

# PastFinder Bulletin

Volume 3, No. 11

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November 2006

## Spiderwebs

### African American Genealogy Resources Web Page

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints has launched a Web page which lists sources of information useful for those doing research into African American genealogy. The site has an extensive list of URLs of valuable sites on the Internet with African American genealogical data. The Web page will also have digital downloads of keynote speakers and certain classes from the recent Afro-American Historical & Genealogical Society's (AAHGS) conference. The page can be accessed directly at: [www.lds.org/newsroom/showrelease/0,15503,3881-1-24233,00.html](http://www.lds.org/newsroom/showrelease/0,15503,3881-1-24233,00.html)

### Google Customizable Search

Google has added a new search service that allows users to restrict searches to groups of specific pages and websites. The new service, available at [www.google.com/coop/cse](http://www.google.com/coop/cse), lets users choose which pages they want to include in their index, how the content should be prioritized, whether others can contribute to their index, and what the search results page will look like. Users can create a customized search engine that focuses on any specific content. Users then can integrate the customized search engine into a Web site to allow visitors find desired information.

### Genealogy Bank

Genealogy Bank has posted millions of documents of genealogical interest online and fully indexed and searchable by

every word.. It is estimated that 99% of the documents have never been available in digital format, and about 50% of the documents were never microfilmed. The documents can be viewed as scanned images made from the original. The site plans to add documents over the next few years. The following are some of the materials now available: *Historical Newspapers 1690 – 1977*: more than 500,000 issues of over 1,300 historical U.S. newspapers. *Historical Books 1652 – 1900*: more than 17,000 books, pamphlets, and printed items, including: genealogies, biographies, funeral sermons, local histories, cards, charts, and more - all published in the U.S. prior to 1900. *Historical Documents 1789 – 1930*: military records, casualty lists, Revolutionary and Civil War pension requests, widow's claims, orphan petitions, land grants, and much more, including all of the American State Papers (1789-1838) and all genealogical content carefully selected from the U.S. Serial Set (1817-1930). More than 81,000 reports, lists and documents *America's Obituaries 1977 to current*: more than 22 million obituaries *Social Security Death Index 1937 to current*: more than 78 million death records The will soon have the following newspapers:

- Dallas (TX) Morning News, 1885-1977
- Philadelphia (PA) Inquirer 1860-1918
- San Jose (CA) Mercury 1884-1914

- Richmond (VA) Enquirer 1804-1838

Visitors can do a full text search with words or phrases site free of charge. The result of the search is a list of possible matches and a tiny "thumbnail" image of the original document. To view the document, visitors must get a subscription to NewsBank which now has an introductory price of \$19.95 per month. NewsBank has been selling subscriptions to libraries with online databases such as: Early American Newspaper Collection, America's Obituaries, U.S. & World Newspaper Collections, American State Papers, Early American Imprints (1639-1819), and The U.S. Congressional Serial Set. The new service uses many of the same resources sold to libraries, but has many new ones. Genealogy Bank is the first product offered by NewsBank directly to consumers. For more information or to subscribe to Genealogy Bank, go to: [www.genealogybank.com](http://www.genealogybank.com)

### Genealogy Books on Google

Google is scanning books and have the full text of millions of out-of-copyright books available online. Books protected by copyright are also available, but are limited in the amount of information that may be retrieved. Many of these books are genealogy books. The books may be viewed in one of three different views: Snippet View: This view has information similar to that found in a library card catalog and a few snippets from the book containing search terms. Limited Preview: If permission from the publisher or author has been received, users can view a

limited number of pages from the book.

Full View: If the book is out of copyright or if the publisher or author has asked to make the book fully viewable, users can view or download the entire book or any page from the book.

The user can search the book for words or phrases online. The downloaded book is not in text format, and cannot be searched. However, the book can be downloaded in ".pdf" format.

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Google Books is available free of charge. To visit the site, go to: <http://books.google.com>

### **A New FamilySearch.org**

The FamilySearch.org Web site is getting a new look from an overhaul of the site. New online tools allow novices to log on, pull up their family tree, add information about individuals, and attach images or photos. The purpose is to make it easier for those new to family history to see their family tree and to contribute information. To have a look, go to:

[www.FamilySearch.org](http://www.FamilySearch.org)

### **AncestorsOnBoard.com**

1837online and The National Archives (United Kingdom) have launched a new Web site which will eventually list 30 million

passengers who traveled from UK ports to destinations around the world. The ports include Southampton, Glasgow, Queenstown, and more. This Web site will list many of the individuals who arrived at Ellis Island, but it will also have passengers who arrived at ports other than New York.

Passengers who emigrated to Canadian ports are also included as well as passengers destined for Australia, India, New Zealand, South Africa, South America, the Caribbean, West Africa, and all parts of Asia. Many of these passengers were never documented as they arrived at their newly-adopted countries.

These passenger lists include more than British subjects. Many European emigrants found their way to Britain to secure cheaper passage to America. This is especially true of economic migrants forced to leave Continental Europe to find opportunity for a better life. Italian, German, Dutch, and Belgian emigrants often left from Southampton, while Scandinavian emigrants often left from Southampton or Glasgow.

The passenger now going online have never been available on the Web or on microfilm. The documents were available to read at the public search room in Kew (National Archives of England). Only a few researchers were aware of the records. Many of the passenger lists have not been read by anyone for decades.

For more information or to visit the site, go to:

[www.ancestorsonboard.com](http://www.ancestorsonboard.com): •

## **Stranger than Fiction**

### **Harvard University to Retrieve Stolen Paintings**

The death from a heart attack of William M.V. Kingsland, a 62-

year-old researcher and genealogist, has opened a mystery. He was well-known for his upper class manners and encyclopedic knowledge of Manhattan architecture as well as his activity in genealogy. In his obituary in the New York Sun, a friend said Kingsland "was slightly annoyed that the 20th century had occurred."

It appears that Mr. Kingsland had a few mysteries lurking in his closet. He died with no heirs nor had a will. The city of New York confiscated his belongings and distributed them for sale with several auction houses. Two dealers purchased paintings from the estate, only to learn that the paintings were stolen from Harvard University more than 30 years ago.

One of the paintings was a 1790 portrait by John Singleton Copley. Stair Gallery, who bought the painting, had estimated the Copley painting would bring in \$1,500 to \$2,500, but an art dealer from London paid \$85,000 for the work. The second painting was a portrait of former Harvard President John Thornton Kirkland, either by, or copied from, famed 19th-century painter Gilbert Stuart. The Kirkland portrait sold for \$7,500, far above the expected price tag of \$200 to \$400. Both dealers contacted Harvard University after reviewing the paintings' histories and discovering that the paintings were stolen. The Stair Galleries in New York voided all of its sales of Kingsland's extensive art collection. The FBI is investigating whether other pieces are stolen.

How Kingsland acquired the stolen paintings. He may have unwittingly purchased them from the thief, or he may have known that they were stolen. In any event, Harvard University is pleased that the stolen paintings will be returning to their art

museum with a new story to tell about their history. •

## Of Interest to Genealogists

### Appleton's Will Close

Appleton's is closing after a decade of selling genealogy books and material at its Charlotte, North Carolina, store and on the Internet. The owners closed the walk-in store a few years ago and the Internet store is now closing. Appleton's store will soon be a memory of the past.

### Irish Privacy Bill

A bill considered by the Irish Seanad, stipulates that if a person complains that their privacy has been breached, a person cannot claim that the information was obtained from a register that is open to the public. In theory a famous person could object to researchers compiling his family tree using information from public registers. Genealogists fear that the privacy bill will be used by cautious librarians to deny them access to records.

### Everton Collection to Go Online

The large collection of genealogy books, newsletters, and other research material formerly owned by the Everton family, publishers of *Everton's Genealogical Helper*, is now available to the public at a new genealogy library in Logan Utah. All the books are now neatly shelved and catalogued in a spare courtroom in the Logan Justice Center at 290 N. 100 West, Logan. The other material, 82,000 papers and other genealogical resources, are also available.

Soon this library will be on the Internet at a subscription Web site owned by World Vital Records. Those who are members of Library Online will be able to access the new material as it goes online. Those who are not currently members can sign up at the Web site: [www.worldvitalrecords.com/](http://www.worldvitalrecords.com/)

### Fired Genealogy Library Worker to Sue

Beth Gay was fired from her job at the Odom and Moultrie-Colquitt County (Georgia) libraries. She is well known in genealogy circles as the former editor and publisher of the genealogical newspaper, *The Family Tree*, which she published as an employee during her 17 years' tenure with the libraries. Gay has built up the *The Family Tree* to be largest genealogical newspaper in the world. She was formerly a columnist for The Moultrie Observer and The Mailbox Post. She now has a personal saga that she can write about when it is over.

Beth Gay is seeking back pay from the libraries and city and county governments that contribute to the libraries' funding. She is represented by the Atlanta firm, Beard and Chang, LLC in a suit seeking \$4,160 (the difference between her pay and minimum wage for two years), \$19,325 in alleged uncompensated overtime; \$15,000 in compensation for pain and humiliation in relation to her termination; and attorney's fees. Her claims are pursuant to the U.S. Fair Labor Standards Act that requires employers to pay a minimum wage (currently \$5.15 per hour) for work for up to 40 hours per week, and overtime at one and a half times the regular rate of pay. In the three years prior to her termination in May, Gay claims to have worked 60 to 70 hours per week. She claims her salary was cut by

half, which lowered her pay to less than minimum wage. In addition, Gay allegedly received no overtime compensation. Both actions would be illegal. Beth Gay was responsible for raising \$225,000 per year to publish *The Family Tree*. Her networking is said to have contributed to more than 130 Scottish clans to loan their archival and genealogical materials to the Odom Library. She allegedly was confronted by libraries Director Melody Jenkins about the travel expenses. Gay claimed that her trips to various Highland Games (Scottish festivals) were compensated mostly through her work as speaker at these events. Gay claimed that she was pressured by Jenkins and agreed to reduce her salary by half in exchange for the other half to be used for travel.

Beth Gay also claims that Jenkins allegedly agreed that Gay could produce *The Family Tree* via Internet thus freeing her to move from Moultrie. Gay sold her house with that understanding, but Jenkins allegedly pulled the offer and terminated her. Jenkins also allegedly encouraged Gay to continue the publication of the newspaper without affiliation with or compensation from the libraries. As part of her claim, Gay seeks a written agreement giving her the full and exclusive use of the title *The Family Tree* so she can continue the publication on her own.

### Berne Historical Project

The town of Berne, New York has a lot of history. The Berne Historical Project was organized to preserve the history of the town and all of its residents. The project has a Web site to share this history with those with an interest in the history of Berne. One feature of the Web site of interest to genealogists is Berne Genealogy, a database now in

progress and planned to be a repository for genealogy of all Berne families and their ancestors. When residents left Berne, an attempt is made to include the place where the individual went and the individual's death date. Eventually all individuals mentioned in Berne church, cemetery and census records will someday be in the Berne Genealogy. Information from deeds, military, tax, and town records will also be included in the database.

The Berne Cemetery Project also has plans to catalog each cemetery in Berne and include the information on the Web site. The following information will be available:

- The name of the cemetery, address, descriptive location, GPS coordinates, known history and current condition.
- The name(s), dates, transcription, GPS coordinates and other information on each headstone.
- A photograph of each headstone.

Another feature of the Web site is the Census Project. All census information of the town of Berne will be compiled and available for download. Other features include:

- the history of all churches
- veterans who served in various wars
- the Beers Map of Berne and an index to every person listed on the map

When you see the site, you probably will wish that every town where your ancestors lived had a similar Web site. To visit the site, go to:

[www.bernehistory.org](http://www.bernehistory.org)

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## Genealogy Events

The events listed here are some of the major events that may be

of interest to our members who may be traveling, vacationing, live nearby, or who may want to attend a special event.

## 2007

### Florida Seminar

The Pinellas Genealogy Society will host a Seminar on January 27 at Largo, Florida. Pamela Cooper will discuss "Timing is everything! Have you timed your ancestor?", Military Records at the National Archives (Online and Offline), Border - Border - Statewide sources/indexes, Galusha A. Grow and the Homestead Law. For more information, go to: [www.rootsweb.com/~flpgs](http://www.rootsweb.com/~flpgs)

### Utah Jamboree

The St. George Genealogy and Family Heritage Jamboree will be held on February 9-10 in the Dixie Conference Center at St. George Utah.

### Florida Jewish Workshop

The Jewish Genealogical Society of Palm Beach County, Inc. will hold a mini-Conference and workshop on February 28 at the Sandler Center for Jewish Life Enhancement in Boca Raton, Florida. The program will cover the following topics: hardships our ancestors faced in traveling to the United States, Jews in the US Civil War and a basic Introduction to Microsoft Power Point©. For additional information, go to: [www.jgspalmbeachcounty.org/index\\_%20files/Calendar.htm](http://www.jgspalmbeachcounty.org/index_%20files/Calendar.htm)

### Indiana Fair

The South Bend Area Genealogical Society and the Mishawaka Public Library will host the Michiana Gen Fair on March 17 at the Mishawaka-Penn-Harris Public Library in South Bend, Indiana. For more information, go to:

[www.rootsweb.com/~insbags/HTML/meetsem.htm](http://www.rootsweb.com/~insbags/HTML/meetsem.htm)

### Virginia Conference

The Fairfax Genealogical Society and the Mount Vernon Genealogical Society will host a conference on March 24 at Fair Oaks, Virginia. The conference will feature speakers Linda Jonas, Chuck Mason, Laura Prescott, George Morgan and Jana Broglin. For more information, go to: [www.fxgs.org](http://www.fxgs.org)

### Nevada Seminar

The Clark County Nevada Genealogical Society will host a family history seminar on March 31 at Las Vegas, Nevada. Richard L. Hooverson will be the featured speaker. For more information, go to: [www.rootsweb.com/%7Envccngs/springseminar.html](http://www.rootsweb.com/%7Envccngs/springseminar.html)

### Ohio Genealogical Society 2007 Conference

The Ohio Genealogical Society (OGS) will hold their 2007 conference in April 12-14, 2007 at the Hyatt Regency in Columbus, Ohio. For more information, go to: [www.ogs.org/events/index.php](http://www.ogs.org/events/index.php)

### Washington Conference

The Washington State Genealogical Society (WSGS) will hold their annual meeting/conference on April 13-14 at Wenatchee, Washington. The featured speaker will be Sharon DeBartolo Carmack who will discuss "Climbing Your Family Tree." For more information contact R.J. Berkley at: [r.berkley@verizon.net](mailto:r.berkley@verizon.net)

### Wisconsin Workshop

The Milwaukee County Genealogical Society will hold a workshop on April 21, 2007 at

Milwaukee, Wisconsin. The featured speaker is Cyndi Howells. For more information, go to:  
[www.milwaukeeegenealogy.org](http://www.milwaukeeegenealogy.org)

### **New England Regional Genealogical Conference**

The New England Regional Genealogical Conference will be held on April 26-29, 2007 at the Connecticut Convention Center and adjoining Hartford Marriott Downtown Hotel in Hartford, Connecticut. The conference will have many speakers and a large attendance is expected. For more information, go to:  
<http://www.nergc.org/>

### **California Seminar**

John Colletta will be the featured speaker at an all day seminar on 28 April at Santa Rosa, California. For more information, go to:  
[www.rootsweb.com/~cascgs/colletta.htm](http://www.rootsweb.com/~cascgs/colletta.htm)

### **British Columbia, Canada Seminar**

The Abbotsford Genealogical Society will hold a seminar of April 28 at Abbotsford, British Columbia. For more information, go to: [www.abbygs.ca](http://www.abbygs.ca)

### **Nebraska Conference**

The Nebraska State Genealogy Society will host a conference on May 4-5 at Lincoln, Nebraska. Sharon De Bartolo Carmack will be the featured speaker. For more information, go to:  
[www.rootsweb.com/%7Enesgs/](http://www.rootsweb.com/%7Enesgs/)

### **NGS 2007 Conference**

NGS will hold their 29<sup>th</sup> Conference in Richmond Virginia on 16-19 May. For more information, go to:  
[www.ngsgenealogy.org](http://www.ngsgenealogy.org)

### **California Jamboree**

The Southern California Genealogy Jamboree and Resource Expo will be held June 8-10 at Burbank, California. For more information, go to:  
[www.scqsgenealogy.com](http://www.scqsgenealogy.com)

### **The National Orphan Train Celebration**

The National Orphan Train Celebration will be held on June 8 – 9 at Concordia, Kansas. For more information, e-mail: [othsa@msn.com](mailto:othsa@msn.com).

### **FGS 2007 Conference**

The Federation of Genealogical Societies and the Allen County Public Library will hold their annual FGS/ACPL conference, *Meeting at the Crossroads of America: A Conference for the Nation's Genealogists*, on August 15-18, 2007 at the newly expanded Grand Wayne Center in Fort Wayne, Indiana.

### **APG 2007 Conference**

The Association of Professional Genealogists (APG) will hold their annual conference on August 15 at Fort Wayne, Indiana.

**OFFICERS AND STAFF**

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Carleen Foster	Treasurer
Lesly Klippel	Membership Coordinator
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*PastFinder Bulletin* is an official publication of the Silicon Valley Computer Genealogy Group, a nonprofit organization. Published monthly except December, *PastFinder Bulletin* is distributed to e-mail subscribers of the group. Members may elect to receive the newsletter by e-mail or by mail.

Articles contributed by readers are welcomed. 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, or otherwise edit articles for publication. Articles are not returned.

## Silicon Valley Computer Genealogy Group

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SV-CGG, P.O. Box 23670, San Jose, CA 95153-3670 or  
[leslyk@earthlink.net](mailto:leslyk@earthlink.net)

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

**Please Contact:**

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Questions	Dr. PAF	<a href="mailto:rrands@earthlink.net">rrands@earthlink.net</a>

**The following can be ordered from [www.FamilySearch.org](http://www.FamilySearch.org) or at 1-800-537 5950:**

Personal Ancestral File 2.3.1 Macintosh (CD version)	US\$6
Personal Ancestral File 4.04(CD version)	US\$6
Personal Ancestral File 5.2.18 and 4 (Windows), PAF 3, & 2.31 (DOS), lessons and user guide, Personal Ancestral File Companion 5.2 evaluation (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 from: <a href="http://www.FamilySearch.org">www.FamilySearch.org</a>	free

**The following can be ordered from SV-CGG:**

<i>PastFinder</i> back issues if available, per issue	\$1 (order by mail or purchase at meetings)
Videos of classes	for titles and prices see: <a href="http://www.svcomputergenealogy.org">www.svcomputergenealogy.org</a>
<i>Family History Documentation Guidelines</i>	\$10 + postage (see <a href="http://www.svcomputergenealogy.org">www.svcomputergenealogy.org</a> for multi-copy orders)
Stuck-on Sources Post-It note pads	Available at meetings and on Web site
Flash Drives with SVCGG logo and loaded with 9000 Internet genealogy sites	Available at cost on Web site and at meetings