

## Footnote.com, for Historical Documents

By Allin Kingsbury

The U.S. National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) and Footnote, Inc. (formerly iArchives) have created a non-exclusive partnership to scan historical documents in the National Archives and post them on the Internet. The site is not a genealogy site, but many of the historic documents will be useful for family history research. Approximately 4.5 million pages are available as the site opens, and millions of other historical documents will be digitized and placed online each year. To visit the site, go to: <http://footnote.com/>

Some of the documents available on the site are:

**Bureau of Investigation Case Files for 1908-1922:** The Bureau of Investigation is the original investigative branch of the Federal government. It later became the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). The investigations not only included crime, but also many individuals with German ancestry from 1909 to 1921 including some individuals with Dutch, Swiss, Danish, Polish, or Czech ancestry. Many Mexicans were also investigated, possibly due to the Mexican Revolution being fought at the time. The files usually included date and place of birth, living relatives (occasionally deceased relatives too), occupation, religion, political views, social organizations, acquaintances of interest, and

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more. Should you find an individual, the information in the file is much more complete than that found in most other sources.

**City Directories:** City Directories list residents, organizations and businesses located in the American population centers.

**Civil War Pensions Index 1865-1899:** This database contains images of the Index Cards of Union Soldiers who filed an application for pension, and of pension applications for later wars. The later wars include the Indian Wars and the Spanish American War. The index contains more than three million cards representing pension applications by soldiers, sailors and their widows.

**Copybooks of George Washington's Correspondence:** These books contain copies of correspondence with the Secretaries of State from 1789 to 1796.

**Mathew B. Brady Collection of Civil War Photographs:** Brady led a team of photographers who photographed thousands of the most memorable images of the Civil War. Approximately 6000 glass plate negatives, which the War Department acquired

from Brady in 1874-1875. These photographs taken by Brady and 12 other photographers are online and can be viewed or downloaded and saved for use in your family history or other documents. The Images range from gallery portraits of famous military and political personalities to scenes from the battlefield and pictures of military units.

**Naturalization Records 1792-1966:** The petitions and declarations for naturalizations for the states of New York, Pennsylvania, Maryland, and Massachusetts and also Southern California and Eastern Louisiana are included in this database. Most of the records include the date and place of entry in the United States, which are helpful in finding the passenger list. Many of the applications list the parents and even other family members. All of the declarations list the date and place of birth of the individual.

**Papers of the Constitutional Convention 1787:** This database contains the Journal of Proceedings for the Constitutional Convention of 1787.

**Papers of the Continental Congress 1774-1789:** Correspondence from George Washington, Benjamin Franklin, Thomas Jefferson, and many other

individuals along with the papers generated by the Continental Congress document the creation of the United States. This database contains many and varied documents from official state papers to payment records of supplies sent to the army.

**Pennsylvania Archives 1625-1880:** Many of the records of the colony of Pennsylvania have been published in book form, available for many years at libraries. Now the original document images from the Pennsylvania Archives are available online, and they cover the period from 1664 to 1880, a much larger period than the books published earlier. More than 100,000 pages have been scanned and posted online. The documents include Revolutionary War records, William Penn's records, Muster Rolls from various wars and much more.

**Ratified Indian Treaties, 1722-1869:** The treaties are listed chronologically with date, place, tribe, and links to images of related papers.

**Records of the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia Relating to Slaves - 1851-1863:** These papers related to court cases about the disposition of slaves in the District of Columbia before and during the Civil War.

**Revolutionary War Prize Cases:** The file includes records

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of the Court of Appeal in cases of captured war prizes during 1776-1787. The cases were heard on appeal from colonial and state courts by the Continental Congress and the Court of Appeals in cases of capture.

**Southern Claims Commission:** The residents of the southern states filed 22,298 claims for property losses totaling \$60,258,150.44 before the Southern Claims Commission (SCC) for goods taken by or furnished to the Union Army during the Civil War. Claimants had to prove their loyalty to the Union and that they had suffered a loss by submitting the testimony of other individuals. The documents that accompany the claims not only describe the claimant, but often are from family members, and provide information useful to the family historian. Although only 7,092 claims (32%) were approved, the rejected claims are also included in the database. The site has scanned images of all the claims and accompanying documents.

**More Databases**

The digitization of some of the other records is partially completed and will soon be complete. The data completed is available for viewing and copying on the site. These partially-completed databases include:

- Confederate Soldier Service Records - Alabama, Texas, Virginia
- Gazette Virginian (Virginia Newspaper)
- Halifax Gazette (Virginia Newspaper)
- Ratified Indian Treaties - 1722-1869
- Revolutionary War Pension and Bounty-Land Warrant Application Files, from NARA publication M804
- Compiled service records of soldiers who served in the American Army during the Revolutionary War, 1775-1783, from NARA microfilm publication M881
- Compiled Service Records of Confederate Soldiers Who Served in Organizations from the States of Alabama, Texas and Virginia
- Revolutionary War Rolls, 1775-1783 in NARA publication M246

**Additional Documents****Recently Published:****Historic Cemeteries of Oyster Bay**

Oyster Bay is an historic area on Long Island. John Hammond, the town historian, has written a book called, *Historic Cemeteries of Oyster Bay*. The Township of Oyster Bay has 126 cemeteries. Twelve are located in the hamlet of Oyster Bay, and the others are located in the surrounding incorporated villages. The book contains 52 pages of names of people buried in the township. The book is only available from the town of Oyster Bay and can be obtained by contacting Town Historian John Hammond by phone at 624-6359.

Footnote.com plans to scan additional collections of documents and add them to the site. The list includes:

- Amistad Court Documents
- Domestic Letters of the Department of State - 1784-1906
- Approved Pension Applications of Widows and Other Dependents of Civil War and Navy Widows' Certificates, 1861-1920
- Foreign Letters of the Continental Congress and Department of State - 1785-1790
- Historical Newspapers
- Investigation and Trial Papers Relating to the Assassination of President Lincoln
- Project Blue Book
- Records of the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia Relating to Slaves - 1851-1863

**Using Footnote.com**

The site has some free databases, but the most of the databases require a paid membership. Individuals can purchase a membership for \$7.99 per month or \$59.95 per year. Currently the only free databases are the Pennsylvania Archives and the Milestone Document database which includes significant documents that define American History. Samples of documents in the databases that require paid membership are available for viewing by all visitors to the site. A second option is available for casual users of the site. Individual images can be viewed at a cost of \$1.99 per image. The user will see a thumbnail of the document. And can then authorize payment to see the full image.

The press release from Footnote.com also stated that the material scanned by Footnote will be available free at the NARA facilities across the United States and in five years the material will be free on the NARA Web site.

The site promises to be a major source of historical information. Although many of the collections have little or no information for genealogical research, the other collections that do have information of interest to genealogists are very useful. Family historians may want to watch the site for the posting of new collections.

**September Seminar**

The September 8 meeting will be an all-day seminar featuring David Dilts. David works at the Family History Library in Salt Lake City and is a popular lecturer. He is very knowledgeable about genealogy research in the United States. Bring your friends. The event will be open to all and there is no charge for admission. A syllabus will be available with notes, sources, and supplementary material for the topics presented in the sessions. In the seminar, David Dilts will discuss the following:

- Breaking Through Brick Walls
- Religious Migration
- Research Logs
- Using Civil War Records for Family History Research

## *Of Interest:* Dalhousie Papers, Logan Genealogy Museum Missing Visitors, Drouin Collection Index, Early Canadian Documents

### Dalhousie Papers

The Dalhousie papers cover 900 years of Scotland's history and its people. The Dalhousie family owned the collection and decided to sell it. The Scottish Executive and the National Heritage Memorial Fund each contributed £800,000 towards the purchase of the collection for the National Archives of Scotland, which had been offered the first opportunity to acquire the collection. The National Archives of Scotland will use digital technology to make this collection available to the public.

Among the Dalhousie papers are:

- The earliest Scottish charter still in Scotland, made by King David I about 1127
- Scotichronicon, a 15th century history of Scotland in manuscript with illuminated initial letters and additional notes
- Historia Norvegiae, a manuscript history of Norway, copied in Scotland in 1510
- Papers on the Darien expeditions of the 1690s
- Papers of the Jacobite rebellion of 1715
- The papers of General John Forbes who fought in the American War (1757-63) including seven letters from George Washington
- The papers of the 9th Earl of Dalhousie as Governor in Chief of Canada (1820-1828) and as Commander in Chief in India (1829-32)
- The papers of the 10th Earl of Dalhousie, who was Governor General of India, 1845-56
- The papers of Fox Maule as Secretary for War (1855-58) covering the Crimean War, including letters from Florence Nightingale

### Logan Genealogy Museum Missing Visitors

Logan, Utah, hoped to see large crowds when it opened the Everton genealogy library to the public. The 82,000-piece collection that was donated to the city should have been a major attraction to genealogists. However the expected patrons have gone missing. From the opening of the collection in October to the end of last year there were fewer than 200 visitors. It may be the high price of gas and the fact that Logan is a few hours drive from the nearest major airport in Salt Lake City. Most researchers pick the Salt Lake Family History Library over Logan when they get to Salt Lake City because it has more material and is a shorter trip.

### Drouin Collection Index

The Drouin Collection contains more than 12 million baptism, marriage and burial records for French-Canadians from 1621 into the 1940s. These records have been available in a series of printed books, but they were not indexed. These records mention 37 million French-Canadian names and 3.6 million images. The Drouin Collection contains six databases: Quebec Vital Records, Ontario French-Catholic Church Records, Acadian Catholic Church Records, Early U.S. French-Catholic Church Records, Quebec No-

tarial Records and various other French Records. Most genealogists agree that the Drouin Collection is the best resource for French-Canadian family history research.

The Drouin Collection was created in the 1930s by Gabriel Drouin, an entrepreneur and capitalist. He collected local church records in French-speaking areas, in Canada and parts of Maine. For nearly a century, the Drouin Genealogical Institute was the largest genealogy research company in Quebec. They produced family trees for many French-Canadians. The Drouin Genealogical Institute was the only location that had the Drouin Collection.

Ninety-five percent of these records are from the province of Quebec and are written in French. Ancestry.ca has almost completed development of a French interface so native French speakers have easier access to the records.

One fact about the collection that is often overlooked is that the collection includes church records of thousands of English, Irish and Scots who arrived in Quebec and settled there, sometimes briefly, before continuing on to the US or other parts of Canada. The registers of Irish Catholic, Anglican, Presbyterian, and other churches are in English and some date back to the late 1790's.

Ancestry.ca, a Canadian family history subscription Web site, and the Université de Montréal have formed a partnership to index the complete Drouin Collection. Experts at the Université de Montréal will assist in classifying records based on their location and will ensure that the French names and dates are properly transcribed. Images from the Drouin Collection are already digitized and are available on Ancestry.ca. The index is expected to be available online by the end of 2007.

### Early Canadian Documents

Canadiana.org is a non-profit organization which was organized to preserve early Canadian publications. The organization has a large collection of early historical records which cover 300 years of Canadian history from the 1600s to the 1900s. The collection includes about 6,200 publication titles of family histories, local histories, biographies, civil service records and other early historical documents.

Canadiana.org and Ancestry.ca now have an agreement to make the collection available online. Professional historians and genealogists have selected records of genealogical significance from its archive to create a collection known as the *Genealogy and Local History Collection to 1900*. Ancestry.ca is digitizing the collection and will publish it online, making this collection available online. Ancestry.ca already has a significant collection of Canadian records including the 1851, 1901, 1906 and 1911 Canadian censuses. Ancestry.ca has made a financial contribution of C\$93,000 to Canadiana.org as part of the agreement.

The Genealogy and Local History Collection to 1900 includes:

- 150,000 names and birth dates for all civil service employees in Canada
- Records for both houses of Parliament from 1886 to 1900

# Spider Webs: Immigrant Servants Database, 1819/1820 U.S. Passenger List, Nova Scotia Historical Vital Statistics, Boston Streets, The Wayback Machine

## Immigrant Servants Database

Nathan W. Murphy, a Ph.D. candidate at the University of Utah, is working on a database of indentured servants, redemptioners, and transported convicts. Mr. Murphy is a professional genealogist and is employed by Price & Associates Genealogical Services, the organization that is sponsoring the project. Data from colonial sources is being searched for information about immigrant servant arrivals in America.

Mr. Murphy is an accredited genealogist living in Salt Lake City, Utah. He is close to the Family History Library and has secured permission from publishers of the Colonial Virginia court orders to extract data about immigrant servants from their books and make them available for free on the Internet. Mr. Murphy hopes to finish the extraction of seventeenth-century court orders this year. The project will continue for several years as more data is gathered. The three colonies with the largest number of indentured servants are believed to have been Maryland, Pennsylvania, and Virginia. The initial research on the project is concentrated in this area.

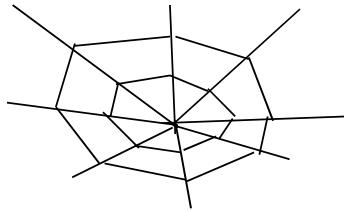
The database will include fifty fields of information about each immigrant listed. A search engine will provide a simple search for an immigrant by name, an advanced search which can look for specified information in the various fields, and a browse feature that allows a user to browse by surname alphabetically. The search engine will look for variant spellings using Soundex.

For more information about this project, go to: [www.immigrantservants.com](http://www.immigrantservants.com)

## 1819/1820 U.S. Passenger List

GenealogyBank.com has digitized the complete 1819-1820 U.S. Passenger List and has published it on their Web site. The list includes passenger arrivals in 35 ports located in 14 states and the District of Columbia. The original document was published by the Federal Government in 1821. The lists also include births and deaths at sea, which are small in number but difficult to find. The passenger list is available free on the Web site.

GenealogyBank.com is a subscription



site that has many records that are useful to genealogists. They have more than 1,300 U.S. newspapers, more than 103 Million obituaries and death records, and about 114,000 government reports and books including this passenger list. The records are all searchable.

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

## Nova Scotia Historical Vital Statistics

More than one million images of early Nova Scotia Records have been placed online. They include:

- Nova Scotia Births 1864-1877
- Nova Scotia Marriages 1864-1930
- Nova Scotia Deaths 1864-1877 and 1908-1955

The records can be viewed in a very small window but the quality of the image is good. It appears that the small window is to prevent printing of the complete image so that visitors will purchase downloadable or printed images of the actual document. The purchased image comes as a jpeg file and four times the resolution of the image on the computer screen. The price is \$9.95 in Canadian dollars for a full size image. For \$19.95, a full size, certified copy can be purchased.

Vital records in Nova Scotia began in 1864. Earlier registration began in 1763, but compliance was so low that most of the births, marriages and deaths were not recorded. Some of the later records have been available on microfilm, but the online records include all of the counties in Nova Scotia. Deaths for 1908-1955 and Marriages to 1930 were not available on microfilm. Beginning in 1877, record-keeping stopped for births and deaths, leaving a gap in the records, but the recording of marriages continued. Compliance with the registration was incomplete and there are gaps in the surviving records. Since 1908, birth, death and marriage registrations have been collected

and maintained more rigorously.

To visit Nova Scotia Historical Vital Statistics go to: [www.novascotiagenealogy.com](http://www.novascotiagenealogy.com)

## Boston Streets

Tufts University has a Web site called *Boston Streets* which combines maps and city directories for the past 160 years. Maps from the years of 1844, 1867, 1874, 1898, 1928, 1950, and 2001 provide a look at the streets of Boston as it grew and changed. Some of the old maps show Ward boundaries, which are useful in locating families found in a census. The site also has searchable city directories for the years of 1845, 1855, 1865, 1870, 1872, 1875, 1885, 1905, and 1925. A person or business found in a directory can be plotted on one of the maps.

The site also has a collection of photographs of buildings and tenants, some of which date back to the early days of photography. Much research has been done to correlate the buildings and individuals with their locations on the maps. There are pictures taken before the great fire that occurred in 1872. Other photographs show the progress of landfill in the Backbay area, one of the earliest landfill projects in the United States.

Another feature of the site is called *cowpaths*. With this tool, the user can navigate maps of the city and link to entries in the directories listing residents and their occupations and photographs of the residents and buildings.

The site will be interesting for those with an interest in history. The content and construction of the site are unique and clever. The features will be very useful to genealogists working on families who lived in Boston, especially if they would like a map to use with their family history. To visit Boston Streets, go to: <http://dca.tufts.edu/features/bostonstreets>

## The Wayback Machine

To look at an archived copy of a Web site you can use the Wayback Machine. If what you need has been removed or edited from the Web. The Wayback machine stores multiple copies of Web sites available to anyone on the Internet. Archived Web pages from as early as 1996 can be retrieved from the site. To visit the site, go to: [www.archive.org](http://www.archive.org)

## Let Photobot Fix Your Pictures

By Janet Brigham Rands

Tired of digitally repairing all those family photos? Wish you could find a robot to do the major fixing for you? New click-free software is designed to fix your photos with no effort on your part. Photobot, which automatically fixes brightness, contrast, and color, can be downloaded for a free 10-day trial from photobot.com.

The software has received favorable reviews from computer and online magazines, although it clearly is still in a development stage. The installation process is awkward, and you may need to contact their customer service for help with the password or other installation processes. On the bright side, their customer service staff responds quickly and even will telephone you.

PhotoBot will fix your photos automatically, displaying them as thumbnails on your screen. The results are uneven, with some photos being improved dramatically in the PhotoBot version but others showing little or no improvement. PhotoBot automatically fixes .JPG images in whatever folders you specify. PhotoBot creates a duplicate file of the fixed image, which then can be accepted or discarded. In the process, of course, it is doubling the storage required for the files it fixes. Unless you limit the folders that

PhotoBot searches, you could double the space taken by all of the .JPG files on your computer.

When purchased, PhotoBot comes with a trial version of a photo archiving site called SwissPictureBank, which is so new that pricing hasn't been set yet for the time beyond the free trial. If you're sure you won't want the online storage, you can avoid endless reminders to sign up for a free SwissPictureBank account: Follow the prompts to sign up for three months of free photo storage, but give bogus information. Make up a nonexistent name and email address, and enter it with a clear conscience, because you are a customer and should not be subjected to annoying marketing. Then be sure to delete the Swiss icon from your desktop, where it was placed without your permission.

To avoid annoying bubble prompts from your toolbar indicating that PhotoBot doesn't have any photos to process, right-click on the little PhotoBot icon on your taskbar (that bar across the bottom of your screen), and click Exit. This will shut off PhotoBot. Remember, however, that the next time you reboot your computer, PhotoBot will scan for pictures, will remind you when it's run out of pictures to scan, and will want you to upgrade. Like a robot.

## Software of Interest: MacFamilyTree 4.4.1

MacFamilyTree has recently had a release of version 4.4.1. The program has features that are competitive with the major genealogy programs for the PC. The GEDCOM standard is supported for exchange of genealogical data with other programs, including those written for Macintosh, Windows, and Linux computers.

MacFamilyTree has three major functions: Editing, Browsing, and Publishing. In "Editing," new persons and families can be created, children added to families, and the relationship of the parents defined. The Drawer, containing a list of all persons in the current tree, is used to add or remove persons. The "Information" window is used to edit the general information, events and photos of the selected person. Simultaneous editing of several trees is possible. Families are edited or created using the Family card. Individuals listed in the Mac OS X search field can be placed in a family by the use of Drag-and-Drop.

Pictures from iPhoto are imported using the drag-and-drop features. This also applies to videos, and sound recordings. MacFamilyTree works with any QuickTime-compatible Webcam and DV-camera, such as iSight or Fire-i. Photos and other media files can be attached from iPhoto or from the hard disk to either a person or an event. Video and audio files from existing recordings or from any connected or internal microphones can be attached.

The "Browse" mode includes several options to view the data. The "Family" chart shows the family structure of a selected family. The "Heritage" chart is a pedigree of the ancestors of an individual. The "Descendant" chart displays the descendents of a selected individual. Each mode is configurable, and can be displayed with or without photos. Other displays include the Genogram, a

timeline, and a sorted list of individuals in the database. "Age statistics" shows how old the persons in the family tree were and calculates their average age.

The "Publishing" mode may be the strongest feature of MacFamilyTree. A complete family tree can be written on a CD with all information and photos included. The complete family tree can be written as an HTML file to publish on the Internet. The pages can be configured with a desired format.

Those who have already used MacFamilyTree will find the following new features in version 4.4.1:

- Files may be saved in UTF-8 format
- Images are copied to Documents/Pictures/Media by default to prevent loss
- Font sizes in the kinship report are adjustable
- Bug fixes for minor problems with the kinship report and display of thumbnails in the "search" view

MacFamilyTree is available in English, German, Norwegian, Italian, and several other languages. MacFamilyTree is a Universal Binary program, and runs on both PowerPC and Intel Macs. The OS X operating system 10.3.9 or later is required. A demo version of the program can be downloaded from the Web site. It is fully functional but does not save data. MacFamilyTree sells for \$49.00, but version 4.4.1 is a free update for registered users of version 4.x. For more information, to purchase or to download the demo, go to: [www.onlymac.de/html/stammbaum4en.html](http://www.onlymac.de/html/stammbaum4en.html)

## Stranger than Fiction: Ever Lose a \$38 Billion File?

Perhaps the horror story of a computer technician will convince readers of the importance of backing up their data. The computer technician worked for the Alaska Department of Revenue. He needed to reformat a disk drive while doing routine maintenance work. The reformat operation accidentally deleted applicant information for an oil-funded account. The money involved in the applications was about \$38 billion. Then the problem was made worse when he accidentally reformatted the backup drive. Fortunately there was a second backup of the data, but the department discovered its second backups were on tapes and were unreadable.

The Department of Revenue computer technicians met with consultants from Microsoft Corporation and Dell to see if the data could be retrieved. The effort was a failure. None of the data could be retrieved.

Nine months of applications for the yearly payout from the

Alaska Permanent Fund were gone. More than 800,000 scanned images that had been scanned into the system were lost. They were the 2006 paper applications that people had either mailed in or dropped off at the bureau, along with the supporting documents including birth certificates and proof of residence.

The department has a backup of last resort, which is the original paperwork, stored in about 300 cardboard boxes. Half a dozen part-time workers and the staff, about 70 individuals, worked overtime and weekends to re-enter all the data. The good news is that the payment checks were mailed on time.

The Alaska Department of Revenue has asked the Alaska legislature for approval of supplemental funding of \$220,700 to cover the cost of the six-week recovery effort, including about \$128,400 in overtime and \$71,800 for computer consultants. It was an expensive reformatting of the disk.

## Tracking Your Family in the US Census

By Allin Kingsbury

The 19<sup>th</sup> century was a time of movement for many people in the United States. Economic opportunity tempted people to move to the city to find jobs and free or cheap land in the West caused many families to move. Long moves were made easier by the Erie Canal and later by the railroads. The Native American tribes were no longer a major threat as the government forced them to move to reservations. Tracking your family through these migrations is made easier since the US censuses are both available searchable by computer on the Internet.

Ancestry.com has a remarkable collection of census records, including not only all available US census returns through 1930, but most state census returns. Often the state records provide a look at families between the federal census years, such as with the 1885 and 1915 Iowa census records. The census provides a means to locate a family at least every ten years and sometimes more often using state census records. The only exception is for the year 1890, when almost all the federal census records were destroyed in a fire.

Tracing ancestors backward in time can be done with census records by using the information about birthplace recorded in the census. For less common surnames, an individual can be tracked back to 1850, the time of the earliest census to list each family member by name. The process becomes much more difficult before 1850 because only the names of heads of families are listed.

Many individuals, I included, have traced families forward in time to find distant cousins who have family information. Many individuals listed as children in the 1930 census are living today and can be found and contacted. The process of tracking a family forward in time seems easier than going backward. The more recent census returns have more genealogical data to verify that the correct person has been found.

There are some problems using the census information at Ancestry.com. The transcription of the data has many errors, particularly with the handwritten names, many of which were smudged or written over by the enumerator. It is unusual to find transcription errors in places or numbers, but the transcriptions of names has led to many errors. When a surname is misspelled, it is usually impossible to find the family searching by surname. For example, I found a relative who had married Ross Cushing in the 1910 census. I could not find the couple in the 1920 census after searching all states. I tried search using only the first name. I limited the search to the county where he had lived in 1910 and I knew his birth date and state of birth. The list of males with the given name of Ross living in the county and with the same year of birth was less than a page. The family I wanted was the second on the list. The transcriber had misread the surname as "Custing" instead of Cushing.

Another relative was first listed in the census as James H. Cook. I did not find him in any of the later census returns. I looked for all families with the surname of Cook in the county where I had found James by leaving the fields for given name and birth date blank when I searched. The list of families found was less than a dozen families. I found Harvey Cook on the list who was the only male with the same date of birth as James H. Cook. In searching the later census records I found his widowed mother living with him. This was very strong evidence that as James grew older he used his middle name of "Harvey."

Often, a person will disappear from the census returns because he or she died. This happened to a family I had found. In the next census ten years later, the father had died. I searched for the mother and could not find her for some reason. I then searched for the youngest child, who I found with the widowed mother and three other children living together. The mother had used her middle name for some reason. Before the census, the mother had died. The children were divided, and one lived with a married

brother and the others lived with an uncle. I had to search for the children individually until I found the complete family.

The search engine used by Ancestry.com can be frustrating for the user. If the user specifies an exact match, there may be no matches because of a slight difference in age date or spelling. The only other choice gives the user a list of the near matches which do not match on all the criteria. This often produces a list of individuals with different given names, different ages, different places of birth and other mismatched criteria. If a user searches all the census data at one time, the near matches may be a list that is 20 or thirty pages long. The near matches are not ranked. A person with a birth date that is 30 years away may be listed before a person missing the specified birth date by one year. There may be many pages of poor quality matches before the person being sought is listed. The user often must scan through many pages of "junk" before the family is found.

Regardless of the problems with searching the census records, the data on the Internet will provide information much more efficiently than scanning through reels of microfilm. I the user will have patience and search for each member of a family and by first name if no results are found, the family will probably be found. Only in a few extreme cases are families not able to be found. At this time, Ancestry.com is the best place to do general census research. The census data is available by buying subscription to Ancestry.com or it is often available free at a nearby library.

## Notice:

Please be aware that Lesly Klippel has changed her e-mail address. All problems with membership and mailing or distribution of the newsletter should be directed to her new e-mail address at: [lesly@klippels.org](mailto:lesly@klippels.org)

Also Allin Kingsbury has changed his e-mail address. Communication regarding articles and notices for the PastFinder or the Past-Finder Bulletin should be directed to his new e-mail address at: [a.kingsbury@sbc.globalnet](mailto:a.kingsbury@sbc.globalnet)

## Quotable Quote

Where there is a grandmother in the house, the children always have a friend.

Swedish Proverb

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

By Dr. Cornelius D. PAF

### PAF Spell Check

**Q** Does PAF have a spell checker yet, or will it ever have one?

**A** There have been no updates to PAF 5.2.18 in several years. It does not include a spell checker.

### Printing PAF Data

**Q** I just installed PAF 5.2, which I downloaded from FamilySearch.org, and my mother e-mailed me a copy of her PAF data file. The file opens up with no problem, and I have been able to add a few little pieces of information with no problem, such as baptism dates that were not input previously. A problem occurs when I try to print. The Print menu for a pedigree chart shows that the margins are too large, such that it will not allow printing until we adjust the page settings. I tried to change the margins to 1 inch on all sides. However, the changes do not take effect, and the margins revert back to the existing settings which are far too large. Is there a setting that locks the program preferences, or somehow locks the file?

**A** The data you are adding to your PAF database is totally unrelated to the parameters you are giving the printer driver. PAF uses the printer driver you have installed with the Windows operating system, and the ability to change the margins is based on the ability of PAF to communicate with the driver through Windows. Many possible factors can cause PAF to fail to communi-



cate with the driver, but the most common is that you installed PAF on your computer without closing down some other software application that had the driver in use at the time. My recommendation is to reinstall PAF after you have shut down all other Windows applications, so that the PAF install is the only program running.

### Unlinking the Wrong Child

**Q** I have done something in my database and find that one of my ancestors is both a grandfather and son. He should be the son only—that I have confirmed. The RIN is the same for both this individual and his son, and when I edit or delete the "grandfather" it alters or deletes the "son." George is the son of Thomas (marriage date confirmed as 26 Dec 1859), who is the son of George (birthdate 21 Dec 1860). How can I fix this? I don't know the correct father of Thomas. How can I avoid doing this again?

**A** If the grandfather and the son have the same RIN, then deleting one will definitely delete the other. The RIN is the record identifier for an individual, and you cannot have two different people with the same RIN, by definition. You need to remove the relationship (between the father and the son-grandfather) that makes the person a grandfather. Use the Unlink an Individual option in the Edit menu to remove the person from the link that makes him the father of the son's father. That should solve the problem. As for avoiding doing this again, don't work on your database when you're sleepy or distracted.

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## Silicon Valley Computer Genealogy Group

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

Richard D. Rands, President rrand@earthlink.net (650) 969 6567

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).

### CONTACT INFORMATION

Membership	Lesly Klippel	Leslyk@earthlink.net (408) 269 5484
Newsletter	Allin Kingsbury	a.kingsbury@sbcglobal.net (408) 257 8447
Classes	Brian Smith	bsmith4gen@yahoo.com (408) 255 6663
Questions	Dr. PAF	rands@earthlink.net

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

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Personal Ancestral File 4.04	US\$6
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Stuck-on Sources Post-It note pads	Available at meetings and on Web site
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### CLASSES FOR 11 AUGUST 2007

#### Software Classes

Help for Beginners  
Reunion 9 for Macintosh

#### General Classes

"Putting Flesh on the Bones"

Other classes are not announced yet.

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



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

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