



Waking the Dead:

Score One for the Internet

By Janie Cook

Imagine an entire community engaged in looking for your lost two-year-old child. Consider the anguish of each individual involved at peering into every nook and cranny of the neighborhood and town. Imagine the joy when said toddler is found.

Now picture the same anguish and trepidation of an older novice searching cyberspace for a lost individual. What steps can be taken to lessen the anxiety being experienced by our computer neophyte?

Such was the case when a dear friend in her late sixties who I shall call Ella, approached me for help in finding her father. Ella knew only a few things about her father—his name, where he was living when she was born, and that when she was young she wrote to her grandmother who lived on the Rosebud Indian Reservation in South Dakota. Her grandmother’s name was a loss as well.

Previously, Ella had searched the censuses and available records at the Family History Library in Salt Lake City and had come up empty-handed. She had spent more than 10 years doing this. She felt like the Internet search was her only hope at this point.

Ella’s trepidation was not lessened as I explained the steps she could use to search the Internet. We went to the local family history center to begin her hunt. The local public library has Internet access as well.

I explained that using the Internet was similar to having a personal librarian at her fingertips. The librarian did all the searching and brought the material to the screen for her to review. My librarian of choice is Google and that is where we started. (Google is the name of an Internet search engine that I have found quite useful in my own research. Type www.google.com in the address bar or use the drop down menu if it has been accessed before.)

Upon accessing the search engine home page, I had Ella type her father’s name in quotation marks, the county and state where she was born and the term genealogy into the search box (Ex.: “john brown” polk iowa genealogy). When enter was struck, 300 hits or Web sites came on screen. Initially, that many hits is too many for a beginner so we refined our search to the town of her birth and left out the county name. That narrowed the hits to 40. Ella clicked on each one she thought might be related to her but came up with nothing.

It was then I explained to Ella that accessing each Web site was like opening a book, each click bringing a different page. I showed her how to go back using the back button or following the buttons on the current site would take her back to a previous page similar to peeling the layers of skin from an onion. It was also explained that sometimes the only way to go back is to start from the beginning again. She was taking copious notes.

Ella was pretty sure that he had passed away because her mother had told her he was 31 years old when she was born. When she told me that, we were able to surmise he would be 98 if we found him alive today. So armed with that

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Ask Dr. PAF

by Dr. Cornelius D. PAF



“I Give No Answers Before Their Time!”

Q. What about the “Confidential notes (~) and events? How do make I make the events confidential?”

A. The only events that you can make confidential are the “custom events” that you create. When you create a “custom event” you can click on the “use confidential” box.

Q. How do you create those custom events?

A. From the “Edit Individual,” or “Edit Marriage” screen, click on “Options,” then on “New event/attribute” and then on “New.” Check the “Help” screens and the “Users Guide” if you need assistance.

Q. What does the tilde (~) that comes after the notes mean?

A. The tilde (~) is frequently seen on Spanish words, but here it means a note should be considered confidential. You must follow the rules: the tilde has to come before the note. It must be the first character in the paragraph of the note. The paragraph must start after a blank line. PAF 5 still follows the rules that were required in earlier versions of PAF when computers were not very accommodating. A note was defined as one paragraph. A blank line meant a new note. If you need to include a long confidential note, with blank lines for easier reading, you need to put a tilde at the beginning of each line after the blank line.

If you are using a tag to begin the note, you must put the tilde before the tag. “~RESIDENCE:” will be a confidential note; “RESIDENCE: ~” won’t. Be careful if you are using the “Notes Selector” feature of PAF when wanting to make a note confidential. You will have to click on “Add” in the bottom of the “Select Notes” window to create a new tag with the tilde (~) in front of it. If you highlight a tag from the list, click on “Open” and start to write the note, you will not have the tilde as the first character of the line.

Q. What happens when I click the box for “other marriages?”

A. You will get any other marriages listed with the spouse on the “Family Group Record.” The name of the spouse, the marriage date and place can be entered. Previous print records would say there were other marriages and give the name in the notes. Now you can see the data about the marriage, including LDS data, with the other data for the husband, wife, and children of the family. There is no other information about that spouse and no record of any children. That information will be shown on a separate family group record.

Q. How does PAF tell you there is more than one set of parents?

A. In the Family View, if there is more than one set of parents for the individual in the primary position, “Other Parents” will appear above the father’s box. Click on that message to view a list of the parents. To change parents, highlight the name you want and click on “Make Primary” and then on “Save.”

The Family Group Record will display a code (+) after the name of the person with multiple parents and the code will be defined on the bottom of the first page of the Family Group Record. •

Genealogy Quote

The family that you come from isn’t as important as the family you’re going to have.

Ring Lardner (1855 – 1933)



Waking the Dead

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information we determined that he was born about 1905.

It was then I showed Ella how to access www.rootsweb.com using the Google search engine. We started with the keywords rootsweb.com and the state where she was born. That gave us a site specific to that state and then accessed the links for cemeteries. (Many of the state sites have transcribed cemetery lists for each county.) On the third hit we found a cemetery with the name of her ancestor there and the dates for birth and death were given as well.

Ella started screaming, “We found him! We found him!” and at the same time pummeling my arm with her hands. When she realized she was hitting me she was mortified that she would do such a thing. I assured her that we all get excited when we find someone. At least she hadn’t drawn blood. I still tease her about her exuberance.

The first cemetery we found with the name and dates did not turn out to be her father but the third one did. We have since located him with his parents on a census through www.ancestry.com for which our family history center has a site license. Ella continues to search for other relatives, only occasionally asking for my help.

Notes for beginners using a search engine for genealogical research:

1. When using the search function all words including personal names are typed in lowercase to avoid doing a case sensitive search.
2. If the first search yields nothing start taking away one word at a time.
3. Using the word “genealogy” in the search will often stop extraneous sites from being included in the sites.
4. When searching for a specific person, put the name in quotes or parentheses. This is a way of telling the search engine that the words must be found together.
5. Each search engine has help links that are easily accessed.
6. If the search engine you use does not highlight the keywords in different colors in the text use the

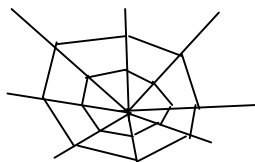
“find” function found on the “Edit” function key in the tool bar. This helps locate specific words in a large on-screen text in the time it takes to type the word into the “find” box.

7. When doing online searches look for vital records first, land records second, probate records third and miscellaneous records as a last resort.
8. Don’t be afraid to print the page address where you found the information. If the document is not in .pdf format, the Internet address is printed on the page.
9. Don’t be afraid to use other search engines. Remember, the computer is a machine waiting for you to tell it what to do.
10. Searching outside of the United States is possible but one has to become familiar with the availability of records. Sometimes there is a language barrier, but some sites have a translation option. However, some of the translations are word for word and do not follow our sentence structure and initially may not make sense.
11. The rules for research still apply. Internet sources are usually considered secondary sources and should not be taken on blind faith. Access primary sources, where possible, which validates your initial research.
12. Revisit a site after several months because information is being added often to many of the genealogical sites.
13. When all else fails, turn off the machine and come back another day.

I have found the Internet to be a treasure trove for genealogical research. It has been an excellent tool in locating hard to find people, records and “how-tos” which would have previously taken decades for me and others to research. It has helped many locate ancestral homes in Europe and other places including towns or villages which are now extinct or renamed.

Success on the Internet is only as good as the willingness of a researcher to keep trying. The joy and lightness of heart experienced when the lost is found can help open the door to many more limbs on our ancestral tree. •

Spider Webs



Missouri Records

The Missouri Library Network Corporation is conducting the Missouri Digitization Planning Project and the Virtually Missouri Web site. The Web site is a gateway to archives and libraries throughout the state of Missouri and their online collections of data. These include books such as the *Saint Louis Social Register*, historic pictures, records of the Saint Louis probate court 1802-1900, birth and death records database of the Missouri Archives, and many others. Not all the data would be of interest to the family historian. There are records about land surveys, landscapes of historic buildings, and rare books from the Missouri Botanical Garden Library for example. The list of links to archive and library sites is large. To visit the site, go to: <http://www.virtuallymissouri.org>.

U.S. Surname Distribution

A Web site has been created by Hamrick Software which reports the distribution of surnames in several past U.S. censuses and recent telephone books. The distributions are for the 1850, 1880, and 1920 census returns and the 1990 telephone directory. It is easy to use. Enter a surname, click, and a map will appear showing the distribution by state. A color code indicates the frequency of the surname for the state. For example, red indicates 1 in 100 people or more, yellow indicates 1 in 300 or higher and green indicates 1 in 1000 or higher. The indicators are crude, but they can give clues as to where the family began in the United States and where they migrated. Visit the site at: <http://www.hamrick.com/names/>

Wales Portal

Wales on the Web (Cymru ar y We) is a Web site based at the National Library of Wales in Aberystwyth which lists more than 2,000 Web sites of interest to family historians working on families

from Wales. Go to:

www.walesontheweb.org/

The Farber Gravestone Collection

This site has more than 13,500 images of gravestones in the Northeastern United States. Most of the gravestones were placed before 1800. Many of the stones are works of art. The headstone for John "Grizzly" Adams confirms that he was a real person. The carving of a hunter with a bear on his gravestone in Charlton, Massachusetts, is descriptive of his life as a mountain man. Many early grave markers tell the stories of deaths from disease, falling from a horse, fording a river, raising a barn, being cast away in a storm or slain by Indians. John Stockbridge's untimely death in 1768 was documented on his gravestone as "sudden, premature, awful (sic) & violent, providentially occasioned by the fall of a tree." To be sure the observer understood the epitaph, the marker was also illustrated with a carving showing a tree limb striking his head. Go to:

www.davidrumsey.com/farber •

Recently Published

The Genealogist's Internet

The Genealogist's Internet by Peter Christian is a British publication which does a thorough job of describing Internet resources about the British Isles. It is written for someone new to the Internet, and starts by explaining the Internet and how it works. It continues with a list of the major online sources of primary data and a list of helpful directories and gateways which list URLs of genealogical data. The book also discusses various genealogy-related forums, discussion groups, mailing lists, and newsgroups.. A chapter about Search Engines explains how to use a search engine to find anything you want that is on the Internet. Finally, this book explains how to publish family history on the Internet. The seven page index seems to cover the topics a person would want to find.

The book was published at an earlier time and is now updated to include the latest Web sites, The fact that Web sites come and go should not bother the purchasers of this book. The author maintains a Web site (www.spub.co.uk/tgi2/) which is

regularly updated with new sites, corrections, and additions to the book. The Web site is also helpful because you can click on any URL that is in the book and avoid the risk of a typing error when entering the URL into your browser.

The Genealogist's Internet is a 292-page book published by the U.K. National Archives and sells for £10.99. It can be ordered online from the U.K. National Archives' Online Book Shop at: www.shop.pro.gov.uk/bookshop/shop/title_show.asp?title_id=132&j=1 or at Amazon. It can be ordered at bookstores asking for ISBN 1903365465. •

Software of Interest

New PAF Companion Offer

You can now order Personal Ancestral File for Windows version 5.2 and PAF Companion on a single CD-ROM disk for only \$8.25, a bargain compared to the previous prices for these programs on CD-ROM. Go to:

www.familysearch.org

GEDitCOM for Macintosh

John A. Nairn has written a customizable genealogy application for the Macintosh called GEDitCOM. The program is used to view and edit GEDCOM files. The GEDitCOM customization features help you to design your own genealogy user interface. You may prefer the Default Format which provides a powerful, user-friendly interface and access to all features of the GEDCOM standard. The program is offered free for use as a GEDCOM file browser, and as shareware to be a GEDCOM file editor.

As a GEDCOM file viewer, GEDitCOM displays an "Index" window, which displays an alphabetical list of all the individuals in the GEDCOM file. The Index window can also show information such as birth date, death date, parents' names, or spouse's name. The user can customize the "Index" window to contain a wide variety of data in a spreadsheet format.

By clicking on a name in the "Index" window, another window appears and shows the family record for the chosen person. This window contains the

names of the person's parents, spouse(s), and children, along with many dates and locations. By clicking on a person's name in the family record a display of the information about that person appears. This way you can move up or down through a family tree by clicking on names of parents or children. By control-clicking on a name in the "index" window, you will get a context-sensitive popup menu listing the individual, his or her parents, spouses, and children, the family record of the parents, and the family records with any spouse. Any menu item can then be selected to open that record.

GEDitCOM also will calculate the number of relatives of an individual by tracing that person's descendants, ancestors, and descendants of the ancestors. It will also display relationships such as first cousin, two times removed.

Using GEDitCOM, one can search all genealogical records in the current file. It will search all records and display the number of matches found and a link to each match. By clicking on any match, the record can be viewed. To return to the search window from any other record and look at more matches, reselect the "Search" command in the "Edit" menu. One can search for multiple strings connected by Boolean expressions. For example, a search could be done for all records that contain "Anderson" and "Florida" but not "John." Three other search options include:

- Find Marked – creates an alphabetical list of all currently marked records
- Check Errors... - scans a file for various types of errors select a dialog box
- Changed... - finds all records that have changes made after and/or before specified dates
- Relatives of an Individual - compiles a list of relatives for an individual

GEDitCOM can also compile a family tree showing all the descendants of an individual by selecting the "Descendant Tree" command in the "Tree" menu as the person's "Individual Record" is displayed.

- Registered users can do any of the following:

add new person to your file

- add a new family group to your file
- add another type of GEDCOM record
- create linkages between GEDCOM records (such as spouses, parents, and children)
- undo linkages that are wrong
- sort children or spouses
- link research to the Internet.
- convert dates in date fields between various calendars and do some date calculations
- remove a GEDCOM record
- convert a GEDCOM file into a web site.

GEDitCOM runs on a Power Macintosh (or the newer G3, iMac, G4, etc. Macintoshes) with a color monitor and System 8.1 or newer (System 8.6 or newer recommended). Running in Mac OS 8 or 9 requires the CarbonLib extension 1.0.4 or newer (1.2.5 or newer recommended). The CarbonLib extension is not required for OS X.

A demonstration copy of GEDitCOM can be downloaded from the program's Web site. It can be used to view GEDCOM files and can demonstrate the editing features of GEDitCOM. The demonstration copy of GEDitCOM can be converted to the full-featured editor by paying the \$49.95 registration fee and receiving an unlocking code.

You can download the program, obtain the user's manual, or find more information at: www.geditcom.com/ •

News of the Weird

Manhattan Burial Problem

If you live in Manhattan, and want to be buried there you have a problem. It is almost impossible to find a burial plot there. During the mid-1800's, fear of disease prompted the city fathers to prohibit traditional burials south of 86th Street. Almost every cemetery in Manhattan was eventually uprooted and moved to Queens or Brooklyn. However, if your ancestors paid \$250 to buy a plot in New York Marble Cemetery in 1830, you had a marble-sealed vault that could be used in perpetuity. For the first time in almost a century, one of these vaults has been offered for sale.

The 8 by 10 foot vault is the only one in New York Marble Cemetery that has never been used. The owner of vault 70 is an 86-year-old woman from Long Island who has no desire to be buried in Manhattan. Until just recently, she did not know that she owned the vault. She is willing to sell and two willing buyers have stepped forward. They just need to agree on a price, but there lies the problem. Estimates as low as \$10,000 and as high as \$250,000 have been suggested by the experts.

The cemetery is listed as a city and a national landmark, and is the oldest nonsectarian burial ground in Manhattan. The vaults sold out soon after the cemetery opened in 1830. Famous residents interred in the vaults include Benjamin Wright, chief engineer for the Erie Canal and Uriah Scribner, the famous publisher. The cemetery had little activity in recent years and became choked with chest-high weeds. Trustees are trying to raise \$1.5 million to restore the cemetery. To date they are short of the goal by \$1.2 million. They hope a new wealthy inhabitant of one of the vaults will help them raise the rest of the money.

Anne Wright Brown stumbled upon the cemetery in 1997, while tracking her family's genealogy. She has been learning of descendants ever since. It took her three years to get around to Vault 70, which lies in the middle of the cemetery. The lot was purchased by Marcena Monson when the burial ground opened. The Long Island woman and her three sons and her granddaughter were the only living descendants. It was soon learned that Monson was a privateer during the War of 1812. Family tales claim that Monson had captured a Spanish galleon loaded with treasure and taken it to Buenos Aires, Argentina. Later, they say, the treasure was moved to Queens. If the treasure is hidden in the vault, the value of the vault could go much higher than the highest estimate. Neither the trustees of the cemetery nor the family have looked in the vault which is buried under the ground. Otherwise, it would be a lot easier to set a price and sell the vault.

The moral of this story is that you never know what you will find when you dig up your family tree. •

Why Can't My Surname Stay the Same? (continued)

By Allin Kingsbury

The first installment of this article was in the January 2004 PAFinder and discussed patronymic naming practices. The discussion of patronymic names continues in this installment.

Iceland

Iceland was settled by Scandinavian immigrants who brought the custom of patronymic names. For a son, the suffix "sson" was added to the first name of the father. On some occasions, the father's nickname or his title was used instead of the first name such as Gisli Surrsson meaning Gisli the son of Thorbjorn nicknamed "surr."

Finland

The country of Finland was divided culturally into two areas with the division of Christianity into the Roman Catholic Church and the Orthodox Church. The customs for naming children differed between the two areas.

Customs in the western cultural area were much like those of Sweden. Patronymic names were used which began with the Christian name of the father with an ending "poika" or "tytär," to indicate either a son or daughter. Early Finnish records were written in Swedish until the second half of nineteenth century. A person using these records would find the Swedish suffixes of "son" or "dotter." During the late 1800s and even after 1900, the people of Finland adopted surnames. Most families chose to use the name of the farm as their surname. A problem with "farm" names is that the person would change names if he or she moved to another farm. This was most likely to happen as a person married. Farm names are difficult to recognize because they originated from given names. Most of the farm names have the ending of "la" or "lä" such as Lukkarila or Takala. Some families began using farm names long before the 1800s and one may find a person listed using a patronymic name in one record and a farm name in another record.

The customs for naming children in the eastern cultural area appears to have been in use in the thirteenth century and continued through the period of Swedish supremacy. The naming

customs were based on the legal aspects of inheritance by the clans inhabiting the eastern parts of Finland. The names were primarily formed with the given names of individuals, which may have been the patriarchs of the families. The names were probably a key for a member of a clan which allowed him to hunt in the territory belonging to the clan. Names were inherited, but there were some unique rules of inheritance. A son-in-law who joined his bride's family could get the name of his father-in-law. A woman remained within the family and kept her father's name, even if she was married. A new name was introduced when a clan was divided. The new name came from the name of the patriarch, or it was based on the name of the place where the new clan resided. The origins of these names are not important to genealogical researchers because the names had come into use long before there were any written records. Although the names of Eastern Finland were not patronymic, one must be aware that they could change from generation to generation like the patronymic names.

Denmark

In 1526, the king required all of the nobility of Denmark (and Norway) to have a permanent surname that could be inherited. The common people of Denmark used patronymics instead of surnames until 1850 to 1870 even though patronymic names were abolished by law in 1826. The authorities wanted people to use family surnames. It took many years before patronymics disappeared. For a person born between 1826 and 1870, it is impossible to know if a person's last name is a patronymic or a family surname unless the names of the parents are known.

The format for the Danish names is to take the Christian name of a person's father, followed by "sen" (son) or "datter" (daughter). For example, Neils Jensen would give his daughter the last name of Neilsdatter and his son the last name of Neilsen.

Sweden

The use of patronymic names continued in Sweden until they became unfashionable during the 19th century.

The remaining patronymic names were gradually changed to surnames on into the 20th century. A law passed in 1901 ended the previously universal use of patronymic last names. A 1917 law covered names for adopted children and a 1920 law about names in marriages made the use of surnames mandatory in Sweden. The following naming practices became mandatory:

- Children receive the father's surname if born within wedlock and their mother's surname if born out of wedlock.
- Wives take the surname of their husband.
- The patronymic of the father usually became the surname of the child - regardless of the child's gender.
- If a family did not have a surname, then by special request a child after 1901 could be given a patronymic surname. The surname could be based on the first name of the father, father's father or mother's father or a male name included in the list of name days in the official almanac. Also by special request, surnames could be based on the name of the farm where they were born according to local custom.

Some families had non-patronymic surnames long before 1901. The name laws had nothing to say about these families. Members of certain professions, the military, craftsmen and the nobility began to use family surnames as early as the Middle Ages. By the 18th century, only the clergy and the peasants used patronymics. The clergy often Latinized the names because it was traditional for church records, even after the country had made the Lutheran Church their state religion.

The format for patronymic last names in Sweden was to add the suffix "dotter" for girls or the suffix "son" for boys to the Christian name of the father. For example, Anders, son of Lars Persson, would be Anders Larsson and Ingrid, daughter of Lars Persson, would be Ingrid Larsdotter. Occasionally the patronymic names were shortened. For example Olofsson would become Olsson, but this practice would only be for the occasional individual. When a woman married, she did not give up her last name. The patronymic was hers for

life. She would never be recorded with her husband's patronymic.

Norway

It was not until 1923 that Norway required all citizens to adopt a surname. Patronymic names were common at the time. Patronymic names in Norway were similar in form to those of Denmark using the suffix "sen" for male children and "datter" for female children. Some families took the patronymic as a surname, others used a farm name, and a few continued using old hereditary names. As surnames were adopted, a common form for a name was to retain the patronymic as a middle name followed by the farm name as the new surname for the family.

The Dutch

The Dutch resided the Netherlands, the Northern part of Belgium and later settled New York and later colonies in Africa, Indonesia and other locations. Not all last names were patronymic, but patronymic names were common. Dutch patronymic names consist of the first name of the father followed by a suffix of s, se, or sen for boys, and sd or sdr for girls. In 1674, New Netherland was ceded to the British by treaty, and was renamed New York. The British were soon frustrated by the practice of patronymics and the confusion that it created. Officials in the government discouraged further practice of patronymics and encouraged the Dutch in New York to adopt surnames. The practice of Dutch Patronymics in Europe officially ceased in 1811, during the reign of Napoleon, when everyone was required to select and register a family surname. The practice had died out much earlier in some Dutch areas. Often, the person beginning the family surname kept his own patronymic name and used it as the surname for his children.

The Dutch population in Northern Belgium began using surnames in the late Middle ages. These were more common in the 14th century in towns like Gent and Bruges. In the Netherlands, patronymics were almost universally used until surnames first came into use in the 17th century in the towns and in the rural areas during the 18th century. In the northern provinces of Groningen and Friesland people held on to patronymic names up to the late 19th century.

Fortunately for the family historian, under the Dutch system, the woman did not change her name upon marriage. This practice is a great help in research, because many unrelated men had the same last name. Often, the only way to identify the correct family is through the wife's use of her maiden name.

Some records include an additional last name to indicate a place of origin or a trade. Some examples are: Jan Matthysen Van Keulen which means Jan son of Matthys of Cologne and Petrus Jansen de Smit which means Petrus (Peter) son of Jan the blacksmith. Some names included both a location and an occupation. When required to select a surname, many families took the last patronymic of their line, which include names such as Dirksen, Jansen, and Matthyssen. Others took a name based on location or trade such as Van Voorhees of Smit.

The suffixes used in Dutch patronymics went beyond the common "sen" ending. Other forms included "se," "s," "sz," "en," "ens," "er," "es," "is," "de," and "den." Because patronymics were so commonly used among the Dutch, what may have been written "de zoon van Jan" translated as "the son of Jan" was abbreviated, first in speech and then in written records. The patronymic became "Jan s zoon" and later Janssen, Jansen, Janszen, Jansz, Janse or Jans. In the southern area settled by the Dutch, the suffixes included "ing," "eng," "g," "ingh," "engh," and "gh(e)." These suffixes came from the Franks, a Saxon tribe who were distinct from the Saxons and Frisians and who settled the area in the Roman era. These suffixes actually mean "descendent of and could have an "s" added at the end of the suffix to indicate "the son of the son of." The Saxon alternative to this patronymic form is found in the eastern part of Holland and is the suffix "ink" with variations including "inc," "inck," "ingk," "ynck," "ynk," "enck," and "enk."

The Frisians in the northern part of Holland formed patronymics by adding "inga" or "inge" to the given name. Occasionally the suffix is changed to "enga," or shortened to "ega," "a," "ga," "ge," or "ia." Another group of patronymic suffixes that are partly Saxon and partly Frisian origin are "ma," "ema," "sema," "sma," and "zema." This last group could mean a son, grandson, cousin, offspring, or progeny from a person. It could even mean a

slave, servant, follower. Another Frisian suffix "da" which is used with given names ending in "t." The "t" is replaced by "da." It has been said that all Frisian surnames ending in "da" originated as patronymics, but a few modern surnames there came from place names. Tracing these names is greatly helped by knowing the names of the small villages which were extant at the time the name originated. Occasionally, one finds a patronymic which is created using a suffix derived from the Latin using a genitive form such as "i," "ie," "is" and "y." For example, the name, Adolf, would form the patronymic, Adolphy.

This article will be continued in the next issue.

News for Genealogists

MyFamily.com Passes 1,500,000

As evidence of the claim that family history is among the most popular hobbies in the United States, MyFamily.com, Inc., a popular online subscription service announced that its number of paid subscribers exceeded 1.5 million. This is an increase of 50 percent from a year earlier.

Problems at the National Genealogical Society

The National Genealogical Society is a prestigious genealogical organization which has been serving genealogists for more than 100 years. Recently financial problems have led to the dismissal of a number of employees. Last December the NGS executive director was dismissed because there had been a rapid depletion of financial reserves. An audit revealed that there had been spending far in excess of the income of the organization and that it had been hidden from the board of directors. In addition, the president, secretary and treasurer resigned. Curt Witcher and Steve Kyner resigned on 26 November 2003, and Amy Crow submitted her resignation on 28 November. The audit found no criminal actions by the officers. The NGS needs money to remain a healthy and successful organization and the Board of Directors is moving quickly to repair the damage. NGS is the sponsoring organization for GENTECH2004 conference which was recently held in St. Louis and the annual NGS conference to be held this May in

Sacramento, California. The Board is determined that neither event be affected by the financial problems at NGS.

National Archives Fire

A fire at the National Archives building in Washington, D. C. caused by an electrical short occurred on December 20th. About 100 boxes containing land records from the 1800s and pension files for War of 1812 veterans sustained water damage, but the records inside the boxes were not damaged. The boxes are specially designed to store and protect archived documents. When the sprinkler system is activated, as happened in this instance, the boxes absorb water, but will not allow the water to get inside to damage the documents. It is reassuring to know that the National Archives has planned for emergencies and that everything worked this time. We were not so lucky when the 1890 census and other records were destroyed by fires.

Bounty Hunters Wanted

Computer viruses are malicious and cause millions of dollars of damage each year. Microsoft has a solution which will hopefully reduce the problem by finding the "Perps" (perpetrators) who created the viruses. A fund of \$5,000,000 is set aside by Microsoft for rewards for their apprehension. A reward of \$250,000 can be yours if you can find anyone who created the MSBlaster worm or the Sobig virus. If you can find more, you could make a good living as long as Microsoft continues to pay the bounty. Just like in the old West, a good bounty hunter can help make this world a better place to live.

Most virus writers use security holes in Microsoft's products to transmit their virus. The pressure to release new products adds new bugs in the security as fast as old bugs are fixed. The bounty is a small price to maintain the Microsoft reputation. Bounty incentives produced quick results in the form of information about Saddam Hussein's sons. Let's hope it will do the same for those who create computer viruses. •

What is the World Wide Web?

That was a question asked of Tim Berners-Lee, the man who is given credit for the invention of the World

Wide Web (WWW or Web). The WWW is a part of the Internet, a network of networks used to transfer information digitally. The Internet (Net) was around for fifteen years before the WWW came into existence. According to Berners-Lee, "The Web is an abstract (imaginary) space of information. On the Net, you find computers -- on the Web, you find document, sounds, videos,.... information. On the Net, the connections are cables between computers; on the Web, connections are hypertext links. The Web exists because of programs which communicate between computers on the Net. The Web could not be without the Net. The Web made the net useful because people are really interested in information (not to mention knowledge and wisdom!) and don't really want to have know about computers and cables."

Tim Berners-Lee graduated with a PhD in physics from the Queen's College at Oxford University, England, in 1976 and embarked on a technology career with Plessey Telecommunications Ltd. Writing software. At college, he built his first computer using an M6800 processor, and parts from a TV. In 1980, while working as a consultant software engineer at CERN, (the European Particle Physics Laboratory in Geneva, Switzerland), he wrote a program for storing information which used random associations. This program formed the concept that led to development of the World Wide Web.

In 1989, Tim Berners-Lee proposed a global hypertext project, later known as the World Wide Web. It allowed people to combine their knowledge in a web of hypertext documents. He wrote the software of the first World Wide Web server, "httpd" and the first hypertext browser/editor for the Web. The system was used within CERN in 1990 and by Internet users in the summer of 1991.

Through 1993, Tim Berners-Lee refined his initial specifications of URLs, HTTP and HTML and were adopted as the Web technology spread. In 1994, Tim joined the Laboratory for Computer Science (LCS) at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). In 1999, he became the first holder of the 3Com Founders chair. He is Director of the World Wide Web Consortium which coordinates Web development worldwide. The Consortium goal is to lead the Web to its full potential and ensure its stability.

Tim Berners-Lee has been named Knight Commander of the Order of the British Empire in recognition for his invention. Similar honors have been awarded to Sir Isaac Newton and Sir Francis Drake. Sir Berners-Lee is characteristically modest about his accomplishments saying, "Anyone who has lost track of time when using a computer knows the propensity to dream, the urge to make dreams come true, and the tendency to miss lunch.:" Now doesn't that sound like a scientist who built something that "just happened to work out."

Classes ~

March 13, 2004

PAF 4 & 5 Classes

- Getting Started Using PAF
- Using and Placing Multi-Media Images with PAF

Macintosh Class

- General Capabilities of PAF

General Classes

- Search Engine Skills
- Working With Graphics
- Using Family History CD
- Research (to be announced)
- Q&A: Family History Research

May Seminar:

The May SV-PAF-UG meeting will be an all-day genealogy seminar. In addition to Beth Uyehara, a newspaper columnist and author of *The Zen of Genealogy*, as the keynote speaker, we are privileged to have Chuck Knuthson, a popular lecturer from Sacramento. He will teach four classes: voter registration records, newspaper records, naturalization records, and immigration records. There are forty other classes that you may choose to attend.

The pre-registration fee of \$15 includes a syllabus with notes for each of the classes. A box lunch can be ordered at the pre-registration. Registration at the door will be more expensive, so pre-register online at: www.svpafug.org or at one of the meetings, or request a form by phone, e-mail or mail (see back page). •

Spiderwebs

Irish in New York City

New York City was a Mecca for the Irish who fled the potato famine. By 1860, one fourth of the people in the city were Irish. A new Web site is devoted to the history of these people. Family historians will be interested in the following:

Deaths in Ireland: transcriptions taken from *The Irish-American*, a New York City newspaper (only 1857 deaths are available online)

Marriages in Ireland:

transcriptions taken from *The Irish-American* (only 1857 marriages are available online)

Death Notices from New York City:

transcriptions taken from *The Irish-American*

Draft Riots: an historical perspective that involved many Irish during the American Civil War

The Tenderloin and Satan's

Circus: a list of the infamous saloons and bordellos from the 19th century and stories of the widespread police corruption

Surname Database: a list by surname of those doing research

Visit this free site at:

www.inyc.freeservers.com .

Software of Interest

Genealogy Value Pack for FTM

Progeny Software and Global Genealogy.com Inc. have released an add-on product for Family Tree Maker™ called Genealogy Value Pack. The package, bundled on to two CD-ROMs has:

- Genelines – a program to produce timeline charts
- World Place Advisor™ - a program to check spelling, fill in missing counties, and correct errors in locations
- GEDmark™ - a utility program for sending and receiving GEDCOM files

- The Social Security Death Index (as of June 1999)
 - Online searches
 - Historical timelines
 - A free trial subscriptions to Family Chronicle Magazine
 - A free trial subscriptions to OneGreatFamily.com - a database of 65 million names
- These items would cost more than \$100 if purchased separately, but are being sold for \$29.95. The package works with all versions of Family Tree Maker.

Pocket Genealogist 2.60

Northern Hills Software has released Pocket Genealogist Version 2.60 which has a few new features for the handheld computer. This new version has a different format for the database, so you must synchronize any data you have on the device and do a GEDCOM export.

New features of the program include:

- Support for Legacy Family Tree V5
- All "To Do's" can be viewed on the device from one screen
- An "Edit Children" screen now has a "Parents Notes" button for Family Historian imports.
- "Native" support for Windows Mobile 2003 devices. (Pocket PC 2003)
- An "Open Log" icon on the main desktop Pocket Genealogist screen opens the Pocket Genealogist logs.
- "Inclusion" boxes can be checked for TMG, GenBridge and GEDCOM imports to select the data elements to transfer to the device when a partial database is all that is needed
- The "Orphans" button retrieves a list of databases on the device that no longer exist on the desktop. You can then synchronize the database back to the desktop to recover the data. Databases created before version 2.60 cannot be retrieved.

- The "About" screen now has buttons for sending e-mails to Northern Hills Software or to navigate to the main Pocket Genealogist Web page or the "User Guide" Web page.

There are many modifications and improvements as well as some bug fixes. For more details, go to the Web site at:

www.pocketgenealogist.com

Wholly Genes is offering an optional feature which is direct import of a Personal Ancestral File 5 database without the need to use GEDCOM. This add-on can be purchased on the Web site for \$9.95. See www.whollygenes.com. GenBridge will offer additional imports which will not require an additional purchase.

Family Tree Maker Version 11

Family Tree Maker is the top selling genealogy program. It comes in several versions, differing by the CD-ROM disks that are bundled with the software. Version 11 is now available with many new features. which include:

- Back up your family file to CD-ROM
- Export family books and other charts and reports as a PDF file
- Export reports to spreadsheet and database programs using CSV file format
- Add notes to family books automatically with just one click and drag of the mouse
- A new merge process makes it easier when merging two files or duplicating individuals or importing new data into your file
- Customize Family Tree Maker with Tabbed Preference Panels
- Work in two files simultaneously
- Copy and paste individuals, family branches, or an entire tree from one Family File to another.
- Preview your family book before printing

Family Tree Maker 11 requires 125 megabytes of free hard disk space which may be a problem on an older PC. Other requirements are Windows 98 or later, a 90 megahertz or faster Pentium processor, 16 megabytes of RAM (32 megabytes recommended), a 2X-speed or faster CD-ROM drive, and a 256 color monitor. Several options are supported if they are installed: an Internet connection, a video capture board, a soundboard, a scanner, and a digital camera.

Family Tree Maker is available in four versions:

- Family Tree Maker 11, no CD-ROM disks, costs \$29.99.
- Family Tree Maker 11 with five CD-ROM disks and a three-months of World Family Tree costs \$49.99.
- Family Tree Maker 11 with ten CD-ROM disks and a three-months of World Family Tree and census records costs \$69.99.
- Family Tree Maker 11 with twenty CD-ROM disks and a three-months of World Family Tree and census records costs \$99.99.

For more information about Family Tree Make, go to:

www.familytreemaker.com.



Recently Published

Scots in the American West



Scots in the American West by David Dobson is a 172-page paperback compiled from data extracted newspapers and archival sources in Scotland which recorded the settlement of Scots west of the Mississippi River during the first hundred years after the United States was founded. About 2,000 individuals are identified in the book. Information about them varies, but almost all entries include the name of the immigrant, a date (birth, arrival, marriage, death), the state or territory of his or her residence, and the source of the information. Some include the individual's occupation, the name of a parent(s) and/or spouse, place of residence in Scotland, or more. The book sells for \$21.50 and can be ordered as ISBN# 0806351985. For more information or to order, go to: www.genealogical.com/item_detail.asp?ID=9783.

News of the Weird

Your Fault

When the 1901 census for the United Kingdom went online last year, you probably were not aware that you were the cause of the problems that plagued the Web site. The report by the National Audit Office (NAO) found that the Public Record Office (PRO) had planned a "low key" launch of the site. Press

coverage led to an overwhelming demand and the site was swamped. By noon on the first day (2 January 2002), 1.2 million users were attempting to access the site each hour. The site had been designed for a maximum of 1.2 million users in a 24 hour day. The National Audit Office did not think that poor planning, bad management practices, or the inaccurate data had anything to do to the swamping of the Web site. They clearly pointed to the culprits, namely the public and the press who pointed out the Web site. Fortunately, there is no law against accessing a Web site. You need not worry about hiring an attorney to defend you in case the PRO decides to file a lawsuit.. •

News for Genealogists

Kentucky Records Saved

In 1997, a flood damaged deed books, ledgers and marriage licenses for Pendleton County, Kentucky, located in Northern Kentucky. Later, tests indicated that the papers were contaminated with E. coli, selenium and arsenic. The Kentucky Department of Archives had talked about destroying the documents. The documents had been microfilmed to preserve the data in case a disaster such as the flood occurred.

However, members of the Pendleton County Historical & Genealogical Society argued that the quality of the microfilm is so poor that it cannot serve to replace the original documents. In late 2003, state officials granted a society member custody of the records. The tainted records are now in storage at a county building, and are not available for research. However the state and county will search for funds to decontaminate the records. For a while, it looked like the Kentucky researchers would lose a treasure in the form of court records dating back to the late 1700s.

Events

The events listed here are some of the major events that may be of interest to our members who may be travelling or vacationing, live nearby, or who may want to travel to attend an event.



Illinois Conference

The DuPage County Genealogy Society will hold its annual conference on February 28, 2004; in St. Charles, Illinois. Twelve sessions will feature as speakers, Patricia Reaves, Paul Milner and John Konvalinka. For further information and registration forms, go to: www.dccgs.org

German Research Workshop

The Germanic SIG of the Genealogical Society of Sarasota will hold a workshop by Dr. Roger P. Minert about Germanic Genealogy on February 28, 2004, in Sarasota, Florida. For details, go to: www.rootsweb.com/~flgss

Florida Conference

The Alliance for Genealogical Societies of Southwest Florida will hold their conference on March 6, 2004 in Charlotte, Florida. The speaker, Dr. George K. Schweitzer, will talk about "Civil War Genealogy", "Rivers to Trails to Roads to Canals to Trains" and "Finding Your Ancestor's Parents". For additional information, e-mail to: bfleshman46@comcast.net

Genealogy Computing Week

From March 9 to 13, 2004-, Carl Sandburg College at Galesburg, Illinois, will hold Genealogy

Computing Week, a 6-day genealogy computing workshop. It will be held in the college's new state-of-the art instructional computing building. Michael John Neill, a columnist for the Ancestry Daily News, is the instructor. For more information, go to: www.rootdig.com/sandburg.html

Arizona Seminar

The Lake Havasu Genealogical Society, Inc. will host a seminar featuring Janna Bennington Larson at Lake Havasu City, Arizona on March 13, 2004. For details, e-mail to: gloharr@raz.net

Vancouver, Washington Seminar

The Clark County Genealogical Society is hosting a seminar on March 20, 2004 at Vancouver, Washington which features Dr. John Philip Colletta. For details, go to: www.cccgs-wa.org

Massachusetts Seminar

The Massachusetts Genealogical Council will hold a full-day seminar on March 27 in Waltham, Massachusetts. Helen Leary, a certified genealogist and educator, will give four lectures: "Is This the Same Man, or a Different One With the Same Name"; "Time-Lines and Real Lives — Using Ancestor's Life Patterns to Find Their Parents"; "Our Ancestors' Voices — Getting the Records To Tell Us Everything They Know"; and "The Hemings-Jefferson Connection". Details are available at: Massgencouncil.org

Genealogy Tour of Ireland

A one-week research trip to Dublin, Ireland, for serious researchers sponsored by Celtic Quest, LLC will be held March 20-27, 2004. Richard M. Doherty, Elizabeth Kelley Kerstens, CGRS, CGL, and Marie Varrelman Melchiori, CGRS, CGL, experienced researchers will hold introductory classes to the

local repositories on Sunday and Monday, and then be strategically located at repositories to assist researchers. Registration information is found at www.celticquest.net or you can request a brochure by e-mail at: marie@celticquest.net

Irish Research Trip

A Week of Research in Ireland beginning March 28, 2004 in Dublin, Ireland will be accompanied by Nora Keohane Hickey, Sally Warren and Jana Black. For details, go to: www.websweweave.net/IrishResearch

St. Louis Genealogical Fair

John Philip Colletta, Ph. D., will give four different lectures on how to find your family's European roots on April 3, 2004 in St. Louis, Missouri: For more information, go to: www.stlgs.org

Florida Conference

The Central Florida Genealogical Society is holding a conference on April 17 at Lake Mary, Florida featuring George Schweitzer, a professor from the University of Tennessee. He will discuss military genealogical research, migration, and research in burned out counties. For details, see: www.cfcgs.org/schweitzer.htm

Ohio Conference

The Ohio Genealogical Society will hold its annual conference on April 22-24, 2004 at Wilmington, Ohio. Thomas W. Jones, the featured speaker and 28 other instructor will present 58 sessions. For more information, e-mail to: ogs@ogs.org

Elizabeth Shown Mills Seminar

An all-day seminar sponsored by the Sonoma County Genealogical Society will be held on April 24, 2004 at Rohnert Park, California.

For details, go to:

www.rootsweb.com/~cascgs/mills.htm

Kansas Conference

The Topeka Genealogical Society will hold its annual genealogy conference on April 24, 2004 in Topeka, Kansas. Lloyd deWitt Bockstruck is the featured speaker. For more information, go to: www.tgstopeka.org

Family History Fair in London

The Society of Genealogists has announced their Family History Fair in London to be held at the Royal Horticultural Society New Hall & Conference Centre on Greycoat Street, London SW1 on 1-2 May 2004. There will be lectures, access to on-line genealogical Web sites and databases, hundreds of exhibitors from family societies, local record repositories, computer software specialists, book-sellers, and many talks on Saturday or Sunday. They also have a special one-day conference on Friday, April 30. It costs £10, and includes four conference lectures and access to the main fair on either Saturday or Sunday. Tickets for just the main event on Saturday and Sunday cost £6 at the door or £4 if purchased before 23 April per day. For information or to purchase tickets, contact:

Society of Genealogists
14 Charterhouse Buildings
Goswell Road
London EC1M 7BA
E-mail events@sog.org.uk or order online at: www.sog.org.uk

Toronto Seminar

The Toronto Branch of the Ontario Genealogical Society will host an annual seminar on May 27-30, 2004 in Toronto, Canada. The theme is "The 3 R's of Family History: Resources, Research, Results." There are three streams of interest available:

- Methodology
- Technology
- Toronto, Ontario, and Canadian research

plus topics such as Society Management, genetics/DNA, and others.

www.ogsseminar.org

National Institute on Genealogical Research

The National Institute on Genealogical Research is an event to be held at the newly renovated National Archives building in Washington D.C. and in College Park, Maryland on 11-17 July 2004. It provides an on-site and in-depth look at the common and less-known federal records found there. This is an opportunity for experienced genealogists and for archivists, historians and librarians interested in using federal records for genealogical research. Attendees will spend a day at Archives II in College Park, Maryland, with



presentations on records there, and for an opportunity to conduct research there. Other sessions will discuss census and records for African American, military, land, Native American, legislative and cartographic research. Lectures on less-frequently-used sources and sessions on naturalization, citizenship, and immigration documents are also scheduled. Evening sessions at the Local History and Genealogy Room of the Library of Congress and the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution Library are optional. Enrollment is limited and will fill quickly. Tuition is \$325 for applications postmarked on, or before, 15 May 2004. For details, or an application brochure, go to: www.rootsweb.com/~natgenin/ or e-mail: NatInsGen@juno.com

Oxford, England Fair

The Oxfordshire Family History Society will hold Open Day 2004 on Sept. 25. It will include a workshop on scanning photographs, visiting societies and vendors, the society's library and search services, a beginners' helpdesk, computing demonstrations, and using the Internet for family history. For details, go to: www.ofhs.org.uk

Michigan Seminar

The Western Michigan Genealogical Society will hold a one-day conference on October 2, 2004 at Grand Rapids, Michigan. Speakers include Dick Eastman, Joan Griffin, and Shirley De Boer. For details, go to: www.GotAncestors.com •

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SV-PAF-UG meets monthly, except December, on the second Saturday of the month from 9 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 \$15 per year (\$20 for Canada and \$25 for other international). Members are offered classes at meetings, mentor help, *PAFinder* (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)	\$6
Personal Ancestral File 3.01M MS-DOS (diskette)	\$15
Personal Ancestral File 5.2.18 and 4 Windows, PAF3, and 2,31 DOS (CD)*	\$6
Personal Ancestral File Companion 5.1.3 Windows (CD)	\$8.25
Personal Ancestral File 3.01 upgrade, 4.04.18 and 5.2.18 and PAF Companion 5.13 upgrade downloaded at www.FamilySearch.org	free

* Also includes lessons and user guide

The following can be ordered from SV-PAF-UG:

<i>PAFinder</i> back issues if available, per issue	\$1 (order by mail or purchase at meetings)
Videos of classes	see www.svpafug.org for titles and prices
<i>Family History Documentation Guidelines</i>	\$10 + postage (see www.svpafug.org for multi-copy orders)