

Getting Started on the Internet

By Allin Kingsbury

Doing genealogy research without the Internet is looked upon by many, especially the younger individuals, as living in the stone age. Much of the available information of interest to the family historian is only available to the public over the Internet. The use of the Internet can eliminate the need for some travel to distant repositories, and reduce the need for correspondence and fees for photocopies. Family historians without Internet access and many with Internet access will want to review the options available to those who use the Internet today.

To use the Internet, you will need a computer with hardware sufficient for the task, a browser program, an Internet provider, and an access channel to connect to the Internet. For each of these elements of Internet access, there are options to be considered. The options discussed in this article are the common choices for the genealogist but the list of choices may not be complete. Also with ever-changing technology and prices, this list will soon be obsolete.

The Access Channel

The method of communication you use to connect to the Internet is the most strategic of the choices for someone plan-

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ning to use the Internet. This choice will determine the performance or data transfer speed of the connection. The choices include telephone lines, wireless, or cable. Among these three options are a large choice of products which vary in price and performance. You will need to know how to compare specifications to effectively evaluate the products.

The important specification of the access channel is the data rate which is usually specified in data bits per second or baud. Most individuals connect to the Internet using a telephone line. The data rate for a telephone line will depend upon the hardware used to send and receive the digital data. A modem is used to convert the digital data of the computer to an analog signal which can travel over the phone line. The fastest modems that can be used for a dial-up line (the standard voice line offered by the phone company) is 54,000 bits/second. Many users have slower modems because the equipment cost is lower. The problem with using the family phone line for Internet access is that incoming calls are

blocked. While this may reduce the number of annoying sales calls, it can also annoy friends who want to keep in touch. Many families elect to get a second residential phone line if their Internet usage is high, particularly during the day and early evening.

Slightly more expensive is another phone company option called the digital subscriber line (DSL) which is available to users who live near the phone exchange. DSL actually shares the residential phone line and both Internet and telephone can be used simultaneously. DSL comes in a variety of speeds depending on the equipment supplied by the phone company. Speeds can be from 192 to 1500 Kbit/s but the speeds may differ for downloading and uploading which is used less often. In some offers, the upload and download speeds are the same and in other cases the upload speed is slower. The cost of DSL will vary but many phone companies are offering DSL for about \$26 per month. This cost usually includes the cost of the Internet provider. Sometimes there is an installation charge or penalty for ter-

mination of the contract before a specified date.

The second choice for an access channel is wireless. The option is usually connected to a satellite using a dish and a receiver/transmitter supplied by the provider. Data rates from 384Kbit/s up to 30Mbit/s are offered and cost about \$30 per month. Upload speeds are often lower than download speeds. Companies providing this service may be local to your area. Occasionally, a company will offer download only and to upload you will need a second modem at additional cost.

The third access channel option is cable. This requires installation of a cable connection to your home. Performance is limited to 2 Mbit/s, slower than the fastest wireless options. Upload data rates are often slower. To get your business, the company will often provide free installation but require a minimum number of months for your contract. Cable prices are usually competitive with wireless and DSL at about \$26 to \$30 per month.

Those living in rural areas may find that they are too remote for DSL or cable and can only get wireless. Prices are usually more competitive

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Getting Started on the Internet

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where all three options are available. The choices can be compared based on performance versus cost. The need for higher speeds will depend on how the individual uses the Internet. If a person downloads a lot of graphic files and software, the wait can become frustrating.

The Computer and the Browser

Most new computers are Internet ready with large disk space and a built-in modem. All that is needed is a telephone line connected and a number to call for access and the user is online. This is particularly true with laptop computers which are used by business travelers who expect to plug the computer into a phone line at the hotel and connect to corporate headquarters via the Internet. An older computer may not have a modem or the modem installed

may be painfully slow.

Also most new computers will have a browser installed. The browser is software that communicates with Internet sites and displays the pages that are returned. The most popular browsers are Internet Explorer (Microsoft) and Netscape. The latter is very popular and can be downloaded free over the Internet. There are other browsers, but unless you have a specific reason to use them, either of the browsers mentioned will do the job.

Your Internet Provider

If you use DSL, wireless or cable, access to the Internet is automatic when you are connected. If you use a phone line, you need a program, usually provided free by the provider, that will dial an access number and connect you to the Internet. You will supply a user name and password to connect. The provider will charge \$10 per month or more for this service. AOL and a few other companies charge higher rates but offer a variety of other features that

you can use when connected to the Internet.

If you are selecting a provider, you may want to look at their directory of access numbers to see if there are local numbers at the places where you are likely to travel. Should you travel a lot, you will want Internet access anywhere you go using a local telephone number with no toll. In this respect, the older and more successful companies have a major advantage.

Try Before You Buy

Many public libraries offer free access to the Internet. If there are people waiting, use is often limited to one hour. It is an excellent way to experience the Internet before you commit to spending money. Many local Family History Centers have the Internet and access to Ancestry.com. Normally you would pay by the month for this popular genealogy site.

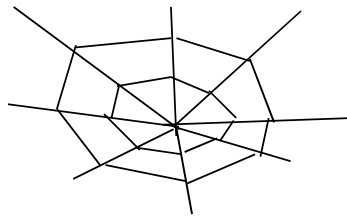
Spider Webs: Swedish Parish Records, Canadian Atlas, Arkansas Obituaries, The Wayback Machine

Swedish Parish Records

GenLine, a subscription service has Swedish parish records for 2,100 out of the 2,500 Swedish parishes available online. Unlike parish records in England and other countries, the Swedish parish priests recorded every person in each family, listing age, religious education, and more. The remaining 400 parishes will be added to the site during coming months. A 20-day evaluation subscription costs 199 kroner (\$27.00). To visit the GenLine site, go to: www.genline.com.

Canadian Atlas

Natural Resources Canada has an excellent atlas of Canada online. The atlas has many old maps including maps of 1740 and 1823 which are part of a map archives and historical maps section. Maps can be downloaded for use in family history research. There are also modern maps including current political divisions, ecology, rivers, population, agriculture, mining, climate change, relief maps, and more. The site includes a search capability where you can enter the name of a town, river or other geographical feature. The results of



the search list the geographical coordinates with a link to the map which contains the location. To visit the Atlas of Canada, go to: <http://atlas.gc.ca>.

Arkansas Obituaries

The Pine Bluff/Jefferson County Library System has a Web site where Sylvia Moore and a group of library employees and college age volunteers have been listing Arkansas obituaries for the past two and a half years. They recently added the 100,000th obituary. It is estimated that the group needs another six years to complete the project. The data on the Web site now covers a 25 year span with 91 additional years of data to be entered. The obituaries are from old issues of the *The Commercial*, the

Pine Bluff Daily Graphic, *Pine Bluff News* and the *Pine Bluff Press-Eagle* which date back to 1887. Those with ancestors from Arkansas will want to visit the site at: <http://pbjc-lib.state.ar.us>.

The Wayback Machine

The Wayback Machine is not a genealogy Web site but it can be useful for genealogists. The site is an archive of Internet pages containing more than 100 terabytes of data and growing by about 12 terabytes each month. (A terabyte equals 1,000 gigabytes or one million megabytes.) The site is particularly useful when a Web site is shut down and the Web pages are no longer available. By going to the archives in The Wayback Machine you may find the Web pages that you need. The archive was started October 1996, so you cannot expect to find pages from Web sites that expired before that date. The Wayback Machine saves all the text of standard HTML pages. Graphic images may or may not be stored. Newer Web pages with XML or Javascript, probably will not be found in the Wayback Machine. To visit the site, go to: www.archive.org/

Ask Dr. PAF — “I Give No Answers Before Their Time!”

By Dr. Cornelius D. PAF

Places That Did Not Exist at the Time

QWhat causes some people to enter a place name that didn't exist at the time of an event in my ancestors' life? I find it very frustrating to see a place name like “of Ohio” for an event in 1786. Ohio wasn't even a territory then.

AAgain, when you are starting to find records for an ancestor you have to start with something you know. If your ancestor was born in Ohio in 1816, you can be quite sure that at least the mother was there. If you don't know anything more about the mother, the “of, Ohio” tells you to search for any records in Ohio that might give you more information. You also learn about the history of Ohio. When did it become a territory? a state? Have histories been published? Where did many of the new settlers come from? What means of transportation was used to get to Ohio and what was the eastern end of that route? What land and tax records are available?

One of the most important rules of genealogy research is to use what you know to find the unknown. An “of” place is a start, but usually only helpful when it is only one generation away from an event with a known place.

You, as a researcher will know that someone in the family was in Ohio. Today, we have many sources of data that are just an index on the Internet, with links to more detail. When you search an index it is helpful if you can separate the individual in Ohio from the one in Oregon. Considering the time period of your ancestor, and the migration routes, you may want to check all references to that family name east of Ohio.



Sometimes the best help is to find out something about your ancestor's siblings and their descendants. Determined searching can help you can find someone who has a family bible or other original records.

Abbreviations Before Dates

QI frequently see several abbreviations before the date of an event. What is the meaning of “cal” and “est” and when or if I should use them?

AOf course it is always best to have a full date for an event but we frequently don't have that luxury. PAF recognizes “cal,” “est,” and “abt” as abbreviations to be used when an exact date is unknown. These abbreviations in meaning from the closest to a real date to a guess of the date:

“Cal” is for the calculated date. For instance, if you know the date of death and the age at death, you can calculate the birth date. The Date Calculator in PAF will help you with find the date.

“Est” is for the estimated date. This could be done from the accepted genealogy approximating date guidelines (see next answer) or from family traditions or some other approach.

“Abt” is for when the date is somewhere around the given date.

The New England Historic Genealogical Society uses the word “say” before a name without a date and with no clues for estimating. This identifies a real guess. The abbreviations “bef” for before, and “aft” for after are helpful when you know a date that took place before or after the event. For instance, the date a will was signed can be used as an “after” date for a death. The date the will is proved (Probated) is a valid “before” date.

Recently Published: **Ancestral Roots of Certain American Colonists, The Red Book**

Ancestral Roots of Certain American Colonists

Ancestral Roots of Certain American Colonists Who Came to America Before 1700 is the eighth edition of a book first published in 1950 by Frederick Lewis Weis. After Mr. Weis died, the editions were continued by the late Walter Lee Shepard, Jr. This Eighth Edition is edited with additions and corrections by William R. Beall and Kaileen E. Beall. The colonists described in the book came to America before the year 1700 and have royal ancestry. The Eighth Edition has additional information found in recent years about the royal genealogy of many of these colonists. There is extensive revision to 91 of the 398 ancestral lines, and 60 new lines have been added. Almost every line has had some minor corrections, amounting altogether to a 30 percent increase in text. The result is a book 30% larger than the previous edition.

Ancestral Roots of Certain American Colonists Who Came to America Before 1700 is a 359-page hardcover book which sells for \$35.00.

To order it, specify ISBN 0806317523, or you can order it online at: http://genealogical.com/item_detail.asp?afid=&ID=6193

The Red Book

The Red Book is a popular 858-page, hardcover genealogical reference book for genealogists. It lists the repositories of documents of interest to genealogists by state and county for the United States. The organization of the book is handy for genealogists who do research in one locality at a time. You will find repositories for the whole gamut of records: vital statistics, census, background sources, maps, land records, probate, court, tax, cemetery, church, periodicals, newspapers, manuscripts. An occasional user may find the book at a nearby Family History Center or genealogy library, but the serious genealogist will want *The Red Book* close by. The book is selling for \$49.95 and can be ordered specifying ISBN 0916489477 or online from: www.ancestry.com

Software of Interest: Pocket Genealogist 2.90, My Roots 4.0

Pocket Genealogist 2.90

Pocket Genealogist is a program to carry your genealogy database on the iPAQ handheld computer. The genealogy database is limited and large databases affect the performance, but the database includes events, facts, notes, sources, repositories, addresses, and to-do lists. Pocket Genealogist version 2.90 has now been released. The significant changes in the new version are:

- Support for full 2-way data synchronization with Version 5 of Legacy Family Tree (Advanced version)
- Support for Family Tree Maker 2005
- The Pocket Genealogist GenBridge add-on now supports direct imports for Family Tree Maker. (requires the PAF/FTM GenBridge add-on available from Wholly Genes for an additional fee)
- Better control of "Private Flag", Notes and Addresses for an event (not fully supported by all desktop genealogy programs)
- Better support of Family Tree Maker addresses
- Display all To Do's associated with a repository (Applicable to Ancestral Quest, Family Origins, RootsMagic, and Legacy - TMG imports were already supported)
- New user's guide

The program has been tested for compatibility with many genealogy programs including Aldfaer, Ancestral Quest, Brother's Keeper, Family Historian, Family Origins, Family Tree Maker, Genbox Family History, Generations, Heredis, Legacy Family Tree, Personal Ancestral File, ProGen, RootsMagic, The Master Genealogist, Ultimate Family Tree, and others. Language Packs are available for French, German, Norwegian, Spanish, Portuguese, Dutch, and Danish. The program is compatible with Windows 95, 98, ME, NT, 2000 or XP.

For more information including a complete user guide, go to: www.pocketgenealogist.com

My Roots 4.0

My Roots version 4.0 for Palm Handheld Computers has been released by Tapperware using OS@: The program allows Palm computer owners to have their family tree data with them at all times. Changes or additions to the data made away from home can be transferred to popular desktop genealogy software running on either Microsoft Windows® or Mac OS®. Version 4 new features include:

- support for sources and citations
- a graphical relationship calculator
- faster performance than prior versions
- support for a third given name
- unlimited number of notes up to 32k each instance
- improved filtering
- a more convenient Soundex calculator
- support for minimizing, maximizing, and rotating the screen on all PalmOne and Sony devices that implement the Dynamic Input Area

My Roots version 4.0 can be purchased today, in English, German, and French versions, for \$24.95. Users who purchased an earlier version of My Roots after June 1, 2004 can upgrade free of charge. Users who purchased My Roots version 3 before that date, or who upgraded to version 3, can upgrade for \$7.95. Users of version 2 can upgrade for only \$14.95. Tapperware also provides a free, downloadable trial version of My Roots. For more information or to order, go to: www.tapperware.com/MyRoots.

Stranger Than Fiction: Right to Privacy for the Dead, Just a Mistake in Spelling

Right to Privacy for the Dead?

Dead people have no legal rights to privacy in the United States. Until recently, living people had little protection to their privacy until a court decision was issued deciding that it was guaranteed by the Constitution. A rule by the Census Bureau began protection of privacy for the dead by sealing census records for 72 years. This was the average life expectancy when the regulation was made. The more recent "Freedom of Information" Act passed by Congress has not changed the application of this policy. A bureaucratic decision seems to have more precedence than a law.

The policy regarding privacy rights for the dead seems to have changed. When Vince Foster, former White House Aid to President Clinton, committed suicide, news organizations requested pictures of the body taken at the scene and during the investigation, citing "public interest" as the reason for their release. Foster's heirs cited a recent Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act, which states that the right of privacy in health information lasts beyond death until "the end of the universe." The court

agreed and blocked the release of the photographs. Death is a "health issue." It appears obvious that a public official could easily decide that birth records, death certificates and many other vital records kept by the government contain health information and should be sealed to the public citing the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act. For the genealogist, it is a long wait until "the end of the universe" should an overzealous bureaucrat decide that is what Congress intended when they passed the law.

Just a Mistake in Spelling

Ness City, a small town in Ness County, Kansas has a problem. The small town of about 3,500 people along with the Ness County Hospital and the Ness City Elementary School were all named after a local Civil War hero named Ness. The problem is that the man spelled his name Kness. Only recently did local officials discover that they have been using the wrong spelling since the town was named many years ago.

Noah Ness was listed in the 1860 Kansas census. He died from

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wounds incurred during the Civil War just four years later on August 22, 1864. Ironically, the 1860 census is the only document where the surname of Noah was spelled Ness. If you examine Noah's will, his Civil War military records, and all the other documents that mention him, his surname begins with a large silent "K" There is even a document with his signature that has survived to

this day, and you guessed it, he signed his name as "Kness."

If you were one of the officials in Ness City, how would you resolve the predicament facing the city? None of the Ness City nor the Ness County officials have given a statement nor even a hint about whether or not they plan to change the spelling. With the recent budget crunches and the high cost of sign painters, we may have a long wait.

News For Genealogists: 1798 Massachusetts Tax Records Found, Saving Orphaned Books

1798 Massachusetts Tax Records Found

Pam Fox, author of the book, *Farm Town to Suburb: The History and Architecture of Weston, Massachusetts, 1830-1980* was helping to unpack the municipal documents that had been put in storage when the Town Hall in Weston, Massachusetts was renovated. She picked up a book which must have been there since 1798. The volume is labeled *District #5, Fifth Division Mass.*, and covers the towns of Weston, Newton and Waltham. She recognized the importance of the book to historians and genealogists and reported the find to the Weston and the Massachusetts Historical Commissions.

The book probably had been stored in the basement of Town Hall in the area that had been used as a jail. It was very dark and cramped. The dusty old book had little to attract curiosity and nobody paid any attention to it.

The book lists all the farms and houses in the towns of Weston, Newton and Waltham, along with the name of the occupant, the name of the owner, square footage of the house, number of stories and windows, square feet of glass, materials and valuation of each property. The numbers and sizes of windows were used to calculate the amount of tax to be paid by the owner. Genealogists with ancestors from these towns will want to study this book. It provides a detailed look at Middlesex County and its citizens back in 1798.

Saving Orphaned Books

Brewster Kahle, founder of the Internet Archive, and Rick Prelinger, a film collector, want to digitize orphaned books and create online libraries for free public access. The heirs to the copyright of the orphaned books cannot be found and perhaps do not exist. The two men filed a suit in March to have these changes in the copyright law which have essentially made it impossible for works to return to the public domain declared unconstitutional.

Legally, the ownership of a copyright passes to the heirs. The law makes no provision for ownership of the copyright should there be no legal heirs or if no heir can be found. The plaintiffs in *Kahle v. Ashcroft* are arguing that these books should belong to the public as part of the public domain. Most genealogists would be pleased should the court decide in favor of the argument.

The Rise and Fall of Everton

It was 1947 when the Everton family started a publishing business that was destined to achieve national recognition among family historians. Located in Nibly, Utah, a small town in the north-east corner of Utah, the business grew and eventually located in a former red brick LDS church building and a modern office build-

ing. They began with several successful products. The first was their magazine, *The Genealogical Helper*, which soon became a household item among amateur genealogists. It had well-written articles which helped readers with their research, but the major attraction of the magazine were the pages and pages of queries. For a small fee, an individual could post a query asking for information about an ancestor. Hopefully the process would result in an exchange of genealogy and bring help in the research process. The other successful product that helped the company to achieve early success was a directory of where to write for birth, marriage and death records. Before the Internet, much of the genealogical research was conducted by mail. *The Handy Book for Genealogists* soon became the essential book in the personal libraries of many amateur genealogists. The continuing updating of the information in the book led to numerous editions of this book. As the years passed, Everton Publishing expanded their list of products and were successful in selling them.

Recently, the company began having financial problems. Lee Everton, who was managing the company at the time, lost control of the company. *The Genealogical Helper* was changed to *Everton's Family History Magazine*. The new owners gave the magazine a new look, hoping to greatly expand circulation. Unfortunately, the Everton Publishing continued to have problems and the new owners decided to abandon the business. The company is not completely out of business. There are efforts underway to revive *Everton's Family History Magazine*, returning to the formula that made the magazine successful. The company is under new management and has not gone out of business. However, the company will be different as it emerges. The office building in Nibley is for sale and business is stalled.

Out of the recent changes in the company comes a major news development about the Everton library. The company had built a collection of genealogy related books, microfilm, family newsletters, journals, maps and multimedia material. The library has grown over the years to become a major collection of about 82,000 items. Few people knew of the collection because it was not open to the public. When some of the investors and former employees of Everton Publishing learned that the collection was going to be sold piecemeal, they united their efforts to keep the collection intact and arranged a donation of the collection to the Logan Library. William Schjelderup of Salt Lake City, an investor in Everton Publishers, acquired the genealogy library in January and donated the collection to the Logan Library.

Doug Thompson, mayor of Logan, Utah, is quite pleased to receive the donation of the collection which has been appraised at about \$1,700,000. The collection will attract more than the local

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Setting Family Records Straight

By Mary Lou Harline

Family Histories handed down from generation to generation are a great heritage. They can become more interesting with each "hand-down." Fifty years ago genealogy research frequently consisted of believing what was printed in books about families or about counties. Stories about the family are like old books or old clothes: Sometimes they have to be taken out and tidied up. After studying my traditional family histories and my early research and copying efforts, I discovered some interesting discrepancies.

Cutting off a Mayflower Ancestor

When I lived in Boston, Massachusetts in the late 1940s, I copied many names, dates and places from books in the Boston Public Library and the New England Historic Genealogical Society (NEHGS). At that time, as a beginner in genealogy research I accepted the common opinion that if the information was in a book it must be correct whether or not a source was included. Several years later, my data was submitted to the Internet by someone else. I received an e-mail with a question, "Where did you find Sarah's surname as Chandler?" I confidently went to my records only to find that I didn't have a source. I did have a pedigree for her. Sarah Chandler's father was Roger Chandler, her mother was Isabella Chilton, daughter of James Chilton, a Mayflower passenger. I went to two of the best sources for verifying early New England data: the set of books, "The Great Migration Begins, Immigrants to New England 1620-1633" published by the New England Historic and Genealogical Society and the set published by the General Society of Mayflower Descendants: "Mayflower Families through Five Generations." There was evidence that Sarah, daughter of Roger Chandler, had married, but not to Moses Simmons.

An extra benefit that came from searching for Sarah's real family is that I learned more about her "non-ancestors." James Chilton was a Mayflower passenger. He signed the Mayflower Compact on the ship on 11 November 1620, but he didn't live to reach Plymouth. His daughter Isabella was not on the Mayflower. She had married Roger Chandler in England in 1615 and

they sailed to America in 1632. As it turns out, Roger's brother Edmund is on my family tree: Edmund's grandson Joseph married Elizabeth Delano, granddaughter of John Alden and Priscilla Mullins who are main branches of my tree.

I removed "Chandler" from Sarah's name and using PAF's Focus/Filter feature I was able to make a list of the "disproved" ancestors. I then created a GEDCOM file to keep so I could prove why I pruned them off the family tree. Some of my relatives don't like pruning any branches on the tree. Then I used the Delete button on Focus/Filter to remove the names from my PAF file. Remember to use that Delete button carefully. It doesn't just delete the name from the focus list you created, it deletes them from your file.

To be sure I would be able to find why I removed the Chandler name, I entered in the Notes for Sarah, that she had been mistakenly included in the Chandler family. I included the evidence for removal.

Emigrants from Denmark: A Mixed-up Company

A great-grandmother, Julia Ipson, arrived in the Salt Lake Valley in 1853. She had accompanied her sister Marinda and her mother, Kristine Larsdotter Ipson from Bornholm, Denmark. They left their home in December or November of 1852. Her father Anders Ipson and two younger sisters were with them when they left.

The record my family accepted without question were compiled by a granddaughter of Julia's sister Marinda. During the voyage from England to New Orleans, the two younger sisters died and were buried at sea. Two dates were given but there was no identification of the date belonging to a sister. A source of this information was included---an entry in the private log of the captain of the ship. This source included the name of the company owning the ship: the Forsgren Company.

I wondered why the private log of the ship's captain had been made available. No one else ever challenged the story since it was from a family member, a grandson of Marinda.

In the year 2000, the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints published a CD,

Mormon Immigration Index, 1849-1890. It included passenger lists, records of the voyages written for the Church, and copies of journals and letters written by passengers. This shed more light on the captain and the ship's owner as well as which date each girl died.

When the LDS Church organized a group of immigrants, they formed "companies" with a "captain" at the head. The Ipson family was aided in their travel from the time they left Bornholm and joined with other members of the LDS Church in Copenhagen. When they finally arrived in Liverpool for the voyage over the Atlantic ocean, they were included in a company led by a Church leader, John Forsgren. It was his journal that had details of the voyage. He was the captain of the Forsgren company. One puzzle solved.

A second puzzle was solved when the death date of each girl was found in one of the journals of a passenger in the LDS "company." They both died in February of 1852. The deaths were reported to John Forsgren and entered in the log as a child of Anders Ipson, with no more identification. One of the journals included on the CD specified a date for the "child" and one for the "infant."

A still unresolved puzzle is another daughter, named "Nina" included in my inherited family records. There are church records in Bornholm for the births of three of the five daughters, but nothing for Nina or Josephine. Nina was not included on the ship's roster for the family. The time period between the birth of the third daughter (recorded in the church in Bornholm) and the time the Ipsons left Bornholm, doesn't give much time for two more daughters unless they are twins. The birth dates could have been in the LDS church records because by then the parents had joined the LDS church. I haven't found them on the completed microfilm of the church records. "Nina" could have died before the family left Bornholm. Another possibility is that the two surviving Ipson sisters told their children and grandchildren of their trip to America and their sister Nina which was really a nickname for Josephine. It will take more searching to find the truth.

These details did not contribute to finding more ancestors, but it really made the story of the voyage more credible.

How Many Sources Do We Need?

Of course there is no one answer to that question. It depends on how you rate the quality of your sources. Once again in the NEHGS library I found a book with a link to one of my ancestors. I discovered my ancestor was the Lord of a manor in the late 1400s or early 1500s. Then I found another book with the same information. There were no sources in either book. Then I found a third book. The article there had some reliable sources and there my ancestor was a wheelwright in the Manor. It appeared that one of the first two books copied the other one, or they both copied from an unproved source.

If you are looking for biographical sketches of your ancestors, look for as many stories as you can find from grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Check for information on your family in local history or genealogy societies. You may find some differences in details, and sometimes a whole different story.

Land Records Help

My Arthur Morgan line in Illinois and probably Kentucky has been a hard puzzle. There wasn't the plentiful data that we found in New England. In fact, there was so little in the way of real sources that I am sure blanks were filled in by what seemed to be logical. Mark Anthony Coombs eloped with Maria Morgan from Columbia, Illinois in 1831. Their marriage was actually found in Carondolet, Missouri. My records were a combination of research by two of my cousins who searched independently. Mark Anthony's son did write a history of his father and mother and their families. His source was his father's memory. Maria Morgan's birth date was given as 1 March 1815, the seventh of eleven children. No real dates for the parents, but the children were born starting with 1802 and entered in family records as born in Monroe County, Illinois.

The first item to be studied was the birthplace. Monroe County wasn't created until 1816 so the early children were born in St. Clair County. They didn't have birth certificates then but they did have land records, and court records, so I needed to make that change.

Using the land records, I tried to find the time period that Arthur Morgan first arrived in Illinois which was not a state until 1818, but land records were kept before then. The earliest I could find Arthur Morgan as a landowner was in 1807. Then he was living in what they called the "Squatters Lands." Since there were no dates for the squatters, as yet we have no real date for when he moved from Kentucky to Illinois. We do have tax records in Washington County, Kentucky that appear to apply to Arthur Morgan, his father Patrick, and a brother William. The only records we have found about his leaving Illinois is that a William Morgan (probably his brother) left Washington County in 1807. William and Arthur Morgan were reported to arrive in the St. Clair County area about 1807.

One of the main problems in the inherited records was that Sarah Talbot (Arthur Morgan's wife) died in 1842. A headstone was found in Columbia, Illinois, and the data was included in our shared family records. This brought up several questions: Why did descendants of Arthur's daughter Lucinda, born in 1820, claim that Lucinda's mother died when Lucinda was very young and she was raised by an older sister. A second question was that the age at death of Sarah Talbot was 82 years, which would make her 60 when Lucinda was born. The third question was why was the name on the headstone Sarah Talbot, instead of Sarah Morgan?

One of the early researchers, probably influenced by Lucinda's statement that her mother died when she was very young, found two more wives for Arthur. The sources were valid records, but the reason for giving these wives to Arthur was that there was no other Arthur of marriageable age living in the area. That is no excuse to fill in blanks in a family group form.

Many records have been searched and some progress has been made. At least we have removed some detours.

Not So Obvious Problems

I have had to compare two family group records to find the problem with other leaves on my tree. Again the problem started with believing a printed book. And again the problem was in early New England, where so much data, good or bad, has been recorded or created. Deborah Buck is listed as the daughter of John Buck and Elizabeth Holbrook. The major prob-

lem is that Elizabeth Holbrook has another husband and is having children by him the same time she is having children by John Buck. The entries in the book were contradictory even before we entered the data on the paper family group sheets. For now, Elizabeth is without a second husband in my file. I have leads to the solution to this problem, but am going slowly using reliable sources.

Double check and compare all the records you have for a person or a family. You may be surprised at what you see. We can't do all the research for all our families by ourselves. A family organization can be helpful. We need to document what we find, and give what we inherit a close look. Junk genealogy is very available on the Internet, but we must always question our inherited records and look for reliable sources on any data that we have.

Quotable Quote:

I cannot tell a lie, even when I hear one.

John Kendrick Banks
1862-1922
American Humorist

News For Genealogists

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family historians living in Cache Valley which surrounds Logan. Because of the size and quality of the collection, he expects to have visitors from all over the United States coming to Logan to use the collection. In a press conference at the Logan Library, Mayor Thompson stated that the gift will "put Logan city on the map as a major location for genealogical research in America." From Salt Lake City, it takes less than two hours to drive to Logan. Many of the visitors to the Salt Lake Family History Library will probably make the trip to Logan to see the collection., which will bring tourist business to Logan.

The tasks of moving the genealogy collection to the Logan Library has started and the reorganization of Everton Publishing continues. Watch for more news.

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SV-CGG meets monthly, except December, on the second Saturday of the month from 9 a.m. 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 US\$15 per year (US\$20 for Canada and US\$25 for other international). Members are offered classes at meetings, mentor help, *Silicon Valley PastFinder* (a monthly newsletter published each month there is a meeting).

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Articles contributed by readers are welcome. 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, and edit articles. Articles are not returned.

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