

The Good, the Blog, and the Ugly

By Janet Brigham Rands and
Richard Rands

Not long ago, in a universe called cyberspace, the son of two mathematicians created the dazzling, amazing World Wide Web. The Internet-connected world soon was busily shopping online, downloading GEDCOM files, and typing Google searches—not noticing that another virtual universe was being created: Its populants called it the blogosphere.

Most of us who weren't drawn into the blogosphere still don't understand much about it. When we hear about *blogs* (short for *web logs*), it may be because the news media report that a teenager is posting a daily blog, or an online diary, about life in a war zone.

Blog is the technoterm for a type of cyber-journal or update posted by a *blogger*. To write or maintain a blog is called *blogging*, and the community of bloggers is the *blogosphere*. Blogs that are linked together and that trigger a burst of activity over a specific subject are called a *blogstorm*.

In the 2004 U.S. presidential election, early and inaccurate reports of voter exit polling were distributed by bloggers with access to polling results that weren't yet statistically weighted to match the population, and thus were inaccurate. These bloggers, defending their

... a blog can become a potentially powerful publishing tool. This is because blogs can "push" information to consumers by utilizing a technology that distributes blog updates to subscribers continuously.

misleading release of data, proclaimed themselves to be "citizen journalists" who were engaging legions of the like-minded with their blog content. Some blogs are serious attempts to share constructive ideas through a free-wheeling quasi- or pseudo-journalism. Some, of course, are not.

Blogs, like their progenitors the Web site and the e-mail distribution list ("listserv"), can cover any topic, and can go nearly unread or can be disseminated to thousands of readers through "feeds." The blog sites themselves are more interactive than most traditional Websites, functioning largely like a Website with a feedback mechanism and an archive, and populated by a fluid online community.

Traditionally, publishing one's ideas has required a lengthy process of writing down the ideas and submitting them to an editor and publisher. A publishable manuscript had to have a beginning and an end with plenty of meaningful content in between. The editor imposed a discipline on the writing and gave it a polished style. Then the

publisher assembled the material in an accessible format and took the risk of getting it to market. All this had the effect of moderating whose ideas we ended up reading.

But as you know, the Internet knows no limits. The freedom to post anything on a Web site has spawned the blog. In one sense, the phenomenon of blogging seems to be the result of a rebellion against the discipline of conventional writing wisdom. Bloggers pay little attention to style or form. They write whatever they want, in whatever style they want, using whatever level of language they want.

The blogosphere comprises a diverse landscape, and, as does the Web itself, ranges from the sublime to the odious. One blogger may be a pseudonymous programmer writing a fictitious account of his supposed travel exploits, while another may be a child creating a fanciful play world of dinosaurs or Legos.

Blog technology is evolving to allow consumption of a substantial amount of information without consuming a staggering amount of time. This is a feat

never accomplished by e-mail lists and newsgroups. Blogs can be foolish and even dangerous, or useful and entertaining. As with all things cyber, they are what we make of them.

Wading into a Blog

What does a blog look like? A blog site looks like (and, for the most part, functions like) a typical Website. You can search for it on Google or any other search engine. An example: Enter the words *cat blog* into a search engine, and up will come a list of blogs about—and occasionally by—cats. A typical one regards a cat named Abbie, with this introduction: "Hi my name is Abbie and I am a cat and I am writing all about me and the other cat and the people in this place." Abbie's blog apparently has been in existence since 2001; we learn that Abbie lives in Massachusetts and is astrologically a Taurus. Up to that point, Abbie's blog is no different than a typical Website created by a typical anthropomorphic cat fanatic (not necessarily a bad thing). However, as Web technology has evolved to allow free distribution of blog content to those who subscribe, Abbie the cat now can distribute her meowings to untold users. No longer does she merely mutter to herself about the inadequate amount of food in her bowl; now she can yowl

(Continued on page 66)

What's Inside

| | | | |
|-------------------------------------|----|---------------------------------|------|
| Genealogy Newsfeeds | 67 | Stranger than Fiction | 70 |
| Spider Webs | 67 | News for Genealogists | 70 |
| Software of Interest | 68 | Ask Dr. PAF | 71 |
| A Brief History of Notes to Sources | 68 | Information/Classes for October | back |
| PAF 2.31 Conversion | 69 | | |

The Good, the Blog and the Ugly

(Continued from page 65)

to millions.

How Does a Blog Differ from a Web Site?

One difference between a blog and a typical Web site is that blogs usually have ready access to an archive of the postings to the blog. These can be topical and chronological. Some blogs include postings only by the blog owner (or, as in the case of Abbie, the blog owner's pet), whereas others include postings by multiple authors.

In content, a blog site is an interactive Website with a log of the blogger's postings. As a passive site, its use requires that visitors come to it. In function, however, a blog can become a potentially powerful publishing tool. This is because blogs can "push" information to consumers by utilizing a technology that distributes blog updates to subscribers continuously. One such technology is Really Simple Syndication, or RSS. The FeedBurner site (www.feedburner.com) explains that "RSS is a standard for publishing regular updates to web-based content." Those publishing on the web provide "feeds," or content updates, that are sent to central locations such as one hosted by www.yahoo.com, where they are listed in a directory.

Blogs that are available through these central listings then can be distributed to those who opt to receive updates every time an update is posted to the blog. RSS content is downloaded to a computer or other device and accessed through "reader applications" that serve up a reader's favorite feeds. As FeedBurner, whose product is a "feed enhancement service," explains further, the consumer's bottom line is that RSS allows review of a large number of sites in a very short time, whereas the publisher's bottom line is that RSS facilitates instant distribution of content updates.

RSS also can be used for distribution of Internet-based audio feeds called *podcasts*. The term, derived in 2004 from the words *broadcast* and *iPod* (Apple's groundbreaking portable audio player) is a misnomer, because the audio is not broadcast, and an iPod or similar player of MP3 audio files is not necessary. Podcasts can be played on nearly any recent PC or Macin-

tosh computer that can play music files. Video podcasts also are becoming more common.

RSS is not the only player in this game. Also popular is software called Atom, which is touted as "a simple way to read and write information on the web, allowing you to easily keep track of more sites in less time, and to seamlessly share your words and ideas by publishing to the web." Atom is designed to be "a universal publishing standard for personal content and weblogs." Since RSS also is designed to be a universal publishing standard, the developers of "reader" software are left with the task of making sure that information is accessible by consumers, no matter what standard is used.

Where would I find blog software to create my own blog? The easiest way to start is to use browser-based software such as TypePad, which is a commercial service (\$50 to \$150 per year, depending on the number of bloggers), or eBlogger, which is free from Google. Our seven unsuccessful attempts to sign up with eBlogger have convinced us that if we get serious about blogging, we'll probably use a modestly priced fee-based service.

How do I access others' blog feeds or content? First, you need to install reader software, such as Feedreader, onto your computer. Once you add some blog sites to your list (see the sidebar list of genealogy blogs), be prepared to have news alerts popping up like giddy munchkins, begging you to stop whatever foolish thing you're doing and read the latest updates. You'll definitely want to customize your feeds to minimize the popups. Soon.

Why should I try this? Blogging can be a creative way to draw family members together, to share images and ideas, and to stay current of important news about the genealogy world. If you just sign up and allow uncontrolled popups of blog news, you won't be giving this technology a fair chance. Carefully customize what comes into your reader software. Check out sites such as the New England Historic Genealogical Society's Online Genealogist blog site (www.davidlambertblog.com), and be among the first to know when a new census is online, or read why your ancestor may have more than one marriage location.

Looking through the Blogging Glass

Few technology events in human history parallel the impact of the Gutenberg press. Few technology events in modern history

parallel the impact of the Web. The "push" technology of blogging—by whatever name we call it in the future—has explosive potential. If the blogosphere is populated largely by self-styled gurus and goofballs, blogging will come and go, yet another phase in our worldwide connectedness. Alternatively, the technologies that blogging spawns could be utilized and honed in the service of good in a new virtual world.

Goef Rasmussen

Coming in November

Goef Rasmussen, President of Millenia Corporation and author of *Legacy*, a popular genealogy program, will speak at the November meeting. Goef comes from Arizona. He has done a great deal of genealogy research on his personal family history. His understanding of genealogy research has helped him with the writing of genealogy software. Goef does many lectures at genealogy seminars and conferences and had made several genealogy and software training videos.

At the November SVC GG meeting, Goef Rasmussen will briefly introduce *Legacy* to the entire group. Those who want to learn more can then attend his class about the features and capabilities of the *Legacy* program.

Quotable Quote

Estimate the amount of time you believe it will take to complete a task. Then double it. Almost everything takes longer than you think it will, a lot longer.

Jerry Apps

Farmer and Author
from his book, *Rural
Wisdom*

Genealogy Newsfeeds Available in RSS Format

By Allin Kingsbury

Here are a few genealogy newsfeeds available in RSS formats. To view the newsfeed in the format intended, you will need a Browser with an RSS reader or an RSS reader program.

About Genealogy -

<http://z.about.com/6/g/genealogy/b/index.xml>

About Genealogy has news items about releases of genealogical data, software and publications and general interest news stories related to genealogy.

GeneaBlogie - <http://geneablogie.blogspot.com/atom.xml>

GeneaBlogie carries general news items of interest to genealogists and some interesting adventures of the author in his research into his own family.

Genealogy and How - www.genealogyandhow.com/atom.xml

This blog lists new databases available on Internet sites such as Family Tree Connection, Ancestry.com, Blacksheep Ancestors, Interment.net, and others.

Genealogy Blog - <http://genealogyblog.com/wp-rss2.php>

Genealogy Blog has news items about projects and activities of genealogy organizations, Web sites, and news stories with genealogical relevance.

Interment.net Cemeteries - www.interment.net/rss.xml

Interment carries news items about cemeteries and their re-

cords.

Librarians Helping Canadian Genealogists Climb Family Trees - <http://canadianlibgenie.blogspot.com/atom.xml>

Elise C. Cole, the Local History Librarian at the Oakville (Ontario) Public Library, with some colleagues started this blog to provide help for family historians who do Canadian genealogical research.

Richard Eastman -

http://eogn.typepad.com/eastmans_online_genealogy/index.rdf

Richard Eastman has been writing his genealogy newsletter for many years. Articles include reviews of software, hardware, books, CDs and Web sites. He also has many news articles about events, people and organizations related to genealogy.

Wisconsin Historical Society -

www.wisconsinhistory.org/syndicate.asp

The Wisconsin Historical Society has a large collection of history books manuscripts and correspondence, mostly relating to Wisconsin, but often extending to people and events from other states. They are partially funded by the State of Wisconsin. They use their blog to announce new acquisitions.

The addresses for these blogs are intended to be viewed with an RSS newsreader. They will be hard to read with a Web browser. Many of the blogs have alternate pages that can be read with a browser.

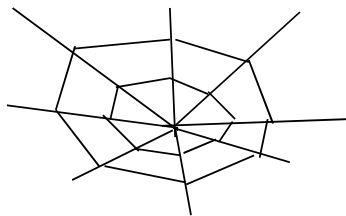
Spider Webs: Canadian Directories, FamilyRecords UK, , 1841 Engand Census, The Swedish Gazetteer

Canadian Directories

The Library and Archives Canada has added 80 new directories to their database which had but 15 directories. The added directories are from the Ottawa and Halifax areas. A new section of the site called CityScapes offers a short historical overview of the cities with digitized directories. Visit the site at: www.collectionscanada.ca/canadiandirectories

FamilyRecords UK

For United Kingdom research, FamilyRecords.gov.uk is a Web site which serves as a guide to the government organizations that hold primary records. The site also lists the various types of records such as religious and military records, where to find them, and what information can be found in them. Visit this site at: www.familyrecords.gov.uk/default.htm



The Swedish Gazetteer

The Swedish Gazetteer is a free online database with more than 57,000 places in Sweden. The site will display a map of Sweden with a bulls-eye drawn on a specified location. By typing in a place name, the site will post a description of the place and locate the place on a map. One can do a "Simple Search" or an "Advanced Search. In the "Simple Search" there is one fill-in box. One can enter the name of any place in Sweden and a few seconds later a very brief listing of the place appears, plus a map of Sweden with the place marked with a dot

and a surrounding circle at the location of the place.

The "Advanced Search" has three fill-in boxes for location name, municipality, and county. This feature is helpful for common names that have many instances. With both searches, several wild cards can be used:

* for any number of characters

? for a single character

These are useful when the exact spelling is not known.

The Swedish Gazetteer is a part of the National Atlas of Sweden. The Web site is financed with government funding and also through sales of gazetteer and atlas products. To use the Swedish Gazetteer, go to: www.sna.se/gazetteer.html

Software of Interest: Blog Navigator

Blog Navigator is a freeware program which reads RSS newsletters and blogs. Popular Web browsers such as Netscape and Internet Explorer lack the special features found in RSS newsreader programs. The RSS newsreaders offer better performance and unique features useful for viewing the thousands of newsletters on the Internet. These not only include genealogy newsletters, but general news sources like BBC News, CNN, and the New York Times. Other blogs provide local weather forecasts and stock market quotes.

Blog Navigator has the following features that make it a much better choice than a Web Browser without RSS newsreader features:

- Web sites are automatically polled so that you do not have to visit the sites to get the latest news. As the sites are polled, new data is stored on the hard drive where it can be viewed offline. This reduces the time that the phone line is tied up for dial-up and cell phone users.
- Spam, spyware or other unwanted material is not downloaded or viewed from RSS newsfeeds. The user controls the information that is transferred to the computer.
- The computer does not need to use spam and virus filters, so none of the news information will be blocked as occasionally happens with e-mailed newsletters.
- Many advanced features like podcasting, dynamic blog feed creation via searching, blog grouping, and off-line reading are supported.
- Users can create automated searches using Feedstar and other search engines and put together the results. In other words, you can put together your own equivalent of a blog based upon keywords that you specify.
- Tabbed browsing can be used to open multiple blog windows which can be displayed as tiled windows.
- Blog baskets can be used to drag and drop articles of interest for temporary storage until they can be read or sorted.
- Users can export selected articles or entire blogs to disk to be read later or e-mailed to others.
- Most RSS readers require users to type in the RSS feed URL. With auto RSS feed detection, *Blog Navigator* can detect the RSS feed from the actual blog site if it supports the RSS protocol.

Blog Navigator requires Windows 2000 or XP. It is free. A "Pro version" is available for a price, but the added features in this version are primarily of interest to those who write blogs. For more information, or to download *Blog Navigator*, go to: www.stardock.com/products/blognavigator

A Brief History of Notes to Sources

By Mary Lou Harline

As the Silicon Valley PAF Users Group started, some felt that for a computer program to be helpful, it should include source citations. The source should be entered once and used wherever a citation of the source is needed. Only a few genealogy computer programs were available. Personal Ancestral File (PAF) developed by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints was the favorite based on price (\$35) compared to Roots (more than \$100).

PAF had Notes, a blank screen for recording research sources and notes. One could copy notes from one record to another, but it was barely better than no feature at all.

Carole Harless, Bill Minnick, Louise Salmon and Jan Unter worked to solve the citation problem. The first edition of *PAF Documentation Guidelines* was published on April 14, 1990, consisting of 5 letter size sheets divided into half-sheet pages. It listed three groups of tags for Event, Subject and Research. This began the system of using 8 Fields (A-H) separated by semicolons. Also included were examples of how to use the fields for various sources. The source citation data with the eight field format would later be accepted by a future version of the PAF program. This finally happened when PAF4 was released.

The 1993, the *Quick-Reference Source Guide* was printed on

card stock, folded into 5 ½ by 8 ½ inch pages, and had examples of the Notes system.

The first editions of these guidelines had no copyright restrictions. In 1995, the Guidelines were expanded and printed in a booklet format and sold. The Guidelines Committee was Carol Harless, Mary Lou Harline, Alice Malquist, Bill Minnick, Leland Osburn, and Jan Unter. SV-PAF-UG worked with the LDS Family History Department and received credit for help with Appendix G of the PAF 2.31 Manual, which described the Notes system.

Jan Unter personally developed *HotNotes*, a software program which made it easier to use the Note fields. It was well-received by those creating source citations.

An actual Source feature appeared in PAF3. A new Guidelines Committee was convened with Richard Halliday, Mary Lou Harline, Lesly Klippel, Alice Malquist, Leland Osburn, Richard Rands and Richard Simonsen, with Janet Brigham Rands as editor. The first edition of Family History Documentation Guidelines for PAF 3 and PAF 4 was published in July 2000. An addendum was added to discuss adding Sources with PAF 5. A second edition was published in 2003 with additions from Mary Lou Harline, Lesly Klippel, and Richard Rands. This edition included procedures for entering source citations in the Notes in the older format of eight fields separated by semi-colons.

All versions of the Documentation Guidelines included these rules for good documentation

- | | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. Document as you go. | 8. Specify additional research where needed. |
| 2. Enter sources and notes in a consistent format. | 9. Strive to obtain primary sources for each event. |
| 3. Enter a source description only once. | 10. Welcome input and constructive review of your documentation. |
| 4. Use confidential information with discretion and sensitivity. | 11. Identify all researchers by name for all contributions, including your own. Use your name, <i>not I or me</i> . |
| 5. List all sources found for each event. | 12. Recognize that good documentation required continuous refinement. |
| 6. Identify and document conflicting or missing information. | |
| 7. Avoid using abbreviations. | |

PAF 2.31 Conversion – Tags to Sources

Nancy Nordstrand

When the new versions of PAF came out after 2.31, I purchased the new version, and then struggled to get the data to convert correctly. The tags just wouldn't convert into sources correctly. I tried all kinds of things, and finally set the new version aside, for a couple of years, and continued to use my old DOS version. Finally, after exploring all the "really cool" things about the newer versions, I rolled up my sleeves last fall and decided to take on the challenge. I wrote to the Family History Center PAF support, and called them on the phone, too, and even had them convert my files, to make sure I didn't have a bug, but they didn't have detailed information about which tags would transfer correctly. Finally, I decided to try every tag listed in their manual for 2.31, and test it out with a conversion to see what the results were. Unfortunately, of the 64 Tags that were listed as OK in PAF 2.31, only eight tags consistently and correctly transfer as Sources into PAF 4, and one tag should not be used at all, because it results in lost data. These results were consistent in all my tests, and also in the conversion that the Family History Center performed at their location when I sent my original file to them.

I wrote the PAF Support last fall with these details and suggested they use the information for reference, or even post it on their site, hoping to save people hours of work and frustration with this information, but I checked recently, and they have not yet been able to use the information I sent as a reference. So I am submitting the information here to help those like me, who kept putting off conversion because it did not work right and gave no explanation for why.

You will need to use PAF 4 to convert your PAF 2.31 Notes to Sources. PAF 5 does not have this capability. As of this writing, PAF 4 is available free to download at: www.familysearch.org Click on: "Order/Download Products," then on "Software Downloads – Free," then choose "77062000-S Personal Ancestral File 4.0.4.18 - Multi-Language (5.75 MB)."

After converting to PAF 4, then your data will easily and accurately upgrade to PAF 5. It is also available free to download as item 77065000-S, listed on the same page.

Converting PAF 2.31 Notes to PAF 4 Sources

There are 64 PAF recognized Tags that are listed on page 5-29 of the PAF 2.31 manual. Eight of these Tags will convert into PAF 4. Each Tagged Source must have an exclamation point before it and be followed by a colon and a space. Otherwise it will not convert as a Source and will be left in the Notes. Each of the Tagged

Sources listed below will be removed from an Individual's Notes and added to the master Source List. It will also be listed in the General Sources list for each Individual.

Ideally the source data should be formatted correctly with semicolons separating each type of source information. If there is no data for a specific type of source information, use two semicolons to represent the missing data. For example:

!TAG: Title; Years Covered; Unique source; Specific Reference; General Reference; Note. Or
!TAG: Title; Years Covered; Unique source; ; ; .

Keep in mind that even if the Sources are not formatted correctly in the Notes, they will be converted into a master Source List in PAF 4. This master list allows you to easily edit and merge Sources after conversion into PAF 4 or PAF 5. This will probably be much easier than editing each Individual's notes in PAF 2.31 before converting. Since everyone enters data differently, you may want to experiment by converting your data and viewing the results before making a final decision.

Lastly, the PAF 4 data converts perfectly to PAF 5, which has even more options that you will want to explore.

Tags That Will Convert to Sources

Six Tags will convert from PAF 2.31 Notes into PAF 4 Sources, and each Source will be linked to the specific Event for that Individual. These six tags are:

!BIRTH:
!CHRISTENING:
!DEATH:
!BURIAL:
!BAPTISM:
!ENDOWMENT:

Two additional Tags will also convert to Sources. These two do not link to an Individual's Event, but are instead correctly linked to the Individual's Record. These two Tags are:

!MARRIAGE:
!SEALING_SPOUSE:

One Tag should not be used. It results in deleting the entry from the Notes, but at the same time it is not converted into a Source, and the result is that the data is lost. Use your Focus List in PAF 2.31 to find this Tag wherever it occurs in Notes. Then change each entry to a different Tag before converting. This Tag is:

PAF 2.31 Conversion *(Continued from page 69)***!SEALING_PARENTS:**

All Tags other than those listed above, including custom Tags, will remain in the Notes for the Individuals and will not be converted to Sources. Thus, for most users, many tags will be left in the notes. There are a number of ways to convert the remaining sources. I toyed with the idea of editing my original 2.31 file, and experimented with the different options. I have been so impressed with the editing features of the newer versions of PAF, that after converting the data following the steps listed here, that I felt it was much less work in the long run to do the majority of the edit-

ing afterwards in PAF 5. I am in the process of writing out the steps that have worked the best for me.

I've explored the newer version 5 and spent quite a lot of time getting used to the new and very different layout, and I really appreciate how easy it is to use. It is easy to create lists that contain specific information or source references, and easy to find and replace specific data. It is easy to edit the sources in the master list, and merge them if you have slightly different versions of one source. But the procedure must be done slowly and carefully, and it is important to create a backup every time before you replace text or merge sources, just in case it doesn't turn out as intended.

Stranger Than Fiction: Lost 1953 Time Capsule Recovered

Washington State Archivist Jerry Handfield describes the time capsule as one of two created for the state's 1953 Centennial celebration. This one arrived late so they buried the first one and decided they would bury the second one on a later day. Seven years later, the commissioner of lands sent a letter to the governor airing concerns that the second capsule would be forgotten. That was the last known correspondence concerning the second capsule. Later, the International Time Capsule Society officially declared the tube lost and listed it as the "seventh

most wanted" of all the lost capsules.

The wooden crate that contained the time capsule had been gathering dust for years in a Capitol storage room where it seemed to observers that it wasn't there. The side marked "time capsule" was placed against the storage room wall. The visible side said, "Do Not Drop." Employees obliged by not touching the crate. David Boyer, a coordinator for the Department of General Administration, found the time capsule in 2002 as he prepared the Capitol building for repairs. As workers were loading the truck for a trip to the dump, Boyer

noticed the previously hidden label and uttered the historic words, "Wait a minute." If he had waited five more minutes, the capsule would have been land fill today.

Historians are sure the second capsule contains items from the 1953 Legislature, newspaper articles, and letters addressed to future Washingtonians. The rediscovered time capsule was buried with the other capsule below the Capitol steps where it belonged during an official ceremony. In 50 years, the two capsules will be opened and the contents revealed to those who will be living in Washington.

News For Genealogists: Amish Gene Hunters, 1820 U.S. Census Records Found, Dr. Ralph Crandall Steps Down

Amish Gene Hunters

The Amish communities in the U.S. are a sought-after source of information for DNA research. The group is inbred because of the separation from society caused by their religious beliefs. Scientists hope to better understand the genetic diseases that occur more frequently in such isolated groups.

It seems ironic that the Amish, who have long renounced modern technology, are supporting a DNA research facility built in the center of their community. This can be understood when one realizes that the Amish believe they should "help their fellow man." Most of the Amish and Mennonites understand that they can help their families and others by working with genetic scientists to better understand the genetic causes of diabetes, mental retardation, and other rare diseases in their families.

1820 U.S. Census Records Found

When the 1820 census was taken, the land of the Saint John River Valley which is now part of Maine or New Brunswick was claimed by both the United States and Great Britain. The census records on National Archives microfilm no.M33, reel no. 38 do not include this area. It has been assumed that no U.S. census was taken there in 1820 until just recently when records of this area were found. Perhaps these records were hidden because a census enumerator could be arrested and incarcerated by the British authorities if he entered this disputed territory and completed the census forms. Now it is obvious that this task was accomplished, and ge-

nealogists who need these records will soon have access to them.

Dr. Ralph Crandall Steps Down

Dr. Ralph J. Crandall, who was a recent speaker at the Silicon Valley Computer Genealogy Group, has decided to step down after working for the New England Historic Genealogical Society since 1974. Dr. Crandall says it is not a retirement, just a step down from his job as executive director. He will assume title of Executive Director Emeritus and head the Society's New England Town and Family Records Project. He assumed the role of Executive Director, the job that he has held until now, in the early 1980s when the Society was having troubles. The society had about ten employees and a dwindling cash reserve. Bankruptcy was a serious fear. Ralph Crandall stepped in and built the financial reserves, began new projects and hired more staff. Today, the New England Historic Genealogical Society has more than 20,000 members, and their endowment is approaching twenty million dollars. The staff is now about fifty employees. They recently completed a multi-million renovation of the society's headquarters building and a major expansion of their library. The NEHGS Web site is said to be the largest and most active of any genealogy society. More than 100 million names are found in its databases.

Ralph Crandall will remain in his job until a successor can be named. Applications are being accepted from those interested in the post.

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

By Dr. Cornelius D. PAF

BowTie Chart

QI wanted to use PAF Companion to print a BowTie chart I with black text in a box and a white background. I got this except for the center person where the text is white and the background of the box is black. How can I get rid of the black?



AIf you can do without the box there is no problem since there is no bordered background to print black. The text will still be in the shape of a box but won't have an outline (border). To print a box without a black background you have to go to the Color tab. In the BowTie Chart Options screen, click on Color. Click on the Gender button (any would do but this has the fewest areas). Then change the colors in the “fill” column to white and the colors in the “outline” column to black. Leave the “text” column in black. When you are through with this and want to go back to the original colors, click on the “default colors” button.

RINs

QWhen I created a GEDCOM file and selected “All” of my data file, I found the number selected was less than the highest RIN by about 600. I looked at “Properties” for my file from the file menu and found that I had deleted about that many records. How can I fill in those empty RINs?

ARemember that RINs are controlled by the PAF program. It will fill in the empty RINs whenever you add a new record. The RIN for the last record deleted will be used for the next record entered.

When you are importing a GEDCOM file you have the choice of using the empty RINs or starting with highest RIN available for the new records. This is helpful when you are merging records that came in from the GEDCOM file because you will know that the records with the highest RINs will be from the newly imported file.

An empty RIN still takes space on your disk. If you have many empty RINs, you might want to get rid of them to save space. You don't do this yourself. PAFInsights is one program that will compact your data (remove the empty RINs). This will change the RIN for all records following the first empty space. This is one reason why we don't tie a record to its RIN or use the RIN as in index. There are other reasons, particularly when you may have to export and import your file to fix a problem, or when you export to someone else. That person may have a different program that will handle all the data correctly but may use their own “Record Number.”

QWhy do I have to see RINs?. I don't see any need for them.

ARemember that a computer only knows zeroes and ones (0, 1). We don't have to know everything about how the computer uses them. We just need to understand when they are use-

ful to the computer. RINs and MRINs are used as shortcuts to connect individuals together as families. You don't have to see them. To hide them, go to Tools\Preferences\Names and click on “Nothing” in the “Append to Names” box.

You may want to use RINs. When you are merging duplicate names, you may find that the individuals records being merged have duplicate names for the parents that appeared to be missed when you were merging alphabetically. Write down the RINs for

each set of parents so you can manually merge them by specifying those RINs. MRINs are useful when you want to print many Family Group Records. Choosing “Cascading” will give you the Family Group Records of your direct line ancestors but won't print Family Group Records for siblings of your direct line, or other spouses of your direct line ancestors. To print those, use the list and enter the MRINs that you want printed.

File Undeleted

QI have deleted a file, but I can't get rid of the name in the file list. What's the process?

AIf the file list you are referring to is the one in the drop-down Menu list with up to four file names with numbers, you can't get rid of it. The list is of the four most recently used and the file name will be gone when you have opened enough other files to drop it off the list. The file name remains and if you try to open the deleted file you will get a message that the file can't be found. At least you will know that it was deleted.

Unwelcome File

QI have installed the new version of PAF Companion and was surprised to find a new family file in my records. Where did the Farren family file come from? How can I delete it?

AThe Farren family file comes with PAF Companion. It is a sample file that you can look at to become acquainted with the features in PAF Companion. The file for the Farren Family is in the PComp5 folder. It is an older version but you can quickly convert it by clicking on the Continue button. You can delete it if you need space on your hard drive but it is nice to have a file that you can experiment with when you are leaning a new program.

PAF Companion File Names

QIn PAF Companion, what is the purpose of “naming” a file?

AWhen you give a file a name, it will appear at the top of the list of files. If you have many files it can save time when looking for a file that you use frequently but not everyday.

How to create the name. From the Menu Bar, select File and Click on Name PAF Files. Double-click on the file you want to name (or rename), Type the name to assign to the file and Click OK to accept the new name. The actual file name will not be changed.

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 |
| Flash Drives with SVCGG logo | Available at cost on Web site and at meetings |

CLASSES FOR 8 OCT. 2005

| | |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| General Classes | Software Classes |
| Mapping Your Way Through the Past | Reunion on a Macintosh |
| Digital Photography part 2 | PAF and PCs for Beginners |
| | Advanced Focus/Filter in PAF |



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

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

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

(Continued from page 6)

