

Looking Around Corners

By Allin Kingsbury

In addition to the 1900 census indexing project, in which SVCGG participated, the indexing project has moved on to index other databases. One of these databases is the Ohio death records from 1908-1953. The entire set of records is now available at a temporary site, www.labs.familysearch.org, along with about 40 other databases which are indexed or partially completed. The Ohio death records are of particular interest to me because I am in the process of locating the descendents of one of my third great grandparents. One daughter married and went to Ohio. I had been able to find 3 children of the daughter and suspected that there may have been others. The daughter's husband had an unusual surname, Protsman. The family was German, and had been in the country for about two generations.

One very useful feature of the Ohio death index is that it not only lists the names of both parents, but the data can be searched for the name of the name of either parent. The years of 1908-1953 are not a very long period of time, but the time period includes the most likely years for the deaths of adult children of parents born after 1800. By searching for individuals whose father was John Protsman, I was able to find three

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additional children. It was looking around a corner. The search for parents of the deceased individual was especially helpful in tracing daughters in a family. When the daughters marry, the surnames change and they disappear as though they rounded a corner and are gone.

I found three additional children of John Protsman using the search, including two daughters. Since I had learned the married name and the date and place of death from the death record, a search of census records could find the families of these individuals. Also some of their children could also be found in the death records by searching the death records for the children found in the census records.

One daughter died as a widow and the name of the spouse, which is usually included in the death record, is omitted. Although I did not know the names of any of her children nor the name of her husband, I was able to get that information searching for records with her as the mother (using her maiden name). I not only found the names of children with birth dates and birth places on the records, but I found the full name of the father which had been missing from the other

record. It was like looking around two corners at once, but I was looking both backward and forward in time.

I also did an area search of all the Protsmans who were born in Mercer County, Ohio where the family lived for several generations. I found a death record for Elias Protsman. He was not among the members of the family that I had found. However the parents listed for him were among my records. The parents had a son listed in the 1850 census as Ellis. A search of later census records for Ellis had yielded nothing. A search for Elias gave me the information for his family for each census until he died.

There are many other records on the Internet now that can be used to look around corners. The Texas Death Index lists the names of both parents and covers a much longer period of time than is available for Ohio. The death index for Washington State lists only the maiden name of the mother. The maiden name will be picked up on a search, but the process is less efficient than data with the full names of both parents.

Marriage and Birth records that list the names of the parents are also useful in looking

around corners. The Texas birth and marriage records are excellent examples. I had no problem tracing the descendents of a member of the family who moved to Texas in the 1880s as long as they remained in Texas. The records are available up to a few years ago. In addition, the Texas divorce records are online. This makes it possible to trace a female child who was married and divorced several times with the corresponding surname changes and children with the various surnames of the multiple fathers.

Other records which provide the look around the corner may not be searchable on the Internet. However, these records link the married daughter to the parents and stating her married surname and sometimes the full name of the husband. These records include:

- Wills which sometimes identify daughters by their married names
- Obituaries which often list daughters by married name
- Cemetery stones which occasionally list a married daughter who is buried with parents
- Pension applications
- Census records where a parent is living with a daughter
- Church baptism and marriage records
- Marriage and engagement an-

(Continued on page 58)

What's Inside

Spider Webs	58	Using Coroner Records	63
Your Quaker Ancestors (continued)	59	Recently Published	63
Of Interest	62	Information/Classes for 13 September 2008	back

Looking Around Corners (Continued from page 57)

nouncements in hometown newspaper

- Family records in family Bibles

There are probably many other records that link those who are difficult to connect as families. I am almost certain that John Protsman had more children because he and his wife lived long enough to have a large family. The six children I have found so far make a small family compared to other families at the time. The Ohio Death Record database could not help me find children who died before 1908, or find children who moved out of Ohio. I was pleased that I found the three additional children. This find led to more than 100 descendants of these children that I was able to uncover.

Your success at looking around corners will depend on the several factors:

1. The database should be complete and cover a significant time period.
2. The ability to search for parents must be available
3. The data must be from a significantly large area such as a state.

A search of small time periods or small geographical areas has a greater chance of missing the data. A poor quality of indexing can also stand in your way of success. The search engine can be tested by searching for misspelled names. If they can't be found, you may have to search for possible misspelled names to find your individual.

Good luck with your search.

Spider Webs: Australian Free Settlers, 1891 Canada Census, The Great Migration, FamilySearch Indexing, RootsMagic Blog

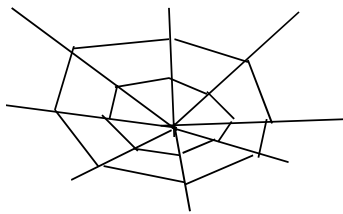
Australian Free Settlers

Ancestry.co.uk, a subscription Web site, has added a new database of 8.9 million free settlers. These immigrants traveled to Australia in the late 19th and early 20th century to better themselves economically. The free settlers are outnumbered by the convicts who were transported to Australia. The population of Australia grew to more than 100 times its size from 1826 to 1922, as a result of large numbers of immigrants and rapid economic-growth. Go to: www.ancestry.co.uk

1891 Canada Census

Ancestry.ca, a subscription Web site for genealogy research in Canada has announced the availability of the 1891 Canada Census on their Web site. The database has approximately 4.5 million names that can be searched in French or English. Approximately 90,000 images of original census pages are digitized and can be viewed.

The Census was taken on April 6, 1891 in both English and French by 4,300 enumerators. The census can be searched by name, province and district, age, gender, marital status, relation to head of family, country or province of birth, French-Canadian status, mother's and father's birth place, religion and occupation. The census includes general demographic information from this period such as the ability to read and write, those with disabilities, the nature and construction of the home, and even the number of rooms contained in common dwellings. The Census recorded primary migrant communities, which originated from England, Ireland, Scotland, the



U.S. and Germany. The 1891 Census of Canada is available to Ancestry.ca subscribers and through a 14-day Free Trial. For more information, go to: www.ancestry.ca

The Great Migration

Robert Charles Anderson is one of the best-known and most highly-respected New England genealogists of our generation. He is a Fellow of the American Society of Genealogists (FASG), an organization of genealogy scholars, with whom he has served as Secretary, Vice President, and President. He is well-known for his three-volume work, *The Great Migration Begins: Immigrants to New England, 1620-1633*, published by the New England Historic Genealogical Society. He is also the author of, *The Pilgrim Migration: Immigrants to Plymouth Colony, 1620-1633*. His largest work is the "Great Migration" Series and the first six volumes of that series are now available online on the New England Historic Genealogical Society's web site. Mr. Anderson is editor of the Great Migration Newsletter, and co-editor of The American Genealogist. He was a former Board Member of the National Genealogical Society, and GENTECH, Inc.,

Currently, Mr. Anderson is the Director of the Great Migration Study Project, which has the ambitious goal of creating compre-

hensive biographical and genealogical accounts of all immigrants who came to New England during the great migration. The Project was conceived by Robert Charles Anderson and was proposed to the New England Historic Genealogical Society early in 1988. The migration began with the founding of the Plymouth Colony after the arrival of the Mayflower in 1620 until 1643 when immigration significantly declined at the beginning of the Civil War in England. As immigration grew in numbers, this led to the founding of the older towns in New England. At first, there were just a few hundred immigrants in a given year. In 1634 and 1635, the immigration surged to about 2500 immigrants each year. The immigrants from these years began new businesses and new towns, including Concord, Weymouth, Newbury, and Hingham, Massachusetts, as well as Hartford, Wethersfield, and Windsor, Connecticut.

This first volume was originally published in 1999 and includes surnames beginning with A-B. This series is written by Robert Charles Anderson, FASG, George F. Sanborn, FASG, Melinde Lutz Sanborn, FASG. The first of six volumes from the series, *The Great Migration: Immigrants to New England 1634-1635* is now available online for NEHGS members on their Web site at: www.NewEnglandAncestors.org

FamilySearch Indexing

The 1900 US Census and other indexing projects are now on a Web site at <http://pilot.familysearch.org>. Some projects like the 1870 census are partially completed with fifteen states done. Many of the projects are done. The projects are not

limited to the United States, although about half the projects are US records. Some of the most recent projects are Peru Civil Registration and Spain Parish Records. A list of the projects can be found at www.familysearchindexing.org. Those who are able to help with indexing can register at our Web site at: www.svcomputergenealogy.org

RootsMagic Blog

This blog has news about RootsMagic, Personal Historian, and Family Atlas software. Most of the recent news is about new features that will appear in RootsMagic version 4. To visit the site, go to: <http://blog.rootsmagic.com/>

Your Quaker Ancestors

By Allin Kingsbury

Continued from the July 2008 Pastfinder

Quaker Records

The Quakers tended to be educated and kept good records. Genealogists using Quaker records are delighted with the information which has been preserved. Of all the church records, the Quaker records appear to be more complete and more informative than almost all other denominations. Many English and Irish meetings have records which date from 1666-1667. The most fascinating aspect of the records is that in addition to births (baptisms), marriages and deaths, the records contain entries documenting the movement of church member. When a member moved, the congregations affected would communicate to establish that those moving were members in good standing and were worthy of acceptance in their new congregation. These records document where and when the person moved. The births, deaths, marriages, and moves between congregations are found in the records of the local Monthly Meeting. The Monthly Meeting is the basic record keeping group in the Society of Friends. Quaker Monthly Meetings were held once a month and are congregational. All local business is transacted at the Monthly Meeting. Yearly Meetings would produce *Disciplines* that explained what behavior was expected of members of that Yearly Meeting. *Discipline* was applied at the local level, not by the Quarterly or Yearly Meeting. During the 19th century and earlier, there were two Monthly Meetings each month held separately for men and women in the same building. Two sets of monthly meeting record were kept for the two Meetings. Birth and death records were usually kept in a separate book. Unfortunately, most Monthly Meetings did not keep rosters of their full membership. It is possible that a person who never moved, never married, who never was in trouble, and wasn't involved in committee work would not be named in the records.

Though most of the records are associated with the Monthly Meeting, some individuals were considered more important, such as traveling ministers, who are mentioned in Quarter and Yearly Meeting Minutes. Some Quaker conferences have a Three-Year Meeting.

In 1737, the Quakers developed formal membership requirements. Until then, one was a Quaker based on what one did, such as attending Meetings regularly and living the lifestyle. If an ancestor is not officially listed as a member, it does not necessarily mean that the individual was not a Quaker. You may find in the record that the ancestor was "read out" of the Meeting for some transgression. The ancestor may have later apologized for the unbecoming behavior and re-admitted. The individual may have

moved and transferred membership to another Meeting. All these things will be found in the record and prove membership. Members were disowned by the congregation for military service, personal anger or violence, marriage out of unity (Quaker to non-Quaker), and marriage out of discipline (not following the approved procedure for marriage).

Quakers were a mobile people. When a family moved, they obtained a certificate of removal from their old Monthly Meeting to give to the clerk at the new Monthly Meeting. Sometimes the family moved and sent back to the Monthly meeting to obtain the certificate. The new family would be recorded in the minutes at the new location when they arrived. If that did not occur, the family may have changed plans, encountered a death en route, or lost the certificate.

In 1828, the Quakers experienced a schism, separating into the Hicksites and the Orthodox. The group that kept the meetinghouse, usually kept the past records, but there are some exceptions. The Orthodox Quakers later divided into the Gurneyites and the Wilburites. There were further divisions and uniting of groups. It is helpful to know what branch of Quakerism your ancestors followed. It can be a complicated process to trace an ancestor through these schisms. After 1850, it may be easier to trace ancestors using civil records.

In 1837 the original Quaker Monthly Meeting register books for England and Wales were surrendered to the Public Record Office (www.pro.gov.uk/genealogy/default.htm) and can be found there. The Friends House Library has indexes of these registers from England and Wales. The register books for Scotland and Ireland continue to be held by the Quarterly and Monthly Meetings.

William Wade Hinshaw created a monumental summary of Quaker records titled the *Encyclopedia of American Quaker Genealogy*. It contains references to records from Quaker Meetings in North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Tennessee, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, New York City and Long Island, Southwestern Pennsylvania, Ohio and Virginia. Additional records were collected by Mr. Hinshaw, but not published. These records can be found under the title of *William Wade Hinshaw Index to Quaker Meeting Records* at the library of Swarthmore College. The index includes more Pennsylvania and New Jersey Meeting records, as well as records from California, Iowa, Kansas, and Indiana. It contains 285,000 three-by-five index cards, cross-indexed by surname only. This index has also been microfilmed by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and is available at the Family History Library in Salt Lake City. In addition to this, the Family History Library made a transcript of Hinshaw's work on the Iowa Quaker Meeting records. It is called *The William Wade Hinshaw Index to Iowa Quaker Meeting Records*, and is available on microfiche at

many LSD Family History Centers.

Libraries, Archives and Museums

Organizations helpful to Quaker genealogy research include the following libraries, archives and organizations.

Europe

The Society of Genealogists, London, England (www.sog.org.uk/library/index.html) has an extensive library with the printed lists of the surrendered registers for most Non-Conformist sects before 1837. They also have parish registers and when a person finds a Quaker ancestor in a Monthly Meeting in England, they can also try to find the ancestor listed in a parish register before the Quaker movement began.

The Quaker Family History Society (www.qfhs.mcmail.com/) was founded in 1993 to aid persons researching Quaker ancestors in Britain and Ireland. They do not claim expertise in American Quaker studies or genealogy. They publish their journal, *Quaker Connections*, three times a year.

The Woodbrooke Library at the Woodbrooke Quaker Study Center (www.woodbrooke.org.uk/woodbrooke/facility/library.htm) is the second largest Quaker library in England.

Quaker Cousins in England and Ireland (www.my-ged.com/nmbaker/) has extensive records for the following surnames: Allen, Baker, Cadbury, Fox, Funnell, Grier, Hutchinson, O'Brien, Penrose, Ransome, Stafford, Waring, Wright etc. 8,984 individuals and 3,355 marriages are listed on this family site.

The Public Record Office, Northern Ireland (PRONI) (proni.nics.gov.uk/records/church.htm) has records of the Church of England and the Roman Catholic Church as well as the records of many of denominations including The Society of Friends.

The Friends Historical Library of Ireland (www.ipag.com/quakers/) is the central records repository of the Yearly Friends in Ireland.

Irish Ancestors: The Irish Times Electronic Publishing Division (www.ireland.com/ancestor/browse/records/church/quaker/index.htm) has some Quaker records.

Information about Edinburgh and Aberdeen Yearly Meetings can be found on the Quaker Family History Society site (www.qfhs.mcmail.com/counties/scots.htm).

The General Register Office for Scotland (www.open.gov.uk/gros/opr_app3.pdf) has non-conformist records.

Canada

The Quaker Collection at Pickering College, New Market, Ontario (www.pickeringcollege.on.ca/) has the Canadian Yearly Meeting records.

National Archives of Canada (www.archives.ca/exec/naweb.dll?fs&020202&e&top&0) has microfilm of Canadian Quaker records, but the early Canadian Quaker records are spotty. A free copy of *Tracing Your Ancestors in Canada* can be downloaded at www.archives.ca/exec/naweb.dll?fs&0420&e&top&0

Canadian Friends Historical Association may be of help:

Canadian Yearly Meeting
60 Lowther Avenue
Toronto, Ontario
Canada M54 1C7

Mid-Atlantic States

The Historical Society of Pennsylvania & The Genealogical Society of Pennsylvania (www.libertynet.org/pahist/) have a combined library which includes published genealogies of Quaker families by Gilbert Cope, a Quaker genealogist at the turn of the 20th century.

The State Library of Pennsylvania (www.cas.psu.edu/docs/pde/LIBSTATE.HTML) has Pennsylvania genealogies and local histories, church and cemetery records, 13,500 titles on microform, a microfiche collection entitled Genealogy/Local History, a surname and place-name card file, and federal census through 1920.

Hall of Records: Annapolis, Maryland (www.mdarchives.state.md.us) has most of the Quaker collection on microfilm. Some original meeting records have been deposited in the Hall of Records. Thirty-five monthly meetings and ten quarterly meetings are included.

The Friends Historical Library, Swarthmore College (www.swarthmore.edu/Library/friends/index.html) has the largest collection of Quaker Meeting archives in the world. It contains more than 42,000 books, pamphlets and serials, 290 major manuscript collections, and 9,000 volumes of original meeting records. The library's goal is to collect all books about or by Quakers and to preserve unpublished Quaker materials regardless of their format (manuscripts, maps, photographs, pamphlets, periodicals, family papers, journals of Quaker ministers, etc.). It houses records of more than 140 quarterly, monthly, and preparative meetings in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware, and Virginia. These records include the minutes from men and women's business meetings, minutes from Elders' meetings, registers of births, deaths, marriages and removals.

The Quaker Collection at the Haverford College Library (www.haverford.edu/library/sc/qcoll.html) is a joint repository with Friends Historical Library for the records of Philadelphia and Baltimore Yearly Meetings. The library has many old and rare text, and papers and letters of William Penn, letters written by George Fox, Margaret Fell, Robert Barclay, Elizabeth Haddon Estaugh, James Logan, Peter Collinson, John and Samuel Fothergill, John Woolman, Anthony Benezet, Rebecca Jones and William Savery in the 17th and 18th centuries. Haverford College has a long association with the Orthodox branch of American Quakerism.

The Pendle Hill Library, Pendle Hill (www.pendlehill.org/) is limited. Pendle Hill is a publishing house for the Quakers.

The Haviland Records Room (c/o New York Yearly Meeting, 15 Rutherford Place, New York, NY 10016) is the official archives for the new York Yearly Meeting and has original records for all the monthly meetings under that yearly, plus abstracts of one Monroe County, three Westchester County, five Dutchess County, and two Columbia County monthly meetings. These were prepared by Willard Heiss (similar to Hinshaw but not as complete). There is also a four volume compilation of marriage data for the New York Yearly Meeting from beginning to 1850 and some of the Monthly

Meetings under the N.Y. Yearly Meeting on microfilm. Incomplete set of notebooks with cemetery records

New England

The Rhode Island Historical Society Library is the repository of the New England Yearly Meeting and the Rhode Island Quarterly Meeting. The records are on 170 rolls of microfilm. Most of the records date from the 1700s to the present. There are only a few indexes. The Quaker Archivist is available one day a week. Contact him by writing to:

Rhode Island Historical Society Library
121 Hope Street
Providence, Rhode Island 02906

New England Quaker Research Library at the Mt. Toby Friends Meeting House, Leverett, Massachusetts has a collection of pamphlets and books

South

Friends Historical Collection of Guilford College, Greensboro, North Carolina (www.guilford.edu/LibraryArt/fhc.htm) has the surviving records of North Carolina Meetings beginning with Perquimans Meeting in 1680. It has the original minutes and records of 33 of North Carolina's oldest Meetings which are abstracted in *Hinshaw's Encyclopedia of American Quaker Genealogy, Vol. 1*.

Midwest

The Mary L. Cook Public Library (www.shakerwssg.org/quaker_map_showing_locations_of_.htm) has a copy of the 1853 Indiana Yearly Meeting Map.

Quaker Collection, Everett L. Cattell Library, Malone College, Canton, Ohio (www.malone.edu/academics/library/welcome.cfm) has 266 record books that date from 1760 to 1965 and cover certain areas of Ohio, Michigan, Virginia, and West Virginia. The volumes contain meeting minutes and membership information, including records of birth, marriage, removal, transfer, and death. This is the official repository of the Evangelical Friends Church, Eastern Region. The records were transferred for microfilming to the Center for Archival Collections at Bowling Green University, Ohio, in April 1987 (www.bgsu.edu/colleges/library/cac/ms0492.html)

Quaker Collection, S. Arthur Watson Library, Wilmington College, Wilmington, Ohio (www.wilmington.edu/library5.htm and www.postcom.com/ccgshs) has a research collection of printed materials on all aspects of Quakerism and is the depository for the official records of the Wilmington Yearly Meeting and the Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting. All genealogical inquiries must be directed to the library by the Clinton County Historical society at: www.postcom.com/ccgshs

Union Township Historical Museum & Quaker Research Center

47 N Miami St
West Milton, OH 45383
phone: (937)698-3820 or (937) 778-3811

Quaker Collection, Lilly Library, Earlham College, Richmond, Indiana (www.earlham.edu/~libr/quaker/index.htm) is the repository for the archives for the Friends United Meeting (FUM)

and many related yearly meetings. It is the major Quaker collection in the mid-western United States. It has the largest collection of printed minutes of Yearly Meetings outside of Philadelphia.

First Friends Meeting, Richmond, Indiana has records of Monthly Meetings that met in the Indiana Yearly Meeting: southwest Ohio, Indiana and parts of Michigan. Write to:

2010 Chester Boulevard
Richmond, IN 47374

Western Reserve Historical Society Library, Cleveland, Ohio (www.wrhs.org/sites/gen.htm) has some Quaker records.

Allen County Public Library, Ft. Wayne, Indiana (www.acpl.lib.in.us/genealogy/genealogy.html) has transcribed and abstracted Quaker Monthly Meeting Records from several states and Yearly Meetings.

Quaker Collection, Friends University Library in Wichita, Kansas (www.friends.edu/library/Collections/Quaker/) has books and periodicals from the 17th century on, and maintains the Archives of the Mid-American Yearly Meeting (Kansas Yearly Meeting) from 1872 to the present.

Quaker Collection, Wilcox Library, William Penn College, Oskaloosa, Iowa (www.wmpenn.edu/PennWeb/Library/services.htm) has family histories, Hinshaw's volumes, Willard Heiss's Indiana books, some Miami Valley of Ohio records, and the Monthly Meeting records for the Iowa Yearly Meeting.

West

Quaker Collection, Wardman Library, Whittier College, Whittier, California (www.whittier.edu/) has genealogies, regional histories, death notices from Quaker periodicals, Hinshaw's *Encyclopedia*, a few Monthly Meetings in Indiana, Maryland and New York, some Yearly Meeting minutes, and some records from England.

Quaker Collection, Shambaugh Library, George Fox College, Newberg, Oregon (www.georgefox.edu/) is a small library with secondary sources. They have a small number of published Quaker genealogies and general histories. They have Hinshaw's *Encyclopedia*. The archives of the Northwest Yearly Meeting are in the vault of the Newberg Friends Church and in the Church Archives Room in Sutton Hall both located on campus. Most records date from after 1900.

Mark Your Calendars

September 2: The deadline for the "Lore Galore" family history writing contest. See the Web site or the June PastFinder for contest rules. Go for the prize money.

October 11: Remember the Barbara Renick Seminar from 9:00 to 4:00. She will teach 4 classes:

The Magic of Family History

Eleven Layers of Online Searching

Evaluating What You Have Found: The Third Stage of Research

Mistakes I've Made (and you can avoid) as a Computer Genealogist

Of Interest

FamilySearch to Collaborate for England and Wales Census Indexes, FamilySearch and Ancestry.com Collaborate for U.S. Censuses Indexes, Indexing Help Wanted in Chicago, NYG&B Gives Away Library

FamilySearch to Collaborate for England and Wales Census Indexes

FamilySearch, the genealogy organization of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, and findmypast.com, The Origins Network, and Intelligent Image Management, companies that specialize in providing online access to British family history resources, have announced a new partnership arrangement to make more British historical records more available online. The first project is to publish online indexes to censuses for England and Wales from 1841 to 1901. The 1841 and 1861 Census indexes are accessible now at FamilySearch.org and findmypast.com. FamilySearch, in conjunction with The Origins Network, will provide digital images for the 1851, 1871, and 1881 Censuses. Findmypast.com will supply copies of its English and Welsh Census indexes from 1841 to 1901 to FamilySearch. The Federation of Family History Societies will assist to complete the index for the 1851 Census. The agreement will also extend the 1871 Census index.

Users of FamilySearch.org will be able to do a free search by record type, given name, surname, age, gender, place of birth, and relationship to head of household (except for the 1841 Census where relationship was not recorded). The search capability at FamilySearch.org will have additional data fields added in the future. Users will be able to search the full indexes and view original images for free at FamilySearch's 4,500 Family History Centers or for a nominal fee at findmypast.com. FamilySearch will use its volunteer indexers to add more fields of data to select censuses. When completed, the new census indexes will be available on FamilySearch.org, findmypast.com, and Originsnetwork.com. Individuals are encouraged to volunteer as online indexers for British historical projects at www.FamilySearch.org. The addition of the English and Welsh Census Collections at findmypast.com to the FamilySearch online databases is expected to increase the use of these valuable record sets and increase traffic to findmypast.com.

FamilySearch and Ancestry.com Collaborate for U.S. Censuses Indexes

FamilySearch, the genealogy arm of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, and Ancestry.com (a division of The Generations Network) have announced a new partnership arrangement to exchange records and resources to make more historical records available online. The first project is to significantly enhance the online U.S. Federal Census Collection (1790 to 1930). The original census records are held by the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA).

FamilySearch is digitizing the master microfilm copies of the original U.S. Federal Censuses from 1790 through 1930. They will provide these improved images to Ancestry.com and the images will be available online at Ancestry.com for subscribers. The images and indexes will also be available at no cost at NARA reading rooms and at FamilySearch's 4,500 Family History Centers.

Ancestry.com will give FamilySearch copies of its existing census indexes which are currently available online at the Ancestry.com Web site. offers indexes and images to the entire publicly available U.S. Federal Census Collection. FamilySearch will use its online indexing system and community of volunteer indexers, which are

now indexing select censuses. FamilySearch will merge the Ancestry.com indexes with the new FamilySearch indexes to create new and improved census indexes. The new indexes will be available on both the FamilySearch and Ancestry.com sites. They will be free on Ancestry.com for a limited time as they are completed and they will be available free on FamilySearch.org.

Currently, the 1850 through 1900 U.S. Censuses can be searched currently at FamilySearch.org; although the 1870 census is only partially completed at this time. All the U.S. Censuses through 1930 are available on Ancestry.com.

Indexing Help Wanted in Chicago

An indexing and preservation project, funded from a grant by the National Historical Publications and Records Commission, has begun at the archives of the Clerk of the Circuit Court of Cook County. The archives have more than a half-million naturalization records dating from 1906 to 1929. In 1929, the federal government began maintaining the naturalization records. Also at the archives are approximately 400,000 Declarations of Intention filed by immigrants applying for U.S. citizenship. The records are difficult to use as they are with no index. The project should be helpful to genealogists.

NYG&B Gives Away Library

At one time the New York Genealogical and Biographical Society was an excellent genealogy organization with a large library of historical and genealogical publications. A new Board of Directors, elected several years ago, disenfranchised all the members except the fifteen members serving on the board. Last year, the board recently sold its four-story building on East 58th Street in Midtown Manhattan last year for \$24 million. The building is now listed for sale at \$33 million. This year, the board donated the entire library of NYG&B to the New York Public Library. Among the holdings were 75,000 volumes, 30,000 manuscripts, and 22,000 reels of microfilm.

The New York Genealogical and Biographical Society has purchased an office condominium in Midtown. There they will focus on issuing grants, giving tours and lectures, and other acts which encourage genealogical research. They see themselves as an umbrella group which will encourage other genealogy groups. One of the first grants awarded by the board is a one-million dollar grant to the New York Public Library for a four-person staff to process and catalog the NYG & B collection to be completed in two years.

Notice

In order to simplify the distribution of the *Pastfinder* and the *Pastfinder Bulletin* by e-mail, We are changing the distribution method. Beginning next month, You will receive an e-mail from SVC GG (siliconvalleygroup@earthlink.net) with a link to the URL where you will find your newsletter. You can then download the newsletter and store or print it as you wish. The new procedure will solve several problems at our end maintaining the mailing list, and it will also avoid problems with your e-mail when the file size becomes too large. Hopefully we can also avoid problems with filters that block junk mail too.

Using Coroner Records

Coroner records are public records made when there is a homicide, suicide, accidental death, or death in a disaster. The purpose of the coroners report is to state the cause of death and document any circumstances that would be of interest if any laws were broken and there is a hearing or trial as a result. The coroners report is of interest to the genealogist because it often contains more information than a death certificate or obituary and may be the only source of death information if the latter documents do not exist. It is unfortunate that many genealogists overlook coroner records.

Coroner records were kept in England in the early 1600s and the practice came to America and became law in the colonies. The coroner was not always a medical examiner, a requirement that was implemented in the latter half of the twentieth century in many areas. Before that, the duties of coroner sometimes fell on the sheriff or a coroner who was a part time appointee.

You are unlikely to find a coroner's report if a person died of natural causes, unless there were suspicious circumstances reported. However, if a person died at a young age, there may be an accidental death, or other cause for a coroners report. To find the coroner's report, the first place to look is the county courthouse, but the report may be at the sheriff's office, the coroner's office, or with the county clerk. Older records may have found their way to an archive or historical society.

The coroner's report typically has more information than an obituary or a death certificate. The latter may not even exist for individuals who died more than about 100 years ago. In addition to the details of the death there can be a physical description with height, weight, hair color and eye color. The names of those supplying information are probably listed, and their may be the name of the person receiving the decedent's personal effects from the

morgue. Other clues such as mortuary, hospital, and circumstances of death may lead to other records such as mortician records, hospital records, police report, or court records.

A few coroner records are microfilmed. Check the card catalog at www.FamilySearch.org for availability. A few have been indexed and the indices are available on the Internet, such as:

Cook County Coroner's Inquest Records Index 1872-1911 (containing 74,160 records)
www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/archives/cookingt.html.

Missouri Digital Heritage - Coroner's Inquest Database
www.sos.mo.gov/archives/resources/coroners/

Coroners records are worth using if they exist.

Quotable Quote

There's a glorious mountain whose foothills I tread,
Its peak inaccessibly high.

I strive but I fall, and my wounds are deep,
But at least I have reached for the sky.

From the poem, *Struggle*

Florence Grauel Miller

American Poet

Recently Published: **Vital Records of Stoughton, Massachusetts, to 1850, Put your Family Tree on the Map, The Globe Gazette**

Vital Records of Stoughton, Massachusetts, to 1850

David Lambert has written a new book: *Vital Records of Stoughton, Mass., to 1850*. The book is a remake of a book published more than 100 years ago. However, the original book did not include the records from 1834 to 1850, which had been destroyed. The town hall had two fires before 1880, resulting in the loss of a few vital records. The missing records were partially recovered by the town clerk from state records which began in 1841.

This book will be available only to those who pre-order by 15 August 2008. The publisher will print only enough copies to fill orders. Delivery is expected by approximately October 1..

"*Vital Records of Stoughton, Mass., to 1850*" by David Allen Lambert is being published by the Massachusetts Society of Mayflower Descendants. The price is \$45.00. You can find more information at www.massmayflower.org/publications/books.htm

Put your Family Tree on the Map

Put your Family Tree on the Map is a blog with how to information to help use maps in your family history. The site began in June

and does not have very many articles. One article discusses placing the locations in your family tree on *Google Map* using a program called *Map My Ancestors* which converts a GEDCOM file into a format which can be used by Google Map. To visit the blog, go to: <http://mapyourtree.blogspot.com/>

The Globe Gazette

The Globe Gazette is a free newsletter focused on genealogy research in Canada. The newsletter address newly available databases about Canada, genealogy events, and other news of interest to Canadian genealogists. One article that sounded interesting is the recent availability of an online database, *Immigrants from China*, which was prepared by Library and Archives Canada (LAC). A number of columnists write regularly for the newsletter. The web site also has a genealogy store where they sell books and other genealogy-related products. The calendar of events lists mostly seminars, meetings and classes in Canada, but some of the major events in the United States are also listed. To subscribe or read the newsletter online, go to:

www.suite101.com/external_link.cfm?elink=http://globalgazette.net/

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Please send inquiries, address changes, new memberships, and membership renewals to:
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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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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
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