

## New Non-Conformist Records Online

By Richard Rands

A major theme of the messages in the *PastFinder* is the constant addition of new online material for the family historian. A considerable contribution to English research was announced recently on the web page for the British National Archives ([www.nationalarchives.gov.uk](http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk)). Under the date line of 19 December, 2008 was the announcement "More non-conformist birth, marriage and death records go online." The report states that more than 600,000 records of births, baptisms, marriages, and burials have been added to the searchable online service at BMDRegisters, including:

- Maternity records from the British Lying-in Hospital in Holborn from 1749 to 1868,
- Registers of burials in the Victoria Park Cemetery
- Registers of burials in the Bunhill Fields Burial Ground
- Registers of burials in the Bethnal Green Protestant Dissenters Burying Ground
- The Archive of the Russian Orthodox Church in London, 1721-1927
- Marriage and baptism records from the Fleet Prison, 1667-1777

And much more.

The non-conformist records include registers from congrega-

tions that were the most likely to flee England for the American colonies, seeking freedom from the domination of the Church of England. These groups include the Methodists, Wesleyans, Baptists, Independents, Protestant Dissenters, Congregationalists, Presbyterians, Unitarians, Quakers, Dissenters, and Russian Orthodox. When trying to find a link to England for your American ancestors, access to these non-conformist records will make the task considerably easier if you know which groups they belonged to in America.

For example, my Rands line from Suffolk County became members of the Independent Church at Debenham sometime around 1780, when my 4<sup>th</sup> great-grandparents, Israel and Mary Rands, switched from having their children christened in the Church of England to having them baptized in the local Independent Church. Then, a decade later when the oldest daughter was married, they switched back to having their remaining two children christened in the Church of England.

My 3<sup>rd</sup> great-grandfather was one of the children who was baptized as a non-conformist, and it was my 2<sup>nd</sup> great-grandfather who eventually joined the Mormon Church and brought his family to America in 1868.

(Continued on page 26)

## Daniel Lynch Coming in May

Dan Lynch is a marketing consultant and a professional genealogist from Waterbury, Connecticut. We mentioned his recent book, *Google Your Family Tree*, in the *PastFinder* recently, and the book continues to get excellent reviews. We have arranged to bring Dan to Santa Clara for the May 9 meeting for an all day seminar. He will discuss a number of topics related to genealogy research on the Internet. The program begin at the regular meeting time and continue to about 4 P. M. The event has no admission charge but we will be selling a syllabus which will have notes and supplementary material related to the seminar topics. Watch our Web site for additional details.

Dan worked in the computer industry for fifteen years. Then in 1998 he joined Ancestry, Inc. as vice president of business development helping to launch the MyFamily.com Web site. The company acquired RootsWeb during this time. After three years at Ancestry, Dan worked for the A&E Television Network during their brief ownership of Genealogy.com and the Family Tree Maker software franchise. In 2002, Dan founded Mattatuck Consulting, a private consulting firm specializing in Internet and search engine marketing solutions. His clients include The Statue of Liberty-Ellis Island Foundation, FindMyPast, Family-



**Daniel Lynch**

Link.com, Inc. and WorldVital-Records.com, plus other organizations outside the genealogy sector.

Dan is a member of the Association of Professional Genealogists (APG), a Life Member of the Connecticut Society of Genealogists where he also served as board member and vice president, and is a frequent lecturer at local and national genealogy conferences. He was featured on several television programs, including ABC's *Good Morning America*, published and maintains several popular genealogy Web sites, and his articles have been published in leading genealogy publications including *Internet Genealogy*, *Family Chronicle*, *Family Tree Magazine*, and the *APG Quarterly*.

Mark your calendars. You will not want to miss this seminar.

## What's Inside

Signs of the Times	26	Ask the Doc	31
The New Mormon Trail	27	Information/Classes for 9 May 2009	back
The French in Canada	28		

It is unlikely we will ever discover exactly why Israel and Mary stopped having their children baptized as Independents, but there are several possible explanations. In the records of the Debenham Independent Church, I found that the pastor who had baptized all of Israel and Mary's children, David Evans, had died. The baptisms from then on were performed by traveling pastors from other parts of Suffolk. It is possible that Israel and Mary were drawn to the original pastor, but when he was gone, became disenchanted with those who subsequently presided over the congregation.

A second possible explanation derives from the fact that their older daughter, Mary Rands, was being courted for marriage. Perhaps her future husband or his family did not approve of Mary's family being non-conformist, so the Rands family returned to the Church of England.

A third possible explanation could be economic or health-related. Israel and Mary lived in Winston, a few miles from Debenham. Family circumstances may have changed in a way that made the trip from Winston to Debenham to attend non-conformist gatherings difficult. Nevertheless, without the registers of the Independent Church in Debenham, we would know very little about our direct ancestors.

The new collection of non-conformist records is available at a site closely affiliated with the National Archives, the BMDregisters.co.uk. BMD is the conventional abbreviation for Birth, Marriage, and Death records. The BMDregisters service has a variety of levels, beginning with a free service for performing a standard search of their database, to a cost for viewing and downloading a page image (about \$5). The process of using the BMD register search engine and paying for the paid services involves the purchase of credits, or buying an annual subscription. At this time, a single credit costs £0.50 (about \$0.73). An annual subscription costs £68.95, or \$100.

When you use the credit method to pay for BMDregisters services, any standard search is free. The standard search allows you to select on a forename, surname, with wild cards, with or without an exact match, and an event type (all, births and baptisms, marriages, or deaths and burials). A search using the advanced search features will cost one credit. An advanced search will allow you to limit the number of matches that come up in a standard search by allowing you to limit the search to a single section of the database, such as the Quaker records, the Fleet Marriages, the Protestant Dissenter's Registry, the Non-parochial Registers, or Miscellaneous Registers. You may also limit the search to the year of the event you wish to locate.

The results for a search will show a listing of all the matches with columns as follows:

- Surname(s)
- Forename(s)
- Relation (the person searched for may be related to the entry in the list)
- Year of Event
- Place (name of the county)
- Recordset (A description of the record set at the National Archives)
- View - Full Details (a transcription of the details in the original image)
- View - Page Image (a link to the digital image of the original

image)

The last three columns are hot web links to other sites.

For example, when I requested a standard non-exact search for all records using Isaac Rands as the Forename and Surname, 13 possible matches were returned, ranging from the baptism of my 3<sup>rd</sup> great grandfather, Isaac Rands, in 1781, to the baptism of Sidney Rands, an unknown possible ancestor, who was the son of an Isaac Rands, the date of which is not specified. Among the possible matches were five Isaac Rands, four Isaac Randsons, and four records of people whose father was an Isaac Rands.

When I click on the entry in the Recordset column, the result is a brief description of the corresponding recordset at the National Archives. For example, the entry of RG4 3093 is the reference to the record collection RG4, piece number 3093, the register of births and baptisms at the Independent Chapel of Debenham, Suffolk from 1706 to 1837, with a register of Deaths and Burials for 1788.

When I click on the entry in the Full Details column, the result is a transcribed form with up to 27 items extracted from the original record, including the individual's parents, godparents, and maternal and paternal grandparents. At the bottom is a three-generation pedigree chart created from the information in the record.

If I choose to view the original image, I am required to have signed in and purchased at least five credits (£2.50 or \$3.63). The image is a .pdf of the entire page of the registry entry where the search individual is listed. You will need to have Adobe Acrobat Reader (a free download) installed on your computer to view the image. You may download the image, or view it without further charge, for up to 30 days after the first viewing.

If your research into English records is infrequent, it would be cost-effective to use the pay-as-you-go credit system to pay for your research. If you have a more extensive research agenda, the annual or monthly subscriptions might be less expensive. An alternative would be to find a local library with subscription access to [www.TheGenealogist.co.uk](http://www.TheGenealogist.co.uk).

### Signs of the Times

The economy seems to be in cardiac arrest and some of the frantic remedies are affecting the genealogy community. The Ohio Historical Society, with its large collection of genealogical material, closed from March 28 to April 3 to save expenditures from its reduced budget. The library is funded by the state of Ohio. If you are planning to visit the facility, check their Web page at [www.ohiohistory.org/places](http://www.ohiohistory.org/places) in case they have additional closings.

In Muncie, Indiana, the Muncie Public Library has a Local History and Genealogy Center which was built in 2003 at a cost of \$900,000. The Library Board plans to close the center and lease the new building to offset severe budget cuts. The materials in the center will be moved to the Carnegie Library which is nearby. However, the Carnegie Library may be forced to close its doors in 2010 unless more budget money can be found.

The Pennsylvania State Library, which has been around since it was founded by Benjamin Franklin, has had its budget cut from \$4.8 to \$2.3 million. The reduction is about equal to the total

salaries of the 56 staff members. Genealogy events have had lower attendance than usual in recent months, and the Michigan Genealogical Council was forced to cancel their planned seminar because of insufficient funds.

Not all news for genealogists is bad. Most organizations are coping with the hard times, and genealogical records continue to become available in record amounts. Due to lack of space in this issue, we must hold much of the good news until next month.

## The New Mormon Trail: Tracking Your Mormon Ancestors

By Janet Brigham Rands

There's the Mormon Trail—that long, largely desolate span across America crossed by thousands of mid-1800s Mormon converts with wagons and handcarts.

Then there's the Mormon trail that their descendants have to follow to find them: Church records, indexes, diaries, passenger lists, correspondence, and lots of whatnots. It's complicated.

This is a task undertaken by many who aren't Mormons, even though their ancestors were. In fact, some of the most compelling accounts of Mormon ancestors could come from non-Mormon descendants who see their ancestors' religious heritage with fresh eyes.

Finding your Mormon ancestors is similar to finding your Puritan ancestors, or your Dutch Reformed ancestors. You have to know enough of their history to know what to look for.

The Mormons (members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, or LDS) have always been a record-keeping people, and many of these records are available on websites and through microfilm/microfiche. They also, blessedly, have been avid diarists—our descendants should be so lucky!

However, to search intelligently for your early Mormon ancestors, you will need to know something about the church's history. Early Mormon history is largely a story of migration. The church started in New England in the 1830s, but as early as 1837 an active missionary effort soon spread the new religion to other continents.

The goal at that time was to gather members of the church to America, rather than to build up "Zion" throughout the world. Missionary efforts in England were particularly successful, resulting in tens of thousands of immigrants coming to America to join the body of the church. Thousands also came from Europe and Scandinavia, and missionary efforts in such distant

places as Russia and South Africa also resulted in conversions and, often, in immigration.

If your Mormon ancestors joined the church and moved from somewhere else to wherever the body of Mormons was (they referred/refer to themselves as *Saints*, with no particular righteousness implied), you may be able to find them in fairly extensive immigrations records. If they joined the church after it had settled in the Great Basin of the West, you should be able to find them in other church records. In short, you should be able to find them.

If you attempt to learn Mormon history from the church's various websites, you may have to wade through a lot of information that is not even peripheral to your search. For example, when the church tells its history, it focuses on dates of important ecclesiastical events, not necessarily on dates immigrants left Liverpool and arrived in New York. Similarly, if you attempt to learn Mormon history from the perspective of historians, you may find yourself mired in controversial detail that generally will not be helpful, even if it is at times interesting.

### LDS Ancestors Wiki

To address this problem, the LDS church has fostered a wiki devoted to helping genealogy enthusiasts trace their Mormon ancestors. It is the simplest way for Mormons and non-Mormons alike to learn how to find their Mormon ancestors. This raises an interesting point: Even though Mormons may know early Mormon history, most do not know it well enough for conducting genealogy research. Early Mormon history is complex, and new material surfaces continually. Mormons face basically the same challenges non-Mormons face in finding their Mormon ancestors and learning about them.

Another point to remember: Before 1830, no one was Mormon. Before your ancestors were Mormon, their ancestors had other identifying affiliations. Mormonism is only one stop along the journey to discovering your ancestors. It is important

to remember that, because the way your ancestors practiced Mormonism probably was influenced by their history before Mormonism.

Toward this end, consider Laurel Thatcher Ulrich's fine book *Good Wives: Images and reality in the lives of women in Northern New England 1650–1750*. Another fun read is Val D. Rust's *Radical origins: Early Mormon converts and their Colonial ancestors*. Although the statistics are a bit biased by the availability of records, it does appear that early Mormons had unconventional roots.

A good place to start is the LDS Ancestors wiki: [wiki.familysearch.org](http://wiki.familysearch.org). Search for *Tracing LDS Ancestors*, and follow the link that will surface.

You'll note the list of topic links: Archives and Libraries, Biographies, Census, Church History, and so forth. The linked pages are fairly comprehensive. For example, the Archives and Libraries link has contact information for libraries in states where Mormons settled and left records, including Illinois, Missouri, Utah, Idaho, and California. Some of these holdings are extensive. The Biographies link references free and paid sites as well as book/document collections available for purchase.

Oddly, this page fails to list one of the most useful (and inexpensive) tools: *The Mormon Immigration Index* CD, available for \$6 through [ldscatalog.com](http://ldscatalog.com) (select Family History products  Software and Databases  Miscellaneous Databases  Mormon Immigration Index). If you have Mormon ancestors who immigrated, this CD is worth having. It includes not only passenger lists with families and ages, but also captain's accounts, diaries, and other materials related to the voyage.

The Church History link on the FamilySearch wiki page includes a link to a timeline of genealogically meaningful time points in Mormon history.

The types of Mormon records available include membership rolls, some vital re-

cords, missionary listings, and even blessings—available only to direct-line descendants, but interesting and illuminating in that they give you an idea of what your ancestors may have expected out of their lives and their participation in the church. Some records are available only at the Family History Library in Salt Lake City, Utah, and many are available by ordering microfilm/microfiche.

Many LDS family history centers (FHCs) have the 95 microfiche comprising the documented *Membership of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints from 1830 to 1848*, which lists surnames of members of the LDS Church during its formative years, including vital statistics, church ordinances, and biographical sketches. Also, some FHCs have copies of the seven-volume compilation of Mormon ordinance work done by early members of the church at Nauvoo, Illinois. Historian Susan Easton Black compiled both listings, and you can find them by searching for her as author. The current 50 volumes of early Mormon membership records are available at [worldvitalrecords.com](http://worldvitalrecords.com), which can be accessed free at most FHCs.

A staple of searching for Mormon ancestors is the Early Church Information File, 75 microfilm reels comprising “an alphabetical index of some members of the LDS Church, primarily from sources from 1830 to the mid-1900s. Sources include LDS church records, journals, biographies, cemetery records, immigration records and published books.” (That’s from the online catalog of the Oakland FHC. To see the holdings of the Oakland FHC and other regional FHCs, see [www.oaklandfhc.org](http://www.oaklandfhc.org) and select the online catalog.)

The Periodicals link from the wiki home page takes you to a lengthy list of Mormon publications. One thing it does not include, specific to women, is a historical and currently unofficial publication, *Women’s Exponent*. The entire archive of the original *Women’s Exponent* is available through the Brigham Young University Library website: [contentdm.lib.byu.edu/cdm4/browse](http://contentdm.lib.byu.edu/cdm4/browse).

### php?CISOROOT=%2FWomansExp

(If you don’t want to type that, look up *Women’s Exponent* in [Wikipedia.com](http://Wikipedia.com) and follow the link to the PDF archive.)

Going through the resources listed in the wiki will keep you very busy.

### If you are lucky

Many Mormons created and kept private records, including journals and diaries, personal histories, and letters. Some of these documents remain in private hands, and thus may be available to you only if you track down and communicate with other descendants of your ancestors. Some of these documents are in archives, particularly the archives listed in the Archives and Libraries page on the LDS Ancestors wiki. Some repositories such as the BYU Library have digitized numerous personal documents and put them on the Web.

In addition, Mormons are a frequent topic of historical inquiry, and consequently their lives are documented in a minor wealth of books, compilations, and biographical listings. Among the best known of Mormon women’s biographies are the volumes published by the Daughters of the Utah Pioneers. Original sources are always your best sources. The biographies you may find in compilations about Mormon women are accurate only if the authors were accurate. Use the biographies as clues and guides, not as the final word.

Don’t overlook the possibility that your Mormon ancestor is included in one of the many books about historical Mormons. An easy way to look for this is to do a Google Books search on a name ([books.google.com](http://books.google.com)). For example, if you enter the name of the Greek midwife *Georgia Mageras* in Google Books, several books come up, including one with a chapter about her contributions as a midwife in Utah. You never know what you’ll find—it may be a Mormon trail.

## The French In Canada

By Allin Kingsbury

The settlement of North America by the French began early. John Cabot, a French explorer, landed on the coast of Canada in 1497. Samuel de Champlain founded the first French settlement of Acadia in Canada in 1604 and a second settlement at Quebec in 1608. In 1642, a settlement by the French at Montreal was established. Montreal was easily reached by ship from Europe, and became the gateway to the interior of Canada.

The English, who had established large colonies to the south, gained control of Canada through a series of wars which began in 1689 and concluded in 1763. The French in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia were driven out by the British by 1763, leaving the area open to settlement by the British, mostly from Yorkshire in the beginning. The French settlers of these areas returned later and settled as French-speaking enclaves mostly in New Brunswick. Quebec remained almost untouched by British settlement, even though the area had come under British rule.

The upper class French, who had come to Canada to seek their fortunes, did not stay. This left the working class French who

lived mostly in small villages along the coast. The supported themselves with farming and fishing. As England assumed control of the French in Quebec and other parts of Canada, the French settlers in Canada had been in America for about four generations. The wars in Europe had distracted France, and after the initial settlement of the North American colonies, there was almost no new immigration from France. As a result, the French settlers in Canada found themselves estranged from their mother country and remained in Canada.

### Acadia

Acadia, later known as the Maritime Provinces, is what became Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and Prince Edward Island. The French established a colony at Saint Croix Island in 1604, before Jamestown was settled. The next year, the colony was moved to Port Royal in Nova Scotia on the shore of the Bay of Fundy. It was the hub for the French settlement in Acadia until the British took Acadia. In 1636, the first women came to Port Royal with their families to join the military outpost that had been established there, and Acadia became a permanent colony.

The territorial claims of England and France in North America

overlapped in Acadia.. The British asserted their claim to the territory by capturing Fort Royal in 1655. In 1667, the French claim to the colony was recognized in the Treaty of Breda, and the French flag was again flown at Fort Royal. The first census taken in Acadia in 1671 counted 340 colonists in all of Acadia. In 1672, a settlement was established at Beaubassin near the present-day boundary of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia. Other French settlements followed, and by 1703, the census takers counted 1450 Acadian settlers.

In 1710, Fort Royal fell to the English and the long-standing arguments between the English and French over settlement rights were settled by the Treaty of Utrecht in 1713. The British changed the name of Port Royal to Annapolis Royal. In 1749, a group of 2,576 arrived and Halifax was founded.

### **The Acadians**

The French settlers of Acadia became known as the Acadians. In 1755, The British began deporting Acadians. Some had gone to Ile Ste Jean, later renamed by the British as Prince Edward Island. The area is now Canada's smallest province. It is so much smaller geographically than the other provinces it almost seems like a joke. The total population is a little more than 100,000. Many of the deportees were transported by the British navy to France, but the majority of the Acadians preferred the New World and settled in Louisiana, which was then claimed by France. The group was later known as the Cajuns.

France did not fare well in the Seven Year War with England. At the Treaty of Paris in 1763, all French colonies in North America were given to England. War continued between France and England as Napoleon came to power. The Cajuns became part of the United States in 1803, with the Louisiana Purchase.

### **What Is Canada?**

Canada did not exist as a nation until 1867. Before that time, Canada as we know it was an ever-changing group of colonies, administered by the French and then the English. In 1791, Canada was divided into Upper Canada (now Ontario) and Lower Canada (now Quebec). The boundary was near the Lachine Rapids on the Saint Lawrence, the first obstacle to ships traveling up the Saint Lawrence toward the Great Lakes. Upper and Lower Canada each had their own legislature and their laws and legal procedures were quite different. Upper Canada was predominately British and Lower Canada was dominated by its French-speaking citizens. Acadia remained separate from Canada. In 1841, England established the Province of Canada, which remained until Canada became the Dominion of Canada.

At that time, the Dominion of Canada consisted of four provinces, which are Quebec, Ontario, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia. They were soon joined by Prince Edward Island. New Brunswick was the only province beside Quebec that had very many French. The French in New Brunswick are mostly Acadians that escaped the deportation or went to Quebec and later returned to their land.

### **To the North and West**

Many of the French Canadians had the spirit of adventure and explored the frontiers of Canada. While the English colonists were settling the colonies along the Atlantic Coast, the French fur traders were trapping furs and trading with the native tribes not

only in the far north and west of Canada, but also throughout the Mississippi valley. In the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries, as settlers in the United States moved West into the Ohio and Mississippi valleys, the British claimed a huge area in Western Canada and the far North. The Hudson Bay Company was organized in May 1670 when Prince Rupert, Cousin to King Charles II, obtained a charter to organize the Hudson Bay Company and engage in fur trade and other business enterprise around Hudson and James Bays. The area was accessible by ship in the summer and fall. The company built a series of forts along the shores of these bays to protect the fur trade. For many years, The Hudson Bay Company functioned as the government in the remote, sparsely populated areas where they operated.

During their second century of operation, competition led the company to expand operation by establishing trading posts, accessible by canoe along the rivers in the interior of Canada. A few of these posts became the modern-day cities of Winnipeg, Calgary, and Edmonton.

A major rival of the Hudson Bay Company was the North West Company, based in Montreal. The 1821 merger of the Hudson Bay Company and the North West Company left the Hudson Bay Company with trading posts that spanned Canada from the Pacific Coast to the Atlantic. There were many other acquisitions by the company, each strengthening their business interests and adding to their monopolistic position. The company did treat the communities well where its business was done. The company built schools and brought culture to the remote areas. After the Dominion of Canada was formed in 1867, the company adapted to its new role as a major trading company. It began to look more and more like a modern department store, yet it continued to sell the blankets and furs that made the company famous. The Dominion government soon took over the functions of police, schools and other municipal roles in the remote parts of Canada where the Hudson Bay Company operated.

For the genealogist, the Hudson Bay Company is important because it kept many detailed records, some of which go back many years to the beginnings of the company. Although the company was founded by the English, it employed or traded with many of the French fur traders who worked in the remote areas where the company operated. The records of the Hudson Bay Company have been microfilmed and are available to researchers today.

### **French Canadian Records**

Early records for the French in Canada are primarily court records which include probate records which include guardianship and adoption records, church records, and land records. For some families, a family bible, a family history, or historic correspondence may be available.

The Catholic Church was strong in Canada and the records are usually excellent. Before civil registration, the church records are usually the only source of marriage data. The church recorded not only the names of the bride and groom, but also the names of each of their parents. Each parish also kept records of christenings and burials. As long as the priest did not forget to record the event, which is the rare exception, the records are thorough.

### **The Canadian Census**

The first national census was in 1871 after the Dominion of

Canada was formed. Like the English census, the Canadian census was taken each year ending with "one." Now the 1871, 1881, 1891, 1901 and 1911 censuses are available to the public. Each census names every individual in the family with their age and other information, similar to the US census. One significant difference is that several of the Canadian censuses asked for religious affiliation. This is useful information for finding church records, which may have details of marriages, deaths, and christenings.

There are censuses taken before 1867, but they were conducted by each province and are not uniform in the information that was recorded. For example, New Brunswick conducted an "every name" census in 1841, 1851 and 1861. Next door, Nova Scotia, took the first census in 1851, naming only heads of family and recording numbers of household members. The first "every name" census there was in 1861. Quebec had its first provincial census in 1831.

### Civil Records

Civil records were kept by the province and were usually administered by the county. They varied from province to province. Vital records began well after the Dominion was formed in 1867. The type and coverage of civil records varied with the county. A close look at the records available for the county is a must before planning research.

### Compiled Genealogy

There are many recent genealogies of French Canadian families available today. Information in them is only as good as the research done by the authors. Of interest to someone tracing their ancestry into colonial Quebec is the monumental work by Father Cyprian Tanguay called *Dictionnaire Genealogique de Familles Canadiennes*. It was later revised. It consists of seven volumes about early Quebec families. Another helpful book is *Dictionnaire Genealogique des Familles du Quebec Des Origines a 1730* published by Les Presses de l'universite de Montreal. It is a genealogical dictionary of the families of Quebec from the founding of Quebec to the year 1730.

### Dit Names

One of the unusual quirks of French-Canadian genealogy research is the use of dit names. Quebec, as many of the colonial areas, produced large families and there appears to be a shortage of surnames as the population grew. The term "dit" means "called" and a dit name is like an alias. These names are usually based on features or locations. In France it was common to add the word "de" followed by the name of a place to a name to indicate where the person was born or where the person lived. Many dit names have this characteristic and can occasionally be helpful to find where in France the family originated. Often the dit name had the form of an attribute of the person, such as "tall" or "bald." Unlike an alias, dit names were often passed on as a though they were the surname of the individual. Many genealogists find these names confusing because the practice caused several names to be used for the same individual and it could create a brick wall when the new name could not be connected to the person using his other name.

### Connections to the United States

Even today, the vast majority of the Canadians live within 100 miles of the US border. The border has been open to crossing by citizens of both countries. There are many Canadians who mar-

ried someone from across the border and migrated to the US or saw opportunity and came to the U.S. The French did not come to the US in great numbers until 1750 when the Acadians were expelled. Large numbers of them came to Louisiana either directly from Acadia or from Canada to France to Louisiana.

Another large group of French-speaking Canadians came to the U.S. between 1871 and 1901. It is estimated that this group numbered about 2 million. Most of them settled in New England, probably because it was close to Quebec where they may have had friends and family who remained in Canada. The others went mostly to the upper Midwest, settling in Illinois, Wisconsin, Minnesota and Michigan. Since the U.S. established immigration quotas by country, Canada has had a large quota, and individuals of all nationalities now immigrate to Canada because they have few immigration restrictions. From there, they can immigrate to the U.S. without the long waiting period they would otherwise have.

### Web sites, Libraries, Archives and Genealogical Organizations

The Canadian government has learned that assisting genealogists helps tourism business in Canada. To do thorough research, visits to cemeteries, local historical societies, court houses, local researchers, libraries, and archives can produce information not obtainable without a visit to Canada.

The following Web sites specialize in information about French Canadian families. Many have links to other Web sites, addresses and contact information of archives and libraries, and lists of museums and historical societies:

- [www.acadian-cajun.com/](http://www.acadian-cajun.com/) Acadian and Cajun genealogy
- [www.acadiancultural.org/index.htm](http://www.acadiancultural.org/index.htm) The Acadian Cultural Society - Fitchburg, Massachusetts
- [www.acgs.org/about/contact.html](http://www.acgs.org/about/contact.html) American-Canadian Genealogical Society - Manchester, New Hampshire
- <http://automatedgenealogy.com/index.html> AutomatedGenealogy - Census data for Canada
- [www.banq.qc.ca/portal/dt/accueil.jsp?bnq\\_resolution=mode\\_1024](http://www.banq.qc.ca/portal/dt/accueil.jsp?bnq_resolution=mode_1024) National Library and Archives of Quebec
- [www.civilization.ca/](http://www.civilization.ca/) Museum of Civilization
- [www.civilization.ca/](http://www.civilization.ca/) National Library and Archives of Québec
- [www.cln.org/themes/immigration.html](http://www.cln.org/themes/immigration.html) Canadian Immigration
- [www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/](http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/) The Library and Archives of Canada
- [www.fcgw.org/](http://www.fcgw.org/) French Canadian/Acadian Genealogists of Wisconsin
- [www.fchsc.org/](http://www.fchsc.org/) French-Canadian Heritage Society of California
- <http://fchsm.habitant.org/index.html> French-Canadian Heritage Society of Michigan
- [www.fondationfrancoislamy.org/](http://www.fondationfrancoislamy.org/) Ile d'Orléans Genealogy
- [www.francegenweb.org/](http://www.francegenweb.org/) France GenWeb
- [www.franco-gene.com/quebec/ang](http://www.franco-gene.com/quebec/ang) Archives in Quebec
- [www.franco-gene.com/quebec/libraries.php](http://www.franco-gene.com/quebec/libraries.php) Libraries in Quebec with Genealogical Records
- [www.francomaine.org/](http://www.francomaine.org/) Maine's French Communities

(University of Maine)

- [www.francophoniecanadienne.ca/](http://www.francophoniecanadienne.ca/) Francophonie Canadienne - Research Portal
- [www.genealogie.com/](http://www.genealogie.com/) Site in French for beginners in French Canadian genealogy
- [www.genealogie.org/](http://www.genealogie.org/) Centre de Genealogie Francophone d'Amerique
- <http://genealogie.planete.qc.ca/> Planète Genealogie - Many databases
- [www.genealogie.umontreal.ca/](http://www.genealogie.umontreal.ca/) comprehensive site for Quebec French-Canadian genealogy
- <http://mesaieux.com/an/default.htm> Your Folks - Mes Ayeux
- [www.musealesdetourouvre.com/en/liens.htm](http://www.musealesdetourouvre.com/en/liens.htm) Association Perche
- [www.musealesdetourouvre.com/en/the-french-emigration-to-canada-centre.html](http://www.musealesdetourouvre.com/en/the-french-emigration-to-canada-centre.html) Museum of French Emigration to Canada
- [www.nnyacgs.com/](http://www.nnyacgs.com/) Northern New York American-Canadian Genealogical Society
- [www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~canwgw/](http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~canwgw/) Canada GenWeb Project
- [www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~canmil/index.html](http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~canmil/index.html) The Canadian Military Heritage Project
- [www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~flgssb/FrCanHeritage.htm](http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~flgssb/FrCanHeritage.htm) Genealogical Society of South Brevard, Melbourne, Florida
- [www.unicaen.fr/mrsh/prefen/](http://www.unicaen.fr/mrsh/prefen/) Emigration to New France

There are also several popular e-mail lists.

- [ACADIAN-CAJUN-L-request@rootsweb.com](mailto:ACADIAN-CAJUN-L-request@rootsweb.com) A mailing list for anyone with Acadian-Cajun ancestry worldwide

- [GEN-FF-L-request@rootsweb.com](mailto:GEN-FF-L-request@rootsweb.com) newsgroup for the discussion of Francophone genealogy
- [NEWBRUNSWICK-L-request@rootsweb.com](mailto:NEWBRUNSWICK-L-request@rootsweb.com) a mailing list for anyone with a genealogical interest in New Brunswick
- [QBC-MONTREAL-L-request@rootsweb.com](mailto:QBC-MONTREAL-L-request@rootsweb.com) A mailing list for anyone with a genealogical interest in Montreal

### Summary

French Canadian genealogy is being actively pursued by many individuals in and out of Canada. Records are more accessible than they have ever been since the Internet has become the most popular way to make the records available. My neighbor has an ancestor who came from a village in Quebec. He needed to see the church records, and this was before microfilm was being done in Quebec. He traveled to Quebec and asked to see the church records that he needed. The priest brought out the journals and my neighbor proceeded to transcribe all of the record, going back to the early 1600s. After connecting the families, he discovered that he was related to every person who lived in the parish. The families had intermarried over the years and were all connected.

Many of the records needed have been microfilmed or are available online. However, many records for French Canada are in the possession of families, court houses, local historical societies, and other repositories. A trip to Canada may be sufficient to get the records needed in your research. In the case of Quebec, where there are areas where English is not spoken, it may be more efficient to hire a local researcher. Be assured that the records needed to trace a family history of ancestors from French Canada probably exist and brick walls caused by records having been destroyed are the exception.

Good luck in your French Canadian Research.

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

**Q** In PAF 5 how do I prevent zeros from being added to three-, two-, and one- digit dates? For example: 1 Sep 836 appears as 1 Sep 0836. I have Windows 2000. Is there another program to strip the leading zeros?

**A** It's possible that the programmers inserted a large amount of code to put those leading zeros in dates before 1000 so that they would look like errors. The code in PAF contains logic to parse a date and look for standard date formats, including dd mmm yyyy, or dates with *abt*, *bef*, *aft*, and *cir* (which is changed to *abt*). Whenever it finds a date in one of the standard formats, it will insert a leading zero to produce a four-digit year. If it cannot parse the date field into a standard format, it will give you a warning, and then skip the formatting logic, leaving the date string as it was entered.

So, for you to prevent PAF from adding the leading zeros, you will have to enter a non-standard date. The most elegant method I know to do this would be to add AD or BC to the end of your date. For example, 1 Sep 836, can be entered as 1 Sep 836AD. The AD at the end confuses the PAF date parsing logic and gives you a warning. You only need to click OK on the warning message and let PAF leave the date field as you entered it. This method also has the benefit of making it clear that you



intended the date to be less than 1000 and is not an error.

**Q** I mistakenly clicked the x and closed the data part of the PAF screen. Is there a way to re-open it other than with the last saved back up? I had input quite a lot of new data and had not yet backed up as was not finished. In other words, is there a back button somewhere I don't know about, or is there an automatic data back- up somewhere I don't know about? Waiting on pins and needles.

**A** PAF data are saved from the time you enter the information. Within screens such as the “Edit Individual” screen, you need to click “save” to save the information, but information in the database is automatically saved with each entry. It's unlikely that anything is lost, although it is always good to make a current backup copy of your database.

From within PAF, you also can select the File pull-down menu, and toward the bottom of that menu will be a list of all the PAF files you have accessed recently. Select the one you were working on (highlight it), and it will open.

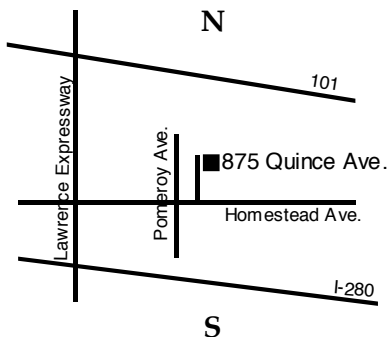
If you find that you need to open a file you haven't used recently, and you don't know how to locate the file itself, you can minimize PAF and do a search (under the Start menu) for \*.paf files. By clicking on the file name, it will open that file in PAF.



NONPROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
SAN JOSE, CA  
PERMIT NO. 976

Silicon Valley Computer Genealogy Group  
The former Silicon Valley PAF Users Group

P.O. Box 23670, San Jose, CA 95153-3670  
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



**Silicon Valley Computer Genealogy Group**

[www.svcomputergenealogy.org](http://www.svcomputergenealogy.org)

Richard D. Rands, President rrand@earthlink.net (650) 969 6567

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).

**OFFICERS AND STAFF**

Richard Rands	President
Janet Brigham Rands	Vice President
Wanda Levy	Secretary
Carleen Foster	Treasurer
Lesly Klippel	Membership Director
Howard Bennion	Macintosh Leader
Janet Brigham Rands	Webmaster
Brian Smith	Program Chairman
Leland Osburn	Education Administrator
Allin Kingsbury	<i>PastFinder</i> Editor
Pamela Erickson	Assistant Editor
Carleen Foster	<i>PastFinder</i> Mailing

**CONTACT INFORMATION**

Membership	Lesly Klippel	leslyk@comcast.net (408) 269 5484
Newsletter	Allin Kingsbury	a.kingsbury@sbcglobal.net (408) 257 8447
Classes	Brian Smith	bsmith4gen@yahoo.com (408) 255 6663
Questions	Dr. PAF	rands@earthlink.net

The following can be ordered from [www.FamilySearch.org](http://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: <a href="http://www.FamilySearch.org">www.FamilySearch.org</a>	free

The following can be ordered from [www.svcomputergenealogy.org](http://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

**9 MAY 2009**

- **Seminar Speaker: Dan Lynch**
- **Time: 9:00 to 4:00**
- **Lunch: bring brown bag or grab a bite**
- **Syllabus: available at door**
- **Cost: Free Admission**
- **Subjects: Google Your Family Tree and other Internet topics**

For more details or changes, go to: [www.svcomputergenealogy.org](http://www.svcomputergenealogy.org)

**Copyright Notice:** *Silicon Valley PastFinder* ©2009 Silicon Valley Computer Genealogy Group. All Rights Reserved. No articles herein may be reproduced for profit or commercial purposes without the express written consent of the editor or the Silicon Valley Computer Genealogy Group. Genealogy groups may republish articles but must include credits to the authors and the Silicon Valley Computer Genealogy Group.

*Silicon Valley PastFinder* is the official publication of the Silicon Valley Computer Genealogy Group, a nonprofit organization. Published monthly except December, *Silicon Valley PastFinder* is distributed at the door to all members attending the meeting and mailed to others after the meeting. Members may elect to receive the newsletter by e-mail and get the *PastFinder* Bulletin too..

Articles contributed by readers are welcome. Articles may be submitted as a text file on PC-compatible disk, CD-ROM, or as an e-mail attachment. The editors reserve the right to accept, reject, and edit articles. Articles are not returned.