

Family Search Record Research

By Allin Kingsbury

Our SVC GG members have been participating with FamilySearch.org to index the many microfilmed records that they have collected. We started with the 1900 census and have moved on to other records. The completed records are available at a pilot Web site: <http://pilot.familysearch.org>. The site has about 500 million searchable names, which is an amazing accomplishment for the short time the project has been underway. In one recent week, 9 million new names were added and updates are done weekly. The data is posted to the Web site as soon as it is ready and many of the databases on the site are incomplete, but in time they will grow in size until they are finished. Incomplete databases have an indicator estimating the percentage of the data that is available on the site.

For those doing US research, the following databases can be found on the site:

US Census: 1850, 1860, 1870, 1880, 1900

State census:

Florida: 1885, 1935, 1945

Massachusetts: 1855, 1865

South Dakota: 1905

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Wisconsin: 1855, 1875, 1885, 1895, 1905

Vital Records:

Georgia: deaths 1914-1907

Michigan: births 1867-1902 deaths 1867-1897 and marriages 1868-1975

Ohio: death 1908-1953

Texas: death 1890-1976 and 1964-1998

Utah: death 1904-1956

Washington: death 1907-1960

West Virginia: deaths 1853-1970

World War II Draft Registrations

Some records are more useful than others in linking family members and proving relationships. Death records are particularly useful in this case. The death records not only give the user the date and place of death, but the West Virginia, Washington, Utah and Ohio deaths give the user the names of the parents including the maiden name of the mother. They also give the birth date and birthplace of the deceased. The Michigan

deaths list the parents but only the first and middle names of the mother, but not the maiden surname. By searching for a marriage in these states, you may find the maiden name of the mother who could have been born as early as 1800.

The Michigan marriage records give the full maiden name of the mothers of both the bride and groom. The West Virginia marriage records give only the first and middle names of the mothers.

The civil War Pension Index was a disappointment. The records give only the names of those receiving the pension or of a widow receiving a pension based on their service. There is no date or location of birth. The unit where they served is often given but many cards have a general entry such as heavy artillery or Cavalry. For a common surname, there are so many entries and too little information in the index to identify a civil war veteran.

There are also many databases for other countries in the Western Hemisphere including Ontario deaths 1869-1947, Mexico baptisms, marriages and burial 1700-1900s, the Mexico 1930

census, Nicaragua civil registration, the Argentina 1895 census, and Peru civil registration 1874-1930.

For Europe there are:

England 1841 and 1861 census records

England baptisms, marriages 1700-1900

Germany baptisms, marriages 1700-1900

Norway baptisms, marriages and burials 1700-1900

And some smaller databases

The site also has a blog which contains news about the various indexing projects which have been completed or are being done. To read the blog, go to: <http://labs.familysearch.org/blog/>

The indexing of the records allows searches on any field in the record. For example, the Ohio Death Index has the full name of the father and the maiden name of the mother. The index can be searched by the name of a parent or parents to find if there were any children in a family. A few of the databases, such as the West Virginia deaths, do not have images available on the site. In this case

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the images are available on another site. See: www.wvculture.org/vrr/va_select.aspx

The indexing project has a long way to go to include the mil-

lions of rolls now on microfilm, but there are enough records indexed to help the research of many genealogists. If the record you need is only partially completed, you can be assured that the indexers are currently working on the remainder of the records and it will be available soon.

Spider Webs: Australian Immigration, Historic Aerial Photographs, The Great Migration, Indiana Genealogical Society, 1916 Census of Western Canada, Surname Map

Australian Immigration

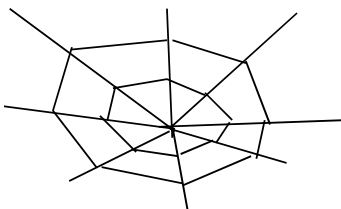
The National Archives in Canberra has launched a project to digitize the immigration records for Australia called *Making Australia Home*. The immigration records fill 22 kilometers (13 miles) of shelf space. The National Archives has finished digitizing 74,000 records. It is estimated that there are more than seven million individuals who have resettled in Australia since the Federation was established in 1901.

The records vary with time and with the type of immigrant, jurisdiction, and the government policies for immigration. Before the Federation was established in 1901, each Australian colony was responsible for immigration policy and records. In 1901, control of immigration was administered by the commonwealth. In the 1920s, there were immigration agreements between the commonwealth and the various state governments of Australia, and agreements between Australia and Britain. Then in 1945, a new Department of Immigration was created, which centralized control of immigration and unified immigration policy throughout Australia.

The immigration records contain the name of the person who migrated, the date of migration, and the date and place of birth, nationality, education, occupation, details of family members and in many cases, a photograph is included. Records are included for those who resettled under assisted passage arrangements and post-war displaced person such as Lebanese migrants and Vietnamese refugees.

The Web site has about 30 fact sheets which provide information about the records and it also has research guides which give in-depth information about the various records and specific groups of immigrants. These can be downloaded free from the Web site.

For more information, go to: www.naa.gov.au/collection/explore/migration/index.aspx.



Historic Aerial Photographs

This site has aerial photograph covering most of the United States with recent photographs and some areas as early as 1930 when aerial photography was in its infancy. Coverage is shown on a map which is blank for most of Arizona, New Mexico, New Hampshire, and Vermont. Areas with older photos are shown in a darker color. The areas with older photos include much of Iowa, Southern California, San Francisco Bay Area, Las Vegas area, northern New Jersey, Massachusetts, and many smaller areas scattered around the US. There are no photos from outside the US. The site is continually being updated and the areas of no coverage will continue to shrink.

The aerial photos have enough detail to see buildings and other features. The time of the photography can give you a photo of grandfather's farm or a home in town. Of course you will need to know the location to find the actual home on the photo. With GPS available, exact locations can be obtained for most places. An aerial photo of grandfather's farm does make a nice illustration for a family history.

The site allows for comparison of "before" and "after" pictures where disasters occurred such as in New Orleans before and after the hurricane.

To visit the site, go to: www.historicaerials.com/

Indiana Genealogical Society

The Indiana Genealogical Society recently added a collection of searchable databases to its web site. The data is available only to members of the organization. The data includes church records, military re-

ords (Civil War, Mexican War and Spanish-American War), and records for various schools (including Indiana University). A detailed list of the databases is found on the "Members Only" page. A few of the databases listed there do not require membership in the Society for access. Those who want to join and use the data can do so online at: www.indgensoc.org/

1916 Census of Western Canada

The Library and Archives Canada announced the release of the 1916 Census of the Western Provinces (Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta). Copies are available at Library and Archives Canada. The self-serve microfilm reels (reels T-21925 to T-21956) are in the Microfilm Consultation room. Copies are also available for interlibrary loan. The following information is available in the 1916 census:

- age;
- sex;
- country or province of birth;
- religion;
- racial or ethnic origin;
- occupation; and
- marital status.

This census has not been digitized and is not available on the Internet. For more information about this census, go to: www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/genealogy/022-911-e.html

Surname Map

The Public Profiler has maps showing the locations of individuals with a specific surname. The data for the maps was compiled from electoral rolls and phone books that were used to create a database of 300 million people in 26 countries. From the maps, the user can see where most of the surnames originated and the areas where individuals with the same surname migrated. One would not expect to get much help with occupational names like Smith or

patronymic names like Johnson where many unrelated families share the same name. Most surnames originated at specific locations and remain most frequent in those areas, but often the names spread to other countries because of migration.

The site also reveals which of the five million first names (forenames) are most closely associated with different surnames

and lists the top regions and cities for each name in each country on the world map. By zooming in on a country or state, the incidence of a surname is shown by state or county, depending on the resolution of the map.

Public Profiler was developed by a team of geographers from University College

London. The team then studied the names and their correlation with specific locations.

The site apparently has become popular because the site does occasionally seem to reach an overload state. To visit the Public Profiler site, go to www.publicprofiler.org/worldnames.

Your Quaker Ancestors

By Allin Kingsbury

Continued from the August 2008 Pastfinder

Books and Pamphlets

A Living Faith A Historical Study of Quaker Beliefs. (Wilmer Cooper, 1990)

Anglicans, Puritans, and Quakers in 16th and 17th Century Newfoundland www.mun.ca/rels/ang/texts/ang1.html (historical article)

The Biographical dictionary of British Quakers in commerce and industry, 1775-1920, Milligan, Edward, Sessions of York, 2007. ISBN 978-1-85702-367-7.

British Quakerism 1860-1920: the transformation of a religious community, Kennedy, Thomas Cummings, Oxford University Press, 2001. ISBN 0198270356

Claiming Our Past: Quakers in Southwest Ohio and Eastern Tennessee, Neil D. Snarr and Associates, Sabina, Ohio: Gaskins Printing, 1992.

Encyclopedia of American Quaker Genealogy, Vol. 7: Abstracts of Records of The Society of Friends in Indiana, Parts 1-6. Indiana Historical Society, 197 . by Heiss, Willard, ed.

First Among Friends: George Fox and the Creation of Quakerism, Ingle, H. Larry, Oxford University Press, 1994. ISBN 0-19-510117-0

George Fox and the Quakers (Cecil Sharman, 1991). A new definitive account of his life and work.

Historical Dictionary of the Friends, Scarecrow Press, Abbott, Margaret Post, et al. 2003. ISBN 0-8108-4483-4

Index of Quaker Meetings in Southwest Ohio: A Draft, Thomas C. Hill, 1983

Journal of John Woolman Personal account of travels: much more readable than George Fox's.

The Light In Their Consciences: Faith, Practices, and Personalities in Early British Quakerism, (1646-166), Moore, Rosemary, Pennsylvania State University Press, 2000. ISBN 0-271-01988-3

Monthly Meetings in North America: An Index, Thomas C. Hill, editor. 1992 Formal Edition. Printed by author

My Ancestors Were Quakers: How Can I Find More about Them? by Edward H. Milligan and Malcolm J. Thomas

Pennsylvania: Birthplace of a Nation by Sylvester K Stevens (New

York, 1964)

Portrait in Grey: A Short History, Punshon, John, Britain Yearly Meeting, 1984. ISBN 0-85245-180-6 new edition 2006 ISBN 0 85245 399 X

Quaker Marriage Certificates. Compiled by Gwen Boyer Bjorkman Three volumes: *Concord Monthly Meeting, Delaware Co., PA, 1679-1808*; *New Garden Monthly Meeting, Chester Co., PA, 1704-1799*; and *Pasquotank, Perquimans, Piney Woods, and Suttons Creek Monthly Meetings, North Carolina, 1677-1800*.

Quaker Classics in Brief Extracts of writings from Penn, Barclay, Pennington.

Quaker Genealogies: A Selected List of Books by Willard Heiss & Thomas D. Hamm.

Quaker Marriage Certificates. Compiled by Gwen Boyer Bjorkman Three volumes: *Concord Monthly Meeting, Delaware Co., PA, 1679-1808*; *New Garden Monthly Meeting, Chester Co., PA, 1704-1799*; and *Pasquotank, Perquimans, Piney Woods, and Suttons Creek Monthly Meetings, North Carolina, 1677-1800*

Quaker Migration to Southwest Ohio, Clayton Terrell, Published by C. Clayton Terrell, 1967.

Quaker Records of the Miami Valley of Ohio, Davis, Eileen A.

Quaker Ways Ruth Fry, 1933

The Quakers, Ingle, H. Barbour, Hugh, and J. William Frost, Greenwood Press, 1988. ISBN 0-313-22816-7

The Quakers, their Story and Message (Neave Brayshaw, 1921)

Quakers in Conflict: The Hicksite Reformation, Larry. Pendle Hill Publications, 1998. ISBN 0-87574-926-7

Quakers on the American Frontier, Errol T. Elliott, Friends United Press

Southern Quakers and Slavery, Stephen B. Weeks, Baltimore: The John Hopkins Press, 1896

The Story of Quakerism (Elfrida Vipont, 1954

What is Quakerism? Edward Grubb, 1917).

William Penn and the Dutch Quaker Migration to Pennsylvania by William I Hull (Swarthmore, Pa., 1935)

The Wisdom of John Woolman (Reginald Reynolds, 1948)

Works of James Nayler, vol. 1, Licia Kuenning, ed., Nayler, James. Quaker Heritage Press, 2003.

Works of James Nayler, vol. 2, Licia Kuenning, ed., Nayler, James. Quaker Heritage Press, 2004.

The WPA Historical Records Survey: A Guide to the Unpublished Inventories, Indexes, and Transcripts. Chicago: The Society of American Archivists, 1980, with microfiche. The transcribed records of the Society of Friends in Pennsylvania in 1941, Rhode Island in 1939, and New York in 1940.

Internet Sites

<http://ccel.wheaton.edu/fox/autobiography/autobiography.html> The *Autobiography of George*

<http://home.interhop.net/> The Canadian Friends Historical Society

<http://people.cryst.bbk.ac.uk/~ubcg09q/dmr/intro.htm> Historical Overview by David Murray-Rust

www.afsc.org/qic.htm Quaker Information Center located at Friends Center in Philadelphia.

www.brynmawr.edu/Library/ Tri-College Library, Philadelphia

www.ccel.org/ An autobiography of George Fox

www.cryst.bbk.ac.uk/~ubcg09q/dmr/intro.htm The Quakers in Brief

www.cyndislist.com/quaker.htm Cyndi' List—Quakers

www.digitalbristol.org/members/quakers/QChron.htm Timeline of Quaker history

www.geocities.com/Heartland/Plains/2064/squaker.htm Southern Quaker Genealogy

www.haverford.edu/library/fha/fha.html The Friends Historical Association

www.haverford.edu/library/special/ Haverford College Library Special Collections

www.lifejourney.co.uk/qrin.html Quaker Web Ring Twenty-two sites

www.mdarchives.state.md.us/msa/speccol/catalog/000800/html/sc867.html Transcript, Quaker marriage records from Menallen monthly meeting, 1781-1825, and West River monthly meeting, 1685-1791.

www.mdarchives.state.md.us/msa/speccol/catalog/002300/html/sc2399.html Baltimore Preparative Meeting, Eastern District Collection, 1807—1866.

www.mdarchives.state.md.us/msa/speccol/catalog/003100/html/sc3152.html The Virginia Yearly Meeting Collection. Dates from 1702-1905. Microfilm.

www.mdarchives.state.md.us/msa/speccol/church/friends/html/alex.html This collection includes the Alexandria Monthly Meeting, Alexandria Preparative Meeting and the Woodlawn Preparative Meeting.

www.mdarchives.state.md.us/msa/speccol/church/friends/html/brit

[html](#) Little Britain Monthly Meeting (1804--)

www.mdarchives.state.md.us/msa/speccol/church/friends/html/centre.html Centre Quarterly Meeting (1835--), Dunnings Creek Monthly Meeting (1803--), Centre Monthly Meeting (1803--), West Branch Monthly Meeting (1833--)

www.mdarchives.state.md.us/msa/speccol/church/friends/html/cmm.html Centre Monthly Meeting and Centre Preparatory Meeting, 1834-1919.

www.mdarchives.state.md.us/msa/speccol/church/friends/html/deer.html Deer Creek Monthly Meeting (1760--)

www.mdarchives.state.md.us/msa/speccol/church/friends/html/dcmm.html Dunnings Creek Monthly Meeting, Orthodox (1828--)

www.mdarchives.state.md.us/msa/speccol/church/friends/html/dcq.html Dunnings Creek Quarterly Meeting, Orthodox and Dunnings Creek Half-Year Meetings.

www.mdarchives.state.md.us/msa/speccol/church/friends/html/east.html The Eastern Shore Meetings include: Southern Quarterly Meeting (1790--), Third Haven Monthly Meeting (c.1676--), Third Haven Association of Young Friends, Nicholites (1774-c. 1880), Northwest Fork Monthly Meeting (1800-1946), and Cecil Monthly Meeting (1698-1899, 1946).

www.mdarchives.state.md.us/msa/speccol/church/friends/html/ehv.html Elk Horn Valley Monthly Meeting, Orthodox (1908-1924)

www.mdarchives.state.md.us/msa/speccol/church/friends/html/hmm.html Hopewell Monthly Meeting, Orthodox (1830-).

www.mdarchives.state.md.us/msa/speccol/church/friends/html/hope.html This collection includes the Hopewell Monthly Meeting, the Hopewell Preparative Meeting and the Crooked Run Monthly Meeting.

www.mdarchives.state.md.us/msa/speccol/church/friends/html/menallen.html Menallen Monthly Meeting (1780)

www.mdarchives.state.md.us/msa/speccol/church/friends/html/pipe.html Pipe Creek Monthly Meeting (1772--)

www.mdarchives.state.md.us/msa/speccol/church/friends/html/warmon.html Warrington Monthly Meeting (1747-1861, c. 1950-)

www.mdarchives.state.md.us/msa/speccol/church/friends/html/yearly.html Yearly Meeting of Maryland (1672-)

www.mindspring.com/~strecorsoc/guide/gf_index.html A Guide to *The Autobiography of George Fox*

www.qis.net/~daruma/ The Quaker Electronic Archive

www.quaker.org.uk/ Friends House Library

www.rootsweb.com/~quakers/ The Quaker Corner

www.suite101.com/welcome.cfm/quakerism Quakerism-Suite

www.swarthmore.edu/ Swarthmore College

www.victorianweb.org/religion/quakers.html Quakers - The Society of Friends in Victorian Britain

www.voicenet.com/~kuenning/qhp/index.html Quaker Historical

Texts (Larry and Licia Kuenning)

Discussion Groups and Mailing Lists

www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~quakers/quaker-r.htm QuAKER-ROOTS discussion group

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/quakerancestors/> Quaker ancestors mailing list

QuAKER-BRITISH-ISLES mailing list (send "subscribe" to quaker-british-isles-l-request@rootsweb.com)

SC-BUSHRIVERQUAKERS mailing list (send "subscribe" to sc-bushriverquakers-l-request@rootsweb.com)

QuAKER-DNA mailing list (send "subscribe" to quaker-dna-l-request@rootsweb.com)

Summary

The Quakers, although they are a small denomination today, had a significant impact on the history of America. Among the Quakers were many men and women of strong principle. They kept excellent church records. This will not guarantee success, but research of Quaker genealogy should be an enjoyable and rewarding experience. Good luck with your research.

The End

Software of Interest: Take Your Database on an iPhone or iPod Touch, Family Tree Maker 2009

Take Your Database on an iPhone or iPod Touch

It is nice to have your database with you when you visit a repository, cemetery, or other places to gather genealogical data. Hand held computers worked well for this task, but now some new products including the Apple iPhone cell phone or an iPod Touch music player are supported for this task. The nice thing is that people who use these products already are carrying these products and no extra baggage is necessary to carry your genealogy database.

A software product called MobileFamilyTree from Synium is designed to store, browse and edit a genealogy database using the Apple iPhone cell phone or an iPod Touch music player. The data could be entered on the iPhone's touch-sensitive screen. Since this is too tedious a process for large amounts of information, users will choose to enter data directly from a Macintosh desktop or laptop computer. Also MobileFamilyTree will also sync newly-added information back to the Macintosh genealogy program in a desktop or laptop computer.

MobileFamilyTree is only compatible with MacFamilyTree version 5.2.3. It will not operate with any other Macintosh software, nor will it work with any Windows genealogy programs. MacFamilyTree retails for \$49 and can be purchased online at: www.synium.de/products/macfamilytree.

MobileFamilyTree sells for \$4.99. It can be downloaded to an iPhone or iPod Touch by visiting the Apple App Store. Installation is automatic.

Family Tree Maker 2009

If you have a copy of FTM 2008, you are entitled to a free upgrade to the soon to be released FTM 2009. The new version will go to all those who have registered their program. The following changes and new features have been added to FTM2009:

- Essential genealogy reports (Register and Ahnentafel)
- New charting options: hourglass, bow tie, and fan. You can also use custom templates or design your own.
- Enter data with one-click editing of individuals from any workspace in the software

- Cut and paste source citations
- Put your ancestors' migration paths on interactive maps
- Faster startup times and improved file performance
- Improved Web Search. You may choose to ignore irrelevant results.

The minimum system requirements for FTM2009 are:

- Operating system: Windows XP / Vista
- Processor: 500 MHz Intel Pentium II (or equivalent)
- Hard disk space: 400 MB for installation
- Memory: 256 MB of RAM
- Display: 800 x 600 resolution for monitor
- 2X CD-ROM (required for installation)

The program retails for \$39.95. For more information or to order the program online, go to: www.FamilyTreeMaker.com

Quotable Lines

Death is another milestone on their way.

With laughter on their lips and with winds blowing round them

They record simply

How one excelled all others in making driving belts.

This is festivity, it a time for statistics

When they record what one unit contributed:

They are glad as they lay him back in the earth

And thank him for what he gave them.

From the poem *The Funeral*

By Stephen Spender

Stranger than Fiction: Meet Irena Sendler

You may not have heard of Irena Sendler. Few of us know her by name. She was not a genealogist, but the work that she did had a lot to do with the genealogies of a few families. Her story is heartwarming and memorable and you will want to read it.

Irena Sendler was born in 1910 at Otwock, a town 15 miles southeast of Warsaw, Poland. Her father was a medical doctor and was one of the first Polish Socialists. Most of his patients were poor Jews. When Hitler invaded Poland in 1939, the violence, murder and terror of the Nazi atrocities was very close to Irena.

Irena was employed as a Senior Administrator in the *Warsaw Social Welfare Department*, which operated the canteens in every district of the city. Before the Germans invaded, the canteens provided meals, financial aid, and other services for orphans, the elderly, the poor and the destitute. During the German occupation, the canteens also provided clothing, medicine and money for the Jews. To do this, Jews were registered under fictitious Christian names, and to prevent inspections, the Jewish families were reported as being afflicted with typhus and tuberculosis to keep the Germans from questioning the recipients.

In 1933 there were nine million Jews in Europe living in 21 countries that were eventually occupied by Germany. By 1945, two out of every three European Jews had been murdered by the Nazis. Also 1.5 million children were murdered, including more than 1.2 million Jewish children, tens of thousands of Gypsy children and thousands of handicapped children.

Irena Sendler was a remarkable woman. She decided to do something about the systematic annihilation of the Jews. In 1942, the Nazis forced hundreds of thousands of Jews to move into a 16-block area that came to be known as the Warsaw Ghetto. The Ghetto was sealed and the Jewish families remained inside the walls. They would die when their food ran out. Irena Sendler was absolutely appalled by the conditions. She joined *Zegota*, the Council for *Aid to Jews*, organized by the Polish underground resistance movement. She was one of the first recruits and began the effort to rescue Jewish children.

From 1942 through 1943, Irena was able to convince the Jewish families in the Ghetto to let her save their children. Irena was able to smuggle 2,500 Jewish children to safe hiding places and found non-Jewish families to adopt them. Irena managed to get a pass from *Warsaw's Epidemic Control Department* to allow her to enter the Ghetto legally. She began visiting the Ghetto daily. She brought in food, medicines and clothing for the starving. Irena Sendler wore a *star* armband as a sign of her solidarity to Jews. She began smuggling children out in an ambulance. Some were taken out in gunnysacks or body bags. Others were buried inside loads of goods. A mechanic took a baby out in his toolbox. A few children were carried out in potato sacks; more were placed in coffins. A church in the Ghetto had two entrances. Jewish children entered the church as Jews and left as "Christians" via the other entrance.

Irena had a dog which she taught to bark when she was being questioned by the Germans. It probably saved her more than once when she was stopped. She could not have saved the children without the help of the church. Most of the children were sent to

religious establishments. Irena could always count on the sisters for help.

Irena recruited at least one person from each of the ten centers of the Social Welfare Department. They helped her issue false documents with forged signatures. With the 2,500 false identities, the children were placed in homes, orphanages and convents. Irena kept a carefully coded record of each child with their real name, assumed name, their parents, and where they were placed. These records were put in jars and buried in the ground in a neighbors yard and across the street from a German barracks. She planned to dig up the records after the war and return the children to their parents.

Convincing the parents of the children was a difficult task. Parents asked if Irena could guarantee the safety of the children. Irena, a young mother herself, soberly replied that she could guarantee that if she did not take the children, the children would die for sure. Then Irena listened to the cries of the children when they left their parents. The next task, finding someone to take the children, was just as difficult and also dangerous. Those who harbored the Jewish children were risking their lives if the Nazis ever caught them.

The Nazis eventually learned of the activities of Irena Sendler. On October 20, 1943 she was arrested, imprisoned and tortured by the Gestapo. They broke her feet and legs and incarcerated her in the *Pawiak Prison*. The Nazis could not break Irena's spirit. She was the only one who knew the names and addresses of the families sheltering the Jewish children and she never revealed anything about the children, those caring for the children and those who helped her. She was finally sentenced to death when the Germans gave up trying to get information from her. She was saved from death at the last minute by *Zegota* members who bribed a Gestapo agent. The execution was halted. Irena escaped from prison and for the remainder of the war she was pursued by the Nazis.

When the war was over, Irena dug up the jars and used the notes to track down the 2,500 children she placed with adoptive families. She tried to reunite the children with relatives scattered across Europe. Most of the children had lost their families during the Holocaust. It was discouraging work. The children had known Irena by a code name, *Jolanta*. Years later, after she was honored for her wartime work, her picture appeared in a newspaper. A painter recognized her picture and contacted Irena. He was the first of many who called to thank her.

The torture left Irena crippled for life. For many years Irena Sendler, a sweet white-haired lady, lived modestly in her Warsaw apartment. She passed away almost unnoticed on Monday, May 12, 2008. Irena Sendler had not considered herself as a hero. She never bragged or even claimed credit for her actions.

In the year 2000, the story was uncovered by four students at Uniontown High School, in Kansas. They wrote a play called *Life in a Jar* about Irena Sendler. The play was the winner at the 2000 Kansas state National History Day competition. The four girls, Elizabeth Cambers, Megan Stewart, Sabrina Coons and Janice Underwood, and their teacher, Norman Conard, have received in-

ternational recognition for the story of Irena Sendler. The story has appeared in various forms on National Public Radio, C-SPAN and CBS. Irena Sendler was nominated for the recent Nobel Peace Prize, but the award went to Al Gore for his solution to the global warming problem. Irena has received international recognition. In 1991, she was made an honorary citizen of Israel. On November 10, 2003, she was awarded Poland's highest distinction,

the Order of White Eagle. She was also announced that year as the 2003 winner of the Jan Karski award for Valor and Courage. She has officially been designated a national hero in Poland and schools are named in her honor. Annual Irena Sendler days are celebrated throughout Europe and the United States.

Yet Irena Sendler regretted to the day of her death that she could have done more when she had the opportunity.

Of Interest **GRO Digitization Project Fails, Early Settlers of Spanish and Mexican Land Grants, National Library of Ireland Re-Opens Church Records**

GRO Digitization Project Fails

The General Register Office (GRO) of the United Kingdom recently announced the suspension of a major project to digitize 250 million records, covering 171 years of births, marriages, and deaths in England and Wales from 1837 to the present day. The cost of the project was to be about \$30 Million. Sources close to the project reported that those working on the project had been reassigned and funding had ceased. A £16 Million contract was awarded to Siemens, a large German electronics company, about three years ago. The contract is now terminated with half the work completed.

The genealogists are quite unhappy with the government because they stopped access to the paper ledgers that contain indices to the records at the Family Records Center in London. This left patrons with no index, no Web site, no contract to digitize the records and post them on a Web site, and no way to do research using the records.

The Federation of Family History Societies (FFHS) sent a petition protesting the failure of the project and demanded that the project be completed. The General Register Office (GRO) is required by law to make index data for registration records publicly available. Since the Family Records Center was closed in March, they have provided copies of the indexes in microfiche format at several libraries and record offices in England and Wales.

Meanwhile, in April 2008, GRO was transferred from the Office for National Statistics to the Identity and Passport Service (IPS). IPS has confirmed that GRO plans to complete the project and that they are studying the options available to complete the task. We hope this means that there will be a Web site with the digitized data in a reasonable amount of time.

Early Settlers of Spanish and Mexican Land Grants

Early Settlers of Spanish and Mexican Land Grants is a national lineage society for descendants of the early settlers of the southwestern U.S., including such diverse groups as Spaniards, Canary Islanders, French, Irish, English, Scots, Jewish, German, Dutch, Portuguese, and Native Americans from either side of the present day U.S.-Mexico border. It is in the process of being organized. Little of the early history of the southwestern U.S. is taught in U.S. schools while much time is spent on the early English settlement of the eastern U.S. There were many settlers in the southwestern U.S., mostly Spanish, long before the area became part of the United States. The mission of ESSMLG is to research, preserve, and promote the lost history, heritage, and culture of the early settlers on Spanish and Mexican grants in land now part of the

United States of America. Because the organization will require proof of lineage for membership, we can expect the organization to be a source of genealogical information, much like the DAR and other lineage societies. For more information, go to the ESSMLG Web site at: <http://spanishgrants.com/>

National Library of Ireland Re-Opens Church Records

About three months ago, the National Library of Ireland restricted access to its microfilm copies of Catholic parish registers. These restrictions applied to records of the dioceses of Cashel & Emly, Cloyne and Kerry. The records of 23 other dioceses had no restrictions on access. The library restricted access to the microfilm when Archbishop Dermot Clifford threatened legal action against the library. The reason, according to the Archbishop, was that the Catholic Church owned the copyright to the records, which predated 1881. There was no issue of privacy for the individuals. The reason was that the Archbishop had given exclusive rights to the records to an organization, Tipperary Heritage Unit, controlled by the diocese and which would sell data from the records to individuals doing research. The library had received three legal opinions stating that there was no copyright in effect and that the original permission for public access granted to the library was still valid. After three months and complaints from genealogists, the library restored public access to the records. A few officials of the Roman Catholic Church including Archbishop Clifford are angry over the decision of the library, but the many genealogists who use the records are pleased

A Bit of Wit

People are so fond of ill luck that they run half way to meet it.

Douglas William Jerrold (1803-1857)

Notice (second posting)

In order to simplify the distribution of the *Pastfinder* and the *Past-Finder 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.

OFFICERS AND STAFF

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Silicon Valley Computer Genealogy Group

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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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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
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Personal Ancestral File 4.04.18 and 5.2.18, PAF Companion (evaluation) or PAF User's Guide (English, Spanish, French, German, or Portuguese) downloaded at: www.FamilySearch.org	free

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

Newsletter back issues if available, per issue	US\$1 (order by mail or purchase at meetings)
Videos of classes; syllabus copies	See Web site for titles, prices
<i>Family History Documentation Guidelines</i>	Available at meetings and on Web site
Stuck-on Sources Post-It note pads	Available at meetings and on Web site
Flash Drives loaded with 11,000 Internet genealogy sites	Available at cost on Web site and at meetings

CLASSES FOR 11 OCTOBER 2008

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

For more details or changes, go to: www.svcomputergenealogy.org



Silicon Valley Computer Genealogy Group
The former Silicon Valley PAF Users Group

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