

Making Your Photos Last

By Allin Kingsbury

Should a fire occur, most people would save the photos first because they cannot be replaced.

Genealogists who have acquired the old family photos have learned how the image fades with age and how the paper used for printing photos turns dark with age. Color pictures will fade much faster, especially if they are displayed in a well lighted room. Many people think that with digital photography, the photos can be printed on high quality paper and they will last for a hundred years. For most photos printed with an inkjet printer, the life of the photo prints will be much shorter.

Yet pictures are one of the most treasured possessions of a family. Should a fire occur, most people would save the photos first because they cannot be replaced. An insurance settlement can replace most of the other household possessions. Considering the value of the family photos, one must provide the care and presentation needed to protect the photos from destruction.

Scanning and Digital Photography

The digital images of pictures taken with a digital camera or that are scanned images of older photos will not deteriorate with time. There are three things that can cause destruction of deterioration of the digital image.

First, Loss of image quality can come through conversion of

format of the image. This can occur with change of resolution and with file compression. If the archive copy is saved in a "lossless" format like ".gif" or ".bmp," and it is never converted, there will be no loss of image quality for the archive copy. After a copy of the file is made, the image can then be touched up, converted, or formatted to be compatible with another program. When an image is archived as a ".jpg" file in order to save memory space, the compression process causes a change in the picture that is equivalent to rounding off the information about each pixel in the image. Visually, the result of the process adds a faint pattern to the background that looks random.

When a picture is printed, there is a loss of image quality that is dependent on the technology of the printer. This loss is unavoidable. It is introduced because the printer usually has less resolution than the digital image and so requires the image to be reformatted. Other losses of quality are introduced by the ink and the paper which cannot accurately reproduce some of the colors specified in the digital color levels. The most significant variation in color is caused by the paper which is not white enough to

reproduce the brightest whites. Some paper is manufactured to be ultra-bright. Ordinary paper may reflect only 80% of the light when it is new. The reflectivity decreases with age of the paper. The more expensive ultra-bright papers are coated with very white material and treated to reduce absorption of light. These papers often have reflectivity greater than 90%, but they never achieve 100% reflectivity. As a result, the printed copy of the image has less contrast than the digital image being printed. It is possible to increase the contrast of the digital image before printing to compensate for loss of contrast caused by the ink and paper. This may produce a better looking image but the brightness of the individual pixels in the picture is distorted.

The second cause of image loss is catastrophic loss of data. This can be caused by destruction of the storage device by fire, flood, or other disaster. It can also be caused by electrical failure, wear-out, or other material failure. It may also occur as an accidental erasure of the data. No matter how it may happen, the data is gone and cannot be recovered. The only way to prevent catastrophic loss of data is to have a backup, or even better, multiple backup copies. These should be at different geographical locations

and on storage media that is reliable over a long period of time.

The third hazard to avoid is obsolescence. Occasionally, images archived for a long time are not retrievable because the file format has become obsolete and cannot be read by any available programs, or the media no longer is compatible with any of the available computers. It is equivalent to painting oneself into a corner. These problems are avoided by maintaining the archive copies. As technology changes, data should be copied to newer reliable media as new storage technology becomes available. Thus the data is always readable and available.

Preserving Photographic Prints

Once a photo is printed, the paper copy begins to deteriorate. Prints, no matter how they are made, have a limited life. The paper changes color as it ages. Inks or dyes fade with time, and handling of the prints introduces dirt, stains, scratches, and other problems. Inks and dyes migrate within the paper and react chemically with impurities in the paper, other ink or dye, or airborne substances like ozone. High humidity and increased temperature often accelerates the deterioration of the print by speeding chemical reaction rates. The most destructive factor for print image lifetime is ultraviolet

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light which accelerates chemical changes in the dye, ink and paper.

The technology for color photographic prints (developed prints) has been available for a long time. It became popular during the prosperity that followed World War 2. Competition led to perfection of the print papers so that the images lasted a long time under normal conditions. The colored dyes used to create the image are separated by gelatin between the dyes forming three separate strata. Thus one dye cannot chemically react with another color dye because of the physical separation of the layers.

Separation of dye colors in the inkjet printer process is not practical. The three colors are sprayed on the same paper surface and the colors mix. Colors made with more than one color dye deteriorate much faster than places where there is predominantly one dye color. The process is called catalytic fading caused by a reaction between the different colors of dye. The fading is difficult to rate because it is almost nonexistent in some areas of the picture and significant in other areas.

Testing of the expected lifetimes of color prints indicate that photographic paper makes a longer lasting print than a picture printed with an inkjet printer. This is contrary to what is believed by the public.

Testing Inkjet Print Lifetimes

The competition between inkjet printers has led to problems specifying print lifetimes. There is no standard way of testing print lifetimes nor is there is a standard specification method for comparing printers. For example, Hewlett Packard claimed that their number 57 inkjet print cartridge could produce images that would last 162 years when printed on third party paper. They test used a light source of 120 lux with an ultraviolet filter. Wilhelm Imaging Research, the leading testing agency for measuring the lifetime of color prints recommends a test using 450 lux with a glass filter which removes some of the ultraviolet light. This test is said to be more realistic of prints which are on display. The WIR test result indicated a print lifetime of 11 years versus the 162 years indicated by the manufacturers test.

The paper makes a significant difference in the result of the lifetime tests. This is because the rate of fading of the dye can vary by a factor of 20:1 using the various types of papers used to print color photos. The papers vary from low cost printer paper to the expensive coated papers that have the white color enhanced to produce higher contrast images. Paper that does not have the whiteness enhanced has less brilliant white from the time the image is printed. Paper designed for color printing is usually coated with white clay or some other material to increase the reflectivity of the paper. This is property that can easily be measured.

The quality of ink makes a significant difference in print lifetime. Printer manufacturers use different formulations of ink in their ink cartridges. The quality of ink varies from one manufacturer to another. Third party inks manufactured to refill cartridges, thus saving money for the printer owner, were tested and results indicate that most prints using these inks fade at a faster rate than with ink from the printer manufacturer.

Black and White Prints

Black and white prints have a much longer life than color prints. Tests on the HP PhotoSmart 145 done in 2004 indicated a lifetime of 115 years for black and white compared to 18 years for color. The large difference is partially due to the single ink used of the black and white image not causing catalytic fading of other ink colors. Another factor appears that the black dye appears to be more stable than the color dyes.

The laser printer appears to produce even better prints than black and white prints done with ink. The laser printer uses a much different technology than the inkjet printer and is more expensive to build but probably is less expensive to operate. The image quality is good and the print lifetime is very long. This is due to the nature of the technology. The image is written on the paper surface with electrical charge. When the toner is sprayed on the paper surface, the charge holds an amount of toner proportional to the charge forming a black and white image. The toner is coated with a plastic material which acts effectively as a permanent glue when heated as the paper passes through the printer. If not heated, the toner would rub off as soon as the paper is handled. The black carbon particles in the toner are stable chemically and do not fade with time. Image deterioration is primarily due to long term changes in the paper. A high quality acid-free paper will produce a long-lasting image than lower quality paper with a laser printer.

Black and white images printed on photographic paper are much less stable than laser printer images. The image is printed using silver which is light-sensitive. Laser printed images are going to have a much longer lifetime under most conditions.

Comparing Printers

Printers need to be compared with a common test. It is impossible to gather test results using the same conditions because the industry lacks a common standard for rating the useful life of printed images. One common factor in the test needs to be the use of the same kind of paper. Some data which can give reliable comparisons, but comparison of all printers is an extremely difficult due to the lack of current test results done with like conditions.

Conclusions

Color inkjet print lifetimes are short, probably much shorter the color photographic paper prints. They do not last as long as color printing done with lithography. They need to be stored in a dry dark place if they are expected to last a long time. Inkjet prints displayed in a well-lighted room may last only a few years before there is noticeable fading. These prints can easily be reprinted as needed. However, if you want your inkjet prints to last a long time and only look at them when visitors come, storage in a dry dark place will greatly increase the lifetime of the prints.

Bibliography

Those who want additional information on the subject may want to read the book, *The Permanence and Care of Color Photographs: Traditional and Digital Color Prints, Color Negatives, Slides, and Motion Pictures*, published by Wilhelm Imaging Research 1993, 744 pages. This book is downloadable at no cost at: www.wilhelm-research.com

Of Interest: DNA Accepted as Proof, National Archives Opens Electronic Records Vault, Ancestry.ca to Digitize Canadian Passenger Lists, Ancestry.com to Use DNA Genealogy, GRO Abandons Computer

DNA Accepted as Proof

The Mayflower Society has now accepted DNA evidence as proof of a descent from one of the passengers. John Hawes married a granddaughter of Mayflower passenger John Howland, Desire Gorham. All agree that the children of John and Desire Hawes were descendants of a Mayflower passenger. Their son, John Hawes, appears to have left New England and moved to North Carolina. To join the society there must be proof that the John in North Carolina is the son of John and Desire. DNA analysis of the Hawes Y chromosome indicates they two are the same.

Both Historian General Ann S. Lainhart and Assistant Historian General Alicia Williams of the Mayflower Society examined the evidence and accepted it. Their recommendation led to acceptance of all descendants of John Hawes of North Carolina as members of the General Society of Mayflower Descendants. This appears to be a landmark decision because DNA evidence has been used to prove lineage by a lineage society.

The June 2006 issue of The Mayflower Quarterly reported that the Myles Standish family and the Pilgrim Edward Doty Society are starting Y-line DNA projects. This could enable male descendants to prove lineage to these Mayflower passengers when the data is available.

National Archives Opens Electronic Records Vault

The National Archives opened their Electronic Records Vault at the Washington National Records Center (WNRC) facility in Suitland, Maryland. The 976 square-foot vault is to store and service temporary electronic records for Federal agencies. The Electronic Records Vault has state-of-the-art features to protect the records including a non-aqueous fire suppression system, strict environmental controls, and multiple levels of security.

The Washington National Records Center manages records of headquarters and field offices for Federal agencies located in the District of Columbia, Maryland, Virginia, and West Virginia. It also serves Federal Courts located in the District of Columbia and the US Armed Forces worldwide. WNRC receives the records and holds them until they are either destroyed or accepted by the National Archives as permanent records.

Ancestry.ca to Digitize Canadian Passenger Lists

All Canadian passenger lists from 1865 to 1935 are to be digitized by Ancestry.ca as a result of a partnership agreement with Library and Archives Canada. Ancestry.ca is a separate subscription site from Ancestry.com and is owned by the same parent company, Generations Network. Library and Archives Canada is Canada's largest genealogical Web site and is dedicated to preserving and making available early Canadian records.

The initial focus will be to digitize the Quebec City passenger lists from 1870 - 1900, which contain more than 750,000 names. The digital images of these and other passenger lists are already available on the LAC website. The addition of an index by Ancestry.com will make the passenger lists much easier to search.

LAC and Ancestry.ca will continue with the passenger lists

until the entire Canadian passenger list collection from 1865 to 1935 is digitized and indexed. These records will include the ports in Halifax, St. John, Vancouver, Victoria, and North Sydney. The records include immigrants as well as crew members, vacationers, business people and others. Passenger list records include data such as the name, age, country of origin, occupation and destination of each passenger.

When completed, the index for Quebec City will be available free of charge on www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/genealogy as well as on www.Ancestry.ca.

Ancestry.com to Use DNA Genealogy

Ancestry.com is adding DNA information to the genealogy data already available at the Ancestry .com Web site. They have acquired the DNA technology through an exclusive partnership with Sorenson Genomics. Sorenson Genomics will provide DNA testing and Ancestry.com will link DNA test results to relatives with similar DNA patterns. Ancestry.com claims to have more than 14 million users. They expect subscribers to participate in large numbers, which will greatly increase the database of DNA data. This will help new participants find closely related families and geographical areas where there are large concentrations of related individuals with similar DNA. The DNA codes will not prove direct ancestry, but it can indicate a close relationship. The DNA testing and matching may tell a researcher where to look.

GRO Abandons Computer

Hundreds of register offices across the United Kingdom have been ordered to abandon a new online system for recording births, deaths, and marriages. A huge IT (information technology) project has turned into a major fiasco. Online registration has been suspended in half of the 3000 offices of the GRO, even though the manufacturer has assured the GRO that its \$12 million system can handle the work. The assurances have not led to the expected results. As more and more offices were added to the computer system the computer ground to a halt and data could not reliably be saved by the system. Registry employees at local offices were forced to contact grieving family members a second time to get the information that had been lost by the computer system. The latest news is that the new system is shut down for many local offices and these local offices are under orders to resume the old system of registering the data. These offices cannot issue death certificates, a necessary document to transfer inherited property. Then there is the problem of the unfunded overtime required to go back to the old registration system. There are also a few red faces among the decision makers that ordered the system that caused the fiasco.

The GRO fiasco is not the only major computer fiasco that has embarrassed the British government. Those responsible for the fiasco are in good company with these other failures:

Passport Agency: Computer problems began in the summer of 1998 and thousands of individuals were forced to cancel their holidays due to delays in getting passports. The cost to taxpayers was £12 million for the fix.

Child Support Agency: The IT phone system installed in

April 2003 was two years late and £56 million pounds over budget. The 1.2 million existing cases could not be transferred into the new system because it did not work.

Benefits Reprocessing Payments Programme: A new IT system installed in December 2003 which was supposed to streamline payment of benefits and save £60 million by collecting claim data by telephone was sent to the scrap pile in 2006.

NHS Medical Records and Appointments Booking System: This £6 billion IT project has had an unending series of glitches and delays. Time will tell whether the system can be used. The odds appear to be very low the system will ever be used.

Criminal Records Bureau: This IT system has a few embarrassing loopholes. The checking of hundreds of thousands of teachers was overlooked and teachers convicted of sexual offences were cleared to work in the schools.

Junior Doctor's Online Recruitment: This IT System is under review because the most qualified junior doctors failed to get employment interviews using the new IT system. The British

Government was then forced to apologise after a security breach on this same IT system enabled the public to see the confidential information submitted by thousands of job applicants.

It seems that the individuals who were to use the system could predict many of the problems. When these individuals pointed out potential problems, they were ignored. Perhaps this was a result of the political mantra, "Never admit your mistakes."

Random Acts of Genealogical Kindness Joins FamilyLink.com

Random Acts of Genealogical Kindness (RAOGK) has partnered with FamilyLink.com, a new social networking site for genealogists. RAOGK is a worldwide organization of volunteers who volunteer to get data for those too far away to travel to get the information themselves. FamilyLink.com is a free networking site that recently began operation where genealogists can find others working on the same families. The two organizations have a great deal of synergy and will be a help to each other as they grow and add to their services.

Spider Webs: U.S. WW II Missing in Action and POWs Database, Cause of Death, Google Genealogy Books, Resources for Jewish Genealogical Researchers

U.S. WW II Missing in Action and POWs Database

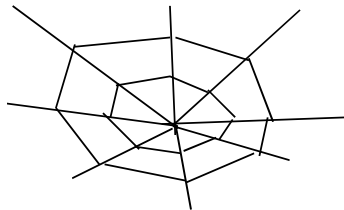
The Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office (DPMO) has created the first electronic listing of missing personnel from the Second World War. The information was compiled from: *Rosters of Military Personnel Whose Remains Were Not Recovered, 1951-1954*, and from *The World War II Rosters of the Dead (All Services)*. The lists include prisoners of war, missing in action, and those buried at sea. The Web site contains lists only individuals whose bodies were not recovered and those who were buried at sea.

The data is separated for Army, Army Air Forces, Navy, Marine Corps, and Others. The "Others" list includes civilians, including those from the Merchant Marine. Military personnel who were buried at sea are listed separately on the Web site.

To visit the site, go to: www.dtic.mil/dpmo/WWII_MIA/INDEX.HTM

Cause of Death

The archaic terms used in old death records can be baffling. To convert the terms to present-day terms, one can visit Antiquus Morbus. The site is more than a dictionary. In addition to the modern equivalents of old terminology, the site has supplemental information on many of the terms found, such as when and where the



terminology originated. Not only are the terms explained in English, but they can be read in German, French and several other languages. To visit the site, go to: www.antiquusmorbus.com

Google Genealogy Books

Google Books now has hundreds of thousands of scanned books. The books not protected by copyright (published before 1922) are available for download. For most of these books, the entire book can be searched for key words and phrases. Included in these books are thousands of local history and genealogy books.

Books protected by copyright are listed but only limited portions of the book can be seen online. The nearest library with the book on the shelves can be found on the Google Books site. However, Google must fight a lawsuit by the Association of American Publishers and the Authors Guild over its plans to incorporate parts of copyrighted books.

Google has recently arranged to digitize substantial portions of libraries at the Uni-

versity of Chicago and the universities in the Big Ten athletic conference. The latter include Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Michigan State, Minnesota, Northwestern, Ohio State, Penn State, Purdue and Wisconsin. It is estimated that 10 million books will be added to the Google library from this project. Several other universities, including Harvard and the University of California, have already given permission for Google to scan their libraries.

To visit the Google Books site, go to: <http://books.google.com/bkshp?tab=wp>

Resources for Jewish Genealogical Researchers

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints announced three new resources to aid with Jewish genealogical research which are now available on the FamilySearch.org Web site. These are:

- *Tracing Your Jewish Ancestors*, a new research guide
- The Knowles Collection, information on thousands of Jews from the British Isles which builds on the work of the late Isobel Mordy
- A Jewish genealogy database

The latter database links individuals into family groups. Additional names are being added to the database. For more information or to see these resources, go to: www.familysearch.org

Software of Interest: **Anti-Virus Program Free, Apple Offers Safari Web Browser for Windows, Personal Ancestry Writer II (version 69) for Macintosh, Word 2007 Warning, Second Site Version 2.0**

Anti-Virus Program Free

Windows is the target of many viruses because it is so easy for hackers to write them. Virus programs are expensive because they have to be continually updated as new viruses appear on the scene. Most of them require a fee for updating the software every year. Now a free virus program called AVG Free Edition produced by GriSoft is available to detect and block viruses on your computer.

Most virus programs have added features to tackle such problems as anti-phishing, anti-spyware, online identity protection, web site authentication, a firewall, anti-rootkit protection, and others. These features may or may not be needed depending on the user. Beginning with virus protection, each feature will slow down the computer. The AVG program causes much less degradation of speed than other programs because it does not have the other features that cause additional performance loss. The company also offers programs for anti-phishing, spyware, and other features but they are separate programs. Some are free and others are available for a modest charge. AVG Free Edition is an excellent anti-virus program. It has been tested and verified by ICSA Laboratories, West Coast Labs, and Virus Bulletin.

There are a number of limitations and conditions for using the program. There is no technical support for the free edition. Also, users may only use the software on one home computer.

The program may not be used on any computer used for work or commercial purposes. It cannot be used by schools, charities, churches, or governmental organizations. Any user not in compliance with these restrictions must buy the commercial version of the program which is available for a modest price depending on the number of computers and time period purchased. For more information or to download the program, go to: <http://free.grisoft.com>

Apple Offers Safari Web Browser for Windows

Microsoft's Internet Explorer never has gotten past its security problems. Users find it slow and short on features found in competing Web browsers. Many Windows Users have switched to Firefox or Opera to get a better browser. Macintosh owners use Safari, which many people claim is the best Web browser available. Apple has now announced that Safari is available for Windows XP and Windows Vista users. It operates at twice the performance of Internet Explorer and 1.6 times faster than Firefox 2. Safari 3.0 is a free program and it can be downloaded at: www.apple.com

Personal Ancestry Writer II (version 69) for Macintosh

Personal Ancestry Writer II is a genealogy program for Macintosh computers. Version 69 has many new features and is free to download. It can handle a large database with up to 2 billion individuals. There can be up to ten spouses for each individual and up to 30 children for a family. The user interface is intuitive and simple.

A few limitations include the inability to link multimedia and sound bytes to individuals although an unlimited number of pictures can be linked. The religious ordinances that can be entered in PAF cannot be entered.

The program is available from Howard H. Metcalfe at: www.lanopalera.net

Word 2007 Warning

If you use Word 2007, you may have a problem. It seems that Microsoft began using a new document format called "docx," which is the default format. It is not compatible with programs that can open the "doc" format which has been the standard for many years. If documents were saved using the "docx" format, you would think the format can be changed by opening the file and saving it using the "doc" format. However, this does not work for mathematical formulas and symbols using Greek letters.

Already, many of the leading magazines have been notifying their authors that they will not accept any material in the "docx" format. This trend is likely to increase. If anyone has a computer that does not have Word2007 installed, the "docx" files are unusable without the Word2007 program or the download from Microsoft that enables older Microsoft software to read the files. Also, the Mac computers which can read "doc" files cannot read the "docx" files. Fortunately several third party utilities exist that read the "docx" files. Mac users may want to use DocXConverter 1.3, which is available at: <http://downloads.zdnet.co.uk/0,100000375,39313862s,00.htm>

For most Word2007 users, it is best to avoid creating files with a "docx" format until the compatibility problems are gone.

Second Site Version 2.0

Second Site is a software program to be used with The Master Genealogist to create Web pages of genealogy. The pages are automatically created so there is no need to learn HTML programming. The program will produce narrative or grid style person pages, a master index, a surname index, and source pages. For more information about version 2 of Second Site or to order, go to: www.whollygenes.com/secondsite.htm

Quotable Quote

I don't know who my grandfather was. I am more concerned about what his grandson will be.

Abraham Lincoln

American President

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

Adding Page Numbers

Q I am using the most current version of PAF. Is there a way to add page numbers to a large Family Group Report? I need to print it out, travel with it, distribute pages and then make sure I get them all back in order. Rather than hand-writing I was hoping there was a way to insert page numbers on the computer. Sure would appreciate any tip you could give me.

A I assume you are talking about a Cascading Family Group Report. Actually, you can add page numbers to any report from PAF, but you will have to use a word processor to add the page numbers after you have printed the report to a file. I give you the instructions for Microsoft Word, but you should be able to do it with most decent word processors.

In PAF, when you are ready to print your report, check the box near the lower right corner of the “Report and Charts” window that is labeled “Print to File.” Then click “Print.” The “Save As” window will pop up to allow you to give your report a file name and to specify which folder you wish to save it in. In the “File Name” box, enter the name of a file such as, “My_Family_Group_Report.rtf.” (Note: .rtf is the Microsoft printer format and is the default format used by PAF for printer files.)

PAF will go through a series of steps to generate the report and then will open up your word processor with your report. It will immediately minimize the word processor and go back to PAF, but you can click on the button at the bottom your screen to reopen the word processor.

In Microsoft Word with your report displayed, click on the “View” pull-down menu at the top of the screen and select the “Header and Footer” option. That will cause a “Header and Footer” toolbar to pop up somewhere on your screen, and it will cause your report to be grayed out, indicating it is now in the background, and there will be dotted rectangles at the top and bottom of your document labeled “Header and Footer.” You will want to switch to the “Footer” rectangle by clicking on the button in the “Header and Footer” tool bar that is located fourth from the right. (It looks like a tiny document with rectangles at the top and bottom.)

You will now have your blinking cursor in the top left corner of the “Footer” rectangle. Type the word “Page” and a space. Then click on the “Insert Page Number” button in the “Header and Footer” tool bar which is the second button from the left and looks like a page with a # sign inside it.

You will see the number “1” appear after the word “Page.” That will actually force the appropriate page number into every page in your report. In order to force the page number to the right edge of each page (an area that is usually blank on the Family Group Report), click on the “Align Right” button in the “Word” toolbar at the top of the page.

Close the “Header and Footer” tool bar by clicking on the “Close” button in the tool bar (right most button) and you are



now ready to print your report as you would print any Word document.

PAF System Requirements

Q Please tell me what the system requirements are for PAF 5. I have a retired friend who wants to get a computer and wants me to send them some info to help know what kind of computer to get—on the economical side!

A Below are the system requirements for PAF5 as listed on the FamilySearch.org Web

site:
System Requirements:

- Windows 95B, 98, ME, NT 4.0, 2000, XP or Windows® 95A with Microsoft Internet Explorer®
- Pentium PC or iMac with a Windows emulator
- 32 MB memory (64 MB recommended)
- 32 MB to 72 MB hard-disk space
- 256-color display adapter supporting at least 800 x 600 screen resolution
- Windows® compatible printer
- Optional: Internet access, mouse

Since PAF was written many years ago, it will run on the old specifications shown above, but your friend will not be able to find a machine like that unless he or she finds a very old machine that is still running.

Any PC on the market today will run PAF 5. A PC with Windows will have XP or Vista, and will have at least 256MB of memory, four times the recommended memory. Hard disk space will be at least 20GB, or about 275 times the hard disk space listed above. It will be impossible to purchase a monitor that is only 800 x 600. The mouse and Internet access will no longer be optional.

For example, an HP Pavilion, a Dell Dimension, or a refurbished machine would be far more than is the minimum required, but is about as cheap as one can get. Add \$200 for a display and \$100 for a printer, and your friend should be tickled pink.

Changing Links to Parents and Spouses

Q Hi, I need some help. I have somehow mixed some of my children with the wrong parents and I **need** to unlink them and put them with their real parents. In the Edit file, I don't have "Unlink or Order Spouses" or "Add Father or Mother". How do I get these? I hope you can help!

A You have the options, but they are only available under certain conditions. To use the “Order Spouses” feature, you must have selected an individual who has more than one spouse *and* have *not* clicked on the “Other Spouses” button. Then the “Order Spouses” feature in the “Edit” menu will become activated and you can proceed to perform the change of order. The “Unlink Individual” option works the same way. You must have selected an individual that can be unlinked from the person in the “Principal” position. So for example, if you wish to unlink a child from a parent, put the parent in the “Principal” position and

highlight the child to be unlinked. Then select the "Unlink Individual" option from the "Edit" menu and you can then go on. Think

of the unlink feature as the ability to unlink someone from the individual in the "Principal" position.

Stranger than Fiction: Black Sheep, Genealogy Butler



Black Sheep

The International Black Sheep Society of Genealogists is an exclusive organization of individuals who can trace their ancestry back to a murderer, thief, gang member, or some other individual whose deeds were despicable enough to gain notoriety as a black

sheep. To prove such lineage is a significant accomplishment, not necessarily because such an individual usually died young or was unable to produce offspring due to being confined to a jail cell, but because of the wall of silence that is built in a family with a black sheep. Nobody in the family will admit being related to the individual, nor will they talk about the person. Often the name of the black sheep is removed from wills, and family pictures of the individual "disappear" without a trace. The home sources turn out to be dry wells that give no evidence that the black sheep existed.

The purpose of the Society is to discuss the black sheep in order to learn more about them and share information with other members of the IBSSG. Members may need to find alternate routes to information sources, and to present the individual as a person. They are not required to love the person or the misdeeds, but they must find the facts that describe the life of the black sheep who has a place in the family tree.

The life of a black sheep is often the plot of a novel or movie. Most individuals enjoy a good murder mystery or crime program as entertainment. The stories are usually more exciting and suspenseful than that of the average person. It is true that some of these stories are less acceptable when they are in your family tree, but one cannot choose one's ancestors. Also, for one to al-

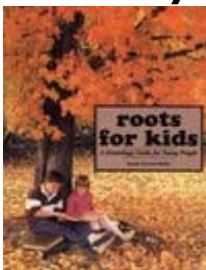
ter the facts about such an ancestor makes one almost as despicable as the ancestor. All families have a black sheep hidden away somewhere. This is especially true if there is royalty in the family tree. It seems that it was common during the dark ages to murder an older brother or father to speed up the inheritance of a throne or the family wealth. Perhaps the poor had fewer misdeeds because there was not enough wealth to make the risk worthwhile.

If it is your lot to have one of these ancestors who qualifies you for the International Black Sheep Society of Genealogists, perhaps you should make the best of your lot and join. You will be among friends who will respect you for your qualifications for membership. But, do not try to copy the misdeeds of your ancestor. That kind of behavior is still not socially acceptable, even among IBSSG members.

Genealogy Butler

The Shelbourne Hotel in Dublin has come up with a "first" that they hope will lure more big spending Americans to stay in their hotel. They hired a genealogy butler who will give each guest an hour to advise them on research plans to assemble their family trees. Those who want to hit the Irish soil running can e-mail the butler before the visit with their genealogy to give the butler a head start. There are many Americans with Irish ancestry. Most of the Irish immigrated after the potato famine in the mid 1800s. Irish genealogy is difficult because so many of the records have been destroyed. For the Shelbourne Hotel, the genealogy butler is an excellent feature to help increase business because a trip to Ireland can give a big boost to Irish genealogy research. Since Dublin is the capital of Catholic Ireland, one might not want to mention any ancestry from Protestant Ireland.

Recently Published: Roots for Kids: A Genealogy Guide for Young People



Children who take an interest in family history help build strong families. Some genealogists start young and present a contrast to the many genealogists who begin genealogy at retirement age. A new genealogy book for children, *Roots for Kids*, by Susan Provost Beller provides an introduction and foundation in genealogy for school children.

The book intended to be a guide for a joint project with a child and adult working together. The adult need not be a genealogist; both can learn genealogy together. The book contains a twelve-week lesson plan with one session per week. It could be used in a class room with a group of students or used at home by a parent and child. The lessons should interest students enrolled in fourth through six grades (ages 9 through 11) or the book could be used by older students to teach themselves.

Roots for Kids begins with an introduction to family history, including the gathering of stories about family members. The stories make the project much more interesting than the collection of names, dates, and places. Some stories of ancestors

may be dull, but most ancestors will have very interesting stories.

The book continues with the structure of family relationships. Relationships such as second cousin, sister-in-law, and great-uncle are explained. Other topics include how to ask questions, how to organize research materials, using the Internet, and research using local, state and national records.

Susan Provost Beller includes her own personal stories as examples of what the student may find in his or her family. The author has been involved in genealogical research for more than sixty years. She is experienced in teaching young people, and she has taught advanced genealogy courses in adult education classes.

Roots for Kids by Susan Provost Beller is in its second edition. A lot of new material was added since the first edition. This book is published by Genealogical Publishing Company and can be ordered at any bookstore by specifying ISBN: 9780806317779. The retail price is \$19.95. It can be ordered from the publisher at: www.genealogical.com/products/Roots%20for%20Kids%20%202nd%20Edition/422.html

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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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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 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 2.31 (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: www.FamilySearch.org	free

The following can be ordered from 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>	Available at meetings and on Web site
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 8 SEPTEMBER 2007

- David Dilts from the Family History Library in Salt Lake City will present a seminar covering the following subjects:
- Religious Migration
 - Research Logs
 - Breaking Through Brick Walls
 - Using Civil War Records for Family History Research

For more details or changes, go to: www.svcomputergenealogy.org



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

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