

DGS NEWSLETTER



May 2001

Volume 25, Number 4 (Issue 218)

WASHINGTON D.C. INSTITUTE

If you have ever had the opportunity to visit Washington, D.C. to do research and came away frustrated because you couldn't find out where to look or you simply didn't get as much work done as you wanted, this year's summer institute is the perfect opportunity to spend your time in training sitting at our own Dallas Library – instead of paying prime rates for hotel time and travel money in Washington and coming away feeling like you've wasted some of that hard earned cash!

This year's institute is presented by two of the best – our own Lloyd Bockstruck and Washington's own, John Colletta.

Classes will begin on Thursday evening, July 19, 2001 with registration at the Dallas Public Library Auditorium, followed by a welcome talk and an overview of Washington, D.C. On Friday, July 20, start your day with "Libraries, Archives and Public Record Offices: Understand Resources"; "The DAR Library"; "The Library of Congress"; "Lesser Known Repositories in Washington, D.C." And if that isn't enough to lure you in, on Saturday, July 21, we have "Our National Archives: The Astounding Institution and How to Use it"; "National Archives Treasures (records on passenger arrivals, federal courts, naturalization, non-population censuses, federal land records, passport applications, Civil War income tax records)"; "Military Records (includes service pension, bounty land); library research." Still not salivating? How about Sunday morning brunch at the Ramada Hotel and a final presentation on "Library of Virginia and Virginia Historical Society"; "Is Any Body There? Tracking Ancestral Remains" and then we close for the weekend.

The Ramada Inn Hotel has been chosen due to its convenient location to the J. Erik Jonsson Library. Daily free hotel shuttle service will be provided to and from the Library. Attendees are also welcome to drive – parking is available, both at the hotel (free) and in the underground garage of the downtown library. Mention DGS when making your hotel reservation to be assured of the group discount rate of \$79.00 per night, plus applicable taxes. Room availability is limited, reserve now. Conference registration is \$200.00 for the complete weekend.

For a registration form, please check later in this issue.

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Web: www.dallasgenealogy.org

Regular meetings and special interest group meetings are held in the plaza level Auditorium and East/West Rooms of the Dallas Public J. Erik Jonsson Central Library, 1515 Young Street, in downtown Dallas. Guarded parking available underneath the library.

DGS meets fourth Mondays September - May. December meeting is second Monday. Social time is 6:30-7:00 for meeting fellow genealogists, renting audio tapes, and refreshments. The business meeting and program begins at 7:00 PM.

DGS COMPUTER INTEREST GROUP meets on second Thursdays in the Library Auditorium beginning at 6:30 PM.

DGS AFRICAN-AMERICAN INTEREST GROUP meets third Tuesdays in the Library Auditorium beginning at 6:30 PM.

All DGS and SIG meetings are free and open to the public.

MEMBERSHIP is \$20.00 per 12 months beginning with receipt of dues. Members receive 10 issues of the *DGS Newsletter* and the annual *Dallas Journal* (optional). Members may also rent audio tapes from DGS and receive discount registrations to some events.

DGS EVENTS include the Fall Conference, Beginner Genealogy Workshop, Beginner Computer Workshop, Lecture Series, LDS/FHC Seminar, and Salt Lake City Research Trip.

Newsletter: The *DGS Newsletter* is published periodically. All articles and correspondence for the *DGS Newsletter* should be mailed to the society address listed above to the attention of the newsletter editor. Articles appearing in the *DGS Newsletter* may be reprinted only upon receipt of written permission from the author. Credit should be given to the author & acknowledgment given the *DGS Newsletter* as the source. Letters requesting reprint permission should be sent to the newsletter editor. Printed by Arrow Reprographics, Inc., 102 Northlake Shopping Center, E. Northwest Hwy., Dallas, TX 75238 © Dallas Genealogical Society [ISSN 1091-3130].

Founded in 1955, the Dallas Genealogical Society (DGS) is the oldest organization of its kind in Texas. It is a nonprofit,

tax-exempt corporation and a member of the Federation of Genealogical Societies (FGS). The object of this society shall be to create, foster, and maintain interest in genealogy; to assist and support the genealogy section of the J. Erik Jonsson Central Library in Dallas, Texas, or to its legal successor; and to collect, preserve, copy, and index information relating to Dallas County and its early history.

Executive Board

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Membership

Individuals, libraries, or societies may apply for membership. Dues are \$20 for twelve consecutive months, with membership beginning the month of payment. New member dues and renewals should be mailed to: DGS, PO Box 12446, Dallas, TX 75225-0446, and marked "Attn: VP, Membership." Current members receive the *Dallas Journal* and the *DGS Newsletter*.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Shari Degan

President, DGS, 2000-2001

The 2000-2001 Board year is coming to a close. The board has worked extremely hard in offering a successful lecture series and one new event. The Surname-Silent Auction was a huge success. Over \$1300.00 was raised and the money collected will be applied towards the microfilm purchase of the 1930 Census. I want to thank Tresa Tatyrek for organizing the Surname Party and all the members that donated items. The board will offer this event again in 2002.

The Slate of Officers for the 2001-2002 Board was presented at the April General Meeting. The following individuals have been nominated:

President – Shari L. Degan

Executive Vice President Fundraising: Kris Richins

VP President Education – Robin Yaklin

Treasurer – Barbara Dossett

Secretary – Tresa Tatyrek

VP Journal – Barbara Ware

VP Membership – Vergie Freeman

VP Newsletter – No one from the membership volunteered for this position. Cheryl Mann has been appointed to serve one more year or until someone can fill this position.

Sales – Betty Jean Steinke

Library Liaison – Lloyd Bockstruck

Mailing – Dava Ladymon

Publications – John Shepherd

Publicity – Bob & Joy Dunaway

Volunteer Coordinator – Alvin Harper

Database Coordinator – Suzan Younger

I want to thank the nominating committee for getting this tough job done in a timely matter.

The proposed bylaw published in the April 2001 newsletter was voted on and accepted by the membership.

Do you have time to volunteer? DGS is looking for individuals to serve on the Grants Committee. The Committee will focus on purchasing the 1930 Census. If interested, please contact me at lamchop@ev1.net or 972-412-5455 (evening hours only).

NEW TOASTMASTERS GROUP FORMING

Cheryl Mann is in the process of forming a new Toastmasters group that will concentrate on training new family history lecturers and is open to anyone who is a lecturer, always dreamed of being one, or simply loves family history.

Cheryl will be hosting a get acquainted meeting in the early fall – so if you have not contacted her but are interested, you have plenty of time to give it some thought. Several people have expressed an interest – a great start!

And if you would like to take advantage of our genealogical summer break, you are invited to attend one of the meetings of Cheryl's group, which meets on the third Sunday of the month at Juan's Cantina, Beltline and 75 from 1 to 3 p.m., with members gathering about 12:30 p.m. to order lunch. Guests are always welcome – and your company would be most enjoyed! If you would like to attend a meeting this summer, you may contact Cheryl at the address below for further details or directions or just to ask her to save you a chair!

Toastmasters is a wonderful, supportive organization that supports people in overcome the fear of being in front of a room and the worry of getting tongue-tied by providing frequent opportunities to speak for from 3 to 15 minutes and offers manuals and mentoring to give you every assistance in getting trained.

If you are interested in attending a demonstration meeting, or would like to attend a regular Toastmasters meeting to see what they are like, please contact Cheryl at [mann1@earthlink.net](mailto:manna1@earthlink.net).

GHOSTS, DEMONS AND A FREE LECTURE

Shirley Stertz Hawn

I don't know if I believe in ghosts or not. I don't think I have ever seen one. However, when I was a child living in a big old two story house with an outside back staircase, my friends and I used to sit in the yard at night, listening to my mother tell us stories about ghosts and goblins. During these "ghostly sessions", we were positive we saw them running up and down those stairs.

Mother must have been an exceedingly good sport, because afterward, she had to walk each of her fearful listeners home.

When I am back in Richmond, I love to drive down the alley beside that old house, and look up at the stairs. I'm not real sure, but one evening when I was lurking about in the alley, remembering wonderful times past ... I thought I saw *something*.

Tales of paranormal phenomena have been around for centuries. The presence of spirits and apparitions isn't always visual. There are many ways they make their attendance known. Some play musical instruments, others bang on walls, and some walk around during the darkest hours of night. We have all heard the floors squeaking after everyone is in bed!!!! There are reports of objects flying around rooms, and moaning and crying being heard when no one else is about.

Sometimes the inexplicable manifests itself in dreams.

In March 1865, President Lincoln told about a strange dream he had. He said that in his dream, the sound of sobbing in the White House awakened him. He got up and wandered through the halls looking for the cause. When he entered the East Room, he found a corpse lying there with its face covered. In his dream, he asked the soldier standing guard, "who is dead?" The soldier answered, "The president; he was killed by an assassin."

Did Lincoln have an apprehension of misfortune? Just three weeks after he had this disturbing dream, on April 14, 1865, he was killed by an assassin's bullet.

There are many tales of haunted places and supernatural happenings during and after the Civil War. There is an old inn near Gettysburg, Pennsylvania where you can hear someone walking about the attic at night and moving things around. Of course upon investigation, *nothing* has been disturbed. If you plan to

stay there during a visit to the Gettysburg Battlefield, ask for room number four. Often in the middle of the night there is rapping on the door, *again*, no one is there. Maybe it is the soldier, in an old gray uniform, who has been seen standing about in the halls. According to the history of the inn, it is located on a road that the Confederate Army used extensively before and after the battle of Gettysburg. Many officers stopped there for food or drink, and many military decisions and strategies were planned there.

There are wonderful ghost stories written to entertain us, as well as "true" sightings and legends. Do you have a story to tell?

DGS is sponsoring a **GHOSTLY STORY WRITING CONTEST**. Your entry should be a short story, real or fancied.

Do you have an ancestor who was a witch; have you ever met a ghost while hunting tombstones in a cemetery; was there a haunted house you had to pass on the way to school; or do you just have a wonderful imagination?

Entries should be sent in no later than **September 1, 2001**. This will give the judges time to make their decision, and time for the winning story to be published in the Halloween issue of the Newsletter.

The best part of this writing contest is ... you don't have to cite any sources ... primary, secondary, or ghostly!

I almost forgot to mention that the winner will receive a Complimentary Ticket to a lecture of his or her choice, and we have an outstanding lecture series planned for the coming year.

Maybe we will call this the EDGAR ALLEN SCARY award.

Mail your award winning story to:
Dallas Genealogical Society
Attention of the Ghosts
P.O. Box 12446
Dallas, TX 75225-0046

Or E-mail to:
dgsnews@hotmail.com

Three Reasons for Creating a Website

Barbara A. Ware

First:

Share information with potential family members

With the proliferation of the Internet, web sites and online genealogy, many genealogists are considering a new form of publication: the family website. When I created my Visage Family website (<<http://members.aol.com/gonetotex/Visage/index.htm>>), I did so because I needed a project for a web designing class. And, what did I know more about than anything else: my family research. I also wanted to share what I had discovered about this family and its Huguenot roots. Later I added to the site to correct a myth about the immigrant ancestor and his ties in England.

Second:

Access your data while out of town.

Recently that website helped me in my research. I discovered that I had not taken all the records I needed with me on the DGS Salt Lake City trip. I thought I was going to have to re-research a couple of people to continue a research point. Then I remembered: I have that on my website!! So for 5¢ a sheet I printed my whole Visage website and had the information I needed. Now I just have to get the rest of my families on that site.

Third:

Find lost ancestors

This past week, my website found my great grandmother's parents. And she isn't even a Visage. I have been looking for Laura Clemens Williamson's parents for 10 years. She was born in Arkansas in 1861, according to her death certificate and census records. I couldn't find her on the 1870 Arkansas census and she was married by 1878. On four successive censuses her father is listed as born in "US", "—", "IL", and "PA". She appears on my Visage family website because she and husband Robert Henry Williamson are the parents of

Maryetta Williamson who married Howard Shelton Ware, a son of Joseph Campbell Ware and Sarah Louisa Elizabeth Visage. A "cousin" who has been looking for Laura Clemens, sister to her great great grandmother, Ella Augusta Clemens Blackwell, found that information and contacted me through the e-mail link. Hurrah! Hurrah! Laura now has parents! And I have my 16!!

QUERY

BEELER – CUTLER – RICE – HELM – HAMILTON – all of Dallas

While taking my 13 year old grandson on a stroll through the "Texas Longhorns" and the Pioneer Cemetery at the convention center after a genealogy visit to the downtown Dallas Library, we discovered the gravemarker of George H. and Sarah Cutler Beeler three years before we knew they were his (and my wife's) ancestors. Although Sarah's grave is well marked, only the name of George H. Beeler and an N.S.D. War of 1812 medallion remain on his grave. I seek more info and family connections on the following: George H. Beeler b. abt. 1797 in VA and Sarah Cutler b. abt. 1810 in Ohio. They owned land in Dallas Co. in 1854 and are listed in the 1860 census here. Sarah d. here in 1879. George H. attained the rank of Captain in the War of 1812. His father was George Beeler, b. abt. 1756 in Frederick Co., VA and m. Jane Helm also b. in Frederick Co. Niles Beeler is known to be a child of George H. and Sarah. Niles m. Ambrellis Spear b. 1843 d. 1925 in Jack Co., TX. Niles d. in Ellis Co., TX. Probable sister of Niles was Zariah Beeler who m. Dr. A.D. Rice who became Mayer of Dallas in 1858. Their daughter Hattie Rice m. Henry Hamilton of KY when he came to Dallas.

Sam V. Akins
(member of DGS since 1958!)
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Coming July 19-22, 2001 The Washington D.C. Institute

Everything you have always wanted to
Know about research in
The Washington D.C. Area
Taught by Dr. John Colletta
and Lloyd Bockstruck

Registration Fee: \$200.00
(includes notebook, guided research,
Friday and Saturday lunches, Sunday brunch)

Deposit: \$100.00
(must be postmarked by July 11, 2001)

Balance Due at Registration July 19, 2001

The Ramada Inn Hotel has been chosen due to its convenient location to the J. Erik Jonsson Library. Daily free hotel shuttle service will be provided to and from the Library. Attendees are also welcome to drive – parking is available, both at the hotel (free) and in the underground garage of the downtown library. Mention DGS when making your hotel reservation to be assured of the group discount rate of \$79.00 per night, plus applicable taxes. Room availability is limited, reserve now.

Ramada Plaza Hotel
1011 South Akard, Dallas, TX 75215
(214) 421-1083
(214) 428-6827 (fax)

Class Schedule:

Thursday, July 19:

6 p.m.: Registration at DPL Auditorium
7 p.m. – 8:45: Welcome by DGS, Overview of
Washington

Friday, July 20:

9 a.m. – 7 p.m.: Libraries, Archives and Public Record
Offices: Understand Resources; The DAR Library; The
Library of Congress; Lesser Known Repositories in
Washington, D.C.

Saturday, July 21:

9:30 a.m. – 9 p.m.: Our National Archives: The
Astounding Institution and How to Use it; National Archives
Treasures (records on passenger arrivals, federal courts,
naturalization, non-population censuses, federal land records,
passport applications, Civil War income tax records); Military
Records (includes service pension, bounty land); library
research

Sunday, July 22:

9 a.m. – 10 a.m.: Brunch at Ramada Hotel
10 a.m. – 12:45 p.m.: Library of Virginia and Virginia
Historical Society; Is Any Body There? Tracking Ancestral
Remains; Closing

Registration

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____

STATE/ZIP: _____

PHONE: _____

EMAIL: _____

Attendees are expected to make their own hotel
reservations. If you need assistance in finding a
roommate, we will try to assist (not guaranteed).

____ Yes, need assistance.

____ Male ____ Female ____ Smoking ____ Non-Smoking

Registration Fee \$200.00
(includes notebook, guided research, Friday & Saturday
lunches, Sunday brunch)

Deposit \$100.00
(must be postmarked by July 11, 2001)

Balance Due at Registration July 19, 2001

Make checks payable to DGS
(We cannot accept phone or credit card registrations)

Mail to DGS Washington DC Institute
P.O. Box 12446
Dallas, TX 75225-0446

MICHIGAN

The entire 1870 census for the state of
Michigan is now on-line, free, at the Library of
Michigan. These are images, not transcriptions.

http://envoy.libofmich.lib.mi.us/1870_census/

Grandma's Treasure

Kathryn B. Madsen

"Mother, come look at this picture," I called from the couch in the living room out to the kitchen where my mother was cleaning up from breakfast. "Come, tell me who these people are. I recognize Grandma, but not anybody else."

"Let me get my glasses," my mother called back to me. I set the black and white picture in my lap and looked at the box on the floor in front of me. It was just one of several boxes taking up space in my mother's living room. I had come to visit my parents in Southern California from Texas where I now lived with my husband and children. One of the objectives of my visit was to help my mother sort through the boxes of various things that were left to her after my grandmother's funeral. My mother was the last living member of her immediate family.

"Let me see that picture," said my mother as she carefully stepped over the boxes and sat down on the couch beside me. "Well, this is my mother and her sister, Lavora, and Lavora's husband, 'Uncle Dutch.'"

"Why did you call him Uncle Dutch?"

"Because he was from Holland and he spoke with a thick Dutch accent. He would always say 'Veeties' instead of 'Wheaties.' After he got off the ship his first day in New York, he went to a little café to get something to eat. He didn't speak any English and he didn't know what to order. He heard the man next to him at the counter tell the waitress, 'Give me some Wheaties.' He saw what the waitress brought to the man and it looked okay. So when the waitress asked what he wanted, Uncle Dutch replied, 'Veeties!' He ate 'Veeties' for every meal until he learned how to order something else."

"What a fun story! My kids would enjoy hearing that. Just for the record, what was Uncle Dutch's real name?"

"It was Heert Dewindt."

I turned the picture over and dutifully wrote the names on the back. I wrote "Uncle Dutch" after Heert's name. "Is that little story you just told me

written down anywhere or am I just supposed to remember it?"

"No, I guess it isn't written down anywhere. I've always had plans to get all this stuff organized," said my mother as she pointed helplessly at all the boxes. "But it never seems to get done."

"Well, that's what I'm here to help you do," I said as I picked up the next item that caught my eye. It was a brown grocery sack with handwriting scrawled on one whole side. "What do you suppose this is?" I asked.

"It's definitely Mother's handwriting," observed my mother after reading it for a few seconds. "It appears to be information about the aunt she lived with in Arizona while she went to high school. See, it gives the birth dates for her and her brother. It also mentions Mother's grandmother, Margaret McCleve Hancock. She was the one I told you about that came from Ireland to America when she was only 17. Her family pushed a handcart and walked all the way to Salt Lake City. Her father was injured somehow on the trail and died 3 days before they reached the Salt Lake Valley. Can you imagine what that must have been like? They had to bury him without a casket. Just dug a grave, put him in, covered him over, and then had to walk away forever."

"Just a minute. I'll be right back." I hurried up the stairs, grabbed my journal, and returned downstairs to the couch. I realized that if I didn't write these little stories down as my mother was telling me, I would be passing up a lifetime opportunity. I had remembered hearing about somebody in our family coming from Ireland and pushing a handcart, but I hadn't remembered the rest of the story. Would I remember to tell my children if I didn't write it down?

"Okay, Mother, I'm ready now," I said as I sat down next to her. For the next 3 hours, we looked at pictures, old letters, cards, and calendars. I let my mother reminisce and wrote down several stories, some happy, some sad.

At lunch while we were munching the last of our chocolate chip cookies, I asked, "Why do you suppose Grandma wrote all over that grocery sack? Why didn't she just use a piece of paper?"

"She probably didn't have any, or at least, couldn't find any when she needed it. Mother was like that at times. She would get an inspiration to write something down and then she just had to get it done. Most of the time she did it in letters."

I smiled as I recalled the long letters I received from Grandma from the time I was a child until I was a mother of teenagers myself. As a teenager I thought Grandma was "too wordy." I would roll my eyes and chuckle to myself as I counted the pages of the letter to be read. But now, I was the one who was worried if things were written down or not. I could only marvel at my own evolution. I had come to help my mother organize Grandma's stuff, and in the process, I discovered I was a lot like my grandma. Perhaps that was the greatest treasure that I "found" in those boxes that day.

ORAL HISTORY

Getting the idea on the questions you can get into? Here are some more suggestions – but remember, my questions are only a start. Give some real thought to how passionate you are about genealogy and about gathering and preserving your family history. With some reflection and a little preparation, you can develop special questions that will guide you through your particular, and very precious, family history.

School Days

Do you have yearbooks or school pictures? What about report cards or school projects? What was the nicest thing ever said about you in your yearbook? Were you characterized in a special way? What groups did you belong to? Were you musical? Athletic? Did you receive any honors or special recognition for school activities?

Was school ever cancelled because of weather? If so, how did you occupy your time?

What was your graduation or other commencement activities like? Did you have a prom? What about a senior trip? How did you feel about graduating? What were your plans for after school? Did those come about? If not, why not?

Have you attended your class reunions? What were they like? Did you meet any of your teachers?

How did you dress for school? What were the kooky things you wore (or did to your clothes after you got out of your mother's sight!)?

What were school meals like? Did you carry your lunch to school? If not, what kind of food did you get at school?

Did you have a favorite teacher or class? What events from high school are most memorable to you?

Fitting in at Home

Describe the sorts of chores you were expected to perform. Did you get paid for these chores? Which ones did you enjoy? Which ones did you hate? What happened if you didn't do your chores as expected? Did you have spring cleaning rituals? What were those like? What was cooking a meal like or washing clothes – in the way they had to be performed. What about modern plumbing or heating? If you didn't have such luxuries as running water, gas, or electricity, what was life like in your house? Are there things about this kind of life that you miss, whether positively or negatively?

Did your family grow and preserve their own food? What were your responsibilities in this activity? Did you enjoy it? Do you have any funny or special memories about these activities?

Did your family have pets or livestock? How were they cared for?

What was your family's financial status? Did this change during your life at home? Were there things you longed to do but couldn't afford? What about special gifts you received that you thought you wouldn't get because you didn't think your family could afford them? Or disappointments you had hoped for that didn't materialize?

How did your parents clothe you? Did your mother sew or make clothes for you by knitting or crocheting? How did your parents dress? Do you remember a special outfit from your childhood or teenage years? Was there something you longed for but weren't allowed to wear because it "wasn't appropriate"? Did you trade clothes with siblings or your parents?

What was your first paid job outside your home? How did you feel about it? Did you enjoy it? What about other jobs you had when you were young. What sort of things did you work at? Do you remember what you were paid for those early jobs? What were you required to wear and how were you required to act? Did the company you worked for have rules that were very different from the ones you work under now or worked under when you retired?

Do you remember something special you bought for yourself with money you earned? What did you have to do to earn enough to get that item?

What sort of rules did you have in your family about such things as wearing makeup or high heels, suits or long pants? What about skirt lengths?

When and where did you first live away from your parents' home? What was that like? Were you married, living alone or with a roommate? What was that like? Where did you get your furniture and home furnishings?

What did your parents do for a living? Were they educated? If so, where did they go to school? Do you have special memories about them coming home after work? What did they do to relax or for fun?

Did you know your grandparents or great-grandparents? What do you remember about them? What did they do for a living? What do you remember about visiting them when you were a child?

What about aunts, uncles and cousins? Was there anyone you were especially close to? What do you remember doing with that person? Did they take you to special places or simply spend time with you doing things you loved?

What was your room like? Did you have favorite colors or possessions? Did you live in the country or in town? What sort of things did you do for fun with your friends? How did you get to school? Do you remember a special teacher? Why were they special to you?

Did you enjoy reading as a child? What were your favorite books or subjects? Are there any funny stories around reading?

Sibling Rivalry

How did you and your siblings get along? Did you have a particular favorite? What did you do for fun? If you didn't get along, why was that? If you did get along, are there any special stories you would like to share?

Are there any funny stories you remember that still make you giggle? What sort of things did you do for mischief? What's the best present a sibling ever gave you? What about a present you gave them? What do you like best about them?

Hobbies and Special Interests

What sort of special hobbies did you love as a child? Did you get to take lessons in the things you were interested in? If not, who taught you how to do the things you were interested in? What sort of materials did you use? How did you pay for those?

Reading

Do you enjoy reading? If so, what kind of things do you enjoy reading? Do you have a favorite book? If you do read, do you read things and pass them along or do you keep favorites to read over and over again? What were your favorite stories when you were a child?

Family Transportation

How did your family get around when you were younger? Do you have special memories about traveling with your family? What did you do for vacations?

What was your first car? How did you learn to drive? Were you allowed to drive while still living at home? Have you been in any accidents? If you could have any vehicle in the world, what would you want?

Births, Weddings and Deaths

Do you have any stories about family births you would like to share? What about birth miracles?

Are there any wedding stories that stick in your mind? What do you remember thinking at your own? Your children's? Your grandchildren's? Siblings? What about rededications or special anniversaries?

What does your family believe and practice around end of life celebrations? Do you remember funerals from your childhood? How do they differ from those of your adulthood? Do you remember any funny funeral stories? Have you ever heard of any near death experiences among family members?

Medical

Do you recall any diseases that run in the family? Is there something that you feel other family members should watch out for in themselves? Have there been any unusual accidents or deaths that you remember hearing about? What about murders or the like?

—Cheryl Lee Mann, VP – Newsletter

Still need more info? Bill Zimmerman has a wonderful book: "How to Tape Instant Oral Biographies" that covers some of the technical aspects and goes a little deeper into some of the ways to record your family's life story. A search on Amazon.com for "oral history" brings up other, some specialized, books that can help you too.

And don't forget the most important story of all – your own. You are the ONLY one who can tell it. Honor your children and those who will study history after you and leave them more than you have found and tape or write your autobiography to leave for scholars to come. Knowledge is cumulative. Make sure yours gets added to the mix! It's called a legacy ... You will never know the impact you will leave behind.

ELLIS ISLAND – THE NEW MIDNIGHT INTRIGUE!

This month brought records of the immigrants online for millions of our ancestors and left many of us frustrated and even angry at our inability to find who we are looking for or even to get on the site. The internet is both a blessing and a curse sometimes! The reports this week are that access is getting easier and that is has even been possible to download the copies of the records that many long for. We feature this month some helpful hints and articles to enlighten about Ellis Island and about the new website.

ELLIS ISLAND RECORDS

John M. Shepherd

Between 1892 and 1924, nearly 23 million immigrants entered the United States through Ellis Island at the Port of New York. On April 17, 2001 a Web site was opened to provide access to the records of these new arrivals and promptly failed to provide that access because 50 million people tried to log on in the first six hours. Even two weeks after the start, only 24 % of visitors were getting through.

In an article in *Information Week Magazine*, April 30, 2001, by Mike Koller, this site is held up for the IT managers of the business community as an example of the problems which may be encountered when a Web site is designed with inadequate attention given to potential customer needs and the nature of access to the data. This is the same group that was bemused 5 years ago to learn from a national survey that there were more PCs per capita in the little state of Utah than in any other state in the U.S.

Genealogists want their information available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and they want it "Right now!" In several of the on-line interest groups I have seen people in their 80's, running the hottest new computers and the fastest internet service available to individuals, still complaining of slow access to the data they are after. The ellislandrecords.org site provides the names of passengers, the country of origin, the ship on which they arrived, their U.S. destination and digital images of handwritten documents. These records comprise over a terabyte of storage. Therein lies the rub. Virtually every incoming request for information on the Ellis Island Web site is for a different database record. This means that every request for information about someone's grandfather requires a search of the entire database.

Designers of normal Web sites to provide information or sell goods recognize that there will be 10 or so "Frequently Asked Questions." The Servers in the Web site quickly note these FAQ's and place them in "Cache." so the information may be quickly retrieved. This doesn't work when everyone asks a different question.

The short answer to us is: "Be patient." The operators of this Web site have tripled the number of servers and quadrupled the storage memory. The information is there and you will be able to see it soon.

INTERNET AND RESEARCH CLUES

Don Raney

If you are not successful in locating your ancestor on the Internet, search instead for an individual who is closely related to your ancestor. You may be able to find one of his siblings or a cousin listed on the Internet and make an indirect connection to your ancestor.

* * *

If the surname is rare, make notes of all instances where the name is found. Additional research may reveal that they descended from a common ancestry.

* * *

If the surname is common, search for the surname combined with a place name and time period. Many databases allow you to narrow the search to reduce the large number of hits that will result from a search with a common surname.

* * *

If your search is unsuccessful, try alternate spellings or a soundex search. Some databases provide an option to show similarly spelled names, while others require an exact match.

* * *

A Peak into Next Year!

We have a slate of programs set for next year that will take your breath away! We have nationally (even internationally) know speakers coming here to Dallas. We have a silent auction (and a surprise we are working on in conjunction with that) and plans for bigger and better in many areas – and we will have a new, gleaming 8th floor to enjoy as well (oh, the lock-ins we can have!).

And coming up in the newsletter, a year long series about family reunions that will work in conjunction with this year's series on taking oral histories. If you have a wonderful idea for a family reunion, a valuable lesson you learned from your reunion or a wonderful story to tell, get on that computer and start putting it on paper. You have the summer to think of ideas – we want this newsletter to reflect you and your experience – it is your Society!

ELLIS ISLAND

Dear fellow genealogical society,

My name is Edward Rosenbaum, and I am the president of the Jewish Genealogical Society of Bergen County, New Jersey. As you may know, the Ellis Island Database went live last week at www.ellislandrecords.org. This database is supposed to contain everyone who passed through Ellis Island between 1892 and 1924.

This is a great resource to all genealogists. However, the web site has been so popular that it is often hard to get onto it. Also, the names are often misspelled. The Mormon Church did a great job in providing us this information, but as anyone who has ever looked at ship manifests knows, they can be very hard to read.

To make using the Ellis Island Database faster, and hopefully handle the spelling errors, I have written a program. If you go to http://groups.yahoo.com/group/EIDB_permutations, you can read about and download my program. Below is some information about it.

-Edward Rosenbaum
President, JGS of Bergen County, New Jersey
(<http://www.crosswinds.net/~erosenbaum/jgsbc>)
email: erosenbaum@yahoo.com

The Ellis Island Passenger Manifest database, located at <http://www.ellislandrecords.org/> is a great resource to genealogists. It contains information on over 22 million immigrants that came through Ellis Island between the years 1892 and 1924.

However, there are serious problems in trying to search the database. These problems have to do with the inconsistent spelling of surnames.

That is where this program can help. Simply enter the surname you are researching, and a list of possible alternate spellings will appear. Click on a button, and you can get a custom web page with links to the Ellis Island database for each possible spelling, and a research log to help you keep track of what you have done so far.

Why use this program instead of the search page at the Ellis Island Database website?

Speed... Searching the Ellis Island site requires you to first go to their search page to enter your surname. Then you press SEARCH to get to information that you really want. Do you want to

modify your search and enter an age... you need to go to another web page. This program eliminates the need to use the Ellis Island Database search page, and gets you directly to the immigrant names. So now you can do your research in less than 1/2 the time.

Spelling variations. Searching the Ellis Island site requires you to know how your ancestor spelled their name. The Ellis Island Database Name Permutations program will show you

Alternate spellings based upon confusing letters like "i", which could have been entered into the database as an "l", a "j", or maybe even a "y".

-Alternate spellings based upon the American soundex system.

-Alternate spellings based upon the Daitch-Mokotoff soundex system.

NOTE: Currently this program is only available for IBM-compatibles.

Query

NIX

Seeking info on Thomas Nix (1824-c1889). His widow, Virginia Peak (1837-1920) was in Dallas by 1889. Children include Paul(1855-1936), William 1858-1899 of Leon Co., TX, Thomas(1860-c1920) of Ft Worth and OK, Mary Emma who m George Hooper of Dallas, Morris George (1873-1957) of Knox Co., TX, and Demarcus (1875-1950) of Johnson Co., TX. Thomas had brothers John(c1820-1889) of Camp Co., TX, and William (1817-1889)of Upshur Co., TX.

Peggy Sutherlin
4720 River Hill Circle
Dallas 75287
Peggybs@aol.com

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

COMPUTER INTEREST GROUP

LEADER AND LIAISON TO DGS PRESIDENT

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HM (972) 270-1802 WK (972) 907-6920

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or

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Vacant..... Secretary

CYNDI'S LIST

Have you checked out Cyndi's List lately? She is pushing 100,000 – you read that right – 100,000 – genealogy internet sites! If you realize that genealogy is still the largest growing use of the internet, and is showing only more signs of speeding up – it boggles your mind. This has happened in 5 or 6 short years (okay, maybe they are shorter because I'm over 40 – but I promise you they are getting shorter all the time!). If you haven't looked lately, give it another look.

RootsWeb deserves a new glance too. So does USGenWeb. If you are like me, you don't check them as often as you should. When you consider that when I started looking at Cyndi's List, she had about 17,000 sites listed, I'm missing a lot of new info – and so are you!

Make a diary and set a date to check these sites once a quarter. Maybe even make a list of specific

searches to make. You never know what branch may have been added in the previous quarter. Gosh, what if all the answers are just sitting out there somewhere and you've stopped looking!

www.cyndislist.com

www.rootsweb.com

www.usgenweb.com

CIG GROUP MONTHLY MEETINGS

Held on the second Thursday of the month at the J. Erik Jonsson Central Library, 1515 Young Street in the Auditorium (ground floor, just outside the security monitors and across from the bookstore). Underground parking is available with access from Wood Street.

- 6:30 PM Open forum – Question and answer session related to personal challenges and new “finds” that can be shared with fellow members.
- 7:00 PM Our presenter begins
- 7:45 PM Open forum for questions & answers about the presentation
- 8:00 PM Informal dinner gathering at Chili's on Knox-Henderson (on own)

MONTHLY MEETINGS – We take the summer off to get organized for an exciting Fall program. See you at a workshop and September 12th, we begin a brand new season of hot hints from genealogists pursuing excellence and organization through technology!

Tom Thumb Reward Card

Don't forget that you can use your Tom Thumb Reward Card to make painless donations to DGS! Just give the cashier DGS's code (No. 4253). Last year members donated over \$1,200 through the Tom Thumb program!

New Acquisitions in DPL's Genealogy Section

by Lloyd DeWitt Bockstruck, F.N.G.S.

Gifts and memorials received during the month included \$50 from Adrienne Jamieson in memory of Bill Benson, \$50 from Lloyd Bockstruck in memory of Bill Benson, \$19.95 from Joann Westmoreland, \$100 from Barbara Dossett, \$50 from Charles and Frances Wetzel in memory of Patrick McKenna, \$50 from the Mary Ann Lawhon Chapter Daughters of the Republic of Texas in memory of Patrick McKenna, \$100 from Shari Degan in memory of Menon Whitsitt, \$30 from Judy Johns in memory of Bill Benson, \$100 from the Dallas Geological and Geophysical Auxiliary in honor of Lloyd Bockstruck, \$20 from David Navorska in honor of Jacquelyn Hanna, \$100 from Steve, Alexis, Jason, and Ryan Spiritas in honor of Joe and Adeline (Fleisscher) Spiritas, \$25 from the Daniel McMahon Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution in honor of John Warterfield, \$50 from Barbara Ann Ware in memory of Patrick McKenna, and \$30 from Alvin E. Harper in memory of William E. Benson.

The following titles have been added to the collection. Those with an asterisk indicate sources of major significance.

United States

A German Regiment among the French Auxiliary Troops of the American Revolutionary War: H. A. Rattermann's History.
Forgotten Confederates: An Anthology about Black Southerners.

Alabama

Heritage of Perry County.
Heritage of Madison County.
Heritage of Lauderdale County.
Heritage of Tuscaloosa County.
Newspaper Abstracts of Pike County, Alabama 1855-1861.
*Alabama Soldiers, v. XXI N-O.

Arkansas

*Arkansas Death Index, 1947, 1948, 1949. 49 microfiche.

Colorado

The Homestead Years: Prowers County, Colorado.

Delaware

Records of the Court of New Castle on Delaware, 1676-1699. 2 vols.

Georgia

Scottish Highlanders in Colonial Georgia: The Recruitment, Emigration, and Settlement at Darien, 1735-1748.

Illinois

Making the Heartland Quilt: A Geographical History of Settlement and Migration in Early Nineteenth Century Illinois.

Indiana

Fairview Cemetery, v. II, III, IV, V, VI.
St. Henry, 1862-1987, Quasiquicentennial: St. Henry, Indiana.

Kentucky

*Kentucky Death Certificates, 1911-1949. Microfilm, 387 rolls.
Journal of William Kennedy Beall.

Massachusetts

Suffolk County, Massachusetts Probate Docket, #1-23599, 1636-1810. Microfilm, 3 rolls.
Lost 17th Century Newbury[port] Witchcraft Cases.
New England Chronicle News of New England from January 1722-December 1731.

Minnesota

History of Goodhue County, Minnesota.

Missouri

H.H. Lohmeyer Funeral Home Records Springfield, Missouri 1923-1932.

Nebraska

Boone County Marriages 1872-1880.

New York

Slaves and Nonwhite Free Persons in the 1790
Federal Census of New York.

German Churches of Metropolitan New York: A
Research Guide.

Cemetery Records Town of Fort Ann, Washington
County, New York.

North Carolina

Will Books D, E, F, & G Franklin County, North
Carolina 1812-1824.

Beaufort News Beaufort, NC Obituaries, v. III 1934-
1937.

Burke County, North Carolina Guardian's Records
1785-1933.

Ohio

Twin Valley Tidbits 1898-1902.

Calvary Cemetery Inscriptions Lake Twp., Logan
Co., Ohio.

Hardin County, Ohio Death Index 1867-1908.

History of West Bethesda Presbyterian Church
Superior Township, William County, Ohio.

Pennsylvania

Two Centuries of the Church of the Brethern in
Western Pennsylvania.

Abstracts of Pennsylvania Records of Naturalizations
1695-1773.

Gethsemane Cemetery Laureldale Berks County,
Pennsylvania.

South Carolina

Edgefield County, South Carolina Deed Books 30
and 31, 32 and 33. 2 vols.

Tennessee

A Bibliography of Tennessee History 1973-1996.

West Tennessee Historical Society Papers, v. LIV.

*Knoxville City Directories, 1882-1935. Microfilm,
25 rolls.

*Memphis City Directories, 1882-1935. Microfilm,
37 rolls.

*Chattanooga City Directories 1882-1935.
Microfilm, 30 rolls.

*Nashville City Directories, 1882-1935. Microfilm,
24 rolls.

*Bristol, Tennessee/Virginia City Directories, 1903-
1934. Microfilm, 3 rolls.

Texas

Floyd County Historical Museum Memories.

Little Known Records of Delta County, Texas.

Virginia

Orange County, Virginia Orders 1759-1762, 1762-
1763. 2 vols.

Louisa County, Virginia Orders 1767-1768, 1768-
1769.

Accomack County, Virginia Court Order Abstracts,
v. X 1703-1710.

Death Records of Gloucester County, Virginia 1865-
1890.

In View of the Great Want of Labor: A Legislative
History of African American Conscription in the
Confederacy.

Bedford County, Virginia Order Book 1, 1754-1761.

Alleghany Highlands, Virginia Manuscripts: A
Guide to Collections in the United States.

Northampton County, Virginia Record Book Orders,
Deeds, Wills &c, III 1645-1651 & V 1654-1655.

West Virginia

The Life and Times of Lewis Wetzel.

Genealogies

Ash/Esch

The Ash Family of Chester and Lancaster Counties,
Pennsylvania: Descendants of Daniel Henrich
Esch and Elizabeth Kerlin 1741-1999.

Atwater

Atwater History and Genealogy 1956.

Bausch

The Bausch Family Beginning with Philipp Bausch.

Chilten/Boren

A Journey through Time: The Chilton and Boren
Families.

Doty

Mayflower Families through Five Generations:
Edward Doty, v. XI, pt. 3.

Drake

The Search for the Ancestors and Descendants of
Henry Brasater Drake of Coles County, Illinois.

Littleton

John Littleton of Accomack Co., Va.: His Family
and Descendants.

Mervyn

Fasciculus Mervinensis; Being Notes Historical, Genealogical, and Heraldic of the Family of Mervyn. The Legend of Francis Marion Poteet and the Mountain Meadows Massacre.

Rogers

Mayflower Families through Five Generations: Thomas Rogers, v. XIX.

Truly

Truly Family.

Foreign

Germany

Genealogisches Handbuch des Adels, Grafliche Hauser, Band 16.

Herold-Jahrbuch, Neue Folge, Band 5.

Adelsherrschaft unter Adelskulture in Deutschland.

Myers Orts- und Verkehrs-Lexikon des Deutschen Reichs. 3 vols.

Great Britain

The Papers of Nathaniel Bacon of Stiffkey, v. IV 1596-1602.

John Allen Giles Diary & Memoirs

The Roll of Battley Abbey.

Church Records of St. Andrew Hubbard Eastcheap c1450-c1570.

The Rolls of the 1281 Derbyshire Eyre.

Monumental Inscriptions of Wiltshire.

Ireland

Register of the Parish of Holy Trinity (Christ Church), Cork, 1643-1669.

Italy

Teatro Genealogico delle Famiglie Nobili Milanesi.

Famiglie Nobili de Milano Raccolte e Manoscritte Nella Prima Meta" del XVIII Decolo da Gavrino Pittonio.

Jamaica

The Jews of Jamaica Tombstone Inscriptions 1663-1880.

Lithuania

The Titvaks: A Short History of the Jews in Lithuania.

Norway

Genealogen, 1999, v. XIII.

Scotland

Kirkyard of Glenbervie.

People of Aberdeen and the Freedom Lands 1696.

Mariners of Angus 1700-1800.

The Kirkyard of Fetterangus.

The Kirkyard of Fyvie.

Spain

Diccioinario Heraldico y Nobiliario.

Diccionario Hispanoamericano de Heraldica, Onomastica y Genealogica, v. V.

Switzerland

Switzerland under Siege 1939-1945.

**But words are things, and a small drop of ink,
Falling like dew, upon a thought, produces
That which make thousands, perhaps millions, think.**

Lord Byron

**Slow down and enjoy life. It's not only the scenery
you miss by going too fast – you also miss the
sense of where you are going and why.**

Eddie Cantor

Until further notice, celebrate everything.

**Your mind can only hold one thought at a time.
Make it a positive and constructive one.**

H. Jackson Brown, Jr.

**Good timber does not grow with ease; the stronger
the wind, the stronger the trees.**

J. Williard Marriott

**Prosperity is a way of living and thinking,
and not just money or things.**

**Poverty is a way of living and thinking,
and not just a lack of money or things.**

Eric Butterworth

The Master Genealogist Utilities

[The following article is from Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter and is copyright 2001 by Richard W. Eastman. It is re-published here with the permission of the author.]

The Master Genealogist, often referred to as TMG, has a reputation for being a very powerful program for demanding genealogists. It is frequently referred to as "the one that does it all." This powerful program appears to have more functionality than any other genealogy program available today. However, John Cardinal has managed to create a set of utilities that add a few more features to those already in TMG, even further enriching the functionality of this already powerful program. The primary "TMG Utility" provides many different features to easily modify and update TMG databases. Some of the features are aimed at correcting data problems that arise because data was transferred from another program into TMG. Other features are designed to help people take advantage of the power of TMG. Here is a list of functions available in TMG Utility:

- * Set Person Field may be used to change the value of the Reference field or other fields in the Person table.
- * Set Living=N uses a person's events, and optionally, events by their descendants, to change the Living flag from "?" to "N".
- * Add Married Names adds a name event with the husband's surname to all married women without one. This is intended to produce non-printing name events for use with the picklist.
- * Change Married Names may be used to change specific fields within Name-Marr events. This feature is similar to Add Married Names except that it works on existing Name-Marr events.
- * Add Standard Names adds a name event for everyone who has a specific surname. You supply two surnames: the "standard" one you want for use with the picklist, and the "variant" that appears in the actual source documents. Wherever the program finds the variant surname, it adds a name event with the standard surname.
- * Capitalize Names changes names to proper capitalization, i.e., changes names that are all caps to mixed case.
- * Fix Names removes question marks, underscores and other undesirable characters from names. This function will also remove parenthesized surnames.
- * Change Event Type changes one type of event to another. For example, it will change "Note" events to "Event-Misc" events.
- * Change Name Type changes one type of name tag to another. For example, it will change "Name-Nick" names to "Name-Var" names.
- * Make P1 Male changes all events with a male principal and a female principal such that the male is always P1, and the female is always P2.
- * Set Sort Dates reduces the number of sort dates that must be entered manually to produce logical narrative reports. The program uses the tags with dates to determine reasonable sort dates for those without dates. Tidbit: Set Sort Dates was the original impetus for this program.
- * Add Marriages adds marriage events to unmarried parents. It can be used to recover from the case where data was not imported correctly.
- * Capitalize Places is similar to capitalize names, but for places.
- * Make Source Page makes an HTML page that contains a list of sources. If the source definition includes a URL, the function includes a link to that URL. Load the page into your favorite browser for quick access to your source data and especially to web-resident source data.
- * Change Citations changes a reference from one source to another source while also setting the citation detail (CD). This helps consolidate source references.
- * Exclude Citations by Type adds the exclusion marker to all the source citations attached to a particular tag type. When the exclusion marker is present, the citation is not included in reports unless TMG's Show excluded citation option is enabled. The function will also remove the exclusion marker.
- * Exclude Citations by Source Number adds the exclusion marker to all the source citations that refer to a particular source number. When the exclusion marker is present, the citation is not included in reports unless TMG's Show excluded citation option is enabled. The function will also remove the exclusion marker.
- * Export Sentences copies the sentences stored in the tag definitions of a database to a text file. Import Sentences reads such a file. Together, they may be used to copy languages, roles, and sentences from one database to another, or to copy roles and sentences from one language to another in the same or a different database.
- * Copy Custom Sentences can be used to copy sentences that you have customized for specific events and names from one language to another. The feature does not change existing custom sentences in the target language.
- * Rename Language changes all occurrences of language "A" in tag types, events, and names to language "B".
- * Rename Role changes the role name in the definition of the tag as well as in all occurrences of the role in events.
- * Show Role Usage produces a list of the tag/role combinations that occur in events.
- * Assign Principal Roles will assign a role to the principal(s) of an event.
- * Find and Replace changes one string of characters to another in names, memos, and other fields. The "Find what" text may be a literal string or a pattern. Patterns are

a powerful "wild-carding" tool; see the detailed help for a more complete explanation.

John Cardinal also wrote "On This Day," a program that displays anniversaries from a TMG database. It will produce a list of events for a given day, week, or month; the user may send the list to the screen or to HTML, or export the events to Microsoft Outlook.

Finally, John also wrote Mocachebi (pronounced "moe-kah-kee-bee"), a read-only browser for TMG databases. Mocachebi can be used as a free-standing program or in conjunction with On This Day. When a list produced by On This Day is sent to the screen and you click on a name in the list, On This Day opens a Mocachebi window focused on the person whose name was clicked. You also can use Mocachebi to legally share data with your friends and relatives. Anyone using a modern Windows PC can display your data if you give them a copy of Mocachebi and a copy of your TMG database. They can view your information but cannot modify it or add to it. Using Mocachebi, the recipient of your data can display Name, Event, and Relationship Details as well as Search by ID number or Search by Name.

John Cardinal's Utilities for The Master Genealogist will function on any computer capable of running The Master Genealogist, including: Windows 95, 98, ME, NT, and Windows 2000 systems. These utilities are "donorware." That is, the author encourages satisfied users of the programs to make a donation in his name to the Jimmy Fund of the Dana Farber Cancer Institute. For information about the Jimmy Fund, look at:

<http://www.danafarber.com/helping/jimmyfund.shtml>

To learn more about John Cardinal's utilities for The Master Genealogist, or to download the programs, go to:

<http://sites.netscape.net/johncardinal/TMG>

CONFERENCE DRAWS NATIONAL ATTENTION

The Third Great Obituary Writers' National Conference in Las Vegas, New Mexico on June 1-2, 2001 is attracting an elite group of participants from coast to coast. Among the distinguished panelists are the following:

Dr. John C. Ball; Baltimore, Maryland; co-author of Fame At Last

Dr. Garrett Ray; Fort Collins, Colorado; Colorado State University
Alana Baranick; Cleveland, Ohio; *The Plain Dealer*
Steve Miller; Brooklyn, New York; *Good Bye! The Journal of Contemporary Obituaries*

Joe Simmacher; Dallas, Texas; *The Dallas Morning News*

Richard Pearson; Washington, D.C.; *The Washington Post*

Judge Jerry Buchmeyer; Dallas, Texas

Tom Hobbs; Aiken, South Carolina; University of South Carolina Aiken

Kay Powell; Atlanta, Georgia; Obituaries Editor, *Atlanta Journal Constitution*

Ashlee Gilbert; Dallas, Texas; co-host, International Seminars "the Art of the Obituary;" San Miguel de Allende, Mexico

Surprise Guests!

"This is a rare opportunity to combine the work of the writer, the appreciation of the reader and the curiosity of the researcher into one unusual event---a working conference predicated on the lure of the obituary and its place in our daily lives. Humor, history and mystery become intertwined as we examine this unique microcosm of life on the obituary page."

Carolyn Gilbert, Conference Host

This year's conference promises to be a milestone in obituary journalism. Conferees will be treated to a treasure trove of writing philosophy and experience. Where else could you find these distinguished obituarists from across the country discussing the emerging issues of obit writing? Early conference registrations include writers from California, Colorado, New Mexico, Texas, Georgia, New York, Ohio, South Carolina, Maryland, Missouri, Wyoming, Florida.

Conference Registration: Call Carolyn Gilbert at 214.696.9499 or carolyn4@idt.net to register. The registration fee is \$75.00. (Note: Hotel accommodations should be made directly with the hotel.)

Conference Headquarters: Plaza Hotel in Las Vegas, New Mexico (65 miles from Santa Fe.)

1.800.328.1882 email: plazahotel@worldplaces.com

Conference opens on Friday, June 1 at 4:00 p.m. and adjourns Saturday, June 2 at 5:00 p.m.

Go to www.ObitPage.com to register online for the conference.

**DON'T MISS THIS ONE-OF-A KIND EVENT
FOR THE PROFESSIONAL WRITER AND
DISCRIMINATING OBITUARIST! REGISTER
TODAY BY PHONE OR EMAIL.**

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Personal Ancestral File Companion 5.0

[The following article is from Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter and is copyright 2001 by Richard W. Eastman. It is re-published here with the permission of the author.]

Personal Ancestral File for Windows is one of the most popular genealogy programs in the world. There are good reasons for the program's popularity: it is easy to use, stores most of the information that genealogists want to record, and can easily import and export data to and from other programs. Of course, the biggest reason for PAF's popularity is its price: it is free. You can download this Windows program directly from the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints' Web site at: <http://www.FamilySearch.org>.

While Personal Ancestral File is a very good program, it doesn't have all the on-screen or printed reports that many people want. For some time the producers of the program have offered "Personal Ancestral File Companion," which adds extra functionality. Now a new version of the Companion has been released. Personal Ancestral File Companion version 5.0 adds high-quality printed pedigree charts, family group records, ancestor charts, descendant charts, hourglass charts, fan charts, kinship reports, descendant reports, and narrative reports. The following reports are new with version 5.0:

- Standard Family Group Record. A variable format that will print all user-defined events.
- Hourglass Chart. Print both ancestors and descendants on one chart for an individual, displayed in a format that resembles an hourglass with ancestors displayed above the focus individual and descendants below.

In addition to the above new reports, the following enhancements are in version 5.0:

- Photos - Several reports and charts allow you to print a photo for each individual in the chart, including the Ancestor Chart, Descendant Chart, Hourglass Chart, Ahnentafel Report and Register Report.
- Confidential Notes and Events - You can choose whether or not to print confidential notes and events in your charts. By default, confidential notes and events print only if both these settings are enabled in your Personal Ancestral File program. You can temporarily change this option in Companion at any time. This will not affect your settings in Personal Ancestral File.
- User Defined Events may (optionally) be printed in reports.
- Footnotes and Endnotes - You can now select whether to print sources as footnotes or endnotes.
- Metric units of measure - Previous versions of Personal Ancestral File Companion allowed the user to specify the size of printed charts and box sizes in inches. The new version allows for metric specifications.
- Compare to PRF Master Index - the Companion finds individuals in the Pedigree Resource File (PRF) who may

match those in your Personal Ancestral File database. The Companion does this by comparing one or more individuals in your file to all individuals on a PRF Master Index CD-ROM (note: the Master Index must be for Discs 1-15 or newer). The results are presented in a WordPad document that you can print or save for later use. WordPad documents can easily be imported into any modern word processor.

- Kin Search is a feature of the Companion that allows you to find all relatives (kinship) of an individual and browse through this list, selecting only those you are interested in. You can also print individual relatives and their relationship with the subject.
- The Name List presents the entire list of individuals contained in your Personal Ancestral File database. From the Name List you can search for specific individuals by surname and given name (optional) or by RIN.
- Foreign characters - Companion will now display and print Western European characters with diacritics.

I took Personal Ancestral File Companion version 5.0 for a "test drive" this week and found that it is as easy to use as the previous versions. The program does not have a printed manual, nor does it need one. Most of the options and selections are self-explanatory. However, just in case you do find something that is not intuitive, the online Help feature will illustrate the proper operation. I looked at the online Help for several topics, and it seemed to display information clearly in all instances.

While not new in version 5.0, my favorite feature of Personal Ancestral File Companion is the wall charts. This program makes excellent charts that you can print out locally in color or black-and-white, tape the printouts together, and take them to a family reunion or other gathering. In fact, you can also print to diskette and take the diskette to a commercial service that will print your output on large paper on a plotter or similar commercial-quality printing device. A number of other programs feature wall charts also, but the ones in Personal Ancestral File Companion have a more pleasing appearance than most of the others. If your present genealogy program does not feature wall charts, or if its wall charts are a bit "weak," you can download Personal Ancestral File, import your data from your primary genealogy program, then purchase Personal Ancestral File Companion to create nice looking reports.

Personal Ancestral File Companion 5.0 requires Windows 95, 98, ME, NT or 2000. It works with Personal Ancestral File versions 3.0 for MS-DOS as well as versions 4 and 5 for Windows. The Companion costs \$13.50 (U.S. funds). For more information, or to order Personal Ancestral File Companion 5.0 via a secure online Web site, go to: http://www.ldscatalog.com/cgi-bin/ncommerce3/ProductDisplay?prfnbr=3811839&prmenbr=1402&CGRY_NUM=1440462&RowStart=1&LocCode=FH

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Surname	State	County	Country	Earliest Date	Latest Date
<i>Example: Johnson</i>	<i>TX</i>	<i>Tarrant</i>	<i>USA</i>	<i>1860</i>	<i>1950</i>

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THANKS!

DGS CALENDAR OF EVENTS

What to do this summer?

The programs are over,
The meetings are done,
And I don't know about you,
But I, for one,
Intend to research until the lights go out,
Or until my copy card runs out.
Whichever comes first.
(Cheryl Mann!)

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Don't forget to put pen to paper and draw up your favorite ghostly stories for our Ghostly Story Contest. Entries are due September 1, 2001 and the prize is admission to one of our seminars for the 2001/2002 season – and we have more spectacular programs coming up next year than we ever had – so here's a chance to get in one for naught!

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