

## Telling the Truth in Life Stories

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### Writing your story!

When you write a compelling story and don't have all the necessary information, you need more research. You need to do a genealogical survey, background research of the time period, and some writer's insight to bring about a story that is riveting to read.

My mother's journal stated:

*Papa would go to the barn at 5:30 every morning and milk the cows. He would sit on a stool and milk until the bucket was full. While milking he would see the cats waiting and squirt them. His father said he was a good 'milker'.*

This is what was done with the facts:

### Milking a Cow in the 1890's

*Every morning at 5:30, Rob walked from the kitchen to the barn to feed the cows then, probably took his milking-stool, and a pail, to Bessie's stall and milked her. He liked the warmth she gave off on cold mornings. She gave down her milk easily, and hardly ever switched him with her tail, or kicked over the milk pail. He more than likely, sat with the pail between his feet, and milked steadily. Left, swish! Right swish! Swish! Swish! The thin streams of milk went straight into the pail. Bessie contently chewed her grain.*

When he had almost finished milk-

I used words that allowed the reader to understand what was quoted from grandfather and what was written from research in his time, without distracting or boring the reader.

*ing, he would see the cats waiting and squirt them with a stream of milk. His father went into Bessie's stall with his own milking pail and stool, and sat down to strip the last, richest drops of milk from Bessie's utter. Rob's hands were getting strong enough to milk a "hard milker." Bessie dropped her milk easily but some cows didn't release easily and were called "hard milkers." Rob, Sr. came out of the stall and said something like,*

*"You're a good 'milker,' son."*

*Rob being a little shy about compliments said nothing. Pretty soon he would be milking the "hardest milkers,"*



*Milking cows was done at 5:30 am.*

*Milking was a learned skill.*

### As the Story Developed

As I grew, I listened to my grandfather tell stories about

working on the farm and milking cows. I wrote the first draft of the story and wanted it confirmed so, I let my oldest sister, Karen, review it for content. She agreed with my description.

I didn't know anything about milking cows, but my cousin had a dairy with twenty cows to milk and invited me to his barn and talked about milking. He showed me how he milked by hand. I tried to milk with a squeezing downward motion and nothing came of my effort. He told me that practice would help. When the cats arrived on the scene, he said, "The cats were always waiting for the milking to begin."

My goal was to tell the reader what was known and what was researched from other sources. I used words that allowed the reader to understand what was quoted from grandfather and what was written from research about his time, without distracting or boring the reader. I also searched for and included family pictures, documents and maps.

A life story consists of many vignettes or scenes. The story of the cow being milked is only one. The book contains many vignettes, I wrote an explanation that will give assurance to the

reader and a feeling of authority and truth to the writer.

### Chapter 1

*My grand father, dead more than 48 years was buried in his adopted State of California at the Rose Hills Memorial Park Cemetery, Without a doubt, he was the magnet and the uniting personality in the family. All the aunts, uncles and cousins wanted to visit and enjoy his company. When they came to California his door was always open and there was food on the table. After his death, fewer family members found reason to visit each other...*

*The main sources of accurate information came from Rob's daughter, Mary Allen Langman's dairies, notes and personal interviews; along with the writings and interviews of Rob's sister, Adelaide. Finally, I knew him and lived near his home all of my growing up years. The stories I listened to were authenticated when I visited small farms and dairies to interview farmers about farming procedures...*

*At about 8:00 am, my wife, Sharon, and I drove into the legendary town of Escalante; this town was legendary only in my mind. I don't think many people even knew the town existed in October 2004. It was only nine blocks square and had a population of 818 friendly people. They maintained their farms outside of the town boundaries. I was delighted with the town and farming community, but was surprised at the size of the race track and*

*(Continued on page 26)*

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Truth In Writing (Continued from page 25)  
stadium...

In Chapter one, the first paragraph discusses the writer's insight into the person. The second paragraph discusses his research as a genealogist. The third paragraph discusses his visit to the place where the story took place to establish the authority of the writer.

### Writing Truth in Your Life Story

There are words and phrases you can use to maintain honesty in your story if you lack verifiable facts. When you write a story without all of the information you need, then research and write what logically transpire in the course of those living at the time. As you do this, you need words that tell the reader how you have constructed the life story. A clue about each source is helpful.

Words and phrases that tell the reader how you put the story together include:

- A few words of explanation are needed to clarify the issue...
- It is likely he said something about...
- Rob, Sr. came out of the stall and said something like...
- For breakfast we probably ate, eggs, bacon, fried potatoes, toast, warm milk...
- While sitting forward on the horse, it is probable that he watched the starter....
- In the 1890's, farmers wore bibbed overalls made of heavy canvas material...
- His sister, Alzada felt and said, "That boy was jealous of Rob and did it on purpose."
- His grandson, John Furness, thought the grain was still in the old cabin...
- On that special day, the conversation went something like this, "It's my turn..."
- (Indirect dialogue) My grandfather said (that) he would get the work done first,

and then play.

Use extensive footnote numbers in the narration!

I have a daughter who will read every footnote, and there are a lot of them, and she will also read the addendum. The addendum is where I summarize the details and facts of the story. I have eight other children and sixteen cousins, who want to read the story for their enjoyment, and they probably will ignore the footnotes and addendum.

## Memorable Quote

*Misery loves company, but company does not reciprocate.*

Addison Mizner

1872-1932

American Architect

## Spider Webs: Pharos Teaching and Tutoring, Charts and Forms, Antiquus Morbus

### Pharos Teaching and Tutoring

Pharos Teaching & Tutoring is a British genealogy company that is offering online genealogy classes as a first product offering. The classes are designed to help with British genealogy research. The founders of Pharos are well qualified to teach in this field. Sherry Irvine is the past president of the Association of Professional Genealogists, and Helen Osborne is an English researcher and genealogy teacher. Students can choose from the selection of classes and proceed with the selected classes at their own pace. Help is available from experienced teachers and from a chat group of other students.

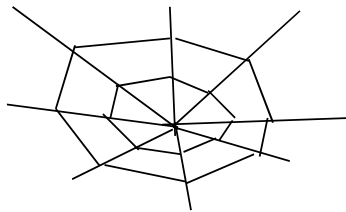
Those interested in classes can sign up and pay at the Web site:

[www.pharostutors.com](http://www.pharostutors.com)

### Charts and Forms

There are many charts and forms which you can download and print so that you can fill them in on a trip to the library. Many sites post the blank charts free of charge to build good will with site visitors. The following sites offer high quality charts for various purposes:

- About.com has family tree fan



charts, pedigree charts, family group sheets and relationship charts. Go to:

[http://genealogy.about.com/od/free\\_charts/](http://genealogy.about.com/od/free_charts/)

- Ancestry.com has nice looking forms which include pedigree chart (called an Ancestral Chart), Research Calendar, Research Extract, Correspondence Chart, Source Summary and Family Group Sheet. Go to: [www.ancestry.com/save/charts/ancchart.htm](http://www.ancestry.com/save/charts/ancchart.htm)

- Family Tree Magazine has a huge collection including pedigree charts, research calendars, note-taking forms, deed indexes, research journal, correspondence logs, family group sheets and census extraction forms. Go to: [www.familytreemagazine.com/forms/download.html](http://www.familytreemagazine.com/forms/download.html)

- FamilySearch.org has forms which include U.S., British, Irish and Canadian census extraction forms, family group sheets, blank timelines and more. Go to:

[www.familysearch.org/eng/Search/RG/frame?set\\_rhelps.asp?Page=1/research/type/Form.asp&ActiveTab=Type](http://www.familysearch.org/eng/Search/RG/frame?set_rhelps.asp?Page=1/research/type/Form.asp&ActiveTab=Type)

- Misbach Enterprises has one of the largest collections of genealogy charts in Adobe PDF format for 8.5" by 11" paper. Go to: <http://misbach.org/pdfcharts/>

### Antiquus Morbus

Antiquus Morbus contains a collection of archaic medical terms and both definitions from the time the terms were used and the modern definitions. The site will be helpful in interpreting old death certificates, mortality lists, and medical discussions from olden times. The site not only has thousands of archaic terms in English, but also medical terms in Croatian, Czech, Danish, Dutch, Finnish, French, German, Greek, Hungarian, Icelandic, Italian, Latin, Latvian, Lithuanian, Norwegian, Plautdietsch (Mennonite Low German), Polish, Portuguese, Scottish, Spanish and Swedish. The terms in foreign languages are much less numerous than the list of English terms, but the collection is growing. Source citations tell where each definition was found such as Webster's Dictionary. A complete bibliography of cited sources is also included. To visit the site, go to: [www.antiquusmorbus.com](http://www.antiquusmorbus.com)

# Of Interest to Genealogists:

## America's GenealogyBank

A major new online genealogy service will soon be on the Internet. NewsBank plans to have online images of millions of documents of genealogical interest. Only 10% of these documents are currently available online, and about half of the documents are not even available on microfilm. The new site will have genealogy books, obituaries, biographies, military records, marriage notices, local histories, and more. The documents are indexed and searchable by every word in a few seconds. Documents found in a search can be downloaded and viewed on the computer screen.

The site will be owned by NewsBank, a company which provides subscribing libraries with online databases including:

- Early American Newspaper Collection
- America's Obituaries
- U.S. & World Newspaper Collections
- American State Papers
- Early American Imprints (1639-1819)

The company has never received much publicity and is not known by most genealogists. Several genealogy libraries subscribe to NewsBank. At most subscribing libraries, genealogists must personally visit the library to use the services. A small number have remote Internet access through their library Web site, such as Godfrey Memorial Library and New England Historic Genealogical Society. While NewsBank customers are limited to libraries, America's GenealogyBank will be offered to individuals. The price is expected to be competitive.

The new America's GenealogyBank site will have millions of new documents in addition to those offered to libraries. These include:

- **American Broad-sides and Ephemera, Series I:** Broad-sides printed between 1820 and 1900 and ephemera printed between 1760 and 1900
- **American State Papers, 1789-1838:** Legislative and executive documents, many originating from the important

period between 1789 and the beginning of the U.S. Congressional Serial Set in 1817

- **Archive of Americana:** Books, pamphlets, broad-sides, newspapers, government documents, and ephemera printed in America
- **Books, Pamphlets and Broad-sides, 1639-1922:** genealogy books, biographies, funeral sermons, local histories, city directories and more published in America before 1923
- **Early American Imprints, Series I: Evans, 1639-1800:** Images of books, pamphlets, broad-sides, and other imprints listed in the bibliography by Charles Evans
- **Early American Imprints, Series II: Shaw-Shoemaker, 1801-1819:** Images of books, pamphlets, broad-sides, and other imprints listed in the bibliography by Ralph R. Shaw and Richard H. Shoemaker
- **Early American Newspapers, Series I: 1690-1876:** Images of hundreds of historic newspapers listed in Clarence Brigham's bibliography and in additional subsequent bibliographies
- **Government Publications, 1789-1980:** American State Papers and selections from the U.S. Congressional Serial Set, including service records, casualty lists, widow's requests, pension claims, and more
- **Newspapers, 1690-1922:** More than 1,000 American newspapers from all 50 states
- **U.S. Congressional Serial Set, 1817-1980:** Reports, documents, and journals of the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives, originally published in approximately 13,800 bound volumes

The new service will not be available to subscribers until late fourth quarter of 2006. More information is expected to be posted on the NewsBank Web site at: [www.newsbank.com](http://www.newsbank.com)

## Hardware of Interest:

### Tiny Genealogy Computer

Intel announced an ultramobile portable computer that is smaller than a laptop. It can fit in a purse or coat pocket. The computer has a 7-inch display, uses the Windows XP operating system (Tablet PC Edition), and has full Internet capability. It is a bit early to buy the computer. The first models have a limited battery life of 15 minutes and retail for just under \$1,000. Early production models will have a battery life of 3 hours. If you wait a year, the price should be down to about \$500 and batteries should last all day. One should not forget one's glasses.

### Quotable Quote

It is always the best policy to tell the truth, unless of course you are an exceptionally good liar.

Jerome K. Jerome  
1839-1927

*English Humorist and Novelist*

## Recently Published:

### PAF Tutorial

A free tutorial for Personal Ancestral File (PAF) users is now available from Brigham Young University. This interactive tutorial was created for Religion 261, *Introduction to LDS Family History*, a class taught at Brigham Young University. However, the tutorial is available to anyone who wishes to learn about the PAF program, including non-students.

The tutorial is most beneficial for those who have not used the PAF program before, or have little experience with PAF and only need help with particular features. Users can pick and

choose the areas of PAF they need to learn. There are 17 sections of tutorial instruction including Create/Edit Individual and Create/Edit Marriage within your pedigree chart, PAF Views, Backups to PAF files, GEDCOMs, and Match/Merge. Users can select either a step-by-step textual guide or an interactive demonstration for each feature listed in the menu. The interactive tutorial has audio sections, and so speakers or headphones are needed to hear the demonstrations.

For more information about the free tutorial, go to: <http://paf tutorial.byu.edu>

## Software of Interest: **GenealogyJ** version 2.4.2, **Genealogy Pro 2.0**

### GenealogyJ version 2.4.2

GenealogyJ, or "GenJ," is a free GEDCOM viewer and editor. It runs with Windows, Macintosh OS X, Linux, and Solaris operating systems. Version 2.4.2 is a major update with new features and an improved user interface. Some of the changes include:

- Appropriate surnames generated automatically
- Recognize double click
- GeoView maps events geographically
- Improved speed and usability for Edit-View/Basic Mode
- New reports
- Convert last names to uppercase
- Children/parents get appropriate surname automatically
- Option to deprecate and hide OBJE entities
- TableView with multiple cell selections
- User Interface: TableView with qUser Interfaceck-access links on the side
- Improved auto-complete feature
- Context-Menu usable everywhere
- Keyboard Shortcuts (ctrl+s, ctrl+w, ...)
- Option to restore views on reload

- GEDCOM extended support for FAMC
- GEDCOM support for PLACe format and DATE phrases
- GEDCOM support to preserve unknown entities
- Reports formatted in HTML, PS, PDF, or CSV
- Languages support for: Czech, Polish, and Russian

You can download GenealogyJ at: <http://genj.sourceforge.net>

### Genealogy Pro 2.0

Genealogy Pro 2.0 is a low cost genealogy program for the Macintosh computer. It has an easy-to-use graphical interface to record and chart your family tree. Earlier versions of Genealogy Pro were written for Macintosh operating systems before OS X. The new version requires Mac OS X 10.2.8 or higher. Genealogy Pro 2.0 lacks features found in more expensive Macintosh software, but it has the features need for the beginner and the casual genealogist.

The program includes:

- An easy to operate graphical interface, with a browser that lists all individuals in the database and a browser to view families
- Family tree charts, including horizontal and vertical ancestor charts, and hori-

zontal and vertical descendant charts

- Charting options which include choices for fields in a chart, the order of fields, line and font size, style, and inclusion of images
- An expandable database with addition of custom fields
- Search capability
- Notes and source citations for individuals
- Export of family tree data in a Web-ready format, with options to compress and upload charts and images
- Web charts formatted as image maps, allowing a click on a person to display information for the person
- A free upload manager (a separate download) to upload files to a Web site
- GEDCOM import and export to other programs

Genealogy Pro for Macintosh OS X version 2.0 is available as a free download for an evaluation period of 30 days. For \$20.00 a registration key can be purchased to use the program beyond the evaluation.

For more information or to download the program, go to: [www.genealogypro.net](http://www.genealogypro.net)

# Publishing Your Family History

By Allin Kingsbury

If you have spent the past years collecting your family history, it would be a shame not to share it with others in your family. For most family members, a GEDCOM file or a stack of pedigree charts would not be granted the appreciation that would be given a family history. Of course, a family history should have more information than would be found in pedigree charts or family group sheets. A good family history will have many stories and pictures to make it interesting for your readers.

If you have enough material to create a family history, you are ready to consider the various options for publishing. Computer technology and software has made the task of publishing much easier, but it also presents the genealogist with many methods to publish the family history.

## Current Publishing Choices

In the past, most family histories were professionally printed and bound as a hardback book with a cloth or leather cover. There is something magical about combining a printed family history, a grandparent's lap, and a grandchild who is eager to learn where his family came from. These books are very nice and will last a lifetime with a little care in handling.

The companies that can print and bind books are many. A local printer is easier to manage. Check samples of their work and to get competitive bids or references. Be sure that the company does the work and is not acting as a contractor and sending the work to other companies. A company that specializes in genealogy books does not offer you any advantage over a company that prints and binds books. You can find most of these companies listed on the Internet now. Just use a search engine like Google to look for book publishers. You may need to narrow the search to those in your local area. That can reduce the shipping cost.

In the 1950s, paperback books became popular. While the cost of binding is lower, a paperback binding is less durable. The cover is easily torn or creased. The better paperback bindings are sewn and bound just like a hardback book. The recent popularity of computer publishing and convenient copy centers like Kinko's have made binding of small books even less expensive.

For a family history of less than 100 pages, the least expensive paperback binding is saddle stitch. This is done by printing two pages on each side of a sheet of paper. A heavy cardstock can be used for the front and back cover. The sheets are then folded between the pages and stapled along the spine of the book with a large industrial stapler.

For books with up to several hundred pages, a comb binding or spiral binding can be used. The pages are printed singly on each side of the paper. The pages can be standard 8.5 by 11 inch paper which is easily printed on a home computer. The printed pages are assembled and slots or holes are punched for the plastic comb or the spiral wire. The front and back covers can be heavy cardstock.

Another popular low-cost binding for small production quantities is a tape binding. The book is assembled and a special tape is

placed over the spine of the book. The tape is coated with special glue which adheres to the paper when heated. The edges of all the pages are glued to the tape.

## Printing the Pages

If colored pictures are used, the options for printing are limited. The best quality comes from offset printing. Color plates are made which become the printing plates in the printing machine. The paper must be printed once for each color of ink, which is usually three colors plus black. The cost of color offset printing will be about four times the cost of black and white printing.

For small quantities, a color printer attached to a home computer can produce good results. The ink cartridge may require changing every fifty to one hundred pages, depending on the printer model. A good quality paper should be used for color. If the paper should yellow with age, the contrast will be reduced and the image will take on a yellow or beige hue in a few years. Acid-free paper is a little more expensive, but it is treated so that it will not turn yellow. A clay coated paper, similar to the paper used in books and magazines, will produce better color pictures because the clay will make the white area in the pictures reflect more light, making the picture look brighter and more vivid.

Offset printing produces better black and white pictures than a copy machine. The extra expense is probably justified because the gray scale of the pictures will be consistent and the contrast and brightness will not be altered by the printing process. Printing from a home computer using a laser printer can also produce high quality pictures. The printing of books using a laser printer is slow, and should be monitored because the toner cartridge can get low on toner. A copy center may be a better choice because they use high speed laser printers and larger toner cartridges.

## Final Editing

The layout of the text and pictures as it will appear on the pages can be done on a word processor, but most professionals prefer a publishing program because it has features not available in the word processor. The publishing programs such as Pagemaker and Framemaker are much more difficult to learn to use than a word processor. There are some publishing programs like Microsoft Publisher which are easier to use but have fewer features. The publishing programs have the advantage of being able to anchor pictures, text boxes, and tables to fixed positions on the page and then let the text flow around the figures and tables so that picture position is unaffected by text changes. Publishing programs also allow the user to use page templates which can include borders, page numbers, titles and subtitles. Many of the features of publishing programs are useful for newspapers, newsletters and magazines where articles may continue after advertisements, announcements or other material. You may find that your word processor can do everything that you need to produce a professional looking book if you can keep things simple.

Some of the features of the word processor you may find useful for a book are:

- The creation of tables with any number of rows or columns in a style to fit the publication

- Division of selected text into columns
- Insertion, cropping and sizing of pictures
- Adjustment of brightness and contrast of pictures
- A large selection of fonts in any size
- Control of spacing between lines of text and at the beginning and end of paragraphs
- Control of horizontal positioning with tabs and indents
- Hyperlinks

Word processor programs usually include many editing tools such as style guides, spelling check, grammar check and "search and replace." These and other features help novice users achieve professional-looking results with little investment of time to learn to use the features and to execute them.

If you are scanning old pictures and inserting them, you will probably need a photo editor program. There are many. The more expensive programs have filters to automatically correct color, and sharpen images, remove "red eye" from flash pictures and to create special effects. For old black and white photos, most photo editing program includes the tools for removing blemishes that occur over time such as scratches, dirt, stains, and fading of the pictures. Sometimes the effects of fading can be removed by adjusting contrast and brightness and can be done with word processors like Microsoft Word, but the removal of scratches is accomplished with a photo editor by painting over the blemishes with drawing or paint tools or smudging the blemish to make it appear the same as the surrounding background.

Old color pictures almost always need the help of a photo editor program. Color photographs are more sensitive to light than black and white photographs. The red colors tend to fade much faster than the blue. With a photo editor, the color balance can be improved and blemishes confined to one color can be corrected without altering the other color layers.

### Programs to Create Genealogy Books

There are a number of programs which convert genealogy databases into genealogy books. Many of the most popular genealogy programs have, as one of the reports, a genealogy book creator. These programs convert the names and places into sentences and pull sentences out of the notes. They organize the facts of a genealogy database into a narrative. They are not very good if you want to publish the book as it comes from the program. However, the result does make a good first draft because the book is organized by individuals and families and has a standardized genealogy format. What is needed next is to the file of the report and edit it with a word processor. Errors and unintelligible sentences can be corrected and additional information can then be added such as biographical sketches of each individual. Historical background can then be added to provide a setting for the events that happened to the individual or the family. Pictures can be added to give the book even more audience appeal. (See the article about publishing using the PAF program, *Publishing Your Family History Using the Computer*, by Mary Lou Harline, on page 9 of the February 2005 *PastFinder*.)

Another type of program that is quite effective is *Family History CD* (See *Family History CD – The Jefferson Project*, by Mary Lou Harline, page 1 of the January 2004 *PAFinder*). This program produces

a book that is designed to publish on a CD which can be viewed on a computer. The format of the book is easily understood by the viewer and everything needed to view the book is included on the CD. The program handles pictures well and makes it easy to place explanations under the pictures. The program is especially good at production of slide shows and could be used exclusively for that purpose. *Family History CD* takes the user step by step through the creation of the book making the mechanics of creating the publication seem easy.

### Electronic Publishing

When floppy disks became popular for storage of computer files, it soon became less expensive to save text on floppies than to save that same text on paper. One floppy could store the text of a large book of 1000 pages with room to spare. The cost of a floppy was less than a dollar but the cost of printing the book was probably \$10. The cost of paper was about \$2 for a package of 500 sheets, enough to print 1000 pages. Unfortunately, a book with pictures took much more space on a floppy disk. Some picture files would not fit on a single floppy unless they are compressed with some loss in quality.

Today we have CDs and DVDs which have the storage space for many books with pictures. A CD is equivalent to about 500 high density floppy disks (1.4 megabytes) and a DVD can store up to 8 times the information on a CD. A blank CD or DVD can be purchased for much less than a dollar, making it the lowest cost publication media by far. The CD or DVD is easy to mail and takes much less storage space than a book. Assuming your computer can write a CD or DVD, copies can be made much faster than paper copies can be printed from a computer, and no binding is needed.

If you do publish a CD or DVD to distribute to family members, the end product looks much nicer if it is shipped in a plastic jewel case. Labels for CD or DVD can be designed and printed with a special program which prints on pre-cut stick-on labels. Another label, possibly with a similar motif, can be designed and printed for the jewel case. The result is something that looks like a commercial CD or DVD.

### Special Features for Electronic Publication

Books printed on electronic media are taking on a style of their own. Although most e-books (electronic books) are formatted in conventional pages, many are not. Page size is not a constraint. Family group sheets with many children and large pedigree charts can be included as very large pages. Tables in books have a limited number of columns and often require cryptic abbreviations to fit on a single page or a double page spread. In an e-book, the table can have a page of its own with any width and height necessary to accommodate the table.

Pictures are often handled differently in an e-book than in a conventional printed book. In the e-book, a small picture or map can be displayed full screen or even larger by clicking on the image of the picture which is embedded in the text. This feature is accomplished by creating a hyperlink to the original picture file. This is often done on Web sites to display an enlarged view. A hyperlink can be created on Microsoft Word and most other word processors.

Hyperlinks can be used to move quickly within the text of the e-book by specifying a destination within the text. All index entries and table of contents items can be entered as hyperlinks. When the reader clicks on the hyperlink, the reader is taken immediately to the page mentioned in the index or table of contents. Hyperlinks can also be used to link footnotes, bibliographies and appendices to text in the book.

### **Publishing on the Internet**

For individuals with their own Web site, publishing on the Internet is free if they can create the Web pages. All that is required is to format the book to be displayed on the Web. This can be done with one of the many programs for creating Web pages. If there is often personal information related to living people, it is necessary to provide security for the information by requiring passwords to those who are allowed access to the family history. Several organizations have provided free Web sites for individuals to publish family history. These sites are open to the public, so information about living individuals should not be posted.

There are many programs to produce Web pages. The programs that allow the user to design pages one at a time are difficult to learn, but well worth the results. Many genealogy programs now produce Web pages which can be used on a genealogy Web site. These pages are produced automatically after the user selects the data to be included on the pages.

Another internet option for those with a Web site is to allow downloads of the published family history. The download can be

password controlled. The download can be formatted for printing as a book or to be copied to DVD or CD.

### **Some Thoughts about Publishing Family History**

There are so many choices available for publishing your family history that making the decisions can seem like a full-time job. Before deciding, you should consider those who would like to read the family history. If some of them do not have computers and refuse to get one, electronic publishing will exclude them.

You should also be concerned about preservation of the information. CDs and DVDs have a limited life because the material deteriorates with age and from handling. While a printed book is easily destroyed by fire and flood, a book printed on archival quality paper can be made to last many centuries. An occasional reading by someone who is careful will not have much effect on the life of the printed book.

The value of a book of family history is not related to the cost of publication. The primary value in the book is in the intellectual property that came from research. The historical information is of immense value to each and every member of a family because it helps them answer some fundamental questions about who they are and how they came to be where they are. Perhaps we should give more consideration to providing the best information possible, reaching as many of our family members as possible, and preserving the information for the next generation of our family as we undertake publication.

May you have success as you publish your family history.

## ***Stranger Than Fiction:* Nigeria Stops for Census, How to Avoid the Census Taker**

### **Nigeria Stops for Census**

In the US, the census takers go out and count people and report their findings. The effort is not in the least disruptive. However, in Nigeria, all the citizens are told to remain at home while the census is taken, the first census in fifteen years. The congested streets in the capital city of Lagos are deathly quiet as the census enumerators go from house to house counting residents. The Nigerian census count will take five days to complete while the shut-down continues. It is Africa's most populous country with 120 to 150 million people.

Questions being asked in the census include:

- Educational background
- Occupation
- Income
- Size of house
- Type of water supply
- Toilet facilities

- Type of fuel used
- Access to radio, television, telephone

The count is politically sensitive because it determines funding and political representation. Religion and ethnicity are left out of the census. The police are instructed to stop large-scale movements of people to prevent individuals from being counted more than once. A few problems resulted, even after the strict government edicts. In the southeastern city of Enugu, some enumerators refused to work because they had not been paid. Police officials had to send out police when suspected armed robbers were expected to pose as enumerators and rob victims during the census.

### **How to Avoid the Census Taker**

Laird McGillicuddy always tries to avoid being counted when New Zealand conducts a nationwide census every five years. McGillicuddy is a self-admitted "eccentric." He spent the census day in 1996 hovering over Garden Place in a hot air balloon. He

said that he was outside New Zealand's legal air space and was not counted. The government agreed with him. In 1991, McGillicuddy he filled in his form in Latin and nailed it, Martin Luther-style, to a tree in Garden Place. A census official retrieved it and counted him as a resident of New Zealand. In 1986 Laird claimed the spirit of an ancient ape creature possessed him and therefore, he was no longer legally a person. This effort got no sympathy and a judge ruled that he had to fill out the form because he had deliberately made himself a non-person. In 2001, he was in Australia helping to take care of a sick friend. This appears to be a legitimate excuse for not being counted.

To solve the problem of what to do in 2006 for the upcoming census, Laird McGillicuddy plans to be cryogenically frozen in Garden Place. This is a cool way to make himself "legally dead" while the official head count is made. He did not say whether he will be thawed the following day or left in a frozen state for the remaining census counts. His official quote is, "Hamilton will freeze over before I fill out their cheeky damned forms."

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## Silicon Valley Computer Genealogy Group

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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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