

PAF5 Add-On Programs

By Mary Lou Harline

PAF is one of the favorite genealogy computer database programs, partly because it can be downloaded for no cost, and partly because it is friendly to the user, and partly because it is easy to get help. There are some missing features found in other software that PAF have coveted. Now there are several programs available that add these features to PAF. These are programs that can be started from the PAF Tools or Help menu but the programs must be purchased.

PAF Companion

Major features of Version 5.2:

- Add color on some charts
- Basic Family Group Records will print extra spaces for more children, creating a Worksheet
- The Family Group Record can start the notes on a separate page
- Create reports in PDF form, as a file or printed
- View of ancestors, descendants, HourGlass and Bow-Tie charts on screen
- Children and their data are available in the Ahnentafel report
- Compare PAF data with records in Pedigree Resource File
- You can run Personal Ancestral File (PAF) without

There are some missing features found in other software that PAF have coveted. Now there are several programs available that add these features to PAF.

- exiting PAF Companion
- You can use the program with the 3.x, 4.x, and 5.x versions of PAF

PAF Companion was originally created to be used with PAF 3, which was still a DOS program. With printers that could only handle files created from Windows applications, PAF 3 reports and charts couldn't be printed. Progeny, a Canadian company, created PAF-Mate to print PAF reports and charts on Windows only printers. PAF Companion, distributed by the LDS church, was released a short time later.

Twelve charts or reports are available:

- Family Group Record
- Standard Family Group Record
- Kinship Report
- Hourglass Chart* (ancestors and descendants of chosen person)
- Ancestors
- Ancestor Chart (Box)*
- Fan Chart*
- Ahnentafel Report
- Bow Tie Chart* (Maternal and Paternal ancestors)
- Descendant Chart (Box)*

- Outline Descendant Report
- Register Report
- *color can be added

Some of these charts can be very large. You can print them on single pages and tile them together to create a large chart. You can vary the size of your chart and preview to make sure you can read the text. You have a choice of what data to include in your report, and a choice of format. You can also publish the chart to PDF format and save it to a disk. Many copy shops have printers that will accommodate paper up to 36 or 48 inches wide and can use a PDF format to print your chart on a single sheet. Find what the copy shop requires before you create a large report.

The files with boxes have many color options. You can add color with a choice of coloring by generation, by your four major lineages, or by gender. A default set of colors is available or you can choose your own color scheme.

A preview of your chart can be shown using the PDF format. You have a choice of printing to your printer, or clicking on Publish and saving

your chart in PDF format, and displaying the file on your computer screen. The Ahnentafel (Ancestors) and Register (Descendants) Books are not saved in the PDF format.

If you have the Pedigree Resource File Master Index on your computer, PAF Companion will also compare names in your records with the Master Index. This is faster than comparing manually and you can print a list of the CDs where data for your ancestor can be found with the PIN for each individual.

PAF always creates a Family Group Record with the husband's data first and then the wife's data. With PAF Companion, if the wife is highlighted to be the main person in the Family View, (colored yellow in the Name field), she will appear first in the Family Group. The two printed family groups are very different. The "Family Group Record" uses a format similar to that of PAF, but the "Standard Family Group" version differs because each event has its own line. In both of these printable records, you can add spaces for more children (a worksheet), and choose to include notes and sources.

The HourGlass Chart displays both maternal and paternal ancestors spreading out from a selected person. The Kinship Report displays the relationships of relatives to a cho-

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sen person. It can be a very big chart but there are options to help you achieve a smaller size.

Along with the usual format, PAF Companion will create a Fan Chart as a half circle, a full circle or a quarter circle. The name is included, as well as a birth year and death year. Although it does not give full data for a person, it is helpful to introduce your ancestors to a non-genealogist.

The pedigree chart can have 4, 5, or 6 generations per page and you can specify the number of generations to print. If your data for the pedigree chart won't fit on the page, the program will reduce the text font so it will fit.

The program is available from FamilySearch.org in two formats. At "Download Software Free" you can download the free evaluation version with most of the features of the full program. If you decide to unlock (purchase) the program, the "Unlock" button displays a phone number to LDS Church Distribution Services where you pay by credit card and get the key to unlock the full program for \$6.75. At "Download Software," you can order a CD that includes PAF 5.2.18 for \$8.25.

PAF Pal

The developer of this program, Steve Cannon, was prominent in the early development of PAF. He developed PAFPal to work inside PAF and includes features that PAF doesn't have. It runs from the Tools Menu in PAF.

The release for PAF 5.2 includes these features:

- Display photos for spouse and parents in the "Family View" screen, instead of just the individual
- Changes the arrow at the left of the child's name in the "Family View" screen to a bullet symbol when the child has a spouse, but no children
- Search and Replace for names, Notes, and LDS Temple Codes
- Search and replace parts of names
- Expand abbreviations of US states, Canadian provinces, and/or Great Britain counties
- Abbreviate all names of US States, Canadian provinces, and/or Great Britain Counties

- Do Search and Replace in all notes
- Enables Internet Searches for Ancestry.com, Genealogy.com, and Roots-Web.com
- Displays or prints statistics about the people in your file such as the number of descendants of a person by blood line or included spouses of descendants or demographics about names in the file
- Add or remove USA or U.S.A. (your choice) from places in the United States
- Clear Custom ID fields, Ancestral File Numbers, or all LDS fields
- Creates reports of changes after fields are changed or cleared

If you were a user of PAF 2 and miss the songs that were in that version, they are in PAF Pal, with a few more added.

You can order PAF Pal from Ohanasoftware.com, RootsMagic.com, or order directly from PalSoftware, 1065 West 10210 South, South Jordan, Utah, 84095. The price is \$18.00 with an additional \$1.19 sales tax for Utah residents; \$2.00 for shipping outside the USA. Go to: www.ohanasoftware.com

PAFWiz

The developer of PAFWiz is Gayland Findley, the developer of Ancestral Quest. AQ was the first database structure for PAF as a Windows program – PAF 4. Ancestral Quest has since added many new features and currently has provided PAFWiz to allow PAF users the use of these features. PAFWiz is installed to be run from the PAF 5 Tools menu, or click on the PAFWiz icon on the desktop and it will bring up a PAF file.

Features:

- Searches the Online IGI
- Name List: columns of information for each name in the file.
- Sort the list using any column with a click on the column label (sort by place name, death place, or another column headings)
- Family View has Arrows (Chevrons) at the left of a child's name (one for descendants, outline for no descendants, and two if you came to page via this child)
- Family View will show relationships of names on the screen to a selected person
- Scrapbook can be exported to another

- program with an option to include the photos
- Search the Online IGI to add data to your files and access LDS Temple Ordinances if you are registered
- Search Ancestry.com: in free sections and if you are a subscriber in those sections
- Pedigree Chart can add pages of notes for the names on the pedigree chart.
- Print reports to PDF files
- Print fan charts up to 13 generations on paper 4 feet wide
- Print a line-of-descent drop line chart
- Help to create a Web Page
- Enhance existing PAF reports and charts with more options
- Print book reports to WordPerfect

The Help sections describe many other features. Among these is a help for GEDCOM files. It describes a method to verify that a GEDCOM file that you are sending will include what you want and exclude what you don't want.

You can order PAFWiz from www.ancquest.com/pafwiz. You can download the full program for \$19.95, or order a CD for \$24.95 plus shipping.

PAF Insight

This popular program is a product of OhanaSoftware. An inclusive review of PAF Insight was the first page article in PASTfinder for January, 2005. A new version has been released: Version 2005.5.31 is mainly a bug fixer. Once you purchase PAF Insight, you can download updates for three years. Go to: www.ohanasoftware.com

Genealogical Quote

Second Marriage: The triumph of hope over experience.

Samuel Johnson 1709-1784

English Author

Collecting Oral Family History (continued)

By Allin Kingsbury

Part 1 of the article can be found in the May 2005 PastFinder.

The Interview

The way you ask questions is extremely important in creating the quality of the interview. The first rule in conducting the interview is to avoid questions with short answers. You want the person to relate experiences, so ask open-ended questions that tell the person what you want them to discuss. For example, you do not want to ask, "Did you have any exciting experiences as a child?" The answer to this question may be a short "Yes." A better way to phrase the question is, "What were some of the memorable experiences you had as a child?" An even better way to keep the person talking is to say, "I would like you to tell me about some of the memorable experiences that you had as a child." A second technique which you must master is to be patient. Silence is necessary to keep the person thinking about the experience. You may get more of the story after you thought the person was finished if you wait. As you listen to the story, jot down any questions that you have and ask them at the end of the story. If the person launches into another experience before you can ask your question, you may have to wait until the end of the session.

A good interviewer will sense reluctance by the person interviewed and can probe for more of the story without offending the individual. A few questions may be necessary to remind the individual that the audience would like to know more about specific parts of the story. Some stories are sensitive and perhaps they should not be included in the interview if the individual decides that the story should not be finished. The interviewer needs the trust of the person and some questions will have to be asked in a sensitive manner so as not to offend or seem to be pushing the individual to disclose more that seems appropriate.

Leave the recorder running at the end of the interview. You may think you are finished and the person may agree with you, but there is a good chance the person will recall another experience that should be part of the interview. You can always record over the final section of tape if nothing more is said.

Be sure you thank the individual for their time and effort and willingness to have the interview recorded. You should get written permission from the person to publish the interview and to make any necessary edits. You should also tell the individual that you will give them a copy of the interview and follow up promptly by sending a copy that they can play at their home. This may entail asking a few questions about whether they have a VCR or a computer that can play audiovisual CDs. You should also have the next session of the interview scheduled before you leave.

Telephone Interviews for distant relatives

The cost of long distance phone calls has been dropping over the years. The low cost and savings in time make over-the-phone interviews an attractive alternative to a face-to-face interview with a distant relative. You forfeit the opportunity to videotape the interview with this option and the quality of the sound is not as

good over a telephone line. However, the phone option gives you an interview and if you can visit the relative at a later date, you could get the video interview then.

You will need the same advanced planning for a phone interview as you would for a visit. You will need to plan a time for the interview when there will be no interruptions. You will have no opportunity to view facial expression during a phone interview, so you will need to be very attentive and take good notes as the interview progresses so that you can return to statements that need more detail or clarification.

When setting up the interview, you will need to instruct the person to have any notes, letters or other documents available if they are needed and to prepare a list of things to discuss in the interview to cover the topics chosen for the session. They should also have a glass of water ready and pencil and paper within reach should they need it. Should an interruption occur, you can continue the interview at a later time. You can begin the next session by reading what was said immediately before the interruption.

After the Interview

The recording of the interview should be your archive copy. You may want to distribute copies of the entire interview and you may want to take some shorter excerpts to add to your computer scrapbook as video clips or audio clips. If you record digitally, there is no deterioration of the data unless you use a compression technique which reduces the quality of the data. A non-digital recording can be converted to a digital recording using a sound or video card with your computer. The archive copy is your back-up of the data and should be the best quality of data that you can preserve.

The interview tape should be edited to make it more appealing to the audience. With the necessary editing tools, a title page can be added at the beginning with some music or narration in the background. If you desire, Subheadings can be inserted to identify the various parts of the interview. The interview will have silent spots where the individual paused to think, repetition of statements, mistakes where person started over, and perhaps an embarrassing statement that would be better left out. These sections can be edited out of the final interview. If you are skilled in video editing, you could substitute still pictures of places and people mentioned in the interview. As long as you do not change or destroy the original (archive) copy of the interview, you can always start over on a portion of the interview if you do not like the results of the editing.

Make a Transcript

A typed transcript of the interview is very useful. Copies can be given to individuals who do not have the equipment necessary to play the recorded interview and the text can be used in any printed publication. The text should follow the interview and use the words and expressions of the individual, but statements not related to the subject should be deleted. False starts, mistakes, and undesirable phrases should also be deleted. A date or place that could not be remembered should be inserted where it belongs in the interview. Verbal insertions of useless phrases like

“um” or “Let’s see” should be taken out. If the interviewer says words or phrases like “interesting” or “then what happened” which are intended to show interest and approval and also help keep the story going, they may be omitted from the transcript.

The interview should be typed word for word to match the interview as it is played. It can then be edited to remove redundant statements, false starts, mistakes. If there are any corrections, explanations, or additions to a story that come later as a result of questions being asked later in the interview, these should be inserted at the proper place to maintain continuity and keep the story clear. Corrections should be kept to a minimum to preserve the style and the personality of the person being interviewed.

When the interview and transcript are ready for distribution, copies of both should be given to the person interviewed. A review by the subject could yield corrections or additional stories that you may want to add to the interview. The copies are a courtesy that the subject would expect in return for the interview. After all, the interviewee is the primary author of the interview.

The transcript in electronic format also offers another significant advantage. The text can be searched for words or phrases by the computer to quickly find passages. The transcript can be useful in making an index to the interview, and for extracting portions of an interview to use when writing a family history.

Making the Interview Worthwhile

An interview can be used as part of a larger project. A friend from Southern California persuaded Professor Shumway, who was a family friend, to personally conduct an oral interview of her par-

ents to be used in a celebration of her parents’ fiftieth wedding anniversary. A copy of the tape was sent to a typist who transcribed the interview. Family members then chose the best of their family pictures to illustrate the interview. These included family activities and family groups taken as the children grew up, pictures depicting events such as the father’s enlistment in the army, graduations, and the parents wedding. There were also a few pictures of places where they lived.

The transcript was edited. The edited interview was used as the text of a book and illustrated with the pictures. The result of the effort was a book professionally printed and bound with a hardcover binding. Copies were given to each family attending the anniversary party and to others who were unable to attend the event. Considering the cost of publishing the book, the copies were expensive. The family felt the book was worth every cent of cost and every minute of effort expended, because they had achieved their goal of honoring the lives of their parents and preserving their memory for all that knew them. I am sure that after attending the fiftieth wedding celebration and receiving the book as a gift, few if any of the guests put their book on a shelf unread.

Conclusion

Important stories about the lives of family members are lost as the elder members of our family die. Many of these individuals love to tell the stories, but will not make the effort to write them down. The oral interview is an excellent technique to gather and preserve knowledge about family members. The electronic and software technology available today helps make the task easy to do and can help us produce professional-looking results with a little work on our part.

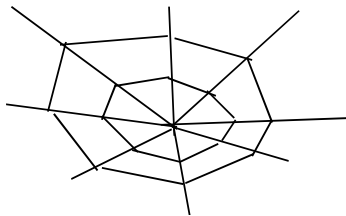
Spider Webs: Canada Divorces, Los Angeles County Burial Permits, Genealogical Society Blog

Canada Divorces

The Centre canadien de généalogie, a division of Library and Archives Canada, has added a database of Canada divorces to their Web site. This index to the actual records covers the period of 1841-1968. Only the names of the petitioner and spouse, and the citation number are included. One must obtain the actual record for more information. Go to: www.genealogy.gc.ca, and click on “Databases.”

Los Angeles County Burial Permits

The Southern California Genealogical Society Web site now has an index of Los Angeles County Burial Permits from 1870 to 1892. The permits were signed by doctors, pastors, medical attendants, health officers, priests, ministers, or Justices of the Peace of Los Angeles County who recorded information about the deceased or were in attendance when the person died. Some records were omitted due to unreadable handwriting and faded ink.



The index has no search engine, but is organized as a long list with bookmarks for the letters of the alphabet. The surnames are in alphabetical order, and easy to find if spelled correctly. The data recorded in the index includes:

- ID number
- Name
- Date of Death: Age
- Race/Color
- Sex
- Condition
- Nativity (country or state of birth)
- Place of Death or Residence
- Place of Burial or Church
- Occupation
- Misc.
- Certificate No.

Many entries include the abbreviation “NHDVS” for National Health Department of Veteran Services. This indicates that the person was a veteran, and suggests another source of data about the individual.

The free database is at:
www.scgsgenealogy.com

Genealogical Society Blog

A Blog is an online newsletter that is continually updated with new stories. A new Blog created and maintained by Colleen Robledo called *Genealogical Society Exchange*, where, according to Colleen, “genealogical societies from all over the world can share ideas about promoting genealogy collections, services, tools, and awareness, and also share tips for fundraising and recruitment.” It does not contain postings of meetings and special events, research tips, or queries, but is a place for genealogy groups to share news and advise each other. You can find this Blog at: <http://genexchange.blogspot.com> or <http://genexchange.blogspot.com/atom.xml> if you have an RSS newsreader.

Software of Interest: Genealogy], GRAMPS 2.0.0

Genealogy]

Genealogy] (Genj) is a free viewer and editor for genealogy data which works from a GEDCOM file. The program runs on Windows, Macintosh OS X, Linux, and Solaris operating systems. It can also operate on a Web server as a viewer program for a genealogy home page. It is a good program for checking and editing GEDCOM files.

A major feature of the program is the many formats available for working with the database:

- The Table View presents a large table of all individuals with columns listing the dates and places of events recorded for the person. The table has many of the features of a spread sheet. The rows can be sorted by the data in any column. The table can be browsed by scrolling up and down

- The Tree View presents a descendency chart showing three or more generations with the parents at the top followed by children and then grandchildren.

- The Timeline View displays the events in the GEDCOM file from the earliest date on the left to the latest on the right. The timeline is useful for discovery of incorrect dates and places.

- The Edit View displays the names, dates and places which can then be modified. The edited data is then saved by clicking on the "OK" button.

- The Navigator View offers a quick way to find an individual in your family tree or move from place to place in your pedigree.

- The Report view offers a choice of several standard reports available in other genealogy programs. The user can also generate custom reports, but some knowledge of the Java programming language is necessary.

Genealogy] is available in English, French and German, and can be translated by the user into any other language. The language data can be edited by the user without any need for programming experience. The language is contained in text files which can be edited by any word processor.

Genealogy] can also be used to display data from a GEDCOM file on a Web site. The GEDCOM file is uploaded to the Web site and the program is linked to the Web page as a Java applet. The program is written in Java, a modern and flexible language that works equally well in Windows, Macintosh, Linux, and Solaris systems, both locally and on Web pages.

Genj can be downloaded free to your computer, and then installed to run on your computer. For more information or to get the program, you can go to the following Web sites: <http://genj.sourceforge.net/page/screenshots/en> (screen shots), <http://genj.sourceforge.net/page/applet/en> (sample Web page using Genj), <http://genj.sourceforge.net/help/en/frameset.html> (user manual), and <http://genj.sourceforge.net/> (download and more information).

GRAMPS 2.0.0

The GRAMPS project has quickly followed the initial release of the program with a version 2.0.0 update. GRAMPS is a general-purpose genealogy database program that can support genealogy databases of up to 100,000 names. The program works on Linux and Macintosh computers, and is compatible with other popular genealogy programs by supporting GEDOM import and export. Reports can be generated in OpenOffice, HTML, PDF, AbiWord, Kword, RTF, LaTeX, and PostScript formats, making the program compatible with almost all word processors. Translations are available to use the program in the following languages: Chinese, Czech, Danish, Dutch, Esperanto, Finnish, French, German, Hungarian, Italian, Norwegian, Polish, Brazilian Portuguese, Romanian, Russian, Spanish, and Swedish.

A major change from version 1 to version 2 is a change to Berkeley database from the XML format used in the earlier version. The new version can read and convert databases for the earlier version.

Other changes and new features include:

- Changes immediately written to disk
- Alphabetical tabs removed
- Add/remove/rearrange columns in list views
- Undo added
- Tip of the Day
- Right-click in Pedigree View displays parents, children, spouses, and siblings
- Export wizard
- Find function for list views
- Date selector dialog
- Name editor enhancements for patronymic names and non-default grouping
- Native editing for GRAMPS XML and GEDCOM formats
- New import and export filters available for the GeneWeb format.
- Statistics Chart added
- Mime types for formats known to GRAMPS.
- Schemas and proper structure for GConf keys, immediate preference effect.

For more information or to download, go to: <http://gramps.sourceforge.net/about.html>

Alan Mann Coming

Alan Mann, a manager at the Family History Library in Salt Lake City, will be the featured speaker at a seminar at the September meeting of SVC GG. Watch the Web site for more details.

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

By Dr. Cornelius D. PAF

Q How should I file family group records for my great-grandmother who had a second husband and had children by him. Where would I file her family group record.

A You might consider storing these records right after the records for great-grandmother's husband on your direct line.. This will be out of alphabetical order but easier to recognize the family that they are related to.

You can file the records in alphabetical order. Be sure the name of the second husband is on the family group sheet with great-grandmother and her first husband.

Q Most of my ancestors had more children than can fit on the first page of a set of family group records. The notes always start on the same page as the name of the last child. I click on “Notes on first page” hoping that the notes would start on a new page, but it doesn't. What can I do.

A Really not much. The “Notes on first page” is only for a family group record that has room for all the children on the first page. If the notes aren't long, you may be able to get the whole family on one page.

Q How do I enter a second wife for an ancestor? If she is a widow, should I include her first husband? What about her children?

A With your ancestor's name highlighted in the Primary Position (upper left corner) in the Family View, right click on the name, or click on Add in the Menu bar. On either one, click on Add Spouse. The usual dialog box comes up, choose from adding a new individual or selecting an existing (in your PAF data) individual. Complete the individual data. Save it. The marriage screen should appear. Enter the data and save. Don't forget the



notes and sources. If this is the second spouse an “Other Marriages” box appears above the husband's box. Click on the “Other Marriages” box, highlight the name of the newly added wife. Click on her name, you will be returned to family view with the second wife displayed.

If she has children by this husband, add them in the usual way.

To enter her other husband, click on the up-and-down arrow by her box, to put her in the primary position. Go through the same procedure to add her first husband that you used to add her. And if they had children, they should be entered also.

The second and third part of the question about the need to record a second family requires an explanation. If there were children by a first marriage, and although you are descended from the second marriage, the children of the first marriage were almost certainly raised by the second spouse unless the marriage is recent. For a recent marriage, these children from the first marriage may have been adopted by the second husband. The probate records will certainly be confusing to someone looking at a genealogy database where there were unrecorded marriages because children from the other marriage are likely to be named in these records. Even if there are no children by one of the marriages, the wife will change her surname with each marriage. An unrecorded marriage can cause confusion in this case too, because her surname in the second marriage will be that of the first husband. The family structure for individuals with multiple marriages can be very complicated, but to have complete documentation about the family and to avoid confusion to anyone who looks at your database, you should include all spouses of your ancestors, and all children or these spouses, and other marriages and children of other spouses. It is unusual to find children in a family where both parents are step-parents, but it has happened, especially on the frontier where medical help was minimal and life expectancy was short. If your ancestor was raised by a step-parent, you certainly need to record the other marriages in the database to give the reader a road map for this ancestor.

Recently Published:

Finding Your Chicago Ancestors

Finding Your Chicago Ancestors - A Beginner's Guide to Family History in the City and Cook County by Grace DuMelle is a reference book for genealogical research in Chicago. It lists the many repositories of Chicago records. The book also provides suggestions in doing research of Chicago records, which give insight about the contents, quality, and availability of these records. The author shares the many things she has learned about using Chicago records.



Grace DuMelle is the founder of Heartland Historical Research Service (HHRS), a organization that compiles the history of houses. She has also done family history projects, including oral histories by senior citizens. She also lectures on the genealogical holdings at the Newberry Library in Chicago.

Finding Your Chicago Ancestors - A Beginner's Guide to Family History in the City and Cook County is a 329-page paperback which sells for \$16.95. It can be ordered from publisher, Lake Claremont Press, or from your bookseller (specify ISBN: 1-893121-25-9).

Stranger Than Fiction: The Hard Way to Read Tombstones, Dowsing for Bodies

The Hard Way to Read Tombstones

A commercial photographer in Athol, Massachusetts needed some pictures of tombstones. She visited a local cemetery and used a power wire brush to buff the lettering on 400 of the cemetery's oldest tombstones to improve readability of the pictures. When she was arrested, she said she had no idea that the buffing would harm the tombstones and that there were no laws against cleaning the stones. The authorities reminded her that there are laws against vandalism of private property and desecration of cemeteries. She could face a prison sentence and more than one million dollars in fines.

That is just the beginning of the photographer's problems. It appears that there is similar damage to several other ceme-

teries in the area.

Dowsing for Bodies

Tom Corey of McCook, Nebraska located unmarked graves at Boxelder Cemetery. The Boy Scouts were cleaning up the cemetery and Tom discovered that he could find burial sites with a dowsing rod. He does not know how it works, but it does. There is a narrow area that passes through the cemetery where the dowsing rods give uncertain readings. This is probably due to an underground spring that passes through the cemetery on the way to Red Willow Creek which runs nearby. Some of the older graves give a weak reading. It is difficult to detect a burial site with dowsing rods if the body has been in the ground for more than 100 years. The scoutmaster, who watched the entire procedure, did suggest a theory of why the

dowsing works. He figures that the souls of the dead remain in the grave and disturb the magnetic field of the earth. These disturbances are detected by the dowsing rods.

The records for the cemetery are incomplete, but they do list 110 burials. There are far fewer grave markers than the records indicate. Many of the early pioneers used wooden markers and intended to replace them with stone later. The wooden markers did not survive the weather and prairie fires for very long.

Tom Corey loves to find unmarked graves. He dowses for graves because of his interest in genealogy and history, and because of his respect for the lives and sacrifices of his ancestors. He feels better now that small white crosses mark the graves that he has found.

News For Genealogists: Joplin Library Wins Suit by Genealogy Society, NHPRC Gets No Funding for 2006, Ireland's National Library Going Independent

Joplin Library Wins Suit by Genealogy Society

The Joplin Public Library in Missouri recently won a judgment in a lawsuit filed by the Joplin Genealogical Society. The society wanted to operate the library's local history room and retain control of its materials. They also asked for \$50,000 in damages. Jasper County Circuit Judge William Crawford ruled that the materials are to remain a public resource rather than change to private ownership.

The Joplin Genealogical Society was formed in 1981 to increase the local history and genealogy collections at the library. They had given many genealogy publications to the library. They claimed that the library had destroyed some of the collection and were not happy with the relationship.

Judge Crawford did rule that items donated to the society to be placed in the collection also belong to the library. The judge said that he found no evidence that any donor placed any restrictions upon the use or ownership of the materials. Materials stored at the library but not donated to its collection remain the property of the society or its members. The library has no plans to remove any items from the collection. Genealogy magazines and newsletters addressed to the society and not stamped with library markings will be returned to the society.

NHPRC Gets No Funding for 2006

The National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC) is the victim of Presidential budget recommendations for Fiscal Year 2006 which slash or eliminate more than 150 fed-

eral programs. This means there are no funds for the grants program and no funds for staffing. This will be the end of NHPRC.

The Council of State Historical Records Coordinators, the Society of American Archivists, and the National Association for Government Archivists and Records Administrators are working to save NHPRC and ensure that NARA has enough funding to sustain its current programs and continue efforts that benefit archival repositories in the United States. They have created an online petition to rally support from the public. The petition will be presented to the House Appropriations Committee and Subcommittee on Treasury, Transportation, HUD and the Judiciary in late May. The petition is at: www.savearchives.org Information for writing letters to Congress can be found at: www.savearchives.org www.coshrc.org and www.archivists.org

Ireland's National Library Going Independent

The National Library of Ireland will become independent of the government. The library was established by the Dublin Science and Art Museum Act of 1877. The Genealogical Office, the Office of the Chief Herald, and the National Photographic Archive are all part of the National Library.

The April 23 of *Irish Times* reported that Irish Minister of Arts John O'Donoghue named senior counsel Gerry Danaher as the library's first chairman. The government will retain responsibility for the library and the National Museum, which also is becoming autonomous, but the boards of the institutions will control "policy, promotion, and staffing decisions.

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

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