

## New FamilySearch: Combine, Combine, Combine

By Richard D. Rands

A half-dozen years ago, my wife Janet and I visited the LDS genealogical department's development team in Salt Lake City. All along the walls of the entire department's floor of the Church's office building were thousands of sticky notes that contained the feedback gleaned from interviews with many hundreds of people who ranged from complete genealogical novices to highly experienced family historians.

The massive research project we witnessed was the beginning of a major overhaul of the LDS Church's approach to family history information management. The issues they were facing included the explosion of different repositories of genealogical data with frequently conflicting information, the troubling amount of duplicated effort at every level of the process, and, finally, an alarming lack of interest in family history research among LDS members.

We were flabbergasted by the magnitude of the design specifications for the system they were planning to implement. Later, when we participated in the early rounds of beta testing, we were still wary that the new system might not solve the targeted problems. The first phase of what is called the New FamilySearch (nFS) system has

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been rolled out to a selected group in a few areas around the world and limited to LDS members, who serve as guinea pigs to shake out the bugs. One of the areas now participating is the San Francisco Bay area of California. The regions of the U.S. with large concentrations of LDS members have not yet seen the system, a strategy designed to avoid overloading the online servers that support the browser-based application. It is expected that the remainder of the LDS members will be given access to nFS before the end of this year, after which it will be released to the general public.

Janet and I have had access to the system for several months now and have been involved in helping train and assist users in the San Francisco Bay Area region. The Silicon Valley Computer Genealogy Group has established an ongoing training class taught by Lesly Klippel during our monthly meetings. We are excited by the potential built into nFS, and we are confident that it will have a significant impact on the future of family history research.

We are literally experiencing the dawning of a new era in family history research. The nFS system offers the following benefits:

- A "do-it-from-home" over-the-Internet method for managing your family history information
- A system that is free of charge
- A consolidated repository of lineage-linked data created by merging multiple data sources
- A method for combining duplicated records and collaborating with others to eliminate errors
- The ability to avoid widespread duplication of research and data management.

The user interface is entirely browser-based. There is nothing to download to your computer. All of the information you work with in the nFS system resides on the servers maintained by the LDS Church. Reports indicate that the servers are extremely secure, with multiple mirrored sites and appropriate backup systems.

Because of the interest of the church in the cause of family history research, and the LDS goal to gather data for every possible individual who ever lived, it is unlikely that they ever will charge fees for these services.

For this initial phase of the system implementation, they have merged the Ancestral File, the International Genealogical Index (IGI), the Pedigree Resource File, LDS temple records, and LDS membership records into a single massively indexed database. The search methodology employed for now is sophisticated enough to be able to plow through half a billion records in a matter of seconds, and they expect to make it even more sophisticated. As more and more data sources are added to the database, the power of the system will grow.

Fundamental to the system is the ability to build your family tree and search for duplicate records for each individual in the central database, so that you can combine them into a single record. For example, when you want to add your second-great-grandfather Robert G. Hansen to your family tree, you first search the database for any records that match his details. If nothing turns up, you proceed to enter his information as you

*(Continued on page 26)*

### What's Inside

Ask the Doc	26	Hardware of Interest	30
Marcia Holstrom	26	Software of Interest	30
Spider Webs	27	Resources from the DAR	30
Stranger than Fiction	27	Recently Published	31
Finding the German Ancestors . . . Part 3	28	Information/Classes for May 2008	back

## Travels with Our Wonderful Toy *(Continued from page 17)*

would with any genealogy software.

However, if the system discovers matches, it will list the likely matches first, followed by a long list of possible matches. You are then able to compare each record and determine if it refers to your ancestor. If so, you combine them. If not, or if you cannot tell, you go on to the next record. As one official familiar with the system indicated, the goal is to “combine, combine, combine.”

Note that records are combined, not merged in the sense that typical genealogy software does. When you are finished combining all the duplicate records, the result will be a single record containing all the variations of all the data. It will contain the variations of Hansen, Hanson, Hannson, and so forth. It can have the various spellings of his birthplace, and even various dates. You will be able to tell where the variations came from and who submitted them, and you can contact the people who originated the entries, if they provided sufficient information for contact.

You can add your own opinions, dispute other's opinions, and “uncombine” records if you believe someone has combined a record that is not about your ancestor.

For those who are in the rare circumstance that no one in their family has done any family history research, and their genealogy has never been entered into one of the databases, it is possible to upload a GEDCOM file into the system. Most of us, however, are likely to encounter many duplicate records of our ancestors. Our task will be to work our way through our family trees, combining duplicate records and cleaning up the junk genealogy that has accumulated over the decades. I have noticed that for some of my searches, the system turns up more than 5,000 possible matches. Fortunately few are actual matches, and most need not be searched.

As a consequence of a centralized online system, relatives will be able to see your work immediately and avoid duplicating the same efforts. Furthermore, as you collaborate with those who have variations of the data you have, the erroneous information will gradually be corrected, and we will all be better off.

For those with large collections of family history already in the databases, the initial work of searching and combining will be a time-consuming task. Even so, the power of the nFS system is apparent, and the more we join the process, the better it will be for the next generation.

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

**Q** I'm trying to obtain Reports from my PAF database. I am using the Advanced Focus/Filter and am able to generate a report, although it's not exactly what I'm hoping for. I will use Burial as an example. On my Individual Page for each person in my database under Burial, I have listed the city, county and state for each person that I would have that information on. The cemetery in which they are buried is my Source and in my notes.



When you are selecting fields to print in a Custom Report, select the Notes field, and it will ask you which tag to print. Choose Burial. You probably will have to expand the size of the field because it is defaulted at 50 characters. This assumes that all of you cemetery locations are listed with the BURIAL: note tag.

My question to you is: when I generate a report using the Source, I have no luck printing that information. Is there a way to print the source information? I would also like to know if there is a way to pull the Burial information from notes and print that in a form.

**A** In the list of Possible Fields in the Custom Report feature, Sources is not listed. That means that you are not able to pull in Source details in a Custom Report. However, it is possible to do it using the BURIAL: note tag in the Notes. I noticed that it will not pick up notes that are marked as confidential, but all other notes can be pulled into a Custom Report.

**Q** I called PAF support for the Mac and they said that the LDS Church does not want to be in the software business any longer. I can understand that. Three names they gave me are German genealogy programs. The other one was Reunion. I have been using PAF for Macintosh. My Macintosh G4 is now 10 years old, and I'm going to update. I can no longer have Mac PAF on my computer. What Genealogy program do you recommend for the Mac to replace PAF?

**A** Reunion has become the de facto preferred genealogy program for the members of the Silicon Valley Computer Genealogy Group who are Mac users. As a hint of how popular it is, we now have two sessions for Reunion users each month during our meetings.



### Marcia Holstrom Coming In June

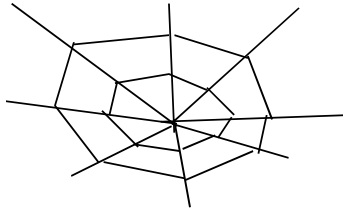
Marcia Holstrom will teach a class at the June meeting about Westward Migration. "From the Mississippi to the Sierra and Cascades" will cover the popular migration routes and the difficulties of moving "out west" that faced our ancestors that made the trip long before the Interstates. Marcia is a popular lecturer and worked as a geography teacher for many years. She is the past president of the Santa Clara Historical and Genealogical Society and was co-chairman of the genealogy seminar hosted by the Silicon Valley Computer Genealogy Group and the Santa Clara Historical and Genealogical Society several years ago. Mark your calendar now.

## Spider Webs: Slave Genealogy Research, Viet Nam Wall, NARA Passenger Arrivals

### Slave Genealogy Research

A New Web site, Lowcountry Africana, is now available with genealogy of slaves who lived on plantations of the Drayton family. The family had plantations in Barbados South Carolina, Georgia, Florida and Texas. The genealogy project was sponsored by the Magnolia Plantation Foundation of Charleston, South Carolina, and the National Trust for Historic Preservation. Researchers from the University of South Florida along with the two sponsoring organizations for the project have gathered records from the Drayton family papers which are held by the National Trust for Historic Preservation. The data from these papers was used to reconstruct the family trees of the former slaves and their descendants who are scattered around the world. Their hope is to make descendants of these slaves aware of their heritage.

The Lowcountry Africana Web site was developed by a partnership of the USF Africana Heritage Project and WeRelate.org ([www.werelate.org](http://www.werelate.org)), a free public-service wiki for genealogy sponsored by the Foundation for On-Line Genealogy, Inc. and the Allen County Public Library at Fort Wayne, Indiana. The Lowcountry Africana Web site is available to the public free of charge. The site will continue to gather data about the slaves and make it available. The site features a searchable database of primary historical documents, excerpts from books and multimedia, a research library with articles of interest to genealogists and schol-



ars, information on key archives and a directory of Web sites with information related to the Lowcountry Southeast. A members area at the site is available for users to keep a research journal and bookmark links. To visit the site, go to: [www.lowcountryafricana.com](http://www.lowcountryafricana.com)

### Viet Nam Wall

At a press conference at the National Archives and Records Administration in Washington, it was announced that an image of the "Vietnam Wall" listing all the military personnel from the U.S. who died in the Vietnam War is available online. It is one of the largest image files made, containing five gigapixels. The image was made by a photographer employed by the National Geographic Society who photographed the wall in color and then spent hours at his studio stitching the sections together. The image can be viewed in sections on the Web site or the database can be searched for an individual who died in the war. The wall contains 58,249 names carved into a black granite wall 246 feet 9 inches by 10.1 feet tapering to a height of eight inches at the ends.

By moving the cursor to a name on the

wall, a pop-up box displays the full name, rank, military unit, military specialty (occupation), home town, home state, age, race, religion, marital status, Viet Nam tour start date, date of injury, date of death, location of casualty, cause of death, and more. Anyone can add information concerning the individual such as comments about the person, stories about the individual or his or her service in Vietnam, and pictures of the individual. The added information can be seen by anyone who visits the site. The Interactive Viet Nam Veterans Memorial is now available to everyone at no charge at: [www.footnote.com](http://www.footnote.com)

### NARA Passenger Arrivals

The National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) announced that 5.2 million records of passenger arrivals at the ports of Baltimore, Boston, New Orleans, New York, and Philadelphia during the last half of the 19th century are now available online. The records are available at NARA's online *Access to Archival Databases* (AAD). The records include the name of the ship, the port, and the date.

The records are not easy to find because the Web site does not have an easy to use search engine. However, Steve Morse has created three "One-Step" tools to simplify the use of the NARA databases. The data can be found at the bottom of the "OTHER PORTS" section of Steve Morse's *One-Step Portal for On-Line Genealogy* at <http://stevemorse.org>

## Stranger than Fiction: Archivist Faces 20 Year Sentence

Lester Weber worked as the chief archivist for The Mariners' Museum in Newport News, Virginia, until he lost his job amid charges that he stole \$160,000 worth of museum property and sold it on eBay. He recently appeared in federal court with his wife, Lori Childs, and they were indicted on federal theft and fraud charges that could bring each a maximum of 20 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine if convicted. Not only did he steal the material, but they permanently altered historical documents to support the couples' claim that they owned the documents.

An investigation by the Newport News police, the Internal Revenue Service, the U.S. Postal Service, and the Secret Service provided sufficient evidence for an indictment. Prosecutors allege that Weber and Childs sold about 1,400 stolen nautical items on eBay beginning in 2000 until Weber was fired in September 2006. The items included a collection of items owned by a mother and son who survived the 1912 sinking of the RMS Titanic. The prose-

cutors claim that the pair made \$5,000 selling pieces of the collection. The museum purchased the collection in 2001 for \$80,000.

The troubles for the couple are just beginning. The museum has filed a \$1.35 million civil suit in April 2007. The lawsuit also asks that all stolen items be returned to the museum. Considering the archivist is charged with protecting and preserve the artifacts and documents-entrusted to his care, a conviction will significantly halt Mr. Weber's career as an archivist.

The Mariner's Museum has declined to comment on details of the case with the litigation pending. The museum documents the history of travel by sea and has more than 35,000 items on display. These include 1,500 ship models and 700 navigational instruments. The museum also claims to have the world's third-largest maritime library, with a collection of books, maps, charts, manuscripts and photos.

# Finding the German Ancestors in Your Family (Part 3)

By Allin Kingsbury

(continued from the March 2008 PastFinder)

## Bibliography (Anabaptists)

The following books are more related to the history of the groups than to genealogy. However, the families in the groups can be better understood with a knowledge of the political and historic events that influenced them.

- Conkin, Paul. *Two Paths to Utopia: The Hutterites and the Llano Colony*. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1963
- Janzen, Rod. *The Prairie People, Forgotten Anabaptists*. Hanover: The University Press of New England, 1999
- Desroche, Henri. *The American Shakers: From Neo-Christianity to Presocialism*. Amherst: The University of Massachusetts Press, 1971
- Duss, John S. *The Harmonists*. Philadelphia: Porcupine Press, Inc., 1972.
- Fried, Albert, ed. *Socialism in America From the Shakers to the Third International*. New York: Columbia University Press, 1992.
- Kraybill, Donald B. & Bowman, Carl F. *On the Backroad to Heaven: Old Order Hutterites, Mennonites, Amish, and Brethren*. Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 2001.
- Lankes, Frank T. *The Ebenezer Society*. West Seneca: West Seneca Historical Society, 1963.
- McCarthy, Timothy Patrick and McMillian, John, ed. *The Radical Reader: A Documentary History of the American Radical Tradition*. New York: W. W. Norton & Company, Inc., 2003
- Loewen, Royden. *Hidden Worlds, Revisiting the Mennonite Migrants of the 1870s*. Winnipeg: University of Manitoba Press, 2001.
- MacMaster, Richard K. *Land, Piety, Peoplehood: The Establishment of Mennonite Communities in America, 1683-1790*. Scottdale, Pennsylvania: Herald Press, 1985.
- Mikkelsen, Michael. *The Bishop Hill Colony: A Religious Communitarian Settlement in Henry County, Illinois*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1892.
- Peters, Victor. *All Things Common: The Hutterian Way of Life*. Minneapolis: The University of Minnesota Press, 1965.
- Pitzer, Donald, ed. *America's Communal Utopias*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1997
- Rokicky, Catherine. *Creating a Perfect World, Religious and Secular Utopias in 19th Century Ohio*. Athens: Ohio University Press, 2002
- Stein, Stephen J. *The Shaker Experience in America: A History of the United Society of Believers*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1992

## The Lutheran, Catholic and Jewish Germans

The Lutherans were part of the state church in the northern states of Germany before the unification. They did not receive persecution but were certainly involved in the wars that took place in Germany. Many German Lutherans came to America but they did not come in united groups like the Mennonites and other religious groups. Their migration to America depended more on personal circumstances than on their religion.

Catholic Germany was in the South of Germany. The parts of modern Germany that remained loyal to the Pope tended to be entirely Catholic and this was so because the political leaders remained Catholic. Many German Catholic families came to America, but the migration of these families, like the Lutherans who migrated, depended on the personal circumstances of each family.

The Jews were persecuted and lived with a constant negative bias from their Christian neighbors. Jewish families began coming to America in Colonial times. They tended to find Jewish communities in which to live after arriving in America. The largest of Jewish migration to America occurred after World War I as Hitler came to power.

## The Hessians

The Hessians were troops said to be from the German province of Hessen-Kassel who were hired by the English to fight the Revolutionary War under agreements between the King and the German states. More than 28,000 troops served during the eight years of the war. This is almost one third of the British army that was sent to subdue the rebellious American colonies. These Germans received no pay for their service to the British. They belonged to the armies of the German states from which they were sent. The British government paid the German leaders for the troops. The German states liked the arrangement because it enabled them to keep a large standing army with little expense.

The majority of the troops came from Hessen-Kassel, but other provinces of Germany also sent significant numbers of soldiers. The number of troops by province was:

Hessen-Kassel	17,000 officers and men
Hessen-Hanau	2,600 officers and men
Brunswick	5,723 men
Waldeck	1,225 men
Brandenburg-Anspach	1,040 men
Anhalt-Zerbst	1,119 men

Records kept by the Germans may be incomplete, but indicate what happened to their soldiers as follows:

535	killed in action
3,014	deserted or missing
2,628	captured
4,983	died of other causes (disease, accident, etc.)

Of the deserters and captured Hessians, some were paroled into American factories and farms, others were forced to stand aside and not fight. It has been estimated that 6000 Hessian soldiers remained in the United States and Canada after the war. Many of the Hessians settled near Lancaster and Reading, Pennsylvania, or near Frederick, Maryland. Others remained in Canada, mostly in New Brunswick.

Another smaller less-known group from Germany was the Jaegers who were sent from several German states as part of the treaties with George III. They were German riflemen who used rifles that were much shorter than the American Kentucky Rifle. Most of the Jaegers were second or third sons of German landlords, gamekeepers, or adventurers. The Jaegers were quite distinctive from the Hessian infantry. Their uniforms were often a medium green lined with red.

### Finding Hessian Genealogy

Information about Hessian soldiers is difficult to find in most cases. Some soldiers, particularly those captured at Trenton, are listed in the appendix of the book "The Hessian view of America". A list of the fates of all the soldiers from Hessen-Kassel is found in the "Hessische Truppen im Nord Amerika"(HETRINA) catalog. A partial copy exists in the David Library at Washington's Crossing, Pennsylvania, and another copy is at the Rutgers library in New Brunswick, New Jersey. Other copies are owned by the Johannes Schwalm Historical Association, the Lancaster County Historical Society, and the University of Pennsylvania Library. It is easier to find information about an individual if the battle where he was captured is known. Several Internet sites specialize in information about the Hessians.

- *HETRINA* (Hessische Truppen im Amerikanischen Unabhängigkeitskrieg) a compilation of the names of soldiers by Dr. Inge Auerbach of the Staatsarchiv (State Archives) in Marburg (Hessen) Germany (The HETRINA series (on microfilm) is available the LDS Family History Centers.)
- *The Hessians of Upper Canada, The Hessians of Nova Scotia and the Register of German Military Men who remained in Canada after the American Revolution*, Three books by John Helmut Merz.
- *The German-Canadian Yearbook*, volumes II (1975) and III (1976) published by the Historical Society of Mecklenburg Upper Canada Inc. have articles by Herbert Wilhelm Debor about Hessian soldiers who settled in Canada.
- *The Journal of the Johannes Schalm Historical Association*, volume 2, number 1 has a composite list of German prisoners of war held by the Americans for the period of 1779-1782.
- *The German-American Genealogical Research Monographs*, edited by Clifford Neal Smith
- *Die Ansbach-Bayreuther Truppen im amerikanischen Unabhängigkeitskreig 1777-1783* (1956), by E. Stadler
- *The Hessians: Mercenaries from Hessen-Kassel in the American Revolution*, by Atwood, Rodney Cambridge UP 1980
- *The German Allied Troops in the North American War of Independence 1776-1783*, by Von Eelking, Max, Genealogical Publishing Company 1969
- *German Mercenaries in Canada*, Wilhelmy, JP.. Maison des Mots 1984

- *Enemy Views: The American Revolutionary War As Recorded by the Hessian Participants*. Compiled, Edited, and with an Introduction by Bruce E. Burgoyne. 1996. Bowie, MD: Heritage Books, Inc. 1540 E Pointer Ridge Place. 20716. 1-800-398-7709
- *Johannes Schwalm The Hessian*. 1976. Millville, PA: Precision Printers, Inc.
- *The Hessian View of America 1776-1783*, Kipping, Ernst. 1971, Monmouth Beach, NJ: Philip Freneau Press.
- *The Hessians and the Other German Auxiliaries of great Britain in the Revolutionary War*, Lowell, Edward J. 1884 (reprinted in 1965), Port Washington, NY: Kennikat Press, Inc.
- *Etymologisches Wörterbuch der deutschen Familiennamen* (Etymological Dictionary of German Surnames), Josef Karlmann Brechenmacher, 1957. (FHL 943 D46bj)
- *Deutsches Namenlexikon: Familien- und Vornamen nach Ursprung und Sinn erklärt*, Hans Bahlow, 1967 (FHL 943 D46ba)
- *Dictionary of German Names*, 1993 (FHL 943 D46ba 1993)
- *German-American Names*, George Fenwick Jones, 1995 (FHL 973 D4j)

### Internet Sources

Below are websites which provide both general and specific information on Hessen and Hessian soldiers. Some provide links to other websites not listed here.

- Ansbach-Bayreuth deserter list: [www.jochen-seidel.de/ab-troops](http://www.jochen-seidel.de/ab-troops)
- Index of the Archives of the AmRev Hessians Genealogy List: <http://archiver.rootsweb.com/AMREV-HESSIANS-L>
- Don Watson's Hessen Germany Web site: <http://members.cox.net/hessen/index.htm>
- Johannes Zeth, Hessian Soldier: [www.bobhudson.com/zeth/](http://www.bobhudson.com/zeth/)
- FEEFHS Index: <http://feefhs.org/ethnic.html>
- Homepage for the German Archives in Marburg, Germany: [www.uni-marburg.de/archivschule/fv8.html](http://www.uni-marburg.de/archivschule/fv8.html)
- Immigrant Genealogy Society: <http://feefhs.org/igs/frg-igs.html>
- The German Heritage Page: [www.anglo-saxon.demon.co.uk/lyfja/ghp/germanic.html](http://www.anglo-saxon.demon.co.uk/lyfja/ghp/germanic.html)
- Family Research in Hesse: <http://expage.com/page/resinhess>
- Bruce E. Burgoune's Web Site: [www.geocities.com/hessians1776/](http://www.geocities.com/hessians1776/)

### Good Luck

## Quotable Quote

The greater the obstacle the more glory in overcoming it..

Jean Molière 1622-1673  
French Playwright

## Hardware of Interest: ST Genie

The ST Genie is a machine which scans microfilm and converts it to computer images. The scanned images can then be published on CD-ROM or posted on the Web. The ST Genie has the advantage over all other microfilm scanners because it has the lowest price by far. It costs \$1,075 as compared to price tags of \$10,000 to more than \$100,000. The price tag is low because this scanner is not automated, and automation is expensive.

Scanning is done using the ST Genie by manually advancing the frame as one does with a microfilm reader at the library. Then a button is pushed like the button on a camera and the scan of the frame is taken. The scanning of a frame is slow, but the frame size can be adjusted to a smaller frame to speed up the scan time. The image can then be examined and redone if it is not good. It is a tedious process. For a small amount of microfilm, the ST Genie can be more cost effective than an automated scanner. It will take 16 mm and 35 mm microfilm and similar size negatives, but not microfiche. The price is within the budget limitations of many small genealogy and historical societies, museums, libraries, and a few individuals who do genealogy research. In many cases, there are volunteers who will help with the scanning

because they see a need to have the job done and want to help. If you are thinking of buying the ST Genie to use with your laptop on trips to libraries and courthouses, you may have a problem because you need a 110 volt power source. There is no battery operation.

The ST Genie scans at 2,700 DPI (dots per inch), a much higher resolution than the desktop scanners used with paper documents. 2,400 DPI is considered a minimum when scanning film or slides. The manufacturer claims that the ST Genie can scan a full 18" x 24" page of the New York Times microfilm in a single pass with no "stitching" required. A computer is required to accumulate the scanned images just as would be used with a desktop scanner. The \$1075 price also does not include software that may be needed for image enhancement, CD burning, or other peripheral tasks.

For more information about the ST Genie, go to: [www.stgenie.com](http://www.stgenie.com)



## Software of Interest: Legacy Charting



Millennia Corporation is putting the finishing touches on a new program called Legacy Charting. The new program can create ancestor charts, descendant charts, mother's trees, father's trees, fan charts, hourglass charts, bow tie charts, and DNA charts. It is compatible not only with Legacy Family Tree, but can work with databases for Family Tree Maker, Personal Ancestral File (PAF), and Roots-Magic. It will also work from GEDCOM files. Legacy Charting will be one of the new features Legacy Family Tree version 7 when it is released in the near future.

The key features of Legacy Charting include:

- 18 different types of family charts
- All charts are easily customizable
- Selection of the number of generations to be displayed

- Select the contents of each box
- Selection of color themes, including the popular 4-color coding system
- Select from a variety of beautiful backgrounds and page borders
- Insert your own pictures and clipart
- Easily e-mail charts to family members
- Export files in .pdf, .bmp, .jpg, .png, .tiff, .psd
- Order a large wall chart and have it delivered
- Includes a thorough help reference system for easy reference

The program requires a PC with Windows 98 or higher (including Vista); 20mb of free hard disk space; and 256mb RAM.

Until June 15, 2008, this pre-release edition of Legacy Charting is available to download and use at no cost at: [www.LegacyCharting.com](http://www.LegacyCharting.com)

## Resources from the Daughters of the American Revolution

The Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) was founded in 1890 and has grown to about 168,000 members today. To become a member, an applicant must be a woman 18 years of age or older and must prove a lineal bloodline descent from a patriot of the American Revolution. The DAR has a list of individuals who are recognized as patriots. The stated goals of the organization are to promote patriotism, preserve American history, and to provide education. The education and American history resources are of interest to genealogists and are helpful in family history research.

In order to prove the lineal bloodline descent from a patriot of the American Revolution, applications for membership must include carefully documented proof of the descent. The newer membership applications contain some of the best genealogy research found anywhere. In the past, the qualifying standards of the DAR were not as strict as they are today. Scholarship has improved, and all submitted documentation is now analyzed carefully. Even if the applicant's mother or grandmother was accepted as a member, the lineage submitted for the earlier application may not be accepted today. The applicant may have to do new re-

search and conform to the new standard for applying for membership.

The DAR also collects and makes available a large library of genealogy information. The DAR Library in Washington, D.C. was founded in 1896, and is now one of the largest genealogical centers in the United States. It has 170,000 printed volumes, 300,000 files, 65,000 microforms, and many manuscripts and other material.

DAR collections compliment and partially duplicate holdings at the Library of Congress and the National Archives. The DAR Library also has a lot of unique material that cannot be found elsewhere. The library is used by many genealogists, both amateur and professional. All visitors are welcome, even those who are not engaged in preparing an application, and including men.

It is estimated that 99% of the information available at the DAR Library in Washington, D.C. is not digitized and is not available online. Some of the information in the collections is not available at any other repository. One important collection in the DAR Library is the approximately 17,000 volumes of typescripts collectively titled the *Genealogical Records Committee Reports*. This committee encourages the chapter and state organizations to transcribe historically and genealogically important records such

as cemetery, Bible, church, military, county, town, and family records. This started in 1913. Local chapters may have copies of the transcribed data, but only the DAR Library has the entire national set of these typescripts.

The library's File Collection is estimated to contain 300,000 file folders. The bulk of these files contain the documentation submitted to support DAR membership application papers. The files often contain genealogy information that is difficult or impossible to find anywhere else. The recent files will have source citations stating where the original information was found. Earlier years are not as well documented.

A personal visit is needed to examine the millions of available records. The library is adjacent to the headquarters offices. The complex covers an entire city block just southwest of the White House. Before visiting the DAR library, those who have been there recommend getting organized with a list of items to examine, and an agenda of things to be accomplished. The library catalog is available online at [www.dar.org/library/online/lib.cfm](http://www.dar.org/library/online/lib.cfm). A complete search of the catalog before the trip there could save an enormous amount of time. For more information about the Daughters of the American Revolution and its genealogy library, go to: <http://www.dar.org>

## Recently Published: Discovering Family History, New Genealogy Guide for Finland Research

### Discovering Family History

A new magazine for beginning genealogists will soon appear on the news stands. The publishers of *Family Chronicle* and *Internet Genealogy* will begin publishing *Discovering Family History*, a magazine written for those starting out on their family history. Halvor Moorshead, the publisher and editor of all three magazines learned that there are a lot of very intelligent individuals starting to collect their family history and have not heard of Cyndi's List or do not know what a family group sheet is. These individuals need to learn the basics before they are ready for the difficult research problems. That is where the new magazine can help.

A 24-page preview was included in the March/April issue of *Family Chronicle* and also in the April/May issue of *Internet Genealogy*. Those who do not get these magazines can download a 56-page preview issue at [www.discoveringfamilyhistory.com/](http://www.discoveringfamilyhistory.com/). A few of the articles in the online preview issue include: *Citing Sources*, a genealogical *Case Study*, *Computer Basics*, *Free Family History Websites*, *Genealogical Societies*, *It's All About Parents*, *Making Sense of the US Census*, *Obituaries*, the *Ultimate Guide to Subscription Databases*, *The 10 First Steps*, *Web 2.0*, *What is a Vital Record?*, and *Who Else is Researching Your Name?*. Mr. Moorhead commented that although the articles focus on the basics, care is taken to inform the reader and not talk down.

*Discovering Family History* will be published six times a year. An introductory subscription rate of \$20 per year (same for the US and Canada) is now available.

### New Genealogy Guide for Finland Research

FamilySearch has released a new research guide for Finland called *Finding Records of Your Ancestors, Finland*, that will be helpful

in research for those with Finnish ancestors. Like the guides for other countries produced by FamilySearch, the guide is free. The guide provides a strategy for research, and shows users which records to search. The steps and tools needed for success are outlined in an easy-to-follow workbook style.

*Finding Records of Your Ancestors, Finland, Before 1900* is a recent addition to the series of research guides for the Scandinavian countries. Guides for Denmark, Iceland, Norway, and Sweden were previously published. The guide contains 37 pages. It is a reference for the researcher to use as a road map through the research process. It is assumed that the researcher has already searched all the home sources and gathered the information and is ready to begin serious research.

The various kinds of records from Finland are explained. The researcher is told when the record should be used, where to find the record, and how to use the record. A case study is included to illustrate how the research process works. Also included are maps, a timeline with key dates in Finnish history, and a guide for reading the Finnish genealogical records.

FamilySearch has also published other guides in the *Finding Records of Your Ancestors* series which include African American, Denmark, France, Iceland, Italy, Jewish, Mexico, Norway, and Sweden. The guides can be downloaded from [www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org) at no charge and printed for use.

A real-life case study allows readers to see for themselves how the research process works. Expert search tips, including tips on how to use the Family History Library Catalog, are included. Also included are maps, key dates in Finnish history, and guides for reading Finnish genealogical records.

## 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@comcast.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
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: <a href="http://www.FamilySearch.org">www.FamilySearch.org</a>	free

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
<i>Family History Documentation Guidelines</i>	Available at meetings and on Web site
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 10 MAY 2008

- |                                |                                     |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Software Classes               | • Scanning Techniques & Corrections |
| • Reunion 9 for Mac Users      | • Using new.FamilySearch Workshop   |
| • Getting Started with Reunion | • PAF and PC's for Beginners        |
| • Using Ancestry.com—part 2    |                                     |

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



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The former Silicon Valley PAF Users Group

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