# Using State Census Records

By Allin Kingsbury

US State Census Records are a valuable and often overlooked resource for genea-logical research. The reason they are not used more is the lack of familiarity on the part of researchers and the inconsistency of the state census information from state to state. Some states have no state census data while others have many. Many of the state censuses are incomplete, often with only the records of a handful of counties surviving. Some state censuses are not indexed and only available on microfilm.

Unlike the Federal Census records which can easily be searched and viewed online after purchasing a subscription to Ancestry.com, or by a visit to one of the branches of the National Archives where there are printed indexes and microfilm of the original census returns, State Census records are harder to find. The most easily available sources are Ancestry.com which has perhaps half of the records that exist, and the local Family History Centers of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints where most State Census records can be ordered on microfilm. FamilySearch plans to index State Census records and make them available at: www.labs.familysearch.org.The site has indexed census records for about six states. Other sources, usually with mi-crofilm copies, include state historical socie-ties, state libraries and archives, and a few state government and historical society Internet sites. The sources can easily be located using a search engine such as *Google* or an index of sources such as *Cyndi's List*.

In addition to the State Censuses, there are other records which can be used in lieu of census records. These include tax lists, directories, military and school censuses, voter registration lists and other records that list individuals. There are also many other censuses such as the 1835 census that counted the Cherokee population east of the Mississippi River. There is also a census substitute for the 1890 census which is compiled from other sources. These re-cords, except for school census records, list only adults or heads of households. All of them are useful as tools for research and should be consulted. They may contain vital information that cannot be found else-where. They are less consistent than State Census records and more difficult to find.

**What You May Find**

If you are looking for information about an early settler, there are some states that have colonial or territorial census records that predate the first Federal Census taken for a state which was taken in 1790 or after statehood was granted. You may be lucky enough to be looking for a family in Florida, the Florida State Census for 1945, available online, taken fifteen years after the most recent Federal Census that is available to the public. Many states conducted their census five years after the Federal Census, providing a look at family status halfway between Federal Census years. These are a major help if they come during the twenty year gap resulting from the destruction of the 1890 Federal Census. A few states have both an 1885 and 1895 census.

A few early censuses list heads of fami-lies, but most of them list all individuals in each family by name. Often, they include similar but usually less information than found in the closest Federal Census. There are exceptions, such as the Iowa census taken in 1825. This census lists the maiden name of the mother and full name of the father of every individual.

**Where to Find State Census Records**

If you can afford to wait long enough, you should find all State Census records on the Internet with indexing so the census can be searched. FamilySearch.org now includes records from Colorado, Dakota Territory, Florida, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, and New Mexico Territory. In addition to the sources already mentioned, there are many scat-tered sources of census data.

Table 1 in this article lists the known State Censuses. The table was intended only for state censuses conducted by the state government. However a few territo-rial or colonial censuses were found and are included, but the list is not complete. An attempt was made to list the Internet sources and also list the censuses available at the Salt Lake Family History Library or by rental at Family History Centers.

### May Seminar

On 8 May 2010, Barry J. Ewell is coming. He has extensive genea-logical experience in Internet and field re-search in the Eastern U.S., United Kingdom, Scandinavia, Ger-many, and Russia. Invite your friends and family historians to this special event. Mark your calendars, especially if you marked the wrong date from last month.

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### More About State Census Records

It is worth the time to read about the State Census that you are using. There may be missing data, or, as in the case of one State Census, one of the census takers made up the data rather than walk from house to house to gather the data. His district is in the census records, but anything in his district is probably wrong. One excellent source of information is the book, *State Census Records*, by Ann Lainhart. It was published in 1992 and is still in print. It contains a census by census list with notes about each census. Look for ISBN number 9780806313627. The Card catalog of the Salt Lake Family History Library contains brief notes about the state censuses and Ancestry.com also has notes about the state census records that they have on their site.

Another more detailed book is *Censuses Substitutes and State Census Records* by William B. Dollarhide - Volume I (Eastern States) and Volume II (Western States). These volumes list Family History Library microfilm numbers of many of the state census records and substitutes (tax records, voters lists, etc.).

### Don't Give Up

If there is no state census to help you, be sure to look for voter registration, tax rolls, city directories and census substitutes. These records are usually not as good as a census, but they can tell you where a family lived during the year of the census. If a family moved between federal census years, do try the state census. It may have information that you cannot find in other sources.

## Table 1: Available State Census Records

| State | Years Available | Sources |
|---|---|---|
| Alabama | 1818, 1820, 1821 are incomplete, 1823, 1850, 1855, 1866, 1907 are complete | 1,4 |
| Alaska | 1870, 1878, 1879, 1881, 1885, 1887, 1890-95, 1904, 1905, 1906, 1907, 1914, 1917 all incomplete | |
| Arizona | 1864, 1866, 1867, 1869, 1872, 1874, 1876, 1880 and 1882 all incomplete | 1,4 |
| Arkansas | 1823, 1829, 1865 and 1911 all incomplete | 1,4 |
| California | 1788, 1790, 1796, 1797, 1798, 1816, 1836, 1844 are incomplete and taken by Mexico, 1852 is complete | 1,4 |
| Colorado | 1866 is incomplete, 1861 and 1885 are complete | 1,2,4 |
| Connecticut | No state census was taken | |
| Delaware | 1782 incomplete | |
| District of Columbia | 1803, 1867, 1878 all incomplete | |
| Florida | 1825, 1885, 1895 are complete, 1855, 1866, 1867, 1868, 1875, 1935, 1945 are incomplete | 1,2,4 |
| Georgia | 1798, 1800, 1810, 1827, 1834, 1838, 1845, 1852, 1853, 1865 and 1879 are incomplete, 1859 is complete | |
| Hawaii | 1878, 1890, 1896 all incomplete<br>1879 and 1890 taken by monarchy; 1896 taken by Republic of Hawaii | |
| Idaho | No state census was taken | |
| Illinois | 1810, 1818, 1820, 1825, 1830, 1835, 1840, 1845, 1855, 1865 all incomplete | 1,4 |
| Indiana | 1807, 1853, 1857, 1871, 1877, 1883, 1889, 1901, 1913, 1919, 1931 all incomplete | |
| Iowa | 1836, 1838, 1844, 1846, 1847, 1849, 1851, 1852, 1854 are incomplete, 1856, 1885, 1895, 1905, 1915, 1925 are complete | 1,4,2 |
| Kansas | 1855 incomplete, 1865, 1875, 1885, 1895, 1905, 1915 and 1925 are all complete | 1,4,2 |
| Kentucky | No state census was taken | |
| Louisiana | 1853 and 1858 all incomplete | |
| Maine | 1837 incomplete | |
| Maryland | 1776 and 1778 all incomplete | |
| Massachusetts | 1855 and 1865 all incomplete | |
| Michigan | 1837, 1845, 1888 are incomplete, 1854, 1864, 1874, 1884, 1894, 1904 are complete | 2,4 |
| Minnesota | 1849, 1853, 1855, 1857, 1865 are incomplete, 1875, 1885, 1895, 1905 are complete | 1,4 |
| Mississippi | 1801, 1805, 1808, 1810, 1816, 1818, 1820, 1822, 1823, 1824, 1825, 1830, 1833, 1837, 1840, 1841, 1845, 1850, 1853, 1860, 1866 all incomplete | 4 |
| Missouri | 1797, 1803, 1817, 1819, 1840, 1844, 1852, 1856, 1860, 1864, 1876, 1880 all incomplete | 4 |
| Montana | No state census was taken | |

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|---|---|---|
| Nebraska | 1854, 1855, 1856, 1865, 1869 are incomplete, 1885 complete | 1,2,4 |
| Nevada | 1862 and 1863 are incomplete, 1875 complete | 1,4 |
| New Hampshire | No state census was taken | |
| New Jersey | 1855, 1865, 1875 are incomplete, 1885, 1895, 1905,1915 are complete | 1,4 |
| New Mexico | 1790, 1823, 1845, 1885 all incomplete, 1790-1845 taken by Mexico | 2 |
| New York | 1790, 1825 are incomplete 1835, 1845, 1855, 1865, 1875, 1892, 1905, 1915, 1925 are complete | 1,4 |
| North Carolina | 1786 incomplete | 4 |
| North Dakota | 1885 is incomplete, 1915 and 1925 are complete | 1,2,4 |
| Ohio | No state census was taken | |
| Oklahoma | 1890, 1907 all incomplete | 4 |
| Oregon | 1842, 1843, 1845, 1849, 1850, 1853, 1854, 1855, 1856, 1857, 1858, 1859, 1865, 1870, 1885 are incomplete, 1875, 1895, 1905 are complete | 4 |
| Pennsylvania | No state census was taken | |
| Rhode Island | 1774, 1777, 1782 are incomplete, 1865, 1875, 1885, 1905, 1915, 1925, 1935 are complete | 1,4 |
| South Carolina | 1825, 1839, 1869 and 1875 all incomplete | |
| South Dakota | 1885, 1895 are incomplete, 1905, 1915, 1925, 1935, 1945 are complete | 1,2 |
| Tennessee | 1891 incomplete | |
| Texas | 1835 taken by Mexico | |
| Utah | 1856 complete | |
| Vermont | No state census was taken | |
| Virginia | 1782, 1783, 1784, 1785, 1786 all incomplete | |
| Washington | 1856, 1857, 1858, 1860, 1871, 1874, 1877, 1878, 1879, 1880, 1881, 1883, 1885, 1887, 1889, 1891, 1892, 1898 | 3,4 |
| West Virginia | No state census was taken | |
| Wisconsin | 1838, 1846, 1847, 1855 and 1865 are incomplete 1836, 1842, 1875, 1885, 1895 and 1905 are complete | 1 |
| Wyoming | 1875 and 1878 all incomplete | 1 |

Notes: Some sources are listed and are coded as follows:
    1 Microfilm at Salt Lake Family History Library and local Family History Centers
    2 www.labs.familysearch,org
    3 Washington State Digital Archives
    4 Ancestry.com
Some colonial and territorial censuses are included in the table, but the list is not complete.

# U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services Genealogy Records

The U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) offers genealogy information from naturalization files, visa applications and citizenship tests. The USCIS Genealogy Program started in 2008. Requests are usually completed within 90 days. USCIS will run a search of the name of a deceased person for $20. Additional fees are charged to provide copies of the information. To submit a request, the submitter must be a relative, historian or researcher.

Documents usually include immigration information, such as the hometown in the ancestors' native countries. Often there is information about brothers, sisters, aunts and uncles. If any of the relatives also immigrated, it is probably productive to request their files

If an immigrant applied for American citizenship, the details are also included in these files. Immigrants of Japanese, German, or Italian origin, living in the United States during World War II often have FBI reports about the person's activities, including friends, family, and political activities.

For more information about the program, go to:
www.uscis.gov/genealogy

# Social Networking Websites: A Virtual Playground for Genealogists

by James Gross

For those genealogists who seek to connect or reconnect with their known relatives, the development and popularity of online social networks may prove to be an invaluable resource.

Depending on when one began their genealogy research, some of you may recall a time in the not so distant past when communications with family members were primarily conducted via postal mail or the telephone. This began to change as the computer became more widely available.

I can recall a time back in 1985 when an Apple IIe was considered to be an amazing piece of technology. I first used a computer for dial-up back in 1988. It was a 386 laptop. I used it to log into user groups online with a dial-up modem. Eventually I upgraded to a faster computer. Computers gradually improved as the technology became more advanced. In recent years, dial-up access has been gradually replaced by cable. In 2007, I finally made the switch in my internet access from unreliable dial-up access to fast ethernet cable access.

Some readers may have similar experiences in terms of how they personally experienced the evolution of computer technology in their lives. This march in technology has resulted in faster computers, faster internet access, and increased access to online information and databases. People have found that computers can be very useful tools for communication and information retrieval.

And, as computer use has become more popular, the usage of email has emerged as a commonplace and accepted method of communication. Many people, including genealogists, have been quick to take advantage of this tool for communication with family members.

Recently, another communication forum has emerged which may serve to further enhance genealogy research and family contacts. It is the advent of the online virtual social networking website. These online social networks, which include such websites as Facebook, MySpace, and Linkedin, act as virtual playgrounds where people can choose to interact with their friends and colleagues. They can also choose to be known, or to be anonymous.

According to one website, Compete.com, of the top 25 social networking websites, Facebook was ranked #1 with 68 million unique visitors and MySpace was ranked at #2 with 58 million unique visitors.(1) Per Facebook's statistics, there are more than 350 million active users, more than 35 million users update their status every day, and there are more than 1.6 million active pages on Facebook. (2)

And, according to one source, Facebook is apparently adding new users at a breakneck pace of 50 million every couple of months and is generally considered to be the world's largest social-networking site with 5% of the global internet audience. (3)

In my own social networking experience, I have found Facebook to be the most useful networking website for my goal of locating relatives. It is simply amazing to see how so many relatives, especially the younger ones, are on Facebook. For example,

a blogger named Robyn recently posted the following timely comment: "I have often wondered if Facebook could be a good tool for today's genealogist." (4)

A similar view on the merits of Facebook was voiced by blogger Robert Ragan. Ragan, in his blog entitled, "How do You Feel about Facebook - Waste of Time or Great Genealogy 2.0 Online Social Tool," discussed the merits and advantages of using Facebook for locating relatives. (5)

Terri W. in a post on Robert Ragan's blog, commented, "Facebook has helped me keep in touch with cousins I haven't talked to in years. It also tells me when friends are online and allows me to "chat" with them" (6) And, Aaron S., a sophomore at Vassar College, observed that Facebook had helped him keep in touch with his parents, grandparents, aunts, and uncles. Suzuka commented that, "Facebook allows all of us to keep in touch, even though we are all over the country or in different countries." (7)

I will admit that the search engine options within Facebook may not be perfect, but with some perseverance, one can still manage to identify a number of relatives. I have found that Facebook contact is a much faster method of locating relatives, especially younger ones, as opposed to depending on slow postal mail.

I have also noticed how these social networking sites appear to be a less invasive method of initial contact as opposed to using the telephone. As many of you know, in today's mobile society, not everyone has land lines, much less published phone numbers.

According to an online article reprinted from the National Genealogy Society newsmagazine, social networking sites such as Facebook, "provide a way for genealogists to quickly and easily share information about their research with their families, especially with people who think they are "not interested" in genealogy." (8)

In order to use Facebook or Myspace to locate someone, you must first sign up for a free account. After you are signed up, you can begin to locate friends and family. High school buddies, old college friends, fraternity buddies, the list is endless.

In terms of methodology, I have found it useful to begin by first locating a known relative who has a unique name. I first locate relatives with obscure names and then attempt to mine their "friend's list" for other known relatives. This method has worked well for me, especially when faced with the alternative of a name search involving a common surname. The reason is that those users with common names, depending on their identified city and state, can be more difficult to identify as relatives.

It is best if one strives to locate someone on Facebook whom you know is related to your family. Go down through their list of friends. Look for names of other known relatives. Check each of their friends list for known relatives. When you locate a relative's name that you recognize, send them a message. There are apparently so many relatives of mine on Facebook that I am slowly identifying and contacting them as I go through my various family lists.

Users of social networking sites, such as Facebook, should be aware of some current issues related to privacy concerns. Recently, there have been number of articles and blogs, including an article in PC World, regarding Facebook's decision to change their policy on user data. (9) The issue is how the user data is collected and how it affects user privacy.

User privacy can be a very important issue for some people. In fact, this issue is so important, that one consumer advocacy group, the Electronic Privacy Information Center (EPIC), recently filed a complaint with the FTC (10). Their complaint was focused on Facebook's recently proposed changes to their privacy policy and default user settings.

In addition, groups including the Consumer Federation of America, the American Library Association, the Privacy Rights Now Coalition, and Foolproof, also added themselves to the EPIC complaint. (11)

So, what is all the fuss about? An important issue deals with Facebook's decision to change user default website settings. The new settings could result in user's Facebook data to be preset so that more of user information would be public rather than visible only to friends. There is also the risk that some personal user information, could be deemed publicly available information and shared with Facebook's commercial software developers.

As social networking websites, like Facebook, have gained popularity, they have also exponentially increased the potential to attract dishonest people and schemes. And, unfortunately, there is the ever present concern that some of these people could be stalkers looking to prey on children. As Jordan Jones noted,"the biggest concerns voiced about Facebook over the years have been about privacy and security…" (12)

Whether it is the inclusion of a town name, an identified organization, or some other identifying information, some Facebook users are becoming more concerned about personal safety.

Hopefully, social networking websites will soon realize the importance of ensuring that their users feel free to engage others without worrying about safety. Issues such as privacy mining and human predators are real and should not be ignored by the user.

Of course, the ultimate guardian of privacy is the user. If social networking users do not want their wild Spring Break photos or other potentially embarrassing activities made public, then they should keep their photos private, delete them, or take a few minutes to review their privacy settings.

In closing, social networking websites, such as Facebook, can a real asset to one's genealogy efforts. While one should be cognizant of the pitfalls, social websites such as Facebook can be a real bonus for locating relatives. Privacy issues aside, I can attest to the usefulness and benefit of conducting searches for relatives on social networking websites. Even if you can only locate the younger relatives, they can often refer you to their parents or other older family members.

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(12) Jones, J. (2009) Ibid.

### About the author:

James Gross formerly worked as a micrographic technician with the National Archives in College Park, MD. His duties included camera operator microfilming and film preservation and storage. James has worked on personal genealogy research since 1991. He has also contributed genealogy articles to various genealogy publications, including Avotaynu and Chronicles. James is presently a Masters in Library Science (MLS) candidate at Drexel University. He is active in genealogy via his affiliation with the Jewish Genealogy Society of Greater Philadelphia (JGSGP). He is also assisting the JGSGP as the coordinator of the Jewish Exponent Indexing Project, which is being jointly conducted with the Philadelphia Jewish Archives Center. He can be reached at (navistar96@yahoo.com).

# *Stranger Than Fiction:* **Genealogy Materials Survive House Fire**

On December 10, a fire completely destroyed the home that has been the residence of Elmer and Sue Eliason and their family for the past 80 years. Many heirlooms that had been with the family for four or five-generations were lost in the fire. Also there were valuable family photos and the genealogical research of Sue Eliason's mother that were stored in a safe in the house.

The Eliasons could smell the smoke at about 4 a.m. Their dog, Sophie, had become agitated and kept them awake. They tried to call 911, but the phone line was already dead. The couple hastily dressed and hurried to the nearby home of their daughter to report the fire. Between 4:30 and 5 a.m., Cushing firefighters arrived on the scene. At least 35 firemen responded, as well as the Frederic EMTs. The fire began in the basement and got into the walls. There were no flames visible until after the Eliasons exited the house. The couple suspect that the age of the wiring in the oldest part of the house may have been the cause of the fire Three times firefighters thought that the fire had been extinguished, only to have it begin again in the walls.

The firemen learned about the safe and its location soon after they arrived. While the house was engulfed in flames, the firemen cut through the wall and pulled the safe out of harm's way and the contents were saved. Also saved were the Christmas gifts left near the safe which were to be taken to their daughter's home. The cat and all the remaining contents of the house were lost. The Eliasons were extremely greatful to the firemen for acting above and beyond their duty and saving the genealogy and family pictures.

# *Software of Interest:* **Personal Ancestry Writer II Version 91, RootsMagic Essentials**

### Personal Ancestry Writer II Version 91

Personal Ancestry Writer II (or PAWriter), a free genealogy program for Macintosh computers has a new update, Version 91. The update includes the following changes:

- The 30,000 limitation on list boxes is now gone.
- All entries are now displayed.
- The Reference Guide was updated to remove references to earlier limitations.
- An explanation of marriage intentions to the topic Basic Data Entry > Dates was added.
- Titles at the head of HTML reports that contain non-ASCII characters are now displayed correctly.

To download Personal Ancestry Writer II, go to:
www.lanopalera.net/Genealogy/AboutPAWriter.html

### RootsMagic Essentials

RootsMagic Essentials is a free Windows genealogy program with the essential features found in RootsMagic version 4. Both programs use the same database format, making it easy to upgrade to the full-feature program. RootsMagic Essentials offers a free trial for users who want to "test drive" the RootsMagic program which costs $29.95.

RootsMagic Essentials lacks a significant list for features found in RootsMagic version 4. These include:

- Back up directly to CD
- Customizable tool bar
- Free technical support
- Descendant View (2-7 generations)
- People List View (Customizeable)
- Built-in WebSearch
- RootsMagic To-Go lets you run RootsMagic (program and data) directly off your flash drive
- Create your own user defined fact types, and add any number of roles
- Sharing events among multiple people lets you assign witnesses or other people involved in an event
- Craft your own customized sentence for each fact or role from the live-edit pane in "Edit person" window
- DNA test recording
- Add private events that you can suppress from printing or exporting
- NameFind lets you easily find people by married name or nickname
- Narrative reports (register (NEHGS), indented descendancy, Henry descendancy, and D'Aboville descendancy)
- Calendars with birthdays and anniversaries
- Relationship chart shows exactly how two people are related
- Address labels for mailings
- Timeline (or chronology) list that can include events of other people
- Custom report designer, with fields that can span columns or rows and even include notes
- Make Shareable CDs to give to others, with custom menu and a read-only version of RootsMagic

RootsMagic Essentials does have the features necessary to create and maintain a genealogy database. It will operate using Windows XP, Windows Vista, or Windows 7. It allows the creation of GEDCPM files to share data with family or upload to genealogy Web sites. It can also be recommended for family members who want to view a genealogy database and currently have no genealogy program. To download RootsMagic Essentials or for more information, go to: http://rootsmagic.com/Essentials

# Spider Webs: Google Timeline, Welch Wills, Wyoming Newspapers, Google Sites
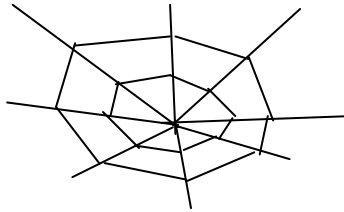
## Hamilton County Ohio Records

When James Cissell was appointed as judge in Hamilton County Ohio in 2003, he soon realized that the1600 books containing 1.1 million pages of records dating back to 1791 needed better preservation. He decided that these records should be digitized and made available online. A contract for $95,000 was awarded to digitize the records and employees of the probate court completed the project. Hamilton County is historically important because its major city, Cincinnati, was a popular stop on the Ohio River. After the Erie Canal was completed and Lake Erie was linked to the Ohio River by canal, The Ohio River was a major migration route for settlers moving to the states along the Ohio and Mississippi rivers from the Eastern United States. The records are a treasure for genealogists and contain: guardianship records, estate inventories,  birth marriage and death records, naturalization records and more. To see the records, go to: www.probatect.org/case_search/index.htm Go to "ARCHIVE SEARCH" to find the older records.

## Lane County Oregon Historic Photos

The Lane County Historical Museum has 20,000 old nitrate negatives that they want to save. A grant from Lane County has financed a project to digitize these historic images and make them available on the Internet. At this time, 9000 are scanned and about 11,000 remain. The project is expected to finish by the fall of 2011. To visit the Web site, go to: http://lanecounty.pastperfect-online.com/33692cgi/mweb.exe?request=ks

## West Virginia Records

The state of West Virginia now has indices of more than 5.7 million vital records of the state West Virginia online and available free on the State Web site. The online index is linked to images of the original files. State officials began the online service four years ago by entering records from Calhoun, Gilmer, Hardy, Harrison, Mineral and Pendleton counties. The site has recently completed entering data from all 55 counties and has upgraded its server to operate at three times the speed, so it can handle the expected increase in use of the Web site.

The database can be searched by name, date or county. Some of the birth and death records are from as early as 1853. Better records were kept after 1917, the date when the West Virginia Department of Health and Vital Registration started collecting and using data from the county records. Marriage records are available from the inception of each county, the earliest of which dates to 1780. Birth records are not placed online until 100 years after the event and death records are kept offline for 50 years.

The West Virginia online vital records database is available at: www.wvculture.org/vrr The following Web site also has an article about the database that may be helpful to users at: www.wvculture.org/history/vitalrecordsarticle.pdf

## Irish Census Website Improved

The National Archives of Ireland has updated its census Web site. New search options for the 1911 census have been added, including: Relation to Head of Household, Literacy, Occupation, Marital Status, County/Country of Origin, Language Proficiency, Specified Illnesses, Number of Years Married, Number of Children Born, and Number of Children Living. All thirty-two counties in Ireland for 1911 are now available on the site. The site is free and can be visited at:  www.census.nationalarchives.ie

## Canadian Headstones Photo Project

The Canadian Headstone Photo Project plans to photograph Canadian headstones and publish the digital images on the Internet. The Web site was created in July and has grown to more than 23,000 indexed records. In some areas of Canada, the volunteers are close to completion of large additions to the project. In other areas, the project needs more volunteers, coordinators, genealogical societies and church groups to expand the project.

CanadianHeadstones.com, the organization managing the project, has a separate Web site and database for each province and territory in Canada. The site is fully automated so that uploading the photo, editing and transcribing the text from the headstone is very fast and easy. A coordinator is assigned to approve each entry and to avoid SPAM and errors. The database is fully searchable by surname, first name, starts with, contains, and sounds like.

The Canadian Headstone Photo Project is a privately sponsored, non-profit, educational site. The Web site is available to anyone, free of charge everyone. To visit the site, go to: http://canadianheadstones.com/ The home page has links to each of the sites for each province or territory.

## Google Backup

Google recently announced a backup service where users can upload files of any type to Google Docs storage. The first gigabyte of storage is free and if more space is needed, users can purchase additional space for $0.25 per gigabyte per year for each additional gigabyte. There is a file size limitation of 1 gigabyte for uploads. This limit is not a concern for most individuals unless they are working with large video files or with extremely large databases.
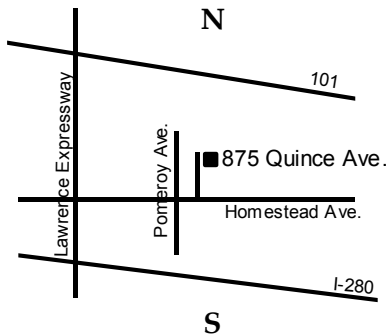
To use the new storage service, users must open a free Google account. The account already exists for Google Gmail users. If a new account is opened, there is a wait until the account is processed before the storage can be used. An option allows users to convert files to Google Docs format which enables users to edit these files online. Another option allows users to select specific files which can be shared with others while the remaining files remain private. This feature is useful for sharing pictures and other files with other family members or friends.

For more information or to set up an account, go to: http://docs.google.com Google has also prepared a tutorial that explains the storage service which is available at: http://docs.google.com/support/bin/answer.py?answer=50092&hl=en

## Silicon Valley PastFinder

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

P.O. Box 23670, San Jose, CA  95153-3670
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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*Silicon Valley PastFinder* is the official publication of the Silicon Valley Computer Genealogy Group, a nonprofit organization. Published monthly except December, Silicon Valley PastFinder is distributed at the door to all members attending the meeting and mailed to others after the meeting. Members may elect to receive the newsletter by e-mail and get the PastFinder Bulletin too.

Articles contributed by readers are welcome. Articles may be submitted as a text file on PC-compatible disk, CD-ROM, or as an e-mail attachment. The editors reserve the right to accept, reject, and edit articles. Articles are not returned.

### Silicon Valley Computer Genealogy Group
**www.svcomputergenealogy.org**
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Please send inquiries, address changes, new memberships, and membership renewals to:
SV-CGG, P.O. Box 23670, San Jose, CA 95153-3670 or leslyk@comcast.net

SV-CGG meets monthly, except December, on the second Saturday of the month from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints building, 875 Quince Avenue, Santa Clara, CA. We offer classes and sponsor guest speakers at meetings to help family historians with computer technology and research techniques. Membership dues are US$15 per year (US$20 for Canada and US$25 for other international). Members are offered classes at meetings, mentor help, *Silicon Valley PastFinder* (a monthly newsletter published each month there is a meeting).

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Personal Ancestral File can be ordered from www.FamilySearch.org or at 1-800-537 5950:

The following can be ordered from www.svcomputergenealogy.org or by mail or e-mail:
- Newsletter back issues if available
- Videos of classes; syllabus copies
- *Family History Documentation Guidelines*
- Stuck-on Sources Post-It note pads
- Flash Drives loaded with 11,000 Internet genealogy sites
- And more

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### CLASSES FOR 13 MARCH 2010

**Software Classes**
- **Reunion for the Mac (2 classes)**
- **Publishing Your Project for Non-Genealogists**

**General Classes**
- **Immigration to North America**
- **Beginning Genealogy/Q&A for Beginners**

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