Where to Find Death Records

By Allin Kingsbury

The death of an individual is an important item of information about an individual. While it is true that we can be assured that a person is dead if he or she was born more than one hundred fifty years ago, a good genealogist will want to know the date and place of the death and will invest time and money to find the information. There are several reasons that make death information so important. First of all, the date and place of death are extremely important in finding other records of genealogical significance. The most important of these are probate records such as a will, estate inventory and distribution, and other court documents which name heirs to the estate. The death location may also be helpful in finding where the individual is buried, which may lead to the discovery of other family members through cemetery or mortuary records, local newspapers, and other sources.

There are many instances where the genealogist has found a list of children born to a couple in a particular location and assumed it was complete. Later it was learned that the family had migrated to a distant location and more children were born or a spouse died and the individual remarried. The genealogist must remember that where there is time in the life of an individual where nothing is known, that events were happening, and these events may be significant for a family history.

If the birth is more recent, the death information is even more urgent because the issue of privacy is added to the list of reasons. Many individuals feel they have a right to privacy, and this includes having any personal information published in a family history, whether it be on the Internet or in a book. Even if the distribution of the publi-cation is limited to family members, worries about the security of the information constitute a threat in the form of identity theft or invasion of privacy. The courts in the United States have issued enough decisions to establish a precedent to support the legality of the right to privacy.

Public Death Records

The earliest death records were kept by churches and are usually burial records. For obvious reasons, the burials occurred shortly after the death and it is an extremely rare exception when a body is discovered long after the death and then buried with the usual church services. Colonial New England began the practice of recording deaths in the town records, but these records were not legally required and do not contain deaths of all town residents.

The civil registration of deaths began during the nineteenth century, but some areas did not begin civil death registration until the early 20th century. We can thank the medical profession for the establishment of death certificates, which were a means to gather information about causes of death and the spread of communicable diseases.

The death certificate is a valuable source of information. Information depends on the knowledge of the informant. Usually the certificate has the full name, birth date, residence, and marital status of the deceased. There is also information about the cause of death as determined by the doctor who signed the certificate.

For many states, a copy of a death certificate can be obtained only from the state and copies are often expensive. Most states have a death index and many of these are available to the public on the Internet. The index usually has the name of the individual,

May Seminar

On 8 May 2010, Barry J. Ewell is coming. He has extensive genea-logical experience in Internet and field research in the Eastern U.S., United Kingdom, Scandinavia, Germany, and Russia. His topic, "The 20 Lessons Family Historians Need to Know," will help those from beginner to advanced find their family history. Come and enjoy.

death date, and county of death. A few have the birth date and names of parents. The best of the online death records are linked to images of the death certificates.

The status of online records is constantly changing. For example, several years ago, the state of Texas made their death index available online. This index listed both parents. Now Texas is charging for access to this index. There are many organizations such as FamilySearch and Ancestry that are working to add more records to the Internet. FamilySearch appears to have the most momentum among these efforts. They have the microfilm of many death records and a huge group of volunteers who continue extracting data to index these records so that they can be posted on the Internet.

Other Sources of Death Data

There are many other sources of death information beside vital records and death indexes. The best source for recent deaths in is the Social Security Death Index. It lists all deaths related to a claim for Social Security Benefits. The index is searchable nationwide. A user can quickly find a death that

occurred where it was not expected. It may be that the individual retired and moved across the country to retire in Florida to escape the cold. The index is effective for deaths beginning in the 1950s up to the present time. The index is available on several Web sites and can be updated with the latest deaths reported to the Social Security Administration.

The inscription on the Grave marker usually contains the birth and death date. It also may be a single marker with the name of the spouse and names of children who are buried with the parents. A visit to the cemetery is best so you can record the data on the markers, the arrangement of the markers, and if other members of the family are buried nearby. In many instances the trip to the cemetery is unnecessary because the grave marker inscriptions are posted on the Internet by Web sites such as *Find a Grave* and the GenWeb projects where grave stones are photographed and indexed. These sites do not have all graves but some areas are close to completion of photographing all cemeteries.

Associated with the grave markers are other cemetery records kept by the sexton or other officers of the cemetery. This information is usually more complete than the grave marker data. It often has the name of the owner of the cemetery plot, names of close relatives, and who is paying a maintenance fee to keep the grave site beautiful. The death certificate or cemetery records may mention the mortuary that handled the funeral. If the mortuary is still in business, there are records for each person who was buried or cremated by the mortuary. I contacted the mortuary mentioned in the obituary of my great grandfather. They had the names of three generations of the family of my great grandfather in their files and were kind enough to share the information with me.

Church and Bible Records

Some church denominations kept very good burial records. The Roman Catholic Church, and the Churches of England (Episcopal) and Scotland (Presbyterian) have had many of their records microfilmed and made available at the Salt Lake Family History Library. Quaker records in the United States have been published in an amazing series of books compiled by Andrew Hinshaw. Other denominations have records of value to the genealogist. They are harder to find because they may have remained with the church or they may have gone to an archive, often at a college founded by the denomination.

Family Bibles are an accurate source of vital statistics for a family. It was typical in the 18th and 19th centuries for family records to be kept in the family Bible. Unfortunately, not all families adhered to the practice, and many family Bibles were lost or destroyed after they came into possession of the younger generations of the family. Many genealogical organizations have collected old family Bibles and have preserved them. Some of the collections have been microfilmed and the family records contained therein can be used by those who do value them. The Family Bible for your family may have been passed down to a distant cousin as a family heirloom. The only way to find it may be to ask.

Newspapers

Newspapers have published obituaries and death notices. They are most common in the 19th and 20th centuries. The obituary is the grand prize of all death records because it not only is a source of death information, but it often lists names of spouse, children and their spouses, parents, and even grandchildren. It also may contain a great deal of biographical information. Ancestry.com has a collection of obituaries, but almost all of them are for death dates after 2004. There are many other obituaries on the Internet posted on other Web sites. Most of the obituaries available on the Internet are buried in collection of old newspapers. The papers are typically not indexed, but usually searchable by key words. It is a slow process even when the death date and place are known.

My wife and I visited the Public Library in Springfield, Missouri several years ago looking for some genealogical data. A man had been working on a personal project, which was to collect all the birth, marriage and death information from local newspapers dating from the mid 1800s to the present day. The results of his work filled two or three thick volumes for each year of newspapers and filled three or four large floor to ceiling library shelf units. Each volume had a complete index of names. One would wish for a project like this for all old newspapers, but we should be thankful that many old newspapers have been preserved and for the availability of scanned images of these papers on the Internet. The scanning is ongoing and more newspaper images are being added to the Internet on a regular basis.

Where to Find Death Records

The many sources of death records does not end with those mentioned. There are collections of Funeral memorials. Many old county histories contained biographies which include dates and places for birth and death which are difficult to find. A death may be recorded in old correspondence or in a personal journal. The list seems endless. It may not be necessary to search all the possible sources as they require a lot of time and effort, but if none of the commonly used sources yield a death date and place, the search may prove to be worth the time.

Secondary sources such as genealogies, manuscripts, extracted records, biographies may have accurate information, but they also are prone to error. Even newspaper death notices and obituaries can have occasional misinformation as they depend on the care and knowledge of the informant. If possible, death information from any of these less-accurate sources should be verified against a primary source.

Death Records, Death Certificates and Death Indices

Online death records vary considerably from state to state as to years available and the amount of information given. Early records may be incomplete because those who were required to report deaths did not always comply with the laws. Each state began recording deaths at different times, beginning in the mid 1800s until well into the early 1900s. The information recorded by the states also varied from state to state.

Table 1 contains sources of public death records for the United States compiled from the respective Web sites. These include death certificates, indexes, and compiled lists of state death records. Recent death certificates are usually available only from the state of issue and are almost always restricted to family members. County death records were kept before the states began keeping death records. Many of these records are also available online and on microfilm. The county records are too scattered and too numerous to list. Table 1 may not have all available sources, but it has the obvious and most-used sources.

Table 1. Sources for State Death Records and Indexes

State	Death Certificates	Online Sources	Time Covered	Comment
Alabama	From 1908	Ancestry FamilySearch	1908-1954 1908-1974	Death index Death index
Alaska	From 1913	none		
Arizona	From 1909	Arizona Gov.	1844-1958	With certificates
Arkansas	From Feb 1914	Ancestry	1914-1950	Death index
California	From Jul 1905	Ancestry RootsWeb	1940-1997 1940-1997	Also Pre 1900 project
Colorado	From 1900	Some county indexes	varies	
Connecticut	From 1897	Ancestry	1949-2001	Death index
Deleware	From 1913	Ancestry	1811-1933	Death records
Dist. Of Columbia		Ancestry	1801-1878	Death index
Florida	From 1917	Ancestry FamilySearch	1877-1998 1877-1939	Death index Death index
Georgia	From 1919	Ancestry FamilySearch Georgia State	1914-1998 1919-1927 1919-1927	Death index Death index Death index
Hawaii	From 1896	none		
Idaho	From 1911	Ancestry BYU-Idaho RootsWeb	1911-1951 1911-1956 1911-1956	Death index Death index Death index
Illinois	From 1916	Illinois Gov. Some county indices	1916-1950	Pre 1916 in process
Indiana	From Oct 1907	Ancestry Some county indices	1882-1920	Death index
Iowa	From 1891	none		
Kansas	From Jul 1911	Some county indexes		
Kentucky	From 1911	Ancestry RootsWeb University of Ky.	1852-1953 1911-2000 1911-2002	Death index Death index Death index
Louisiana	From 1957 The state also has 1911-1956 parish death records	Ancestry FamilySearch FamilySearch Louisiana State	1900-1949 1850-1875, 1894-1954 1911-1956	Death index Death index Death index Death index
Maine	From 1892	Ancestry Maine State Archives RootsWeb	1960-1997 1960-1996 1960-1997	Death index Death index Death index
Maryland	From 1898	Maryland Gov. Baltimore City	1898-1944 1875-1972	Death index Death index
Massachusetts	From 1906	Ancestry FamilySearch Massachusetts State	1970-2003 1906-1915 1841-1910	Death index Adding 1841-1906 Death index
Michigan	From 1867	Ancestry FamilySearch Library of Michigan Michigan Health Dept. Some county indices	1971-1996 1867-1897 1897-1920 1867-1897	Death index Death index Death index Death index

Minnesota	From 1907	Ancestry Minnesota Hist. Soc. Some county indices Death index	1908-2002 1904-2001	Death index Death index
Mississippi	From Nov 1912	none		
Missouri	From Aug 1909	Ancestry Missouri Gov. A few county indices	1834-1931 1910-1958	Death index Death certificates
Montana	From 1907	Ancestry RootsWeb	1860-2007 1880s-2002	Death index Death index
Nebraska	From 1904	none		
Nevada	From 1911	A few county indices		
New Hampshire	From 1856	A few county indices		
New Jersey	From May 1866	New Jersey Gov.	1878-1885	Death index
New Mexico	From 1920	FamilySearch U.S. GenWeb A few county indices	1889-1945 1899-1949	Death index Death index
New York	From 1881	none		
North Carolina	From mar 1913	Ancestry Ancestry FamilySearch Some county indices	1909-1915 1908-2004 1906-1930	Death certificates Death index Death index
North Dakota	From Jul 1893	North Dakota Gov.		Death index
Ohio	From 1908	Ancestry FamilySearch Ohio Historical Soc. A few county indices	1958-2002 1908-1953 1913-1944	Death index Death index Death index
Oklahoma	From Oct 1903	A few county indices		
Oregon	From 1903	Ancestry Heritage Trail Press Oregon Archive	1903 -1998 1903-1930 Years vary	Death index Death index Some counties
Pennsylvania	From 1906	A few county indices		
Rhode Island	From 1948	Ancestry	1630-1930	Death index
South Carolina	From 1914	Ancestry FamilySearch South Carolina Gov.	1915-1955 1915-1955 1915-1958	Death index Death index Death index
South Dakota	From 1905	Ancestry	1905-1955	Death index
Tennessee	From 1914	Tennessee Gov. Tennessee Gov. Tennessee Gov.	1908-1912, 1914-1930, 1949-2005	Death index Death index Death index
Texas	From 1903	Ancestry FamilySearch RootsWeb	1903-2000 1890-1976 1964-1998	Death index Death index Death index
Utah	From 1905	Ancestry Utah Gov.	1905-1951 1905=1958	Death index Death index
Vermont	From 1857	Ancestry	1909-2008	Death index
Virginia	From 1912	Ancestry Library of Virginia	1853-1896 1853-1896	9 county indices 34 counties included
Washington	From 1907	Ancestry FamilySearch Washington Gov. A few county indices	1940-1996 1907-1960 1907-1960	Death index Death index Death index
West Virginia	From 1917	FamilySearch W. Virginia Archives	1853-1970 1917-1970	Death index Death index
Wisconsin	From 1907	Ancestry Ancestry	1959-1997 1820-1897	Death index Death index
Wyoming	From 1909	A few county indices		

National Treasure: Visiting the National Archives

By Janet Brigham Rands

On the Constitution Avenue side of the National Archives building in Washington, D.C., reside many of the nation's treasures, including The Declaration of Independence, the Bill of Rights, and the U.S. Constitution (the document, not the ship).

On the Pennsylvania Avenue side of the National Archives building is a nondescript door where researchers enter. Whether this entrance is more momentous to a patron than the grand Rotunda entrance depends on luck and perseverance.

The main National Archives building is part of a national network of archives and reading rooms, with facilities scattered around the country. You might want to visit the research side of the National Archives, rather than order copies of the records, if you have a sizable number of records to look up. At a copy request cost of $40 per case file, you could quickly spend the cost of air fare and a night or two in a hotel in the Washington area. Looking at the documents first-hand in the archives costs you nothing. Photocopying is available at a typical library rate.

To see what documents are available at the various Archives' locations, check www.archives.gov. The Website is awkward to navigate but does contain sufficient information and links to facilitate genealogical searches.

Starting your research at the D.C. Archives takes a while; your belongings are scanned, you log in multiple times, complete a brief online orientation course, get photographed, get a card, and stash your belongings in lockers. A patron needs the Archives-issued ID card for access to materials and to the reading room.

Common genealogical searches are for land records and military records. At an archives visit last November, we spent nearly all of our time going through land records. Whatever types of records you want to access, be sure to look up as much information as possible ahead of time. This is even more important for a National Archives trip than for many other library facilities, since the Archives' hours are limited, and retrieval of documents occurs only at set times during the day.

Before going to the library, we used the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) website (www.glorecords.blm.gov/PatentSearch/) to identify pertinent details of the land transaction. The surviving paperwork related to the application is at the National Archives in the case files. These land record case files might contain naturalization records, descriptions of the property and its improvements, letters, and other unpredictable documentation. The file might also contain very little. Until you access the files, you can only guess what's in them.

To determine what details you will need to record from the BLM website, go to the National Archives ordering system (www.archives.gov/contact/inquire-form.html) and download an order form. You cannot use that form at the archives, but you can use it to fill out the archives order form. In this and many other situations at the Archives, it's best to just go with the flow.

You might not be able to tell from the BLM records online whether a land applicant was actually your ancestor. It is painful to spend $40 to order copies of a case file that turns out to be for a non-ancestor. If you have numerous records to retrieve, it may be more cost-effective for you or a relative to spend time at the Archives. In our case, we wanted to access more than 60 land record case files from numerous lines of our families, which would have been prohibitively expensive to order from home. It took us about two full days, working at the Archives' limited research hours, to access that many case files.

Once you fill out all you can on the forms, you'll need to ask the staff for help filling out storage location information for the documents you're ordering. It's also likely that some documents will not be stored in the expected places, so you may need staff help more than once during your visit.

Be prepared to Follow Rules. The Archives, like all archives, has many rules, some posted and some not. The reading room has rules posted on walls, on tables, and above copiers. Some rules are posted behind equipment that obscures them. Staff will tell you if you are violating rules. Staff members enforce rules somewhat arbitrarily. Go with the flow.

You may be handling original documents, which may be fragile. You may be the first person to handle a document since it was first folded up for preservation. One rule is that all documents being photocopied must be shown to staff first. One staff member was intent on enforcing that rule, but when she was gone, others did not enforce it. Another rule is that you can look at only one document at a time. This rule makes sense, since it prevents patrons' putting materials back in the wrong boxes. Documents also should be used flat on the table and not held up in the air for a better view.

Patrons can use laptops in the reading room, so you can access a genealogy database. Electrical outlets are available, and desks had lamps.

Ordering from Home

If a visit to D.C. is not an option, you can order the following types of case files: Passenger arrival records, census records, Eastern Cherokee applications, federal land entry files, military pension/bounty land warrant applications, pre-World War I military service records, and post-World War I military service records. Costs vary, with copies of passenger arrival records costing $25 and land records costing $40.

Memorable Epitaphs

Here lie the Bones
 Of Joseph Jones
Who ate whilst he was able
 But, once o'er fed
He dropt down dead
 and fell beneath the table.
When from the tomb

To meet his doom,
He rises amidst sinners;
Since he must dwell
 In Heav'n or Hell
Take him —
 which gives best dinners.

Wolverhamptom, England
1690

Turning to an Expert

By Richard Rands

The power of the growing number of experienced genealogists has been marshaled into a service organized by Ancestry.com to provide help for anyone seeking expert help. The service is called Expert Connect and is available to Ancestry members who reside in the U.S. The concept is quite simple. Experienced researchers sign up through the Ancestry.com web-site and create a profile or resume of their background, including training, special knowledge and skills, and archives they have ready access to. They establish their fees for a variety of different types of research, and describe how they will provide the results of their work.

Users who are looking for the assistance of an expert may go to the Hire an Expert link on the Ancestry.com web-site and open a project that can consist of up to six different types of services:

- Custom Research – full-scale family history research
- Record Lookup – looking for a document in a distant archive
- Ask an Expert – asking a difficult question about your specific research
- Record Pickup -- copying a document in a distant archive
- Language Translation – document translation service
- Local photography – photographing distant objects or places of historical interest

Once you have defined your research issue and have established the type of research you believe will best serve your needs, all you need to do is sit back and wait for bids to arrive from experts who would like to be hired for the job. Your project will be published to all the experts in the pool on a weekly basis, giving each one an opportunity to offer his or her services. You then agree upon the scope of the project you want to be completed, along with a fee, and if satisfied, you authorize the expert you have selected to begin work on the project. Payment is made using PayPal, but is held by Ancestry.com until you indicate that you are satisfied with the work and have received the material promised for the project.

A second method for getting help is to search the pool of experts for someone who has the specific skills you believe will most closely meet your needs. A tab on the Expert Connect home page allows you to Find an Expert from among the service providers. The search tool allows you to search by name, or specify the geographic region of your research, the heritage or religion, the era, an archive, or a language. The resulting matches are ranked by ratings according to reviews of work done for previous clients.

Once you have authorized payment to the expert, Ancestry takes 25% off the fee and releases the remaining 75% to the expert.

For example, I was authorized to perform a search at the request of a Florida woman who had lost track of her parents when she was a young woman. She knew only that they had been unable to provide for her and had given her up for adoption before moving to California during the depression era. It did not take me very long to discover the death records for her father in Redwood City and her mother in Oakland. Fortunately, the mother's death certificate listed a daughter as the informing family member, which gave me the opportunity to bring together two sisters who did not know of each other's existence.

If you would like to have a photo of a tombstone or the family home in a distant town, it will be a simple matter of hiring someone in or near the town to take the photo. If you need a document copied from a distant archive, or pages from a book in a library across the country, you can easily hire someone to help you out. If you need a translation of a document in another language, even in Russian or Chinese, you can have it done by an expert genealogist.

From a research provider's point-of-view, giving Ancestry.com a 25% cut of the fees is painful, but the joy of being paid to do what we so love to do is a nice dividend. If you are fed up with banging your head against the brick wall in your genealogy, then Expert Connect is a viable solution.

Software of Interest: Camino for Macintosh

Camino for Macintosh

Camino is a Web browser for Macintosh that is competitive with Firefox and Safari. As observed by the user, Camino and Firefox both use the same software to generate the Web page image from the HTML and CSS code. Thus, the Web page always looks the same with either program. Also, both programs are free, open source programs.

The fundamental difference between Camino and Firefox is that Firefox is written to be used with many operating systems, including Windows, Linux, Unix, and Solaris in addition to the Macintosh operating system. Camino is written only for the Macintosh operating system. Because of this, the program has the look and feel of other programs written for the Macintosh. Camino also supports Apple scripting which is not supported by Firefox.

Camino requires the OSX 10.4 operating system or later, and a minimum of 50 megabytes of hard drive space. If you want to know more about Camino or to try the program, go to: http://caminobrowser.org
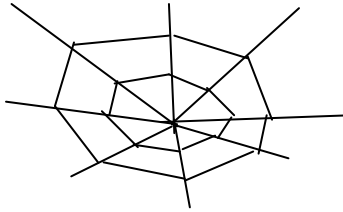
Spider Webs: Convert Web Pages to PDF Files Google Voice FamilySearch Indexing Detroit Landscapes

Convert Web Pages to PDF Files

For those who want to preserve a Web page and preserve the graphics or page layout, now there is an easy-to-use solution available. This is particularly useful for someone preparing illustration for a class or an article. PDFmyURL.com is a free online service, not a program that you can install. You go to the Web site, enter the URL that you want, and then download the pdf file and use it. The service is found at: www.pdfmyurl.com

Google Voice

Google has been adding many new tools to its Popular Web Site. Google Voice is one of the newer features, and contains a list of features used for voice communications such as call screening, voice mail transcription, block callers, conference calls, international calling and more. The company has produced a series of ten videos that explain the features and how to use them. The videos are available at: www.youtube.com/googlevoice

FamilySearch Indexing

The indexing program continues to make new records available. The Silicon Valley Computer Genealogy Group started the year with 117 individuals indexing records for the project. FamilySearch is looking for volunteers who can read Portuguese or Italian. Ongoing projects in the United States include the U.S. Census for Guam, Samoa, and the Virgin Islands and the 1910 census for Kentucky, Maryland and Massachusetts and Tennessee County Marriage Records.

Recently completed projects in North America include:

- Canada1871 mortality schedule
- Alaska 1920 U.S. census
- Illinois 1910 U.S. census
- Rhode Island 1905 State Census pt. 3
- Marshall County, Indiana marriages

There are many other indexing projects for other areas around the world. For more information, go to:
www.labs.FamilySearch.org

Detroit Landscapes

A film of Detroit as it was from 1917 to 1970 has been created from historic images by Rick Prelinger who edited the material and made the film. The film was shown to a Standing-room-only crowd at the /museum of Contemporary Art Detroit (MOCAD) recently and is now available on the Internet. The film called "Lost Landscapes of Detroit" is more than an hour in length and is filled with many clips from many home movies. To view the film, go to: www.archive.org/details/LostLandscapesOfDetroit2010

Stranger Than Fiction: Think Your Family is Large? Wireless Grave Markers

Think Your Family is Large?

You may come from a large family. However, Yitta Schwartz may be a contender for the record. Few people will recognize the name, but when she recently passed away, she left behind a family that made her proud. She left behind 15 children and more than 200 grandchildren. When the great grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren are added, there are about 2000 members of the family.

Mrs. Schwartz was born was born in 1916 into a family of seven children at Kalev, Hungary. Kalev was the home of the first leader of the Hasidic Jews in Hungary. Because they were Jews, Yitta and her husband Joseph and their six children they had when Hitler took control of Hungary, were sent to the Bergen-Belsen Concentration Camp. Somehow the family survived the war, and after being freed from the camp, the family made their way to Antwerp where they lived in a bombed out apartment. In spite of the miserable circumstances, Mrs. Schwartz opened their home to may refugees who slept on make-shift beds made from whatever materials that could be found. In 1953, the family came to the United States where their circumstances dramatically improved. On February 10, 2010, the New York Times published an article paying tribute to Yitta Schwartz and her family. She was 93 when she died.

Before she died, Yitta had no trouble remembering the names and faces of each and every member of her family. Most of us would need a computer or at least a large crib sheet. The family was large, but is also close-knit, perhaps due to the hardships that the family had encountered in Europe. We can thank Yitta Schwarts and her family for their example as they did their best, and not retreating when hardships surrounded them.

Wireless Grave Markers

Technology is making some interesting changes in the way we do things. A young Arizona company, Objecs, hopes to initiate another change with their enhanced memorial products that they have announced. These products, if accepted, will change the way we visit the grave of a friend or family member.

The company has invented a near communications field tag, which when attached to a grave marker, will communicate with a cell phone placed near the tag. The tag can be attached to the grave marker, and visitors to the grave site can view pictures, multimedia presentations, read text, and hear audio recordings of the deceased, depending on the technology available in the cell phone. Each tag has a unique ID number which is used to retrieve the information about the deceased.

The tags can last as long as 300 years and remain functional according to the manufacturer. That is as long as the life of many grave markers in harsh climates. The Rosetta Stone, although not a grave marker, could be read by archeologists after thousands of years. It seems that the technology of the stone grave marker is hard to improve. Also the company did not mention the expected survival of the tags when attacked by vandals, now a significant cause of destruction of Grave markers. If you want to be the first with the new markers on the gravestones of your family, contact your cemetery. As for success of the markers, "Time will Tell."

Silicon Valley PastFinder

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

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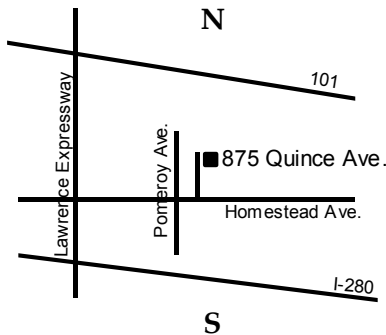
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Silicon Valley PastFinder is the official publication of the Silicon Valley Computer Genealogy Group, a nonprofit organization. Published monthly except December, Silicon Valley PastFinder is distributed at the door to all members attending the meeting 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.

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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 by mail or e-mail:

Newsletter back issues if available	Stuck-on Sources Post-It note pads
Videos of classes; syllabus copies	Flash Drives loaded with 11,000 Internet
Family History Documentation Guidelines	genealogy sites
	And more

CLASSES FOR 13 APRIL 2010

Software Classes
- **Reunion for the Mac (2 classes)**
- **PAF and PCs for Beginners**
- **to be announced**

General Classes
- **Marge Bell will discuss Wee Monster, Wiki.FamilySearch.org and the Record Search Pilot Site**

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