

Some Neat Things Google Can Do

By Lesly Klippel

Google has become a very popular search engine for genealogy search on the Internet. If you have only used Google for basic searches, you may be surprised at all the neat options it has to offer. Here are some of them that I have discovered and enjoy using.

Google Toolbar

You can put Google in your browser toolbar where its search field and search options will be displayed, ready for use, no matter what Web site you are displaying. Simply go to: www.google.com/toolbar and click on "Download Now." Click on "Run" to install the Google toolbar. Be sure to take the tour so you know what Google can do for you such as automatically fill in your forms, spell check what you type on the Web and find addresses linked to maps.

www.google.com

Be sure to go to www.google.com to explore more search options. Click on Advanced Search to customize your genealogy searches. You can specify that Google find all the words in your search string such as "walter athey genealogy," the exact phrase such as "loyalists in nova scotia," or at least one of the words such as "klippel klipple" for an unusual surname with various possible spellings. (In that search, I learned that Robert Klippel was

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Australia's greatest sculptor!) There are some more advanced filtering features available that you can explore and also links to search Google Books, a finding tool for books about any subject or surname. Google allows you to browse a little through the book and then gives you some purchase options.

Search for Images on the Web

Besides searching for text on Web sites, you can search for images. Choose the "Images" option located on top of the search field and type the name of a locality into the search field. A search on "nieder-weisel" displayed quite a few pictures of the Klippel home village in Germany. A search on "mayflower" gave me some nice pictures of that important ship. Any image can be saved to your computer by right-clicking on the image and choosing "Save Image As" in the drop-down menu. Remember that the quality may not be all that you expect since the resolution requirements for displaying on the Web are not very high. On some Web sites, a higher resolution picture can be viewed by clicking on the picture.

Other Search Options

There are other search options across the top of the search field in the "Advanced View." Shoppers can find the lowest prices on Froogle and clicking on "More" will bring up a whole new search world to explore. The one I like best is Google Earth which has a free, downloadable version. You can even view your own house from space on that exciting site.

Preferences

On the www.google.com site, click on "Preferences," to customize your searches and displays or change to a different language, if needed. You can also display more than the default number of 10 results allowing you to scroll through more territory before "turning the page." It's also very handy to have each search result open in a new window. Then, if you want to compare one result page against another, you have them both open in your task bar. Be sure to save your new preferences before closing the window.

Simple Google Searches

It's a good idea to put the first name and surname in quotes when you are searching for information about a particular person. For example, "john

hopkinson" genealogy will narrow down your results to pretty much what you are looking for. Adding a place and/or the wife's maiden name can also make your search more specific. Also try the name in reverse for finding Web sites where the name is listed with surname first. You can also insert a wildcard to catch the middle name. Martha * Jones, with no quote marks, found Martha Ann Jones, Martha Jane Jones, Martha Ann Howell Jones, etc. Adding the word genealogy would narrow down your results.

Starting your search string with tilde (~) will find synonyms. For example, ~obits klippel will find obituaries and death notices as well as the word obits in Web sites. Searching on ~genealogy klippel also returned sites with the word family included. Since you never know exactly how a subject is listed on a particular Web site, searching for synonyms will assure you don't miss an important discovery.

You can find a wealth of information and pictures on the Web for many, many villages and towns in both the United States and other countries. Simply type the village name and find your treasure. For example, "wigtoft church photo" gave me a beautiful picture of the church there that I could save on my computer. If the

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Google

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village has a common name, add the state and/or country to the search string. Remember that many photos on the Internet are copyrighted and permission would have to be given for you to publish them either on another Web site or in a book.

Searching a Particular Web Site

One of the most exciting options that Google offers is to search an entire Web site for a search string. For example, searching on "klippel site:rootsWeb.com" brought up every mention of that surname

on RootsWeb, all on one search results page(s). What a time saver! I found results in the many databases that I would have had to search individually on the RootsWeb site. You could use a place search string such as "greene tennessee site:rootsweb.com" to find every mention of that place.

If you have the Google toolbar installed, go to a Web site, type your search string into the Google search field, click on the down arrow to the right and choose Current Site. This is very handy for county Web sites listed on www.usgenWeb.com that don't have the FreeFind search function. Even if it does have FreeFind to search the

county site, Google offers a backup second choice that might find something FreeFind misses. Be sure to spell the surname various ways in these site searches.

I hope you have the courage to try some new things with Google and explore some of the time-saving options this important search engine offers. As a final note, the Google corporation requests that "Google" not be used as a synonym for Web searching since that would invalidate the use of Google as a trade-marked name.

Spider Webs: San Francisco Genealogy; The Irish in New York City; McKirdy Index of Scottish Deaths, British Family Locator

San Francisco Genealogy

SFGenealogy.com is a free site with genealogical and historical information about San Francisco and San Mateo Counties, and the State of California. The site contains research guides, maps, histories of many neighborhoods, old photographs, rosters of graduates from San Francisco high schools, histories of defunct cemeteries, and more. Go to:

www.sfgenealogy.com

The Irish in New York City

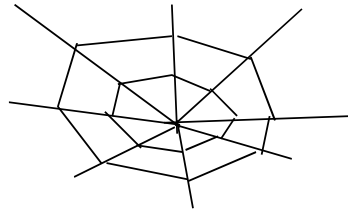
The Irish in New York City is a history site, and will be of interest to those with Irish ancestry from New York City or perhaps passing through New York City. The Irish immigrated to escape religious persecution, economic hardship, or starvation. Many left friends and relatives in the old country. By 1860, 25% of New York City was Irish. The Web site has a lot of historic detail about the living conditions of the Irish.

The site contains several databases which are very useful for genealogy research, including:

Deaths in Ireland: These are transcriptions taken from the New York City newspaper, *The Irish-American*, with spelling as it appeared. Many of these records are no longer available in Ireland. The year 1857 is all that is available at this time.

Marriages in Ireland: These are transcriptions from *The Irish-American*. Only the marriages for 1857 are currently available online.

Surname Database: This list includes



those individuals doing research on a particular surname.

This free Web site is found at:

www.irishinnyc.freesevers.com

McKirdy Index of Scottish Deaths

The McKirdy Index is a project of Wayne McKirdy, a genealogist from Wellington, New Zealand, who has spent the past ten years entering 310,000 Scottish death records manually into his computer. He undertook the project during his own research into his Scottish heritage. He is already planning his next project which is to extract the Scottish marriage records.

The data comes from the Statutory Registers of Death for Scotland 1855-1875. Some deaths are for individuals who were born during the middle of the eighteenth century and records may list the parents of these individuals.

The extraction of the data was done with the permission of the Queen's Printer for Scotland and HMSO. The data is copyright by the Crown as well as by the McKirdy Index Limited. Data may be reproduced for private and personal use only unless permission is granted from both the Crown and McKirdy Index Limited. A fee is charged for the use of the data per the following schedule:

- Bronze Membership (3 months): about

\$3.34 with no location details displayed

- Silver Membership (3 months): about \$6.02 with search by location
- Gold Membership (3 months): about \$10.03 or about \$30.09 for twelve months. Gold members can perform detailed search results, search by location, and can view the complete details including all persons on each entry.

The index covers only eight counties in Scotland. For more information, go to: www.mckirdyindex.co.nz

British Family Locator

The Surnames Profiler database contains information on the size and geographical distribution of 25,630 surnames across Great Britain. There are plans to expand that number to 280,000 surnames. The Economic and Social Research Council developed the site. The site shows the origin of surnames, their frequency, and geographical distribution, and the movement of people with the same surname from the 19th century to today. If your surname is listed, you can see where families with that surname were living in the 19th and 20th centuries. If the name is rare, the families are more likely to be concentrated in a smaller area, providing a genealogist a place to start looking for the origins of an ancestor.

The data is based on the 1881 census and the credit database of Experian. Only the surname and location were extracted for the Surname Profiler Project.

To use the database, go to: www.spatial-literacy.org/uclnames and click on "Start a surname search" located in the green line below the page title.

Of Interest to Genealogists:

Guinness Book of World Records on Genealogy

According to the *Guinness Book of World Records*, the Confucius family genealogy is considered to be the longest documented genealogy in the world. Confucius (K'ung Ch'iu in Mandarin) lived from 551 to 479 B.C. and his fourth-great-grandfather, K'ung Chia, lived in the 8th century B.C. There are seven documented direct descendents of Chia who are alive. They trace their ancestry back 86 generations.

Freedmen's Bureau Records Featured at National Archives

The National Archives has completed the first phase of a five-year project, which will make the records of the Freedmen's Bureau available. The Freedmen's Bureau was created during the Civil War as the War Department's Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands. It helped many former slaves with the change from slavery to freedom. The bureau operated hospitals and refugee camps, supplied food and clothing, established schools, helped freedmen legalize marriages, supervised labor contracts and helped African American soldiers and sailors and their heirs to get back pay, bounty payments, and pensions. The bureau was plagued with corruption and meager funding and was attacked by hostile politicians until it closed in June 1872. President Andrew Johnson tried unsuccessfully to close the bureau during his administration. Like many government agencies, the bureau created a lot of paperwork.

The first step in making these records available is an exhibit of some of the original documents in the East Rotunda Gallery of the National Archives Building. This display can be seen through Feb. 16. To make these records known to the public, two panel discussions were held in January. They were moderated by Allen Weinstein, Archivist of the United States, and Lonnie Bunch, director of the National Museum of African American History and Culture, and included experts in African-American genealogy and historians from several universities. During the discussions, the panel mentioned some of the treasures discovered among the documents since the project began four years ago.

The records of the Freedman's Bureau are a significant source of information for the family history of African-American families

back to the Civil War era. These records have been accessible only to scholars and a few others since 1940 when they were collected and sent to the National Archives. The records were disorganized and some records were too fragile to allow handling. As part of the project, the records are being microfilmed. As the National Archives continues to make these records available, we should see an increased interest in African-American research.

Tennessee Bill to Allow Visits to Private Cemeteries

Representative Sherry Jones is sponsoring a bill in the Tennessee legislature that will require property owners to grant access to graveyards on their property. Visitors may be family members, descendants and close friends of anyone buried there. Visits would be legal for visits to graves, cemetery maintenance, genealogical research, and for possible future burials. Landowners not complying with the new bill can be taken to court.

There are many small cemeteries on private land especially in rural areas. Presently, the landowners can restrict access to these graveyards. Representative Jones decided to introduce her bill after being asked by a woman whose child is buried in a cemetery on private land. The land was sold and the new owner denied her permission to visit the grave.

Donald Trump Helps Save Beauvoir

Beauvoir, the Jefferson Davis Home and Presidential Library in Biloxi, Mississippi was almost destroyed, by hurricane Katrina. It is one of the few historic landmarks still standing on the Mississippi coast. The National Trust for Historic Preservation has identified the site as one that should be preserved.

A \$25,000 donation that came "out of the blue" from Donald Trump will greatly help in the cause. Beauvoir is owned by the nonprofit Mississippi Division of the United Sons of Confederate Veterans, Inc. "This is our history and when you lose something like that it is very difficult to replace," said Beauvoir board member John French. "There are so many out there who are able to help," he said, but "never in my wildest dreams did I imagine Mr. Trump had an interest in historic properties. It makes it a little bit more special." Trump's good friend, Richard Moe, who heads the National Trust suggested Beauvoir when Trump asked Moe how he could help with the Trust's work in the hurricane area.

Hardware of Interest: Pocket-size Photo Album

The iPod has been a very successful product for Apple Computer. Teenagers can tune out the world when they plug it into their ears and listen to any of a large library of tunes that they have downloaded from the Internet. The latest version of the iPod, the iPod nano series, may be of interest to the family historian. It measures 3.5 x 1.6 x 0.27 inches, operates on battery power, and can fit in a pocket with most of the space unused. The smallest device of the series has one gigabyte of memory and can store and display up to 15,000 photographs. Stores are selling this model for \$149. The larger memory models can handle even more pictures.

This is not a good product if you have poor eyesight. The screen is 1.5 inches square. You may want to carry a magnifying glass in that extra space in your pocket to see the detail in each picture. Also there is no port to connect the iPod to a large screen television for better viewing like you can do with a PDA which can also be used to store pictures.

On the plus side, an iPod is easier to carry than a slide projector or a stack of photo albums. It can also store and play music.

For more information about the iPod, go to:

www.apple.com/ipodnano

Ask the Doc — “I Give No Answers Before Their Time!”

By Dr. Cornelius D. PAF

Adding SSN to All Individuals

Q I am currently using Family Search PAF Version 5.2.18.0. I am trying to add fields to the “Edit Individual” box. I want to add Marriage and Social Security Number (SSN) to all the individuals where it would be appropriate. I would really like to be able to add to the “Select Event” box under the “Edit Individual > Options > New Event/Attribute” menu. The program will not let me add it in a GEDCOM tag. I want the information to be included properly if I export the file into a GEDCOM format.

A I assume that you have figured out how to add “New Events” to the “Edit Individual” screen. If I understand your question correctly, you want to have the new events have a GEDCOM tag so you can have the data passed into a GEDCOM file.

Unfortunately, the software will not allow you to add your own GEDCOM tags, because GEDCOM is a worldwide standard that is maintained by a limited group of designated people who are the owners of the specifications. If they allowed any user of any genealogy software program to generate tags, the utility of the GEDCOM standard would deteriorate rapidly. Genealogy programs have a built in GEDCOM import module that must be able to handle the tags as it reads a GEDCOM file, and if it encounters unexpected tags, it must report them as errors.

There are several marriage events already on the list of events that certainly could be used to enter your data into a marriage field. There is nothing to stop you from using those fields as you want unless you intend to share your data with others. For example, I use the “Married Name” field to enter every individual's spouse's name. That way I can show an individual's spouse on the “Individual” screen—it's very handy.

I cannot see any field that you could use for the SSN, but that doesn't mean you cannot appropriate one of them for



your private use. However, I would be cautious about including SSN in a shared database, for the sake of privacy and identity protection.

Pasted Graphic Images Do Not Print

Q As I undertake family history research on the 1881 census for Scotland, I often copy and paste the census information into “Notes” for the respective individuals. Having done so, I have no difficulty accessing the copied information on screen. However, when I come to print a family group record none of the copy/pasted information prints on the reports. I just get huge blank spaces where the data should be. Am I doing something wrong, or is this an intentional aspect of either PAF or the Family History Resource Files software?

A The notes screen in PAF has always been designed to handle text only. It was never designed to support graphical images. When you copy and paste from an image such as the census records, they are inserted in the notes, and will appear on screen, but when you try to print, there is no code in the print routine to transfer images to the printer. The primary reason for this is that many users of PAF still use dot-matrix printers, which cannot handle graphics.

Editing Print Files with Word 2003

Q I am using PAF 5.2.18, and have done several reports using the “print to file” option with Microsoft Word 97 and no problems. Recently, I installed Microsoft Word 2003. Now when I do a print to file for a pedigree chart or family group sheet, the .rtf document that opens in Word does not have the format—all the text is aligned along the left-hand edge. I have two computers, one using Windows XP and one using Windows 2000. Both have the problem. Do you know of a fix?

A This is a problem with a Word setting. Pull down the “View” menu once you have the .rtf file open, and select the “Print Layout” option. Word often opens up in the “Normal Layout” setting, which ignores all the printer layout commands in the file.

Software of Interest: RootsMagic 3.2

RootsMagic Version 3.2 is a genealogy program for Windows. The most significant change to latest release is the direct import from Family Tree Maker including images and scrapbook. There is no longer a need to create a GEDCOM file to use RootsMagic. Other new features include:

- A perpetual calendar (Tools > Calendar)

- “Facts with text dates” report (Reports > Lists > Fact list)
- A Print button in IGI search
- Color coding display in the selection screen
- Multimedia items for citations such as a scanned image

There are also some small bug fixes and added options.

Current RootsMagic 3 owners can download the update free of charge from: www.rootsmagic.com/updates

A demo version can be downloaded at: www.rootsmagic.com/demo.htm

Identifying Race: A Moveable Feast of Information

By Janet Brigham

Among my New England ancestors is one family that kept slaves—only a few slaves, but slaves nonetheless. I have assumed those slaves were Black. As I traced that family forward to the 1940s, I found racist articles in a family newsletter declaring the superiority of that family line over those with mixed ancestry, and keeping alive an apparent family tradition of unwarranted arrogance.

This is not the only skeleton I've found in the family closets, but it is the worst. How I would prefer to descend from people of color, rather than from bigots! Of course, the last laugh is on them, since those "pure" New Englanders may well have descended from Normans, Celts, Saxons, Gauls, Danes, Romans, and the occasional Druid.

As family historians, we're accustomed to nailing down the facts. Was that elusive ancestor poor or wealthy? Was she literate? How long did she live in Ohio? Whom did she marry, and how many children did they have? What were their birth dates? Some family history information is finite, and when we find it in credible sources, we enter into our records and move on, even though we know we might later find conflicting information.

People either lived in Ohio (or what was at some point Ohio) or they didn't. We also know that as situations change across time, a wealthy person might become poor, a person in Ohio might move to Wisconsin, and a christening date might be listed as a birth date. We know that family lore can turn out to be unfounded, and that mighty secrets can lurk in small details.

Many family historians might not realize that race is among the most mutable of all the basic information we glean about our ancestors. In a worldwide culture where race can divide societies, it is an odd fact that racial identification changes. In our research, the reality of our ancestors' racial identification may be those changes, rather than the absolute labels. In other words, the fact that an ancestor declared himself to be an American Indian may be documented, but whether or not he was one may never be clear.

Race is articulated in the U.S. Census every decade. The 2000 U.S. Census was the first to allow Americans to list themselves as members of more than one race. In early censuses, race was stated by the census enumerators; in later censuses, it has been self-declared. In either case, it may have been little more than a guess. And that guess may change over time, as politics and preferences shift. Similarly, racial and ethnic intermarriage has made it nearly impossible to identify the racial origins for some ancestors.

This can result in confusion for a family historian attempting to establish a family's racial and ethnic portrait.

The present delineations of race and ethnicity are driven by Directive 15 of the U.S., Office of Management and Budget. It acknowledges four racial groups: (1) American Indian or Alaskan Native, (2) Asian or Pacific Islander, (3) Black, and (4) White. Ethnicity is either (1) Hispanic Origin, or (2) Not of Hispanic Origin. Those who self-identify as having more than one race are counted

as being in a minority. From these self-declared categories, programs such as those based on voting rights and civil rights are managed. As official as that sounds, the results can be fluid.

Studies sometimes find that self-identification of race and ethnicity changes considerably over time, among the same individuals. One recent study of Black men found that as their education level and economic prospects improved, their racial categorization tended to shift from Black to White.

Being identified as a specific race has had distinct and sometimes disastrous consequences. For example, Sir Frances Galton introduced the "science" of eugenics in 1883 and declared that suppressing so-called defective or inferior races was God's will in the process of natural selection. Those of "superior" human stock were encouraged to procreate, while those of "inferior" background could become subject to sterilization—certainly a potent cause for declaring a "superior" racial background.

The history of racial identification of Native Americans in Virginia is another case in point. As historian Ruth Knight Bailey notes:

"In the year 1670, the English Colony of Virginia decided to classify American Indians as free people of color. Then a 1705 colonial law stated that descendants of any Indian 'should be deemed, accounted, held, and taken to be a mulatto.' By 1793, Virginia required all free colored people to register with the state unless they wanted to be sold into slavery or jailed....[I]n the 1830s, some Indians in Virginia's Amherst County voluntarily registered as "free issue negroes" to keep from being driven from their homes onto the Trail of Tears."

Mulatto was an official census category from 1850 to 1920. Amherst Indians who had registered as "Free Issues" before 1865 were listed as *mulatto* or *black* on the 1880 census, Bailey notes, "but in the 1900 Census, all of the Amherst 'M' notations inexplicably turned into 'B's. By the turn of the twentieth century, most Virginians thought Indians no longer existed in the Commonwealth." The Racial Integrity Act of 1924 required racial registration of all Virginians as "Caucasian, Negro, Mongolian, American Indian, Asiatic Indian, Malay, or any mixture thereof, or any other non-Caucasian strain." Whites were prohibited from most interracial marriage, with an exception for those claiming to descend from Princess Pocahontas. Native Americans were declared "mixed-blood Negro," and "mixture of blood" was stated as the genetic cause of "defective children," as Bailey notes.

Virginia officials used racial registration information to trace descendants and label families as Black or White. Since about two-third of the Amherst Indians hadn't registered, the labeling served only to divide the Native Americans themselves. Bureaucrats went so far as to change notations to *Black* on vital records for some previously listed as *White*, *Indian*, and *Mulatto*. The director of Virginia Vital Statistics, Dr. Walter Plecker, "even wrote threatening letters to mothers of new babies and ordered bodies exhumed from white cemeteries," Bailey accounts. "He threatened local officials with the penitentiary if they issued white certificates against his wishes, and a few local officials went to prison

over it." Plecker issued a list of surnames that were to be classified as "Negroes" and warned officials about "mongrels" who might change their surname.

Of course, these events are reminders of the profound racial divides that have threatened civil rights throughout the history of the United States. For genealogists and family historians, they are a reminder of the need to record ancestors' racial information tentatively.

Editors Joel Perlmann and Mary C. Waters explain ethnicity and racial identification: "Ethnic groupings can be loosely thought of as classifications relating to people's origins in the different countries or local areas of the world from which they or their ancestors came." They add, "The meanings of 'race' are painfully woven into the texture of American life....Races are usually discussed, in demographic terms, as a special subset of ethnicity, in that race relates to classifications of ancestral origins for groups treated in especially distinct ways in the American past. Typically, when we use the term 'race' we mean to denote a group that is still treated in some specially distinct ways."

For Perlmann and Waters, editors of a scholarly book about racial identification issues, a primary function of identifying race is to make it possible to monitor the well-being of these groups by collecting evidence about them. They note that "a concern with racial classification arises from such legacies as slavery, the near extermination of the American Indian groups, and state laws forbidding interracial marriage—laws that survived in various states until 1967, when the U.S. Supreme Court finally ruled them unconstitutional."

Recently Published: Savage's Genealogical Dictionary on CD-ROM, Internet Genealogy Magazine

Savage's Genealogical Dictionary on CD-ROM

The *Genealogical Dictionary of the First Settlers of New England* by James Savage was first published as a 4 volume set of books during the Civil War. The printed set is found in most libraries with genealogy collections.

Archive CD Books USA has scanned *Savage's Genealogical Dictionary* and used optical character recognition to prepare the text to publish on CD-ROM. The electronic version is searchable, faster to use and easier to store. Text can be cut and pasted into other programs.

The dictionary lists nearly every settler who arrived in New England before 1692. It includes those of rank down to servants who came with their employers. It lists the dates of marriage and death after the arrival in America, dates of birth, marriage, and death of children, and birth dates and names of the grandchildren of each male immigrant.

The printed set can be purchased now for \$150. The CD-ROM, with all the same information, the ability to search for words or phrases, and the ability to copy and paste, sells for \$29.95, but was a special introductory price right now of \$9.95 before Christmas with no expiration date mentioned. For more information or to order, go to:
www.archivecdbooksusa.com/Merchant2/merchant.mvc?Screen=PROJINFO

Thus, from the social scientists' perspective, racial identification is driven by a need to monitor the nation's treatment of special groups. On the other hand, the family historian's desire to identify ancestors' race could be driven by curiosity, and perhaps in some cases by a desire to establish "purity" of lineage. The long and short of centuries of racial categorization is that such "purity" could be an illusion.

What we can learn from our ancestors' racial categories may depict a richer heritage than race itself. In tracing their racial listing, we may find clues to the challenges they faced and the burdens they carried. Although we may never know the identity of their bloodlines, we may discover their valor and their shortfalls with clarity only possible with the distance of time.

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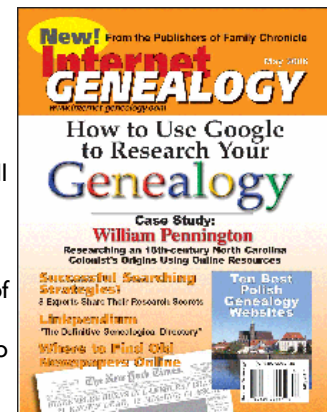
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Internet Genealogy Magazine

Moorshead Publications, the publishers of *Family Chronicle*, are launching a new magazine called *Internet Genealogy*. The magazine will focus on genealogy research using the resources found on the Internet. Many traditional genealogists have avoided the Internet in favor of familiar sources such as microfilm, books and manuscripts. Others who have used the Internet often use Google, which is not a particularly good search engine for finding genealogy on the Internet. *Internet Genealogy* promises to help find good genealogy sources and to be more effective using the Internet to find genealogical information.

The Jan/Feb 2006 issue of *Family Chronicle's* contains a 24-page preview copy of *Internet Genealogy* with several sample articles. The same preview copy can also be downloaded from the Internet Genealogy Web site at: www.internet-genealogy.com

The first issue of *Internet Genealogy's* will be the May 2006 issue, which will be on the newsstands and to subscribers in late February.



Stranger Than Fiction: Census Taker Burns Forms, Vandal Apprehended By Tombstone

Census Taker Burns Forms

In Japan, a census taker became angry with the uncooperative people he had to enumerate. He had been assigned to collect census forms from about 70 households in the Nakazato district in Bando. He complained to the Bando municipal government, that some people were not cooperating. He said he could not deal with people living in apartments. He told the authorities that he wanted to burn the forms.

The officials immediately dispatched a man to visit the home of the census taker, but this man was given the address of a man with the same surname. The census taker called the officials a second time and told them nobody had come to his house so he was going to burn the forms. When the officials finally arrived at the right

house, they found the ashes of the census forms at the entrance.

Other census takers were assigned to revisit the homes and fill out new census forms. The Internal Affairs and Communications Ministry is contemplating punishment for the hapless 66-year-old census taker for destroying public documents.

Vandal Apprehended By Tombstone

A Roodhouse, Illinois teenager recently vandalized about 40 headstones in a local cemetery. Damage was estimated at about \$10,000 by a local funeral home director. It was rather easy for the police to take the culprit into custody. As the young man was trying to topple a huge 600-pound gravestone, the stone fell on his leg and pinned him to the ground. Four firefighters were

required to lift the stone off his leg. Police Chief Steve Speeks said they are waiting for the young man recover from undisclosed injuries at a local hospital so they can question him about the alleged vandalism. It all seems to show that there are instances of poetic justice.

Memorable Quote

There is no reason for any individual to have a computer in his home.

Ken Olsen

President: Digital Equipment Corporation

Statement made in 1977

Locating Places with GPS

By Allin Kingsbury

Old maps of central and Eastern Europe and many other areas throughout the world, show how much boundaries change. Names change too. Ceylon became Sri Lanka. Yugoslavia has changed to Bosnia and Croatia and more. Places sometimes move. While visiting a town in Canada near the Saint Lawrence Seaway, we noticed that the headstones from several cemeteries had been moved because the former locations were flooded when a dam was built on the Saint Lawrence River.

Locations in our genealogy have been recorded naming town, county, state, and country. However, the recent availability of GPS coordinates has made them popular in genealogy databases. Some genealogy programs have added GPS coordinates to the edit screens.

GPS (Global Positioning Satellite) coordinates are actually latitude and longitude with a lot of decimal places to locate places precisely. Satellites measure the distance to a GPS receiver. Each satellite continually corrects its exact position. By measuring the distance to 3 satellites, the position of the receiver can be calculated to an accuracy of a few feet.

Lists of places often include GPS coordinates, especially on the Internet. In the US, one of the best sources of GPS coordinates is the US geological Survey. This agency maintains topographical maps of the entire country and has tables of locations of map features including cemeteries. To view the latitude and longitude of US cemeteries, go to the GNIS database at: <http://geonames.usgs.gov> For coordinates of cities and towns, consider getting World Place Finder.

These coordinates give a precise location which is unaffected by political boundary. We have recorded locations where we find genealogical records by recording the name and address of the

repository. For sources of information such as headstones, we record the name and address of the cemetery. The GPS coordinates for each headstone are probably not available in any records. Some genealogists are purchasing GPS receivers which cost less than \$100 and can attach to a laptop computer. By placing the receiver on a headstone and pushing a button on the computer, the GPS coordinates are recorded in the computer, and can be copied and pasted where they are to be recorded.

One advantage to having GPS coordinates is that almost all maps have a latitude and longitude scale on the edges of the map. GPS coordinate for a place can be pinpointed on the map and the place can be marked even though a place may not be identified on the map.

If the computer software being used has no fields for GPS coordinates, the coordinates can be recorded as notes. A few of the programs that provide fields to record GPS locations include Legacy, RootsMagic, and The Master Genealogist.

If GPS coordinates are recorded, individuals will have no trouble finding locations one-hundred years from now even though place names have changed, rivers have been dammed to form lakes, roads have been rerouted, and political boundaries have moved.

Quotable Quote

There is no pleasure in having nothing to do; The fun is in having lots to do and not doing it.

Mary Wilson Little

American Photographer

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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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