

Google Earth: Ultimate Armchair Traveling

By Janet Brigham

Nearly everyone does the same thing the first time they bring up Google Earth on a computer: They enter their own address, click the little magnifying glass icon, and watch the world spin toward their home. As the screen focuses on their address, as details of trees and rooftops emerge, nearly everyone says the same thing: "Cool."

Google Earth (earth.google.com) is not the first or only online satellite map system. United States Geological Survey maps have been available online for years, services such as TerraExplorer show some areas in considerable detail, and Microsoft's Virtual Earth is strong in business applications. But when it comes to the fun factor, Google Earth is tops. Entering addresses and watching the world spin as it hones in on what you've entered is simply lots of fun.— enough fun that you shouldn't do it late in the evening the first time, because it's likely to keep you up past your bedtime.

The next things new users of Google Earth seem to do is to enter the address of the home where they grew up, or to look for their high school. It's all amazing, and it's a good way to become familiar with this versatile online tool. After the novelty wears off—which may take some

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time—the genealogy enthusiast starts seeing useful applications.

Google Earth utilizes satellite images that are digitally stitched together to create a relatively seamless map of the earth. The software, which you can download and install on your computer, is compatible with Windows, Macintosh, and Linux platforms. Google Earth's users' guide, accessed online and downloadable as PDF, provides specific information about platforms, installation, and troubleshooting.

Although paid versions of Google Earth are available for professional use, most genealogy users will find the basic, free Google Earth or Google Earth Plus (US\$20) sufficient for their needs. Registration is not required for free Google Earth.

What you see when you first bring up Google Earth is a satellite map of the earth. When you enter a location into the search text window, the image will rotate so that your targeted location is centered, then will fly you there to whatever level of detail you choose. Once you're at a location, you can enter another location (an address, or even "Grand Canyon, Arizona"),

and Google Earth will fly you there. Heady!

Google Earth has many tools that can enhance your armchair traveling as well as your family history. One of the first times I used Google Earth was when my husband, Richard, was traveling in India and England on business for several weeks. The cat and I were feeling a little lonely at home, so when Richard contacted me through the Internet and told me where he was staying in Mumbai (Bombay), I entered the hotel address and soon had zoomed in on his exact location. I used Google Earth's "tilt" feature to get a three-dimensional view of the hotel. He described what he could see from his hotel window, and I found the same view. Suddenly the world was small, and growing smaller.

Like most users of Google Earth, I soon looked up places I used to live, and then looked up addresses of relatives and friends. When my cousin moved from Washington to Arizona, I readily found her new neighborhood. It's fun to guess when the satellite images were taken, based on landscaping features, building structures, and cars in the driveways. You can find out exactly when the images were taken, however, by selecting DigitalGlobe Coverage

and zooming in to the point where the satellite image dates appear.

The level of resolution varies from image to image, and thus from location to location, so some views are sharper and show more detail than others. Images are continually updated as more current images are available, so even if the view of your home looks fuzzy now, it might be better in a few months.

Many features are available as digital overlays to the basic satellite image, which shows the topography as if you were flying directly overhead in an airplane. You can click the Roads feature to superimpose the names of roads on the images of the roads themselves. You can add other features as you choose, including dining establishments (down to and including local bars), government facilities, and banks, for starters.

For the family historian planning to travel to out-of-the-way places, Google Earth can provide a birds' eye view that could save you time and frustration. Several years ago, my mother and I set out in her car to find a small, well hidden pioneer cemetery where my father's relatives and ancestors were buried near Genesee, Idaho. We followed the directions I'd found online, but the cemetery simply wasn't where it was supposed to be. We unknowingly overshot it and

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stopped at several houses to ask directions. After an hour or so of querying the locals, we finally did find the cemetery. The online images of it showed that it was in a grove of trees on a little hilltop. Had I been able to look it up first in Google Earth, I'd have seen that there were few groves of trees on little hilltops along that stretch of road, and I'd likely have realized that the online directions were incorrect.

As it was, we'd driven about 20 miles to reach the cemetery; but what if we'd driven for several days, only to be skunked by incorrect directions? That no doubt happens to many who are searching out their ancestors.

On a Sunday afternoon a few years ago, my husband and I had a difficult time locating an old cemetery in southern Michigan. Two different roads with identical names took off about 40 miles apart at nearly identical angles from the main highway. When we took the first road, we figured that either my ancestors were buried under a shopping center (distressing!), or we were on the wrong road. We found a local library that had a map room, and with some help figured out that we were on the wrong road. We then drove some miles further, took the second road, and found the cemetery where it had been for a century and a half. With Google Earth, we could have scanned the scenery along both roads and bypassed the entire first road.

So the first lesson is clear: You may want to check locations on Google Earth before you take to the road. The software allows you to zoom in and out, done most easily with a scroll button on a mouse, and to move the screen with a little digital hand. So if, for

example, you can find Genesee, Idaho, but don't know where on Genesee-Juliaetta Road the pioneer cemetery might be, you can zoom in on the road and move along it as you search for a grove of trees near an intersection. Should you also have a GPS unit, you can note the longitude and latitude of potential cemetery sites, and then drive to them, and vice versa. Also, Google Earth links readily to maps and driving directions.

Another way to incorporate Google Earth into your family history efforts is to view places that you likely will never visit, or that are difficult to envision even if you do visit. I probably will never take a riverboat up the Mississippi River, as some of my ancestors did, but I can follow the river's route and get a sense of the distance and the terrain. We don't know if we'll get to the locations in Australia where my husband's ancestors' relatives settled, but we can see the terrain and the landscape online. Although we have visited the New England locations of some of our ancestors' towns, our perspective changes when we zoom in through Google Earth: The promontories are more prominent, and the spatial relationships among the townships are clearer.

Many features that make Google Earth fun are less directly applicable to family history, but try them anyway. Features will take you to the sites of parks, Earthwatch Expeditions, areas in political crisis, earthquakes, and volcanoes. And there's much more. You can even stretch out in your virtual backyard and look at the night sky, including the moon, constellations, planets, and other celestial bodies.

My favorite Google Earth view is of another small cemetery in north Idaho where a family member is buried. I like to zoom in on the cemetery, reorient the compass so that I'm facing south, and

Recently Published: **Video Tour of the Allen County Public Library Genealogy Department , FGS 2007 Conference Video**

Video Tour of the Allen County Public Library Genealogy Department

The Allen County Public Library in Fort Wayne, Indiana, contains the largest publicly-owned genealogy collection in the world. Their genealogy department has about 340,000 printed volumes and thousands of microfilms, CD-ROM disks, and online resources. The library is well known for its collection of genealogy periodicals and PERSI, an index of articles in their publications. The library has a mail order service for patrons who want copies of articles listed in PERSI.

The library attracts many visitors each year. Those interested in visiting this library can now have a video tour of the library. The hosts for the tour are John Beatty and Amy Beatty. John is a Reference Librarian and Bibliographer for the Historical Genealogy Department of the Allen County Public Library.

The tour is in two parts. To see the tour, go to:

part #1 <http://youtube.com/watch?v=tcqDqc0SXgo>

Part #2 <http://youtube.com/watch?v=m1YhUwu8waQ>

The video will work best with a broadband internet connection. Those individuals with a dial-up connection may want to download the video at: <http://keepvid.com> and play the video later. The video can be viewed directly with a slower connection if

you can tolerate a few pauses while the computer catches up.

FGS 2007 Conference Video

Those who missed the 2007 conference of the Federation of Genealogical Societies in Fort Wayne, Indiana can view videos of the conference. RootsTelevision.com taped many of the highlights, and has made the video available on the Internet. To view the video, go to: www.rootstelevision.com/players/player_conferences.php?bctid=1137849532

Quotable Quote

A hometown is a place where every second person you meet on main street is some kind of cousin.

Josh Billings (1818-1885)

American Humorist

Of Interest: Generations Network Creates Swedish Site, MyHeritage Acquires Pearl Street Software, Georgia Genealogical Center Fire, Annie Moore, NEHGS and Ancestry.com Partnership

Generations Network Creates Swedish Site

Generations Network, Inc. has introduced Ancestry.se, a family history Web site focused on Sweden. The site already has more than 37 million names found in Swedish parish and emigration records. Ancestry.se is part of a family of Web sites which include Ancestry.com (United States), Ancestry.co.uk (United Kingdom), Ancestry.ca (Canada), Ancestry.com.au (Australia), Ancestry.de (Germany), Ancestry.it (Italy), Ancestry.fr (France) and Ancestry.se (Sweden). The eight sites are available to subscribers to Ancestry.com in the United States.

It is estimated that the United States has about 4 million individuals of Swedish ancestry. Sweden has a strong tradition of family and honoring their ancestors. The emigration records were created in Sweden and cover the exodus of about 20 percent of the Swedish population who came to North America between 1846 and 1930.

The Ancestry.se Web site not only includes 1.7 million emigrations and about 36 million names in parish records, but it will include Swedish family trees like those available on Ancestry.com where individuals can submit their research or add information to community trees. For more information on The Generations Network go to: www.thegenerationsnetwork.com

MyHeritage Acquires Pearl Street Software

Pearl Street Software created Family Tree Legends, a genealogy program, and the GenCircles Web site. There are more than 160 million names, and more than 400 million public records in the Family Tree Legends Records Collection. Customers have complained about the lack of customer support recently. The merger will strengthen both companies in the future.

Georgia Genealogical Center Fire

A small fire broke out at the Coweta County Genealogical Society research center in Grantville, Georgia. The office is in the old passenger train depot and is stacked wall-to-wall with family histories, records, research materials and documents used by local family historians and out-of-town visitors. A lightning storm had occurred before the fire was discovered. The first firefighters on the scene discovered a small fire in the wall of the building. Additional units were called in and the firefighters were instructed to minimize damage to documents stored in the building. The firefighters knew about the records and understood they were irreplaceable. They worked hard to save the historical and family records and none of the records were lost or damaged.

The center remains closed until damages can be assessed and plans made to recover. There is to be a renovation of the 1904 court house and support is growing in favor of moving the center into the courthouse.

Annie Moore

Since the television special, *Roots*, a story taken from Alex

Haley's book of the same name, there has been a strong interest in family history stories. *Roots* Television now has two short films about Annie Moore, who, by chance, was the one-millionth immigrant to come to America through Ellis Island. The two films and the original press conference held at the New York Genealogical and Biographical Society last year to announce the discovery of the "real" Annie Moore are available online from *Roots*Television.com.

The first film, *From Cork to New York: The Annie Moore Story*, is a documentary about Annie's life in Cork and her journey to America. The film was made by 5th year students at Scoil Oilibhéir in Cork, Ireland. They did the script writing, producing, directing, and acting in their picture. Before filming, the students did their research and discovered Annie's birth records and located several sites important to Annie's life, including St. Patrick's Church where she was baptized. You can view the trailer to the film at: www.rootstelevision.com/players/player_immigration.php?bctid=1137790222

The second film, *Making up History: The Search for Annie Moore*, was created by playwright Alia Faith Williams. It is the story of Annie Moore's journey to America. It also follows the efforts of Megan Smolenyak and other interested genealogists who decided to uncover Annie's true identity. They followed Annie Moore after her arrival in America and traced her descendants.

The films, along with 24 channels of history and heritage-oriented programming, are available online at any time on www.rootstelevision.com. They are found on the Irish Roots Channel or the Immigration Channel. The films are viewed by downloading them and playing them on a PC.

NEHGS and Ancestry.com Partnership

The New England Historic Genealogical Society (NEHGS) and Ancestry.com will offer joint access to a large amount of data that each organization has collected. Both organizations have a lot of data that subscribers or members can access via the Internet. By sharing this data, both organizations will have a larger amount of data for their users, thus strengthening each of the organizations. The databases and publications that will be shared remain under discussion and have not been released.

Attention

Lesly Klippel has changed her e-mail address. To reach her regarding change of address, membership renewal and other matters of business for the Silicon Valley Computer Genealogy Group please use the new address:

Leslyk@comcast.net

Stranger than Fiction: Genealogy Disaster

Gary Richards, who taught literature at the University of New Orleans, had to evacuate his home near Lake Ponchartrain where the levee system failed during Hurricane Katrina. He borrowed a friend's car but could not take his computers and many valuable genealogical items. He fled the hurricane and went to his parents' home in Corsicana and waited out the storm.

He returned to his house in October, hoping the house had survived as it did with earlier storms. There had been eight and

one-half feet of water on his street and five feet of water in the house itself from Katrina. Every piece of furniture had been destroyed, as well as his collection of 3,000 books. The computers were ruined although some of the genealogy records on paper were salvageable, even though they were covered with silt and looked ruined. Gary Richards is busy recovering as much of the data as he can. He probably wishes he had more of the data backed up, but one cannot undo the past.

Spider Webs: FAMILLION, Famillion Adds GEDCOM Imports, County Clare Ireland Databases, Zoho Document Sharing, Izme Document Sharing

FAMILLION

FAMILLION is another social networking site for genealogists, and now competes with GENI.com and FamilyLink.com. The company was founded by Danny Rolls when his wife was pregnant and their doctor asked for genealogy data in order to learn if the expected baby was at risk for inherited diseases. He realized that all people were linked genetically and that large genetic database would help parents such as Danny and his wife. That was six years ago. The idea has been converted to a Web site. FAMILLION plans to add one million family trees to its database by the end of 2007.

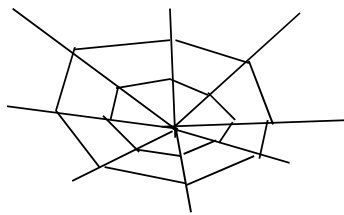
Famillion Adds GEDCOM Imports

Famillion is a new genealogy networking site that plans to merge family trees on their site. The idea began with the creation of the Ancestral File many years ago by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. It is available on the FamilySearch.org Web site, but has been followed with the Pedigree Resource File which kept the submissions of data separate from each other.

Famillion will probably be more successful at merging databases than the Ancestral File because there will be an almost immediate effect on the Web site as changes are made. To upload your database or to see the databases submitted, go to: <http://www.famillion.com/>

County Clare Ireland Databases

The Clare County (Ireland) Library has several databases on their Web site that are popular with genealogists doing genea-



logical research in Clare County. The databases are the *Census of Population of 1901*, *Griffith's Valuation of 1855*, and the *Tithe Applotment Books* compiled from 1823 to 1837. The *1901 Census of Ireland* is the earliest available census of Ireland. It lists the given name, surname, religion, ability to read and write, age, sex, occupation, marital status, and county of birth. *Griffith's Primary Valuation* took place throughout Ireland during the mid 19th century. The valuation of Clare County was published in 1855, and lists landholders and landowners in each townland. A person who owned or rented land in several townlands will have multiple listings in the valuation. The *Tithe Applotment Books* were compiled from 1823 to 1837 to determine the amount landholders should pay towards the upkeep of the Church of Ireland. The taxable land of each parish was surveyed, listing those who occupied the parcels of land, the acreage and class of land they held, and the amount of taxes (tithes) to be paid.

To visit the site, go to: www.clarelibrary.ie

Zoho Document Sharing

Zoho is a new Web site that offers a free document sharing service. To use it, you upload a document file to the Zoho Web site and the Web site returns a URL. You then notify those individuals who are to share the document and they can view or download the document. The document can be a ".pdf"

file, a photo, a word processor or spreadsheet document, a PowerPoint presentation, or any other file. Each file gets a unique URL.

The service bypasses any problems of computer compatibility. Anyone with any computer and any operating system with a Web browser can read the files. While some e-mail services block large files, Zoho does have a limit of 5 megabytes and plans to increase the limit to 10 megabytes very soon.

The site also has many other online services which can be used when you are online. They include a word processor, a presentation tool, a spreadsheet tool, an organizing tool, instant messaging, a group chat tool, a Wiki tool with public, private and group permissions, a notebook tool, Web conferencing, and a Web applications creator.

To visit the site, go to: www.zoho.com

Izme Document Sharing

Izme is a Web site similar to Zoho but it has somewhat different features because it is a social networking site. Those interested in the Zoho site will want to give this site a look at: www.izme.com

Quotable Quote

A good grandmother can cure most of a family's ills.

Chinese Proverb

Have You A Jamestown Ancestor? *Continued from vol. 17 issue 9*

By Allin Kingsbury

The Crown Colony

Sir Edwin Sandys, an influential stockholder of the Virginia colony invest in the company to receive profits from his investment. His primary hope for the colony was to see it as a place to move the excess population of England and to enlarge the territory of England. He had an ally with similar views in Henry Wriothesley, the third Earl of Southampton. In 1622, the Algonquin tribe massacred 300 settlers at Jamestown. King James became convinced that there was mismanagement of the colony. In 1624 he made Jamestown a colony of the crown. He supported the views of Sandys and Wriothesley and felt that the colony could support England financially. As a crown colony the population grew and expanded along the Eastern coast of the present state of Virginia. Land grants brought new individuals to Virginia. In 1634, the population of Virginia was about 5,000 individuals. In 1650 the population had reached 50,000

Government of the People

The Jamestown Council, which made many of the laws and decisions of the colony, began with a group of colonists named by the Jamestown Company. In 1619, the first representative assembly was convened at Jamestown in the old church building. The Jamestown Company decided to have a uniform government for all of Virginia chosen by the colonists. Colonists had begun to settle in other communities as well as on plantations scattered along the shores of Chesapeake Bay and near the navigable rivers. This council was the first government elected by the people in any of the European colonies. It later came to be called the House of Burgesses, and continued to establish the law for Virginia until Virginia became a state. Even then, the government continued under a new state charter, but the Virginia legislature retained the attributes of the House of Burgesses. Perhaps it is the government of the people that made Virginia the leading colony in the move to establish independence from Britain.

The Hundreds

Virginia was organized into units of hundreds, which in England had been an area that would support 100 heads of household. The area of a hundred in Virginia was probably larger than in England because of the large size of the tobacco plantations. The hundreds did not include the towns which were the administrative and commercial centers. The hundreds contained largely self-sufficient plantations. For example, Martin's Hundred, located on the north bank of the James River about ten miles downstream from Jamestown, was sponsored by the Martin's Hundred Society. The administrative center was Wolstenholme Town, which was named for Sir John Wolstenholme, one of the investors. The long-lost site of the town was recently discovered by archeologists who have continued with their archeology digs. Many artifacts from early colonial times have been unearthed.

The hundreds are still in use today as a geographical locality. The US Census for Maryland, Virginia, and other nearby colonies mention the hundreds by name. For those doing genealogy research, a map showing the boundaries of the hundreds can be

very helpful.

The Bacon Rebellion

The arrival of Nathaniel Bacon in the 1670's began a series of events that would alter the status of Jamestown. Bacon was a cousin by marriage to Governor Berkeley who was the governor of the Virginia Colony. His parents hoped that by sending him to Virginia, that he would change for the better under the tutelage of the governor. Bacon was given a land grant and he began to establish a plantation. When the Indians raided the plantation of Thomas Mathews, Bacon organized a group of settlers and led them against the natives. Historians believe that he retaliated against an innocent tribe. The governor had worked hard to establish an uneasy peace with the Indians. Governor Berkeley ordered the group to disband and cease fighting the Indians. Bacon refused the order. His group captured a group of Appomattox Indians, a group who had not been hostile to the English settlers.

Bacon also led the well-armed band of about 1,000 men to Jamestown where they demanded that Governor Berkeley put him in charge of an army to fight the Indian tribes or step down as governor. The governor refused and on 19 September 1676, Jamestown was burned in a siege. Berkeley left Jamestown which was held by Bacon and his men. Bacon died of disease a month later. Berkeley returned and hanged 23 of the leaders, putting an end to the renegade group. When King Charles II learned of the rebellion, he was displeased at the number of executions. He recalled Governor Berkeley to England in 1677. He had done much for the colony, but was a broken man and died in England that year.

Williamsburg, the New Capital

Williamsburg was established as a town midway between Jamestown on the James River and Yorktown (another important historic site) to the north on the York River. It was referred to as the Middle Plantation in the earliest years of the colony. William and Mary College, named after King William III, was established there as part of the Jamestown Charter. When the statehouse at Jamestown was burned for the fourth time in 1698, the capital of the colony was temporarily move to Williamsburg as it had been the other times the statehouse had been destroyed. This time, though, a group of college students published a list of reasons that the capital should be moved there permanently and they gave a long list of reasons for the move. Williamsburg was on higher ground and not on swamp land ridden with mosquitoes. It had good water and was more accessible to the other settlements of the Virginia colony. The proposal of the students was seriously considered, and soon Williamsburg was officially made the new capital and remained so until Richmond became the state capital after the Revolutionary War.

Jamestown was a small town in 1698 and by the 1750s, it had reverted to farmland cultivated by the Ambler and Travis families. The site was considered strategic and was fortified during the Revolutionary War and during the Civil War. In 1893, Mr. and Mrs. Edward Barney owned the site and they donated 22.5 acres to the National Park Service for a historical park. The land included the church tower from the church built in 1639 which had been a ruin since the early days of the Jamestown Colony. It had

long been the only visible remains of Jamestown. A sea wall was built by the NPS in 1900 to protect the site from erosion by the river. In 1934, The National Park Service and the Association for the Preservation of Virginia Properties acquired the remaining land on the island and added it to the park which is now developed into a National Park.

Finding Jamestown Ancestors

Those who have ancestors who came from Virginia may have ancestors who lived at Jamestown. One may wonder why there is not a lineage society like the Society of Mayflower Descendants for those whose ancestors came on the Susan Constant, the Goodspeed or the Discovery. There is a lineage society for those linked to Jamestown ancestors called the Jamestowne Society. They admit members who descend from a colonist who lived in Jamestown or a member of the Jamestown Corporation. Many of the stockholders never came to America. The society has a list of 1500 qualifying ancestors, and if there is sufficient genealogical evidence that you have one of these ancestors, you can be admitted to membership.

If you have a Jamestown ancestor, it is well worth pursuing the genealogy for reasons other than joining a lineage society. The colonists who built Jamestown have left their mark on America with the culture and institutions that they established. Their stories, good or bad, are fascinating and worth passing along to the others in your family.

The task of tracing colonial Virginia ancestors can be done, but it is not easy. Unlike New England, there are few church records of early births, marriages and deaths. There are no public of vital records kept by the colony. Most of the court and land records for the counties around Jamestown were destroyed during the civil war. That is enough to discourage most genealogists. Many families who settled the Virginia plantations were wealthy and considered part of the privileged class. They kept good family records.

If you are hoping for an ancestor on the first voyage, it may be possible, but 90% of the entire colony died during the starving period in the winter of 1609-10.

Some Places to Look

Some Internet sources for Colonial Virginia research are listed as a help to get you started. Many of these sites have links to other sites. The county and state record sources make a long list and are not included, but should be checked. Land records describe land boundaries using meets and bounds. One will need a good map to decipher the land descriptions. A few of the general Internet sources for Colonial Virginia are:

- Cyndi's List for Virginia: www.cyndislist.com/va.htm
- Colonial Virginia Genealogy: <http://colonialancestors.com/va/virginia.htm>
- Fairfax Genealogical Society: www.fxgs.org/
- Genealinks Virginia Genealogy: www.genealinks.com/states/va.htm
- Genealogy at the Virginia Historical Society: www.vahistorical.org/research/genealogy.htm
- Jamestowne Society: www.jamestowne.org/
- Jamestown, VA at 400 Years: www.pmlib.org/Jamestown_400th_Anniversary.htm

- Kindred Trails Virginia Genealogy: www.kindredtrails.com/virginia.html
- Military Records and Genealogy Research: <http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.com/~vanhornfamily/military.htm>
- Pulaski County Library Virginia History and Genealogy Collection: www.pclibs.org/Jamestown%20Adult%20Bibliography.pdf
- RootsWeb Virginia Resources: www.fotoshp.com/VAGenealogy_castle.html
- Sources for Virginia Land Records: <http://genealogy.about.com/library/authors/uclittle1c.htm>
- The Genealogy Castle Virginia Link: www.fotoshp.com/VAGenealogy_castle.html
- US GenWeb Virginia Genealogical Research: www.rootsweb.com/~vagenweb/research.htm
- Virginia Cemetery Transcriptions: www.accessgenealogy.com/cemetery/virginia.htm
- Virginia Colonia Records, 1600s-1700s (a subscription site): www.genealogy.com/503facd.html
- Virginia genealogy: www.accessgenealogy.com/virginia/
- Virginia Genealogy: <http://home.ptd.net/~nikki/VA.htm>
- Virginia genealogy sources for probate wills and immigration records: <http://home.ptd.net/~nikki/VA.htm>
- Virginia Research Locations: www.vgs.org/societies.html

There are many libraries with excellent collections of genealogical and historical records. These include:

- The Virginia Historical Society
- The Virginia State Library (Richmond)
- The Roanoke Public Library (The Virginia Room)
- The Harrisonburg-Rockingham Historical Society Heritage Center (in Dayton)
- The Handley Regional Library (at Winchester)
- The Thomas Balch Library (Leesburg)
- The Jones Memorial Library (Lynchburg)

The public records for the oldest settlements of Virginia present a problem for the researcher. The earliest families settled in the area bounded by the James and York Rivers. Six counties were formed in this area. Demographic changes led to the merger of Elizabeth City County and Hampton to become Hampton County and Warwick County merged with Newport News. Today the cities of Newport News and Hampton comprise the entire counties. The worst of the problem is that five of the six original counties have suffered almost complete loss of their records due to various events, The worst was during the Civil War when the counties sent their records to the state courthouse in Richmond for safekeeping and that courthouse was destroyed by the invading army.

Many family records have survived. Though most of these records are accurate, there are some significant errors that come from these sources. One should be thorough in searching all available records to verify accuracy of any secondary sources.

Church records for Jamestown and other early Anglican churches have survived and are an important genealogical source. After the colonial period, a much higher percentage of the church records have survived. The Library of Virginia has the best collec-

tion of the early church records.

Genealogical Research in Colonial Virginia is difficult because many records have been destroyed. Enough of the records have survived than many families can be traced. One may encounter

families where there are not enough records to continue research. One will need persistence and knowledge of the records that are available. Good Luck.

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

Time to make the leap from PAF 2.3.1?

Q My PAF 2.3.1 program “thinks” the Note File is full. It is not! Due to a mathematical glitch in the program that I spotted several years ago, the Individuals with notes file simply keeps on building. The check says that I have 57,000+ Individuals, but 65,500+ Individuals with Notes! Absurd, as you can see. Similarly a subdirectory of 600+ people gives me 1,200 Individuals with notes! Whenever a person was deleted, the program never subtracted the person from the notes file. When I reused the deleted Record Identification Number and added notes, it again added one more person to the notes file. As you can see, it would compound and later overrun the number of individuals. This it has done...bigtime.



I can add a few more people, but it refuses now to save any new notes because the math glitch thinks that there is no more room in the notes file. I am now at a complete dead stop after many past months of 5 to 7 hours per day, 7 days per week of linking people.

A Ok...here is my two cents' worth. Are you getting an actual error message that PAF thinks the notes file is full? Since I have never seen that message, and I know a little about the cleverness of the code, I would be very surprised if there is such a message in the code. If the actual number of individuals with notes is 65,536, then it is very likely that the real problem is that the code has been written with a specific number of bits in the field that points to the note records. The language that PAF is written in allows integers with up to 16 bits and 2^{16} is 65,536, the binary limit of a 16 bit field. That means that the software can only point to 65,536 note records, period. So the file isn't necessarily full, but the pointer list is full. Your analysis of the cause may be correct, but there is also a more insidious possibility. Back when PAF 2.3.1 was written, memory space was limited because of the way DOS was designed originally.

The PAF developers were forced to jump through hoops to make it possible to use extended memory. When allocating space for data, they had to use an addressing system that kept track of only those records that were being used. This system works well when the records are all the same size. Where it falls apart is when the records are not all the same length, as in the notes records. Each note record is of a variable length. You do not write the same amount of characters for every person. So they have to use record addresses that are pointers to where the next record begins which is right after the previous record ends.

That is not a problem, until you start deleting records and adding new ones, or you edit the notes and add or subtract characters from the record. If you have a note record that is 500 characters long, and then decide to edit it and add another 250 characters, that note will no longer fit in the original space. So they have to go find a space in the notes file that will hold the ad-

ditional 250 characters and assign an address to it that is saved in the record where the first 500 characters are located. The more you do this, the more fragmented the notes file becomes, and you can have multiple addresses for each individual's notes. That leads to the phenomenon you see—57,000+ individuals, but 65,536 note addresses.

This same problem happens to hard drives, which is addressed by having sophisticated routines to defragment a disk drive. The PAF programmers never wrote a defrag program for the notes file. So when they say the note file is full, it may very well be full. The solution is a massive overhaul of the software, which happened in later versions of PAF, but the technology involved using the new techniques that eventually led to Windows.

As for your desire to stay with PAF 2.3.1, it may be possible to use PAF 5 and not lose productivity of the DOS-based PAF versions' keyboard data entry. Nearly all of the mouse functions also have keystrokes that accomplish the same thing. If you are able to become adept at using all the keystrokes efficiently, you can come close to avoiding the mouse all together. Many of them require two fingers, such as CTRL-F for search, and so on. I recall that one of the constraints in the development of PAF 5 was that it would meet the standards for handicapped users who rely of mechanical devices to serve as a keyboard.

PAF 5 actually allows more room in the data records, and the part that is not displayed is actually there but not displayed. The format of the Windows screen is nothing more than a window-like template of what is in the database.

In PAF 2.3.1, the fields for given names and surnames are each a fixed length. If you have a long given name that exceeds the space in the given name field and a short surname, the given name will still be truncated even though there is plenty of space left over in the surname field. The same problem exists for the various levels of place names. This problem has been alleviated in PAF 5. The name fields, both the individual's name and the place names, each are stored in one big long field. Internally, the given names and the surname are delimited by slash characters, but they are concatenated in the same field so that one part of the name doesn't get truncated unnecessarily. The same technique is used for place names, but they are delimited by commas.

PAF 5 has another feature that I rely on heavily. PAF 2.3.1 has two screens, family view and pedigree view. PAF 5 has a third screen, the Individual view. It is essentially a view of your database in a spreadsheet format. All your names are listed down the left hand column and you can display some or all of the data fields for each individual in subsequent columns. It works exactly like any spreadsheet program with a few limitations. It is my guess that you might be astonished how valuable that single feature is. For me, it is a godsend.

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