

Have You A Jamestown Ancestor?

By Allin Kingsbury

This year, 2007, is the 400th anniversary of the founding of the colony of Jamestown. It is of interest to genealogists because it was the home of the earliest colonial families from England. Those who have colonial ancestry from Virginia have a good chance that one or more of their ancestors came from Jamestown. For those who have no Virginia ancestry, The history of the Jamestown colony is fascinating and those who played important roles in this history are some of the most colorful individuals that one can find.

Jamestown is the first English colony in America that eventually survived. An earlier colony on Roanoke Island disappeared without a trace. Jamestown was founded 13 years before Plymouth. One would think that a Jamestown ancestor would bring one more prestige than an ancestor who came on the Mayflower. However, one hears little from descendents of ancestors who helped found the Jamestown colony, and Mayflower descendents seem commonplace. Yet Jamestown and the individuals it brought to America had a significant effect on the history of the United States. The culture of the Plymouth and Jamestown colonies were very different. The motives of the Jamestown founders were centered on commercial gain which was quite the opposite the New England colonists who came to America to avoid

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Jamestown Established

The concept of the Jamestown colony came from a group of entrepreneurs from the privileged class who heard of the riches the Spanish had acquired from the New World, and decided it was time for England to have a colony in the new world. An earlier colony had been started on Roanoke Island but appeared to have failed.

In June of 1606 a charter was granted for the Virginia Company to create a colony in Chesapeake Bay. The project was to be financed by the sale of stock which was sold to a small group of stockholders who were members of the privileged class and had a great deal of influence with the English monarchy. By December of 1606, a group of colonists had been recruited with promises of land and opportunity for new wealth. Most of them were from wealthy families of the upper class of England. The colonists sailed from England during December 1606 in three ships under the command of Captain Christopher Newport. The ships were the *Susan Constant*, the *Goodspeed*, and the *Discovery*. The captain had sealed orders for the colony which told the

colony to find gold, find a route to the South Sea, and find at least one member of the lost Roanoke colony. None of these items were ever accomplished by the colony.

Orders from the Company were opened when the group landed in Chesapeake Bay on 14 May 1607. The orders named Captain John Smith as the leader of the colony. He was incarcerated aboard the *Susan Constant* for mutiny during the voyage and would have been hanged, but Captain Newport released him to take charge of the colonists. The orders also said to build a settlement on a site not visible to passing ships and that is easy to defend against naval attack. There was concern about the Spanish who were constantly sailing their ships to and from America and also the French and Dutch, all of which had strong navies and were periodically at war with the English. The author of the orders did not consider the Native Americans when the orders were drafted.

The site chosen was inland on the James River shore. The site was an island when the water was high. The river there was deep enough to anchor ships. The first order of business was to build a wooden fort located back from the river where

ships could not fire cannons point blank into the walls of the fort. The site was a poor choice for a settlement because the water was brackish and the swampy land was ridden with mosquitoes. The fort took about a month to build. It consisted of three walls in a triangle shape made from logs set into the ground. It was large enough to contain a storehouse, a church and several houses.

The Powhatan Confederation, which included a number of local tribes, considered the area part of their land although they did not inhabit the area immediately surrounding Jamestown. The relations with the Native Americans were mostly hostile. The natives were willing to trade food for iron and copper implements.

The Supply Missions

Most of the colonists, being gentlemen, did not grow their own food and were satisfied with this arrangement. They did hunt, but soon the area close by Jamestown had been stripped of game by constant hunting. The Virginia Company had to bring food from England in supply ships to help feed the colonists. The round trip time for the supply missions were so long that there was never enough food for the colony for many years. The supply missions also brought additional colonists which added to the food shortages. The first

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mission arrived on 2 January 1608 and brought 70 new colonists. The second supply mission arrived on 1 October 1608 and brought more colonists.

Many of these colonists were skilled craftsmen who could make glass, manufacture soap, and mill lumber. These were skills sorely needed by the colony to develop a local economy and generate export. A group of non-English craftsmen had been recruited from Prussia which was then ruled by Poland. One of these men was William Volday (Wilhelm Waldi) a Swiss mineralogist who was sent to find silver which was rumored to be near Jamestown. The silver was never found.

John Smith returned from England in 1609 and resumed his position as head of the council. The stockholders had expressed their impatience with the colony in a letter which demanded that the colony find a lump of gold, a route to the south Sea, and a member of the lost colony. Smith sent a letter back, often referred to as Smith's rude answer. His letter said, "When you send againe I entreat you rather send but thirty Carpenters, husbandmen, gardeners, fishermen, blacksmiths, masons and diggers up of trees, roots, well provided; than a thousand of such awe have: for except wee be able both to lodge them and feed them, the most will consume with want of necessaries before they can be made good for anything." Smith was a bit apologetic at the start of the letter when he said, "I humbly intreat your Pardons if I offend you with my rude Answer..."

The Third Supply Mission

The letter seemed to have positive results because the third supply mission which was sent in 1609 included eight ships led by the new flagship, *Sea Venture*, which was built specifically for trade with the Virginia colony. Unfortunately, this supply mission encountered a major storm which battered the fleet for three days. It was probably a hurricane that had wandered into the mid-Atlantic. The fleet accidentally discovered Bermuda as a result of the storm when Captain Newport had to run the *Sea Venture* aground on the reefs of Bermuda to avoid destruction of the ship and loss of life. The passengers and crew were safely taken ashore, but the new ship was damaged beyond repair. The crew of the *Sea Venture* remained on Bermuda for nine months building two smaller ships from cedar trees growing on the Island and from material salvaged from the *Sea Venture*. The two ships then left for Virginia arriving on 23 May 1610. Two men were left to maintain the claim of England for the newly discovered territory.

The delay of the third supply mission could not have come at a worse time. The Powhattans had stopped trading food. Scholars say that the winter of 1609-1610 was severe and the native Americans had barely enough food for their own survival. The colonists at Jamestown were ill-prepared for even a mild winter and 80% of the colonists died during the winter before the supply mission arrived. There were fewer than 100 colonists alive and many of them were sick and dying. It was decided to abandon the colony and return to England. On 7 June 1610, the entire colony boarded the ships and set sail for England.

In England, a number of things had changed. First of all, John Smith had written several books about the Virginia colony and they attracted considerable interest and resulted in additional financing of the colony. A fourth supply mission was dispatched along with

Thomas West, Baron De La Warr who had been appointed governor of the Virginia colony. Additional colonists were also sent to Virginia including a doctor. Thomas West met the colonists who had departed for England near Mulberry Island, but had proceeded only 10 miles downstream from Jamestown. West ordered everyone to return to Jamestown.

Bermuda

The discovery of Bermuda was incorporated into the revised Charter for the Jamestown Colony. The new Charter, written in 1612, included Bermuda as part of the colony. To the government in London, both were far off from England and in the same direction from London. In 1615, the Somers Isle Company was spun off from the Jamestown Company to administer the commercial affairs of the Bermuda Colony. Both colonies were successful and the two colonies retained close ties for generations. During the Revolutionary War, George Washington asked for aid from the people of Bermuda.

John Rolfe

John Rolfe came to Jamestown in 1619. His wife and child died at Bermuda. He brought seeds of *nicotiana tobacum*, a strain of tobacco more suited to the taste of Europeans than the native tobacco used by the Native Americans. This tobacco proved to be a popular export and led to the establishment of large tobacco plantations. On 14 April 1614, John Rolfe married Pocahontas, the daughter of Wahunsunacock, chief of the Powhatan confederation. She had been kidnapped by the colonists the year before and was taught Christianity by Reverend Alexander Whitaker who had joined the colony in 1611. After her conversion, she took the Christian name of Rebecca. She and Rolfe traveled to England for a public relations visit. She had an audience with the King and was received as though she were visiting royalty. Pocahontas became ill on the trip and died there in 1617. She left a son, Thomas Rolfe, and through his daughter Jane, many Americans trace their lineage from John Rolfe and Pocahontas.

The tobacco was an immediate financial success as an export for the colony. By 1617, tobacco export was 5000 pounds and soon many others beside Rolfe began growing the crop. Soon the export of tobacco was measured in tons. Tobacco depleted the soil, so large plantations were required to profitably grow the plant. In 1619 the colonists traded food for a load of Africans from a Dutch slave ship. The Africans became indentured servants, much like the criminals that were transported to America who were required to work as indentured servants to pay for their passage. In 1654 a strange court decision changed the status of the blacks in Virginia. Anthony Johnson, a black man, was one of the Africans acquired from the Dutch in 1619. He had won his freedom in 1623, and then proceeded to acquire 5 black servants. One was John Casor who attempted to have his indenture transferred to Robert Parker, but Johnson objected and claimed that he had the services of John Casor for life. The court ruled in favor of Johnson and made Parker pay court costs. This was the first judicial approval of servitude for life and it established slavery as a legal institution in Virginia. During the 1680s, large numbers of Africans were imported as slaves and slavery soon became commonplace on the plantations in the South.

To be continued . . .

Of Interest: FamilySearch Team Grows, American Antiquarian Society Collections to be Available Online, ProQuest to Digitize Colonial State Papers, NYG&B Proposes to Disenfranchise Members

FamilySearch Team Grows

FamilySearch.org continues to add partners who will make data available free at 4,500 Family History Centers in 70 countries and the Family History Library in Salt Lake City in exchange for help in digitizing and indexing the records. FamilySearch (formerly Genealogical Society of Utah) is a nonprofit organization sponsored by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. The partners include:

Footnote (www.footnote.com)

Footnote is a subscription-based Web site with images of original historical documents relating to American History. Footnote is currently working with FamilySearch to index the American Revolutionary War Pension files. Additional projects with FamilySearch are under development. Individuals with Footnote subscriptions can sign in at the Family History Centers to save, annotate, and upload content. Those without subscriptions can search and view the documents.

Godfrey Memorial Library (www.godfrey.org)

Godfrey Memorial Library has an extensive collection of newspapers, city and business directories, vital records, printed census records, state, county, and local histories, as well as numerous family histories, family bible records, and service and pension records.

Heritage Quest/ProQuest (www.heritagequestonline.com)

Heritage Quest online includes the complete U.S. Federal Census images from 1790 to 1930 including names and indexes for many of the sets. Users will be able to find people and places located in over 20,000 published family and local histories and PERSI, an index of over 1.9 million genealogy and local history articles. Other online databases include Revolutionary War Pension, Bounty-Land Warrant Application files, and the Freedman Bank Records. Access to this service will be limited to 1,400 family history centers in North America.

Kindred Konnections (www.kindredkonnections.com)

Kindred Konnections has more than 230 million pedigree linked names with submitter information. Additional databases include birth, marriage, death, and census records that are automatically searched along with the pedigree linked data.

World Vital Records (www.worldvitalrecords.com)

World Vital Records provides access to research helps and many international records, including parish registers, Scottish death records, UK marriages, and Irish prisoner records. There are more than 300 newspapers with 100,000 pages added a month, and more than 500 online databases, including vital, military, land, pension records, reference materials, family histories, maps, gazetteers, and international coops. Their partnership with Quintin Publications is expected to add more than 10,000 databases to the Web site.

American Antiquarian Society Collections to be Available

Online

ProQuest announced a partnership with the American Antiquarian Society (AAS) to place a large collection of the Society's materials online and make it available on microfilm. The material will be available through local libraries which subscribe to the Proquest service. One of the popular subscription services is HeritageQuest Online which has a large collection of genealogy data online. For our members living near Santa Clara, HeritageQuest is available at the Santa Clara and Saratoga libraries as well as other Santa Clara County libraries.

The American Antiquarian Society is located in Worcester, Massachusetts. Their library contains genealogical material focusing on early North American lines of descent, including French-Canadian genealogies. The library is highly regarded by genealogists, and by scholars working on biographical, historical, and literary topics.

ProQuest to Digitize Colonial State Papers

A select group of Colonial State Papers of Great Britain will be digitized through a partnership formed between ProQuest and The National Archives (TNA), UK. Until now the documents were available at the National Archives in Great Britain. The handwritten records relate to British trade, history and overseas expansion between the 16th and 18th centuries. The National Archives' collection known as Privy Council and related bodies: America and West Indies, Colonial Papers or "CO 1" will be of interest to U.S. researchers. The collection contains thousands of papers that were presented to the Privy Council and the Board of Trade between 1574 and 1757 relating to the American, Canadian and West Indian colonies. Included are some early hand-drawn maps. Also included in the project is the digitized Calendar of State Papers Colonial, an advanced bibliographic tool providing over 40,000 records of bibliographic description, covering not only CO 1, but also documents from many other collections, all relating to the American colonies.

The Calendar of State Papers Colonial consists of bibliographic entries along with full transcriptions, extracts and abstracts, in fully keyed XML. The papers of the collection will be digitized to provide full color archival images of the handwritten documents.

The material is scheduled to be available online this fall to coincide with the 400th anniversary of the founding of the colony at Jamestown. ProQuest is a subscription service available to libraries. It is made available to patrons at no charge at many public libraries in the United States.

NYG&B Proposes to Disenfranchise Members

The New York Genealogical and Biographical Society (NYG&B) board has created a great deal of controversy. The Board of Directors has proposed an amendment to the organization's by-laws that will terminate all members of the Society, except the 15 people who sit on the Board of Directors. If the board has its way the board will have complete control of the organization. The treasury, library, and all other assets will become the sole property of the very small genealogy society, controlled by fifteen people who have the right to reelect themselves.

Waddell Stillman, chairman of the society's board of trustees, stated the proposed amendment to the bylaws is needed to protect the society from dissidents who voiced an opposing opinion about the sale of the headquarters building. The NY State Supreme Court felt obligated to hear these few dissenters out, long after the NY State Attorney General had endorsed the sale. The resulting delay cause loss of interest on the money received from the sale.

Those following the controversy find little evidence of any organized opposition to the sale of the building. The only delays

were those required by law for review of the sale by the Charities Bureau of the New York Attorney General's office. This is because NYG&BS is a not-for-profit organization, and approval for the sale of the building was required by the Charities Bureau. Only then could a hearing by the NY State Supreme Court be held and that was done promptly.

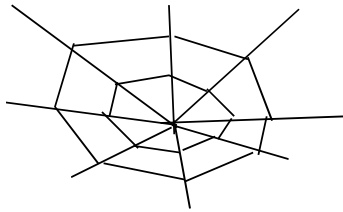
The proposal has not been enthusiastically received by members of the society other than the board. Members were to vote on the proposal on July 19th.

Spider Webs: U.S. WW II Missing in Action and POWs Database, Cause of Death, Google Genealogy Books, Resources for Jewish Genealogical Researchers

Ancestry.com US Military Records Collection

Ancestry.com, a subscription genealogy Web site, has a U.S. collection of military records that cover the time period from early colonial times through the Vietnam. Some of the records included in the collection are:

- Casualty listings from WWI, WWII, Korea and Vietnam
- Civil War Pension Index
- Draft registration cards for World War I and World War II
- Muster rolls (unit rosters) for the Marine Corps 1893-1958 and WWII U.S. Navy Aircraft Carrier Muster rolls, 1939-1949
- Prisoner of war records from the War of 1812, Civil War, World War II, and Korea
- Service Records from Revolutionary War, War of 1812, and Civil War
- Stars and Stripes Newspapers from WWI and WWII
- U.S. Military burial registers 1768-1921
- Young American Patriots Military Yearbooks (post WWII)



The entire collection includes 700 databases and titles and has about 37 million images of original documents. Many of the documents have signatures of the individuals which could be used as illustrations in family histories. The collection also includes other media including the United Newsreel Motion Pictures (1942 – 1945), a collection of 267 counter-propaganda films produced by the Office of War Information and financed by the U. S. government.

The database is searchable by name or phrase. More than 90 million names are included in the collected material. For more information, go to: www.ancestry.com

Accessible Archives Collection

AccessibleArchives.com has offered their large collection of eighteenth and nineteenth century records only to libraries in the past.

They have almost 300 universities and libraries that use their full-text format databases. A recent partnership with WorldVitalRecords.com will make them available on the WorldVitalRecords.com Web site: The records include:

- *African-American Newspapers: The 19th Century*
- *American County Histories to 1900*
- *The Civil War: A Newspaper Perspective*
- *Godey's Lady's Book (1830-1885)*
- *The Liberator (1831-1865)*
- *The Pennsylvania Gazette (1728-1800)*
- *The Pennsylvania Genealogical Catalogue Chester County (1809-1870)*

The county histories will be of greatest interest to genealogists. The Accessible Archives' databases contain more than 600 million words, and 1-2 million words are being added each month. The databases updates will appear on both Web sites as they are added. Currently WorldVitalRecords.com has a special introductory price of \$49.95 for a two year subscription. To visit the site, go to: www.worldvitalrecords.com/

Hardware of Interest: Your Own DNA Analyzer

DNA is a "hot" topic among genealogists these days. It will not find your ancestors, but a DNA analysis can answer many questions about your relationship to your ancestors. It can often disprove a relationship.

In the past, a genetic tissue sample was supplied to a lab for analysis and the results were returned as a report. Now an individual can purchase a DNA analyzer and check DNA in the privacy of one's home. Spartan Bioscience Inc. of Ottawa, Ontario, is now selling portable, real-time DNA devices. The 9-pound desktop-sized device will analyze four samples of DNA at a time and produces results in 30 minutes. The company claims that a new

operator can learn to use the analyzer in ten minutes.

This machine would be the solution for individuals who do not want to wait for the usual few weeks for a lab to complete a DNA analysis. The \$14,995 price will certainly discourage most genealogists, but may be worth every cent of the cost for someone concerned about paternity suits. To review the specifications (which are likely to sound like a foreign language to someone not conversant in DNA terminology), go to: www.spartanbio.com



Using Heritage Quest Online

By Lesly Klippel

With Ancestry.com no longer available free of charge through Family History Centers, researchers are on the lookout for substitute programs that can be accessed at little or no cost. One such program is Heritage Quest Online. This valuable program can be accessed free of charge from your home through a library card from participating local libraries.

Check with yours to see if it has Heritage Quest Online as part of its Internet services. Also, it has recently been made available free of charge at Family History Centers. This program has the following databases to offer U.S. researchers.

Databases

Search Census. Excellent high-quality images of some of the U.S. censuses are available along with head-of-household indexes for most of them. Unfortunately, the 1830, 1840 and 1850 censuses are not indexed - a serious deficiency. The indexing was done in the U.S. and so the names and places are more accurate than the index at Ancestry.com. Unfortunately, the search template has no Soundex capability and you must type the surname exactly the way it is in the census. This is a big problem in searching, and creative search techniques must be utilized to overcome the problem. Here are some of the ways I have succeeded in finding my families when a simple search using the most common spelling of the surname fails to locate the family of interest.

1. Try other known spellings of the surname.
2. Click on Advanced Search and type in the first name of the head of household and other identifying factors such as Age, Sex, Race and Birthplace (if searching 1850 and forward).
3. In the Advanced Search template, leave the name fields blank, enter Age, Sex, Race, Birthplace and the state and county (if searching 1850 and forward).
4. You can Browse a county, looking at each image. Click on Browse and choose the year and locality. This is equivalent to looking at a census roll at the library, but you can do it at home. You can browse the 1830, 1840 and 1850 censuses even though they are not indexed. Note that your name may be found on Sub-page 1 or Sub-page 2.
5. A final trick is to search for the family on www.ancestry.com since the U.S. census indexes are available there free of charge, but not the images. Note where you find the person and exactly how the name is spelled. You can then locate the family in Heritage Quest Online without any trouble and view the image.

Printing the census images is a particular challenge. Since the image pulls up in Acrobat Reader, you must follow the directions carefully to successfully get a print. Click on "Print" and then on "Click Here" for the full instructions.

Books - People: You can type just a surname or a first and last name and enter a place. If you click on the More to the right of the Place Names field, you will get a good explanation of Boolean terms and how to use them as well the letter replacement sym-

bols, * and ?. The keyword field helps you to find more specific results, especially for a common name. The Results List shows a Relevancy score. Click the View Hits and then the underlined number to go directly to the first page where your name appears. Search the page for the reference and then click Next hit to see the next occurrence of your name in that book. You can always go back to your results list by clicking Results List at the top of the screen.

Books - Places: Finding books about a certain place is like looking on a library shelf. Reading the book is same as opening the actual book and reading page by page. Click on View Image to start with page one or View Hits to see a listing of the contents of the book. The book may have an index or at least a table of contents.

Books - Publications - This choice enables you to browse the entire book library.

PERSI (Periodical Source Index): The Allen County Public Library indexed genealogical publications starting in 1847 and the index is complete to 2007. You can search for people, places, methodologies and particular magazines. This is only an index and you need to send to the Allen County Public Library for a copy of the article. You can print out the request form from any results page. The cost is \$7.50 to be sent with the form and you will be billed at \$.20 per page for the copies of the articles.

Freedman's Bank: Records of freed slaves who opened a bank account with the Freedman's Bank, this database contains lots of genealogical information listed to identify the depositors including names and ages of family members.

Revolutionary War: This is a wonderful database with scanned images of pension files. Search by both surname and given name and the results are sorted by State. Be aware that not every single page in the file may have been scanned, but the pages that prove his service are there along with genealogically important information.

In general, Heritage Quest does not completely replace the important databases found at Ancestry.com, but by using it in combination with other free Internet sites, you can glean valuable information to round out your family history without paying high subscription costs.

Quotable Quote

He that raises a large family does, indeed, while he lives to observe them, stand a broader mark of sorrow, but then he stands a broader mark of pleasure, too.

Benjamin Franklin

American Statesman

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

Merging Duplicate Individuals

Q I have combined 6 PAF files that over the years have been sent to me, which are all for the same family lines, with many additional families in each one. However, there were many identical individuals. I used the match/merge function to merge the identical individuals. Then I went to the Search function to begin to check for repetitive notes. I quickly found that not all the identical individuals had been merged in the files. I redid the match/merge function, again checked the list using the search list, and found that there were still identical individuals. I have now done the match/merge function eight times, and I still find identical individuals when checking in the search list. What am I doing incorrectly? Each time I use the match/merge function it finds more individuals, but never finds all of them. Any help will be appreciated.

Also, has the PAF program ever been updated to put a spell checker for the notes sections?

A It is not uncommon for the PAF match/merge routine to miss some obvious matches as you pass through the database. Having written computer program code many years ago for matching records and merging them, I can attest to the fact that it is very difficult to accomplish. Our brains are designed to compare and recognize identical items, but to write logical code to do that is not easy.

Eight times seems excessive to me, but since you have merged six files, it is likely that the sheer volume of matches has taxed the match/merge routine. I suspect that the programmers who wrote that part of the PAF program did not spend a lot of time perfecting it. All I can say is that you may need to keep at it. I have a very large database (nearly 50K individuals), and once in awhile I still find records that are missed by the matching algorithm. I use the manual match/merge technique to merge them.

There have been no updates to PAF 5.2.18 in several years. It does not include a spell checker.

Printer Settings

Q I'm using PAF 5.2 just downloaded from FamilySearch.org, and my mother e-mailed me a copy of her PAF data file. The file opens up with no problem, and I have been able to add a few little pieces of information with no problem, such as new baptism dates for the kids, which were not previously input. So it seems on the surface like it is all working OK. The problem occurs when I try to print.

The printing menu for a Pedigree chart shows that the margins are too large, such that it will not allow printing until we adjust the page settings. So I tried to change the margins on the page settings to 1 inch on all sides. When I pushed OK, it does not take the change, and the margins revert back to the existing settings which are far too large.



Is there a setting that locks the program preferences, or somehow locks the file? That is what it seems like, it won't take the changes. It does accept actual data changes, such as new baptism dates. Thank you in advance for your time and assistance.

A The data you are adding to your PAF database are totally unrelated to the parameters you are giving the printer driver. PAF uses the printer driver you have installed with the Windows operating system, and the ability to change the margins is based on the ability of PAF to communicate with the driver through Windows. Many possible causes could keep PAF from communicating with the driver, but the most common is that you installed PAF on your computer without closing down some other software application that had the driver tied up at the time. My recommendation is to reinstall PAF after you have shut down all other Windows applications, so that the PAF Install is the only program running.

Q I'm interested in any downloads or new developments in PAF. Also, do you know if Ancestral File will ever be made up-to-date?

A PAF has been frozen at version 5.2.18 for several years. Your previous message (not reproduced here) hints that you have never started using PAF at the outset, and that you would probably be awed by the power and flexibility that can be achieved through the use of the latest version of PAF. In my opinion, PAF remains one of the best genealogy software products for the PC. If you are a Mac user, then there is a comparable product called Reunion that is very popular. PAF remains free to the general public and can be downloaded from www.familysearch.org. If you would like to have a very simplified set of instructions on how to get started using PAF, you can download the 10 steps from our Web site at www.svcgg.org.

The answer to your question about the Ancestral File is far more complex. The Ancestral File grew to a very large collection of undocumented lineage-linked data and became troublesome with conflicting data, or data that could not be verified. The LDS Church decided that a completely new form of database would be needed. They embarked on a very ambitious project to replace the Ancestral File with a Web-based system that would allow users to upload their family history files and then compare and negotiate with others who had conflicting data about common ancestors. The new system went through a couple of beta testing phases but is not ready to solve the problem of contradictory genealogy for the general public. They scaled back the project and have begun releasing a less aggressive version of the system aimed at reducing duplication of family history data submitted for temple ordinances.

A while ago, the Pedigree Resource File was implemented as a replacement to the Ancestral File. At this point, the LDS Church has no plans to upgrade the Ancestral File, but it remains available. The LDS Church is using its resources to digitize and index the millions of microfilmed records that it has collected. This massive project is actually more helpful for family history research since it provides original documents on the Internet. Since the fall of

2006, the entire indexing of the U.S. Federal Census for 1900 is nearly completed. Earlier indexing efforts for the 1900 census are unsatisfactory. Once the 1900 census is indexed, additional records will be indexed.

If you are interested in joining the many volunteers who are indexing the records, go to www.familysearchindexing.org. Our

group participates in this project. Interested individuals may contact the group through the Web site or through the information on the back of this newsletter. To date, SVCCG indexers have indexed more than 250,000 names from the 1900 Census—amazing!

Stranger than Fiction: Cemetery Saved from Bulldozer

Ray W. Gunnin Sr. is the president of DAC Enterprises, a small development company in Georgia. The company business consists mostly of residential development. In 1984 the company purchased 118 acres of land in Hall County, Georgia south of the city of Lula. The company planned to sell lots to builders to erect single family homes.

When the company got around to clearing the land, they were surprised by the unearthing of a human skull. After some investigation, they found that they had an old cemetery on the property that dated back to the 19th century. In the South it was common to have a family cemetery on the property.

DAC Enterprises hired Thomas Gresham, an archeologist who specializes in burial sites, to investigate the cemetery and learn what he could and define the precise boundaries of the cemetery. The cemetery had 22 graves but only two of the graves had inscribed stones as markers. One of the graves belonged to Never-son Cook, a veteran of the War of 1812. Mr. Gresham commented that in Oglethorpe County, where he lives, there is about one small cemetery per square mile. Land developers encounter one of these cemeteries about once each decade.

Although Mr. Guinn was not legally required to do so, he had the cemetery cleaned up and a chain link fence erected around the perimeter. His cost was about \$40,000 for the work. He said that out of respect for the dead, he did not want kids riding bicycles over the graves.

He could have had the bodies moved to another cemetery, but that option is prohibitively expensive and requires someone to deal with all the bureaucratic red tape. The current cost is about \$2000 per grave. City and county approval are required before a move. It is also wise to contact descendants before a move to avoid law suits and irate relatives of the deceased. Almost all builders will leave the graves in place because of the expense and red tape. Some builders will hire someone to bulldoze the site and destroy the evidence because it is easier and cheaper. This is a misdemeanor or felony in all states, but this choice is usually the least expensive. Currently, almost all states have laws requiring notification of local officials when human remains are found. They must investigate to determine whether a crime scene has been discovered.

The excuse, "I didn't know that there was a cemetery there." is becoming less used due to efforts of cemetery preservation organizations. These and organizations like the Sons of Confederate Veterans are gathering information about the locations of small local cemeteries and creating databases of those interred in the cemeteries. Yet desecration of cemeteries continues as property changes hands and the dead are forgotten.

Mr. Gunnin still has a problem. He does not want to own the cemetery nor does he want to be responsible for maintaining the graves. There are no customers for a small cemetery if it is full. The responsibility for the cemetery remains with the developer and there is little incentive to change the status quo.

Recently Published: Tarrant County, Texas 1890 Census Substitute, The Compendium of New England Gazetteers

Tarrant County, Texas 1890 Census Substitute

The 1890 U.S. Census was destroyed and genealogists find research during this period difficult. The Fort Worth Genealogical Society recently published a CD which will help find anyone in Tarrant County between 1880 and 1900. The CD may not list the names of all those who lived in the county, but the Fort Worth Genealogical Society volunteers compiled the CD from other records that list those who should have been in the 1890 census records. The information came from many other paper records that mention residents of about 1890. The CD is available at an introductory price of \$15 and can be ordered at: www.rootsweb.com/~txfwgs/html/book_store_1890_census.html

The Compendium of New England Gazetteers

The *Compendium of New England Gazetteers* is a compilation of gazetteers previously published about Early New England, which is

now available on a moderately-priced CD-ROM. The collection includes 10 rare books, with a total of more than 4600 pages. The gazetteers have the names and descriptions of thousands of places, including many places which are no longer known by the same name. Gazetteers frequently include the names, biographies, and anecdotes about the earliest settlers, ministers, and prominent citizens of the areas mentioned. The CD includes high-resolution images of every page and six early maps that were included in the original publications.

The CD-ROM has "FastFind" indexing, a computer search with AND, OR, phrase, and word-proximity searches. The entire CD-ROM can be searched at once.

The Compendium is priced at just \$59.95. For more information, or to order the CD-ROM, go to the Archive CD Books USA Web site at:

www.ArchiveCDBooksUSA.com/negazetteers.htm

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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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