

Adding Features with Utilities and Companion Programs

By Allin Kingsbury

There is no single genealogy program that offers all the features that a genealogist may want to have available on his computer. The programs available vary considerable in the features that are offered. The Personal Ancestral File is a free program with the necessary features to create, document and manage a genealogy database. PAF also has some luxury features such as added pictures and sound bytes and some publishing features. Some of the more expensive programs such as Family Tree Maker, The Master Genealogists and others may offer additional features such as additional reports and charts, integration with the Internet, fields for recording more events and facts about a person, Web page creation, and features to aid in publishing genealogy. It is unlikely that you will find a single program that offers all the features that are available. Some of these features are only available in a utility or companion program, which must be purchased separately. The number of these programs is large and the features of these programs are quite varied. A few of them are mentioned here. We want to mention all of the utilities and companion programs in the newsletter that are of interest.

World Place Finder 1.2

World Place Finder is like a

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"spell check" for places. It looks up places to be entered in your genealogy program, checks places for spelling, for the wrong county, and for missing fields. The look-up feature can be used with any program and the result can be cut and pasted into any Windows program. The program checks data using a GEDCOM file that you can create with almost every genealogy program.

Errors in places are common and they are hard to detect. Almost everyone will have place errors in their genealogy data. Those who import data into their database often have several names for the same place for several reasons:

1. Some individuals use abbreviations while others do not.
2. Boundary changes may have occurred since the event took place.
3. There are different names for the same place such as England and Great Britain.
4. Names or spellings are different in different languages.

Using World Place Finder provides a consistent standard for entering place names.

A review of World Place Finder Universal Edition is

page 41 of the June 2004 *PastFinder*. The program sells for \$34.95 and is available on CD-ROM from Progeny Software. For more information or to order, go to:

www.progeny.com/

PAF Companion

PAF Companion is a program that adds charts and reports to the PAF program. It uses the PAF database. Some of the charts and reports are already available in PAF, but the PAF companion version has additional features such as color to differentiate the generations. The program also has charts and reports that are not available in the PAF program such as the hourglass report, fan charts, and the bow tie report. Each chart has options available to customize the report to fit needs.

For the hourglass chart, you select the individual at the stem of the hourglass and the person's descendents and ancestors are shown on the left and right of the individual.

Fan charts can be created as quarter circle, half circle or full circle charts. There is an option to print these charts to a file that can then be printed on a large plotter to produce a large chart. Kinko's and other copy

services usually have a plotter and can print the large format chart for a nominal fee.

Another feature available to those with the master index to the Pedigree Resource File (PRF) is the ability to find individuals in a database in the PRF. The results of the search are posted in a WordPad file that can be saved and edited.

A review of PAF Companion is found on page 54 of the July 2003 *PAFinder*. PAF Companion is available with the PAF for \$15 and can be ordered from online at: www.FamilySearch.org/

Alpha to Omega

Alpha to Omega is a Windows program that will create a book with descendent charts, ancestor charts, and family group sheets to distribute to family members. The format of the book was designed to be like a professionally created genealogy book that you would get if you hired a professional genealogist to create the book

For more information, see page 21 of the March 2005 *PastFinder*. The program sells for \$42.55 and can be ordered at: www.alphatoomega.us

GEDmark

GEDmark is a specialized utility to mark GEDCOM files for the protection of intellec-

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Adding Features

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tual property. The genealogical research is intellectual property and should belong to the individual who did the research. Often when data is shared as a GEDCOM file, the recipient will publish the data as though it were the research of the recipient.

Using GEDmark, each individual in the GEDCOM file is marked with the name and address of the originator. If the file is added to a database or copied and sent to others, the "mark" goes with the data. If the data is published on the Internet, the originator has the proof that the data is his intellectual property and has been published in violation of copyright. The mark can be removed by editing the GEDCOM file, but the data does not get displayed when it is merged into a database. Unless someone is looking for the GEDmark information, it will not be noticed.

GEDmark sells for \$9.95 for the download version or \$14.95 for a CD-ROM, and can be purchased online at: www.progenysoftware.com

Genlines

Genlines is a timeline program that is useful in research and the writing of family history. The timeline chart shows events arranged chronologically. The dates are taken from the genealogy database and from an extensive library of historical files. The merging of the personal and historical events can often explain how family migration and family fortunes were linked to the wars, famines and political events happening around them.

Genlines sells for 29.95 for the downloaded version or \$34.95 for the CD-ROM and can be purchased online at: www.progenysoftware.com

PAF PAL

PAF PAL has been around for some time, but it is a popular companion program for PAF users. It does a number of cleanup jobs to make data consistent and understood by other programs. Some of the tasks performed by the program include:

- Convert postal codes for states and provinces to the full names for those states or provinces

- Convert abbreviations for English counties to full county names
- Add or remove USA from place names in the United States

For LDS church members who record temple ordinances, PAF PAL will convert the two letter temple codes to 5 letter codes.

PAF PAL sells for \$18 and can be ordered from PAF Software, 1065 West 10210 South, South Jordan, Utah.

FamilyHistoryCD

FamilyHistoryCD is a program that lets the user organize charts and reports from PAF on a CD-ROM to distribute to relatives. The user prepares files with the charts, reports, pictures, video clips, sound bites, and other exhibits. He then follows a procedure to organize the files into a book with title page, table of contents, introduction, and various chapters. You can even include all the family pictures into a slide show section.

A review of FamilyHistoryCD is found on page 1 of the January 2004 *PAFinder*. The program sells for \$49.95 and can be ordered online at www.familyhistorycd.com

Gensmarts

Gensmarts is a research assistant that will analyze a database for most of the major genealogy database programs or from a GEDCOM file and provide a list of suggestions for additional research. The quality of the suggestions will depend on the quality of the data in the database. The program also has a data cleanup function that will detect entries that cannot be interpreted by the program. This should be run first to eliminate places and other entries that cannot be comprehended by Gensmarts.

When the database is cleaned up and analyzed, the program creates a "to do" list of research suggestions. If you are focusing on a single individual, a "To Do" list can be created just for that individual.

A review of Gensmarts was published on page 65 of the September 2004 *PastFinder*. The program sells for \$29.95 and can be ordered online at: www.GenSmarts.com

GenMerge

GenMerge is a utility that finds and merges duplicates in two GEDCOM files. The program creates a merged file, leaving the two original GEDCOM files intact.

GenMerge sells for \$30 for the download version or \$36 for the program on CD-ROM. It can be purchased and downloaded at: www.genmerge.com

RootsMagic 2,0

RootsMagic is actually a genealogy database program and can be used instead of PAF. Since it can work from a GEDCOM file or directly from a PAF database, it is often used as a companion program to PAF because it has features not found in PAF. A few of these are:

- Detect unlinked trees (islands)
- Add a picture to a family group sheet
- Open the place list as a file and edit
- Check for duplication when entering a name
- Create a book in Narrative Report or Modified Register format

A review of RootsMagic can be found on page 62 of the August 2003 *PAFinder*. RootsMagic sells for \$29.95 and can be ordered online at: www.RootsMagic.com

PAF Insight

PAF Insight is an add-on program to add some very helpful but specialized features to PAF. The major features of the program are:

- The program will, with an active Internet connection, compare a PAF database with the IGI and update the database with the touch of a button.
- The program will compare individuals from two PAF databases and selectively updates either database when differences occur.
- The program will merge duplicate individuals within a database.
- The program will change RIN numbers for selected individuals.
- The program will repair database errors.

A review of PAF insight was published on page 1 of the January 2005 *PastFinder*. The program sells for \$20 downloaded or \$30 on CD-ROM. It can be ordered online at: www.ohanasoftware.com

GED2Csv

GED2Csv is a specialized but useful

program for those who want to convert a GEDCOM file to a .csv file, which can be used by any spreadsheet programs. Any genealogy program can produce GEDCOM files. The spreadsheet is useful because columns of new data can be added to created, the data can be sorted by column, and the data can be sorted to change the presentation of the data.

More information about the program can be found on page 15 of the February 2005 *PastFinder*. GED2Csv sells for \$25 and can be downloaded from: www.infusedsolutions.com/

Genealogy

Genealogy or GenJ is a free viewer and editor for GEDCOM files which runs on Windows, Macintosh, Linux, or Solaris computers. The program has some unique views not found in most genealogy programs including:

- A table of all individuals in the file including all information about the individual arranged into columns
- A timeline view of all events in the file arranged chronologically

There are also many standard reports

that can be viewed or the user can create a custom report.

For more information, see page 45 of the June 2005 *PastFinder*. To download the program, go to: <http://genj.sourceforge.net>

Other Programs

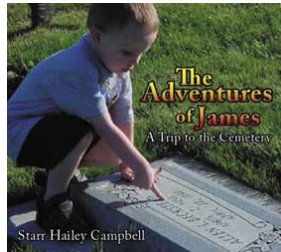
There are probably some other good programs that can be used to add features and are omitted in this article. The omission is not intentional, and as more programs are found to add to the list, they may find their way into a sequel to this article. Suggestions from our readers are welcome.

Recently Published:

The Adventures of James - A Trip to the Cemetery, Ages from Court Records, 1636 to 1700

The Adventures of James - A Trip to the Cemetery

There are few books for children about genealogy-related topics. *The Adventures of James - A Trip to the Cemetery*, written by Starr Hailey Campbell is one of these books. It is a good choice to read to preschool children or for children in the early grades to read on their own. It could be a nice gift for a birthday, Christmas, or a visit the grandparents.



Most authors will use a cemetery as a setting for sinister events, ghosts, or a scary experience. In this story, the child sees the cemetery as a family historian would see it. James has a wonderful adventure with Grandma as he learns about headstones, graveyards, and national holidays honoring the dead. James' grandma is the family historian and she teaches James about the care of headstones, making rubbings and how to make a cemetery kit. James is not yet old enough to read the words, but helps search by looking for certain letters on a tombstone. During the search, he is introduced to different tombstones in the cemetery, including military tombstones, ornate stones, and others. They finally find the tombstone that Grandma needs for her research.

Starr Hailey Campbell is a Director of the Federation of Genealogical Societies and an officer of the Utah Genealogical Association. She has two grandsons and apparently has written this book for them and for other genealogists with grandchildren.

The Adventures of James is a small book, almost small enough to slide into a man's shirt pocket. There is a picture on every other page with the related text on the facing page. The book sells for \$7.50. It can be ordered from the publisher online at: www.creativecontinuum.com/store.asp

Ages from Court Records, 1636 to 1700

Ages from Court Records, 1636-1700; Essex, Middlesex, and Suffolk Counties, Massachusetts by Melinde Lutz Sanborn is an extraction of all deponents and witnesses whose ages are given in the court records. Not all births were recorded in Massachusetts's town

records. Some towns recorded every birth, marriage and death. Other towns were less diligent in their recording of these events. Some of the records have been lost.

Melinde Sanborn has searched the seventeenth century court records for the three Massachusetts counties and has compiled the ages of thousands of named individuals in the records. No genealogy covering the 17th century in these counties is complete without a search of court records. Melinde Sanborn has made that job much easier by compiling the ages of many of the individuals.

The courts were used to resolve many disputes. Most of the seventeenth century New England depositions state the age of the deponent. Sometimes the age was very important to a case. For example, men over sixty were often brought into court to support the claims of the ancient property boundaries. Also, older women who served as midwives were called upon to state opinions on the timeliness of a birth in a fornication case. If an ancestor was not a defendant or a litigant, he or she may have testified as an "expert witness." If so, the testimony will often contain useful clues that cannot be found anywhere else.

Melinde Lutz Sanborn has been a genealogist since 1976. She has written numerous books and has published many articles in prestigious genealogy publications. She is a Fellow of the American Society of Genealogists, an honor held by only 50 people at any given time. Early New England records and searching for the English origins of early New England settlers are her specialties. She is considered a leading expert on seventeenth century records in England and in New England.

The first portion of the book is an introduction to the courts and their records. The author explains how the data in the book was found and interpreted. The next section lists 11,000 deponents arranged into four columns listing the person's name, age and year when the record was created, and the source of the information.

Ages from Court Records, 1636-1700; Essex, Middlesex, and Suffolk Counties is a 227-page hardcover book priced at \$35.00. It can be ordered online from Genealogical Publishing Company at: www.genealogical.com/item_detail.asp?afid=&ID=5147 or from a bookstore. Please specify ISBN 0806317205.

Ask the Doc — “I Give No Answers Before Their Time!”

By Dr. Cornelius D. PAF

Adding Page Numbers to Reports in PAF

Q I use the most current version of PAF. Is there a way to add page numbers to a large Family Group report? I need to print it out, travel with it, distribute pages and then make sure I get them all back in order. Rather than writing in the page numbers by hand, I hope there is a way to insert them on the computer.



A I assume you are talking about a Cascading Family Group Report. You can add page numbers to any report from PAF, but you must use a Word processor to add the page numbers after you have printed the report to a file. I'll give you the instructions for Microsoft Word, but you should be able to do it with most word processors.

When you are ready to print your report using PAF, check the box near the lower right corner of the “Report and Charts” window that is labeled “Print to File.” Then click on “Print.” The “Save As” window will pop up to allow you to give your report a file name and to specify which folder where you wish to save it. In the “File Name” box, enter the name of a file such as “My_Family_Group_Report.rtf.” (Note: .rtf is the Microsoft printer format and is the default format used by PAF for printer files.)

PAF will execute a series of steps to generate the report and then will open your word processor with your report. It will immediately minimize the word processor window and go back to PAF, but you can click on the button at the bottom your screen to reopen the word processor.

In Microsoft Word, with your report displayed, click on the “View” pull-down menu at the top of the screen and select the “Header and Footer” option. That will cause a “Header and Footer” toolbar to pop up somewhere on your screen, and it will cause your report to be grayed out, indicating that it is now in the background; there will be dotted rectangles at the top and bottom of your document labeled “Header” and “Footer.” You will want to switch to the “Footer” rectangle by clicking on the button in the “Header and Footer” tool bar that is located fourth from the right. (It looks like a tiny document with rectangles at the top and bottom.)

You will now have your blinking cursor in the top left cor-

ner of the “Footer” rectangle. Type the word “Page” followed by a space. Then click on the “Insert Page Number” button in the “Header and Footer” toolbar, which is the second button from the left and looks like a page with a # sign inside it.

You will see the number 1 appear after the word “Page.” That will actually force the appropriate page number into every page in your report. In order to force the page number to the right edge of each page (an area that is usually blank on the Family Group Report), click on the “Align Right” button in the “Word” toolbar at the top of the page.

Close the “Header and Footer” toolbar by clicking on the “Close” button in the toolbar (right-most button), and you are now ready to print your report as you would print any Word document.

Changing the Read-only Status of PAF Files on a CD

Q I have been trying to copy my PAF file (with photos & notes) onto a CD. When I do, the complete file is burned onto the CD without any problem, except that the CD states that the file is a read-only, and therefore I can not copy it onto someone else's computer for them to use for their own use -- they can only read my copy. How do I overcome this problem?

A When you burn any file onto a read-only device such as a CD, Windows will automatically set a flag in the file directory entry that makes it read-only. You cannot change that flag on the read-only device, but if you copy the file back to a read-write device, such as a hard disk or a flash drive, the read-only flag gets copied with the file. You will have to clear it yourself using Windows.

Using the Microsoft Explorer program (not to be confused with the Microsoft Internet Explorer), navigate to the file on the hard drive. Right-click on the file name to open the file management pop-up box. At the bottom is an option to open the “File Properties” window. Select the “General” tab at the top of the window. At the bottom is a section labeled “Attributes,” with a couple of boxes. Uncheck the “Read-only” box and click “OK.” Keep in mind that if you send your file to someone on a CD, they will have to do the above steps after they have copied the file to their hard drive.

Stranger Than Fiction: Young Man Finds Genetic Father

A 15-year-old boy began a search for his biological father by swabbing the inside of his cheek, putting it in a vial and mailing it to an online US DNA genealogy service.

The cost was 240 euros (about 289 dollars). It was a lot of money, but the young man was determined to learn the identity of his genetic father. The unusual fact in

the case was that the boy was not adopted. His father had donated sperm to a sperm bank. The donation was anonymous. At least that was the claim of the

sperm bank. Although his donor had been anonymous, the boy's mother had been told the donor's date and place of birth and his college degree.

The DNA service specialized in uncovering the family history from DNA samples. They matched the boy's Y chromosome against the data on the Y chromosomes from other men. This chromosome passes from father to son, virtually unchanged. Nine months later, the young man was contacted by two men whose Y chromosomes closely matched his own. The men did not know each other, but the DNA service indicated there was a 50-percent chance that all three men had the same father, grandfa-

ther or great-grandfather. The two men with the chromosome match had the same surname, but with different spellings. The young man now had enough clues to find his father.

The young man then used the Internet to find his father. He purchased a list of names from an Internet service containing everyone who had been born in the place and on the date of his father's birth. Only one had the surname he was looking for. He had his man. It had taken only 10 days from the time he took his search from the Internet to make contact.

In some countries, sperm donors are legally required to allow their identity to be

revealed after their offspring reaches a certain age. In other countries, including the United States, most sperm donors are anonymous. Yet a 15-year-old boy had persistence and ingenuity to find his anonymous genetic father.

Quotable Quote

Marriage is an alliance between two people, one of whom never remembers birthdays and the other never forgets them.

Ogden Nash

American Poet

Software Review — GenCharts for PAF

By Lynn E. Mower

It's hard to believe that new ways of looking at genealogical data could be developed after several hundred years of genealogical research during which the current printed reports were developed. But that's just what has happened. GenCharts for PAF, a new computer program, will print data out in new and exciting ways. It will read your PAF 5 data file (English language version only) and present on your monitor eleven new lists and charts, which can be reviewed on the screen or printed out. Individuals, families, family organizations, or family reunion committees can use these unique reports. You can currently print the following reports and additional reports are in the works:

- Research Status List
- Descendants Summary List
- Family Summary List
- Ancestor List (with repeats)
- Ancestor List (without repeats)
- Repeat Ancestors List
- Descendants List
- Grouped Descendants List
- Research Status Chart
- Descendants Summary Chart
- Family Tree Chart

You can use these interesting and useful charts to determine if you have loops in your data file. The User's Guide for the program will tell you how to find and elimi-

nate the cause for these errors. The informative reports can spice up your printed records:

The Research Status Chart will tell you at a glance where you are in your research. It lists the number of ancestors you have in each generation and how many of those you have identified along with some other interesting information. It is limited to 33 generations.

The Descendants Summary Chart will list any couple you choose from your data file and portray all the descendants of that couple. It shows the couple's children by name and further descendants by numbers. The program has some limits to the number of generations that appear on the one page report. There are four different formats for presenting the data.

The Grouped Descendants Lists are especially interesting to young descendants as they can quickly see whether they are grandchild number ten or great grandchild number 30.

The graphic Family Tree Chart is really tree-shaped with brown roots, branches, and green leaves. It lists the names of any couple you select from your data file as the main roots. Then, the husband's ancestor's initials are shown as branching roots to the left and the wife's ancestor's initials are shown to the right in the root area. Up to four generations of the ancestors of each spouse will show in pedigree-like fashion. In the green top of the tree, the branches coming off the trunk list the couple's children's first names and the twigs from the

branches list the grandchildren's first names. Numbers then shows the grandchildren's descendants with each generation set off by a different color. This is most impressive when all of the descendants of the starting couple are entered in the data file. There are two formats for this report.

You can download many files free from the site, such as the program's User's Guide. This guide is very detailed, but still easy to use. Whether you download the program or not, you can download and read the User's Guide to learn more about the program. After registering, you can download this program from www.familyhistoryguide.com for \$19.95 USD. As a registered member, you can download other files.

Lynn E. Mower is the owner of the www.familyhistoryguide.com web site. He has been doing family history research since about 1960 and currently serves as director of an LDS stake family history center, an LDS ward family history consultant, and president of the local PAF User's Group. He started developing the lists and charts in 1964, drawing them by hand and entering the data with a typewriter. When personal computers became affordable, he used various computer-drawing programs to manually produce each report. Then he teamed up with Lorin Lund who wrote the program code for the GenCharts for the PAF program to produce the reports automatically. Lorin has also written several other genealogical add-on programs to help PAF users.

News For Genealogists: Vermont Clerks Prepare for Vital Records Restrictions

The Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act, a lengthy bill was signed into Federal law a year ago. City and town clerks across Vermont are working hard, preparing to implement this federal law. One result of the law is to restrict public access to birth and death records as part of a tightening of national security. Many provisions in the law make the changes difficult in Vermont where there are many small towns and clerks using an office in their home often keep records there. For 70 years, Vermont has allowed genealogists, journalists, and other researchers to have open access to vital records. This will soon be unlawful.

President Bush signed the bill in December. Supporters claim the law is necessary because terrorists could use vital records to steal identities. However a number of the provisions will make things difficult for the state. Governor Jim Douglas said that although he understands the importance of homeland security and fraud prevention, the regulations could cost Vermont at least \$2 million to implement, with no assurance of federal aid, and require considerable attention from lawmakers.

One provision mandates costly renovations to heighten security at government offices. When these offices are in the homes of clerks in small towns, either they must be moved to new municipal facilities which must be constructed or renovations must be done at the home of the clerk. When a new clerk is installed, he or she would need an office that is in compliance with the law. Among the requirements are alarm systems, barriers between the public

and those who handle the records, secure storage areas, and bars on windows.

Another requirement is that each employee with access to the records must have a background check. In a small Vermont town, everyone in the town knows the clerk and a check seems silly. A formal background check requires many hours of investigation and the cost must be born by the state or municipality, neither of which have budgeted money for the task.

The law also requires the state to create a central database of all births and deaths. Vermont does not have a database. Information from 800,000 certificates must be typed into a computer.

The law also could end a town tradition at Westport where the names of residents who were born or died during the past year are always published in the annual town report.

Genealogists are not happy with the law. A provision of the law does grant access for genealogists for records before 1935. Records from 1935 and later are available only to family members.

Many of those involved with records in Vermont are unhappy with the new law. They were unaware of the provisions until after the law was passed and the two years they have to achieve compliance seems too short. Nobody can recall a problem with the system that has been in use. Many feel that the government is solving a problem in Vermont that never existed.

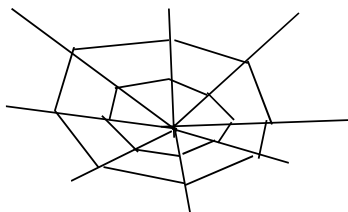
Spider Webs: scanR, Essex County, Massachusetts, Wills, Savage's Genealogical Dictionary, Encyclopedia of Chicago

scanR

An online service is now available to photocopy records with your cell phone. You must have a cell phone with a built-in camera with a resolution of one mega pixel or higher. You can then create a picture message (multimedia message or MMS) and send it to: go@scanR.com and it will be returned as a .pdf file for you.

This is a service that looks like it was made for genealogists. Let's say you are examining old records at a distant relative's house, at the town clerk's office, or someplace else that does not have a machine handy. How do you make a copy?

Simply take out your camera-equipped cell phone and take a copy. Create a picture message (sometimes called multimedia message or MMS). Typically, your phone will send the message to scanR within one minute. A few minutes later, you will receive a copy of your scanned document in by email as a PDF attachment.



For more information, or to use this free service, go to: www.scanr.com

Essex County, Massachusetts, Wills

Essex County was one of the earliest counties settled in Massachusetts, and was the first home to many colonial families in all the New England States who later migrated to Connecticut, Rhode Island, New Hampshire and Maine. RootsWeb.com now has many of the wills filed in the county before 1850. Each will was transcribed by a volunteer and the project was coordinated by David Colby Young. The service is open and free of charge to everyone. Each will is in standard ASCII text, with all the bad spelling, punctuation, and grammar contained in the original.

To read the wills, go to:

www.rootsweb.com/~maessex/Wills

Savage's Genealogical Dictionary

Genealogical Dictionary of the First Settlers of New England, Showing Three Generations of Those Who Came Before May, 1692 by James Savage was originally published during the U.S. Civil War and remains an important source today for early New England settlers. Printed copies are found in many libraries and the set was released on CD-Rom a few years ago. Now, David Blackwell has this set on his Web site. You can download it or you can cut and paste portions of the text to a document in your computer. The original dictionary contains some errors. In 1994, Professor Robert Kraft corrected many of the errors, and his corrections can be found at: www.usigs.org/library/books/ma/savage/savage.htm

The online version of *Genealogical Dictionary of the First Settlers of New England, Showing Three Generations of Those Who Came Before May, 1692* is at:

www.usgennet.org/usa/topic/newengland/savage

Encyclopedia of Chicago

The Encyclopedia of Chicago is a pro-

ject of the Chicago Historical Society, the Newberry Library, and Northwestern University. This Web site has thousands of historical resources, including articles, photographs, maps, broadsides, and newspapers, all related to Chicago history. The site has

a search engine where you can search for words or phrases anywhere within the Encyclopedia. Access to the encyclopedia is free. To visit the site, go to: www.encyclopedia.chicagohistory.org

POWERFUL TIME SAVER FOR ENGLISH RESEARCH

By Richard Rands

Have you ever encountered a reference to Bleasdale Parish and spent a frustrating search only to discover that Bleasdale is an ancient variant for Admarsh Parish? Do you know where to look to discover the Civil Registration District for Modbury Parish? Would you like to know when the parish registers for Sutton on Trent Parish originated? Do you know which Poor Law Union has the Poor Law records for Swanscombe Parish?

Anyone who has spent much time researching among the diversity of records organized by English parishes will know how time consuming it can be to find where to begin the search. The staff at the Salt Lake City Family History Library has compiled a powerful tool with vital details for every English parish that has ever existed, all 12,238 of them from Ab Kettleby in Leicestershire to Zennor in Cornwall. Having this file at your fingertips could reduce a full day of research into a couple of hours, or less.

This file contains a spreadsheet with 16 columns of details for the 12,238 parishes in England. The columns include:

1. County where the parish exists.
2. The Lathe, Part, or Riding (geographical descriptions of land area).
3. The Type of Parish (i.e., ancient parish, ecclesiastical parish, chapelry, etc.)
4. Whether or not the parish had a market town.
5. Notes indicating such information as the parent parish and when it was created.
6. Variant spellings of the parish name.
7. Other places in those parishes that cover more than one town or village.
8. The year when the Church of England began recording the parish registers.
9. The year when the Church of England began Bishop's Transcripts.
10. Which Non-conformist denominations existed in the parish.
11. The civil registration districts covered by the parish.
12. The legal Hundred, Borough, or Liberty (additional geographic descriptions).
13. Which Probate Court had jurisdiction for wills and administrations.

14. The Diocese (where transcripts were usually collected).

15. The Rural Deanery.

16. The Poor Law Union covering the parish.

The ability to search the file electronically adds significantly to the usefulness of the file. For example, if you found a reference to a place named Little Kyre and would like to know which parish to search for its records, you can use a few keystrokes to discover that Little Kyre is located in Stoke Bliss parish, which happens to span the counties of Herefordshire and Worcestershire. Little Kyre is actually in Worcestershire.

The power of this wonderful file is that it allows the user to see all of these vital details about a parish in a single glance. With all this information in one place, you can quickly devise the most efficient search plan for finding something in a specific parish. You can make intelligent judgments about where to start first, and which repositories to search. The English Jurisdictions file reflects the dedicated work of many people who have spent a long time researching English parish records.

This tool is called the English Jurisdictions file and is available on the computers at the Family History Library. The Family History Library has been kind enough to permit distribution of this file by the Silicon Valley Computer Genealogy Group to its members. The LDS Church's legal department granted special permission to distribute the file exclusively to our members free of charge. The restriction on the file's distribution is a precaution to prevent the file from being commercially exploited. We will not be able to offer the file through our Web site, but we can send the file to members by e-mail or loaded on a flash drive which can be purchased. The size of the file is 3.8 megabytes, which will make it difficult to e-mail over dial-up connections. The file is in Microsoft Excel format. So far, it does not yet cover parishes in Scotland or Ireland.

Members of SVC GG can access a download link to the English Jurisdictions file by sending a blank email to: download@svpafug.org. They then will receive an email that will direct them to a Web page where they can download the 3.8MB file. A high-speed Internet connection will work best for the download. Membership will be verified by email address.

April Seminar Cancelled

We regret that the seminar advertised for the April meeting will not be held. Please unmark your calendars. We will inform members of plans for other guest speakers and seminars as soon as possible.

OFFICERS AND STAFF

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

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

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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
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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
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