

Software Review: PAF Insight

By Lane Pendleton

Introduction

I have been working with the PAF Insight program for several months. I recommend it to genealogy users of all levels because of the many useful functions which include:

- compares a PAF database with the IGI on FamilySearch.org and updates the database with the touch of a button
- compares individuals from two PAF databases and selectively updates either one
- merges duplicate individuals within a database
- changes RIN numbers for selected individuals in a PAF database
- repairs internal database errors

The program has a good built-in help file. The user must have PAF 5 running in order to use PAF Insight.

Searching the IGI

One principal use of PAF Insight is to search the IGI and download selected data directly

“Compare and Sync” is a very useful function when you keep several versions of a database or are exchanging databases with others.

into your PAF file. It will download almost any data from the IGI directly into your PAF database or transfer data from any PAF database into any other PAF database with minimal effort. The download is fast from the IGI with DSL access. It also runs with dial-up service but it is slower. With either DSL or dial-up you can select up to ten names to search and let it work while you do some other task. It will accumulate the results in your computer memory that you can examine when you return.

Before you use the “Search IGI” function in PAF Insight, you must log onto www.familysearch.org and create a username and password. You can do this by selecting “sign on” at the FamilySearch home page, answering the questions asked, and choosing a username and password. If you also want to get LDS “Temple

Ordinance” data from the IGI, you must be a member of the LDS Church and enter your member number and confirmation date, which are available from your ward clerk. If you are not a member of the LDS Church, you can get a user ID and password, and will have access to the dates and places of events, but not the LDS ordinance dates

PAF Insight attaches itself directly to your PAF program, and appears as a selection on the “tools” pull-down menu. When selected, a menu of tasks appears and you can select “Search IGI.” The first time you run “Search IGI,” PAF Insight will ask you your username and password. Thereafter, it remembers this information.

PAF Insight searches the PAF file for persons who need temple ordinances and compiles a RIN sorted list starting with the lowest RIN number.

At this point you can continue with the choice “Needs Ordinances”, or switch to either (1) All Records, or (2) Incomplete Dates or Places, or (3) Incomplete Ordinance info or (4) those individuals with “Submitted” or “Cleared” entered in your PAF file. Several more choices for incomplete ordinances are also in the list of choices.

Using these options PAF Insight will select different lists of individuals from your file for its search. You make different selections from this list depending what you are trying to accomplish. Option (1) “All Records” and option (2) “Incomplete Dates or Places” are the only two that do not refer to LDS Temple Ordinance information.

When you select a number from the “RIN number” list and touch the “Search” button it immediately begins searching the IGI for the individual. In about 5 seconds (with DSL access) the pro-

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gram reports “receiving hits” and then displays candidate entries. Each is rated for percentage match between the IGI individual and the individual in your file. I find that an individual with an 80% or higher match is very likely your ancestor, those between 20% and 80% are possibly your ancestor, and those below 20% are probably not your ancestor. PAF Insight automatically chooses the area of the world to search based on the place stated in your PAF file. It always searches “World Miscellaneous” as a final try for each search. This is where entries are filed when the place is not specified or is incorrectly entered. The program makes several passes through the IGI to find a match with your file. It searches for name, birth date, place, etc. It also compares death date and place, and names of parents, and names of spouses, and many other tests. One time, my file had the wrong surname for an ancestor (Jones instead of Pendleton) yet the search located the entry and gave it a high match score. I assume PAF Insight found the IGI individual because the IGI entry had the same parents and the same birthday as my ancestor. I then searched my original source for that individual and discovered I had indeed entered the wrong surname in my PAF file. In my experience, PAF Insight typically finds about 20% more temple ordinances completed than does the Temple Ready program. You can change the time period to be searched by moving a slider bar to control the year range from the exact year to ± 11 years. If you do not get a match with the exact year choice, consider using a wider year range.

As you then select one of the matches that PAF Insight has found, it is

displayed beside your individual on a split-screen. The differences with the IGI file are highlighted in pink, and those that you may wish to copy into your file are selected. You can modify the selected choices by clicking the box next to the information in the IGI file. You can then copy the selections into your active memory by clicking on the “Update” button. If you later find data that you believe is a better match for this individual, the program will write over your earlier selection, and add any additional items that you have selected. When you are satisfied with the updates, you can select “Save” in the “File” pull-down menu. If you forget to save, the program will remind you when you try to exit PAF Insight.

You can copy any information found in the IGI into your file. For example, if you are convinced that the place of birth or spelling of the person’s name is more accurate than your data, you can copy the new data to your file. If the match has a spouse or parents that you lack, you can add them to your file if you are convinced the IGI contributor had sufficient data to justify this information. I am very wary about adding fundamental information to my file without verifying the data.

There is one feature of PAF Insight I do not like because it delays my decision of whether the IGI individual is the same individual as my ancestor. Information about your ancestor and the match from the IGI are shown on three separate split screen windows. It is necessary to move from one window to another to view all the information about the match. These windows are: (1) the “individual” screen which shows the RIN number for the individual, full name and sex, the birth date and place, christening date and place (if included), death date and place, burial date and place (if included), baptism date and temple name, endowment date and temple name,

and date your file was last modified. (2) The “spouses and children” screen which shows the RIN number for this individual, his/her name, names of spouses with birth and death years and RIN numbers, marriage date and place, sealing date and temple name, and the names of children born to this marriage with birth and death year and RIN numbers. And (3) the “parents and siblings” screen which shows the primary individual’s RIN number, the father’s full name with birth and death years and RIN number, the mother’s full name with birth and death years and RIN number, sealing to parents date and temple name, as well as the other siblings born to this marriage with their birth and death years and RIN numbers. You can move from one window to another by clicking a window title or by using the right and left arrows on the keyboard. This may sound like a large amount of information to review, but you can quickly scan the windows because the differences are highlighted in a light pink color. You quickly learn where to look for critical information, and all the data is available should any questions come to mind. However, it is time consuming to move between three windows to see all the information. When you want to verify if an individual from the IGI is your ancestor, you want to know if they have the same name and birth and death information, but you also want to check if the contributor identified the same parents and spouses as you have. When you select “update,” PAF Insight will update the checked information on all three windows, not just the window you are viewing.

There are two more split screens. They are the “notes” screen which compares any notes included for this individual, and the “sources” screen which compares the source information.

PAF Insight creates a source notation in your PAF file for each event updated. It includes the name, sex, birth date and place, death date and place, names of parents, spouses' names and marriage dates and places. It also includes how the information was added to the IGI (for example: contributed by a member), and the date you copied the data into your PAF file. It also includes: International Genealogical Index, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Family History Library, the church address, and www.familysearch.org. You cannot edit the source entry until later by using the PAF or PAF Pal 5 edit features.

There are some choices for your source notation. Go to "Options" under the "Tools" menu and select "FamilySearch". There you can change the user name and password, and choose how source citations are handled. You may choose either:

- Don't add sources
- Add most recent IGI source only
- Always add new IGI sources

PAF Insight will also copy any available notes into your file, or notes can be edited or added using PAF Insight.

I have used PAF Insight continuously for 4 hours. Familysearch.org response did not slow down or limit my access. By listing several names ahead to be searched PAF Insight searches faster than I can use the information found (with my DSL connection). PAF Insight receives the first match in about 5 seconds, and several more are usually found in the next one or two seconds. It may take another 10 seconds or longer before PAF Insight has exhausted its search and moves on to search for the next selected individual. PAF Insight may often need much more time for very common names like John Smith because there are so many names in the IGI to check that could be a match. The program does not display hits that are obviously not your ancestor. It does display the number of hits it is ignoring. I have seen this number exceed 3000. I usually push the "stop" button after 10 to 20 hits. I believe important hits are rarely found after 10 or 20 hits. Not all hits represent separate submissions. Some are updates to the IGI such as adding the temple name where an ordinance had been performed or adding the actual date to replace the words, "before 1970".

I have found several additional uses of PAF Insight that are useful only to LDS Church members. The most useful is to update my database when the temple ordinances for individuals that I have submitted have been completed. Both PAF and Temple Ready have an option to automatically add the word "submitted" (with a date) to your file for each ordinance you submit. (I usually avoid adding the note while selecting names in PAF

because the Temple Ready program may select individuals such as parents or spouses to submit other than those checked, or reject one of the individuals. If you choose to add "submitted" while running Temple Ready, you will get the actual list of ordinances submitted.) The value in making this entry is that it prevents you from submitting the same ordinance more than once. A second reason is that it is then easy to find the individuals you have submitted using "Advanced Search" in PAF. PAF Insight has a choice in a pull-down menu to select "Cleared or Submitted" individuals in your database. You can then search the IGI and quickly identify the completed temple ordinances for the individuals that you submitted and copy the dates and temple names into your database with no risk of typing errors.

I have found other lists of RIN numbers available from PAF Insight useful. The "All Records" option makes a list of all RIN numbers, and you can then select any RIN number to compare with the IGI database or to look up in your PAF database. This option is particularly useful to determine if parents are sealed so you can have the children sealed to their parents. Temple Ready does not check to see if other ordinances have been completed before clearing names to submit to the temple to have temple ordinances completed. It is the responsibility of the person submitting these individuals to see that the ordinances are done in the proper order.

Compare and Sync Two Databases

"Compare and Sync" is a very useful function when you keep several versions of a database or are exchanging databases with others. I keep one PAF file for descendants for a family organization. The file is frequently updated as more grandchildren are born. It is inconvenient to update more than one database when new individuals are added. I find it easy to forget which database has been updated and which has not. I want my primary database to always be up to date. I periodically compare my databases and add any new information to my primary database and to the others when appropriate. The "Compare and Sync" feature does this task easily and efficiently.

To use this function first open a primary file with PAF Insight. This is the file that will be changed. As you select "Compare and Sync," the program asks you to locate the secondary file. It will display a comparison of the names and RIN numbers for the 2 files. It also shows the same three split screens used to compare search results. It only displays individuals with differences, however you can further limit the number of individuals. You have 3 choices: (1) all differences, (2) right side more recent, and (3) changed or new records. Choice 2 "right side more recent" is used when several people are updating the same database. You could review only

the changes made by an updater. Choice 3 is the default choice. It shows all records with a difference except those records that exist in the primary database only. For these records there is nothing to update.

You can re-order this list by clicking on the column headings. This will display the data with either: (1) ascending RIN number for either the primary or secondary file, (2) alphabetically by the names in either the primary or secondary file, or (3) by ascending percentage match between the two files. You can select any pair of names to display. Differences in the data are highlighted in pink. You only need to look at differences. You can choose the data that you want to update, item by item. For example, you can update a place and not the date, even though the dates are different.

There is an important button, "Add", along the top line next to the "Update" button. The "Add" button adds the selected individual or group of individuals from the secondary file to the primary file. It preserves the family links. When it cannot determine where the individuals are linked, it notifies you. You would then need to later make these links using the PAF program. You can select a group of individuals that can be added at the same time. Select the first individual in the group then hold the shift key while selecting additional individuals.

You can save your results at any time and return later to continue your work. Pairs of individuals who have been synchronized will disappear from the list when you reopen this function because the differences are gone. When the primary list is the more accurate, you would not want to update. PAF Insight will continue to show a difference. I could not find a way to mark a pair to say "don't show me this pair again."

Edit RINs and Pedigrees

When using "Edit RINs and Pedigrees," you are shown a RIN sorted list of your file and the corresponding names, and a column that reads "Main Pedigree". If you scroll through the names, you may see "Pedigree 2" or "Pedigree 3." These are "islands," which are individuals or groups of individuals not linked in any way to the main pedigree. Usually, these individuals become disconnected when a link is broken and can be re-linked using the PAF program. You need to record the RIN numbers before you exit PAF Insight to link these individuals. Islands can also be created an erroneous link is discovered and not all of the individuals affected by the link are deleted. Such individuals must be deleted.

Using the "Trim" feature in "Edit RINs and Pedigrees," you can select the ancestors or descendants of an individual to make to new PAF file, or to delete from the file. The selected individuals are marked in red on the pedigree chart and on the status list. You can

"Trim" several times to create the exact pedigree you want before you save the results. There is an option to restore all or part of those you have chosen to delete. Using combinations of these choices gives you a lot of flexibility in creating a new file.

"Change RIN numbers," another option available in "Edit RINs and Pedigrees," is used to assign specific RIN numbers to individuals or groups of individuals, or to re-number them at the end of the list or with unused RIN numbers. When you assign RIN numbers already in use and then save, PAF Insight does not discard the individuals whose RIN numbers were reassigned. These individuals are given new RINs starting with the vacated numbers. You can use sorting processes mentioned earlier to group individuals to assign them new RIN numbers.

Repair and Compact

"Repair," according to Ohanasoftware, is similar to the PAF repair function but more thorough. It may find errors that PAF missed. When I run this function on my files it reports "no errors found" and I don't know how to create an error for testing.

"Compact" reassigns RIN numbers starting with 1 and using all RIN numbers. If there are no unused RIN numbers within your file, there will be no change. Since I would never want to change my RIN numbers, I have no use for this function. Unused RIN numbers can also be removed using PAF. You can export your PAF file as a GEDCOM file and then import this file into a PAF file. When you import, you must use the option called "reuse deleted records" to use all RIN numbers starting with 1. Be sure to unselect this option if you do not want to reassign RIN numbers in your file. The compact function is useful if your storage space is limited such as when you store your file on a floppy disk.

To Order the Program

PAF Insight is available at www.Ohanasoftware.com, or at 1-877-436-3256. It costs \$20 to download or \$30 on CD-ROM. There is no trial version but they have a 30-day money back guarantee. Your payment includes three years of updates, and you will be notified via e-mail when an update is available.

Ohanasoftware also has several other programs for genealogy:

- *Personal Historian* helps write a personal history.
- *PAF Pal 5* will expand or abbreviate states, provinces, and/or British counties. Search and replace 2 letter LDS temple codes with 5 letter codes. Also it has global search and replace in notes.
- *Family History CD*: helps maintain a master CD that can be shared with other family members and easily updated from input from other family members.
- *Amimap Plus 2.5*: 2,300 current and historical US maps

Hopefully these instructions will be of use to you. If you have questions, you may e-mail me at: lanependleton@sbcglobal.net

News For Genealogists: **Everton's Genealogical Helper Is Back, Genealogy for Teenagers, Britain and Ireland Forum**

Everton's Genealogical Helper Is Back

After relating the troubles at Everton Publishers, we have good news. As promised, Bobbie Coray and Walter Fuller are the new leaders who have directed the continued publication of *Everton's Genealogical Helper*. This is to be the new name for *Family History Magazine*, which was originally published with that name.. The November/December issue is in the mail, and all subscriptions to *Family History Magazine* will be honored by the new owners. The company was sold several years ago, and the new owners changed the format of the magazine. When financial difficulties ensued, the company folded, and the assets were sold to new owners. The company's extensive library was donated to the city of Logan, Utah, and the new owners announced they would resurrect the magazine in its original format, which they have done.

Holly Hansen and Jenni Johnson have returned as editors of the Helper. As the owners of My Ancestors, they have extensive experience in professional research, organizing research retreats and offering specialty products to the genealogical community. They have years of experience in preparing one of the most professional and popular genealogy magazines. The newest issue has 160 pages of genealogical help and information. They hope the magazine will improve with age. You can find more details about

the restructured company at: www.everton.com/

Genealogy for Teenagers

TeenGenes is a genealogy organization for teenagers in Independence, Missouri. Each Saturday, the group presents a special program in the branch alcove at the Genealogy and Local History Branch of the Mid-Continent Library. The program called "Our Favorite People" features TeenGenes members who portray documented ancestors found through their personal research. The members dress in period attire and capture the flavor of the time and place where the ancestors lived. The regular meeting of the group is held on the fourth Thursday, January through October, to discuss and research their family history.

Britain and Ireland Forum

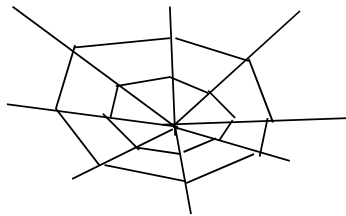
The National Genealogical Society has a new subscription service for NGS members doing research in Great Britain and Ireland. The NGS Britain and Ireland Forum is a special interest group which provides custom-tailored information genealogical interests and family history offerings for England, Wales, Ireland, and Scotland and special discounts on products and services. The cost is \$25 per year. For more information, go to: www.ngsgenealogy.org/britishislesforum.htm.

Spider Webs: Dutch Civil Records, Encyclopedia of Genealogy

Dutch Civil Records

The Dutch have kept civil records of birth marriage and death since 1811. These records become public domain after 50 years for death records, 75 years for marriage records, and 100 years for birth records. They are released in 10 year blocks, so you may add another 10 years to the time to get the record that you want. Before 1811, the churches and a few local government officials kept records. The civil records and some of the other records are being transcribed by volunteers and are then posted on the Genlias website at: (www.genlias.nl)

A civil record, somewhat unique to the Dutch, is the "statement of succession." It began in 1808 and was required of any heir to declare any inheritance. The information was used to calculate death duties. For genealogists, these records provide information to the financial status of individuals and although relationships are often not stated, the inheritance is evidence of relationship and can lead to a will or other probate record.



Another Website helpful to those doing Dutch research is Genlias Monitor at: genliasmonitor.coret.org This site posts news of sources for Dutch records, including the status of the records being posted on the Genlias Web site. This site is available in either English or Dutch. It includes a search engine for the records at the Genlias site. This search engine is unique because it saves the search criteria and reruns the search periodically to find additional records that have been added to the database. Searches are limited to 500 returns. When new data is found, you are automatically notified by e-mail. Both this site and the Genlias site are free. This site also includes both a user forum and a "Frequently Asked Questions" page found at: <http://genliasmonitor.coret.org>

Encyclopedia of Genealogy

The *Encyclopedia of Genealogy* is a free compendium of genealogical tools and techniques. It provides reference information about everything in genealogy except details about your ancestors. In a few months, the site will describe how to do research for Italian, German, Polish, French-Canadian, Jewish, Black, Indian, and other ancestors. The *Encyclopedia of Genealogy* continues to grow with new articles written by genealogists. You can help by contributing articles based on your expertise. If you see anything in this encyclopedia that is incorrect, obsolete, incomplete or misleading, you can change it.

The Encyclopedia of Genealogy uses wiki software. It is a collaborative Web site program where anyone can add to or edit any page of the encyclopedia.

The site has about 200 articles, and the author hopes that it will grow to 5,000 or more articles. As the encyclopedia grows, it will be a goldmine of information for all genealogists. It was initiated by Dick Eastman, author of a popular genealogy newsletter. To see the Encyclopedia of Genealogy, go to: www.eogen.com

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

By Dr. Cornelius D. PAF

Indenting Notes

Q I would like to be able to indent some paragraphs in my notes and even have columns. Is there a way to use the tab key?

A The tab key by itself doesn't work, but Ctrl-Tab (while holding down the Ctrl key press the Tab key) will cause an indent. The setting is for 5 spaces. There is no way to change the settings, but they are available at 5 space intervals from the start of the line. This is also available in the Actual Text of the Source citations.

Sending PAF Data

Q If I want to send a file to a relative, should I send it as Backup file or a GEDCOM file?

A It really depends on what genealogy database program the relative is using. If it is not the PAF program, the relative probably won't be able to use a backup file. A GEDCOM file could be read, but unless the relative has PAF 5, if you have PAF 5, you should chose the PAF 4 option in the export window.

GEDCOM File Problems

Q What is the difference in GEDCOM files? I heard that PAF5 GEDCOM files could not be read by other programs.

A The difference is which characters the program can handle. The earlier GEDCOM files understood only the basic characters in the original ANSI character set. The ANSEL character set included letters with diacritic marks. Unicode or UTF8 are used when the language needs a set of entirely different characters. This would include Japanese, Chinese, Korean, Arabic, Hebrew or Cyrillic (Russian and others).

When PAF 5 started to use Unicode for the GEDCOM files, some other programs could not handle the characters. These programs were generally those like RootsWeb who received GEDCOM file submissions to their large databases. This was corrected. Also PAF 5 gives you a choice of format when exporting a file. When you are exporting to a friend, a good choice is PAF4 unless you know that the friend can handle PAF5 format of GEDCOM file.

Restoring a Backup File

Q I am concerned about restoring a backup to my file. I would like to be able to restore my backup file to a different data file first. It appears that the backup only restores the data to a file of the same name as the backup.

A One idea is to rename your main file on the desktop, and restore the backup to a new file.



Don Snow has a good suggestion:

... rename the backup file when doing the backup. PAF gives you that option before it does the backup. I rename it with the date when I back it up, e.g. Smith-2004-10-24. Then when this is restored it has the name Smith-2004-10-24 and doesn't overwrite the earlier file. I write the date in this way so that they all alphabetize in order and I can see at a glance what the latest version is. When the main file gets fouled up (and it will sooner

or later) I can go back to a previous backup. We encourage people to keep at least 2 generations of backups so when (not if, but when) their file gets fouled up they can go back to a previous good backup and will have only lost the last work session and not the entire file. Some people think that by making several backups at the same time they are preventing data loss, but if the file is fouled up in the machine, they probably won't know it, and all their backups will be fouled up too, and they will have lost all their data. We are working on a large 35,000-name file now and we backup versions a couple of times a day with the date and a, b, c, etc., after that. We've had to go back to earlier backups to check on stuff that we have changed inadvertently and without the earlier ones we couldn't check it."

Living of Dead?

Q How does the PAF program determine whether a person is dead or living? I have some who were born in the 1700 hundreds that were included in a list of the living.

A The PAF "Help" screen gives the criteria used by the Web site creator for determining that a person is deceased:

- The individual's death date or burial date contains information. This may only be the word "deceased."
- The individual was born or christened at least 110 years ago or married at least 95 years ago.
- The individual's spouse was born or christened at least 120 years ago.
- One of the individual's children was born at least 95 years ago.
- One of the individual's parents was born or christened at least 200 years ago or the parents were married at least 110 years ago.
- One of the individual's siblings was born or christened at least 130 years ago.

If neither the birth date nor the death date is available the program may not recognize the person as deceased. If you have records of persons who would fit the above criteria you can always enter "deceased" in the death date field even if there is no birth date.

Stranger Than Fiction: The Unknown Ancestor, Surprise Revelation from DNA

The Unknown Ancestor

Tristan da Cunha is an Island lying about 2800 km off the African coast. It is not near anything, so it offers little except solitude and privacy. It seldom makes the news. Recent events may change that.

On the island, there are only seven surnames. These are spread among the 300 inhabitants, who, according to the detailed genealogical records, are descended from only fifteen ancestors who came to the island between 1816 and 1908. These seven men and eight women, who came from Scotland, England, Holland, the United States and Italy, left genetic trails to their descendents with their DNA.

Professor Himla Soodyall and colleagues at the National Health Laboratory Service, the University of the Witwatersrand and the South African Medical Research Council, decided to conduct a test of these DNA trails to test the accuracy of the island's ancestry. They took DNA samples from 76 males in 1982 from the various families on the island. Professor Soodyall headed the research team which based their research on the Y chromosome DNA which is passed down by fathers to their sons, like a surname. The findings of the study proved to be quite interesting.

First of all, DNA samples have uncovered a previously unknown male ancestor from Eastern Europe who visited the island and left some descendents but not his surname. His identity will probably remain

unknown. DNA researchers refer to such an occurrence as a "non-paternity event." The second surprise was that there were some extramarital affairs among the founding families. Some of the DNA from the founders got into families where it should not have been. A third surprise was a new line of DNA which scientists have decided was caused by a mutation of one of the genes. This is a natural occurrence.

Who said that science is boring? If you do know someone on Tristan da Cunha, it may be best to keep mum. They have not seen the results of the study.

Surprise Revelation from DNA

Rev. William Sanchez knew that his ancestors came from Spain, but there was something different about his family. His parents and relatives would never say why this was so other than an occasional comment about their distant past in medieval Spain. As he grew older, he quit asking about the family's past until three years ago when Rev. Sanchez watched a television program about genealogy and DNA.

His childhood curiosity was rekindled. He sent for a DNA kit and sent in a sample of his DNA. The genetic pattern of his DNA was compared to patterns of other racial groups to find kinship.

In a call from Bennett Greenspan, who owned the Houston-based DNA testing company, he was asked, "Did you know you were Jewish?" Mr. Greenspan ex-

plained that Sanchez was a "Cohn," a literal descendent of Aaron, the brother of Moses. Males in this group held the rights to the priesthood and could officiate in the synagogue. This explained why the Sanchez family never ate pork and did little to celebrate Christmas.

When the Jews were dispersed, many came to Spain to escape the anti-Semitism rampant in other parts of Europe. The Moors were much more tolerant of the Jews than the Christians there. As the Moors were driven out of Spain, the Jews were given choices of becoming Catholic or being stripped of their occupations or even their lives. When Ferdinand and Isabella united Spain with their marriage, they soon decreed that all Jews must either leave Spain or be put to death. Columbus had difficulty finding ships and sailors because the Jews were lined up at the ports waiting for the next available ship.

During the 1530s and 1540s, many of the converted Jews in Spain migrated to Mexico City. Many had been baptized, but secretly practiced Judaism in their homes. In Mexico, they felt safe enough to continue their Judaism. The women were primarily responsible for the preservation of the Jewish traditions and passed them on to their daughters. The men were less religious because their business took them outside the home where they had to keep up the appearance of being Catholic to succeed. On the outside, these Jewish families remained nominal Catholics, but on the inside they were Jewish.

Recently Published: California Colony

California Colony

California Colony: Genealogy, Landgrants and Notes of Spanish Colonial California by Doris Shaw Castro is a book about the Spanish settlement of California. As early as 1769, Spaniards began the European settlement of California. The area was claimed first by Spain, then Mexico and finally the United States in 1848. More than 1,000 California colonists and their offspring are included in the book along with arrival dates, occupations, and census data.

The book begins with the history of California, but most of the book contains details about the individuals who colonized the colony. The book explains the Spanish naming system, which includes both the paternal and maternal surnames. The book has twelve appendices and an excellent index. The appendices include information about California nobility, Christian missions, sailing expeditions that sailed around the area and Spanish silver and gold discov-

eries. Also included are a list of the large land grants and their ownership, locations and sizes.

Doris Shaw Castro has spent many years researching the history of these colonists. She has traveled in California, Mexico and Spain doing her research. She received a bachelor's degree from the University of Iowa in 1943 and did graduate studies at Radcliffe College in Cambridge, Massachusetts. She worked as a newspaper reporter and freelance writer, living in Mexico City, Berlin, Madrid, Spain and Vienna, Austria.

California Colony: Genealogy, Landgrants and Notes of Spanish Colonial California in paperback sells for \$22.50 and is also available in electronic format which you can download for \$6.95. Either version can be purchased from the publisher's Web site at: www.authorhouse.com/BookStore/ItemDetail.aspx?q3=ln7tndoPUA8%3d

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Silicon Valley Computer Genealogy Group

www.svcomputergenealogy.org

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

SV-CGG meets monthly, except December, on the second Saturday of the month from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints building, 875 Quince Avenue, Santa Clara, CA. We offer classes and sponsor guest speakers at meetings to help family historians with computer technology and research techniques. Membership dues are US\$15 per year (US\$20 for Canada and US\$25 for other international). Members are offered classes at meetings, mentor help, *Silicon Valley PastFinder* (a monthly newsletter published each month there is a meeting).

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| Classes | Leland Osburn | telephone 408 243 8348 |
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Using the Family Tree Maker Program
Using PAF on the Macintosh
Using PAF Insight

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