

Finding the German Ancestors in Your Family

By Allin Kingsbury

Almost as many Americans have German ancestry as have English ancestors. We can easily understand the English ancestry. After all, the English founded America and sent the first colonists. The Germans are a little harder to see as playing a role in the building America. The fact is that many Germans came to colonial America. Pennsylvania had 20,000 Germans in 1727. By 1766, the colony had 100,000 Germans. They raised large families and soon were part of the fabric of America. By 1900, the cities of Cleveland, Milwaukee, Hoboken, and Cincinnati had 40% German populations. Dubuque and Davenport, Iowa, had an even higher percentage of Germans. Omaha had a population of 57% Germans in 1910. A total of 5 million Germans immigrated to America in the nineteenth century. The numbers grew from about 10,000 German immigrants in 1832 to 200,000 German immigrants in 1854.

Most of the German immigrants were Protestant and the predominant majority of them were Lutheran. Almost a third of German immigrants were Catholic, but most of them came late in the nineteenth century. About 250,000 German immigrants in the nineteenth century were Jewish. Another large group of Jewish Germans came between World Wars I and II.

Most Germans came to es-

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cape religious persecution and to find better economic opportunity. In the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, most German immigrants were from rural areas and took up farming in Pennsylvania, New York and many states in the upper Midwest and northern plains westward to the Pacific coast. Many of them were recruited as immigrants. William Penn toured Germany in 1677, spreading the word about opportunity and freedom of religion in Pennsylvania. Germans in America told their relatives and friends back home about America. Later the railroads, who were given large tracts of land along their right of way, began recruiting immigrants to settle the land. Much of their recruiting was in Germany where political and economic conditions encouraged immigration.

Many of the early Germans who came to Colonial America were part of one of the religious movements that moved their followers to America. Since these groups were each different and came at different times, one should know a little of their history to follow the family history. This article attempts to explain the history of these religious groups and several other groups that came. Their history is interesting and helpful in following

their migration and learning their German origins. The majority of German immigrants came on their own, and they are not part of the groups discussed in this article. It is not possible to offer help in this article if this is the case with your ancestors. But be aware that they came from the same political and religious climate and followed the same migration routes as these early groups.

The Palatine Germans

The largest single group of German immigrants is the Palatine Germans. The Palatinate or German Pfalz is an area in Western Germany surrounding the Rhine River. The province was ruled by the Count of Palatine. The territory was divided into two parts. The Lower Palatine or Rhenish Palatine covered both sides of the Rhine between the junctions of the Main and Neckar Rivers and its capital was Heidelberg. The Upper Palatine is in Bavaria along the Naab River where it flows south to the Danube River.

During the late 1600s and early 1700s, this area was the battleground of armies from Britain, France, and Germany. The population of the Palatine became Protestant after Martin Luther broke with the Catholic Church. Many Protestants migrated to the Palatine because the rulers were supportive of

their religious views. The Elector Palatine, Frederick V (1596-1632), referred to as the "Winter King" of Bohemia, was an Elector for the Holy Roman Empire, which at the time was a group of German Principalities charged with defending Christendom. The election of Frederick V, a Protestant, as King of Bohemia in 1609 led to the Thirty Years War that continued from 1619 until 1648. Frederick V was driven out of Bohemia and in 1623, deposed as Elector Palatine. During the war, French armies continued to plunder the Palatine. The French were loyal to the Roman Catholic Church and saw the war as an opportunity to crush the Protestants who were divided politically. A state of anarchy prevailed and bands of armed men pillaged the countryside, taking what they wanted.

The War of the Grand Alliance (1689-97) followed, and the French troops of Louis XIV fought to increase his empire in the Rhenish Palatinate. Many Germans chose to immigrate to America mostly from the Rhenish Palatine. Most immigrants went to Pennsylvania and were known as the Pennsylvania Dutch. The Palatinate remained outside of France after the war. the War of the Spanish Succession began in 1702 and continued until 1713. The French continued to covet the Palatine and tried to use this war to try to gain control again. As the war made life discouraging for the

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Palatines, they were also subjected to the winter of 1708-1709, which was the harshest in 100 years. Many of the Palatines were ready to leave their homeland at this point.

In the spring of 1709, Queen Anne invited about 7,000 Palatines to England. They sailed down the Rhine River to Rotterdam. From there, 4,000 were sent via England to Ireland to counterbalance the power of the Catholics. About 3,000 were sent to America either directly or via England to settle in Pennsylvania. By November 1709, it is estimated that there were 32,000 Palatine refugees in London. A Royal Decree was issued in German to stop the flow of refugees into England because there was no transport available. The group wintered in London and early the following year, three large groups of Palatines sailed from London. The first group went to Ireland. The second group was sent to the Carolina colony. The third group consisted of about 3,000 Palatines sailed on ten ships to New York with the new Governor, Robert Hunter. Approximately 470 of the immigrants died aboard ship or shortly after their arrival.

Although the Palatines in Ireland were scattered, there were large groups in the counties of Limerick and Tipperary. The Palatines were not happy in Ireland. They did not like the religious bickering and high taxes. As dissatisfaction grew, they found ways to immigrate to America and join their countrymen there. The English had done an excellent job of promoting emigration to America and encouraged the settlement of the colonies and Canada.

The migration from the Palatine continued for the next hundred years. During the French Revolutionary and Napoleonic Wars, the Palatinate land on the west bank of the Rhine was made part of France. The eastern lands were divided primarily between neighboring Baden and Hesse. The unstable political conditions continued until Germany was finally united as a nation in the latter part of the 19th century.

Palatine Sources

Web sites:

- Index To Palatine Passenger Lists, www.rootsweb.com/~ote/palalist.htm
- Irish Palatine Association, www.irishpalatines.org
- Kraig Ruckel's Palatine & Pennsylvania-Dutch Genealogy Page www.ruckel.com/home3.html
- List of Palatines from Germany to England in 1709 and most then to America in 1710 <http://germanroots.home.att.net/1709palatines/>
- Palatine Heritage Centre ~ Rathkeale, Ireland www.rathkealehousehotel.com/localsites.htm#Palatine%20Heritage%20Centre
- Palatines to America ~ Columbus, Ohio: Dedicated to the study of ancestors from all German-speaking lands, not just the Palatinate. www.palam.org/
- The Palatine Project is an attempt using sources from German speaking countries as well as early colonial American sources to reconstruct the passenger lists of Germans who came to

America in the first large wave of emigration in the 18th century. <http://progenealogists.com/palproject/index.html>

- Pennsylvania German Pioneers Project which includes the list of ships carrying Palatines from Germany to Philadelphia from 1727 to 1808 as well as names of passengers, Oaths of Allegiance and Ships Passenger Lists. www.olivetreegenealogy.com/ships/palship_list.shtml

Mailing Lists:

- PALATINES Mailing List For anyone with a genealogical or historical interest in the German Palatine and Palatine refugees who fled to Ireland and North America post 1709. www.rootsweb.com/~jfuller/gen_mail_country-ger.html#PALATINES
- PFALZ Mailing List For anyone with a genealogical interest in the Palatine of Germany (area now divided between Saarland, Rheinland-Pfalz and Hessen, formerly Bavaria's Rhenish Pfalz). www.rootsweb.com/~jfuller/gen_mail_country-ger.html#PFALZ

Books:

The following books may be helpful in research of Palatine ancestors. Some are in print and can be ordered on the Internet.

- *Becoming German: The 1709 Palatine Migration to New York*, by Philip Otterness
- *Early Eighteenth Century Palatine Emigration*, by Walter Allen Knittle.
- *Early Eighteenth Century Palatine Emigration : A British Government Redemptioner Project to Manufacture Navel Stories*, by Walter Allen Knittle.
- *Even More Palatine Families : 18th Century Immigrants to the American Colonies and their German, Swiss, and Austrian Origins (3 volume set)*, by Henry Z. Jones Jr.
- *Palatine Families of Ireland*, by Hank J. Jones.
- *The Palatine Families of New York : A Study of the German Immigrants Who Arrived in Colonial New York in 1710*, by Henry Z. Jones.
- *Palatine Roots: The 1710 German Settlement in New York as Experienced by Johann Peter Wagner*, by Nancy Wagoner Dixon.
- *Palatines, Liberty, and Property : German Lutherans in Colonial British America*, by A. G. Roeber.
- *The Story of the Palatines : An Episode in Colonial History* by Sanford H. Cobb.

The Moravians

The Moravians came to Colonial America for religious reasons. The religion began in ancient Bohemia and Moravia, now part of the Czech Republic. During the ninth century, the people of Bohemia and Moravia were converted to Christianity by two Greek Orthodox missionaries. They translated the Bible into the common language and established their own form of worship. They later fell under the influence of the Roman Church during the next few centuries. Many of the people protested the Roman church taking

control of their churches, but there was little they could do against the power of the Roman Church.

John Hus (1369-1415), a professor of philosophy and rector of the University in Prague, used his pulpit at the Bethlehem Chapel in Prague to rally the people to support reform. With the support of students and the common people, he led a protest movement against many practices of the Roman Catholic clergy and hierarchy. Hus was accused of heresy, and after a long trial at the Council of Constance, he was burned at the stake on July 6, 1415.

The reformation spirit refused to be silenced. The Moravian Church, or *Unitas Fratrum* (Unity of Brethren), was officially organized in 1457 in the village of Kunvald, located about 100 miles east of Prague. This happened 60 years before Martin Luther began his reformation and 100 years before the establishment of the Anglican Church. By 1467 the Moravian Church had established its own ministry, consisting of three orders of the ministry: deacon, presbyter and bishop.

By 1517 the Unity of Brethren counted more than 200,000 members in more than 400 parishes. They had their own hymnal and catechism and distributed the Scriptures, which were produced on two printing presses operated by the church.

In 1547, bitter persecution began, which caused the Unity of Brethren to spread their church into Poland. The congregations grew rapidly in Poland. The Thirty Years War (1618-1648) caused further persecution to the Unity of Brethren. In 1620, the Protestants of Bohemia were severely defeated at the battle of White Mountain. The primary leader during the worst of the persecutions, Bishop John Amos Comenius (1592-1670), lived most of his life in exile in England and in Holland where he died. He was known for his progressive views of education. It was his hope that the Unity of Brethren would survive and prosper.

It was not until the eighteenth century that the dream of John Amos Comenius was realized. The Moravian Church received the patronage of Count Nicholas Ludwig von Zinzendorf, a pietist nobleman in Saxony. Some Moravian families fleeing persecution in Bohemia were given refuge on the estate of Count Zinzendorf in 1722. They founded the community of Herrnhut which became a haven for Moravian refugees. Count Zinzendorf encouraged the refugees to keep the discipline established by the Unity of Brethren years earlier, and encouraged the group to take the gospel to the far corners of the earth. In 1732, the group sent their first missionaries to the West Indies. From 1735 to 1740, there were efforts to establish a Moravian settlement in Georgia. The story is a long series of intrigue and struggles for power, but eventually the Moravians gave up their hopes of settling in Georgia and the group moved to the estate of George Whitefield in Pennsylvania. There they purchased 500 acres to establish the settlement of Bethlehem, Pennsylvania in 1841 and later they purchased 5,000 acres from the estate of George Whitfield which became Nazareth, Pennsylvania. Other settlements with Moravian congregations were soon established in Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Maryland.

Bishop Augustus Spangenberg led a group to North Carolina to survey a 100,000 acre tract of land which was called *Wachau* named after an Austrian estate of Count Zinzendorf. The name was soon anglicized to *Wachovia*, and the settlement became the center of growth for the church in that region. Settlements estab-

lished on the *Watchovia* tract at Bethabara, Bethania and Salem (now Winston-Salem) were the first Moravian settlements in North Carolina.

Bethlehem, Pennsylvania and Winston-Salem, North Carolina became the headquarters of the two provinces (North and South) of the Moravian Church in North America. These were combined as autonomous church body after the Unity Synod in 1848. The church spread with the movement of German emigrants to the Midwest. At the end of the nineteenth century the Moravian Church was established for Moravian refugees of German ancestry who were fleeing to western Canada because of persecution in Eastern Europe. The geographical spread resulted in division of the Northern Province into Eastern, Western and Canadian Districts. Now, in North America, the Moravian Church has congregations in 16 states, the District of Columbia, and in two Provinces of Canada.

The Moravian Church in America is unique in its zeal to bring Christianity to the American Indians. John Martin Mack was an early leader of the Moravian Church in its Mission work among the Indians in New York, Connecticut and Ohio until 1760. He then was sent on a mission to the African slaves on St. Thomas, and also preaching on St. Croix and St. Jan, and the English West Indies. David Zeisberger, Jr. was another missionary to the American Indian tribes. He spent his life preaching to the Western Indians in Massachusetts and Connecticut, New York, Pennsylvania and Ohio. He continued on through Michigan and Canada, preaching to many nations in many tongues. He visited the Mohicans and Wampanoags, the Nanticokes and Shawanese, the Chippewas, Ottowas and Wyandots, the Unamis, the Unalachtgos and Monseys of the Delaware race, and the Onondagas, Cayugas and Senecas of the Six Nations. He spoke to the tribes in their native languages. He spoke fluent Delaware, as well as the Mohawk and Onondaga dialects of the Iroquois; the Cayuga and other tongues. He was naturalized among the Monseys by a formal act of the tribe. For a time he was Keeper of the Archives of the Iroquois Confederacy. David Zeisberger, Jr. adapted to their mode of thought, and developed the ways of the Native Americans. And the missionary efforts did not stop after baptism. The Moravians supported their converts and made them part of the church. David Zeisberger died at Goshen, Ohio, Nov. 17th, 1808, having labored among the Indians for sixty years.

Research for Moravian Ancestors

Because of the persecutions, the Moravians moved through Europe and to America. As they moved, they gained converts. Moravian ancestry may include not only ancestors from Moravia and Bohemia, but also ancestors from Poland, Germany and perhaps even some Native Americans.

Sources

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- Bethany Moravian Burials, Winona Co., MN www.rootsweb.com/~ncforsyt/
- Bethel Moravian Burials (1752-1833), Lebanon Co., PA www.chm.davidson.edu/PAGenWeb/records/BethelMoravian.html
- Bethlehem Digital History Project <http://bdhp.moravian.edu/home/home.html>

- Bethlehem Marriages (1742-1800) Northampton Co., PA <http://searches1.rootsweb.com/usgenweb/archives/pa/northampton/church/moravianbethlehem.txt>
 - Census (1790-1840), Wachovia Tract, NC www.rootsweb.com/~ncstokes/census.html
 - Colonial Moravian Surnames, A-L www.enter.net/~smschlack/a-l.html
 - Colonial Moravian Surnames, M-Z www.enter.net/~smschlack/m-z.html
 - Czech Republic Bohemia & Moravia Genealogical Research www.iarelated.com/czech/
 - Emmaus Marriages (1758-1800), Lehigh Co., PA <http://searches1.rootsweb.com/usgenweb/archives/pa/northampton/church/moravianemmaus.txt>
 - Emmaus Moravian (1747) Burials: A Partial List www.geocities.com/Heartland/Plains/9263/godsacre.html
 - Explore the Czech Republic GenWeb www.rootsweb.com/~czewgw/
 - First Settlers (1753), Wachovia Tract, NC www.fmoran.com/settlers1.html
 - Georgia Resources at RootsWeb http://resources.rootsweb.com/USA/GA.html?cj=1&sid=&o_xid=0000295820&o_lid=0000295820
 - German Script with Moravian Archival Examples www.mun.ca/rels/morav/script.html
 - Gnadenuetten: Moravian Journals http://bdhp.moravian.edu/personal_papers/journals/journals.html
 - Heidelberg Moravian Burials (1745-1822), Berks Co., PA www.geocities.com/Heartland/Plains/9263/godsacre.html
 - Henry F. Marx Local History Room, Easton, PA Library www.eastonpl.org/
 - Historic Bethlehem Partnership www.historicbethlehem.org/
 - Hope Moravian Burials (1830-), Indiana <http://ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/FB/GodsAcre.Htm>
 - Hope, Moravian Burials, Warren Co., NJ www.raub-and-more.com/moraviancem.html
 - Interested in a West Bethlehem Historical Society? www.enter.net/~smschlack/wbeth.html
 - Moravian Archives Bethlehem: Indian Records of North America (1735-1900) <http://microformguides.gale.com/Data/Introductions/32430FM.htm>
 - Moravian Archives, Herrnhut, Germany www.archiv.ebu.de/index_e.html
 - Moravian Archives, Northern Province www.moravianchurcharchives.org/
 - Moravian Archives, Southern Province www.moravianarchives.org/
 - Moravian Book Shop (1745) www.moravianbookshop.com/
 - Moravian Church Message Board at RootsWeb <http://boards.rootsweb.com/topics.religious.moravian.moravian/mb.ashx>
 - Moravian College, Reeves Library <http://home.moravian.edu/public/reeves/>
 - Moravian Historical Society, Nazareth, PA www.moravianhistoricalsociety.org/
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 - Moravian Pioneers in the Swatara Valley, Pennsylvania, 1752. www.awesomegenealogy.com/pennsylvania_moravianpioneers1752swataravalley.txt
 - Moravian Pioneers in Georgia from 1735 - 1740. www.awesomegenealogy.com/georgia_moravian17351740.txt
 - Moravian Register 1749, Oldman's Creek, Gloucester Co., NJ www.rootsweb.com/~nycoloni/nwswch.html
 - Moravians www.fmoran.com/morav.html
 - The Moravians in Georgia 1735-1740 www.cviog.uga.edu/Projects/gainfo/mora-toc.htm
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 - Nazareth Marriages (1742-1800) Northampton Co., PA <http://searches1.rootsweb.com/usgenweb/archives/pa/northampton/church/moraviannazareth.txt>
 - No luck? Search the Moravia Message Board <http://boards.rootsweb.com/localities.cceurope.histreg.moravia/mb.ashx>
 - Northampton Co., PA Census 1800 www.rootsweb.com/~usgenweb/pa/northampton/census.htm
 - Oley Moravian Genealogical Data (1741-70), Berks Co., PA <ftp://ftp.rootsweb.com/pub/usgenweb/pa/berks/church/moravian.txt>
 - Philadelphia Marriages (1743-1800) Philadelphia Co., PA <http://searches1.rootsweb.com/usgenweb/archives/pa/lancaster/church/moravianlitz.txt>
 - Search Pennsylvania Libraries <http://205.247.101.11/>
 - Search the Bethlehem, PA Library www.bapl.org/
 - Search the Bohemia Message Board <http://boards.rootsweb.com/localities.cceurope.histreg.bohemia/mb.ashx>
 - Search the Czech Republic Message Boards <http://boards.rootsweb.com/localities.cceurope.czechrepublic/mb.ashx>
 - Try the Global Search at WorldConnect <http://worldconnect.rootsweb.com/cgi-bin/igm.cgi>
 - Wachovia Settlement (1752), NC www.fmoran.com/morav.html
- E-mail Lists:
- MORAVIANCHURCH-L@rootsweb.com is a free e-mail list. We currently have about 200 subscribers. Please join us by sending an e-mail with SUBSCRIBE in the message (and nothing else)
 - NCSTOKES-L@rootsweb.com covers the Moravian tract in North Carolina. Send an e-mail with SUBSCRIBE in the message (and nothing else).

This article will be continued in the next issue.

Spider Webs: Great Western Railway Shareholders Index, Historic Missouri Newspapers, California Voter Lists 1900-1944, Missouri Death

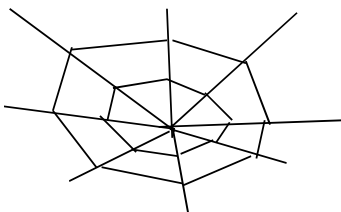
Great Western Railway Shareholders Index

The United Kingdom family history Web site, www.findmypast.com, has added the Great Western Railway Shareholders index to its many databases available at the site. The index includes details of over 290,000 people including 77,000 shareholders in the railway company along with related parties, such as executors or spouses. These records date from when the GWR was created in 1835 and the series continues through to 1932. The first online release covers the ledgers for the period of 1835 to 1910. The indexes to the registers for the period 1911 to 1932 will be released as soon as they are completed.

The Great Western Railway, referred to as "God's Wonderful Railway", linked London to the West Country, South Wales and the South West of England. Bristol merchants were in desperate need of reliable transportation to London for their merchandise. They hoped to prevent the emergence of Liverpool as the country's second port. Isambard Kingdom Brunel was the engineer on the project, and he personally surveyed the route. He was also a shareholder, and appears in the index following his death in 1859. Other well-known individuals including Charles Dickens, William Ewart Gladstone and Lewis Carroll (Charles Lutwidge Dodgson) are also found among the list of stockholders.

The purpose of the stockholder list was to record changes in ownership of the stock. This often provides information valuable to genealogists. In almost all entries, the name of the shareholder is recorded with the address, the names of the other parties (executors or legatees for deaths; husbands for marriages) and dates of death, probate, marriage or other event. About 90% of the recorded events are deaths. The events are recorded in many original volumes held at the Society of Genealogists. Each contains between 450 and 600 individual entries, each of which may relate to an event that happened as many as 20 years before the recording of the entry.

On the Web site, the index can be searched by name at no charge. A list of results will give the name, year, and place



of the event. To see the actual record, the individual must register and pay the fee to view or print the details of each recorded event. Two options are offered: a subscription to the site, or the purchase of units used to pay per view. The details of the event include an event number which can be used to order a copy of the original document from the Society of Genealogists for a fee of £10.

To visit the site, go to: www.findmypast.com

Historic Missouri Newspapers

Scanned images of thirteen historic newspapers from around the state of Missouri are available online. Most of the papers have only a limited number of issues available now. The papers include:

St. Louis Christian Advocate	1857-1879
St. Louis Globe Democrat	1875
The Missouri Republican	1865
Columbia Missourian	1929-1985
Daily Evening Herald	1835
Hannibal Courier	1935, 1988
The Liberty Banner	1844
The Far West	1836
Liberty Weekly Tribune	1846-1875
The Independent	1894-1905
The Phelps County New Era	1875-1880
The Rolla Express	1860-1873
The Rolla New Era	1880-1897

If you can find information about individuals or families in the newspapers it is quite valuable. If not, the newspaper could be used as an illustration for a family history. An add for a business in the home town of an ancestor or the front page of his home town newspa-

per would add a bit of nostalgia to a family history when used as an illustration. To visit the site, go to

<http://newspapers.umsy.edu>

California Voter Lists 1900-1944

Ancestry.com, a subscription genealogy Web site has added the California voter lists for 1900 to 1944. The lists not only reveal the party preference listed for each individual, but the lists include name, occupation, gender, age, street address, voting district, and city and county of residence. Many of the early voter registrations include physical descriptions and naturalization information of the person. The lists were updated every two years. This will allow tracking of individuals who moved. To visit Ancestry.com or subscribe to their service, go to: www.ancestry.com/

Missouri Death Certificates

The state of Missouri has the scanned images of death certificates from 1910 – 1956 available online. The images are searchable by name, county and year. An advanced search allows users to search for names using wild cards to get around the problem of spelling errors or variations. Certificates for a few years have not yet been scanned, but will be added as well as the certificates outside the time range as they become more than fifty years old. The availability of the actual certificate provides much more information than is available from the death indexes available for some states and counties. The certificates have the full name, residence, spouse if married, race, cause of death, date and place of death, date and place of birth, name of informant (often a relative), names of father and mother, and occupation. To visit the site, go to: www.sos.mo.gov/archives/resources/deathcertificates/

Quotable Quote

Only a marriage with partners strong enough to risk divorce is strong enough to avoid it.

Carolyn Hellbrun
Marriage is the Message
1973

Of Interest: **Gordon B. Hinckley Dies at Age 97, James LeVoy Sorenson Dies at 86, FamilyLink.com, Inc., Stolen Historic Documents Recovered**

Gordon B. Hinckley Dies at Age 97



Gordon B. Hinckley, president of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints since 1995 and a long time official of the Church died of natural causes on January 23 at age 97. He was a friend to genealogists around the world. While he served as president, the Church has accelerated their efforts in family

history which has benefited all family historians. The church introduced their genealogy Web site, www.familysearch.org. The site is the most popular genealogy site on the World Wide Web. Also during the administration of President Hinckley, a huge project to index the many microfilmed records of the Salt Lake Family History Library started. A few of these records are already available and many more are soon to go online. We are sorry to see the passing of Gordon B. Hinckley and are thankful for his accomplishments.

James LeVoy Sorenson Dies at 86



James Sorenson, founder of Sorenson Molecular Genealogy, a non-profit company that has been doing DNA testing, and founder of GeneTree, a family history social networking Web site, died on January 20, 2008 of cancer at age 86. He grew up during the worst of the depression, which influenced the course of his life.

James Sorenson was born in Rexburg, Idaho in 1921. When Jim was a young child, his father moved the family to Yuba City, California where his father hoped to find work. There was no housing available there, so his father rented a vacant chicken coop and converted it to a home where his family could live.

Jim Sorenson attended public school at the age of six. He lasted one day in the classroom. The teacher sent a note home with him telling his parents that the boy was not teachable, and to not send the boy back to the school. Jim Sorenson never returned to public school again. Years later, as an adult, Mr. Sorenson was diagnosed as dyslexic.

After brief military service in World War II, Mr. Sorenson used his G.I. bill benefits to attend a local junior college. He could not learn and dropped out before the semester ended. He then got a job with Upjohn to sell pharmaceuticals to physicians in Salt Lake City. He often completed his sales calls early, and began buying under-priced land in the Salt Lake City area. He was soon making more money in real estate than he was making with Upjohn. Upjohn began to notice his real estate transactions, and after employing him for 8 1/2 years, they fired Mr. Sorenson.

By then, James Sorenson had learned a lot about the medical industry. He spent the next period of his life inventing many new medical innovations that are now commonly used in operating rooms and intensive care units throughout the world. His best known invention is the computerized heart monitor, which was

the first device to accurately monitor conditions inside a living human heart. He also developed disposable surgical masks, non-invasive intravenous catheters, and blood-recycling and -infusion systems.

James Sorenson soon became the wealthiest man in Utah. His personal wealth was estimated to be about \$4.5 billion. He was quoted as saying, "Wealth is an opportunity for further achievement." He seemed to make this statement his motto. His wealth enabled him to pursue several philanthropic endeavors.

The first endeavor was Sorenson Molecular Genealogy Foundation, which created a huge genetic and genealogical database. The foundation did DNA testing and correlated the test results with genealogy data supplied by those being tested. By demonstrating how closely people are related, Mr. Sorenson believed he could promote peace, compassion and brotherhood among humankind.

FamilyLink.com, Inc.

FamilyLink.com, Inc. is the new name for World Vital Records, a new genealogy company founded by Paul Allen, the man who founded Ancestry.com. WorldVitalRecords will continue with the same name. It will operate the WorldVitalRecords.com Web site, a subscription service with 5,000 databases. The Web site now has almost 24,000 paying subscribers.

The company will continue to operate the FamilyLink.com social network which has tools to link families and help them work together on their family history. This site has attracted more than 47,000 customers. A third product they offer is the We're Related Facebook application.

Stolen Historic Documents Recovered

Daniel Lorello, of Rensselaer, New York, a department of education archivist, has been charged with grand larceny, possession of stolen property and fraud. He pleaded innocent in Albany City Court. Officials recovered about 400 items from his home, which Lorello estimated was 90 percent of everything he had taken. Officials have yet to determine how many items were sold online.

One of the missing documents is an 1823 letter by U.S. Vice President John C. Calhoun. This four-page Calhoun letter drew bids of more than \$1,700 while investigators were monitoring the sale on eBay. Lorello was discovered by an alert history buff who found the items posted on the online auction site and alerted authorities. Other items that are missing and presumed sold by Lorello include copies of the Davy Crockett Almanacs, pamphlets written by the frontiersman who died at the Alamo in Texas, and a Currier & Ives lithograph that he described as "in excellent condition."

eBAY does not want a reputation associated with selling stolen property, and is cooperating in the investigation. It issued a statement stating that it will help with the ongoing investigation. It is reassuring for genealogists to know that important historic records are being protected.

Software of Interest: iWork '08 for Macintosh, NetNewsWire for Macintosh, The Next Generation (TNG) 6.2.0

iWork '08 for Macintosh

A new office suite named iWork '08 is the Apple equivalent of Microsoft Office. It consists of three programs:

Pages '08 (a word processor similar to Microsoft Word)
Numbers '08 (a spreadsheet program similar to Microsoft Excel)
Keynote '08 (a presentation program similar to PowerPoint)

The programs are all significantly different from the Microsoft programs, but the interfaces are intuitive and easy to learn. For those who use macros in the spreadsheet program, they will find the formulas and macros different enough that it will require some learning time to make the transition. There are many reviews of the iWork '08 suite published on the Internet and they will discuss the features in detail with a variety of viewpoints. The reaction to the new software is favorable.

iWork '08 can import and export the standard file formats such as: .DOC, .RTF, .TXT, .XLS, .PPT, and more. It creates .PDF files. The files created using the Microsoft Office suite are all compatible.

The iWork '08 suite sells for \$79 for a single user, or \$99 for the family pack which allows installation on up to 5 computers. A trial version of the suite can be downloaded and used free for 30 days by going to the Apple Web site. Microsoft Office 2008 for the Mac was scheduled for release on January 15. Prices start at \$150. NeoOffice, a suite of office programs for the Macintosh computer is free and available. It is based on the OpenOffice.org program but does a better job of using the Macintosh user interface. It lacks some of the advanced features of Microsoft Office, but will serve most users quite well.

For more information about iWork '08 or to download the

30-day trial version, go to: www.apple.com/iwork

NetNewsWire for Macintosh

NetNewsWire is a program for RSS newsfeeds designed for the Macintosh OS X computer. It is more efficient than a Web browser in handling RSS newsfeeds, especially with a slow Internet connection, and works only for the RSS newsfeeds. When NetNewsWire was first released, the program cost \$30. The program has been updated with new and better features and the price has been dropped to zero (free). To download the new version of NetNewsWire for Macintosh OS X at: www.newsgator.com/Individuals/NetNewsWire/Default.aspx

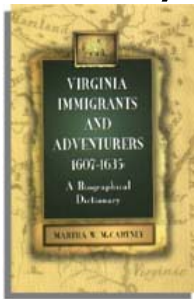
NewsGator, the company that produces the NetNewsWire RSS newsreader, also produces RSS newsreaders for Windows and for handheld computer systems. For more information, go to: www.newsgator.com/Individuals

The Next Generation (TNG) 6.2.0

The Next Generation, or TNG, is a genealogy program that runs on web servers. TNG functions much like any other genealogy program, and has the features one expects in a genealogy program. The one unique feature is that it is installed on a Windows, Apple or Linux Web server. It can be accessed and used simultaneously by many individuals. When a change is made to a database, there is no need to upload the modified data base. One merely changes the data and new Web pages are created as needed. New in version 6.2.0 is the ability to see instant previews of larger images by placing the mouse over the thumbnails.

TNG sells for \$29 but the new version is free to owners of version 6.0 or higher. For more information, visit: www.tngsitebuilding.com

Recently Published: Virginia Immigrants and Adventurers 1607-1635 a Biographical Dictionary



Virginia Immigrants and Adventurers 1607-1635 a Biographical Dictionary, by Martha W.

McCartney, is a compilation of the early Virginia immigrants. It was written for the commemoration of the 400th anniversary of the founding of the Jamestown colony in 1607. The author examined the primary sources of information to create the biographies for each of the colonists. Some of the biographies are very detailed because the individuals are mentioned in many sources. Others receive little mention

in the records.

The primary sources include the 1622 casualty list, the 1624 census, the muster of 1625, the 1625 land list which linked individuals to the land patents and headrights, the minutes of the General Court, and the records of the Virginia Company in London. Biographies of 5500 individuals are included in the book, presented in alphabetical order. The biographies often tell the occupation, the ship and date of arrival, where they lived in Virginia, and names of spouses and children. Immigrants after 1635 are excluded from the book because during that year, the Virginia Coun-

ties were formed and immigration significantly increased.

Many of the immigrants were single and left no posterity. Many others died early in their stay in Virginia and had no opportunity to leave descendents. Those who survived the first few years and had families have much longer biographies. Included with the immigrants are also mariners, merchants, and prisoners (selected for transport or servitude). A few of these individuals are mentioned in the records, but never set foot in the colony.

Source citations link the biographies with their sources of information. The book has maps which show the locations of seventy-eight plantations and settlements located between the Eastern shore and the falls of the James River. A large index is also found in the book.

Virginia Immigrants and Adventurers 1607-1635 a Biographical Dictionary is an excellent reference book for historical or family history research in early Virginia. The book has 833 pages and comes in a hard cover binding. It is priced at \$49.95 and can be ordered online from the publisher, Genealogy Publishing Company and other online book sellers, or from your local bookseller. Specify ISBN number 9780806317748.

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