

## Family Gatherings: Sharing More than the Macaroni

By Janet Brigham Rands

I was in my lower 20s when I attended my first full-scale family reunion. After we ate way too much food, a distant cousin stood at the front of the group and began reciting facts about some of our common ancestors. ("...was born in..." "...was buried in...") I'd never known we had so many common ancestors, or that they were so common.

I felt like Ginger the dog, in the Gary Larsen cartoon, whose owner is lecturing Ginger to stay out of the garbage, or else!—but all Ginger hears is, "Blah, blah, Ginger, blah blah blah..." Born, married. Died, buried. If this were genealogy, it's no wonder so many people let their great-aunts do all the work.

A couple of decades of maturation and a newfound interest in family history would prove me wrong on several counts. Genealogy wasn't poisonous, nor were my ancestors' lives common. The more I hunted down details of their lives, the more human they became to me. In fact, the very ancestors whose vital information was so boring became the object of many hours of scouring for details in several states and two continents. These "common" folks were adventuresome, rebellious, and at times scandalous. Their families split a first time over religion, then split again. Generations later, they're still splitting, mend-

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ing, and splitting. Fortunes came and went, but mostly went.

### Under Cover of Fried Chicken

One of the perils of sharing genealogy at a family gathering is the risk of alienating, or even terrifying, relatives who came to the reunion primarily for the food. These same relatives, now cowering behind the macaroni and the fried chicken, could become your allies in family history if you can engage them before they bolt.

But how?

If what you know about your ancestors is only vital statistics, you have few stories to tell. On the other hand, if you can bring your mutual ancestors' lives to life, your relatives may find themselves interested in the family's history, somewhat by accident. You can bring your relatives out from behind the fried chicken if you keep your eye on what a family gathering can accomplish.

### Keep it Light

Gatherings are likely to be noisy and busy. Whether your relatives like each other or not, they're likely to be talking

and catching up. Any presentation you put together should require casual concentration at best. If you prepare anything as elaborate as a slide show, don't expect your relatives to sit in rapt attention. Don't expect them to follow an audio narrative, or even to stay focused on the pictures.

Something that's becoming common at many kinds of family gatherings, including funerals and weddings, is a slide show displayed on a computer monitor, with or without a projector. If you incorporate music into a show, either through a family history database program or through presentation software such as PowerPoint, it helps to label the pictures with brief captions.



You may be tempted to edit all of the photos to your satisfaction. Although nicely cropped and gently retouched photos add to the quality of the presentation, it isn't necessary for you to touch up every speck and squiggle. Use a cropping

tool to focus in on the people or setting. Fix the photo only enough so that the flaws don't detract from the photo.

You also may be tempted to create little bubble captions coming out of your relatives' mouths. These may seem hilarious to you, as you create your slide show. However, it may be wise to resist this temptation; humor is not necessarily a shared familial trait.

### Carpe Memoria

If your software allows, superimpose names on the photos to help relatives identify who is in the photos you display. Set the slide show at a display rate that allows people time to examine the pictures and help identify any unidentified people or locations in the slide show, such as "Who is this child?" You may be surprised what you can learn about your ancestors and current relatives when your extended family takes a look at your old photos.

An example: My father's parents and siblings are shown in only two pictures. One of those is a casual gathering photographed with a primitive camera that had a serious light-leakage problem. Sitting in my grandfather's lap is a young boy whose age did not fit any of my father's siblings. A cousin told me that the child was the son of an uncle who was considerably older than

*(Continued on page 50)*

## What's Inside

Spider Webs	51	Recently Published	54
Stranger than Fiction	52	Ask the Doc	55
Software of Interest	52	Of Interest to Genealogists	55
Software for Your Digital Pictures (continued)	53	Information/Classes for August 2006	back

## Family Gatherings

(Continued from page 49) lord and was not wealthy, but rather was a laborer, and that his wife made lace, which was a local cottage industry. This Sarah was not well educated.

my father. The uncle and his wife divorced, and the child was adopted by a stepfather.

The boy learned nothing of his biological father's family. He didn't know that his grandfather was born in a mining camp in California and as a young man was the legislative founder of a university. He didn't know that his great-grandfather was a privateer in the War of 1812 and was captured by the British, or that his life was spared only because one of his would-be killers had a child and did not want to kill someone else's child.

With my cousin's help, I tracked down the child in the photo, who was by now a man in his 70s, and sent him the picture of himself as a child. I described the ancestral family he had never known. After more than 70 years, he learned about the rich historical heritage of his birth father, and we broadened our family tree with a new cousin. This connection happened because, at a small family gathering, my cousin mentioned the divorce and the youngster who went with his mother to a new family.

### Don't Hog the Limelight

Don't assume that you have to present the family history yourself. You may be unusually clever and may be an excellent storyteller, but the sad truth is that few people will want to listen to anyone—even you!—for very long. Even if you put together a superbly illustrated slide show with music and witty captions, the fried chicken and potato salad will take their toll on the wakefulness of your relatives.

That said, you can make family history vivid enough to survive afternoon drowsiness. One way is to involve children and good-sport adults in acting out events in your ancestors' lives. Did they cross an ocean or a continent? Did they milk cows? Did they plant tomatoes? Did they fight in a war?

Children in your extended family can act out these events and replay the family stories and family folklore. As children, my cousins and I tugged on our little red wagons around the block as we pretended we were our pioneer ancestors. Once I played a cricket in an informal staging of the Utah pioneers whacking at the crickets that were eating the Utah pioneers' crops. For such events, beach towels make excellent costumes, and coolers with wheels double nicely as ships, handcarts, and covered wagons. Some artifacts, such as shovels and swords, can be pantomimed, lest actual blood be shed.

### Ride Easy in the Saddle

A family gathering is a time to drink lemonade and eat watermelon, not to argue over genealogical details. Considering the conflicts in some family histories, arguing would come easily.

One of my ancestors, a third-great-grandmother named Sarah from a village in Buckinghamshire, England, has multiple histories. According to one branch of the extended family (which actually is quite extended, since the family became polygamous in the 1800s), Sarah was a well educated woman who descended from landed gentry. The family lore is that she was disowned by her wealthy lorded father when she married into a lower class. Not only that, but her husband was Mormon rather than Anglican (gasp).

According to another (more correct) branch of the family, the census records clearly show that the woman's father was not a

In a bizarre twist, Sarah has two entries in the Daughters of the Utah Pioneers volumes of Mormon women's biographies. One entry describes Sarah as abandoning her family's wealth to marry a Mormon. Another entry in another volume lists her under a later husband's surname, and describes her as coming from humble circumstances.

Of course, I'm right; I've found Sarah's family in British records, and I've found no evidence of nobility in her background, at least not the type of nobility that goes on a coat of arms or gets a person buried in Westminster Abbey. But being right doesn't mean I ought to disrupt the next family reunion by insisting that everyone believe what I believe. If we do have a reunion and some children do act out Sarah's life, I'll need to explain that people have told differing stories about Sarah's life, but we do know some things for sure: She was married to Daniel, a mat-maker; they sailed from Liverpool to America on a ship that survived a gale, and en route to Illinois they saw a comet. (Amazingly, two families of my husband's ancestors were on the same ship.)

### Renew Your Affections

What comes next is difficult to tell, but worth the telling.

Not long after I was rolling my eyes at the recitation of vital statistics at one family reunion, I went to another, much smaller, gathering. I hadn't seen my cousin Betsy for seven or eight years. On Labor Day that year, we gathered at my cousin's family farm in Idaho. I remember what I wore that day (I was overdressed in a brown skirt and short-sleeve jacket, with a white blouse).

Betsy's sister pulled out some old documents her father had compiled detailing our grandfather's life. A bitter disagreement over an inheritance had divided Betsy's and my parents' families for years, but reading the words of our grandfather were illuminating. My grandfather wrote about how much he despised Mormons. Despite that, my father married a Mormon. We talked about how old biases can fade with new times.

Betsy recently had moved to San Francisco. Years of being apart peeled away, and we giggled over our secret word we'd made up as children ("chinkasnersnip") and talked about our plans. Betsy and I promised to keep in touch and said we'd get each other's addresses from our parents. But in the late afternoon as I was leaving, I had an urge to ask Betsy to jot down her address and phone number for me. She wrote it on an index card, and had me do the same.

It was only a couple of weeks later that two policemen came to my door in Utah and told me that Betsy had been killed in an automobile accident near the Golden Gate Bridge in California. They said that the only identification she had was her driver's license and my name and address on an index card in her purse.

I hadn't known that the last time I'd see her would be that day at the farm. She hadn't known then that decades later, I would find the index card where she wrote her address, and that my husband and I would locate her old apartment in San Francisco. Betsy and I wouldn't have guessed that visiting her grave in a hilltop pioneer cemetery in North Idaho would become a sweet ritual for

(Continued on page 51)

me. The wind there blows the grains and grasses in waves, like so many lives sweeping across the prairie, resting for a moment, changing direction, then whispering on to the next hilltop.

That September day, we relished the simplicity of

chicken, potatoes, and pie. At that little gathering, our generation continued to heal the divisions of our parents' generation. We could not see the tragedy ahead, but we shared the memories behind. It was a perfect day.

## Spider Webs: County Mayo, Ireland, 1838 Ordnance Survey Maps; Atlas of Canada; Satellite Images; London Signatures

### County Mayo, Ireland, 1838 Ordnance Survey Maps

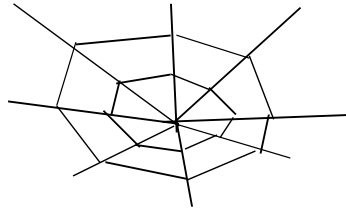
The Mayo County Library has posted the 1838 Ordnance Survey maps of Mayo on their Web site. The maps have very high resolution, and are marked with features which include houses, country lanes, rivers, lakes, and rows of trees.

To use the site, the user must have Microsoft Windows and Internet Explorer 5.5 or later. Browsers such as Firefox, Netscape, or Opera will not work. Non-Windows computers such as Macintosh and Linux cannot use the Web site. The computer must have a free SVG Viewer plug-in from Adobe to use the maps. Instructions about installation of the viewer plug-in are found on the site.

Once the SVG Viewer plug-in is installed, a visit to the site produces two windows, a small search column on the left and a large window with the map on the right. The user can zoom in and out or pan to the north, south, east, or west by clicking on the icons located at the edge of the screen. Online help files are available, should they be needed. Once the map is displayed as the user wants it displayed, it can be printed. The user should switch the printer to landscape mode so the printed copy will better fit the paper. To view the County Mayo 1838 Ordnance Survey Maps, go to: [www.mayolibrary.ie/maps/gissearch.htm](http://www.mayolibrary.ie/maps/gissearch.htm)

### Atlas of Canada

The *Atlas of Canada* is a Web site created by Natural Resources Canada containing maps of Canada and a listing of Canadian places. This year, the *Atlas of Canada* helps commemorate 100 years of mapping Canada's geography and history by Natural Resources Canada. The maps at the site include current political boundaries, ecology, rivers, population, agriculture, mining, climate change, relief maps and more. However, genealogists will be attracted to the Map Archives and historical maps. Some early historical maps



are of interest to historians and genealogists, especially the pre-Confederation maps made in 1740 and 1823. These maps show the border changes before and after the British ended the French colonization of North America

In 1823, British North America included Lower Canada, Upper Canada, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, and Newfoundland (including the Labrador Coast). The 1823 map includes the locations of all Hudson's Bay Company Posts and King's Post Company locations, and other traders' locations. This map also contains all significant European settlements. The Northwest Territories were considered British possessions, and the Hudson's Bay Company controlled Rupert's Land. The United States and Britain jointly administered the Oregon Territory. Alaska was called "Russian America."

The site can be searched for a place name. By clicking on a link, the map will appear with an arrow pointing to the place. Most maps will show all of Canada, but the user can zoom in to a particular location and see the details of villages and local features in a view that is just a few miles across. The user can also pan to the north, south, east, or west. The maps can easily be printed or saved as an image file which can be attached to a database such as PAF or inserted in a document or slide show.

To visit the *Atlas of Canada*, go to: <http://atlas.gc.ca>

### Satellite Images

Google Earth has released very high-resolution (3 inches/pixel) images for a portion of Las Vegas. The resolution is sufficient to read large advertising signs and to discern

whether individuals on the sidewalks are men or women. In time, similar images of the entire country or the remainder of the world will be available. Satellite photos can serve as maps for the genealogist who is publishing a family history. Although the features or the area may have changed, the satellite photos can be used to show the location of an ancestral home with a few added labels.

Google Earth is available free of charge. A special viewer must be downloaded to view the images on either a Windows or Macintosh system. To visit the site, go to: <http://earth.google.com>

### London Signatures

London Signatures is a free online index of 10,000 wills from the Archdeaconry Court of Middlesex created by the London Metropolitan Archives. Before 1858, wills were proven in courts administered by the Church of England. The courts operated at different levels up to the Prerogative Court of Canterbury (PCC). The higher courts usually handled the wealthy, primarily because they had broader geographical jurisdiction which included all the properties held by wealthy families. The diocese had the bishop's (Consistory) court which had jurisdiction over the diocese. Next were the courts administered by the Bishop's Commissaries (deputies) which had jurisdiction over one or more archdeaconries. At the next level were the courts administered by archdeacons that had jurisdiction over an Archdeaconry or part thereof. On 11 January 1858, the church courts were replaced by a centralized system of civil probate registries.

The index can be searched at no cost. If a document of interest is found in the index, a black-and-white scanned image of the original document for £4.00. The amount can be paid with a credit card and an e-mail with a link to a URL will be sent. The user can then download an image of the will from the site. For more information, or to search the wills, go to: [www.cityoflondon.gov](http://www.cityoflondon.gov)

## Stranger than Fiction: Genealogy Rescued from Fire

An 800-acre wildfire threatened 30 homes in the Pine Valley subdivision of the Village of Oak Creek near Sedona, Arizona. When the fire broke loose, Liza Dart and her daughter were in Cornville with the car. Her husband, John was home alone with no transportation. He thought he could save the house. It looked as though the fire would miss the house, but later the whole subdivision was burning. The phone lines had gone down.

Liza was worried about her husband. Did he get out in time? She saw the helicopter dropping water on the subdivision. Neighbors began sharing rumors. One neighbor reminded her that the neighbor had a fish pond. She could see John and the cat in her mind, sitting in the fish pond next door with only their heads above the water.

John sprayed water on the trees, but soon realized that the effort would not stop the fire. The wind shifted and John knew it was time to leave. He finally got a ride to the evacuation center with one of the last residents to leave the subdivision, taking only the dog, some genealogy papers, and a laptop computer with the family pictures. The cat had disappeared some time before.

As John and Liza were reunited at the evacuation center, they were not concerned that they had no change of clothing, no medication and no toothbrush. They did worry about the cat that they had left behind, but they had each other, their genealogy and their pictures. Liza said, "It's just stuff. And I'm not a big stuff person." The Dart home along with the other homes in the subdivision burned to the ground.

## Software of Interest: Personal Ancestry Writer II version ; Family 1.2 for Macintosh; PhotoPlus 6

### Personal Ancestry Writer II version 50

Personal Ancestry Writer (PAWriter II) is a free genealogy program for the Macintosh. We can now get version 50 in either of two versions, one for MacOS 8.6/9.x and one for MacOS X. It is modeled after Personal Ancestral File (PAF) for the Macintosh which has not been updated for many years. Personal Ancestry Writer II has many of the same features as are found in the PC version of PAF which has been actively supported and updated, but is actively being developed and supported. Personal Ancestry Writer II works well on OS X, unlike the Macintosh version of PAF.

Personal Ancestry Writer II creates all text files in RTF format, which is compatible with AppleWorks, Microsoft Office for Macintosh, OpenOffice.org, or any other word processor for editing. It also generates HTML files for the Web and desktop publishing files in MML format for FrameMaker. These files include genealogical dictionaries, registers, ahnentafels, and lineages, and other text files and pedigree charts. Changes from version 49 include:

- Pictures and a Pictures Menu
- Reassigned command-B, -O (letter O) and -W; command-B to show/hide the shortcut buttons while command-O and command-W are used in the Pictures Menu
- Tags for people with pictures, and with pictures that can't be found

- New Window menu
- Updated reference guide

For more information, go to: [www.lanopalera.net/Genealogy/AboutPAWriter](http://www.lanopalera.net/Genealogy/AboutPAWriter).

### Family 1.2 for Macintosh

Family 1.2 is a new Macintosh OS X genealogy program with a very intuitive user interface and requires no configuration. All information, including multimedia exhibits, is contained in a single file. Family 1.2 is written as a Universal Binary file that runs on Intel as well as pre-Intel Macs that use Mac OS X 10.4. The program has photo, video, and document management, and compatibility with iPhoto. Family 1.2 sells for \$40. A demo version can be downloaded from the Web site. For more information, screen shots of the program or to download the program, go to: <http://family.hallduplex.net>

### PhotoPlus 6

PhotoPlus 6 is a free image and photo editing program for Windows. Some of the other choices for photo editing are quite expensive. Photoshop is considered the best program, but the price of about \$600 discourages most amateur photo restorers. Photoshop Elements is a stripped down version of Photoshop which sells for about \$90. PhotoPlus 6, now being given away by Serif Software, is not as powerful as Photoshop Elements, but has most of the features. It is similar in capability to another free program, GIMP (Graphics Image Processor),

which has a difficult-to-comprehend user interface.

PhotoPlus 6 includes tools to create, manipulate, and enhance photographs, bitmap graphics, and web animations. It has enough features and tools to satisfy most family historians who are touching up defects in old family pictures. The tools are explained in a help menu and are relatively easy to learn. FAQs (frequently asked questions) are available to answer some of the simple questions that the user may have. The program includes tutorials for image and photo editing and special effects in a downloadable companion document.

PhotoPlus 6 is available as a 19.4 megabyte download. The user must register the program to receive a key to unlock the program. Once unlocked, the program asks for additional information, and then the program is ready to use. A more powerful version of the program can be purchased from the company. You can download Photoplus 6 at: <http://freeserifsoftware.com>

## Quoteable Quote

If you want to know how old a woman is, ask her sister-in-law.

Edgar Watson Howe

1853-1933

English Novelist

# Software for Your Digital Pictures

By Allin Kingsbury

*Continued from Volume 17 number 6, June 2006*

## Photo Editing

If you work with old family photographs, you will need a photo editor. Almost all of these photographs will be faded and many will have scratches, stains, dirt particles, and missing corners. The photographic paper also darkens with age. All of these problems can be fixed with a photo editor which has the necessary tools to correct these problems. I accomplish the task mostly with manual tools controlled with the mouse, similar to what an artist would use to create a picture. The process requires a good eye and steady hands. The first tool used for small scratches and dirt particles is smudge tool. It is used to smear the background color over small particles and scratches in a manner similar to blending and softening of edges by an artist using pastels. Many editor programs have a clone tool that is even more effective. For larger blemishes and to fill in missing corners or edges of a picture, the pencil tool will fill an area with a selected color. The color is selected on my program by clicking on the color palate or by right clicking on a spot within the picture with the exact color that in need. There is also a paint brush tool and an air brush tool which can be used to change colors by blending in a new color. The process is like using water colors where the original color remains and the new color is mixed with the original. This feature is good for stains by slowly shifting the color back to the original color or shade of gray. There are adjustments for the rate of application of color and for the size and shape of the brush or nozzle pattern which provide the user with a lot of control over the result. For those who cannot hold and move the mouse with steady control of the location of the editing tool, the user can zoom to a more magnified scale where it is easier to control the area being modified. Many other photo editor programs use similar features for manual editing or reconstruction of photos. However, they may have different names and different properties.

There are many good photo editing programs. A few of the more sophisticated programs that are popular include:

- Adobe Photoshop: considered the industry standard for photo editing and graphic design for Windows and Macintosh computers (about \$400)
- Corel Paint Shop Pro: less expensive than Photoshop but competitive in features for Windows and Macintosh (about \$100)
- Corel Painter: an artistic tool with a full compliment of features for photo editing and Web graphics for Windows (about \$100)
- Serif Photo Plus: a less expensive alternative to Photoshop for Windows (under \$100)
- Corel Photo Paint: a professional-level editor for Windows (a little over \$100)
- ArcSoft PhotoStudio: a low cost editor with most of the manual tools found in Photoshop for Windows or Macintosh (about \$80)
- There are also some simplified photo editing programs that are easier to learn and to use:
  - Adobe Photoshop Elements: excludes some of the advanced Photoshop features, for Windows or Macintosh (about \$70)
  - PhotoLine 32: a versatile photo editing shareware program for Macintosh or Windows
  - Micro Frontier ColorIt!: a full featured editor that is easy to use for Macintosh (about \$80)
  - Ulead PhotoImpact: an easy to use editor with many advanced features for Windows (\$43)
  - Microsoft Digital Image Suite: a simplified editor for beginners (\$45)
  - Media Chance Photo Brush: an image editor, painting tools and photo retouch program for Windows (\$45)

There are also free photo editor programs:

- Gimp: for Macintosh or Linux
- Future Paint

I have been using PhotoStudio as a photo editor for many years and have learned all the features. It has many of the older Photoshop features. I have been able to fix all problems using the program, but the reason I have not changed to a better program is the time needed to learn a new program. If I were starting out, I would get a full-featured program and learn to use all the features.

Some photo editors have a lot of filters which can automatically sharpen edges, softer features, remove red-eye, add special effects such as relief, and do various color corrections. I find the filters to be much faster than manual correction and in most cases they produce better results than can otherwise be obtained. They are also much easier to use than the manual tools which allow the user to change the size and shape of the tool. The new releases of the more expensive editor programs usually come with some new filters which greatly increase the effectiveness of the program. This often makes the upgrade well worth the cost for someone doing a log of photo editing.

## Sharing Photos

After taking pictures or restoring photos, the results can be shared with others who have an interest in them. The personal computer makes it easy to publish photos in a book or on a CD or DVD. The most popular way to share photos now is over the Internet, either by sending them by e-mail or posting them on a photo-sharing site.

There are many sites which offer space to post your photos, and allow you to arrange the photos into groups, add captions, and control access. Some sites are free and others charge a fee for the services. One can visit the various sites and learn about the features and the fees. It may be good to try a few sites before selecting it as your photo site.

One photo-sharing site that appears to have high ratings is Flickr. It has evolved from a multiplayer online game site created

by a Canadian corporation, Ludicorp Products. The company also had multi-user chat room for the players. The company discovered that the software used for the chat room could also be modified for photo sharing. The Flickr Web site was launched in 2004. In 2005, Flickr was acquired by Yahoo and moved to the U.S. It is currently a free site and is official in beta stage. There has been no hint as to whether or not they will begin charging for their services after the beta phase is completed. My guess is that they will begin charging.

The photos can be viewed in several sizes by visitors. They can spool through thumbnails or browse medium or large size images. Users can also see photos from the site with a Web enabled cell phone or a PDA as well as on a computer screen. Photos can be uploaded from a computer or from a cell phone with a camera. The site is also used by many bloggers as a photo repository.

Once the user has a page to display photos on the Flickr Web site, the photos can be uploaded. A privacy level can be set for each photo to limit access. The most restrictive privacy level is to allow viewing only by the uploader. Other levels could be set various groups of friends or family. Captions can be added to each photo as well as key words which can enable searches for photos dealing with specific subjects.

Another useful feature is a comments box for each photo. Viewers can leave comments about each photo. These comments can serve as family chatter about the photo or could be useful in posting an old photo and asking who the person is in the photo.

The site can also host group photo pools. For example, all pictures taken at a wedding, company picnic, or family reunion by many photographers could be posted on a photo page. The access to the page could be limited to only wedding guests. Those interested could then view the photos taken by all parties at the event, just by visiting one Web page.

Other popular Internet photo sharing services include:

- Smugmug: a \$30 a year service with unlimited photo storage,

quick e-mail support and no ads.

- HeyPix: a free album-oriented sharing service offering 10 built-in album templates, plus tools for users to create their own albums and which offers 50 MB of storage; premium plans cost between \$5 and \$8 a month, with up to 3 GB of storage
- Buzznet: a free service, which allows for uploading 60 photos a month, gives users a Buzznet website. Those who pay \$36 a year can password-protect their galleries, and get additional storage and their own domain name.

There are also a large number of free but limited photo sharing services offered by companies that sell prints of photos, film and other products of interest to photographers, and some major Internet companies. The free services often have limits on memory available, number of pictures, and number of uploads per month. These sites include: Agfanet, Club Photo, Dot Photo Pro, fotki.com Fujifilm.net, ImageStation, Kodak EasyShare Gallery, NikonNet, OurPictures, Photo Cheap, PhotoWorks, Picasa Hello, Ritzpix.com, Searsphotos.com, Shutterfly, Snapfish, Wal-Mart Photo Center, and Yahoo Photos

### Summary

Much of the software written for photo management is recently written. More software is under construction. You may want to try a few programs until you find something that you like. The major trade-off is between features and ease of use. Many programs offer a free 30 day trial when you download the software. Since some of the software programs and Web site services are new and possibly poorly financed, do not depend on any of them to be in business in a few years, especially the Web sites. You have much less risk with products from mature and successful companies. Keep your own backup copies of all of your photos.

It is great to have all of these programs and services. They make it easy and enjoyable to prepare pictures, share pictures and to use pictures with family history.

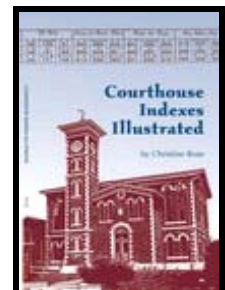
## Recently Published: Courthouse Indexes Illustrated

*Courthouse Indexes Illustrated* by Christine Rose describes the various kinds of indexes found at court houses and explains how to use them effectively. One would think everyone knows what an index is and no explanation is necessary, but that is not so when it comes to court houses. As an example, a few states use the Graves Tabular Index which uses only the first three letters of a name. When the county court house first began, paper was expensive and money tight. The Graves Tabular Index is very concise and saves a lot of paper. However, the names are not actually in alphabetical order, only the first three letters are in alphabetical order.

Other states use a different index. There are Russell Indexes, Graves Indexes, Campbell Indexes, Vowel Indexes, and more. It helps to understand the differences in these indexing methods when looking for a record. Christine Rose explains them all.

Christine Rose is a Certified Genealogist, Certified Genealogical Lecturer, and a Fellow of the American Society of Genealogists. She is a popular lecturer at national and local genealogical conferences. Since 1992 she has been an instructor and a coordinator of Samford University's Institute of Historical and Genealogical Research. She is a co-author of the book, *The Complete Idiot's Guide to Genealogy*. She lives in the San Francisco Bay area of California.

*Courthouse Indexes Illustrated* is a 58-page paperback booklet which sells for \$9.95. It can be ordered online at: [www.christine4rose.com](http://www.christine4rose.com) or purchased from other booksellers. Specify ISBN 0-929626-17-6 when ordering the book.



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

By Dr. Cornelius J. PAF

### Second Family

**Q** How should I file family group records for my great-grandmother who had a second husband and had children by him. Where would I file her family group record.

**A** You might consider storing these records right after the records for great-grandmother's husband on your direct line.. This will be out of alphabetical order but easier to recognize the family that they are related to.

You can file the records in alphabetical order. Be sure the name of the second husband is on the family group sheet with great-grandmother and her first husband.

### Notes on First Page

**Q** Most of my ancestors had more children than can fit on the first page of a set of family group records. The notes always start on the same page as the name of the last child. I click on “Notes on first page” hoping that the notes would start on a new page, but it doesn't. What can I do.

**A** Really not much. The “Notes on first page” is only for a family group record that has room for all the children on



the first page. If the notes aren't long, you may be able to get the whole family on one page.

### Second Wife and Children

**Q** How do I enter a second wife for an ancestor? If she is a widow, should I include her first husband? What about her children?

**A** With your ancestor's name highlighted in the Primary Position (upper left corner) in the Family View, right click on the name, or click on

Add in the Menu bar. On either one, click on Add Spouse. The usual dialog box comes up, choose from adding a new individual or selecting an existing (in your PAF data) individual. Complete the individual data. Save it. The marriage screen should appear. Enter the data and save. Don't forget the notes and sources. If this is the second spouse an “Other Marriages” box appears above the husband's box. Click on the “Other Marriages” box, highlight the name of the newly added wife. Click on her name, you will be returned to family view with the second wife displayed.

If she has children by this husband, add them in the usual way.

To enter her husband, click on the up-and-down arrow by her box, to put her in the primary position. Go through the same procedure to add her first husband that you used to add her. And if they had children, they should be entered also.

## Of Interest to Genealogists: New Jersey Public Records Preservation Funding, Ancestry.com Finishes U.S. Census Indexes

### New Jersey Public Records Preservation Funding

New Jersey's 21 counties and 40 municipalities are set to receive \$27.8 million in state preservation and security aid for their public records and archives. The aid can be used to provide manpower and training, microfilming and the duplication of both old and current documents. The program enables New Jersey counties and municipalities to use the latest technologies to drive down the cost of creating government records, maintenance and storage or these records, while expanding public access to the records. Authorities have estimated the effort will yield up to four times the amount spent in direct savings and cost-efficiencies statewide. By centralizing the storage of public records, local governments can run more efficiently, which will cost taxpayers less than a government that is inefficient, ineffective and unresponsive. We may also find that the grants will be a great help to family historians when the program is complete.

### Ancestry.com Finishes U.S. Census Indexes

Ancestry.com announced the completion of their project to scan and index all the public U.S. Census records and make them available on their Web site. They have now indexed the complete U.S. Census records from 1790 to 1930 and have both the indexes and images of the original records available online. The in-

dex includes every name listed in the census, which for census returns from 1850 through 1930 included ever family member and every individual living with the family such a boarders, hired hands, and live-in servants. Counting the hours from all working on the project, the effort required 6.6 million hours of work to finish. The project added 540 million names and 600 terabytes (six hundred thousand billion bytes) of data to the company's genealogical database. The 13 million original census images were scanned and transcribed from 15,000 rolls of microfilm.

The data in the huge Ancestry.com genealogy database resides on 3,000 computer servers at the data center. Most of our readers can go to a nearby family history center or public library and type in a name and have the results of a census search in a few seconds. It was not very long ago that you had to sit at a microfilm reader and search the census line by line until the person was found. It is an amazing accomplishment.

Ancestry.com is part of a network of Web sites owned by MyFamily.com Inc. It charges annual fees of \$155.40 for U.S. records and \$347.40 for world records. Monthly fees start at \$29.95.

For more information, go to: [www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com)

## OFFICERS AND STAFF

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## Silicon Valley Computer Genealogy Group

[www.svcomputergenealogy.org](http://www.svcomputergenealogy.org)

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Please send inquiries, address changes, new memberships, and membership renewals to:  
SV-CGG, P.O. Box 23670, San Jose, CA 95153-3670 or Leslyk@earthlink.net

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

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

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

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
Stuck-on Sources Post-It note pads	Available at meetings and on Web site
Flash Drives with SVCGG logo and loaded with 9000 Internet genealogy sites	Available at cost on Web site and at meetings

### CLASSES FOR 12 AUGUST 2006

#### General Classes

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



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