

## Checking Places with World Place Finder 1.2

By Allin Kingsbury

World Place Finder is a program which checks locations for spelling and syntax errors. Version 1.2 has been available for several months and offers some significant new features. The most significant improvement is the ability to work directly from the database for programs like PAF. The first version required the user to create a GEDCOM file which was the only format the program would read. This and other new features make the upgrade to the latest version worth-while.

Installation is accomplished by the setup program and is automatic. The user is given a choice of putting the entire program on the hard disk which requires 182 Mbyte and which will run faster, or reading the gazetteer from the CD. The setup program also detected that an earlier version had been installed and asked if uninstall should be run to delete the old version of the program. The entire process took just a few minutes.

### Checking a Database

When World place finder is run, the window has no data.

- **The capacity to work directly from a database, as well as other new features, make the upgrade to the latest version worthwhile.**

The first step is to open and a database, which can take a few minutes. The directory containing the genealogy databases is selected and a list of the databases appears. By clicking on one of the databases, that database is opened and a list of places is compiled. On a slower computer with a large database, this step can take a few minutes.

I used a small database with about 2300 places. The search of the gazetteer took about half an hour to look up all the places on the CD on my old computer which runs with a Pentium processor at about 100 MHz. The data can be sorted by error category or geographically. With the geographic sort, places are listed in folders labeled by country or placed in folders for unknown places or for events without a place. Since almost all the places in my database were in the United States, that folder held most of the places. By clicking on the "+" in front of the folder, a list of subfolders appeared listing the various states.. A click on the "+" in front of one of those folders created a list of subfolder of places within state. By selecting

the folder or subfolder, a list of place errors was displayed on the right side of the screen.

There were a few other folders for England, Mexico, Canada, and other countries. The "Unknown places" folder contained all the places that could not be found in the Gazetteer. These are the places in my database which could be most easily corrected.

The last folder was labeled "Events without a place" It contained events with a date but no place entered. In my database, this folder contained death dates that were copied from some of the old family group sheet forms where there was no box to enter a place of death. A little research could easily uncover the places where these individuals died. The most numerous category of deaths without a place was the case where the place of death was not known, but an approximate date was entered. In some of the instances, the individual was mentioned in a will or obituary as being deceased but no date or place could be found. In these instances, the death occurred before the date

of the document, so an entry was made for the death date such as "bef 1927." In other instances, the last date that a person was known to be living was used for a death date entry, such as "aft 1877." These dates are important in narrowing the time period in which to search for a death record. Until an actual death date is found, such entries will remain as unknown places.

### Surprises in Unknown Places

The process for correction for most entries in the "Unknown places" folder is to search for the correct place. In most cases, the county is wrong or one or more of the place fields are misspelled. By clicking on "Search" (the binocular icon), the "Search window appears and the place can be entered. There seems to be no way to use the copy and paste commands to bring the incorrect place into the "Search" window. I typed the town and state in the "Place" box in the "Search" window. In the cases where the county was wrong, it found the town with the correct county. If there was a spelling error in the place, the search process found the place. The search of the gazetteer produces a list of possible matches.

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They include towns or counties with similar spellings to the place that could not be found. Most searches took the better part of a minute. If a place was not in the gazetteer, as was the case with one of my places, the search went through all the countries in the world and returned places in Cambodia and other distant countries with places with similar spellings. This particular search seemed to take longer than the usual search that found an entry or two in a single state. The place was just the name of one of the populated rural crossroads within one of the towns in Connecticut. It was not in the gazetteer. I had the option of changing my place to the official town in Connecticut or adding this place to the custom section of the gazetteer.

I was reminded that my great grandfather was born on the family farm in Poweshiek County, Iowa, but the nearest town, Victor, was not in the county, but was in Iowa County. I had the choice of changing the place to just Poweshiek County, Iowa or changing the county to Iowa County, or finding the name of the township and entering it instead of the town of Victor. The latter would be more accurate, but the township may not be in the gazetteer and require an addition to the custom section.

My aunt was born while the family was in Panama working on the canal. She could have been born in the hospital built by the company for the workers that had come to Panama, but I have no documentation. Family records say she was born in the Canal Zone. However, Canal Zone was not in the gazetteer. I need to enter a town in Panama to pass the place test. The former Canal Zone is now part of Panama.

Another problem that got my attention was an ancestor who lived in Bridgerule Parish which straddles the border of Devon and Cornwall counties in England. Although the ancestor lived in Cornwall, the parish church is in Devon, and that is the official place for the christening. I shall change my place of death to conform to

these facts.

I was surprised to find Meadville, Pennsylvania on the error list. It was entered correctly. The reason it made the error list is that there are two towns called Meadville in Pennsylvania. World Place Finder has the longitude and latitude for both towns should one want to check on a map to be sure the location is correct. In my case, I was sure that the Meadville I wanted was the one in Crawford County.

The list of errors can also be sorted by error types. Errors are divided into categories of misspelled places, ambiguous, wrong jurisdiction, unknown places, incomplete, nonspecific places, and events without a place. By clicking on a "+" in front of a folder creates a list of subfolders for each unique place. A wrong place name could be used many times in the database.

### Correcting Errors

To correct these places in the database, I needed to open my PAF 5.2 program while the list from the World Place Finder Search was displayed. I would begin with the first error and copy the correct place from World Place Finder. Then I could use the Search and Replace feature of PAF to find the incorrect place and then replace it with the correct place. If the error is repeated many times in the database, the global search and replace could be used. One must be careful about using the global search and replace because there is no "undo" command. One should always do a backup before correcting places in case a bad correction is made.

Corrections can easily be done by moving back and forth between the two programs to make the corrections. A more cautious approach than search and replace is to go to the edit window and paste in the new place after verifying that the correction is for the right individual. The process is slower and you need to remember whether the error is for a place in the individual data or a place for the marriage, because marriage places are edited from a different window. For either procedure, it is a good practice to print the list of errors and then mark the edits on the paper as

they are completed.

One problem that I found is that World Place found errors for correctly entered places. This was because it expected the word "County" after the name of the county. This is a default condition that can be corrected by going to "Preferences" in the "Edit" menu. It is necessary to reopen the file after this change in preferences, which took another half hour. An enormous number of "errors" were eliminated when this was done.

### Opens Databases

If you have Ancestry Family Tree, Ancestral Quest, Family Historian, Family Tree Maker, Heritage Family Tree Deluxe, Legacy Family Tree, Personal Ancestral File, RootsMagic, and The Master Genealogist, World place finder will open your database. For other programs, the user must export a GEDCOM 5.5 file with the data to be checked. The GEDCOM file can then be opened and checked by the gazetteer. For those with a slow computer and a very large database, you may want to check places in the data in increments, rather than wait for many hours for the computer to check all the places from the data. There appears to be no way to check a range of RIN numbers in a session. This leaves the user the option of creating GEDCOM files of the increments or splitting the database into smaller databases. In either case, the edits can be made to the primary or large database.

Another feature that has been added to World Place Finder 1.2 is the ability with a click of the mouse to exercise a quick link to MapQuest.com and see a map for any place on the list. Of course you must have a live Internet connection to use this feature. The map helps a person understand the locality where an ancestor lived and shows the nearby places that the ancestor probably visited. The map can also help resolve situations as in the case of two places found with the same name.

Other improvements and fixes have also been made to the program:

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\* More than 20,000 townships have been added to the gazetteer.

\* Long US county names are no longer truncated.

\* World Place Advisor now recognizes international Chapman codes.

\* The word 'county' is no longer appended to Alaskan census areas (CA) or boroughs.

\* Place names are now identified by England, Scotland, Wales, or Northern Ire-

land rather than by United Kingdom.

\* Louisiana parishes are no longer reported as counties.

World Place Advisor Version 1.2 Universal Edition sells for \$34.95. Those who purchased an earlier version can upgrade for \$4.00. For more information, go to the Progeny Software Web site at: [www.progenysoftware.com/placeadvisor.html](http://www.progenysoftware.com/placeadvisor.html)

### Conclusion

World Place Finder does an excellent job of finding errors in the places recorded in

your genealogy database. The program finds the errors. Now that the program can read a database directly, it is easy to use the program. Corrections can be made using copy and paste commands and can be done globally if there are many instances.

Until recently there was no program to check places. Much of the genealogy data on the Internet is riddled with poorly recorded places. Cleaning up place names is a problem most genealogists need to address. Until the places have been checked, you do not know how many errors are lurking among the places in your data.

## Spider Webs: Veterans Administration Gravesite Locator, Ask-A-Genie, Family Tree Legends Records Collection, PERSI, The Political Graveyard, Swedish Church Records

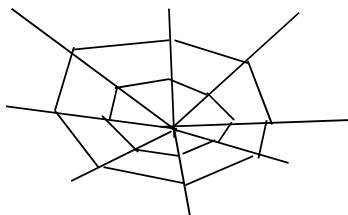
### VA Gravesite Locator

The U.S. Veterans Administration announced that records of more than 3 million veterans who have been buried in Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) national cemeteries are available online. These veterans are buried in 120 cemeteries administered by the VA and date back to the Civil War when the first national cemeteries were established. Also included are records of some burials in state veterans' cemeteries and burials in Arlington National Cemetery from 1999 to the present. The state cemetery burial records are included because these cemeteries use VA's database to order government headstones and markers for veterans' graves. The Arlington National Cemetery, which is operated by the Department of Army, has also used the VA database since 1999.

The Web site data includes the name of the deceased, dates of birth and death, period of military service, branch of service and rank (if known), the cemetery's location and phone number, plus the grave's precise location within the cemetery. The original records have additional information, such as identification of the next of kin. Members of the family of the deceased may request access to the full record of the burial when they visit the national cemetery. They need a government identification card. The online data is updated each day to add new burials. To visit the site, go to: [www.cem.va.gov](http://www.cem.va.gov)

### Ask-A-Genie

Ask-A-Genie is a free service of *Strictly Rocky Mountain*, an online magazine published by Lee Everton. Professional genealogists with expertise in German, Spanish, American, English, Canadian, Swedish and general research are ready to answer questions online for visitors to the site. Visitors to the site can browse the archived questions



and answers. To visit the site, go to: [www.askagenie.com](http://www.askagenie.com)

### Family Tree Legends Records Collection

Pearl Street Software, the company that produces Family Tree Legends, has announced a new subscription genealogy service called the Family Tree Legends Records Collection. It is a collection of documents, indexes and databases which will compete with Ancestry.com and other online genealogy data services. Cliff Shaw, President of the company, says, "The competition is really what got us into this market. Prices have continued to rise for several years now. Personally, I don't feel like the existing services have improved enough to justify their increase in cost. . . . In my mind, the genealogy subscription market has become inflated because there's no competition to the existing services. We plan to restore some healthy competition to the subscription market and FAST!"

Family Tree Legends Records Collection is going online with a collection of more than 400 million records in June 2004. The collection includes birth, marriage, and death indexes from most states; military, land, court and probate records; biographies, cemetery transcriptions, and hundreds of books. Pearl Street Software will add additional records to the collection frequently.

Their promise to make the product competitive seems true with the \$29.95 per year

price. If you sign up early, you can get the \$19.95 per year special introductory price. For more details, go to:

[www.familytreelegends.com/records](http://www.familytreelegends.com/records)

### PERSI

The Periodical Source Index, or PERSI, is the largest index to genealogical and historical periodical articles in the world. It covers almost every genealogical periodical in English that exists with a total of about 6500 journals and periodicals. It has long been available on microfiche, but is now coming to the Internet as a result of an agreement between HeritageQuest and the Allen County Public Library in Fort Wayne, Indiana. Access is not free, but is available through ProQuest, a service to which many libraries and large genealogy organizations subscribe. You may find that your local library subscribes to the service if you live in a metropolitan area.

### The Political Graveyard

This oddly named Web site is the Internet's most comprehensive source for American political biography. It contains a list of 120,948 politicians, living and dead. The site can be searched by family name, individual name and by nickname or sobriquet, date, location, and many other attributes. The site is a good source of data about hard to find politicians who did not achieve prominence in history. See the site at: [politicalgraveyard.com](http://politicalgraveyard.com)

### Swedish Church Records

The GenLine Web site has an online database with images of original Swedish church records. Approximately 7.5 million images are online, from about 1,500 of the 2,500 parishes in Sweden. Most parishes with high emigration rates to North America are already available. Parishes in the northern part of Sweden are being digitized and will be added to the database. Go to: [www.genline.com](http://www.genline.com)

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

By Dr. Cornelius D. PAF

**Q** What is the right button on the mouse used for?

**A** There are many uses in PAF for the right button. It will sometimes save you keystrokes, or it might mean less movement of the mouse. When you are in the "Family View" screen, try clicking with the right button when the cursor is on an individual's name. You will have the option of Edit - [Edit Individual], Delete, Notes, Multimedia, Photo, Edit Marriage, Edit Parent's Marriage, Edit Parent Links, Add New Individual, Add New Parents, Add Spouse, Add Child, or Reports. If the person is not already in the primary position there is an option "Move to Primary." If a photo has not been linked to a name, the word "Photo" will be grayed out.

When you are in the "Pedigree View" screen, right click in the name box for the options: Edit [Edit Individual], Notes, Multimedia, Photo, Move to Primary, Descendancy, Edit Marriage, Reports. When you are in the "Individual" screen, the options are the same as the "Pedigree View," except that "Edit Marriage" is not available even to married individuals. Marriage information is not available in the "Individual View" screen.

**Q** I have a picture of a family, but I don't have pictures of individuals. Can I use the group picture for family group record photos?

**A** PAF will let you isolate one head from a group picture without damaging the picture. You can also crop a picture to get only the head of a person. You do this with the "Edit" feature. After you add a picture through the "Multimedia" screen, click on edit. Place the cursor on the upper left area that you want included in your report and drag the cursor diagonally down to the right un-



til you have the area that you want. Release the mouse button. You will see what you have chosen. If you don't like it, click on "Reset" and try again. If you like it, click on OK. Be aware that if you create a GEDCOM file to use in another genealogy program, the complete picture may be displayed not just the part that you cropped.

**Q** How can I add a child to an unmarried woman when the name of the father is not known?

**A** One approach: When the woman is in the child position, right click on the name of the woman, then click on "Add Child" in the pop-up menu. The same procedure can be used to add a child to an unmarried male.

**Q** What is the difference between "Multimedia" and "Photo?"

**A** Clicking on "Photo" will display the picture of the highlighted person on the screen, over the other screen that was displayed. Note that "Photo" is gray on the screen when no photo is available. Clicking on "Multimedia" allows you to add a photo, or a video or audio clip. You can also modify current multimedia objects.

**Q** How can I find out how big my PAF file is, and how much room I have left on my hard drive?

**A** With the PAF file open, click on "File" and then on "Properties." The following data is displayed: Location of the file, the size of the file in bytes, the date last modified. It also shows the number of Individual Records, the number of deleted Individual Records, the number of Marriage Records and deleted Marriage Records, and the number of Sources, Citations, Repositories, Notes, Events, and Multimedia items. The last number in the list of properties is the Free Disk Space. This is displayed in Mb (Megabytes).

## Software of Interest: RootsMagic 2.0

### RootsMagic 2.0

RootsMagic Version 2 was released in May by RootsMagic, Inc., providing users some new features. Some of the new features are:

- RootsMagic Chart: This new charting program can create full color ancestor, descendant, and hourglass wall charts of any size with full control over the positioning, size, colors, fonts, and other features of the charts.
- RootsMagic Publisher: The Publisher combines reports and charts into a single book and creates a table of contents and a full index. Photos, notes, sources and other text can be included in the book. The program can also add a cover, title page, copyright page, and a dedication page. Books can be sent to the printer, or saved to PDF format for CD-ROM or to e-mail to Relatives.
- Interactive problem list
- Enhanced merge capabilities
- Color coding

- Additional reports
- and more

RootsMagic 2.0 is available in stores at a list price of \$29.95. It can be ordered online at: [www.RootsMagic.com](http://www.RootsMagic.com), or by phone at 877-766-8762. A free trial version can be downloaded from the Web site. The book, "Getting the Most Out of RootsMagic" is also available on the Web site."

### Genealogy Quote:

Snobs talk as if they had begotten their own ancestors.

Herbert Agar

*American Poet*

## News For Genealogists: Get an Oxford Diploma, Salt Lake Family History Library Remodeling, Elias Abodeely III Pleads Guilty

### Get an Oxford Diploma

Oxford University now offers an advanced diploma in local history via the Internet. The course offers an opportunity to study for an Oxford University qualification, teaching material sent via the Internet, and the support of a personal tutor. You have the advantage of studying at home in your robe and bunny slippers and setting your own schedule. For details, go to:

[www.conted.ox.ac.uk/localhistory](http://www.conted.ox.ac.uk/localhistory)

### Salt Lake Family History Library Remodeling

The Family History Library in Salt Lake City is undergoing extensive remodeling this year. Changes include moves of Family Histories and Biographies back to the Library, conversion of the Family Group Records Archive to a film only collection, added computer work stations with the addition of a computer training area, and additional patron research space. The Family Histories and Biographies are available, but will not be in their permanent location until September. The United States and Canada book collection will not be available from June to July. This collection is being moved to the 3rd Floor. The International book collection is now in high density storage; items in the collection may be requested at the B-1 International Library Attendant window.

Remodeling will continue this summer in the B1 International area from June to July or August and on the Main floor from June to September. Remodeling in other areas is scheduled for completion in June. Those planning a trip to the library can contact Library Public Affairs at (801-240-1054 or 800-346-6044 ext. 1054 or by e-mail at [fhl-publicaffairs@ldschurch.org](mailto:fhl-publicaffairs@ldschurch.org).

### Elias Abodeely III Pleads Guilty

Elias Abodeely III pleaded guilty to first degree theft as he appeared before the court in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, on Friday, April 23. The charge was in court. Abodeely admitted that he collected

money from genealogists using a series of Web sites where promises were made but never kept. His scam netted at least \$14,000 from about 250 victims. Some speculate that the damages are much greater than this estimate.

Abodeely sent out thousands of spam e-mail messages promising access to millions of genealogy records. Recipients were promised a five-day, money-back guarantee. For about \$60, the buyer received a password to a protected Web site that contained links pointing to free genealogy Web sites. Subscribers who requested cancellation refunds found that their e-mails were returned as undeliverable. Buyers who paid by credit card found that they could quickly obtain full refunds from PayPal and the credit card companies. Those companies then sought payment from Mr. Abodeely. However, Abodeely began citing "difficulties" with PayPal and asked the buyers to pay by personal check instead of using their credit card. Unlike credit cards, personal checks are not insured against fraud. Abodeely electronically duplicated the checks he received including the signature, adding bogus check numbers. Abodeely was able to cash many forged checks over a period of months.

The sad news is that when he entered his guilty plea, the other charges of money laundering, and ongoing criminal conduct were dropped. The judge sentenced him to three years' probation. No reimbursement was awarded to the victims of the scam. Elias Abodeely gets to keep all of his ill-gotten gain less legal expenses. According to the law, if Mr. Abodeely is not arrested for three years, his criminal record will be clean in three years. His success in court may well lead Mr. Abodeely to try some newer, more profitable scams.

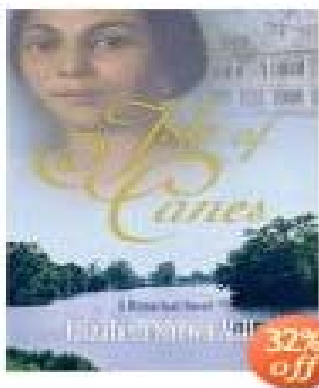
If you get an e-mail that sounds too good to be true, it probably is. Check for complaints with organizations like the Better Business Bureau, look for references, use a credit card to pay, or better yet, erase the e-mail and don't do anything.

## Recently Published: Isle of Canes

### Isle of Canes

*Isle of Canes* by Elizabeth Shown Mills is a family history of a multiracial family in Louisiana. The author is a well known genealogist, lecturer and author. She is best known for her book, *Evidence! Citation & Analysis for the Family Historian*. She was the editor of the National Genealogical Society Quarterly until recently, and she has served as president of the American Society of Genealogists.

*Isle of Canes* is about the history of four generations of a multi-racial family who lived in Southern Louisiana. The account tells how the family rose from slavery to rule an area known as the Isle of Canes, then lost it all in the Civil War. The style of the narrative is reminiscent of Alex Haley's book, *Roots* which was a best seller and inspired the highly rated TV series about thirty years ago. For the family historian considering publication of a family history, *Isle of Canes* is an excellent exam-



ple of what can be done by adding social history and fictional conversations between family members to the genealogical facts gleaned from research. The result is a gripping story that compels the reader to keep on reading.

Elizabeth Shown Mills describes her book as a blend of fact and fiction. For thirty-five years, she has combed through thousands of documents, not only from Louisiana but also Canada, Cuba, Mexico, France and Spain. However, to tell this story, the author needed to fill in intimate scenes that were not recorded in any of the documents and she had to draw on her knowledge of social history for colonial and antebellum Louisiana.

*Isle of Canes* is a 600-page hardcover book published by Ancestry press, a division of MyFamily.com and lists for \$24.95. It is also available from bookstores (ISBN 1-59331-175-3). You should be able to find a discounted price online.

# Researching the Females on Your Pedigree Chart

## Or: Finding Maiden Names and Parents of Female Ancestors

By Lesly Klippel

Having only the first name of a grandmother can be frustrating and you will not always be successful in your search for the surnames of your female ancestors. Unfortunately, the British custom was for the wife to drop her maiden name and assume the surname of her husband. In other European countries, she kept her maiden name and was known by it all her life except that in her death record, she was usually listed as the wife of her husband. The following suggestions for British and U.S. research may help solve the mystery of what was grandma's last name.

### Previous Research

First look to see if someone else has found the surname by checking [www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com), [www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org), [www.genealogy.com](http://www.genealogy.com) and other similar databases. Someone tracking the wife's family may have the information you seek. Search on the husband's name and his wife's full name may be listed. A similar search can be made in PERSI on her husband's surname for a possible article about his family that may mention the missing surname of the wife. Previous research may also be found on a private Web site by using an Internet search engine and searching for the husband's full name in quotes plus the word "genealogy."

The obvious place to find grandma's maiden name is her marriage record. If the marriage record was not found in the most likely locality, check the surrounding counties. The new marriage CD's and Internet databases cross county and even state lines and help in finding elusive marriages. Be careful in evaluating the marriage record because she may have been a widow and married using her first husband's surname.

### Family Records

Family tradition, Bible, letters or other family records may give you the name. Contact other researchers by posting your question about her surname on surname and locality e-mail lists. Someone out there has the information you seek and you just need to contact the right person to locate the

missing surname.

### Newspapers and County Histories

A newspaper announcement of a 25th, 40th, 45th, or 50th anniversary will usually state both the wife's maiden name and the date and place of marriage. A biography of the husband in a county history will almost always give the wife's maiden name. The newspaper obituaries of both the husband and the wife, as well as her death record, will sometimes state her maiden name.

### Death Records

Locate the death certificates and obituaries of all children in the family. One of them may contain the mother's maiden name. Also, probate records can contain clues. The wife's father or other relative may give a bequest to her or her children. A list of purchasers in an estate sale may include your woman as a buyer of one of her deceased father's belongings or she may be listed as an heir in an estate distribution. Check the probate records of all of the family members. One of the children may have left a bequest to a maternal relative.

Abstracts of probate records in the locality have every-name indexes which show your lady with her married name. If you are working with original probate indexes, only the names of the deceased persons are listed, so a thorough and tedious search must be made. Earlier probates are more likely to be abstracted and published and have an every-name index. I first located the maiden surname of my Lucretia Allison when I found her name in the probate abstract index in Washington county, Virginia. She was listed as a purchaser in the estate sale of Joseph Scott. Further research proved that she was a daughter of Joseph Scott, but the probate abstract index was my first indication of her maiden surname.

### Naming Patterns

The British naming custom was to give the mother's maiden name as the middle name of the children. In some families, every child, even the daughters, have the mother's maiden name as their middle name. That was true in my Arthur family

and is true in many U.S. families. Other families may give the mother's maiden name as the first name of one of the sons. Any of the children's names that could be surnames should be considered to be a possible clue to her identity. Other clues arise if she named her children unusual names that are also found in another family in the locality. Scanning every name in the county census record instead of just depending upon the index can reveal much about the neighboring families, one of which is probably her family.

### In-laws

Look for the mother-in-law and/or father-in-law to be living with your family in a post-1850 census. Even though relationships are not stated until 1880, an elderly person with a surname that's different from her husband's surname, could be her parent. In fact, in one census where I thought the elderly person was the wife's maiden aunt, she turned out to be her mother. Aging parents almost always lived with grown children, usually the daughter, so check the family in every census to see what you can find.

### Pension Records

If the wife, as a widow, applied for a military pension, that record will include proof of the marriage, sometimes giving her maiden name. The proof was usually an affidavit from the minister or a relative or a neighbor and may state the wife's maiden name. In some rare cases, the widow tore the page out of her Bible that listed the marriage and sent it in with the application. There are many Bible pages resting in the military pension files at the NARA.

### Court Records

Court records of various kinds may give clues. Especially look for guardianship records if the husband died leaving minor children. Very often, a brother or male cousin of the wife was named as guardian. In some rare cases, the widow was named as guardian herself, but in those cases, only her married name will be listed. Children under the age of 14 years had the guardian appointed by the court and children between

14 and 21 years were able to choose their guardian with the court's approval.

### Study the Neighborhood

Look at the surnames of families living near your family on the census and/or tax lists. Limited transportation meant that neighbors usually married the daughters of neighbors. If the first names in your family expand beyond the usual Bible names, look to see if the unusual name appears in any other families in the neighborhood. A thorough knowledge of your family's neighborhood is necessary to sleuth out her maiden name. Families didn't live in vacuums and were influenced in many ways by their neighbors, including the naming of children.

### Have Surname, Need Parents

If you've been lucky enough to find the marriage record with the bride's surname listed, you need to determine if it is her maiden name or a prior married surname. This is only one of many situations in which the researcher knows the wife's surname from any one of many possible sources such as a family Bible, marriage record, obituary or information passed down in the family, but does not know her parents' names. The following suggestions can help you determine her parentage. You will probably need to do a combination of these techniques to accomplish your goal.

### Census Records

First locate the wife in a census record to determine her date and place of birth. Next, evaluate all families in that county or, if necessary, the entire state to locate her as a child listed by name and age in the 1850 and later censuses or as a female in the right age

category in the pre-1850 censuses. The more uncommon the name, the easier this task will be. Be sure to search state censuses as well as federal census. If the federal census only lists initials instead of given names, check with the state library to see if they have the state copy which will probably list full names.

### Probate Records

Study both the probate and the land records in the locality for everyone of that surname looking for relationships and putting all the families together. If you are lucky, a probate will list your wife as an heir to her father's estate. Look for the deeds with "et ex" (and wife) and "et al" (and others).

Study the records left by her husband, remembering that while single women could own land, an estate inherited by a wife reverted to her husband with only her dower right being protected from sale during her lifetime. Look for dealings with persons of the same last name as the wife's maiden name.

### Name of Minister

One way to identify her siblings is to determine which minister performed their marriages. Usually all the children in a family will engage the same minister and his church affiliation is a good clue to help put the family members together. Most marriage abstracts include the minister's name and the local historical society should have information linking the ministers to particular churches.

### Land Records

Plotting the land owned by everyone

of the surname in question in the locality will help in putting the families together. Families stayed together. Especially look for plots located close to the husband's land.

### Time Line

Make a time line with everything you know about her and one for the others of the same surname in the same locality. Fitting the time lines together will help place her in the right family.

### Other Records

Possible other records which may contain clues to her parentage are cemetery records and tombstone inscriptions (the location of graves is important, often indicating familial relationships), church records, city directories, pension files, orphan and guardianship records, wills, land records, newspaper obituaries, divorce records, court records, school records. In other words, a complete area search will give you the puzzle pieces and then you can put the puzzle together. That's the fun of research!

### Further Help

A book devoted to this subject is entitled *A Genealogist's Guide to Discovering Your Female Ancestors* by Sharon DeBartholo Carmack, published by Betterway Books is available at Amazon.com for \$14.50.

Filling in the surnames for your female ancestors on your pedigree chart requires using your genealogy detective skills and your knowledge of the available records. Positive results will give you great satisfaction and a whole new pedigree line to search. Happy hunting.

## Colin Powell's Coat of Arms

Colin Powell, the U.S. Secretary of State and former four-star general who led the 28-nations force in Operation Desert Storm in the first Gulf War has petitioned the Heraldry Society of Scotland for a coat of arms. This is not an honorary coat of arms. Colin Powell not only has Scottish ancestry which he is now documenting, but he has the qualifications necessary for his own personal coat of arms.

Actually General Powell could petition for a coat of arms for himself because he is not a subject of the United Kingdom. There is no such thing as a family coat of arms. A coat of arms at any one time is the personal property of only one individual. He did petition on behalf of his father, Luther Powell, a citizen of Jamaica, which qualified Luther as a citizen of the Crown. The arms were granted several months ago to Luther Powell. The arms go to Colin Powell by inheritance because his father is de-

ceased and there is no citizenship requirement to inherit a coat of arms. Lord Lyon intends to present the arms to Colin Powell in Washington, probably in September. It is noteworthy that the Powell coat of arms includes an insignia commemorating his appointment as honorary Knight Commander of the most Honourable Order of the Bath, an honor given to Colin Powell and General Norman Schwarzkopf by H.M. Queen Elizabeth II. Watch for details in the news.

On the other hand, if Colin Powell were a citizen of Jamaica like his father, he could not have been a four star general nor a secretary of state. A petition for a coat of arms probably would be quietly passed over by the Heraldry Society of Scotland. You must give the man credit for discovering a way to get his Scottish coat of arms.

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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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