

## Maps for Your Family History

By Allin Kingsbury

Maps can illustrate a family history by showing where people lived, where they moved, and where they died.

Some individuals had a restlessness that carried them to many places during their lives. To ignore all the places where important events of their lives transpired is to leave out the setting in an important story. The places have an important influence on the people that are there. Most places are easily found in the index of an atlas, and the citation in the index gives a map page and coordinates to locate the place. Other places are more obscure and one needs to find a more detailed map and perhaps a gazetteer to locate these places.

The Internet can be used to quickly locate a place if that place is listed on a map. Google Earth will display a satellite image of the place and its surroundings. Other sites like MapQuest will display a map of the area showing streets and highways. The Internet has an enormous number of sites with current and historic maps.

### Topographical Maps

Topographical maps are survey maps that show elevation of the land. The elevation is shown by contour lines which follow a particular elevation along hillsides or slopes of the land. Also shown are natural features such as vegetation (grassland, shrubbery or forest), natural features (lakes, rivers and streams), and improvements and landmarks such

as buildings, roads, quarries, railroads, and other man made features that were there when the map was made.

The Federal Government surveyed all of the United States and has made the survey maps that can be purchased from a number of vendors either as printed maps or as electronic files. The maps come in several scales. The most useful for the genealogist are the 1:24,000 scale maps or 7.5 minute quadrangle series. These maps show much more detail than the larger scale maps and include buildings, roads, schools, and cemeteries.

The USGS Web site has a national map of the United States which can be viewed online and downloaded for illustration of family history. The map has a large choice of overlays, most of which seem to be of little use. These include Indian reservations, National Forest, and various government projects. However, the map will show state and county boundaries, incorporated areas, roads and streets, etc. The user can zoom in to a scale of 20 feet to the inch which is too close for any practical use, but the scale can be changed by factors of 2. The longitude and latitude of any point can be read by plac-

ing the cursor over it. Distance can be measured between any two points on the map. With a drawing program, an overlay can be created showing the location of property or of a migration route.

Google Earth has a satellite map of the world which is even better. A window showing a selected area can be displayed at a convenient scale. The features including roads, buildings, geological features, rivers and other visible features are shown as they appear on the satellite photographs at the time they were taken.

### Maps for Political Jurisdiction

Atlases, road maps and many other map sources show state and county boundaries. However, county boundaries have changed for some counties and new counties were created. Individuals who are working on research for a time before a boundary change must determine which county holds the records needed for research. County boundaries are found on state maps in most atlases, on state highway maps, and many other state maps. County Boundaries are also mapped in the book, *The Handy Book for Genealogists*, which also includes information on when counties

were formed and the address of the county courthouse where county records are kept.

The location of the townships or parishes of a county are found on county maps. County maps are often available on the Internet at the county sites of RootsWeb.

Finding the county boundaries in the 1700s and early 1800s is a more difficult task. Most county records were kept by the parent county when a new county was created and contained territory from the parent county. Historic maps from the period would show the early county boundaries, and the early counties are often mapped in genealogy publications.

### Locating Land with Plat Maps

Plat maps are made when land is subdivided or when needed for tax assessment purposes. Many plat maps were made by counties in the late 1800s to determine tax assessments for schools and roads. The maps are made to scale and may include a township of similar size area. In the case of a subdivision, the map would show all the land parcels of the original parcel which are intended to be sold and taxed separately. The plat maps usually contain the names of the landowners if they are made when each parcel is individually owned. The maps

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are used by genealogists to identify the location and size of land owned by an ancestor and they make excellent illustrations for family history, especially when compared to a modern map of the same location. If the ancestor rented, the name of the owner of the land must be known. Farms are easy to find. Homes in the city are difficult.

### Fire Insurance Maps

Fire insurance companies used maps which showed the locations of existing buildings for the assessment of fire risk. The location and size of buildings as well as the access routes were useful in determining this risk. The maps are to scale and show land parcels and structures. While plat maps are more useful for farms and rural areas, fire insurance maps are more informative in urban areas. The most notable and available of these maps are the Sanborne maps, covering the years from 1867 to 1969. The maps for Utah are available on the Web at:

[www.lib.utah.edu/digital/collections/sanborn/](http://www.lib.utah.edu/digital/collections/sanborn/) The fire insurance maps are colored and draw interest from the reader when used as an illustration in a family history. The entire collection is available by subscription and is online at some of the larger libraries.

### USGS and Other Survey Maps

USGS maps are survey maps of the entire United States. They were made by the federal government and published by the Department of the Interior. The maps are topographical, showing geological features as well as roads, rail lines, and buildings. The locations of the roads, buildings and other man made features are not updated after the map is published unless enough features have changed that it is deemed necessary to update the entire map. The maps also have symbols indicating the location of schools, cemeteries, court houses, and other public facilities. Many of the maps for rural areas were published in the early 1900s and are useful for family history of those who lived in the area at the time the map was published. The survey maps are useful in finding cemeteries and old churches. The USGS has a list of buildings and cemeteries shown on the maps with geographic coordinates.

The USGS Web site has maps that can be edited and used in family history publications. The maps can show cities, state and county boundaries and modern highways. There are several choices in map content including satellite image, outline and reference, and territorial acquisition of the United States. By choosing a location and zooming in, a map can be created with enough detail and yet covering enough area to serve its purpose. To visit the National Atlas at the USGS site, go to: [www.nationalatlas.gov/printable.html](http://www.nationalatlas.gov/printable.html)

### County Maps

There are county maps available from various sources. Occasionally an atlas will be published for a state with maps of each of the counties. These maps will show the townships for the various counties by name. The easiest source to use for county maps is The US GenWeb site. The site is divided into states and the state sites are divided into counties. Most county sites have a map of the county showing townships. An example of what is available on GenWeb, the Mahaska County, Iowa, GenWeb site has some historic county maps and plat maps of each township for the year

1913. GenWeb has an excellent selection for some counties and other counties have little. It all depends on the individuals who are responsible for the county site.

If you are lucky enough to be working in Texas, the Texas General Land Office has a Web site with about 51,000 maps and sketches. These include county maps, state maps, and maps of some cities, settlement colonies and land districts that predate the formation of counties. The historic maps are quite useful because they show the area as it was when your family lived there. The maps can be viewed to see the content and general features but there is no zoom capability. Copies of the maps can be purchased online. The majority of the county maps were priced at \$4.00 to \$20.00. A county map of Brazos County dated 1868 cost \$20. It showed the individual plats of land marked with the names of the owners. Unfortunately, the names were not sharp enough to read from the screen copy, but there was enough detail to ascertain that the map had a lot of valuable information for someone engaged in research on one of the landowner families.

For other states, plat maps and county maps vary in availability but many old maps can be found at the county court house, historical societies, local libraries, and sometimes at university archives or libraries. It may take some work to find the maps, but inquiries at the possible repositories should locate the available maps.

### Locating Cemeteries

Maps that have latitude and longitude and also have current roads marked are useful for locating abandoned cemeteries and other hard to find locations. The USGS site and some other sources give the location of these places in GPS (global position) coordinates. These are latitude and longitude expressed in degrees with several decimal places. Latitude and longitude have historically been expressed in degrees, minutes and seconds which are found on all of the older maps which contain coordinates. A GPS coordinate can be converted to degrees minutes and seconds by multiplying the decimal fraction following the decimal point and multiplying by 60 to get the number of minutes and then multiplying the decimal fraction of the minutes by 60 to get the number of seconds. By marking the intersection of the calculated latitude and longitude on the map, you have the exact location of the place. GPS coordinates of places can be found in modern gazetteers, and there are many on the Internet.

### Historic Maps

Historic maps are sought after by collectors and the original maps are quite valuable. Some of the larger museums and libraries have acquired historic maps for their collections. A search of the Internet for online map collections will yield many sources. Depending on the particular need for a map, a map of a specific area at a specific time can be hard to find. It will be worth the hunt because it will have the area mapped as it was at the time.

A recent visit to the town where I grew up showed me how fast things change. The town had grown from about 5,000 inhabitants when I attended high school there to the present population of more than 30,000. Where miles of open fields had been when I had ridden a bicycle to the next town there were now miles of housing developments and a new town that had not been in exist-

tence then.

There are catalogues of historic maps that can be obtained. One of the largest catalogues now published is *The British Library Map Catalogue on CD-ROM*, available from Primary Source Media. It lists 190,000 records. Their collection of maps is huge and outstanding in quality. It is in the best tradition of the British who have the Rosetta stone among the many artifacts at the British Museum down the street. The price of the catalogue is not for the occasional genealogist, but \$2,525 may not be a hindrance for some of the larger libraries. Those interested may find it at a nearby city or university library. This is the first published catalog for a large collection, but it will apply pressure to other map repositories to publish their catalogues.

Many US libraries in the US have catalogues of their collections online. Though the collections are probably much smaller and less spectacular than the British Library, the map that is needed may be available in one of these collections. They library may sell copies if the map is old enough to have the copyright expired. The library may also let e researcher take a digital photograph of the portion of the map needed. It is best to check regarding policy before making copies.

### Republished Historic Maps and Atlases

Recently, there have been atlases of historic maps published. There is sufficient interest from historians and scholars to make the venture financially successful. Also the cost is low because there are no fees to pay for copyright. A few recently published atlases and map collections include.

- *Bird's Eye Views: Lithographs of North American Cities*, By John W. Reps, 116 pages hardcover
- *Historical Atlas of Canada*, by Derek Hayes, 272 pages hardcover
- *Historical Atlas of Central Europe*, revised and expanded 2002, by Paul Robert Magocsi, 288 pages, hardcover
- *Historical Atlas of the Pacific Northwest*, Revised Edition, by Derek Hayes, 209 pages, hardcover
- *Historical Maps of Ireland*, by Michael Swift, 144 pages hardcover
- *Manhattan in Maps: 1527-1995*, by Paul E. Cohen, and Robert T. Augustyn, 176 pages, hardcover
- *Maps and Mapmakers of the Civil War*, by Earl B. McElfresh, 272 pages, hardcover
- *Maps of the Civil War*, by David Phillips, 160 pages hardcover
- *New England in Early Printed Maps, 1513 to 1800*, by Barbara Carlo-McCorkle, 174 pages, hardcover
- *The Maps of the California Gold Region*, by Carl I. Wheat, 1942, reprinted 1995, 195 pages, hardcover
- *The Maps of San Francisco Bay*, by Neal Harlove, 1950, reprinted 1995, 153 pages, hardcover
- *The Southeast in Early Maps*, by William P. Cumming, Third Edition revised and enlarged by Louis De Vorse, Jr. 1998, 362 pages, hardcover

These books tend to be expensive, with prices from \$20 to well over \$100. A check of the card catalogues in your local li-

braries may save you the cost of the book if you need to use it.

### Software for Family History Maps

A number of years ago, *World Place Finder*, a gazetteer of the world was introduced for family historians. The program could check a GEDCOM file for errors in the place names used for all events. It was a much-needed software package because there was no way to check place names for spelling errors and syntax errors such as the wrong county for a city. The only way to add maps to a program was to attach it as a multimedia file or as a picture.

Recently a program called *Family Atlas* was released. It is a program used to create maps to use with family history. The program has a map of the world which can be scaled and cropped to make a map of any size. Locations can be selected for the map and any of them can be connected with lines to indicate moves by an individual or group. The maps are plain, but are easy to create and have the essential details needed for most applications. *Family Atlas* has a gazetteer which includes GPS coordinates. The gazetteer can be used to check place names and is easier to use than *World Place Finder*.

### Summary

Maps can illustrate a family history by showing where people lived, where they moved, and where they died. Historic maps can describe the setting where a family lived. Maps can help to find the records and provide information helpful in research. There are too many maps available to describe them all. Many maps are available on the Internet, Others must be found in libraries and archives. It is important for a family historian to learn to use maps for research and for writing family history.

### Quotable Quote

The family that you come from is not as important as the family that you're going to have.

Ring Lardner (1855-1933)

American Author

### Pardon our Slip

The last paragraph of the article by Janet Brigham Rands came to a premature end in the October 2007 PastFinder. It should read: "I like to zoom in on the cemetery, reorient the compass so that I'm facing south, and then tilt the view so that I can see the mountains in the distance the same way I can see them when I'm actually there. Of all genealogical sensations, feeling that I'm there is the best." We could blame it on the high-tech software that we use, but to Janet and our readers, we are sorry it slipped through.

## Software of Interest: FotoTagger 2.6

FotoTagger is a computer program for annotating photographs. With this program, the user can add captions to photographs and annotate selected items or individuals in a picture. The tags are in easily seen boxes large enough to contain the text, and which can be positioned near the item or individual. The tags can be hidden with the click of a button.

The program works on Pentium computers with Windows 2000/XP. Installation takes 3 MB on the hard disk and operation requires 129 MB of RAM. The home version can be downloaded free from the Web site. A commercial program with additional features can be purchased. For more details or to download the program, go to: [www.fototagger.com/](http://www.fototagger.com/)

## Spider Webs: The Canadian County Atlas Project, Genealogy Atlas, United Kingdom Old Survey, Census Maps, The Map Room, Perry-Castaneda Library Map Collection

### The Canadian County Atlas Project

Historic atlases are essential to genealogy research. McGill University in Montreal, Canada, has a large collection of atlases containing Canadian county maps. The university began a project in 1998 to put ten of these atlases online. Two additional phases of the project have increased the number to 43 atlases. Although some of the rare atlases have been reprinted, the reprints are almost as difficult to find as the original editions.

The county atlases show plots of property and list the landowners. A database of property owners is searchable at the site, and the property owners are linked to the maps where the property appears.

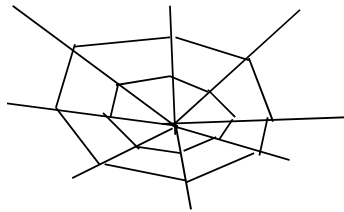
To see the atlases or search the database, go to: <http://digital.library.mcgill.ca/countyatlas/>

### United Kingdom Old Survey Maps

In the late 1800s and early 1900s, survey maps were made of the entire United Kingdom. The survey maps are online and can be downloaded from the site for research or other purposes that are non-commercial, provided the terms of the agreement are followed. There two series of maps at 1:2500 and 1:10,560 scales. The smaller area maps are the best for genealogists because they show the locations of streets and buildings at the time when the maps were made which is usually a hundred or more years ago. Printed copies of the maps can also be ordered from the site. To visit the site, go to: [www.old-maps.co.uk/](http://www.old-maps.co.uk/)

### Genealogy Atlas

This site is rather new. The site currently has three atlases online:



- 1814 - Carey's General Atlas
- 1836 New Universal Atlas
- 1845 - Morse's North American Atlas

Three others are partially complete:

- 1795 - Carey's American Atlas (75% complete)
- 1822 - A Complete Historical, Chronological, And Geographical American Atlas (25% complete)
- 1856 Colton's Atlas of the World (5% complete)

Reproduction copies of the maps can be ordered from the site. The site plans to have other atlases and maps of the United States online in the near future. To visit the site, go to: [www.genealogyatlas.com/](http://www.genealogyatlas.com/)

### Census Maps

The Genealogy 101 site has census maps of many of the states from 1820 through 1920 showing the counties and their boundaries in each census year. The maps show only outlines of the county boundaries and the name of the county. To visit the site, go to: [www.familyhistory101.com/map\\_census.html](http://www.familyhistory101.com/map_census.html)

### The Library of Congress Map Collection

The Library of Congress has a large collection of historic maps divided into seven categories. Maps thought to be of interest from the more than 4 million items in the

collection have been scanned and made available online. A search of all the categories will produce the best search since a map is usually found under a single category. The collection includes only items not subject to copyright. The images are scanned from the original documents. Reproductions of maps can be ordered from the Web site. The map images are 300 dpi resolution, but due to the large size of some maps the file size can be very large. To visit the collection, go to:

<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/gmdhtml/>

### The Map Room

The Map Room is a Web Site for the Bodleian Library at Oxford University at Oxford, England. The library has a collection of more than one million sheet maps and 20,000 atlases. It is the seventh largest map collection in the world. The library is entitled to claim a free copy of any map published in England within one year of publication. Some of the maps are online and others can be used at the library. The Web site also has software for the conversion of files of scanned maps. To visit the site, go to:

[www.bodley.ox.ac.uk/guides/maps/herefrme.htm](http://www.bodley.ox.ac.uk/guides/maps/herefrme.htm)

### Perry-Castaneda Library Map Collection

The Perry-Castaneda Library at the University of Texas has a large collection of maps that cover the world and a large number of them are online. Approximately 11,000 maps have been scanned and are available on this Web site. The collection includes many historic maps as well as modern maps that cover the world. Included in the online map collection are the CIA maps which cover the countries of the world. To visit the site, go to: [www.lib.utexas.edu/maps/](http://www.lib.utexas.edu/maps/)

# Locating Hard-To-Find Places in the United States

By Lesly Klippel

My great-great grandfather, Thomas Fowler, was born in 1813 in Tinsleys Bottoms, Tennessee. I had quite a difficult time locating this place on a map, but finally found it in Clay county on a bend of the Cumberland River. In 1813 it was in Jackson county, but when Clay county was formed in 1870, Tinsleys Bottoms, or what was left of it, fell within its boundaries. I visited Tinsleys Bottoms a few years ago and found that it has a street sign, four or five houses and some cultivated farm land. The small Fowler graveyard was full of weeds and cow plops. At the local historical society, I learned that in 1813 Tinsleys Bottoms was a bustling river port with dozens of families, many slaves and a thriving business shipping saltpetre from nearby mines owned by Thomas' cousin and where Thomas' father, John, worked. Since saltpetre is an ingredient in gunpowder, the presence of saltpetre may have inspired the name of the nearby creek - Brimstone!

My search for the exact location of Tinsleys Bottoms taught me quite a bit about locating hard-to-find or no-longer-in-existence places. Progress has eliminated all traces of many of the small towns that spawned our forefathers. They have disappeared under dammed up rivers and beneath freeways or have decayed to dust as employment in cities replaced work on the farm. Here are some suggestions for enabling you to walk in the footsteps of your ancestors, even if it is through the parking lot of a mega-mall!

## Gazetteers

The first place most people look for their town or village in the United States or Canada is the Rand McNally Atlas, readily found in most libraries and in many homes. The index to that atlas is actually a gazetteer, an alphabetical list of place names. Gazetteers represent a listing of place names during certain times and places. The Rand McNally Atlas is usually very current, but other gazetteers are available in libraries and on the Internet which give listings of places that existed in earlier times. They give the older names for places which may not exist today or which may exist under newer names. In the library catalog, look under the place and then under the heading Gazetteer to locate an earlier edition. At one time, gazetteers were called encyclopedias, so be sure to check that heading also. They may also be listed as topographical dictionaries or geographical dictionaries.

Gazetteers may give coordinates to locate the place on a map or they may give a description of the place along with statistics such as population, manufacturing information and political divisions or even a brief history of the place. Lewis' Topographical Dictionary is a standard for learning about places in England and Wales and other countries have similar reference works, but they would be written in the native language of the country. Be sure to locate your place in a gazetteer before trying to find it on a map.

## What is the Actual Name of the Place?

Problems with place names can arise when the name is corrupted and passed incorrectly in the family. Place names can be heard differently by different ears and various accents can drasti-

cally change the phonetic spelling. Puyallup, Washington is pronounced "Pwallup" by locals. Hispanic names in California are a challenge. San Jose, Vallejo and Lajolla are examples that present pronunciation problems to non-locals.

Even if the name is correctly spelled, many towns have satellite places containing the same name such as Athens, Athens Corners, Athens Springs, and Athens Bottoms, any of which could be the right place. In "Walking With Your Ancestors," author Melinda Kashuba describes an example. She learned that a cousin was buried on the family farm at sundown. When she visited the family farm, she learned that "Sundown" was the name of a section of that farm located above the river where the family would go to watch the sunset. Another problem in locating the correct place is that people often wrote the nearest larger place as their residence instead of the little burg where they actually lived. While few people know where Mayfield, California, is located, they may recognize San Francisco or even Palo Alto which are the names of towns reasonably close by.

The fact that many places in a particular country have the same name can present the researcher with frustrating challenges. There is no telling how many villages in Germany are named Neustadt which means "new town." It may have been "new" when it was established in the 1500s! I thought for many years that my pioneer ancestors took the train as far west as the state of Wyoming until I learned by accident, that Wyoming was the name of the town in Iowa where the wagon trains headed for Utah were formed. I have found that the same mistake was made by other researchers of that family. That same family worked for awhile in Williamsburg to earn money for the trip to Utah. Other researchers have assumed that meant the town in Virginia, but I learned through my research in the census records, that the family lived in the Williamsburg section of Brooklyn! A big difference!

## Looking Up a Place Name in a Gazetteer

You can sometimes solve your place name problem by looking in a map index or a printed gazetteer. If there is any question about the correct spelling, do a wide search in the index, recognizing that some letters sound like other letters. The name could start with either "K" or "C" and sound the same. Other examples of initial letters that sound similar are "T" and "D", "M" and "N", "P" and "B", "V" and "F", "G" and "J", "I" and "E", as well as "l" and "Y". The same rules about spelling variations of surnames apply to place names, especially for names in foreign countries. Listing other possible phonetic spellings for place names is a good pastime during TV commercials!

Searching an online gazetteer like those listed at the end of this article can present particular problems since you can't, in most cases, run your eyes down a list of names. Experiment with the database search template to see if it accepts apostrophes such as in Tinsley's Bottoms or O'Connor Station. See if you can use a wildcard by typing an asterisk (\*) in place of part of the name. Be aware that online gazetteers are transcriptions and as such, are susceptible to human error. Place names can't usually be corrected with a spell checker.

## Locating the Place on a Map

Let's assume that you have conquered or avoided all of the types of problems described above and are pretty sure you know the actual name of the place where the family lived, but don't yet know exactly where it is located. You can't find it in the index to the Rand McNally Atlas or on the Town/County database at [www.rootsweb.com](http://www.rootsweb.com). You have searched for it in Google and come up empty. Now you need to locate a gazetteer published around the time that the family lived there. One located in most genealogy libraries is the Township Atlas which has an index at the back. I have located many small places in that index that I couldn't find in Rand McNally. While the maps of the townships are not very detailed, they give the location of the town close enough that I can usually find it on the Rand McNally map of the state even though the place was among the thousands of small places not in the Rand McNally index.

For foreign countries, the Family History Library catalog at [www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org) can help with two caveats: the places are listed by current names and modern boundaries and only places for which the library has microfilm or other material are listed. [www.cyndislist.com/maps.htm](http://www.cyndislist.com/maps.htm) is a good resource and of course, the U.S. Geological Survey: Geographical Names Information System (GNIS) located at: <http://geonames.usgs.gov> is marvelous for finding not only small places but also a long list of features such as

rivers, lakes, canals, churches, and even cemeteries. The feature entitled "locale" is very handy and the results list will link to maps. The USGS is not the end-all, has-all, however. It didn't locate Tinsleys Bottoms.

There are some software programs that contain gazetteers such as AniMap Plus 2.5 which includes Site-Finder containing 800,000 U.S. place names. This software is available at: [www.goldbug.com](http://www.goldbug.com) for about \$80.00. Many Family History Centers and libraries have it. The New England Historic Genealogical Society (NEHGS) has gazetteers on CDs which you can purchase at: [www.newenglandancestors.org](http://www.newenglandancestors.org). The Early American Gazetteer 1833 and 1853 editions are available on CD in many libraries and for purchase on the Internet. Use Google to search for them if you want to buy one or the other.

As a last resort, you can do what I did to locate Tinsleys Bottoms; contact the local historical society. You can find their name, telephone number and possibly their e-mail address at [www.usgenweb.com](http://www.usgenweb.com) by searching on the state and then the county. In my opinion, nothing can replace actually going to the place where your ancestors lived and loved and enjoying the feeling of closeness to those who paved the way for you and your lifestyle. I wish you luck in your search for those special places and say "Bon Voyage!"

## Stranger Than Fiction: A Case of Identity Theft

When 83-year-old Bill Henry of Lakeland, Florida died of a heart attack, his death was announced in a paid obituary in The (Lakeland) Ledger. A few days later the death made the Sports Section of the Ledger with the headline, Major League Relief Pitcher Bill Henry, of Lakeland, dies at 83. The Associated Press picked up the story and distributed it nationally. The obituary and the follow-on articles contained stories that Bill Henry had told family friends and neighbors over the years about his career in the major league for 16 years and his chance to bitch in two World Series games in 1961 when he played for the Cincinnati Reds.

That could have been the end of the story, but David Lambert, a genealogist for the New England Historic Genealogical Society and a member of the Society for American Baseball Research, saw the story. He is always on the lookout for news of deceased baseball players. He noticed a discrepancy in the age mentioned in the obituary.

The story gets even better when Dave Lambert decided to call the widow of Bill Henry to verify a few of the details that had hit the newswires. Mrs. Henry was quite surprised to get the call and referred the questions to her husband who was sitting in the room with her. The real Bill Henry answered all the questions and convinced Dave that the real Bill Henry was alive and well and the other Bill Henry was a pretty good imposter. Dave Lambert is not easily fooled when the subject is baseball.

It seems that 83-year-old Bill Henry of Lakeland, Florida had been impersonating Bill Henry of Deer Park, Texas, who was 4 years younger. Bill Henry of Florida resident gave talks at grammar schools about baseball and flashed baseball cards of the real Bill Henry. They must have looked enough alike to avoid any doubt

about him being the real player. However, the deceased Bill Henry was an imposter and did a good job of it until he died. Until he retired and remarried, he was a salesman in the state of Michigan,

Bill Henry is busy with calls from relieved relatives and curious journalists who seem to be working overtime to correct the erroneous stories and obituary. However, Elizabeth Henry of Lakeland, Florida, is even more disconcerted over the matter. She never doubted her husband's stories. She is the third wife of Bill Henry, and was married to him for almost twenty years. She now realizes that living with Bill for twenty years was not enough to really know her husband. The news of the fraud came as a shock to her.

Bill Henry is probably laughing from his grave over the whole matter. After all it is too late to punish him for identity theft. Perhaps if he were a genealogist, he could have committed the perfect crime.

### Quotable Quote

We don't have choices about who our parents are and how they treated us, but we have a choice about whether we forgive our parents and heal ourselves.

**Bernie Siegel**

New Age Journal

## Of Interest: Cook County Records, Military Personnel Files

### Cook County Records

The vital records of Cook County, Illinois, which include Chicago and many surrounding suburbs, are expected to be posted on the Internet starting next January. The records begin in 1871, after the Chicago fire destroyed the earlier records. Cook County officials expect to complete the project by the end of the year when all 24 million vital records are available on the Internet. The Web site will be much more convenient for genealogists than ordering certified copies or visiting the archives in downtown Chicago. The scanning and indexing of the records were completed last June and workers are uploading about a million records per week to the Web site. The records available online will include birth certificates more than 75 years old, marriage certificates more than 50 years old, and death certificates more than 20 years old. No Social Security numbers will be available on the documents.

The state of Illinois has had indices of Illinois marriages and deaths available online, but the images of the certificates must be obtained from the county. Until the Cook County site is open to the public, the Illinois state indices are available as follows:

**Marriages to 1901:** [www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/archives/marriage.html](http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/archives/marriage.html)

**Deaths to 1916:** [www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/archives/death.html](http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/archives/death.html)

**Deaths 1916-1950:** [www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/archives/idphdeathindex.html](http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/archives/idphdeathindex.html)

The Illinois State Marriage Index includes records from before the Chicago fire. They were obtained from the Sam Fink Marriage Index which was compiled from marriages listed in the Chicago

area newspapers. The Illinois State Death Indices begin in 1877 for a few counties, but most Illinois counties are not included in the pre-1916 index.

### Military Personnel Files

The National Personnel Records Center (NPRC) plans to make available all of the individual Official Military Personnel Files (OMPFs) of Army, Army Air Corps, Army Air Forces, Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard military personnel who served and were discharged, retired or died while in the service, prior to 1946. This is more than 6 million files. Additional military personnel records will be released each year through 2067 until the entire collection of 57 million files is available.

The files are of interest to family members, historians, researchers, and genealogists. Most files have documents outlining describing assignments, evaluations, awards and decorations, education and training, demographic information, some medical information and documented disciplinary actions. Some files include photographs of the individual and official correspondence concerning military service.

The records can be viewed at the NPRC Archival Research Room in St. Louis, Missouri. Research room hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Tuesday through Friday. Visitors should call and make reservations (314-801-0850). Copies can also be obtained by mail by writing to NPRC at 9700 Page Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri, 63132 or by fax at 314-801-9195, or via the Web at <http://vetrecs.archives.gov>. Copy charges are made according to the National Archives and Records Administration's published fee schedule. Information about records available at NPRC is posted on the National Personnel Records Center site at: [www.archives.gov/st-louis/military-personnel/index.html](http://www.archives.gov/st-louis/military-personnel/index.html)

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

### Time to make the leap from PAF 2.3.1?

**Q** Hi, I'm still using PAF 2.3.1. Is there a way I can send a family group record via email to another computer? Also, I probably should upgrade to PAF 5 but since I'm a novice, I worry about losing my data or having problems transferring the data to the new program. Any suggestions?



**A** It is possible to send a family group record by email, but not from PAF. You cannot even do it with the latest PAF. I suspect that when you see a family group record on your computer screen, you imagine it is the same thing as what gets printed on your printer. In fact, what you see on the screen is the effect of thousands of electronic codes that your particular computer sends to your particular screen to make it display the family group record. Capturing all the electronic codes for your screen and converting them to a generic set of codes that can be interpreted by any other screen

requires special software that must be loaded on top of your PAF program. This screen capture software can work only on a Windows computer where you can have more than one program running simultaneously. PAF 2.3.1 is a DOS program and cannot run simultaneously with another program. Your best solution is to print your family group record on paper, scan the page on a scanner, and then email the digital copy of the resulting file to the other computer. The other user will be able to then display the image on a computer.

Regarding the move to PAF 5, you are not the first to worry about upgrading to a new version. Literally millions of PAF users have transferred their databases to newer versions. Only a tiny number have had reported having trouble, and we have been able to figure out what went wrong and correct it. There are some very useful features in the new versions that I think you will appreciate.

## OFFICERS AND STAFF

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## Silicon Valley Computer Genealogy Group

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

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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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*Silicon Valley PastFinder* is the official publication of the Silicon Valley Computer Genealogy Group, a nonprofit organization. Published monthly except December, *Silicon Valley PastFinder* is distributed at the door to all members attending the meeting, and mailed to others after the meeting. Members may elect to receive the newsletter by e-mail and get the PastFinder Bulletin too..

Articles contributed by readers are welcome. Articles may be submitted as a text file on PC-compatible disk, CD-ROM, or as an e-mail attachment. The editors reserve the right to accept, reject, and edit articles. Articles are not returned.

The following can be ordered from [www.FamilySearch.org](http://www.FamilySearch.org) or at 1-800-537 5950:  
 Personal Ancestral File 2.3.1 Macintosh (diskette or CD version) US\$6  
 Personal Ancestral File 4.04 US\$6  
 Personal Ancestral File 5.2.18 and 4 (Windows), PAF 3, and 2.31 (DOS), lessons and user guide, Personal Ancestral File Companion 5.2 Windows (2 CDs) US\$8.25  
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The following can be ordered from [www.svcomputergenealogy.org](http://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  
*Family History Documentation Guidelines* Available at meetings and on Web site  
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### CLASSES FOR 10 NOVEMBER 2007

- |                             |                                |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Software Classes            | • PAFWiz 2                     |
| • Setting up a Web Site     | General Classes                |
| • Reunion for Macintosh     | • Sorting Through the Evidence |
| • PAF and PCs for Beginners |                                |

For more details or changes, go to: [www.svcomputergenealogy.org](http://www.svcomputergenealogy.org)



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