Family historians are not likely to question the sanity or the motives of the individuals responsible for the passage of the law. In a time when other records are being made unavailable to genealogists for the cause of privacy, this law will make some valuable records available for African-American research. These people have limited source records and need all the help they can get. •



Ask Dr. PAF



“I Give No Answers Before Their Time!”

by Dr. Cornelius D. PAF

Q: I checked my records and found that a woman (Martha) had no parents or children. To check for other records without links to relatives, I printed the “Unlinked Individuals” list. Martha was not there. Where did she go?

A: The “Unlinked Individuals” list only includes records that are not linked to anyone. Is Martha linked to a spouse? If so, she will not show on the list. There are other programs that will show “islands,” or groups that are not linked to the main database. One is GENviewer, by Mudcreek. From the Mudcreek Web site we find:
“GENviewer is a shareware application. You are free to use GENviewer on your computer for 15 days. Each version of GENviewer has the 15 day trial period. To purchase a license, please go to <http://www.mudcreek.ca> for more information.”

Q: Do I enter a place name as it is now or as it was at the time the person in the record lived there?

A: The basic rule is to use the place name at the time the event occurred. It is important that the place name was valid at the time. As the anvil salesman from *The Music Man* said, “You gotta know the territory!”

At least you must know the history of the territory. A place name can easily change during the lifetime of a person although the individual never moved from that place. There are charts to tell you when counties in states in the United States were created and the names of their parent counties. But the jurisdiction of a place may have changed as boundaries moved during wars, as in Europe and Africa or South America, or during settlement of new areas. Boundary changes affecting an area, especially areas with frequent wars and political changes, are hard to track. It is important to know these boundary changes so that you can find records.

The usual form of city, county, state or province, country doesn’t apply in all areas; not even in the USA. Louisiana has parishes instead of counties, but they do similar functions. Alaska doesn’t have counties. They have municipalities and boroughs.

People lived in the New England area before states existed, and before the United States of America was created. Residents of Plymouth in the 1600s did not consider themselves in Massachusetts. Many of the early communities in that area used the same place names that the native Indians used. For purposes of searching it is better to not use the archaic names because it is difficult to know the precise time period when the names were used. A history of the names of the place could be put in the family notes.

You can use a variation of place name format that fits the area. You should consider how the place name will look on a pedigree chart if you are going to share reports with family members. You should also consider that if you want to submit names to the IGI, it must be done using the TempleReady program which has a limited list of country names that will be accepted.

Q: When I tried to open my PAF program today I the screen displayed a dialog box which says, “This file cannot be opened for read_write access. Would you like to open it for read only access?” I have never seen this before.

A: Is it possible that you had not closed your PAF program when you last used it. If that is the problem, just look at the Windows status bar to see the open programs. If there are two icons for AF, click on one of them and close it. PAF doesn’t allow two copies of the program to be open at the same time. You can open more than one file at a time. You have to shift back and forth to copy and write to them, but you can see them when you use the Windows “tile vertically” process. The PAF program itself won’t allow more than one application to be operating.

Q: I want a very simple chart that displays 7 or 8 generations on one page. I don’t need any details. I just want to see which lines have been extended and which lines need attention.

A: A fan chart printed with PAF Companion shows the names of the individuals with only the years of birth and death joined by a hyphen. It can

easily put seven generations on one page, and eight if you can read small print. Use landscape orientation for the printer. To have a margin at the bottom of the fan chart, set the Y offset to 1 inch, or choose your own offset value.

Another choice is to create an Ancestor Chart with PAF 5 that creates pages that can be tiled together to show as many pedigree names as you desire. •

Genealogy in the News

Police Arrest Spammer

Howard Carmack, known as the Buffalo Spammer, was arrested and arraigned in New York on four felony and two misdemeanor charges. He is accused of sending more than 825 million unsolicited e-mails from illegal EarthLink accounts. He. This is the first criminal prosecution of a spammer under a six-month-old New York law against identity-theft. The New York Attorney General has stated publicly that they want a jail term in this case.

Beverly Hillbillies Wanted

Viacom-CBS producers are enamored with the reality TV shows that have achieved good ratings during the last few years. Their latest plans have ruffled the feathers of a number of family historians. The producers have advertised to those with roots or ties to the Appalachia. They want a poor Appalachian family that they can pack up and move to a mansion in Beverly Hills. Robert M. Brady, a proud grandson of a West Virginia country preacher is one of a number of many opposed to the TV series. He feels that the series will make a mockery of his hard-working, red-blooded ancestors, kinfolk, and descendants with roots in Appalachia. See his Web site at: rbrady@earthlink.net

Genealogy Surprises Bill Gates-

Television station KSFY reported that Bill Gates was amazed to learn that the computers that he and his wife donated to the Watertown, South Dakota, Public Library are used mostly for genealogy research. It is surprising that Mr. Gates is so slow to learn that genealogy is one of the three most popular topics on the Internet. Will Microsoft will soon offer a big list of genealogy software? •

Opening Doors to Your Family History ~ Part 2

By Allin Kingsbury

This completes an article begun in the May 2003 PAFinder about Internet portals that may help family historians.

Image Search Engines

You may want to find some vintage pictures to illustrate your family history or other uses. Pictures taken before 1930 are more than 72 years old, so any copyright that may have applied has expired. The Internet has many pictures from old books, photo archives, scanned picture post card collections, and other sources. A number of picture search engines are now available to help find the images that are needed.

AltaVista Image Search

<http://www.altavista.com/image>

The Amazing Picture Machine Index:

<http://www.ncrtec.org/picture.htm>

Ditto.com

<http://www.ncrtec.org/picture.htm>

Finding Images on the Web

<http://www.bu.edu/library/training/webimages.htm>

Google Image Search

<http://images.google.com/>

Image Finder (DL SunSITE)

<http://sunsite.Berkeley.EDU/ImageFinder/>

WebSEEK: Content-based Image and Video Search and Catalog Tool

<http://www.ctr.columbia.edu/webseek/>

Yahoo! Picture Gallery

<http://gallery.yahoo.com/>

Directories of Search Engines

FinderSeeker: The Search Engine for Search Engines

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

Fredz Search Engine List

<http://www.angelfire.com/tx3/fredzeve/search.html>

Search.com:

<http://www.search.com/?ref=searchiq>

Search Engines Worldwide

<http://home.inter.net/takakuwa/search/search.html>

A Search Engines Galore World:

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

Sharkey's Search Engine Index

<http://www2.hawaii.edu/~sharkey/links/search/search.htm>

General Lists of Links

Many of the commercial sites have lists of links to other sites of interest, general information about genealogy research. Many also have useful data such as queries, obituaries, vital records,

GEDCOM files, and frequently asked questions.

About Genealogy: Genealogy Research Guide

<http://genealogy.about.com/?once=true&>

Access Genealogy: Genealogy Web Portal

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

A.G.I.: Internet Genealogical Directory

<http://www.chez.com/agi/intro2.htm>

Aids Available Online for Genealogy: Links to forms, software, clip art for genealogy

<http://www.geocities.com/genforms/>

Ancestor Search

http://www.geocities.com/thereids_geo/search/

AOL Members' Genealogy Related Web Pages

<http://members.aol.com/saxbury/>

Available Resources Online for Genealogy

<http://geocities.com/genforms/>

A Barrel of Genealogy Links

<http://www.genealogytoday.com/barrel/>

Cyberspace Genealogy

<http://www.angelfire.com/tx4/sugah/index.html>

The CyberTree Genealogy Database

<http://www.earthlink.net/error/404.html>

Discovering Family Histories Resources (genealogy resources for USA and other countries)

<http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.com/~northing/>

Everton's Genealogical Helper -

International Genealogical Resources

<http://www.everton.com/reference/world-resource.php>

Everton's Genealogical Helper - US

Genealogical Resources

<http://www.everton.com/reference/usa-resource.php>

FamilyTradition's Family History

Homepage (Database, message boards, links)

<http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.com/~fhistory/>

Family Tree Maker Online User Home Pages

<http://familytreemaker.genealogy.com/users/?Welcome=1048293743>

FamilyWeb Cafe

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

Family Workings (queries, adoption

queries, obituaries, cemeteries,

GEDCOMs, researchers)

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

Ford Genealogy Club Home Page

<http://www.wwnet.net/~krugman1/fgc/>

Free Genealogy Resources

<http://www.1stopfreeshop.com/genealogy.htm>

Genealogical Journeys In Time

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

Genealogical WWW pages

<http://www.tic.com/gen.html>

Genealogy and Roots ... The Genealogy Beat

<http://www.searchbeat.com/roots.htm>

Genealogy and Surnames *Research

One/Stop* + Ancestry.com Search

Engine <http://surnamesearch.com/>

Genealogy.com's Genealogy SiteFinder

<http://www.genealogy.com/links/index.html>

Genealogy Forum - About Genealogy

<http://forums.about.com/ab-genealogy/start/>

Genealogy Forum on CompuServe

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

Genealogy Helpers Select list of

genealogy links.

<http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.com/~helper/>

Genealogy in Texas and Beyond

<http://home.myweb.net/~de/>

Genealogy Links and Surname Search

Engines

<http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.com/~darci/search.htm>

GenealogyLinks.net

<http://www.genealogylinks.net/>

Genealogy on the Internet (Alan

Mann, A.G.)

<http://www.geocities.com/Heartland/6266/genealogy.htm>

Genealogy Resources on the Internet

(John Fuller and Chris Gaunt)

<http://www.rootsweb.com/~jfuller/internet.html>

Genealogy Room

<http://www.geocities.com/genealogychat/>

Genealogy Search Advice Customized

genealogy search advice.

<http://www.genealogy-search-advice.com/>

Genealogy - Suite101.com (articles

and links)

<http://www.suite101.com/welcome.cfm/genealogy>

Genealogy Today

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

GeneaSearch.com (genealogy look-

ups) <http://www.geneasearch.com/>

GenLinx <http://www.genlinx.org/>

Genealogy Today

<http://www.standard.net.au/~jwilliams/index.htm>

Genealogy Today

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

GeneaSearch.com (genealogy look-

ups) <http://www.geneasearch.com/>

GenLinx <http://www.genlinx.org/>

Genealogy Today

<http://www.standard.net.au/~jwilliams/index.htm>

Genealogy Today

<http://www.standard.net.au/~jwilliams/index.htm>

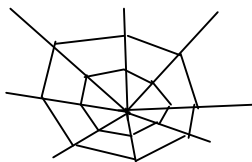
GEN-SITE-SWAP Mailing List
http://www.rootsweb.com/~jfuller/gen_mail_computing.html#GEN-SITE-SWAP
 GenWeb.Net (genealogy and history)
<http://www.genweb.net/>
 Helm's Genealogy Toolbox
<http://www.genealogytoolbox.com/>
 Interactive Genealogy USA
<http://victorian.fortunecity.com/literary/463/igen/>
 Internet Genealogical Directory /
 Annuaire Généalogique Internet
<http://www.chez.com/agi/intro.htm>
 Ivan Sander's Home Page -
 Downloadable Bookmark Page
 (Categorised genealogical links)
<http://members.ozemail.com.au/~isanders/>
 Just Genealogy Links & Chat
<http://www.justgen.com/>
 Legends and Legacies Family Tree
 Collection
<http://www.legends.ca/genealogy/familyTrees.html>
 LineageWeb.com
<http://www.lineageweb.com/>
 MultiGen - Search Multiple Genealogy
 Databases
<http://ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/CACulman/MultiGen.htm>
 Nerd World: Genealogy
<http://www.nerdworld.com/nw192.html>
 Nerd World: Personal Pages -
 Genealogy
<http://www.nerdworld.com/cgi-bin/subjects.cgi?usr=582&cat=1124>
 Olive Tree Genealogy (Huguenots &
 Walloons, Ontario Loyalists, Mohawk,
 Mennonite, Palatines and Dutch
 Research)
<http://olivetreegenealogy.com/index.shtml>
 Questor's Genealogy Jump Start (getting
 started)
<http://www.witsend.org/gen/questor.htm>
 Pepsi Bear's Genealogy Zoo
<http://www.geocities.com/Heartland/Hollow/1331/>
 RAND Genealogy Club Home Page
<http://www.rand.org/contact/personal/Genea/>
 Reunion Users with Home Pages
<http://www.leisterpro.com/doc/Users.html>
 ROOTS-L Home Page
<http://www.rootsweb.com/roots-l/roots-l.html>
 RootsWeb.com
<http://www.rootsweb.com/>
 Ruth Ann's Genealogy Index
<http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.com/~ruthann/>

Searchable Genealogy Links [Lauren
 KNOBLAUCH]
<http://www.bc1.com/users/sgl/>
 Sharing Family History on the Internet
<http://www.bc1.com/users/sgl/>
 Sharkey's Links to Genealogical Links:
<http://www2.hawaii.edu/~sharkey/links/search/searche.htm>
 A Surname Site <http://surnamesite.com/>
 Tripod - Interact - Genealogy Pod
 Publishers
http://www.tripod.lycos.com/pod_central/
 Ultimate Family Tree: Family Web
 Pages
<http://www.uftree.com/UFT/Nav/familywebpagesview.html>
 USArroots.com -- Free Genealogy Links
<http://www.usaroots.com/>
 What's New With the Genealogy Home
 Page
http://www.genhomepage.com/what_new.html
 WhoWhere? Personal Home Pages
<http://homepages.whowhere.com/PersonalInterests/Genealogy/>
 Yourfamily.com Family Home Pages
<http://yourfamily.com/family.cgi>

More

Web sites come and go, and their content is constantly changing. There is no guarantee that a favorite Web site will be there tomorrow. This list was checked when the article was written. Many other sites could be listed in the article. Their omission was not intentional nor was it a judgement of their quality. There was just not enough room nor time. •

Spider Webs



FindYourFamilyTree.com

Progeny Software has a new Web site where you can search for a name in the Pedigree Resource File (PRF), a collection of CD-ROMs containing databases contributed by individuals and published by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. The PRF contains more than 55-million names that are linked as families and the PRF has become a significant source of genealogy records for researchers. More

than one thousand databases are added each month by contributors. The PRF began after the Ancestral File, another lineage-linked collection of genealogy records was placed online by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. The PRF databases have sources for the data if they are included by the contributors. Also, data from contributors is not edited or merged with data from other contributors after it is contributed.

Progeny software has written the software that comes with the PRF to search the database. Similar software on their Web site will search the PRF and tell which of the CD-ROMs in the PRF have information about the individual. Once the individual is found, the CD-ROMs needed can be ordered from The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. The Church also has an online index for the PRF, but www.findyourfamilytree.com is a Web site dedicated to the PRF collection. You can also download a PRF guide from the site to explain the PRF and how to use it effectively.

The PRF CD-ROMs are attractively priced. They are sold in sets of five CDs for \$20, or volumes of 25 CDs for \$63.

Surname Heirlooms

Many families have become separated from historic heirlooms through estate sales, moves, bankruptcies and carelessness. A Web site called Surname Heirlooms is attempting to reunite family members with heirlooms such as letters, bonds, post cards, and photographs. Items are listed on the site by surname, date, location and type of item. See:

<http://www.surnameheirlooms.com> •

Classes ~

July 12, 2003

PAF 4 & 5 Classes

- Using PAF to Record Data
- Correcting PAF Linkages

Macintosh Class

- PAF Extras on a Mac

General Classes

- Using a PDA for Family History
- Land and Tax Record Research
- Questions & Answers

Spiderwebs

Continued from page 479

Chinese in California Collection

The Library of Congress has a new online collection called, *The Chinese in California, 1850-1925*. The collection includes about 8,000 images and pages of primary source materials about nineteenth and early twentieth century Chinese immigrants to California. The site can be searched by keyword or browsed by subject. Subjects include early views of San Francisco, Chinese textbooks, San Francisco schools, Chinese American communities, and San Francisco's Chinatown. Visit the site at:

<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/award99/cubhtml/cichome.html>

Your Coat of Arms

A coat of arms is a popular thing to include in a family history. A coat of arms is awarded to an individual, not a family as many family historians assume. An acquaintance, born in India and obviously not Caucasian, received an advertisement for "his" coat of arms. He asked what it was all about and I explained and suggested he may want to decorate his office with it as a joke. Most family histories that display a coat of arms are publishing a similar joke, because the coat of arms is often for an individual with no proven relationship to the family.

The Society of Genealogists in England has an excellent Web site which explains coats of arms. It may be that an ancestor once used a coat of arms. In this case, it is an appropriate illustration for your family history. To avoid any display of ignorance, you may want to hear from the experts at: <http://www.sog.org.uk/leaflets/arms.html>.

New at Origins.net

Origins.net, the owners of the English Origins, Irish Origins, and Scots Origins Web sites have added 60,000 more names added to the

London Apprentice Abstracts. (See: <http://www.englishorigins.com>) Visitors may also order hard copies of Boyds Marriage Index and some of the Suffolk parish registers online. Details are found at <http://www.englishorigins.com/help/bmi-parishstats.asp?county=Suffolk>. These sites continue to add new data. •

Recently Published

Continued from page 43

CD-ROM: *Early Pennsylvania Tax Lists*



Early Pennsylvania Tax Lists from the Third Series of the published Pennsylvania Archives is now available on CD-ROM. These lists cover the period from the 1760s to the early 1790s. The data was published in book form in 12 volumes from 1897 to 1898, but now all 10,021 pages are available on one full text searchable CD-ROM.

The Pennsylvania Archives were published as 136 volumes grouped into 10 series. The other series include military, tax, land, naturalization, marriage, baptism, ship passenger lists, and other data of interest to genealogists and historians. Volumes 11-22 which comprise the Third Series contain the tax lists. The years and type of tax vary with the county. Tax payers are listed by township and the lists often include the number of acres owned, horses and cattle owned, and a count of servants and African

Americans per taxed household. The Land Return Tax of 1783 for Westmoreland and of 1784 for Bucks and Bedford counties, along with the List of Inhabitants for York County in 1783 are particularly important. These lists itemize the acres per taxable, and include the number of white and black inhabitants. This constitutes a complete census for these four counties. The CD-ROM contains the *Retrospector Viewer*, which displays and prints the original page images and conducts full-text searches for any word specified.

The CD-ROM is published by Retrospect Publishing, which has published full-text searchable CD-ROMs for Pennsylvania genealogists since 1999. They have published 26 CD-ROMs to date. To use this CD-ROM, you need a PC with Windows (95 through XP), a CD-ROM drive, a Pentium II at 400 MHz or faster; 64MB of RAM; 4MB of hard drive space; and a 256-color VGA display. On-line or mail-in authorization is required for this CD-ROM, and it will not work with network software.

The Third Series Vol. XI-XXII Pennsylvania Tax List sells for \$98.95 plus shipping. For more information visit the Retrospect Publishing Web site: <http://www.RetrospectPublishing.com>

Your Family Tree Magazine



A new 100-page bimonthly magazine, *Your Family Tree*, has been announced by Future

Publishing, an English company. The magazine targets the growing number of amateur genealogists with articles on family history research, Q&As, news, reader case studies, book and software reviews, hints, tips and advice. Feature articles subjects in the first issue include using birth, marriage and death certificates; how to preserve your old documents with the help of a computer; the lives of 1800s merchant seamen; and tracing your Irish roots. Each issue also comes with tear-out-and-keep extras: a regional research card to help when travelling in search of family history in particular areas of England and four collectable surname reference cards which explain the history of a surname and displaying the coat of arms. A cover-mounted CD-ROM for Macintosh or PC will also be a regular feature. Issue one has a full version of *PhotoPlus 6*, to scan in and restore old photos along with *Kith & Kin Pro 1.1*, a complete genealogy application program. Future issues will include demos, shareware, full programs, and research resources.

News stand price of the magazine will be £4.99. For more details, see: <http://www.yourfamilytreemap.co.uk/>

CD-ROM: London 1891 Census Index



S&N Genealogy Supplies, a British genealogy supplier, has released version 3 of the *London 1891 Census Index* on CD-ROM. This is the index and the images of the original census records are available from S&N Genealogy Supplies on a separate set of CD-ROMs. The index was compiled by volunteers who transcribed the names and other data into computer files. The

Index CD-ROM contains an index listing more than 1,300,000 names. With each name, the index lists the age, location, folio number, and page number in the original census where the full listing may be found. To get the full details, the census image available on CD-ROM or must be viewed. The data on the CD-ROM index is stored in Adobe Acrobat format, which can be used with Windows, Macintosh, Linux, or UNIX.

The commands used in this London 1891 Census Index CD-ROM are the same as on hundreds or even thousands of other CD-ROM disks, minimizing the time required to become familiar with this product. Since I have used many other Adobe Acrobat disks, this one was a simple "insert the disk and go" operation. No software installation was required beyond the Acrobat Reader.

The *London 1891 Census Index* CD-ROM sells for £14.95 (about \$24.00) or you can get it for £5.00 if you buy one of the CD-ROMs with the census images. For more information or to order online, , go to:

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

Free Persons of Color

Free Persons of Color - Generations Everlasting Series Volume 1 is the first in a series from The Old Edgefield Publishing Company. It lists more than 1400 names of colored individuals taken from Edgefield County, South Carolina census records from 1790 - 1860 and other documentation from five Georgia counties. For those performing African-American research in this section of South Carolina and Georgia, this book provides some very useful information. The book sells for \$20 plus shipping. To order online, see: <http://www.edgefieldpublishing.com>

Genealogy in the News

Continued from page 43

Funding Cut Proposed for Minnesota Historical Society

The governor of Minnesota proposed a \$4 million cut in funding for the Minnesota Historical Society in the proposed state budget. Then the House Economic Development Finance Committee recommended an additional reduction of more than \$800,000 per year. If enacted, the cut would be 18% of the Society's budget. If passed by the legislature, the cuts would force the Minnesota Historical Society to sharply curtail their services. For details see the MHS Web site at:

<http://www.mnhs.org> Status of the funding battle may be found at <http://www.mnhs.org/about/legis.html>

GenSeekers Scam Returns

GenSeekers appears to be a single-person company that operates under a variety of names which include FamilyDiscovery.com, Genealogy-Developments.com, GenLocator.com and Genealogy-Express.com. When you visit one of the sites you are asked to subscribe by filling in fields which include the number of your checking account which will be debited if any purchases are made. When the information is submitted, there is an error message and the account is not opened. However, when the bank statement arrives, the account is debited. Since the bank account number was given out, the bank considers this an authorized transaction and can do little to help. It is a case of fraud, but by the time an investigation begins, the trail may be cold. GenSeekers is apparently aware that taking money by credit card is much more risky so they go after checking accounts.

Canadians Join the Jedi

On the 2001 Canadian census, they asked everyone their religion. About

20,000 Canadians listed "Jedi" as their religion. This would make the Jedi Religion one of the fastest growing religious movements in the world. However, Canadian officials did not take the entries seriously and failed to mention the Jedi in their report. The Jedi also did well with the census takers in Australia, New Zealand and the United Kingdom. The movement seems to have begun with an Internet joke that originated in Australia a few years ago involving the fictional Jedi knights introduced in the Star Wars movie series.

Jail Terms for Spam

The state of Virginia has a new law that would send those who e-mail huge quantities of unsolicited messages to jail or give them large fines. This law allows authorities to seize assets that are earned from spam and can sentence felony offenders with up to five years in prison. Governor Mark Warner wanted the new law with stiffer penalties because unsolicited commercial e-mail has become a huge nuisance, and is clogging the e-mail communication channels everywhere. Attempts at using software filters or civil penalties have been ineffective.

It is interesting that Virginia is the home for America Online and its mail servers. The law would apply to any of their customers who send spam.

Thoroughgood House Threatened

The council of the City of Virginia Beach, Virginia is considering the fate of Thoroughgood House, the oldest brick house still standing in North America. Construction was begun around 1638 by Adam Thoroughgood and completed by his widow, Sarah Offley, known then as Mrs. John Gookin. Ownership passed to her husbands family and the Thoroughgoods had no interest in the house since the death of Mrs. Gookin. The Thoroughgood House has been

preserved and is a prominent tourist attraction in Virginia Beach though it is now owned by the nearby city of Norfolk, Virginia. Norfolk is no longer interested in maintaining and managing the home. A few private citizens have pledged financial support for the house if Virginia Beach will acquire the property. They want to establish a foundation to help the city repair and restore the house. If Virginia Beach declines to acquire it, the house will probably be boarded up and left to the whims of nature. Meanwhile, there is an effort underway to rally support to save the Thoroughgood House.

Ohio Proposes Higher Fees

Lower tax revenues are forcing the state of Ohio to consider higher fees for all the documents that genealogists order. A proposal buried in the 2,281-page budget bill would stop state and local officials from providing uncertified copies of documents and allow only the expensive certified copies. Ohio has sold uncertified copies for a modest fee while certified copies are required for passports, college loans, and other legal purposes. The new cost with a new state fee of \$5 per copy, raises the cost of certified copy to at least \$12 because counties must charge at least \$7. In addition, the state charges a fee of \$3 for a child-abuse fund which raises the cost to \$15.

The long term news regarding the fees is good for family historians. Ohio has been spending far more on making the uncertified copies than they have collected in fees. The state will use some of the money saved to create electronic copies of the records and make them accessible on the Internet. •



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.

Dallas Summer Institute

The Dallas Genealogical Society is holding a Summer Institute June 19-22 in Dallas, Texas with speakers: Lloyd Dewitt Bockstruck, Dr. George Schweitzer, Charles A. Sherrill, and Robert de Berardinis. See: <http://www.dallasgenealogy.org>

Kansas Genealogical Conference

The Kansas Council of Genealogical Societies will hold their annual conference on June 21 at McPherson, Kansas featuring Jim Swan and Mary Jane McIntire discussing FamilySearch.org, PAF 5.2, and Land Research. See: casey@southwind.net

Summer Camp for Family Historians

Summer Camp for Family Historians, sponsored by the Genealogical Society of Pennsylvania, will be on June 23-27 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Attendees will use Philadelphia's largest research facilities with an assigned "counselor" for the week. See: www.libertynet.org/~gspa

National Conference of Palatines to America

Cyndi Howells, Joan Kirchman Mitchell, Beth Stahr, Don Heinrich Tolzmann, Richard Pawling and Roger Minert are featured speakers for this conference on German ancestry. It will be held June 19-21 in Columbus, Ohio. See: <http://www.palam.org/conf/2003conf.htm>

Virginia Genealogical Society Conference

This 4-day conference features lectures for both novice and experienced researchers covering Virginia resources. It is held in Richmond, Virginia from July 6-10. For details, e-mail: mail@vgs.org

Midwestern Roots

Midwestern Roots 2003, sponsored by the Indiana Historical Society and the Indiana

Genealogical Society, will be held July 11-12 in Indianapolis, Indiana. This family history and genealogy conference will feature: Tony Burroughs, Amy Johnson Crow, John Philip Colletta, Cyndi Howells, Michael John Neill, Loretto Szucs, Curt Witcher, and others. See:

<http://www.indianahistory.org/midwesternroots/>

Jewish Genealogy Conference

The major conference for Jewish Genealogy will be held July 20-25 in Washington, DC.

<http://www.jewishgen.org/dc2003>

Essex Family History Conference

The Essex Society for Family History and the Federation of Family History Societies are sponsoring a August 29-31 in Colchester, England. See: http://www.esfh.org.uk/Conference_2003/Conference%20Details.htm

Fife Family History Fair

The Fife Family History Fair will be on Aug. 30 at Kirkcaldy, Fife,

Scotland. It will be a day packed with lectures, workshops, exhibition, and stalls.

janet.klak@fife.gov.uk

FGS Conference

The Federation of Genealogical Societies Conference will be held at Seaworld in Orlando, Florida, on September 3 through 6. To see the program or to register on-line, go to:

<http://www.fgs.org/2003conf/FGS-2003.htm>

Fall Foliage Tour

The California Genealogical Society will hold a New England/Canada fall foliage cruise with genealogical lectures by George F. Sanborn Jr. The 10-day cruise sails October 1 on a round trip from Boston with stops in Maine, Nova Scotia, Quebec and New Brunswick.

library@calgensoc.org

Polish Genealogical Society Conference

The Polish Genealogy Society annual conference will be held from October 3 to 5 at Rosemont, Illinois. <http://www.pgasa.org>

Computers in Family History Conference

The Computers in Family History Conference, sponsored the Sussex Family History Group and Society of Genealogists (SoG) will be held on October 18 at Worthing, England. See:

<http://www.sog.org.uk/events/conference2003.html>

New England Regional Genealogical Conference

Sharon DeBartolo Carmack, John Philip Colletta, Maureen A. Taylor, Dick Eastman, and Pamela Clark Cerutti are featured speakers at this conference held on November 6-9 at North Falmouth, Massachusetts.

www.rootsweb.com/~manergrc

GENTECH2004

With the NGS/GENTECH merger now completed, the planned GENTECH2004 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 will hold the GENTECH 2004 conference in St. Louis, Missouri on January 22-24, 2004.

www.stlgs.org/gentech2004/

3 R's of Family History

The Toronto Branch of the Ontario Genealogical Society will host an annual seminar on May 27-30, 2004 in Toronto, Canada. The theme is "The 3 R's of Family History: Resources, Research, Results." There are three streams of interest available:

- Methodology
- Technology
- Toronto, Ontario, and Canadian research

plus topics such as Society Management, genetics/DNA, and others.

<http://www.ogsseminar.org> •



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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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Leslyk@earthlink.net

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)	\$15
Personal Ancestral File 5.2 and 4 Windows, PAF3, and 2,31 DOS (CD)*	\$6
Personal Ancestral File Companion 5.0 Windows (CD)	\$13.50
Personal Ancestral File 4.04 and 5.2 downloaded from www.FamilySearch.org	free

* Also includes lessons and user guide

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

<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 + postage (see www.svpafug.org for volume price)