

Filling in the Blanks

By Allin Kingsbury

As the blanks are filled in, the additional data makes it easier to match individuals or to narrow searches for additional data.

I recently stated that an amazing number of American families living in the 20th century are now posted on the Internet and of those families who are related to me, the accuracy of the data is very high. Several friends have pointed out examples to the contrary. I did an unscientific sampling of Udata-base that I am verifying, and found that the number of individuals with errors in names, dates and places was less than one percent. I did not consider a missing date or place as an error, nor did I count misspellings that were obvious and easily corrected. The typing problems are easily seen and easily corrected.

The errors all seemed to be recollection errors, which found their way into the published family trees on the Internet. I did not consider the Ancestral file, which is an excellent finding tool but has a large number of errors caused by careless combining of data submitted by many individuals. The largest collections of family trees which include the ability to search are Ancestry.com, RootsWeb, FamilyTreeMaker, and the Pedigree Resource File produced by FamilySearch.c[. The latter is available on CD-ROM and at most Family History Centers. There are also many family trees

published on private Web sites. These can be found using a general search engine like Google.

I also found that the family structures were correct if I ignore omissions like missing spouses and children. The child or spouse may have had incorrect data but the individual did exist. In the case of a parent, we know from scientific knowledge that there is one father and one mother. In a case where we begin with the parent, only a thorough search will find all the spouses and children. Until we find a death record, we are not sure that there was not a remarriage after the death of the spouse. And if we are not thorough in the search, we may miss some half-brothers and half sisters.

Many family trees lack dates and places. Filling in these details can be tedious. The data comes as single pieces of data from a large variety of sources. Almost all these genealogy facts are available for the twentieth century and most of them can be found back to 1850, where census data provides many of the facts. For individuals living before 1850, dates and places are much more difficult because the available sources are fewer and sometimes less available.

To illustrate the process of verifying family tree data and filling in the blanks, two case studies are submitted to help the reader see the process used. The cases use the Internet exclusively because it is quick and can usually accomplish most of the task. For the cases described, the strategy is to fill in the blanks. As the blanks are filled in, the additional data makes it easier to match individuals or to narrow searches for additional data. As new information is found, it becomes easier to determine if it relates to the wrong individual or the correct person.

Case 1: The Barbara Banbury Family

Barbara Banbury appears in a family tree published on the Internet with no supporting events except that she married a man surnamed Furry. There are no dates and no places of any events and no first name for the husband. Her parents had settled in Knox County, Ohio. A census search for Barbara Furry yielded nothing. She may have died shortly after her marriage and before the next census.

The next search was of the Ohio Death Index which is part of the indexed data done by FamilySearch.org. Here I got an

important piece of data: Barbara Furry died on July 24, 1917 at Summit County, Ohio. The death index also gave a birth date but did not name her husband. As was somewhat common, a woman dying shortly after her marriage was most likely to die of problems associated with childbirth. The most likely place to easily find if there were a child was to search the Ohio Death Index again and looking for the death of a person named Furry with a mother whose maiden name was Banbury. Fortunately there was one child that was found. It was an unnamed stillborn male child born on 23 Jul 1917 at Akron, Ohio, the day before the death of the mother. The data tells a tragic story. The father was Irvin Furry.

The record of the child provided enough information to search for records about the husband. In an earlier census we find him with his parents, James and Caroline Furry living in Ohio. The census says he was born in 1894 in Pennsylvania. The 1930 census contains Irvin Furry with a wife names Nellie and a daughter Gertrude born in 1921. Their marriage was in 1919.

We are not done yet. The World War I Draft Registration lists Irvin William Furry, born 17 Mar 1894 at Fayetteville, Franklin County, Pennsylvania. The

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Social Security Death Index lists Irvin Furry, born 17 Mar 1893, and died Dec 1962. There is no place of death, but the Social Security number was issued in Ohio. In spite of the discrepancy in the year of birth, it is clear that this is the Irvin Furry who married Barbara Banbury. There was no other William Furry uncovered by any of the searches that was born anywhere close to 1894.

Neither Nellie, the second wife, nor her daughter, Gertrude, is listed in the Social Security Death Index. Nellie could have died before she was eligible to collect Social Security or she may have remarried. Gertrude will be hard to find because she probably has a new name as a result of her marriage. I have not exhausted the possible searches for the addition information needed about these individuals, and I do not consider the research done until I have accounted for the remainder of the genealogical events in their lives. It is possible I may have to go to non-Internet sources to get the information needed.

Case 2: Linda

Another family tree lists a child Linda "M", who married Lewis "C" and was born on 8 Mar 1950. Most of this family is living, so I prefer to respect the privacy of the family members by using initials for the surnames. There are no places associated with the events mentioned. The earlier generations of this family resided in Knox County, Ohio. The family probably would be ignored because the usual sources such as census records and vital records are not available on the Internet, and the likelihood of finding other data on the Internet to extend this family seems very unlikely. The only family tree found for this family has no places and only a birth date for the wife, Linda.

The best Internet sites to find additional information about living people are the people search sites such as PeopleSearchUSA. Other sites include PeopleSearch, Intellus, and Zaba. I have not used them all, but the few that I have used have yielded similar information which includes:

- Full name usually with the middle name
- Other names (useful with women who marry and change surnames)
- Places of residence (includes only USA)
- Age (year only)
- Possible relatives (usually parents, spouses, siblings, or children)

The results of the search are free, but there is a nominal charge to see the supporting documents. There must be enough information to do a search which results in fewer than 100 matches. If the number of matches exceeds 100, a short list is displayed which may or may not include the person that is wanted. The second problem occurs mostly with common names, and it is the recognition of the person that is wanted in a long list of individuals with the same name.

A search using PeopleSearchUSA found Lewis R. "C" who was 62 years old and had lived in Anaheim, Santa Ana, and Westminster, California. I was lucky to get the right person in the results, but the surname is not very common like Smith or Jones. The "Possible Relatives" listed Linda Lee "C" - age 59, Chad L. "C" - age 34, and Wendy Lynn "M" - age 31. I assumed that Chad was a

son and Wendy was a daughter-in-law. Another search on PeopleSearch for Wendy indicated that she had used two surnames, "C" and "M2." This led me to believe that "M2" was her maiden name and that she had married Chad.

The fact that the family resided in Southern California was a very useful bit of information. A look at the California Birth Index proved that this assumption was wrong. A search for individuals with a surname of "C" and a mother's maiden name of "M" found Chad L. "C" born on 10 Arch 1975 and Wendy L. "C" born on 13 Feb 1978, both born in Orange County. This matches the three places found in the first search because all three are in Orange County. The birth record of Wendy proves that she is a sister to Chad and not a wife as I had supposed. Since PeopleSearchUSA did not find the name of her husband, I assume that they were divorced shortly after their marriage or that the husband died. The marriage and divorce indices for California end in 1985, too early for the marriage of Wendy, so I will have to look elsewhere for additional information.

The California Marriage Index had a marriage for Lewis R. "C" age 24 and Linda L. "M" age 21, married on 19 June 1971 in Los Angeles (city). In addition there was another marriage for Lewis R. "C" age 20 and Sandra "K" age 20 on 22 May 1965 in Los Angeles County. To be sure the Lewis in both marriages were the same person, I did several more searches to see if there was a second Lewis "C" of similar age. The results were negative.

There are more searches that can be done. A search using Google may find the high schools where Chad and Wendy graduated at a site like ClassMates. They may have social networking pages on FaceBook. Google searches may yield nothing or they may provide some delightful surprises.

Once a living person is located, it is often easy to find a phone number or e-mail address on the Internet. A phone call may get more information. The individual is likely to be suspicious at first.

Case 2 is not completed. I have a list of leads to follow up. I find that the follow-up is an application of the law of diminishing returns. The most promising leads require the shortest follow-up time. As I go down the list of leads, more time is expended and fewer results are found. I usually stop before all the leads are followed.

When am I done? I feel that I am done with the genealogy when all of the blanks are filled in. There is always more information to be found. When there is no death information, there is a good chance that an additional spouse or child has been missed.

Summary

The two cases cited in this article are typical of searches on the Internet for families living in the 20th century. The methodology is simple, using the following steps:

1. Look for family trees that include the family. The probability of success is high.
2. Verify the data in the family trees using census, vital records, and other sources.
3. Fill in the blanks, particularly for middle names, complete birth, marriage, and death dates, and birth, marriage, and death places.
4. Systematically collect biographical data such as occupation,

schools, hobbies, activities, and other events.

5. Use the data found for additional searches.
6. Expand the search as more relatives are found.
7. Collect and use contact information as you find living individuals.
8. Follow up where needed with non-Internet sources.

The Internet has an abundance of information. You will need organization to use the data found. Often leads will come faster than they can be researched, making it difficult to follow up on all of them. As we use the Internet, it seems to only get better with more information and more tools for the genealogist.

The Internet is an excellent tool for genealogy research. One should be aware of its limitations and be thorough about fill in all the blanks for each individual.

Quotable Rhymes:

Lucinda Matlock

I went to the dances at Chandlerville,
And played snap-out at Winchester,
One time we changed partners,
Driving home in the middle of June,
And then I found Davis.
We were married and lived together for seventy years,
Enjoying, working, raising twelve children,
Eight of whom we lost
Ere I reached the age of sixty.

From Spoon River Anthology

Edgar Lee Masters

Hardware of Interest: Jump Drives, Advances in Memory Technology

Jump Drives of Flash Drives, as they are also known, are getting larger and coming down in price. A recent check of retail purchase price found a 32 gigabyte drive for about \$60 which is large enough to back up almost all hard disk drives. The storage capacity is the equivalent of more than 48 CD-ROM disks. A good shopper can find smaller jump drives for less than \$5. A four gigabyte drive costs well under \$10. The 32 gigabyte size appears to be the most cost effective at about \$1.87 per gigabyte. Larger sizes are also available, such as 64- and 128-gigabyte, but at the present time the cost per megabyte is higher. Prices are dropping and it is best not to stock if the drives are not needed now.

The large capacity and low price make the jump drive a good choice for backup of a computer. The small size, which is smaller than a tube of lipstick, makes the drive easy to carry in a purse or pocket or to take on a trip.

The flash memory technology used in the jump drives was introduced about 1990. Unlike the dynamic memory technology, the data storage is permanent, until rewritten. The data does not have to be re-written nor does it need power to remain viable. There is a theoretical limit to the number of times the data can be rewritten. Eventually the molecular structure of the memory cell will wear out, but the point at which the memory begins to fail is beyond any typical use.

Because the technology is new, manufactur-

ers have little statistical failure data and are not making claims as to how long data can be reliably stored. The product is probably better and more reliable than a hard disk which uses magnetic storage where the data is weakened by fluctuating magnetic fields and movement by nearby magnetic material. To keep data safe, experts suggest use of jump drives to short term storage, perhaps a year or less, until better reliability is available.

Advances in Memory Technology

As memory built with silicon semiconductor gets smaller and more dense, the reliability of the memory seems to be declining. Densities are now at 10 to 100 gigabytes per square inch, but the memory circuit is said to have only a 10 to 30 year life. Scientists predict that as density of the technology is increased, the life of the memory circuit will decline.

A team of scientists and engineers at the University of California at Berkeley have come up with a new technology for dynamic memory that is much more dense and much more reliable. The memory cell (one bit) consists of a nanoparticle of iron embedded in a carbon nanotube. The nanotube is so small that its diameter is 1/50,000th of a human hair. The magnetic iron particle can be shuttled back and forth in the nanotube using an electrical field. The new technology can be used to build memory circuits with a surface density of one terabyte per square inch. This is an increase of density over currently produced memory of about 100 to 1000 times.

Even more amazing is the reliability of the device. Scientists estimate that the new memory technology can reliably store data for more than one-billion years. They were concerned that the Magna Carta, written on vellum, has reliably stored the information written on it for almost 1000 years, but an electronic image encoded on a semiconductor chip failed in less than 20 years. Paper has other advantages over electronic memory. It does not require a machine (computer) to read it. It is not erased by high electromagnetic fields or atomic particle radiation.

The advantage of electronic memory change drastically when the technology will store data for a billion years. In that time paper will revert to carbon.

The claims of laboratory scientists may not match a factory-produced version of the memory circuit. Reliability claims of a billion years is very difficult to prove. Yet our technology is constantly being improved. We shall see where this technology leads us.

Sutro Hours Cut

The California Legislature has made some token cuts. One cut affecting genealogists is at the Sutro Library, with the largest genealogy collection in Northern California. It will be closed every Saturday (the busiest day) starting July 2. They will also be closed the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Fridays in July and then the first three Fridays each month thereafter.

Software of Interest: Kith and Kin Pro 3, FamViewer Version 2.0, Programs for the Macintosh Genealogist, Life Maps from Ancestral Atlas, Article Archivist, Legacy Seminar

Kith and Kin Pro 3

SpanSoft announced the release of "Kith and Kin Pro 3", a Windows genealogy software package for storing, querying and documenting family trees. The first version of 1993 and the company claims to have customers in more than 50 countries.

New features in the recent release include:

- Adobe PDF file export for all reports.
- Soundex and Metaphone searches for similar sounding surnames.
- A Soundex and Metaphone code calculator.
- Families can be arranged into selectable "Layers" so the user may "grey out" all families except those being edited.
- Simplified Search Window.
- Powerful SQL queries with much simpler searches.
- Several different picture records can be linked to the same image file.
- Pictures can be arranged into an order defined by the user.
- Pictures can be added to source references and source documents.
- Drag and drop pictures from Windows Explorer.
- Web page export with a CSS stylesheet to customize the Web Pages
- Pre-defined stylesheets.

Full details are on the new Kith and Kin Pro 3 Website at: <http://kithkinpro.spansoft.org>

FamViewer Version 2.0

Aster Software has announced a new release of FamViewer Version 2.0, Genealogy Software for iPhone and iPod Touch. FamViewer imports standard GEDCOM files, which can be uploaded to FamViewer using a Web browser on a desktop computer or downloaded to FamViewer from a Web site or Web server connected with WiFi. The files can then be viewed on the iPhone. Once downloaded, GEDCOM files can be imported and displayed. The genealogy can then be navigated and various views displayed.

A new feature in version 2.0 is an ancestry chart that can display up to eight generations for anyone in the database. A tap on the name of anyone on the chart takes the viewer to the family page of that individual. Anyone in the database can be found using the index which is arranged by surname. The family view resembles a family group sheet and displays three generations of a family: parents, children, and grandparents. By touching the parent's names, the details of their life events and personal attributes can be viewed. Each event and attribute may have sources and notes attached, which are visible in another view. A choice of portrait or landscape orientation can be used so that screens with long names or places will fit on the screen.

FamViewer will work with any desktop genealogy software. All that is required is that the genealogy software can import and export a genealogy database using the GEDCOM format. Large databases such as 50,000 names and more can be transferred and

stored.

Version 2.0 improvements to the program also include:

- Support to display long notes.
- Ability to connect to FamViewer using Bonjour.
- Improved networking code for better reliability on certain networks.
- Choice of the home family.
- Progress bar that shows progress of GEDCOM file import.
- Sound when the GEDCOM import is complete.
- New placeholder text on the family page view from 'Grandfather'/'Grandmother' to 'None' due to user requests.

FamViewer sells for \$14.99. For more information go to: www.astersoftware.bi

Programs for the Macintosh Genealogist

Macintosh users have a smaller choice of programs to use for their genealogy database. Although they can emulate Microsoft Windows and run PC software of their choice, many Macintosh users prefer to get maximum performance and best utilization of the Macintosh features that attracted them to Apple products in the first place. The programs written specifically for the Macintosh users include:

GEDitCOM II is a new genealogy application for Macintosh OS X. It is easy to use when editing genealogy files, for customization of the user experience, and for power features allowing access to genealogical data. It has a multi-window "browser" interface, a powerful index window, drag & drop features, a switchable user interface for multiple users, powerful searching tools, full multimedia support, lots of charts and reports, and more. GEDitCOM II sells for \$64.99 and is available at: www.geditcom.com

GRAMPS is a Linux genealogy program that will operate on Macintosh OS X. It is available free of charge. The features are competitive with other programs. For more information, go to: http://gramps-project.org/wiki/index.php?title=Mac_OS_X

Heredis was created in France and has been available for more than 11 years. It is popular in Europe. It is designed for ease of operation but has features competitive with most popular genealogy programs. The program features include immediate display and access to all functions on one screen, comprehensive data management, powerful search tools and database merging, 3D displays of your family data, support of all types of media files, excellent source citation capabilities, automated creation of a personal genealogy website, and more. The program sells for \$69 and has a free demo version. For more information about Heredis, go to: www.myheredis.com

iFamily for Leopard is a graphics-oriented program, much different than the other programs which use text or GEDCOM data entry. It sells for \$29.95. The program's Web site is found at: www.ifamilyforleopard.com

MacFamilyTree is said to be the most popular Macintosh genealogy program in Europe and has growing popularity in North

America. It was developed in Germany, and is available in German, English, French, Spanish, Norwegian, Dutch Swedish, Dansk, and Italian. Features include a 3D Virtual Tree. MacFamilyTree sells for \$49. A \$5 optional program enables MacFamilyTree to export data to an iPhone or iPod Touch. The program Web site is found at: www.synium.de/products/macfamilytree

MyBlood is a new genealogy program from Belgium available in Windows and Macintosh versions. It has English, French, and Dutch versions available today and the program includes a Translator Tool. It is a visual program with many features that use pictures, graphs and historical timelines. There are several ways to look at data, such as Ancestors, TimeMaps, or Chronology. The program is in beta test but is being sold for 20 euro, (\$28). For more information, go to: www.myblood-line.com.

Osk is a genealogy program from Iceland which runs on both PowerPC and Intel Macs. Users can enter detailed information about individuals, including birthday, connected media, places of residence, sources for your information and other data. You can plot family trees and track ancestors and descendants. Users can also can draw family trees and save them, create a family website. It's available in English, Icelandic, German, Russian, Portuguese, Norwegian and Swedish. Osk sells for \$40. You can learn more about Osk from Studlar Software at http://www.studlar.net/en/software/osk_48.html.

Personal Ancestry Writer II is a popular, free genealogy program performs basic functions but lacks some features found in other popular programs. For more information, go to: www.macupdate.com/info.php/id/27497/pawriter-ii

Reunion appears to be the most popular Macintosh genealogy program in North America. It comes from Leister Productions. It runs on both Intel and PowerPC versions of the Macintosh and can export genealogy data to an iPod or to an iPhone. The program sells for about \$90. For more information, go to: www.leisterpro.com/

Life Maps from Ancestral Atlas

Ancestral Atlas has added a new feature called personal Life Map. With this feature, the user can create a map of all the event locations for an individual from birth to burial. Users can also create maps that link an individual to their ancestors and/or descendants. There must be at least one event location for each ancestor for the ancestor to be included on the map. For more information, go to: www.ancestralatlas.com

Article Archivist

Article Archivist is a database program for magazine articles. To keep up the database, a lot of input is required to record the article of interest. This is done by typing the information about the article such as title, author, date of publication, magazine name, keywords about the article content, and more, into the corresponding fields. Genealogists will want to add special categories of information such as surnames and localities. The database is completely customizable. It seems that the database could also be used to organize research notes, copies of information found, correspondence, and the many other pieces of genealogical data collected by a family historian. Also in the data is the storage place where the article can be found. The whole archival system breaks down if the information is misfiled or not returned to its storage

place. If the data is always entered in the database and if organization of the articles is maintained, Any article can be quickly found and retrieved. Article Archivist can also print reports and lists which could serve as a bibliography of articles found for a specific family or topic.

Article Archivist operates with all versions of Windows beginning with Windows 95 and also runs on Macintosh OS X. The program sells for \$14.95. A free trial version can be downloaded from the Web site. For more information, go to: www.digitalfriedchicken.com/ArticleArchivist.html

Legacy Seminar

For those that use Legacy to maintain their genealogy database or are considering purchase of the program, Legacy has a tutorial available online. It was recorded when Geoff Rasmussen gave his Legacy Seminar for the Hemet-San Jacinto Genealogical Society. Two of the four seminar classes were recorded.

The first class is *Legacy Family Tree - an Overview* (54 minutes). This class is for those who are getting started and or considering purchase and want to know what the program can do. The topics presented in the class include: importing from another program, Setting and understanding relationships, 1/2 siblings, setting your direct line, AKAs, addresses, notes, sources, pictures, To Do List, Research Guidance, and reports.

The second class, *Legacy Family Tree - Tips and Tricks* (58 minutes), is for experienced Legacy users who want to master all the features. The topics discussed include:, chronologies, effective use of events/facts, adding historical events to timelines, successfully obtaining information from living relatives, creating books, using Legacy Charting, Descendant and Index View tips, using the split screen feature, what to do when you have an unproven relative, how to add unlinked individuals, and news/updates.

The seminar is at: www.legacyfamilytree.com/seminars.asp

SVCGG Has a Facebook Page

Tracy Younker

The Silicon Valley Computer Genealogy Group (SVCGG) has entered the social networking world with their very own page on Facebook. Facebook is a free social-networking website which allows users to connect to friends and people with common interests.

Becoming a member of the SVCGG group on Facebook will allow you to communicate with other members across the country, see upcoming classes/events, and ask for help or advice in your research.

It is easy to join (once you already have a free Facebook account). Simply go to www.facebook.com and log in to your account. If you do not have a free account, click on the link to create one. Once you are logged in, enter "SVCGG" in the search window located in the upper right corner of the screen and select "Search Facebook" from the drop-down window. A listing of search results will appear with SVCGG at or near the top. On the right side of the window, click on the "join group" and you are automatically enrolled.

Of Interest

David E. Rencher Promoted, CARTaGENE, ProQuest Adds Gannett Newspapers, Brant County, Ontario, New Museum for Branford, California Proposes Limiting Marriage Record Access

David E. Rencher Promoted

David E. Rencher has been promoted to Chief Genealogical Officer (CGO) at FamilySearch. He has worked for FamilySearch for 28 years and has become recognized as leader among genealogists and archivists. He will help align strategic business decisions with the needs and demands of genealogy-related markets. In addition to the new responsibility, Mr. Rencher will continue as the vice president of the Genealogical Society of Utah (GSU) and as director of the Planning and Coordination Division of FamilySearch.



David E. Rencher

At FamilySearch, David Rencher has worked to improve the delivery of microfilm to patrons of family history centers and has extended microfilm circulation to public libraries. He initiated the book scanning program at the Family History Library. He worked on the automated indexes for the Social Security Death records, the 1880 U.S. Census, the 1881 British Census, and the military casualty files for Korea and Vietnam. He also helped to align the standards FamilySearch uses for names and localities and worked on record-matching techniques for FamilySearch databases.

Rencher is an Accredited Genealogist^{CM} with ICAPGenSM in Ireland research and is a Certified GenealogistSM with the Board for Certification of Genealogists[®]. He is a Fellow of the UGA and of the Irish Genealogical Research Society, London. He is currently serving as the chair of the joint Federation of Genealogical Societies and National Genealogical Society committee for Record Preservation and Access and serves as a director for the National Institute of Genealogical Research Alumni Association (NIGRAA). He was president of the Federation of Genealogical Societies (FGS) from 1997 to 2000 and president of the Utah Genealogical Association (UGA) from 1993 to 1995. Mr. Rencher received a BA in Family and Local History from Brigham Young University. He is a popular lecturer and spoke to SVCGG (that's us) when Floyd Nordeen was our president.

CARTaGENE

CARTaGENE is a project to support medical research in Canada. Currently the project is recruiting 20,000 people between 40 and 69 from the greater Montreal, Sherbrooke, Saguenay (Chicoutimi) and Quebec City areas. These individuals will be tested by a nurse who will take urine and blood samples and measure height, weight, waist and hip circumference, blood pressure and pulse. The subjects of the study will also fill out a questionnaire. The data will then be compiled to create a database of the determinants of health (lifestyles, genetics, environment and nutrition) from this sampling of the people of Quebec.

The project managers are concerned about the security of the data. Employers and health organizations are be allowed to access

the data, and all personal information will be coded. Researchers using the data will be screened and will also be required to sign a non-disclosure agreement. They will receive coded information.

Of interest to genealogists is the BALZAC option. BALZAC is a genealogy database which belongs to l'Université du Québec à Chicoutimi and contains genealogy data for Quebec residents back to the 17th century. Participants in the study are to be offered an option to include their genealogy as part of the data for the study. This will be useful for tracking birth hereditary diseases and birth defects and relating them to health factors. Like the other data, the genealogy of individuals will be coded so that the research cannot relate the data to specific individuals.

Eventually the CARTaGENE project will be linked to other health studies. CARTaGENE is associated with the Canadian Partnership for Tomorrow Project (CPTP), which has the goal of creating a research resource of 300,000 participants from across Canada. It is also a member of the Public Population Project in Genomics (P3G), which coordinates collaboration between 25 similar projects around the world.

ProQuest Adds Gannett Newspapers

Proquest announced the addition of 85 full-text local and regional newspapers and 7 military newspapers to its online collection. Their collection already has most of the large big city and national newspapers. Proquest is a subscription site available at many libraries, but does not sell to individuals. Organizations can contact Proquest Sales at: pqsales@proquest.com

Brant County, Ontario

The County of Brant Public Library has a professional archivist on its staff who will create a special local history digital collection. Misty De Meo, who recently joined the library staff is a professional archivist with a Master's degree from the University of Toronto. Her specialty is to create accessible digital images from the historical documents that have been left to us by our predecessors. The first project will be to document the history of Hiram "King" Capron, the founder of Paris. The Paris Museum and Historical Society holds the Capron collection, and they have granted access to the collection for the project. When the project is complete, visitors to the Web site can view the images of the original documents as they follow the history of Paris, Ontario. The project is expected to be completed by the end of the year.

New Museum for Branford

Branford, Florida, is expecting a new museum and genealogical society. It will be known as the South Suwannee Heritage House if things proceed as planned. Last year the Town Council purchased the Presbyterian Manse on the corner of NW Drane Street and NW Haines Ave. along with the lot next door. The site overlooks the Suwannee River. The Council wants to promote the history of Branford and hopes to encourage additional interest by including a Genealogy Center where patrons can trace their family history. Detailed plans are being drawn and a building inspection will soon take place. We hope all goes well with the project.

California Proposes Limiting Marriage Record Access

Assembly Bill 130 has been proposed in California which will allow the county recorders to delete the mother's maiden name from the California Marriage Index. The choice is an option of the county recorder as the bill is now written. The index has been available on microfiche for many years and is on the Internet. The legislators claim the reason is to discourage identity theft. Evidence has shown that identity thieves have little interest in vital records and go after credit card information because it is so much easier.

Writing to our senators and congressmen often produced results in years past. A friend called his assemblyman and state senator to complain about proposed legislation and was thanked for his interest. When he asked, "Aren't you interested in which legislation I am calling about?" the staff person said, "Oh yes, what are you calling about?" After being told, the staff member thanked him again for calling and hung up without any further comment. If you contact your representatives in California, we hope you get a little more attention.

Spider Webs:

History of Billerica, Massachusetts, Site for Russian Jews, Canadian Civil Service Salaries, National Archive of Memorial Inscriptions, Chronicling America, Find Genealogy Books at Biblio.com

History of Billerica, Massachusetts

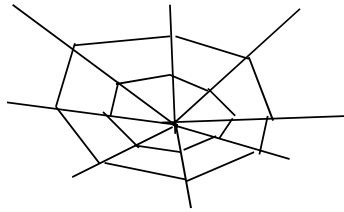
History of Billerica, Massachusetts, you probably want the book, *History of Billerica, Massachusetts, with a Genealogical Register* written in 1883 by Henry Allen Hazen. It is one of the many genealogy and local history books written before 1922 that have an expired copyright and are in the public domain. This book has the history of the town up to 1883 plus a genealogical register of town residents who lived there from the incorporation of the town in 1655 until 1883. Much of the data for the latter residents came from old timers living about 1883 whose personal knowledge of their neighbors was available to the author. The entire book can be downloaded from Archive.org, Google Books, eBooksRead.com. Archive.org has the best choice of formats. Go to: www.archive.org/details/historyofbilleri00hazen

Site for Russian Jews

A Russian language Web site has been launched to help Russian Jews find their ancestors in the St. Petersburg area. The site was developed by the Jewish Community of St. Petersburg and was financed by local businessman Mikhail Khidekel. The site features a searchable database of headstone and gravesite photographs taken at Preobrazhenskiy Jewish Cemetery in St. Petersburg. If you do not know Russian, there are online translation sites that can translate Russian into English and other common languages. To visit the site, go to: www.jekl.ru

Canadian Civil Service Salaries

This is not what would be considered genealogical data, but Familyrelatives.com has published more than 200,000 Canadian Civil Service records for the period 1872-



1918. The records include everyone from Governor General's office and Parliament (House of Commons & Senate) to the 10 people in the "Slide and Boom" Service of the Inland Revenue. The records contain the civil servant's name, position, department, length of service, salary and date of appointment. The time period begins shortly after the formation of the Dominion of Canada and continues past the end of the First World War. The records are helpful in tracking the lives of civil servants. The earliest records mention the national origin for many of employees in the civil service. They were identified as French, British, Irish, German, or one of the other immigrant nationalities. As time went on, the nationality was dropped. Familyrelatives.com is a subscription site and costs about \$50 per year. To visit the site, go to: www.familyrelatives.com

National Archive of Memorial Inscriptions

The National Archive of Memorial Inscriptions (NAOMI) is a British site with a searchable database of memorial inscriptions from English from English cemeteries. The site has more than 182,000 names from 630 burial grounds in Bedfordshire and Norfolk. More records are being added on a regular basis, both from Bedford and Norfolk and from other areas. The service is a little expensive. Once an entry is found, there is a charge of £4 to see the inscription and you can also get extra information, in the form of a photograph and a plan of the

churchyard and some historical text about the church, for an additional £1 for each item. To visit the National Archive of Memorial Inscriptions, go to: www.memorialinscriptions.org.uk

Chronicling America

The Library of Congress and the National Endowment for the Humanities have worked as partners for 20 years to microfilm and then to digitize historic newspapers. Two years ago they launched the Chronicling America project and began posting the historic newspapers on the Internet. There the papers can be searched for names or phrases at no charge. The Web site has reached one-million pages online. For our members in California, it will be of interest that the list of newspapers available includes 12 from California. The organizers have a long way to go to reach the 20 million of newspapers from 1880 to 1922, which they plan to have on their Web site some day. To visit the site, go to: <http://Chroniclingamerica.loc.gov>

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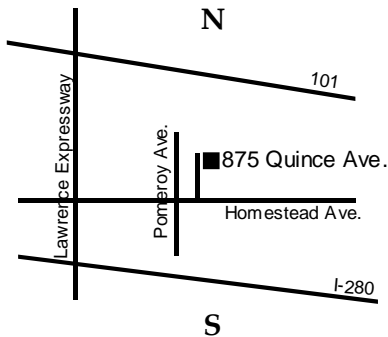
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Please send inquiries, address changes, new memberships, and membership renewals to:
SV-CGG, P.O. Box 23670, San Jose, CA 95153-3670 or leslyk@comcast.net

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

Personal Ancestral File 2.3.1 Macintosh (diskette or CD version)	US\$6
Personal Ancestral File 4.04	US\$6
Personal Ancestral File 5.2.18 and 4 (Windows), PAF 3, and 2.31 (DOS), lessons and user guide, Personal Ancestral File Companion 5.2 Windows (2 CDs)	US\$8.25
Personal Ancestral File 4.04.18 and 5.2.18, PAF Companion (evaluation) or PAF User's Guide (English, Spanish, French, German, or Portuguese) downloaded at: www.FamilySearch.org	free

The following can be ordered from www.svcomputergenealogy.org or the group address (see above):

Newsletter back issues if available, per issue	US\$1 (order by mail or purchase at meetings)
Videos of classes; syllabus copies	See Web site for titles, prices
<i>Family History Documentation Guidelines</i>	Available at meetings and on Web site
Stuck-on Sources Post-It note pads	Available at meetings and on Web site
Flash Drives loaded with 11,000 Internet genealogy sites	Available at cost on Web site and at meetings

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Software Classes

- Getting Started on Reunion
- Reunion for the Mac
- PAF and PCs for Beginners

General Classes

- Mapping with EarthPoint

For more details or changes, go to: www.svcomputergenealogy.org

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