

## New Version of PAF Insight Includes a Great New Tool

By Richard Rands

The new 2006 version of PAF Insights from Ohana Software has a new look and feel that may startle those of you who have been using this useful utility for some time. It still contains the usual modes, including a powerful IGI search, merging of information from two databases, comparison of two databases, change of RINs and viewing of individual pedigrees. But a new feature has multiplied its usefulness manyfold.

The new feature is Edit Places. One of the most important aspects of a genealogy database is the accuracy and consistency of the place names. Many search utilities, such as GenSmarts, which use the Internet to scan for interesting possibilities are dependent on accurate place names. I cannot over-emphasize the importance of taking the time to edit and clean up the errors and inconsistencies of place names.

The Place Name List in PAF produces a list that is sorted by the highest level and then prints the list with the highest level first. In many cases that means that similar place names are not sorted together, and hence, do not appear to be in error. You are then left with the tedious process of fixing each problem one by one. The developers at Ohana Software probably have experienced this time-consuming activity and have cre-

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ated a brilliant solution that makes the place name cleanup very easy and fast.

When you open the "Edit Place Name" feature, it displays three windows on your screen. The left-hand half of the screen is the Place Editor, which lists every place name in your file and a count of the occurrences of each entry. You have the ability to sort the list by the count or the place name either in ascending or descending order. When you sort the list by place name, the names are displayed in the same format they appear in your database, lowest level first. It is my strong opinion that this sequence will reveal the name discrepancies far more frequently than the PAF Place Name List sequence.

The right half of the screen is split between a window with the names of the individuals who have the highlighted place name anywhere in his or her record, and a window that will expand to show all the relevant details about any one of the Individuals listed above it as they are selected. This window can be hidden to provide more space for the list of Individuals.

For example, I may discover in the Place Editor window a sequence of entries such as:

- 2 Adelaide, South Australia, Australia
- 3 Adelaide, S. Australia, Australia
- 11 Adelaide, South Australia, Australia
- 5 Adellade, South Australia, Australia
- 2 Adilaide, South Australia, Australia

In this example, there are 11 occurrences with the correct place name and 12 occurrences with incorrect place names of Adelaide, Adelaide, Adellade, and Adilaide. The discrepant place names may occur in different events for the same individual. Nonetheless, you are still faced with making 12 changes to the place names in your database. In PAF you can either make each change individually, or you can use the "Global Search and Replace" feature and make four changes.

With the PAF Insight tool, you only need to select each of the four incorrect entries with your mouse and drag and drop them on the correct entry. You can use the normal "multiple select" technique to select all four of the incorrect entries to drag and drop them into the correct entry. Once that is done, the entry in the Place Editor will be:

23 Adelaide, South Australia, Australia

I find that the format used by PAF Insight is significantly more efficient and effective in revealing mistakes. For example, I discovered two entries, Veng Mark, Veng, Skanderborg, Denmark and Verg Mark, Veng, Skanderborg, Denmark, that I had never noticed before. A quick drag and drop fixed the problem without having to search for the errant entry and fix it manually. The program wisely asks you to verify that you wish to make the change, to prevent making a careless error.

Where the only occurrences of a place name are all incorrect, you simply need to double click on one of the incorrect entries and make the correction in the place name field. All occurrences with that same place name will be edited. Now you can drag and drop any other incorrect entries into the corrected entry.

As with older versions, when you finish your session with PAF Insights and end the program, it asks if you wish to save your changes. You can click on either Yes, No, or Cancel. If you have made a drag and drop mistake that involves numerous entries, then you are probably going to want to click "No" rather than go back and fix every entry involved. It would be extremely useful to have an "Undo" func-

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## PAF Insight

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tion to avoid this unfortunate predicament.

In any case, for someone who has a large database, or who must often clean up place names from files downloaded from messy places, this feature is a godsend.

The latest version is 2006.5.4, available from [www.ohanasoftware.com](http://www.ohanasoftware.com) in a downloadable format for \$25.

## Of Interest to Genealogists:

### Everton Restored

*Everton's Genealogical Helper* Magazine went through bankruptcy a few years ago and the massive genealogy library that the company had collected was donated to an organization that would open the collection to the public at Logan, Utah. New owners acquired the magazine and hired Holly Hansen, who formerly worked for Everton. The new group decided to salvage the magazine and the library. The library had posed too many problems for the new owners and was gathering dust at Logan. Holly Hansen has now announced completion of the project after two years of hard work.

The Everton Collection is shelved and now housed in the Logan City complex. The city of Logan City will soon hire a librarian to care for the collection. *Everton's Genealogical Helper* has resumed publication. For more information about the My Ancestors Found team and their efforts to restore the Everton magazine and library, go to:

[www.myancestorsfound.com](http://www.myancestorsfound.com)

### WWII Draft Cards Coming Soon

Ancestry.com has almost completed work on a database of World War II Draft Cards. This is an indexed collection of draft cards from the Fourth Registration, the only registration available to the public at this time. The Fourth Registration was made on 27 April 1942, and includes men who were between 45 and 64 years old at the time and were not already engaged in military service.

The U.S. officially entered World War II after the attack on Pearl Harbor, declaring war on 8 December 1941. The selective service act was soon passed which required all men between the ages 18 and 65 register for the draft. By October 1946, over 10 million American men had registered.

The National Archives has released registrations in fifteen states and Puerto Rico on microfilm which constitute about one-third of the total registrants (3,385,693 Images). These include: Arkansas, Connecticut, Delaware, Indiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Puerto Rico, Rhode Island, Vermont, Virginia and West Virginia. The information in the database includes:

- Name of registrant
- Age
- Date and place of birth
- Residence

## Quotable Quote

**Give us the luxuries of life and we will dispense with the necessities.**

Oliver Wendell Holmes

1809-1884

American Author

### Everton Restored, WWII Draft Cards Coming Soon, Free Boy Scout DNA Test

- Employer information
- Name and address of a person who would always know the registrant's whereabouts
- Physical description of registrant
- Race
- Height
- Weight
- Eye and hair colors
- Complexion

Draft cards for the other states may be viewed at the National Archives Regional Offices where they are stored, and are expected to be added to the Ancestry.com database after they are released on microfilm. Unfortunately, many of the draft registration cards for the southern states were destroyed. Cards for the younger men remain closed to public access.

### Free Boy Scout DNA Test

Free Y-DNA testing is being offered for active boys in the Boys Scouts of America. For those who participate, the free test will save the person between \$100 and \$230 for a mid-range DNA test (a test using about 20 markers).

To receive the free test, it is necessary to first participate in a Sorenson Molecular Genealogy Foundation (SMGF) study. The participant must submit four or more generations of his family tree. Once the data is received by SMGF, the boy will receive a coupon by email, and can call Relative Genetics to arrange the free test.

The Boy Scouts offer a merit badge in genealogy which requires the preparation of a pedigree chart. The Genealogy Merit Badge pamphlet does not mention DNA testing. The DNA testing program may stimulate interest in the merit badge and perhaps a career in molecular biology and forensic science where DNA testing is used. The Genealogy Merit Badge is far from the most popular. 5,714 of these badges were awarded in 2004, bringing the all-time total to 177,121. This is about the same number of badges awarded as merit badges for skiing, skating, salesmanship, railroad-ing, bird study, collection, home repairs and radio. These badges are awarded with about a tenth the frequency as the woodwork and archery merit badges.

It is difficult to say how long this DNA testing offer will last. Families with Boy Scouts have a few good reasons to encourage participation in the program. For more information, go to: [www.scoutmedia.org/](http://www.scoutmedia.org/)

# Spider Webs: **Locality Links, Acts of Genealogical Kindness, 1851 Canadian Census, MyFamily.com Canadian Site, Missouri Death Certificates, Montreal City Directories**

## Locality Links

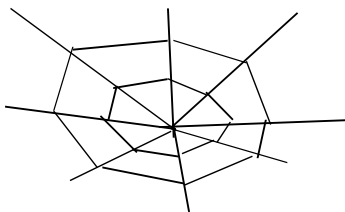
A new Web site allows you to find links to locality-specific Web sites by clicking on the locality on a map. The technique uses state and county specific batch numbers which link to a list of Internet sources that have data for the locality. The user can then go to any of the sites which sound useful by clicking on the appropriate link. The method is intuitive and very fast in getting to sites with useful data. To use the site, go to: [www.ohgen.net](http://www.ohgen.net)

## Acts of Genealogical Kindness

One of the joys of working on family history is the kindness of individuals who are so willing to help with no expectation of compensation. This spirit is exemplified at a Web site called *Random Acts of Genealogical Kindness*. It is a meeting place for those who are willing to help others and those in need of help. Since the site opened, it has rapidly grown from a small statewide service to an international service.

The site was started by two genealogists who saw a need. More than 4500 volunteers have agreed to perform some sort of genealogy research for others in their area at least once per month. This may entail a visit a local archive or library to look up information, a visit- to a local courthouse to photocopy a document or two, or a visit to a nearby cemetery to photograph a tombstone. The volunteers receive no payment for their services, but are allowed to charge for their expenses such as postage, film, videotapes, the cost of making photocopies, and parking fees. They can also charge up to 50 cents per mile for automobile travel. No fees are charged by the Web site. The owners do sell coffee cups, t-shirts, book bags, and other promotional items to cover the Web site costs, and donations are cheerfully accepted.

Most of the volunteers are in the United States. Others are scattered abroad in locations such as the British Isles, Argentina, Belgium, Belize, France, Israel, Russia, Yugoslavia, and India. You may not find a person in the area where you need help, but it is worth a look. The work is not guaranteed and it is unlikely that a volunteer helping you will be a professional genealogist. However, the site has a large collection of thank you notes



expressing the happiness of individuals who received the help that they needed. You may want to join the ranks of the volunteers listed on the site. If so, you have our thanks and admiration. To visit the site, go to: [www.raogk.org](http://www.raogk.org)

## 1851 Canadian Census

The 1851 Canadian census which included Canada East, Canada West, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia has been posted on the Internet by The National Archives of Canada. The 1851 Census images for New Brunswick and Nova Scotia were prepared by the Provincial Archives of New Brunswick. The images were taken from the original microfilm copies of the census returns. The online census is not indexed and is searchable by geographic area only. The site is free of charge and can be visited at: [www.collectionscanada.ca/archivianet/1851/index-e.html](http://www.collectionscanada.ca/archivianet/1851/index-e.html)

## SiteFinder Online

SiteFinder Online is free Internet Version of the GoldBug SiteFinder U.S., a place name database. There you can search for towns, cemeteries, schools, courthouses and other landmarks and plot them on Google Maps. You can zoom in & out to get the scale that you need for your map. You can also overlay the SiteFinder locations on satellite images of the locations. You can plot one or many locations to illustrate the location of important landmarks or you can use the site to find out where a landmark is located.

The site lists more than 700,000 current locations in the database, all within the United States. There are thousands of historical locations that are no longer listed on current maps. The database also contains all locations listed in the current version of the AniMap County Boundary Historical Atlas software.

## MyFamily.com Canadian Site

MyFamily.com, Inc. has a new Canadian genealogy Web site with Canadian genealogy data, including the fully indexed 1911 Census

of Canada. This 1911 census is searchable by surname, and contains place of habitation, marital status, age, place of birth, religion, occupation, education, and more.

Other important records at the site include:

- British Columbia Death Index, 1872-1979
- Canadian Address and Phone Directories, 1995-2002
- Canadian Genealogy Index, 1600s-1900s
- Ontario and Nova Scotia Census Records, 1800-1842
- Ontario Birth Index, 1869-1907
- Ontario Death Index, 1869-1932
- Ontario Marriage Index, 1858-1899

To visit the site, go to: [www.ancestry.ca](http://www.ancestry.ca)

## Missouri Death Certificates

A new database of Missouri death certificates created by the Missouri State Archives is now online. It has information on more than two million death certificates from 1910-1955. The certificates are searchable by name, county, or month and year. The database currently has digital images of certificates from 1910-1920, and the others will be added. A death certificate usually has occupation, birthplace, parents, and marital status. The Death Certificate Database is the result of work by more than 600 volunteers and students from the United States and other countries, who donated more than 27,000 hours. The project will continue until all the digital images of all the certificates are available online. To visit the site, go to: [www.sos.mo.gov/archives/resources/death\\_certificates](http://www.sos.mo.gov/archives/resources/death_certificates)

## Montreal City Directories

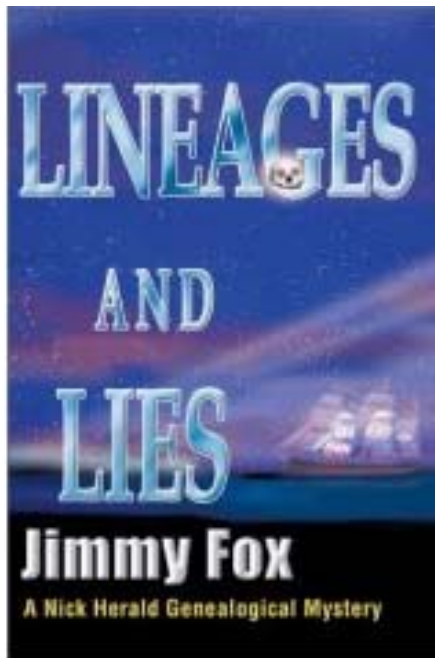
*Bibliothèque et Archives nationales du Québec* has posted *The Lovell directories of Montreal and its suburbs (1842-1999)* on their Web site. The collection consists of scanned images of the original city directories. The Web site is in French, but only a few words are needed to navigate it. The early directories were printed only in English. The later directories consisted of both English and French pages. The site is free and visitors can view the directories at: <http://bibnum2.banq.qc.ca/bna/lovell>

## Recently Published: Lineages and Lies

*Lineages and Lies* by Jimmy Fox is a genealogical mystery thriller. The book may not win the top award as the best mystery of the year, but the genealogy theme and a good mystery may interest genealogists and family historians. Jimmy Fox is also the author of two other genealogy mysteries, *Deadly Pedigree* and *Jackpot Blood*. He does understand the methods used by genealogists as they trace their ancestry.

Jimmy Fox is from Alexandria, Louisiana, a city of 47,000 on the Red River in the center of the state. He has been writing all of his adult life, but has recently taken an interest in genealogy when he began his quest to find his ancestors. He is a member of the Mystery Writers of America.

*Lineages and Lies* takes place in New Orleans where the fictional detective, Nick Herald, a professional genealogist, delves into crimes that come to light in the course of his work on family histories. Nick is a bit of a scoundrel, but he's a brilliant genealogist. He was a professor of English, but was disgraced by a bogus plagiarism charge. Nick has an assistant, Hawty Latimer, a brilliant, young, disabled African American woman. The pair began looking for the killer of Nick's old friend and fellow professional genealogist, Woodrow Blueman-



Warren, after he is found dead in a posh hotel room in the French Quarter of New Orleans. The trail leads to a lineage society whose members arrived on a ship that arrived in New Orleans from France. And from there the reader is led through the steps that clear up the mystery and bring the criminal to justice.

*Lineages and Lies* is available as a 282 page paperback for \$14.95 (ISBN # 0-595-25899-9) or in hardcover for \$24.95 (ISBN # 0-595-65417-7). It can be ordered online from Amazon.com and other book sellers.

### Ancestry.com Blog

Ancestry.com has a new blog called *24/7 Family History Circle* which replaces *Ancestry Daily News*. Juliana Smith remains as the editor. Articles about family history by well-known family history writers such as, Sherry Irvine, George G. Morgan, Michael Neill, Megan Smolenyak, Maureen Taylor, Paula

Warren, and occasional guest columnists are planned. To view *24/7 Family History Circle* with a standard Web browser, go to: <http://blogs.ancestry.com/circle> If you have an RSS newsreader, you get the blog at either:

<http://blogs.ancestry.com/circle/?feed=rss> (RSS 0.92),

<http://blogs.ancestry.com/circle/?feed=rss2> (RSS 2.0), or

<http://blogs.ancestry.com/circle/?feed=atom> (ATOM).

## People Who Make a Difference: Julie Miller versus Colorado

Julie Miller is a certified genealogist, a member of several genealogical societies, a member of the NGS/FGS Records Preservation and Access Committee, a writer for the Colorado Genealogy Blog, and the liaison to the Colorado Council of Genealogical Societies as a watchdog of Colorado legislation concerning access to public records. When the Colorado Senate Judiciary Committee passed HB 1357 and sent it to the Senate for a vote on Wednesday, 22 March, 2006, Julie Miller was paying attention. This was a bill that had been amended, such that passage would permanently close access to all marriage records, which by law, were public record in the State of Colorado. Genealogists would never be able to look up the date or location where a marriage took place in Colorado or the ages and occupations of the couple, nor find the parents of a bride or groom if the bill became law.

The supporters of the bill included the Colorado Clerk Recorders associations and the Colorado Press. It appeared that there was no opposition to the bill. Julie alerted the genealogical associations in Colorado and they contacted their members, urging them to contact their representatives in the legislature. She spent several days consulting with Dave Rencher, chairman of the FGS/NGS RPAC committee, and others, about strategy to stop the closure of the marriage records. After a few days, Julie began alerting

Colorado genealogists about the legislation by phone and e-mail. As her message began to spread through genealogical community, the amendment closing the marriage applications had passed the Colorado House and was waiting for consideration by a Senate committee.

By the time Julie had a chance to give widespread publicity of this closure, the bill was ready to go to the Senate with recommendations that the Senate confirm the closure of marriage applications, as written. Julie then traveled downtown to the Capitol and testified before the Senate committee on behalf of the genealogists that she represented.

HB 1357 was passed in the Senate with two amendments (a compromise), which stipulated that marriages are closed only for the most recent 50 years and are available after that period of time. Also, those seeking a marriage record can gain access if they apply to a Colorado court and show good reason to obtain a marriage record. The latter change was proposed by private investigators. The bill is expected to become law as amended. The result is a compromise that genealogists can live with. The effort of Julie Miller illustrates the difference one person can make.

# Software for Your Digital Pictures

By Allin Kingsbury

If you scan your old family pictures to preserve them or if you have a digital camera, or if you save many of the digital pictures that you receive by e-mail, eventually you will need to organize your pictures. The experts say that if your picture collection reaches about one thousand in number, you will have trouble remembering what you have and finding the picture that you need. Also if you are publishing your pictures, or are the family archivist, or want to repair the images of the old family pictures that you have scanned, you will want some tools for editing photos.

The Silicon Valley Computer Genealogy Group formed a committee several years ago to look at software for the photo archivist. We found that there was no single computer program that would handle the photo problem and the compatibility of many of the photo software packages was marginal. At the time, there were several projects which appeared to address these problems, but none of them has produced a software package that will meet all the needs of those who collect and use large numbers of photos. So, as the next best thing, this article will look at the problems of handling digital photos and look at a few of the software tools available.

## Preserving originals and edited photos

Old photos and negatives are constantly fading. The clock is ticking. The deterioration is slowed by properly storing the pictures in an acid free environment where there is no light. If you have old family photos, you should scan them as soon as you can at a good resolution if you have not already done so. There is no deterioration of digital images unless a catastrophic event destroys the file.

The scanned file should be stored in a lossless format. (Compressed formats such as ".jpg" can cause a loss in quality.) Use a popular format that you can read and convert to other formats. A little-used format may not be supported by companies writing software. The archive files should be designated "read only" so these files cannot be altered. If an image is to be edited, the edited image should be stored as a new file with a new name. The files should be stored in folders, perhaps by family, to make searching for a specific photo easier. The names of the files must be unique and should be simple enough that the file can easily be found. I number the photos consecutively and use the number for the file name. When scanning a directory for a file name, the files are listed in numerical order and I can go directly to the file that I want. The name could end with a letter to indicate whether the file is a scanned picture, a scanned document, or a digital camera photo. If these are stored in separate archival folders, the letter is not necessary.

## Identifying Photo Files

You will need a quick way to know about the photo. The file name is no help and none of the standard photo file formats have a provision to include a caption and other information about the photo and its contents. The Windows has some limited capability for keeping information about the file as part of the file. This information is stored as file properties. It is accessed or edited by

clicking on "File" in the toolbar and then on "Properties." There are several pages to the "Properties" window, but all the fields that can be edited are in the "Summary" page. These include:

- Title
- Subject
- Author
- Category
- Key Words
- Comments

The other fields cannot be edited, and include date created, date modified and file size. There does not seem to be any limit to how much can be entered into any of the fields and data can be copied and pasted to and from any of the fields which can be edited. It is possible to enter a series of sub-fields in the "comments" field.

The information in properties is difficult to search and the format is ill-suited to organizing photos. A better method of handling information about a photo is to put it in a spread sheet where it can be organized into columns. These columns can be searched individually to find specific photos.

## Backup is a Must

It takes time and effort to scan a photo. To avoid repeating this work, one must take precautions and back up all scanned photo files. This can be done on any media that can be easily read by another computer. One has the options of using a removal hard drive, a CD or DVD, a removable flash memory drive, or any of the other technologies that are suitable for backup. Some Internet sites offer memory space for the purpose of backup of data. There is a risk that the internet site operator may run into trouble and take the site offline with no notice.

Backup provides a means of preserving data in case of a catastrophic failure, either internal or external to the computer. There may be a hard drive or electronic failure in the computer which erases your data. There could also be external causes of data loss like fire, flood or earthquake. It makes little sense to do a backup of your pictures and leave the backup copy on your computer where a fire could destroy both copies of the data at one time. The experts would recommend dispersing several copies to relatives, a safe deposit box, or other relatively safe location where you can retrieve the copy when you need it.

## The Problem of Finding the Right Photo

Your memory cannot handle large numbers of photos. A person's memory begins to fail the task of finding a photo as the number of photos reaches 200. One problem with the human memory is that pictures are remembered by visual features which can be ascertained when the picture is viewed again. A person will want to look at pictures rather than scan an index of file names, captions, descriptions or other verbal information about the pictures. With a thousand or more digital pictures to search, the task of finding a specific picture become so time consuming without assis-

tance from computer software,

Photos are remembered by image and by content and by other data. If a photo is remembered visually, an image viewer or browser handles the finding task quite well. If the photo needs to be found by textual information, such as when you want to find a picture of a specific individual, you will need a searchable index.

### Thumbnail Browsers

A thumbnail is a small copy of a picture, supposedly the size of the nail of a thumb. A photographer will remember the look of a photo much better than a verbal description. By looking at a series of thumbnail copies of pictures, a specific picture can quickly and easily be found. If there is any doubt, the full size picture can then be displayed to verify that, in fact, it is the wanted picture.

There are many programs which display and browse thumbnails. Many PC users browse thumbnails with Windows Picture and Fax Browser. This program will find pictures, but lacks many features found in other thumbnail browsers. A few thumbnail browsers came as part of a larger program billed as a photo manager.

Programs which can browse thumbnails include:

Picaso 2.0

Prelick Gold Photo Organizer

These programs are advertised as photo manager programs, and both are quite popular with individuals who take a lot of pictures with their digital cameras. Some of the features beside a thumbnail browser for finding pictures are:

Backup of photo files

A photo timeline

A photo editor which includes cropping, a red-eye filter, and special effects

A photo organizer

A Web interface for sharing photos on the Internet

Other popular thumbnail browsers include:

Xn View: a free image viewer that supports a vast number of photo file formats

Ulead Photo Explorer: an inexpensive viewer with HTML output for Internet sharing of photos

Infran View: a freeware viewer with support of a vast number of file formats

FireGraphic: a photo management program that supports printing and CD publishing of photos

Midnight Blue Super JPG: an inexpensive viewer with a small download file size

Firehand Ember Millenium: an inexpensive photo manager with high quality image resizing features

Slow View: a free image browser that is not slow

### Indexes and Search Engines

For old family pictures, a family historian will often want to find all pictures that include a specific individual. A thumbnail browser does not handle this job. What is needed for the task is

an index or a search engine.

Since I have made extensive use of spread sheets, I have an index of my family photos on Microsoft Excel. I number each photo (which is the file name), and write a description that could be used as a caption. A few pictures are of ancestral homes, grave sites, and other places of interest, but most photos are of individuals and family groups. A few are of family reunions and have many individuals in the picture. The names of all individuals are entered in a column for the purpose of finding all pictures of that individual. I consistently enter the name with the given name first followed by surname. Only where there two individuals with the same name and which can be separated by middle name do I enter a middle name. I also include the date the picture was taken and if known, the photographer, and the place where the photo was taken. I also leave a column for comments to record any other significant information about the photo. Also, and perhaps most important is the file name and path where the photo is stored.

At the Silicon Valley Computer Genealogy Group Web site ([www.svcomputergenealogy.org](http://www.svcomputergenealogy.org)), there is a downloadable spread sheet template for recording photos which has columns for all the usual photo information that you want to record. Should you have special information that you want to add, additional columns can be added.

Excel can be searched using the Windows search feature. This requires an exact match with a word or phrase. Otherwise a separate search must be done for each way a name is entered. Also for a specific individual, the middle name should be entered consistently or omitted. As pictures of an individual are found, they can be seen with a viewer program.

A database program like Access would be even better for indexing because multiple columns could be searched at the same time. I have not felt that the effort is justified, because I have had no trouble finding individuals when searching by name. For those with a large number of photos or those who are often searching for a particular photo, a database program or one of the more sophisticated photo management programs with database features may be the best solution.

The index is not only a list of photos, but is also a repository of significant information about each picture. For recent pictures, it is a log of pictures taken, and includes information about when, where and how the picture was taken. It is the information needed to enter the photo in a photo competition or to use the picture as an example in teaching a photography class. For older pictures, much of this information is not available. Sometimes the date a picture was taken can be estimated very closely from clues in the picture. The ages of young children can be estimates from their size. In outdoor pictures, if you know of the dates when buildings were constructed or destroyed, this and other clues can help to date a picture. Women's fashion is constantly changing, and clothing items in a picture that follow a particular fad can sometimes date the picture to within a few years. You may want to read *Uncovering Your Ancestry Through Family Photographs*, by Maureen Taylor, revised in a paperback edition in 2005. A good estimate is better than a blank space in the spreadsheet.

*This article will be continued next month.*

## Ask the Doc — “I Give No Answers Before Their Time!”

By Dr. Cornelius J. PAF

### Importing from a Database

**Q** I am a new PAF-user. Until this moment I put all my information about my ancestors (and this is quite a lot) in an Access-file (Microsoft Access). I would like to import these information in PAF. How should I do this? I hope you know a way to do so.

**A** The only way available today for importing data into PAF from another source is through the use of the GEDCOM file format. The GEDCOM file format is a very rigid syntax standard that allows your data to be structured with a prefix code for each piece of information within a carefully crafted hierarchy that represents the family relationships.

It would not be impossible to generate a GEDCOM file from your ACCESS database, but it would take some time to perfect the file so that everything is perfectly accurate. The entire project would boil down to a question of how long it would take to generate the GEDCOM file versus how long it would take to enter everything by hand. Actually this notion intrigues me a lot. It would be sort of a test of one's skill at understanding the level of forgiveness that the GEDCOM import routine allows.

Part of the decision of generating a GEDCOM versus hand entering the data depends on—

- How many individuals you have in your ACCESS database, and how many families are there.
- How much detail you have entered into the ACCESS database, and what is the density of these details. For example, you may have a rich ACCESS schema with lots of potential fields, but



there may not be data in very many of the fields, or the records may be quite full. If the records are quite full, then that implies going the GEDCOM route rather than hand entering the data.

- Whether the field formats are compatible with the PAF formats. For example, are your date formats compatible, or are your place names able to be parsed correctly?

You could consider doing the process in two stages. A GEDCOM file has two major sections. The first contains all the details about each individual, i.e., name, sex, birth date and place, death date and place, etc. The second part contains the family details, i.e., who are the father and the mother, marriage date and place, then each of the children. This family part is mostly building a structure from the individuals in the first part by referencing their sequential reference number, and might be a difficult challenge to build in ACCESS. So you could create the first part using GEDCOM and then manually link all the families together using the PAF program.

### PAF on a Macintosh

**Q** I noticed you have classes on doing Genealogy with a Macintosh. Does this mean that there exists a Mac version of PAF somewhere?

**A** There is indeed an older version of PAF for Mac, but it's not full-featured when compared to PAF for PC. There's a newer program called Reunion (<http://www.leisterpro.com/>) that a lot of people seem to really like. Our classes tend to focus on Reunion because more people want to learn about it than about the older PAF for Mac program. Another option is to run PAF 5.2.18 (the latest PC version) in Virtual PC mode on a Mac. We've had classes on that as well.

## Software of Interest: clooz 2.0

Ancestor Detective, LLC has announced the release of Clooz 2.0 which is advertised as an electronic filing cabinet for genealogical records. It is a utility to be used with your genealogy program to organize and track the papers and electronic documents collected during the research process. Clooz 2.0 has been completely rewritten from version 1 which was released in 1997. Version 2.0 includes more than 100 templates for specific genealogy records, plus generic templates for those records without a specific template.

Legacy Family Tree users will be interested in Clooz 2.0 because the latest version can work directly with Legacy Family

Tree 6.0, by saving people and sources directly from Legacy to Clooz. For those that use other genealogy software, a GEDCOM 5.5 import feature allows users to bring people and sources into Clooz from almost any genealogy program.

The Research Log is another useful feature of Clooz. You can enter information about a source as you look at it and record whether you found anything or not. If you find something, you can add a Personal File Number to the Research Log template and then create a Clooz template to record the find.

You can download Clooz 2.0 from their Web site at: [www.clooz.com/download](http://www.clooz.com/download).

**htm.** The program is a demo which can be run for 30 days or 15 tries, and you can make it fully functional by buying the program. Clooz 2.0 for \$39.95 (or a \$20 upgrade for registered users). There are also download-only options. The initial release of Clooz 2.0 does not include all the reports intended to be in the program. When the remaining reports are ready, those who ordered the CD version of the program will receive a new CD with the full program. A manual is also being prepared which will be a free download from the Web site when ready. The manual may not be needed because there is an excellent help menu.

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

The following can be ordered from [www.FamilySearch.org](http://www.FamilySearch.org) or at 1-800-537 5950:

Personal Ancestral File 2.3.1 Macintosh (diskette or CD version)	US\$6
Personal Ancestral File 4.04	US\$6
Personal Ancestral File 5.2.18 and 4 (Windows), PAF 3, and 2.3.1 (DOS), lessons and user guide, Personal Ancestral File Companion 5.2 Windows (2 CDs)	US\$8.25
Personal Ancestral File 4.04.18 and 5.2.18, PAF Companion (evaluation) or PAF User's Guide (English, Spanish, French, German, or Portuguese) downloaded at: <a href="http://www.FamilySearch.org">www.FamilySearch.org</a>	free

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

Newsletter back issues if available, per issue	US\$1 (order by mail or purchase at meetings)
Videos of classes; syllabus copies	See Web site for titles, prices
<i>Family History Documentation Guidelines</i>	US\$12.50 per book, includes postage; bulk discounts
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Flash Drives with SVCGG logo and loaded with 9000 Internet genealogy sites	Available at cost on Web site and at meetings

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**General Classes**

Using Court Records

Reunion on a Macintosh

PAF and PCs for Beginners

Advances Focus Filter for PAF & AQ

**Software Classes**

Family Slide Shows w MS PowerPoint

For more details, go to: [www.svcomputergenealogy.org](http://www.svcomputergenealogy.org)



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