

A Downloading Nightmare

By Richard Rands

Have you ever discovered a whole new line of potential ancestors in the Ancestral File while searching online at FamilySearch.org? And have you found it extremely exasperating to discover that you can only download four generations as a GEDCOM file at a time? For purposes of avoiding heavy loads on their public Internet servers, and for remote users the LDS Church has set the limit at only four generations. However, when you perform the same download while working at the Family History Library in Salt Lake City and at some of their Family History Centers, you can download the entire line all at once. (Each Family History Center can set the number of generations that can be downloaded from the Ancestral File stored on CD-ROM.)

For those of us who cannot wait for a trip to the Salt Lake Family History Library, it is necessary to download four generations at a time and to repeat the process as we follow each line back as far as we can resulting in a terribly confusing set of many dozens of GEDCOM files that must be pieced together into a single database file before you can begin to clean up and validate the data. I have had cases where a particularly prolific line has resulted in at least 100 GEDCOM files just to cover all the branches from the starting point back to a point where it

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became useless data or is stopped. In several cases, I noticed that one of the lines connected to a line I already have in my database, so I didn't need to keep following that line.

But keeping track of that many files, while avoiding overlaps and duplications is a daunting challenge if you don't have a systematic method to keep track of it all and reassemble it in your temporary database. If you have faced this task before, you certainly will understand my motivation to develop such a system.

This technique is a systematic method designed to ensure that you capture the entire pedigree of ancestors linked to the person you have identified. This method will not prevent duplicates to be downloaded when you have overlapping pedigrees, but since all records will contain AFN numbers, the duplicates can be eliminated using the Match/Merge feature in PAF by matching on AFN numbers.

This may seem like a tedious method, but it works for me because I am often working with many distractions and

interruptions, and this method will provide sufficient traceability that you will always be able to know where you left off. If you need to suspend the process and continue at a later time, you will be able to see from your working stack of printed documents where you have left off. This method requires that you have a printer available to print copies of the pedigree screens as you work.

The process begins when you have identified an individual online at the LDS Church's FamilySearch.org web site using the Ancestral File. Then do the following:

1. Identify the beginning individual for whom you wish to begin the download process. At the "Individual Record" screen click on the "Pedigree" link in the upper right corner of the screen. The "Pedigree Chart" screen will appear.
2. Make certain that the desired start person is in the left-most position on the pedigree chart. Lines that have an individual's name in the fourth generation will have a black arrow on the left edge of the screen after

the name. The black arrow is a link to the next screen that may or may not have another set of generations.

3. Click on the "Download GEDCOM" link on the upper left corner to begin the download step.
4. In the "File Download" dialog box, click on the "Save" button.
5. In the "Save As" dialog box, use the "Save in:" line to navigate to the folder where you want to save the GEDCOM file.
6. In the "Save As" dialog box, modify the file name to give the GEDCOM file an easily recognizable name. For example, you could use the surname of the beginning individual shown on the pedigree chart in upper case, followed by an underscore character and the given name. It is also helpful to prefix the file name with the sequential number of the GEDCOM file as you download them so they will be listed in the directory in the order they were created. (for example: 01-CRANDALL_Edith.ged)
7. Click on "Save." You have now completed the download for the first pedigree chart. If there are no further generations to

(Continued on page 82)

What's Inside

Stranger than Fiction 82
Software of Interest 83
Finding Marty's Birth Parents 84
Recently Published 85

News for Genealogists 86
Spider Webs 86
Finding Acceptable Sources (part 2) 87
Information/Classes for January 2006 back

A Downloading Nightmare

(Continued from page 81)

download, you are finished. If there are more generations to download for the lines on the pedigree chart, continue to the next step.

8. Print a copy of the pedigree chart as the control form for the GEDCOM file. Click on the "File" menu at the top left corner of the screen and select "Print Preview."
9. In the "Print Preview" screen, click on the down arrow to the right of the "As laid out on the screen button." Select the "Only the selected frame" option. Take note of how many pages are set to be printed. You only need the first page, so if there are 2 pages, you will want to print only the first page.
10. Click on the "Print" button at the top left of the screen.
11. In the "Print" dialog box, select the desired printer, and if there are two pages to print, select "Current Page" and then click on the "Print" button.
12. Write on the top of the printed page the next sequential number of the GEDCOM file it represents. If this is the first GEDCOM file, write the number 1 at the top of the page. If this is a subsequent file, also write the file number on the previous page after the name of the individual whose name is in

the fourth generations and whose name also appears in the first position on the new page. Place the printed page face up in a working stack.

13. If there are no further generations after an individual's name on the pedigree charge, mark an "X" after the black arrow on the right edge to indicate a dead end.
14. When every name that has a black arrow after it has either a number or an "X" written after it, place the page in a separate, completed stack.
15. Continue to work down the individuals with black arrows after their name on the page on the top of your working stack. When you have marked every individual that shows a black arrow on the sheet on your working stack, move the sheet to the completed stack, and continue working on the next sheet in the working stack.
16. Click on the next name that has an unmarked black arrow.
17. If the name does not have any additional generations on the pedigree screen, mark the name on the sheet with an "X" to designate it as a dead end. Then use the browser's back arrow to return to the "Pedigree" screen showing the next individual's name to be considered for download. You may need to click the back arrow more than once to return to the screen that is at the top of your working stack.

18. Go back to step 2 and continue until your working stack is empty.

Open a new, empty PAF database and import each GEDCOM file in the order you have numbered them on your control sheets. Record on each sheet the number of individuals, marriages and errors. Make sure you select the option, "Include listing file data in notes."

After all of the GEDCOM files have been imported, use the "Match/Merge" tool to eliminate the duplicate entries. Select the "Match/Merge" function from the "Tools" pull down menu and skip the file backup option. In the "Match/Merge Options" window, select the option to match primarily on Ancestral File Numbers (AFNs). In the "Merge" portion of the window, check the box to automatically merge exact duplicates.

You will now see the "Merge Individuals" window that does not contain any records to be matched. Click on the "Next Match" button at the bottom of the window. The PAF program will run through the entire file and automatically merge all the duplicate records, leaving you with a file that is ready for you to clean and validate. Once you have validated the information and wish to add it to your master file, you can generate the appropriate GEDCOM file and import it to your master file.

Stranger Than Fiction:

An American Lord

A retired grocery store worker of Yuba City, California, knew there was noble blood in his family. He never expected to become 12th Earl of Essex, and successor to some of the most influential noblemen in English history. Mr. Cappell does not have the title yet, but the 10th Earl of Essex passed away in June and then 61-year-old Frederick Paul de Vere Capell assumed the title of the 11th Earl of Essex. The new Lord Essex is unmarried and is 61 years old. Should the 11th Earl of Essex die, William Jennings Capell is the closest heir to the title even though he is a first cousin once removed to the present Earl.

Capell has never set foot in England. He has been told that his great-grandfather

emigrated from England to Canada, and then to Idaho. His grandfather was an Idaho cattle rancher and potato farmer who he met but once. His father was an Army clerk who rarely mentioned his family tree. He died when Capell was 7 years old.

The probability is good that we will see an American become the 12th Earl of Essex because Cappell is 9 years younger than the 11th Earl. Should Cappell become the next Earl, his wife, Sandy, would become Lady Essex, a countess.

Their only son, 23-year-old Kevin Devereux Capell, who works as a reservations agent for a hotel and casino resort, would become Viscount Malden if his father becomes Earl. The son is married but

has no children. He is next in line to inherit the title after his father.

Unfortunately, the title of Earl of Essex no longer guarantees a seat in the House of Lords. A law passed in 1999 removed the right of most to have a seat in the British Government. The 10th Earl of Essex was the last of the line to sit in the House of Lords. Should they offer him the seat in Parliament, the job would be unpaid. The other bad news is that there is no castle, manor house or other property to be inherited. In fact there is no money left. Previous earls have been politicians, military commanders, and farmers, but the 11th earl inherited nothing of value. All he got was a title and the family motto, "Fide et fortitudine" (By fidelity and fortitude).

Software of Interest: MacFamilyTree 4.2.0, RootsMagic 3, CemEditor2

MacFamilyTree 4.2.0

OnlyMac Software has released MacFamilyTree 4.2.0, a general purpose genealogy program for the Macintosh. The program features graphical views of all relations and kinship, many print options, and the publishing of family trees on the Internet or on CD. The latest update includes these new features:

- a family chart displaying all persons entered in the tree as one whole chart (either descendants or ancestors)
- a map chart showing where events in the tree took place
- import images from iPhoto using drag-and-drop
- upload the finished family tree with photos to a .Mac iDisk with one click
- GEDCOM-standard for international exchange of genealogical data
- simultaneous editing of several trees

MacFamilyTree 4.2.0 is priced at \$50 for new users, or \$20 for the upgrade from version 3. Users must use the Mac OS X 10.3.9 operating system or later. For more information, go to: www.onlymac.de/html/stammbaum4en.html

RootsMagic 3

RootsMagic, Inc. has released version 3 of the RootsMagic genealogy program. New features added to the program include:

- **Shareable CD Creator:** The program can produce a shareable CD with a custom home page with your title, photo, description, and contact information. A read-only version of RootsMagic displays the database and multimedia items
- **GenSmarts Integration:** GenSmarts owners can get research suggestions while using the RootsMagic program. They can do the online search or add GenSmarts suggestions directly to the RootsMagic to-do list.
- **PAF and Family Origins Import:** Data can be imported directly from Personal Ancestral File (PAF) version 2.x and higher, and Family Origins version 4 and higher.
- **Backup to CD:** Users can backup data directly to CD.
- **Private Notes and Events:** Specific events and notes can be marked as private, so they can be stripped out of reports, GEDCOM export or Web pages.
- **Printing Color Coding:** RootsMagic has had the ability to color code individuals on the screen. The latest version can print this color coding on ahnentafel reports, box charts, descendant lists, group sheets, narrative reports, pedigree charts, timelines, and wall charts.
- **Linking Drag and Drop:** RootsMagic has had a drag and drop feature to move people between databases. This feature now has automatic linking added.

There are many minor features added like choices for 2-7 generations in the descendant view, ages for each event are displayed on the individual edit screen, an option for 5 or 6 generations on

the pedigree view, "other spouse" buttons on the family view, and relationship information displayed in the status bar.

RootsMagic runs with Windows 95 and later. It is available for \$29.95. A free trial version is available from the Web site.

For more information, go to: www.rootsmagic.com

CemEditor2

CemEditor2 is a Windows program designed for individuals searching their ancestry, family historians, groups, genealogy and historical societies, cemeteries, and other organizations desiring to organize a cemetery transcription. It organizes and manages cemetery photos and transcriptions into a searchable database. Data may be entered by hand or by reading files from other database or spreadsheet programs. CemEditor2 can also help publish information as CD-ROM, Web pages, or books. The pictures are optional.

The program is limited by the capacity of the disk (about 700 megabytes) for publication using a single CD-ROM disk. A CD-ROM disk produced by the program can have more than 5,000 names and 10,000 to 15,000 pictures (640 by 480 pixels). Larger picture files can be used but then fewer individuals can be included.

If the user already has cemetery transcriptions entered in a database or spreadsheet, they can be imported as a CSV file. All popular spreadsheet programs and most popular database programs can save files in CSV format.

CemEditor2 works with Windows 95 or later and requires at least 14MB of disk space. A CD writer and software are needed to create the CD.

CemEditor2 sells for \$28.99. The company has no trial version. For more information, go to: www.ovsgenealogy.com/software-cem-edit-cemetery-transcription-photo-searchable-database-creator.shtml

David Lambert Coming

David Lambert will be the speaker for an all-day seminar at the April 8 meeting of the Silicon valley Computer Genealogy Group. In the morning, he will discuss New England Research and in the afternoon he will discuss African American Research. David has a wealth of knowledge in these subjects.

David Lambert recently began a genealogy blog at: <http://davidlambert.com/> He is a reference librarian at the New England Historic Genealogy society and a professional genealogist

Mark your calendar for this event and watch this newsletter or the Web site for more details.

Finding Marty's Birth Parents

By Allin Kingsbury

Many adopted children long to find their birth parents. The understanding of these birth parents gives them a sense of origin, making them feel complete by knowing where they started and who they are. A few may entertain fantasies about having wealthy or famous birth parents, or even being an heir to a title or fortune. Such was the case for Marty Johnson.

Marty is a typical American with a cozy house in Minnesota, a wife and two kids and a minivan. He has a good job as a mortgage broker. Then a letter arrived, telling him he was part of a Nigerian dynasty. Marty had been looking for his birth parents and he hit the jackpot. You will love the story.

On his first date with his wife, Laura, Marty told her that he was adopted. He had known this since he was a young child, and it was no secret. Laura asked if he knew anything about his birth parents. The answer was no, but he was curious. He wondered why he was six-foot four and towered over the Johnsons, the loving parents who adopted him and raised him to adulthood. He guessed that one birth parent was white, but that was speculation.

When Marty and Laura were married, he had to get his birth certificate, a document that he had never seen. The certificate said that he was born in Saint Paul, about 10 miles from his present home. He had no idea how he ended up in Nebraska where he was adopted and grew up and wondered if he had passed his birth mother on the street at some time.

In time, curiosity got the best of Marty and he began earnestly searching. Little did he know that the clues that he had were geographically misleading. Marty had no success looking for more information. Fortunately, a letter came from Catholic Charities in Omaha informing him that they had received a request from his birth mother to have some form of contact with him. By some odd coincidence, his past had come looking for him. Marty's birth mother had a brief affair in college with John Ogike, a visiting graduate student from Nigeria. They met when she was home from college in Albuquerque. She had learned to speak a few phrases of Igbo, one of the languages of Nigeria, from an exchange student she had met the year before. John was impressed that a young white college student could speak his native language and found himself in love with the young lady.

When Marty's mother discovered that she was pregnant, John offered to marry her, but she was not ready. Her parents, also opposed to the marriage, sent her to a Catholic home for unwed mothers in Saint Paul, Minnesota. Appeals by John to her parents were received with cold indifference. He was told not to have any contact with her. John soon returned to Nigeria after completing his degree. Shortly after the birth of her son, Marty's mother said a final goodbye to her baby and returned home not knowing the fate of her baby. As time went by, she married and raised a family in Southern California. She had done well.

Marty was thinking of how he could find his birth father. His mother said he would be about 70 and may no longer be living. Nigeria had been through a civil collapse and some bloody conflict. When Marty sent queries to the Nigerian government, and was disgusted when he received several e-mails with messages

like, "We have \$10 million dollars in an account and only need a \$10,000 deposit from you."

In another attempt to locate his father, Marty posted a message on the University of Northern Iowa message board where John Ogike had studied, and asked if anyone remembered John. A reply came from Wanda Nielsen saying that she remembered a student named Boniface Ogike from Nigeria, who had a brother John. She still had his address in Nigeria.

Marty wrote to Boniface, telling him of what he had learned about his birth parents, and asking about his father. After two months, Marty had almost given up on the letter. He received a warm handwritten note from Boniface. He told Marty that his father, John, was alive and well in Nigeria. The letter ended with another surprise. It closed with, "Welcome to the Ogike dynasty."

Marty's father, John, was a chief at the village of Aboh. He was not known as John in Nigeria, but as Udeh-ekeh, which in Igbo means "the renown of the creator." John had been principal of the school his father had founded, taught at the university, married, and raised six children in Nigeria.

Marty did not comprehend the esteemed place that his father had earned until he visited his newly found sister Oby who had come to visit Ogike family members living in Southern California. Oby and the others in the family were tall and good-looking. Oby told him, "There is no doubt. You look just like Udeh-ekeh." She then told Marty that because of his father's position in Nigeria, people there considered him a prince.

Marty wanted to go to Nigeria, but the trip was expensive and the mortgage business was slow. His wife didn't say anything, but she quietly planned a fortieth birthday for Marty. Instead of gifts, she mentioned the trip to Nigeria. On Marty's birthday, he walked into a room at Mount Calvary Lutheran Church, and was surprised by a room full of friends applauding him. His wife Laura presented him with a round trip ticket to Nigeria. His new-found family was expecting him. The arrangements had been made.

The trip was like a fairy tale. Marty's step-sister, Amira, met Marty at the airport and later hosted a celebration for Marty at her home in the capital city of Lagos, and even had a 5-piece band. Marty felt right at home. Everyone in the family spoke English.

On the next day, a convoy of 5 vehicles loaded with family members traveled to Aboh and to the school that Marty's grandfather had founded many years earlier. At Aboh, Marty's father met him and greeted him with an embrace that made his veins bulge. There was no mistaking the family resemblance. It was a reunion filled with tears of joy. The celebration lasted for days.

Marty was accustomed to life in Minneapolis where he stood in line at the checkout counter like everyone else when he shopped, and was treated like any other person. In his father's home, everyone ate when Marty was ready to eat. When Marty napped, everyone napped. The young children did not sit down at the dinner table unless Marty asked them to be seated. When Marty was introduced to the Catholic bishop of the region, the

bishop told Marty that his trip was protected by the US government. He said that if even a mosquito bit Marty, there would soon be American bombs falling on the village. Marty was amused at the bishop's lack of understanding of America's foreign policy, but he understood the importance that everyone he met in Nigeria placed upon him due to their high regard for Udeh-ekeh. To make Marty feel welcome, his father had even repainted the house and enticed his former cook to come out of retirement to prepare outstanding meals for all.

Marty soon realized that the chairs on the porch where the family sat on the warm evenings had a pecking order. The one nearest the door belonged to Udeh-ekeh. However, his father had insisted that Marty take that chair. As the trip back grew near, Udeh-ekeh took Marty to the neighboring village where Marty's grandmother had been raised. The people there were tall and big

boned like Marty. In a traditional naming ceremony, Marty was given an African name by his father. One by one, each of the many relatives came forward to pay their respects. Udeh-ekeh told Marty he would return to Nigeria. If he wanted to build a home or a factory, the land would be free. Finally, Udeh-ekeh told Marty that he could not officially confer the title of chief upon him until Marty returned to Nigeria with his wife Laura.

Marty thinks he could enjoy Nigeria. Laura had always said she would like to retire someplace warm. Chinenye Ogike, formerly Marty Johnson has not decided if he wants to move to Nigeria and be the next chief of Aboh or remain a mortgage broker in Minnesota. He is sure that he has been home and met his family, and that he is a changed person as a result of the trip. What would you do if you were Marty? One thing is certain for Marty. There is nothing better than a loving family.

Recently Published: Magna Carta Ancestry, QuickSheet: Citing Online Historical Sources

Magna Carta Ancestry

Magna Carta Ancestry: A Study in Colonial and Medieval Families, by Douglas Richardson is a 1,099-page reference about descendants from the Magna Carta Barons of 1215 A.D. The book contains the proven lineage of 234 individuals who emigrated from the British Isles to the colonies in North America during the 17th century. The genealogies are well documented and cite many original manuscripts as sources. New additions to the book document the lineages of colonial immigrants that previously were unknown. Many individuals can now claim noble ancestry for the first time.



The Magna Carta is a Latin title which means "Great Charter." It was written in 1215 A.D. to amend the charter of England which limited the power of English monarchs. King John was the king of England, and he ruled with dictatorial power. The barons of England organized several rebellions. King John was forced to renounce certain rights of the crown and issue a charter of liberties. This document required the King to respect certain legal procedures and be bound by law. The Magna Carta is an early step toward constitutional government. It was signed in the meadow at Runnymede on June 15, 1215.

King John soon refuted the Magna Carta, and a civil war began. then erupted. King John died of dysentery on October 18, 1216, which altered the basis of hostilities. John's nine-year-old son, King Henry III, was soon crowned King of England, the war stopped, and a slightly modified Magna Carta was issued. When Henry III turned eighteen in 1225, he reissued a shorter version of the Magna Carta with only 37 articles. To this day, England has never had another King named John.

The twenty-five barons who signed the Magna Carta were the most powerful nobles of England. Most were married with large families. There are probably millions of people who can trace their ancestry back to one or more of the twenty-five barons.

The book has thousands of biographical sketches of people who lived in medieval England and their descendants down to the immigrants to America. It is the most documented source book of its kind with more than 28,000 source citations to published mate-

rials. Extensive cross-referencing makes the text simple to follow. The book also has a 93-page bibliography, and an index with more than 18,000 entries.

The author, Doug Richardson, has refuted numerous published genealogies in this book, referring to source citations that disprove many lineages that have been accepted for many years. The book is a valuable reference for anyone who has ancestry linked to English nobility. A list of the 17th-century American immigrants with proven Magna Carta ancestry can be seen at: www.genealogical.com/item_detail.asp?afid=&ID=4887

Magna Carta Ancestry: A Study in Colonial and Medieval Families, by Douglas Richardson and published by Genealogical Publishing Company sells for \$100 and can be purchased online at: www.genealogical.com/item_detail.asp?afid=&ID=4887 or www.amazon.com and from bookstores by specifying ISBN 0806317590.

QuickSheet: Citing Online Historical Sources

QuickSheet: Citing Online Historical Sources is a condensed supplement to *Evidence! Citation & Analysis for the Family Historian* by Elizabeth Shown Mills and is about citing Internet sources. The latter book was published eight years ago. Citations of online sources has become extremely important since much of our genealogy research has migrated to the Internet.

The book has a template for citing historical sources on the Internet. It lists rules to help judge the reliability of these sources. *QuickSheet* also contains a series of sample citations showing the correct way to identify online sources such as databases, census images, and digital books and articles. The citations are based on the premise that online sources are publications and have the same characteristics as printed publications. The book includes rules and models for common record types such as passenger lists, vital records, and newspapers. It shows how to cite the author/creator/owner of a Web site, title of the website, URL, date posted, and so forth.

QuickSheet is a 4 page laminated foldout and sells for \$5.95 plus \$2.00 shipping in the U.S. It can be ordered from Genealogical Publishing Corporation at: www.genealogical.com/item_detail.asp?afid=&ID=3849

News For Genealogists: **World War I Draft Registration Cards, Yahoo to Scan Books, Irish Database Running Late, "Who Do You Think You Are?" to Continue**

World War I Draft Registration Cards

Ancestry.com announced they will add the complete U.S. World War I Draft Registration Card Collection to their subscription Web site. The company will also add World War II Enlistment Records, World War II Prisoner of War records and more. The 24 million World War I Draft Registration Cards have information about all men who registered, even those who didn't serve active duty. Each card lists the registrant's address, date and place of birth, marital status, occupation, physical description and more. Every male born between 1872 and 1900 were required to register. That is 25% of the U.S. population in 1917.

Yahoo to Scan Books

Since last December when Google announced a project to scan books and make them available on the Internet, Yahoo has been organizing a similar project. Yahoo has been very successful as a major competitor of Google, and the two companies have been very competitive. Yahoo recently announced that it will scan millions of books. Yahoo has established partnerships with several universities and two European archives. They include the University of California, O'Reilly Media (textbooks), the National Archive in Great Britain, and the European Archive.

Irish Database Running Late

The ambitious plan to digitize Irish civil and church records (births, marriages and deaths), and make them available on a Web site has experienced a bit of financial mismanagement. The annual report from the Comptroller and Auditor General of Ireland has reported that the project which was scheduled to be completed in 2006 will probably take an additional twenty to twenty-five years to complete. The announcement is a major disappointment to those with Irish ancestry who hoped to see the Irish records on the Internet.

"Who Do You Think You Are?" to Continue

Who Do You Think You Are? was the highest-rated factual entertainment show during 2004 for BBC2. It had 5.8 million viewers at its peak of and a 23.8% share of the viewing audience. The British Broadcasting Company (BBC2) announced that there will be a second series for Wall to Wall's factual personal genealogical format. Next year, the show will feature new celebrities who will explore their ancestry, including Stephen Fry, Jane Horrocks, Jeremy Paxman, Julian Clary, Gurinder Chadha (Director of Bend it Like Beckham), and Sheila Hancock. The program series has also been sold to broadcasters in Germany, Poland, Sweden, Australia, France, Italy, Spain, and Canada.

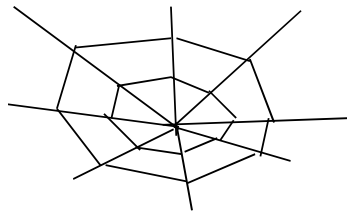
Spider Webs: **Linkpendium, Castle Garden Database, Saxony Roots**

Linkpendium

Linkpendium is a compendium of about 2.3 million links to U.S. genealogy-related information on the Web. The developers of the site are Karen Isaacson and Brian Leverich, who helped create RootsWeb. The site has about ten times as many links as Cyndi's List, and the list is much more focused, especially on surnames. The site should be utilized by genealogists, but for some reasons, the site is often overlooked. The site lists many family genealogy sites and message boards dedicated to specific families or surnames. It does not list sites for products such as genealogy software. The site is also very good for finding information related to geographic areas, especially by county. To visit the site, go to: www.linkpendium.com

Castle Garden Database

Before Ellis Island became the point of entry for immigrants in 1893, new arrivals came ashore at Castle Garden in lower Manhattan. This facility was in use since 1830. Immigrants again used Manhattan as an entry point after a mysterious fire destroyed the Ellis Island facility and many



records in 1897. Ellis Island was reopened in 1900 after a new facility was completed.

The Battery Conservancy has placed information about 10 million immigrants for the years 1830 through 1892 online at the Castle Garden Web site. The data was extracted from ship manifests. There are another 20 million immigrants who have yet to be added to the database. These records are not found on the Ellis Island site. It is estimated that 73 million Americans are descended immigrants who entered the country at Castle Garden.

The Castle Garden site includes a free "Quick Search" where the database can be searched by any combination of first name,

last name, date range, place of origin, occupation, and name of ship. Blank fields are ignored in the search.

The "Advanced Searches" cost \$45 and has all the features of the Quick Search plus the ability to search by gender, age upon arrival, and destination. The Quick Search will work well for surnames that are not very common, but a search for a Smith or Jones may make the cost of the advanced search worthwhile.

For more information, go to: <http://castlegarden.org>

Saxony Roots

The Saxony Roots Web site has launched an index of transcribed passenger lists scattered among many Internet sites. The index is not complete, and anyone with data may have it added to the index. It covers free Internet Web sites, but does not have as many individuals listed as the Ellis Island and Castle Garden Web sites.

The Ships' Database has search fields for a ship's name, port of departure, de-

parture country, date, arrival port, and arrival country. The index may be searched by passenger name, or by entering information to match with the fields in the database. Each entry has a note field that lists the source of the information and has links to the

Internet Web page where more information may be found.

Saxony Roots has passenger lists that need to be transcribed and added to the database. They welcome volunteers to help with the project. To visit the site, go to: www.saxonyroots.com/ships/

Finding Acceptable Sources - part 2

By Allin Kingsbury

Continued from the October issue

The first part of this article discussed the problem of finding sources that have significant evidence of relationship. To prove a lineage, a genealogist needs evidence of relationship and of identity.

Problems of Secondary and Sub-secondary Sources

Much of the information in secondary sources is correct. Many genealogists who assembled large family genealogies did excellent research and found solid sources of information. The older family histories were often compiled from interviews with living individuals who knew the information about their generation of the family. The common problem with these sources is the occasional mistakes that creep into research from misreading difficult handwriting, transcription errors by clerks and others who kept records, misspellings, lapses of memory by family members reciting family history and many other sources of error. Secondary sources often do not list the sources of information, nor do they point out places where the researcher guessed or assumed. There are many genealogies now being published today that have only secondary sources as sources. Most of these are on the Internet. These family histories often use christening dates and represent them as birth dates and burial dates as death dates. They often take guesses by other individuals and list them as fact without the benefit of explanatory notes. They are creating sub-secondary sources that look like secondary sources.

Should you be lucky enough to get one of these genealogies in GEDCOM format, you can convert it to a computer database and run a records check. Should you find many syntax errors in the data such as births before marriage dates, deaths before birth dates, unusual ages of parents when having children, children born less than 9 months apart, and so forth, you have evidence of poor research. In such cases, much of the data is useful until you come to a point where an individual is linked to the wrong parents or spouse. However, to be sure the data you have is accurate, you need to check every fact if all you have is a sub-secondary source or a poor quality genealogy. To be sure, you need to know which primary sources verify the data in your family history

Even Primary Sources Can be Wrong

You may find conflicting information as you do your research. Occasionally, primary sources can be wrong. Census takers occasionally falsified records because they were paid by the number of names found. One census taker for the Illinois 1850 census entered several families in his area twice. To avoid accusations, he altered the details enough to make the added families look like a different family, but the changes were such that, if confronted, he could claim the bogus entry was the actual family. Other problems came when the family was not home and the census taker used a

neighbor as an informant. There are also occasional errors in official documents where a careless clerk wrote an entry wrong, or made a transcription error when copying a document into the official record. There are also errors by the researcher when poor handwriting is misread, or an error is made transcribing data. With the excellent copy machines available today, it is good to copy the original document so that it can be reexamined later if a discrepancy is found.

Identities Can Be Confused

My ancestor, Robert King fought in the Revolutionary War. One history of Erie County, Pennsylvania refers to him as Captain King and says that he distinguished himself in the Sauk wars and concluded a peace treaty with the Indians. The Revolutionary War Pension File for Robert King lists his children with their birth dates and leaves no doubt that he is my ancestor. It also states that his military service was limited to the Revolutionary War and that he held the rank of lieutenant. There was a Captain Robert King who fought the Indians. Several genealogies posted on the Internet refer to my ancestor as Captain Robert King. I can find no primary evidence stating that the Robert King who settled in Erie County, Pennsylvania was a captain. One must never assume that if the name is the same, it must be the same person.

To be sure two sources are referring to the same individual, there must be information which links the individual to a relative (preferably a parent), to a place (such as a residence), or to a common event. If there is nothing to link the two references, you can never be sure they refer to the same person. A good source will identify an individual in such a way as to eliminate any doubt that all the information about him refers to the same person.

Conclusion

It is important to find the best possible sources of information. Accurate sources lead to sound conclusions. More sources give you more details about the person. If your sources are few and have questionable accuracy, you should continue your research.

You should record not only the sources that you have found, but also sources that had no information or could not be found. You may find more sources later. Others will look at your research and want to know where you looked. If you can explain in your notes why some sources could not be found or did not help, you do a great service to those who review your work.

Sources should not just provide dates and places for births, marriages, deaths and other events, but they should prove relationships. They should prove that the birth, marriage, and death are all for the same person. The same name could refer to more than one person. The sources should also prove the connection of each generation to the next.

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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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