

Finding Death Dates Without Vital Records

By Allin Kingsbury

Vital records are a recent invention. Some states did not begin keeping official death records until the early twentieth century. Other states began recording deaths in the mid-nineteenth century. If you want the death date of an ancestor who died before 1850, you will need to look for other records where death dates were recorded. The earlier the death date, the number of possible sources seems to become fewer and the sources seem to be more difficult to find.

Recorded death records began after several medical organizations wanted statistical information to help identify public health problems. Changes in the death rate from a specific cause could alert medical officials to the start of an epidemic being spread by poor sanitation, ineffective treatment, or new strains of a disease. The larger cities were the first to record deaths because the cities had more problems that contributed to the spread of a disease, such as poor sewage treatment, common water supply, lack of sanitary garbage and trash disposal, and close proximity of the people necessitating quarantine for certain diseases. You may find yourself fortunate that a death record for your ancestor was recorded by a city or county long before the state began recording deaths. Should the local

Without a death date, you may miss a second marriage, additional children, or a move to a distant place. A death record can help find some big surprises in your family

records exist, you will need to determine whether they have been microfilmed or whether you must hire a researcher or visit the repository of the records.

If the state did not record death records at the time your ancestor died, there are a number of other places deaths were usually recorded. These records include mortality schedules, obituaries, headstone inscriptions, cemetery records, mortuary records, probate and court records, family bibles, church records, and pension records. These sources are discussed in this article. There are other sources of death dates such as old letters, old newspapers, contemporary diaries and more which are less reliable in finding a date, but may possibly have the information that you seek.

Obituaries

An obituary is common today and is included along with a funeral and burial in the process of dying. The obituary was not as common during the nineteenth century and earlier. If you do find one for an ancestor, it usually has a wealth of information. In addition to a

death date, many will list the spouse, children and sometimes grandchildren, their places of residence, children who are deceased, and the names of spouses of the children. Often there is a biographical sketch which will mention career, hobbies, and accomplishments.

Copies of obituaries are often kept among keepsakes, old letters, or in family bibles by elderly members of a family. If an obituary is not among family records, you can check for collections of obituaries kept by local historical societies or search old copies of the local newspapers.

Mortality Schedules

Each U.S. Census taken from 1850 through 1880 includes a mortality schedule which is separate from the count of the people that most genealogists search to determine names and ages of family members. The mortality schedules are actually vital records to provide statistical information about the leading causes of death in the United States. The government collected this information at the request of doctors and other health ex-

perts who felt that the data was important. These schedules contain the name of the deceased, place of residence, age, death date and cause of death. Unfortunately, only those who died during the twelve months immediately before the census enumeration date were recorded if the enumerator learned of the death and recorded the information. Some individuals were missed. At best, only ten percent of the deaths in the United States were recorded in the mortality schedule. For those who died during the year before the census was taken, you have the equivalent of a death certificate.

The mortality schedules are separate from the population census, but they are available on microfilm from NARA. You can check to see if the mortality schedule you need is available at any other repositories or on the Internet.

Headstone Inscriptions

Most individuals were farmers in the early nineteenth century and earlier and usually died where they lived. A search of local cemeteries is likely to be successful in finding a headstone. The headstone will give you the name, a death date (sometimes just

(Continued on page 58)

What's Inside

| | | | |
|--|----|------------------------------------|------|
| Spider Webs | 59 | Ask Dr. PAF | 62 |
| Carmack's Guide to Copyright & Contracts | 60 | Stranger than Fiction | 63 |
| Software of Interest | 60 | News for Genealogists | 64 |
| Recently Published | 61 | Information/September 2005 Seminar | |
| Software of Interest | 61 | By Alan Mann | back |

Death Dates

(Continued from page 57)

the year), and usually the age at death or year of birth.

Many local historical societies have indexed the headstone inscriptions at the local cemeteries and much of this information can be found on the Internet. If that is not the case for you, you can sometimes get the information by writing to the cemetery. If it is an old family cemetery, a trip to the cemetery or hiring a researcher to look for the headstone may be necessary.

Cemetery Records

The person who oversees a cemetery has a record of those buried in a cemetery and a list of owners of the various plots. The list of burials is very helpful for older cemeteries where headstones have been damaged or destroyed by vandalism or weather. A letter to the cemetery may get to the sextant or overseer of a cemetery in a small town where the locals know who takes care of the cemetery. Large cemeteries in larger towns and cities may be listed in the phone book.

Mortuary Records

The mortuary that handled the funeral of an ancestor may still be around and have records about the family of the deceased. Mortuaries tend to be family businesses and some have passed on through several generations of a family. Their records may surprise you. My great grandfather's obituary mentioned the mortuary which handled the funeral, so I wrote to them and asked if they had information about the family. I was surprised when I received a reply that listed the parents and grandparents of my great grandfather. I had written more than thirty years after the death of my great grandfather.

Probate and Court Records

If there was property or other wealth to be divided among the heirs, you can almost be sure there is a probate record. In the probate record you will find a copy of the will if there was a will. If not there is a statement that the person died intestate. In that case, an executor is appointed by the court and the estate is divided among the heirs ac-

ording to the law that applies. Some probate records do not give the date of death.

If there were minor children, their guardians were probably appointed by the court (usually a different court than the probate court) if it was the father or a single mother who died. If the court decided guardianship, the court records would list all the minor children, the guardian (often a member of the family), and sometimes the death date of the deceased.

Occasionally there was a dispute among family members about inheritance or guardianship and the courts were involved. This was occasion for more genealogically valuable information to be recorded.

The death date does not always appear in probate records or death-related court records. However, you do know that the death occurred after the date of the will and before the date of the probate hearing. The probate usually occurred within a year of the death date.

Family Bibles

It was a common custom to record births, marriages and deaths of family members in the family Bible. It is very likely that your ancestor had one. If you do not know of the existence of a family Bible, it still may be in existence. It could have gone to a distant relative or to a local historical society. You may have to do some detective work to find it, but it will be worth the effort if you are successful.

Church Records

In the British Isles and the European countries people were usually buried in the church yard. Cemeteries not maintained by the state church were very rare. The churches kept very good records during the sixteenth through the nineteenth century which included burial records for nearly everyone. The state church was accepted as the place to have a deceased family member buried.

In North America, there were many denominations of Christian churches. Most of them kept records of christenings, marriages and burials. The problem with finding church records in America is that you must know the denomination. Once this is known, one can then go to the repository where the records for the denomination are kept. Records of a few of the very old churches in colonial times have been transcribed, indexed or microfilmed. Most

church records are not indexed and are recorded in chronological order. If you are looking for a burial record and do not know the approximate death date, and if the congregation was large, the task of finding a specific burial may take a long time.

Pension Records

Civil War veterans and veterans of earlier service were often awarded pensions by congress. The government files dealing with these pensions are a good source of genealogical information. Applications often list children and spouses of the veterans and certainly contain the notification of death. Care was taken by the government to ensure that pension checks were returned if they were undeliverable due to death. In most cases, the pension would continue for the widow. In this case, the researcher gets death dates, or the month that payments stopped for both the veteran and the widow.

Land Records

Land Records sometimes indicate a death date. When the landowner dies, property is passed along to heirs. In some cases, the property is sold and the proceeds given to the heirs. This is usually done soon after the death, but it could take longer. Often the change in ownership of property was not recorded for many years, and the recording may only be done if the property passes outside the family. In most cases, land records offer little help.

Conclusion

Death dates can be found for most individuals in the 19th and 20th centuries. If you have a lot of individuals without death dates, you probably have not looked at all the possible sources. Without a death date, you may miss a second marriage, additional children, or a move to a distant place. A death record can help find some big surprises in your family, or it may record a quiet ending for an individual. Important things happen later in life for some. Immanuel Kant wrote the book that brought him fame when he was age 64, and "Grandma" Moses started a successful painting career in her 60s. If a genealogist should decide that death dates for these individuals are not necessary, he or she may miss their most important contributions.

Spider Webs: PDF Online, Lutheran Roots , Find a Family History Center, Birth Dates, Ontario Gravemarker Gallery, 1841 Engand Census, Castle Garden, Kentucky Land Documents

PDF Online

Now you can create files in .pdf (Portable Document Format) files or .html (HyperText Markup Language) files from a computer using Windows, Macintosh, Linux, UNIX or other operating systems. Software to create these files has been expensive. Now, there is no software to buy or install. PDF Online is a free service that converts any of several popular word processor formats to PDF and HTML documents. To use the service, you upload the document and it is e-mailed back to you when the conversion is complete. The time required depends upon the backlog of the service.

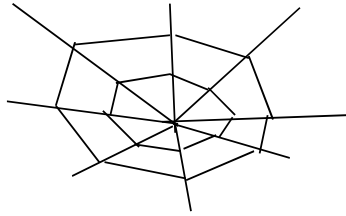
Conversion to HTML can be done from PDF (Portable Document Format), RTF (Rich Text Format), TXT (Simple Text Format), DOC (Microsoft Word® Format), or XLS (Microsoft Excel® Format). Conversion to PDF can be done from most processor files including OpenOffice. The service will handle most picture file formats including BMP, GIF, JPG, PNG, TIFF, and WMF. PowerPoint files are also treated as images. The site has a maximum upload file size of 2MB. To use the site, go to: www.gohtm.com

Lutheran Roots Genealogy Exchange

If you have ancestors who were Lutheran or if they may have been, you will want to visit the Lutheran Roots Genealogy Exchange. The two important features of the site are the family genealogy registry, and the message board. Registration is required to add your family to the family registry, but not to browse the registry. To visit the site, go to: www.lutheransonline.com/lutheransonline/genealogy/

Find a Local Family History Center

Most of our readers have visited a Family History Center. For those who have not, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints has a large network of Family History Centers scattered over the United States and Canada and around the World. Currently they have more than 3,400 centers worldwide. The centers are staffed by volunteers and opened free of charge to the public. The centers began in the 1960s as a means of making microfilm



of genealogical records, which was only available at the Salt Lake City Family History Library, available locally to genealogists. For a modest fee, films from the two-million rolls of microfilm filmed by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints can be rented for a few weeks at any Family History Center. Some of the centers are quite large with extensive collections of books, microfilm, CDs, and microfiche. Others may be new with just a few film readers and minimal reference material.

To find the nearest Family History Center, go to: www.familysearch.org/Eng/Library/FHC/frame/aset_fhc.asp The Web site not only lists the location, but also lists the hours the center is open and the telephone number of each Family History Center. Hours may change, so you should phone to verify the hours before going there.

Birth Dates

AnyBirthday.com was a controversial Web site containing more than 135 million names, birth dates, and zip codes of individuals born in the United States. Many thought the site created an invasion of privacy and a source of information for identity theft. Genealogist found the site especially helpful for locating long-lost relatives and in conducting reunions for everyone of the same surname. Should you try to access the site you get a "Site not found" message. Their phone has been disconnected.

A new site with similar data is now online at: www.zabasearch.com and Steve Morse had a birth database at: <http://stevemorse.org/birthday/birthday2.html>

Northeastern Ontario Canada Gravemarker Gallery

The Northeastern Ontario Canada Gravemarker Gallery contains 75,000 images of headstones which can be browsed or can be found with the search engine.

Cemeteries in the region are organized into counties and districts. Visit the site at: <http://nocgg.maddoc.net>

1841 Engand Census

Origins Network, the company that recently put the 1861 census of England online, now has the 1841 English census online. The 1841 census is the first in England to include the names of every person living in a household. Parents, children, and other relatives are identified by their relationship to the head of household. Many families had others living with them who were unrelated. These are identified by occupation and relationship, for example boarder or servant, and an occupation like maid, cook, or groom. To visit the site, go to: www.britishorigins.com

Castle Garden

More than 73 million Americans can trace their family from immigrants who arrived at in New York at the Castle Garden immigration facility in lower Manhattan. The facility was closed after the new facility on Ellis Island began operations in 1892. The Castle Garden records from 1830 to 1892 are now online at: <http://castlegarden.org>

Kentucky Land Documents

The State of Kentucky has a huge collection of records stored in the basement of the state Capitol building. Included among these records are many books of land records for the state. These records are being scanned and made available on the Internet. The Web site was redesigned about a month ago and new land records are being added as they are digitized. To visit the site, go to: www.sos.ky.gov

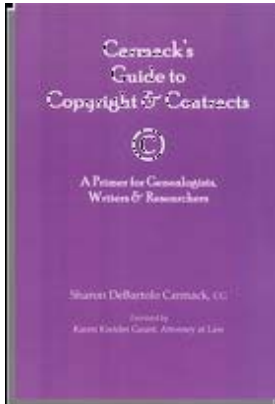
Quotable Quote

The only time you realize you have a reputation is when you're not living up to it.

Jose Iturbi

Pianist and conductor

Carmack's Guide to Copyright & Contracts



Carmack's Guide to Copyright and Contracts: A Primer for Genealogists, Writers & Researchers by Sharon DeBartolo Carmack is a 118-page reference book about copyright law for the genealogist. The book explains when you must ask permission to reprint the work of another author, what you can publish from information that you find on the Internet, and what works are protected by copyright. If you are going to publish a family history, you need to know about copyright law before you publish.

The book is organized into chapters which explain the essential principles of U.S. copyright and contracts. A few of the less-

understood subjects covered in the chapters include: illustrations, maps, and reproductions; public domain; permission to publish; ghost writing and works for hire; and publishing contracts for books, periodicals and electronic media. The book is written in layman's language and easily understood. In addition, there is a glossary, a 4-page index, and a resource directory. The preface is written by Karen Kreider Gaunt, an attorney who specializes in intellectual property rights. Ms. Gaunt states, "... you don't need an attorney to answer many of the basic questions. At last, a work has come along that skillfully navigates these issues and more with straightforward, easy-to-read explanations in a question-and-answer format."

Carmack's Guide to Copyright and Contracts: A Primer for Genealogists, Writers & Researchers lists for \$15.95. It is published by Genealogical Publishing Company, and can be purchased at their Web site at: www.genealogical.com/item_detail.asp?afid=&ID=883 or ordered from book stores specifying ISBN 0-8063-1758-2.

Software of Interest: Readerware, Family Tree Legends 5.0

Readerware

Readerware is a card catalog database for anyone with a large library and Windows, Macintosh OS X, Linux, and Palm as the computer operating system. Most libraries use expensive software designed for librarians and compatible with the card catalogs that they had been using. Readerware is designed for the home library maintained by an individual or family.

The program minimizes the time required to set up and to maintain the card catalog. Most card catalog software requires the user to manually enter every piece of information such as title, author, publication date, description, and so forth. Readerware requires the user to enter the ISBN number of the book, and the program gets the other information. An automatic search of Web sites will get the required data, and enter it into the database. If the book is listed by the Library of Congress, the British Library, a major online book retailer, Readerware will automatically copy the title, author(s), publication date, and a brief synopsis of the book with no need of keystrokes by the user. Readerware can also extract cover images from Web sites and add them to the database. For genealogists who want to catalog manuscripts, family bibles, Photostats, letters and other genealogical documents, the Internet link will not help, but the user can scan any items and include these images in the database.

If you have a bar code reader attached to your computer, instead of entering the ISBN, the Readerware program will scan the bar code and obtain the ISBN. Bar code readers can be purchased for less than \$100. Readerware will give you a "free" bar code reader if you buy their bundle of programs on a CD.

Readerware can display the card catalog or print a copy on 3-by-5 index cards or in a spreadsheet format. The spreadsheet formatted format can be exported to Excel and other spreadsheet programs as a .csv file. The card catalog can also be published on the Internet, either in full or in part. If you loan books, Reader-

ware can track loans and notify you of overdue books.

Another feature of Readerware helps the user to build the book collection. The program has a shopping cart and can shop for best prices on the Internet. If you want to buy the books, you can proceed with the purchase.

Readerware sells for \$40. Bundled versions are available which include software for catalogs of Video (DVD and Laserdisc) and Music CDs. Readerware has a trial version of the program for all the operating systems which will operate for 30 days. For more information, to download the trial version or to purchase online, go to: www.readerware.com

Family Tree Legends 5.0

Pearl Street Software released version 5.0 of Family Tree Legends with a number of new features. A major feature is the CD or DVD creator that is used to share data with others. The disk contains both the data and a "read only" version of the software to view the data. The recipient must have a Windows PC that can read the CD or DVD. The program runs from the disk and no software is installed in the computer.

More charts are available including ancestor and descendant charts and fan charts with 1/4, 1/2, and 3/4 pie styles. The scrapbook print feature is easier to use and has more options. Backup can be done on CD or DVD. The Correspondence Tracker is used to manage all correspondence. Links for e-mail correspondence speed up the reply process.

Another added feature is the handheld computer interface for GedStar Pro using Palm handhelds and for Pocket Genealogist using PocketPC. These interface programs are trial versions with slightly reduced features.

The program sells for \$29.95. For more information, go to: www.familytreelegends.com/

Recently Published:



Ireland's Memorial Records: World War I 1914-1918

Eneclann has released a CD-ROM called *Ireland's Memorial Records: World War I 1914-1918*. As the war ended, the Committee of the Irish National War Memorial compiled the information now on this disk under the direction of the Earl of Ypres. They gathered eight volumes of information about 49,400 Irishmen who served in the British Army and lost their lives fighting in the Great War. Only one hundred copies were published in 1923. Now Eneclann has published the eight volumes on a CD-ROM. The original page images 1923 can be viewed and the data can be searched by computer.

The data recorded for the individuals includes name, rank, regiment, date of death, and regimental number. For most individuals, the county or place of birth and the place and date of death are recorded. The committee that extracted the names from official records was unable to obtain a complete list of the names of the fallen Irishmen in the Navy, Air Force, and Colonial Regiments. All of Ireland belonged to the United Kingdom at the time, and the army regiments were part of the British Army. Many regiments consisted solely of Irishmen. The books covered all the counties in Ireland, including what is now Northern Ireland.

The program opens with an introduction. There also is the Preface & Statistics, which gave a bit of background information about Irish deaths in World War I. The user can either search or browse the books, names, and entries. The Simple search option allows the user to specify surname, forename, date of birth, and year of birth. Unknown fields can be left blank, but at least one field must be filled in. The Advanced Search operates in a similar fashion, but the user can specify the regiment, regiment number, and rank.

The disk operates on Windows and Macintosh systems. There is no software installation, the program runs from the CD-ROM and the data is read from the CD. Extensive help files explain all facets of the program. PC operation requires Windows 98 or later. Macintosh operation requires a Power Macintosh with at least 16 megabytes of RAM memory and the OS X operating system.

Ireland's Memorial Records: World War I 1914-1918 sells for

Ireland's Memorial Records: World War I 1914-1918, The Journal of Genetic Genealogy

\$99.95 plus shipping. For more information or to order online, go to: www.eneclann.ie/publications-13.asp

The Journal of Genetic Genealogy

Many families have begun collecting DNA samples of family members with the hope that the information gleaned from the tests will help with the family history. There are many instances where the genetic information has been helpful in answering family history questions. Many other family historians are following the progress of DNA analysis and its applications to genealogy. If you fall into that category, you may want to read the *Journal of Genetic Genealogy*.

The *Journal of Genetic Genealogy* (JoGG) is a free online journal which will report on the progress in this new scientific field. The first issue has been published on the web site: www.jogg Some of the articles are technical and may be difficult to read for those without a scientific background. The editors of the journal promise that they will strive for a balance between technical articles written for the experts and articles of general interest written for the genealogist. The editorial board consists of: Whit Athey, Editor; Dennis Garvey, Associate Editor; Tom Roderick, Associate Editor; Terry Barton; Ann Turner; Stephen Perkins and Richard Barton. Ann Turner has been active in the Silicon Valley Computer Genealogy Group.

The JoGG editors are planning to expand their board. If you are interested or know of someone who could contribute to this publication, contact them. They are also looking for feature articles, communications (short articles of 1-2 pages, and covering a narrow subject), reviews, editorials and letters to the editor to publish in future issues. If you have an idea for a piece that you would like to write, you should contact the editor and discuss your ideas before proceeding.

The articles and shorter features in the journal can be viewed as html pages with links to other Web sites and to any referenced articles. There are also .pdf versions of the articles without the links which can be downloaded and printed. Printed copies of articles can be distributed, but subject to the agreement following the table of contents on the Web page.

Hardware of Interest: Petabyte Storage from Capricorn

A new database of French-Canadian christening, marriage and death records has weighed in at 1.5 terabytes of data. The Web server for the New England Historic Genealogical Society has more than 1.5 terabytes of disk storage capacity. The computer industry has products available for requirements that exceed requirements expressed in terabytes. You can get a much larger storage device if you need it. You probably do not.

Capricorn Technologies has recently delivered more than a petabyte of storage to the Internet Archive, a non-profit organization in San Francisco. Internet Archive captures periodic snapshots of the Internet. To picture the storage available in this product,

you could store more than one billion floppy disks full of data or almost 2 million CD-ROMs full of data. A petabyte is one-thousand terabytes or one million gigabytes, or one billion megabytes. You probably do not want a petabyte of storage for your computer. The Capricorn Technologies system fills sixteen equipment racks. In other terms, it is larger than a home office but smaller than a two car garage.

The good news is that large memory is affordable. The new system costs about \$2 per gigabyte, or about \$3000. That is less than the cost of some early PCs.

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

By Dr. Cornelius D. PAF

Backup

Q I have been hearing about problems concerning backing up my data. What do I have to watch for?

A First of all, it is vitally important to backup up your data and keep it safe. You don't want to lose Genealogy databases, pictures and written histories as well as other documents. For genealogy data the big questions are (1) what format should be used, (2) the media to use to backup the data, (3) how often do you make a backup and (4) where do you keep the backup.

(1) We usually think of a backup as a file created by the PAF program that we can restore through the PAF program if we need to. If the backup can only be restored by the program that created it, you must be sure to keep a copy of the program or have an alternative to the PAF created backup. This could be a copy of the file itself, or a GEDCOM file. The latter choice is better because it can be imported into another genealogy program so you can read your data.

(2) Floppy disks (3.5 inch) have been the mainstay for holding backup files. There are problems with this:

Floppy drives are no longer available on newer computers. The solution is to buy an external floppy drive.

One floppy disk is too small to hold a really large file. The PAF backup program will allow for a backup file to be on more than one disk. You are prompted on what to do.

Floppy disks can fail with age. The solution is to use more than one disk, reformat the disk, or back up to a new disk.

You need to make more than one backup copy because if you have a bad disk, the backup file will not be readable when you try to restore the file. If your data is corrupted and you backup a corrupt file onto a disk with the backup of a good file, you will lose the data in the good file. If you use a rotating set of disks and backup data on a floppy that was used three or four backups earlier, you will probably notice that you have a corrupt file before you backup over a good file. Three disks is a minimum to have in a set, five is better, or even ten. Each disk needs a number, a label showing what file you are backing up and the date you did the backup.

Use your hard drive to store a backup file. Problem: One of the reasons for a backup is to prevent losing your data when the hard drive crashes. (Note that many people say not IF it crashes, but WHEN.)

CD discs can be used for backups. PAF cannot burn a backup on the disc, but you can create a backup file on your hard drive and let your CD creator do the work. Problem: If you are using a copy of a database as your backup, you must remove the “read only” restriction before using the database.



Flash Drive, (thumb drive, memory stick) can be very useful. It is another drive where you can store the backup file. The smallest size is enough to handle many backups.

You don't have to have a set of the drives, but you need to give the backup file a name with a date so you know how old it is.

(3) A good rule for how often you need to create a backup is to do it when you have entered enough data that you don't want to lose.

(4) At least one storage place for a backup is away from your house. Another is to submit your data file to an Internet program like World Connect on RootsWeb.com or to the Pedigree Resource File on FamilySearch.org. When you submit to the Pedigree Resource File (PRF) a copy of your database will be stored in the Granite Vaults of the LDS Church. It will also be an entry in the PRF index on FamilySearch.org with the complete GEDCOM file included on a CD that must be purchased or found in a Family History Center.

Marking Existence—Photo, Sources

Q How can I know if an individual has been linked to a photo or have notes or sources entered for a person?

A In the “Family View” screen and in the “Pedigree View” screen, when a source or a note has been added to the person a small triangle is displayed in the upper right corner of the box with the name of the person, or for a child in the “Family View” screen at the end of the line with the child's data.

When any multimedia item (photo, audio clip or video clip) has been added to the person, a small square box will be shown in the same place—alone or inside the triangle when notes or sources are also entered.

From the “Pedigree View” screen, a few clicks can show which photo has been chosen for display on the screens: Right click on the name box of person, left click on “Photo” to display the photo. You can also click on “Multimedia” to add another photo, start the slide show, or display the scrapbook.

Changing Slide Show Time

Q How can I change the length of time for a photo to be displayed in the Slide Show?

A Go to “Tools,” then “Preferences,” click on “Multimedia.” Here you can choose the number of seconds for the photo to be shown. You can also set the slide size to screen ratio and choose a fast link to the photo or better quality of the photo. A background color is also available for the slide show as well as the scrapbook.

You can choose to not show a photo in the family view. You can also choose to use photo placeholders when using “Print Preview.” This option can be changed if using “Preferences” in the “Reports and Charts” screen.

Stranger Than Fiction: Connecticut Indian Tribe Is Denied Family research, Another Genealogy Scam, Web site Identifies Bank Robber

Connecticut Indian Tribe Is Denied Family research

Francelia C. Johnson has always been very helpful to individuals trying to find their ancestors in and around Kent, Connecticut. She is an amateur genealogist and president of the local historical society. Her home is stacked with stacks of loose-leaf notebooks detailing her research.

The Schaghticoke Indians, who have lived in Kent for generations, have a casino and an investor with deep financial pockets. The tribe would like to have the genealogy records because they could document the history of the tribe. Francelia C. Johnson has decided not to give her research to the tribe.

The Schaghticoke are in a hurry to produce more evidence that shows that the tribe did not die out in the mid-1800s. The federal Bureau of Indian Affairs plans to make a final decision on the Schaghticoke this fall following a decision this May that overturned the tribe's recognition. The BIA recently said it was willing to accept a limited amount of new material on Indian-to-Indian marriages in the 1800s. Such evidence could prove the Schaghticoke

survived as a tribe and are not just a collection of individuals with Indian roots. Fred DeLuca, founder of Subway Restaurants has spent more than \$12 million to help the tribe with recognition by the government and to keep the casino in Bridgeport in operation.

Susi Williams, a former president of the historical society, is active in the fight against the Schaghticoke's recognition. She said that the Schaghticoke "are just too lazy to look for whatever Fran has found."

Another Genealogy Scam

Terry and Pamela Coder of West Virginia purchased their first computer. Terry found the computer helpful with his family history. Using his AOL account, Terry used instant messages, and found an online friend, Desmond Abuku. A few months ago, Terry received a message from Abuku, telling him that a distant relative of Terry had died leaving millions of dollars in his estate. Abuku sent Coder documents about the estate, supposedly from the Central Bank of Nigeria and the Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Filing fees were needed to file papers with the court,

When Terry said that he did not have

the money, Abuku suggested a plan to lend the money to Terry. Then there were more fees and more expenses and more fees. You can guess the rest of the story. There is no Desmond Abuku and Terry Coder is unlikely to see his money again.

Web site Identifies Bank Robber

Family historians like to post pictures of family members including themselves on a family Web site. An accused bank robber, Kevin Donovan, of Rockland, Massachusetts did the same. Police used the pictures of Donovan, posted on his Web site, to identify him as the robber. Ironically, the pictures were taken at the Rockland Police Station as publicity shots for his rock band, Gun Dog. Rockland police chief, Kevin M. Donovan, gave his OK to use the police station for the picture shoot to help out his son about three months earlier. The photographs were of a much higher quality than the mug shots normally used by the police. Police in Brockton, Stoughton and Raynham have issued arrest warrants for Donovan, and Rockland police consider him a possible suspect in a bank robbery there. You never know how useful pictures on a family Web site can be.

News For Genealogists: Canadian 1911 Census Now Online, The Origins Network and Burke's Partnership, Pocket Genealogy Now Pocket Ancestry

Canadian 1911 Census Now Online

Canadian genealogists have been busy for several years trying to have the post-1901 census records released. Government officials have blocked the release citing right of privacy. Genealogists have not had access to the 1911 and later census records. The Library and Archives of Canada has already anticipated the release and has scanned images of the 1911 National Census of Canada. The records are now available on the Internet at: www.collectionscanada.ca/archivianet/1911/index-e.html

The Origins Network and Burke's Partnership

Burke's Peerage & Baronetage and Burke's Landed Gentry have been published for 175 years, and record the genealogies of the UK and Ireland's titled and landed families. Visitors to Burke's can search more than 4,000 coats of arms. Their ATAVUS e-magazine has many history articles of interest to genealogists. Burke's has a database of more than 7000 genealogies containing more than one million names from the various Burke's publications. Each genealogy traces a family name and some of these go back more than 1,000 years. Many of these families shaped the history of the world, not only in England, but working in many countries around the globe.

The Origins Network has formed a partnership with Burke's to make the genealogy data available online. The organization was founded in 1997 and includes subscription services to English genealogy related collections on British Origins (www.britishorigins.com), Irish genealogy related collections on Irish Origins (www.irishorigins.com), and Scottish Old Parish records on Scots Origins (www.scotsorigins.com). Altogether, these Web sites offer genealogists some of the best genealogical reference material about genealogy for the British Isles.

The Origins Network has existing partnerships with many other archives and genealogical societies in the UK and Ireland, which include the Society of Genealogists, Eneclann Ltd, The National Library of Ireland, the Borthwick Institute for Archives. The addition of the Burke's material will add significantly to the genealogy collection.

Pocket Genealogy Now Pocket Ancestry

Pocket Genealogist markets a program for the PocketPC computers called *Pocket Genealogy*. To avoid confusion with another program called *Pocket Genealogist*, the name of the program has been changed to *Pocket Ancestry*. The Web site for the company and program is unchanged at: www.geocities.com/alexaleks3

OFFICERS AND STAFF

| | |
|---------------------|---------------------------------|
| Richard Rands | President |
| Lesly Klippel | Acting Secretary |
| Carleen Foster | Treasurer |
| Lesly Klippel | Membership Director |
| Howard Bennion | Macintosh Leader |
| Janet Brigham Rands | Webmaster |
| Brian Smith | Program Coordinator |
| Leland Osburn | Education Administrator |
| Allin Kingsbury | PastFinder Editor |
| Mary Lou Harline | Assistant Editor |
| Pauline Lee | PastFinder Distribution |
| Clara Smith | PAFinder/PastFinder Back Issues |
| Carlene Foster | PastFinder Mailing |

Silicon Valley Computer Genealogy Group

www.svcomputergenealogy.org

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

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

CONTACT INFORMATION

| | | |
|------------|-----------------|--------------------------------|
| Membership | Lesly Klippel | Leslyk@earthlink.net |
| Newsletter | Allin Kingsbury | Allin8@juno.com (408) 257 8447 |
| Classes | Brian Smith | (408) 255 6663 |
| Questions | Dr. PAF | mlharline@sbcglobal.net |

Copyright Notice: *Silicon Valley PastFinder* ©2005 Silicon Valley Computer Genealogy Group. All Rights Reserved. No articles herein may be reproduced for profit or commercial purpose without the express written consent of the editor or the Silicon Valley Computer Genealogy Group. Genealogy groups may republish articles but must include credits to the authors and the Silicon Valley Computer Genealogy Group.

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

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

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

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

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

| | |
|--|--|
| Newsletter back issues if available, per issue | US\$1 (order by mail or purchase at meetings) |
| Videos of classes; syllabus copies | See Web site for titles, prices |
| <i>Family History Documentation Guidelines</i> | US\$12.50 per book, includes postage; bulk discounts |
| Stuck-on Sources Post-It note pads | Available at meetings and on Web site |



SEMINAR 10 SEP. 2005

Alan Man will speak on the subject, "Innovations in British Research." The seminar is about Internet sources of British records and indexes. No other classes will be offered. Alan Mann is an accredited genealogist and special-

izes in British Isles Research. He has worked at the Salt Lake Family History Library for many years. He is a popular lecturer and an excellent teacher. The free seminar will be from 9 to 12 and 1 to 3. A syllabus will be available for purchase at the door.



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

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

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

