

Finding Your Huguenot Ancestors

By Allin Kingsbury

The Huguenots were a group of French Protestants who fled France to escape religious persecution. Many of them came to America and to other countries in Europe and eventually adopted the cultures of those countries and integrated with their neighbors. They account for a number of the French surnames found in the United States, England, Germany the Netherlands, and other countries

History of the Huguenots

The name "Huguenot" is a name applied a group of Protestants in France who sympathized with Martin Luther and later accepted the teachings of John Calvin, a Swiss Reformer. Some say that the religious group was named after Besancon Hughes, a Swiss religious leader, but there is no evidence to prove this is the origin of the name. Groups of these Protestants organized congregations in about 75 cities in France and the group became quite numerous during the reign of Henry II (1547-1559). The Catholic government of France did not like the growing political strength of the Protestants and persecution began with torture and confiscation of land belonging to the Huguenots.

During the reign of Charles IX, France was controlled by Catherine de Medici. The persecution led to armed conflict and Catherine formed an alliance with the Guise family to quell the

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rebellion. In 1572, The Duke of Guise carried out the St. Bartholomew's Day Massacre, in which many prominent Huguenots were murdered.

Following the massacre, Henry III assassinated the Duke of Guise and the Duke's brother who was a cardinal in France. The other side retaliated and Henry III was assassinated. Henry of Navarre became the next King of France. Henry was a Protestant and a strong leader. To further his reign as king, Henry became a Catholic in 1593. He remained sympathetic to the Protestants and issued the Edict of Nantes in 1598 which guaranteed religious freedom to the Huguenots in the 75 towns and cities where they had congregations established. Peace was established and France prospered for a time.

The situation of the Huguenots soon became worse. King Louis XIII revoked the political freedom of the Huguenots during his reign. Cardinal Richelieu then conquered the Huguenot cities, bringing an end to their local government. Freedom of Worship was allowed until 1685 when Louis XIV revoked the Edict of Nantes.

The French government relaxed some of the laws tar-

getting the Huguenots who remained in France, but it was not until the French Revolution and the Constitutional Assembly (1789-1791) that the Protestants and Jews received rights equal to the Catholics. The Huguenots did not return to France. They had become part of their adopted countries and remained scattered among the countries who gave them refuge.

The Numbers of Huguenots

Experts have estimated the numbers of Huguenot refugees for the period from 1681 to 1720, immediately before and after the revocation of the Edict of Nantes. A conservative estimate places the number of Huguenots living in France at about two million. About ten percent of them fled France during the period with the following distribution of destinations:

Netherlands	75,000
England	50,000
Germany	30,000
Switzerland	25,000
Ireland	10,000

Smaller groups went to the United States, Canada, South Africa, Denmark and Australia.

The Migrations and Gathering of the Refugees

A large exodus of Huguenot refugees occurred shortly after the St. Bartholomew's Day Mas-

sacre in 1572. Additional persecution caused more groups to flee until the time of the French Revolution. It is estimated that more than 300,000 Huguenots left France during this period. Most of the refugees went to Geneva, Amsterdam, London, and a few other European cities. However these locations were just the beginning of the migration. For more than 200 years, the refugees searched for friends and migrated on to other locations where there was opportunity to buy land. Many Huguenots eventually went to the United States and Australia where land was cheap, and where they could establish communities primarily for their freedom of worship.

A very large group of Huguenots fled France in 1685 when the Edict of Nantes was revoked. These refugees found new homes in England, Germany, Holland, and America. Many of the Huguenots were craftsman and textile workers. The group in England was instrumental in building the textile industry in England.

Of the refugees who went to the United States and Australia, most of them were living in England at the time they left. Others followed more complicated routes, moving from country to country to join friends and family and then going to England and on to America, South Africa, or Australia. The many moves make these families difficult to trace.

(Continued on page 34)

What's Inside

Of Interest	34	Spider Webs	38
Recently Published	35	Stranger Than Fiction	39
Software of Interest	36	The Indexing Project	39
Finding and Documenting Oprah's Roots	37	Information/Classes for June 2007	back

Huguenots *(Continued from page 33)*

The records are available for many of the families, but moves from city to city make it difficult to know where to look. Once one knows that the family is Protestant, a complicated migration path is to be expected and one will search additional sources of information.

In the United States, the Huguenots founded some of the early settlements in the South. The Huguenots began arriving in South Carolina in 1669, and about five hundred of the group had settled there by 1700. These French-speaking settlers soon were active in the political life of the young colony, also had quickly organized their own church in Charlestown. In 1700 and 1701, more than three hundred French Huguenot refugees settled on ten thousand acres donated by King William III, which were located on the south bank of the James River in King William Parish. This became the town of Manakin, which is just off Route #6 about 15 miles west of Richmond in Goochland County, Virginia. A few of these Huguenots later moved to Colonial Williamsburg, Essex County, and Hanover County, all in Virginia. Other early settlements in Virginia were along the watershed of the Mattaponi.

An early attempt was made to settle the Huguenot refugees in Florida before the English began settling the colonies in the United States. A group arrived at the mouth of the St. John River in 1562. The colony soon ran into trouble when they lost their minister and the leader of the colony developed into a cruel tyrant and was killed. The English offered the French passage back to France but the French were suspicious and declined the offer. Finally the Spanish arrived and decided that France had no right to be in the New World. A superior armed of Spaniards put the men to death but spared the women and children. France was outraged, and two

years later, Dominique de Gourgues sailed to Florida with a band of French soldiers and with the help of the Indians, they captured and hanged the Spaniards who held the fort and settlement site. This French group was not Protestant nor did the French remain in Florida. It was more than 100 years later that a small group of Huguenots actually settled in Florida.

Other Huguenot communities were established in Massachusetts and New York. Boston had a French Protestant congregation in 1685. It survived until 1785 when the members either joined other French groups in South Carolina and New York or were integrated into the general population of the United States. When Harlem in New York was established in 1658, half the population was French in origin. Since large numbers of the Huguenots first fled to the Netherlands, New York became a popular final destination for them. There were large groups of French Protestants also found in Staten Island, Long Island, New Paltz, Kingston and New Rochelle.

Pennsylvania also had a large group of French, but the research on these families is confusing because they arrived with the Germans who were fleeing from the wars and persecutions in the Rhineland. The French families often joined with the German Protestants and their records are mixed with German surnames in the church records.

Huguenots in Canada

Many early settlers of Quebec and Acadia were Huguenot refugees. By 1627, Huguenots were forbidden to settle in any possessions of the French King. Still they came. In 1729, 100 French families settled in Nova Scotia. In 1752, several hundred families came to Halifax. In 1771, more families settled in northern Nova Scotia.

To be Continued

Of Interest: **World's Largest Genealogy Database, Library of Congress to Digitize Historic Documents, 1911 Census for England and Wales To Go Online, St. Charles County, Missouri, Records Recovered, New FamilySearch.org Features Need Testing**

World's Largest Genealogy Database

By the end of 2007, the Shanghai Library expects to complete the world's largest genealogical database. It will contain about 50,000 Chinese family trees. The database contains Chinese families' lives and histories going back 1,000 years. The genealogical documents cover 335 common and 90 rare surnames. The database will be available online so Chinese families everywhere can do the research of family documents from home.

The Shanghai Library is China's second largest public library. It houses the most extensive collection of original genealogical documents of Chinese families.

This may be a surprise to many individuals, but the Chinese did keep records of their ancestors for many centuries. The Communist government actively discouraged the study of genealogy. They considered tracing one's ancestry a bourgeois activity. Although the government has not changed hands, the attitude of the government toward genealogy has changed. The project was approved by the Ministry of Culture in 2001 because many Chinese people, including Chinese from overseas, come to the library for information on their families. The Shanghai Library has received contributions from the Genealogical Society of Utah, from Chinese libraries in Singapore, Holland, and Taiwan Province, and from similar institutions in other parts of the world.

Library of Congress to Digitize Historic Documents

The Library of Congress has thousands of rare public domain documents that relate to America's history. The older documents are not on acid-free paper and sometimes are printed on newspaper. As they age, the paper darkens and becomes brittle. The library of Congress is planning an ambitious project to digitize these documents and make them available online. A \$2 million grant from the Sloan Foundation will help make this possible.

The documents will include the 850 titles written, printed, edited, or published by Benjamin Franklin, Civil War works, genealogical documents, technical and artistic works concerning photography, and many rare books. The scanning process will use Scribe, a book-scanning system that takes high-quality images of books and then converts the images with optical character recognition into text format needed to search the documents. The Scribe system is a combination of hardware and free open-source software. The result is high quality printable images that can be searched for content. When the project is finished, the documents will be available to the public online at no cost.

1911 Census for England and Wales To Go Online

The U.K. National Archives and ScotlandOnline have begun a project to put the 1911 census for England and Wales online. This

census covers about 35 million people then living in England and Wales at the time. The data includes more than eight million household schedules and 38,000 enumerators' summary books. The paper occupies 2 kilometres of shelves at The U.K. National Archives. It is estimated that the census will require 0.5 petabytes of computer memory for storage of the estimated 18 million images that will be scanned.

The 1911 census is the first British census where the household's schedule is the primary source of data. The form is usually in the handwriting of the head of household and contains much more information than the earlier censuses where the information was recorded by the enumerators as they asked questions at each household and recorded the data in their notebooks.

In 2009, the data will begin release to the public and by the year 2012, all of the 1911 census data will be available online.

St. Charles County, Missouri, Records Recovered

The records were there all the time, but about four years ago, St. Charles County (Missouri) Executive Steve Ehlmann, then a judge, was looking around the county courthouse basement and discovered a pile of court documents from the early 1800s. Everyone assumed the records had been lost or destroyed. These records have been treated for their preservation and indexed by the Missouri State Archives. Now, the historians are releasing details about what is in the records and it is good news for genealogists with ancestors in St. Charles County.

The records are from the years 1805 to 1835, a 30-year period when records were scarce. Historians analyzed the first batch of the records which include about 7,000 pages of records for about 1,650 court cases and administrative actions. Among these documents are several signatures by Daniel Boone, the only publicly-owned biography of William Clark which was written for his 1820 campaign for governor, and court documents relating to the Spanish Southwest. Bill Glankler and Nik Henle, who are state archivists, have worked long and hard, sorting and indexing the records from the early 1800s. Their work includes documents held by the St. Charles County Historical Society, and other documents held by other organizations. The other records bring the total documents to about 2,800 court cases of at least 10,000 pages.

The project included repair and preservation of damaged papers. The index will eventually be searchable through either the state archives or the county historical society. The state archives

plans to preserve the documents on microfilm later this year. At a meeting on April 28 at the St. Charles County Historical Society, and at the Missouri Conference on History in St. Louis on April 19, the archivists are scheduled to report their findings to the public. Genealogists and historians will eventually have to go to the St. Charles County Courthouse to read the documents because there are no plans to put these documents online.

New FamilySearch.org Features Need Testing

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is updating its Web site at: www.FamilySearch.org. Many new features are being added. The Church is experimenting with some new tools as well as making improvements to existing services. Some of the software is ready for beta testing and the Church is inviting users of the site to help with the testing before the software is released and they move on to other projects. Anyone interested in genealogy is invited to participate in the tests. Newcomers to genealogy are especially wanted because they are the most vulnerable to features that are not user friendly.

The new software is at a Web site called *FamilySearch Labs*. The site is constantly changing as corrections and changes are made to the software and to the Web pages. Some of the Programs that are now being tested on the beta sites are:

Pedigree Viewer: This program allows Web site visitors to interactively view and navigate an entire pedigree of known ancestors. The viewer can also follow descendents of an individual.

Life Browser: Users can view pictures, images of documents, and stories of individuals with this browser. This program is in early test and users can influence the features included in the program.

FamilySearch Indexing: Family Search Indexing is has been available for some time. The Silicon Valley Computer Users Group has joined this project last year and has many members busy indexing names on microfilm. Eventually the microfilm will be available over the Internet and can be searched, using the indexing data created by the many volunteers on the project. The Indexing project is available on this Web site to provide more throughput and faster response time for the many volunteers working on the project.

For more information or to begin helping with the beta testing, go to: <http://labs.familysearch.org>. Also you can learn more about the project at: <http://familysearchlabs.blogspot.com/>

Recently Published: The Official Guide to RootsWeb.com, Genealogy Librarian News

The Official Guide to RootsWeb.com

The Official Guide to RootsWeb.com is a new book by Myra Vanderpool Gormley and Tana Pedersen Lord. The book explains how to put a family tree online, how to search effectively and find family history data, how to effectively use message boards, and how to find and work with others doing family history research about your ancestors. The book provides many tips on how to use RootsWeb effectively and get the data that you need for your family history.

Myra Vanderpool Gormley is the former editor of the RootsWeb Review, She and Tana Pedersen Lord wrote *The*

Official Guide to Family Tree Maker 2006. Tana Pedersen Lord is currently a contributing editor to Ancestry Magazine.

The book can be downloaded from the Internet for \$7.95 at: www.lulu.com/content/776051. The printed version sells for \$12.95 and can be ordered online at: <http://tinyurl.com/2wgqqe>.

Genealogy Librarian News

Tom Kemp began an e-mail newsletter called *Genealogy Librarian News* in the late 1990s. He now has the newsletter as a blog available in format for a Web browser and as an RSS data feed. To read the Genealogy Librarian News, go to: <http://genlibrarian.blogspot.com> or <http://genlibrarian.blogspot.com/>

Software of Interest: NeoOffice for Macintosh, PedigreeSoft.com

NeoOffice for Macintosh

The most popular set of office programs for Macintosh users is Microsoft Office 2004 which includes Microsoft Word, Excel, Project Center, PowerPoint, and the package sells for more than \$300. Office 2004 for Macintosh for Students and Teachers contains most of the same programs and sells for about \$150. A much less expensive alternative is OpenOffice.org which is free, including the source code. It lacks a few of the features found in the Microsoft products, but most users find the program does everything they need. One limitation of OpenOffice.org is that the program does not use the Macintosh "Aqua" user interface.

A group of Macintosh programmers have taken the OpenOffice.org source code and have modified the program to fully utilize the Macintosh Aqua interface. They have named the program NeoOffice. NeoOffice for OS X has the look and feel of other Macintosh programs. The program includes a word processor similar to Microsoft Word, but lacking a few of the advanced features. It has a spreadsheet program similar to and compatible with Excel. The presentation program is compatible with PowerPoint. NeoOffice is available by download free of charge. The download and program details can be found at: www.neooffice.org

PedigreeSoft.com

For those who want to publish their family history online but have no genealogy software and want it to be read by those without a genealogy application on their computer, PedigreeSoft.com is the solution to their problem. The application software is accessed via the Internet. The user who owns the account can enter, edit, and store genealogy online and others can visit the site to read the data. PedigreeSoft.com accepts pictures, maps, sound bytes, text descriptions, multimedia files, as well as GEDCOM files. The program has features comparable to PAF, RootsMagic, Legacy, and Reunion. Reports can be printed and GEDCOM files can be exported. A large number of notes can be stored for each individual. Full source citations can be added for birth dates, death dates, given names, surname and sex. Unfortunately, citations cannot be added for marriages, military service, christenings, and other events.

Online searches for individuals can be done on FamilySearch.org and WeRelate.org by clicking on "Research" while viewing the record of an individual. The entries from those services for individuals with the same name as the displayed individual are then displayed in PedigreeSoft.com. A "History" page shows all changes made to the database including the new data, the previous data, and the user name of the person who made the change. This feature provides a trail to trace all changes made to the database and correct or undo the change. A Match/Merge feature searches for duplicate individuals and if a valid duplication is found, the individuals can be merged.

The reports are limited to pedigree charts, family group sheets, and individual records. The other reports found in most of the genealogy programs are not available.

While the program would be rated as adequate in features, the fact that it is online and the data and program are available on

the server at any time does offer benefits for users with special requirements. Those who travel can often use a computer at a public library or at an Internet café anywhere. Travelers can also use a computer of a friend to work on their genealogy. Another advantage is that anyone in the family can see the genealogy database without a genealogy application program.

Another advantage of this Internet service is that the data is stored on a server. By keeping a copy of the data at home and on the server, a user can have a copy of the database at two locations. The server is backed up professionally on a scheduled basis. Updates to the software are done at the server and available for anyone to use as soon as they are made.

Others can be given access to the database by providing them with a password. Otherwise the data cannot be viewed.

A third advantage is that the database can be viewed or edited with either PC or Mac computers. The Internet interface works the same for either type of computer. In fact, PedigreeSoft.com can be used from a Web-enabled cell phone or PDA. Before doing the latter, the user should first obtain Opera Mini which is available at: www.operamini.com

PedigreeSoft.com has a free service limited to a database with only fifty individuals and 10 megabytes of storage space. It is enough to try out the service but certainly too small for a database for a serious genealogist. The company offers three options with a yearly fee:

- The Standard option allows up to five separate databases with up to 250 individuals in each database, a maximum of 100 megabytes of online storage, and as many as 5 other users. It costs \$19.95 a year.
- The Deluxe option allows up to ten separate databases with up to 5,000 individuals in each database, a maximum of 500 megabytes of online storage, and as many as 25 other users. It costs \$39.95 a year.
- The Professional option allows up to fifty separate databases with no limit to the number of individuals in each database, a maximum of 5,000 megabytes of online storage, and as many as 100 other users. It costs \$69.95 a year.

To sign up, try out the service or for more information, go to: www.pedigreesoft.com

Quotable Quote

The happiest moments of my life have been the few which I passed at home in the bosom of my family.

Thomas Jefferson (1743-1826)

American President

Finding—and Documenting—Oprah’s Roots

By Janet Brigham Rands

Black historian Henry Louis Gates, Jr., has been looking for Oprah Winfrey’s roots. He has publicized his search—aided by several genealogy experts—in television documentaries and a short book, *Finding Oprah’s Roots: Finding Your Own*. As phenomena go, Gates’ search probably lacks the impact of Alex Haley’s *Roots*. As a genealogy roadmap for circumventing the seemingly impenetrable brick wall of slavery, Gates’ work demonstrates the value of documentation.

Haley’s family history was unhindered by the complexity of thorough documentation. Oprah’s family history, on the other hand, now has been verified with census, land, and vital records, as well as DNA and first-hand accounts (see Web links below). Gates and his colleagues interviewed the living, located records that verified and corrected the family stories, and made measured assumptions. DNA testing connected Oprah’s maternal line to Liberia in Africa, through slaves off the southern coast of the United States. With all of these techniques, they reached generations beyond what Oprah had known.

The film version of Gates’ research, titled the same as the book, was shown on PBS stations in January 2007. The book’s publication was concurrent with the film. The 2007 film followed a series of previous explorations of the ancestries of well known, accomplished African Americans, *African American Lives*. In all of these, personal and family histories were detailed and documented with genealogical documentation, including DNA.

Gates employs a professional historian’s tools and attitudes, but seems somewhat unfamiliar with some genealogy approaches. He seems unsure as to whether the ancestors are the root of the family tree or are its branches. When he offers recommendations for steps in pursuing family history beyond the wall of slavery, he doesn’t appear familiar with the concept of building a genealogy database to keep the information straight, instead recommending a pedigree chart or even index cards. Nonetheless, the steps he recommends are appropriate: First, gather basic information; after you interview family the first time, go back multiple times. Ask about photographs and documents, and copy all you can. Then check everything against public records.

Gates’ writing is informal and chatty; he meanders through his own narrative, cluttering the text with an excess of adverbs, adjectives, and exclamation points. He makes a point, then makes it again and again, in case the reader missed it the first few times. The reader can imagine him wringing his hands as he offers asides on history, slavery, and his own family.

Throughout, one voice sparkles: Oprah herself. The power of her personality and the poignancy of her history lead back to equally compelling ancestors whose stories emerge: schoolteachers, postbellum landowners, hardworking people who surmounted and survived tragedies.

Oprah long has drawn on the power of her ancestors while knowing little about them. “Before I have a big meeting or decision to make...I go and I sit with the ancestors,” she explained to Gates. “Literally, I go and I sit in my closet and I say their names.

I just say their names and so that when I walk into the space, I don’t walk alone.”

Gates finds in Oprah’s family history the two main themes of prizing education and valuing the acquisition of land. Were he a psychologist rather than a historian, he might have seen the theme of how Oprah, being mistreated and abused as a child and teenager, bargained her way to a position of power. Indeed, she eventually leveraged a painful childhood into a media empire.

Vulnerability has always been Oprah’s strength, a virtual archetype of endurance and perseverance that endears her to many millions. The beginnings of her vulnerability go back to generations that she never knew.

Oprah was sure she had no White ancestry, and DNA testing confirmed that she does not. However, she apparently has 11 percent Native American lineage, which delighted her. As she explained, many “colored” children longed to have Native American ancestry, since that was a more acceptable form of color than having black skin and kinky hair.

She had long believed she was Zulu, although DNA testing indicated maternal ties to the Kpelle tribe in Liberia, the Bamileke in Cameroon, and the Bantu-speaking people in Zambia. She also has exact matches with the Gullah off the coast of South Carolina and Georgia. (Of course, her paternal lines could be Zulu—that remains unknown.) Experts explained that the reason the geography of her DNA is so widespread is because of the trans-African migrations, wars, and captivities, as well as the result of enslavement and the Middle Passage across the Atlantic.

Gates’ background as a historian lends depth and credibility to the account. He readily separates documented evidence from family fiction and wishful thinking. He speculates with open caution. Both the film and the book are illustrated with census records and other official documents. Slaves rarely were listed by name in the U.S. census, but were counted in slave schedules. The first census to list former slaves was the 1870 census, five years after Emancipation. Many former slaves had by then selected surnames, including some drawn from their family’s past, the names of their most recent and prior slaveowners, and famous Americans (such as Washington, Jefferson, and Jackson).

At each step in reconstructing Oprah’s roots, Gates and his team combine a variety of records to build the pedigree. They also occasionally take a genealogical miscue of the type many of us encounter: According to records from two Mississippi counties, two women were married to someone named Elmore Winfrey 1925, with a child born to one of the women four months after the marriage of the other woman. Gates speculates that Winfrey (Oprah’s grandfather) married twice. It evidently doesn’t occur to him that a simpler solution would be that there were two Elmore Winfreys (possibly related to the fact that *Winfrey* was a slaveholder’s name, taken by slaves as a surname—the two Winfrey families would not need to be related, but could be connected only by both descending from the slaveholder Winfrey’s slaves).

I confess to missing the *Roots* phenomenon the first time around. I didn’t watch the series, didn’t read the book, and felt a certain allergy to popularized genealogy. Whatever my ancestors

had endured, they probably weren't Black and were unlikely to become icons. Unlike pop genealogy, Gates' careful entrée into the Black past is reassuring with its firm footing and expert contributors.

Oprah's ancestors weren't mythological in their greatness, but were believable in their sturdiness. Even those of us without slavery in our generations may have slavery in our history, and can learn much by seeing how Gates' team combined history, both likely and obscure records, and DNA to tie Oprah's present to

her ancestors' past.

To order a DVD or VHS of *Finding Oprah's Roots: Finding Your Own* or *African American Lives*, or to order the book *Finding Oprah's Roots: Finding Your Own*, go to: www.pbs.org, select Shop PBS and search on the term *Oprah*. For more information:

www.pbs.org/previews/oprahs-roots/

www.pbs.org/wnet/aalives/

Spider Webs: Mozy, MacMozy, Checking Copyright Online

Mozy

Mozy is an online backup service that encrypts data files and stores them on Mozy servers. The service works as a background process, backing up files as they are edited or created. The company recently announced a contract with General Electric will now back up 300,000 computers by using MozyPro, the company's backup service designed for corporations.

The backup is accomplished by downloading and installing the Mozy software. The user then identifies the files to be backed up and these files are automatically backed up every two hours. Thirty days of backup are stored at the Mozy site. Once a problem is detected, the corrupted file can be restored from the Mozy site if it has not been 30 days since the problem occurred.

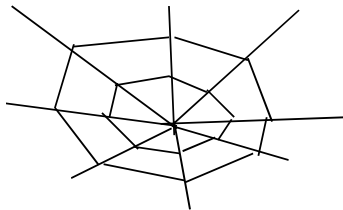
Mozy is free for up to 2 gigabytes of storage and \$4.95 per month for unlimited storage for individuals. Businesses pay \$4/month for each employee, plus \$0.50/GB/month for the stored data. To visit the Mozy site, go to: <http://mozy.com>

MacMozy

Mozy is an automated backup service that runs in the background mode. It has been available for Windows XP users. Now Mozy has a backup service for Macintosh users called MacMozy.

The user makes a list of files which require backup and Mozy will automatically backup the files on the list when the Internet is not currently being used. The process is fast because Mozy only backs up the parts of files that have been changed since the last backup.

MacMozy is in beta test as this article is being written. That means there could



be some bugs in the program. The service is free for 2 gigabytes of backup and \$4.95 a month for unlimited backup. Those with several computers can put them all on a single account, even of one is a PC and the other is a Mac. For more information, go to: <http://mozy.com>

Checking Copyright Online

The U.S. copyright law is confusing. Because of the many changes in the law and when a renewal was required to extend the copyright period of protection, it has been difficult to research the renewals. Works published before 1923 have no copyright now and are considered public domain. The 1919 copyright law granted copyright for 28 years and if the copyright was renewed, the copyright was extended for an additional 47 years. Renewals were accepted only during the last year of the copyright. With a valid renewal, copyright protection lasted for 75 years. In 1976, a new copyright law was passed which granted protection of copyright for 95 years from the date of publication with no renewal required. This law applied to all works published after January 1, 1964. Works created after 1977 are covered by a more recent copyright law which guarantees copyright for the life of the author plus 70 years. The Copyright Office has not created a machine-searchable database of copyright renewals. To learn whether a copyright has been renewed, one had to go to a card file at the Copyright Office in Washington DC until recently.

Project Gutenberg, a group of university based scholars who have been scanning and publishing text files of books in the public domain, created a computer-searchable index of all copyright renewals for books filed for the years 1950-1977. Michael Lesk converted the information into a database format that could be searched, and Stanford University provided servers to make the data available online. Since all books published through 1922 are in the public domain, books published later would have their copyright renewal due starting with the year 1950. Books published after January 1, 1964 have automatic renewal of the copyright, and are protected until 2059 or later.

Use of the database is free of charge. The Stanford University copyright renewal database can be found at: <http://collections.stanford.edu/copyrightrenewals/bin/page?forward=home>

Because the copyright laws are so complex, The Copyright Office published a pamphlet called, *How to Investigate the Copyright Status of a Work* (Circular 22). The pamphlet can be found online at: www.copyright.gov/circs/circ22.html

USGenWeb Search Engine

The USGenWeb Project began ten years ago as an effort by volunteers to put data of interest to genealogists on the Internet. The records are organized by counties and states and are available at no charge. Now a new search engine is available to search the data called Search Us. The site was opened to the public with the 13 original states, plus Alaska and Hawaii. Many more states have been added and the last of the states are expected to be available in May or June. To visit the site, go to: www.USGenWeb-Search.Us

Stranger than Fiction: Heir to the English Throne?

Edgar Aetheling was the only son of Edward the Exile and grandson of King Edmund II (Edmund Ironsides). He was the last male heir to the West Saxon royal house of Cerdic and was the only legitimate heir to the throne at that time. When his father died in 1057, Edward was nominated by his great uncle, King Edward the Confessor to be the heir apparent. In 1066 he was the only candidate for the throne of England who could trace his descent from an English King. Unfortunately he was only in his teens and King Harold was crowned King instead. Then Harold II was killed in the Battle of Hastings.

The Witenagemot, a council of men that advised the king on the administration and organization of the kingdom, met in London and proclaimed Edgar to be King Edgar. Unfortunately for Edgar, he was never crowned. He submitted to William the Conqueror about 6 months afterward, at the age of about fourteen or fifteen.

Recently, advertisements appeared in British, US, Australian, German, and Norwegian newspapers asking, "Can you trace your family tree back to 1066? Might your ancestors have claimed the English throne?" It turns out that the Historic Buildings and Monuments Commission for England would like to talk to you if your answer is "yes."

They are not planning to dump the present royal family and make the person with the best claim to the throne the new King of England. They are inviting all possible claimants to the throne to submit their pedigrees and documentation to a team of expert historians and genealogists who will evaluate the claims. Hundreds of claims have been received from around the world from many countries. More than a quarter of them have come from the United States. Many of the claimants have sound claims to the throne. One of them is Albert Turnbull of Newcastle, who can

trace his lineage back to St Margaret and King Alfred and also back to William the Conqueror, so his family may have a good claim regardless of the outcome at the Battle of Hastings.

Edgar probably has tens of thousands and perhaps hundreds of thousands of living descendants. The competition appears to be quite keen and good documentation of sources will be very important.

What is the competition all about? It seems that the English are building a visitors center at the site of the Battle of Hastings. Someone asked the question, "What would it be like now if William had lost the Battle of Hastings back in 1066. Everyone seems to agree that the conquest dramatically changed the course of History for England. A few of the experts thought the question a worth while one to answer and decided that if they found the most likely claimant who would have been King today if William had lost the battle, they could ask him what he would have done as king. Hopefully, millions of tourists will visit the battle site and visit the center to learn the answer to the question.

PastFinder Notice

If you should receive a bad printed copy of the PastFinder, please contact Leslie Klippell by e-mail at Leslyk@earthlink.net or phone 408 269 5484. Leslie also can take care of change of address or expired subscriptions although it is better to renew on the Web site: www.svcomputergenealogy.org

If you find errors in the articles in the Pastfinder, or have suggestions or articles to submit for the newsletter, contact Allin Kingsbury at: a.kingsbury@sbcglobal.net Please note the change in the e-mail address.

The Indexing Project

The Computer Genealogy Users Group is off to good start on the indexing project. We have 91 volunteers signed up to work on the program. A total of 164,895 names have been indexed in 2007 through April and 14,650 names were done in 2006. This makes a total of 179,545 names. The names are coming from the 1900 census. We started with Ohio, but recent work has been in Manhattan.

We can use more volunteers. The work can be done anywhere in the world and at any time. All that is needed is an Inter-

net connection. There is no requirement to do a certain number of names or spend a minimum time working on the project. The images come over the internet and the extracted data is sent over the Internet. It does help to have good eyes. The records are hand-written and are sometimes difficult to read. Each record is indexed by two people and if they disagree, a more experienced volunteer looks at the data and resolves the issue. Some of the volunteers who have done many names have been appointed as volunteers. Many of the volunteers are surprised at how much they enjoy working on the project. It is interesting to work with records created 77 years ago, before most of us were born.

Mark Your Calendar

David Dilts is coming on September 8 to conduct an all-day seminar . David works at the Family History Library in Salt Lake City. He also is a popular lecturer and speaks at many family history organizations around the country. He is also an excellent genealogist and very knowledgeable about research in the United States. Topics that will be covered in the seminar include: Research Logs, Breaking Through Brick Walls, and Using Civil War Records for Family History Research.

Bring your friends. The event will be open to all and there is no charge for admission. A syllabus will be available with notes, sources, and supplementary material for the topics presented in the sessions.

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

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

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

The following can be ordered from www.FamilySearch.org or at 1-800-537 5950:

Personal Ancestral File 2.3.1 Macintosh (diskette or CD version)	US\$6
Personal Ancestral File 4.04	US\$6
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
Personal Ancestral File 4.04.18 and 5.2.18, PAF Companion (evaluation) or PAF User's Guide (English, Spanish, French, German, or Portuguese) downloaded at: www.FamilySearch.org	free

The following can be ordered from www.svcomputergenealogy.org or the group address (see above):

Newsletter back issues if available, per issue	US\$1 (order by mail or purchase at meetings)
Videos of classes; syllabus copies	See Web site for titles, prices
<i>Family History Documentation Guidelines</i>	US\$13 per book, includes postage; bulk discounts
Stuck-on Sources Post-It note pads	Available at meetings and on Web site
Flash Drives with SVCGG logo and loaded with 9000 Internet genealogy sites	Available at cost on Web site and at meetings

CLASSES FOR 9 JUNE 2007

Software Classes

Help for Beginners
Reunion 9 for Macintosh

General Classes

Family Atlas
Migration Routes
Documenting Sources

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