

## The Dutch in America

By Allin Kingsbury

Between 1820 and 1900, 340,000 Dutch immigrants came to America.

In 1609, the Dutch East India Company sent Henry Hudson, an English sailor, on a journey to America. The purpose of his voyage was to find a northeast passage to India. Although he failed to find a passage above Norway, he decided to look for a northwest passage in America. He sailed to Cape Cod and on to the Hudson River. He followed the Hudson River as far as it could be safely navigated near the present site of Albany, New York.

Hudson returned home and claimed the entire Hudson River Valley for his Dutch employers. The Dutch had already tried to establish colonies in the New World, but all of their efforts had failed. The Dutch Parliament soon chartered the Dutch West India Company to organize and oversee colonies in the Western Hemisphere.

### New Amsterdam

In 1624, thirty families came to Manhattan to establish a colony at the mouth of the Hudson River. The site proved to be an excellent location for trade and the colony thrived. Peter Minuit is credited with purchasing Manhattan Island for a handful of beads. Some historians dispute the details of this transaction, but it is obvious that the Dutch got a good deal, no matter what the Dutch actually paid.

Peter Stuyvesant arrived in 1647 to govern the Dutch settlements. He proved to be a very effective leader and is credited with bringing order and success to the Dutch settlements. The Dutch fortified their settlement on Manhattan Island, called New Amsterdam, and in 1652 built Fort Orange at the present location of Albany and Fort Wiltwyck where Kingston, New York is now located. About sixty new settlers began farming at Wiltwyck where there was good farm land. Stuyvesant sent troops to move the settlers inside a stockade surrounded by a fourteen foot wall. The Dutch attacked the Iriquois tribes who lived along the Hudson River. Although the natives were defeated, they remained in the valley and a bitter tension resulted between the natives and the Dutch colonists. The Algonquin tribes also fought the Dutch. In 1643, a battle known as the Pavonia Massacre resulted in the deaths of 80 of the natives where Jersey City is now located. The Algonquin tribes united against the Dutch, and possibly could have prevailed against the Dutch if Holland had not sent troops to aid the colonists in 1645.

The early Dutch settlers

were much like the Virginia colonists in that they were not interested in colonization and farming, but saw an opportunity for wealth from the lucrative fur trade and generous land grants. Many colonists were single. Most belonged to the established church and lacked the religious zeal of the English colonies in New England which were established for religious freedom. Also most of the Dutch settlers were not from the cities.

New Amsterdam prospered from the start. In 1655 the population reached 2000 settlers. In 1664 it had grown to about 9000. The population was diverse with about 50% of the population being other than Dutch. The non-Dutch settlers included Germans, Swedes, Finns, some indentured Africans and 23 Jews. In 1640, the West India Company had given up its trade monopoly in the new world and other groups were free to invest. New Amsterdam became a center of trade for food, timber, tobacco, fur, and later, slaves.

### New York

In 1664, the Dutch fought the second Anglo-Dutch War and lost to the English. England received the Dutch colonies in the peace settlement. King

Charles lost no time in granting the American territory to his brother James, the Duke of York. James gathered a small fleet and sailed to America. Peter Stuyvesant had no army, nor any warships, and so was forced to surrender the Dutch colonies.

The Dutch colonists remained, but British rule brought changes starting with the renaming of the three Dutch settlements to be New York, Albany, and Kingston. The Dutch influence has remained to this day in the three colonies, even though incoming English colonists soon made these cities predominately British. The Dutch mixed with the British throughout the Hudson Valley.

### More Dutch Settlement

The Dutch influence might have been forgotten, but the Dutch continued to come to America:

- A group of Dutch settlers came with Henry Scholre and founded Pella and Orange City, Iowa in 1847.
- Another group of Dutch settled in Iowa.
- Dutch Protestants settled in Sheboygan, Fond de Lac, La Crosse, and Columbia counties in Wisconsin
- Albertus Van Raalte, who was imprisoned for

*(Continued on page 2)*

## What's Inside

Software of Interest

4

Of Interest

6

Spider Webs

4

Hardware of Interest

7

Ancestry.com Replaces Online Family Tree Stranger than Fiction

5

Information/Classes February 2008

back

6

## The Dutch in America *(Continued from page 1)*

holding unauthorized church services came to Michigan in 1846 with 50 followers. Four thousand more followers came in the next two years

- Dutch Catholics settled in the Fox Valley west of Milwaukee, Wisconsin.
- In 1850 Dutch settlements were founded at South Holland and Roseland in Illinois.
- Father Theodore Johannes Van den Brock promoted Catholic immigration and 40,000 Dutch Catholics went to Wisconsin.
- Dutch settlements in Michigan during the 1850s included Groningen, Zeeland, Drenthe, Vriesland, Holland, Overisel and Graafschap.
- Holland, Michigan has a large Dutch population and holds an annual Tulip Festival to celebrate their Dutch Heritage.

Between 1820 and 1900, 340,000 Dutch immigrants came to America. Taxes were high and wages were low in the old country. Trade had declined during the 18<sup>th</sup> century. The new World was seen as a land of opportunity, and many of the Dutch population had friends or family in America. Experts have estimated that today, about 8 million Americans have Dutch ancestry. Most of these live in California, New York, Michigan, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Texas, Illinois, Florida, Washington, and Iowa.

### The Pennsylvania Dutch

Do not be confused about the Pennsylvania Dutch. These include a few of my ancestors. They came from Germany in the 1700s when the Palatinate region was plagued with war. Because they spoke German (Deutsch), they were known as the Pennsylvania "Deutsch" which became corrupted as "Pennsylvania Dutch." Many Dutch settled in Pennsylvania, mostly as immigrants in the 1800s and a few from the original New York Dutch immigrant families who migrated west.

### Dutch Research in Europe

Dutch records are often available in the United States for research on Dutch families. The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints has microfilmed many church and civil records and made them available at the Salt Lake Family History Library and through the many Family History Centers throughout the world. With the large interest among Americans with Dutch heritage, many Internet sites are available to help those with Dutch ancestry do research on their family history.

### The Dutch Date Problem

The switch to the Gregorian calendar has caused a lot of confusion for researchers because of the sudden shift of about three months to correct the errors. The shift in the Netherlands presents additional problems because the change to the new calendar was done piecemeal, province by province. The provinces of Brabant, Zeeland and Limburg made the change in December 1582. Gelderland, Utrecht, and Overijssel waited until 1700 to make the change and the province of Drenthe waited until 1701 to use the Gregorian calendar.

## General Internet Resources

There are too many Web sites to list in this article that can be helpful for Dutch research. A few are included in the following list:

### De Nationale telefoongids

Dutch telephone directory

[www.ristenbatt.com/genealogy/dutch\\_sn.htm](http://www.ristenbatt.com/genealogy/dutch_sn.htm)

### De Telefoongids - KPN Telecom

Directory of all telephone numbers in the Netherlands. NOTE: You must know a person's address in order to retrieve his/her telephone number

[www.detelefoongids.nl/](http://www.detelefoongids.nl/)

### Digital Resources Netherlands and Belgium

A list of resources for the Internet, bulletin board systems, and diskette/CD-Rom

<http://geneaknowhow.net/digi/bronnen.html>

### Discovering Family Histories - Netherlands

Links to Dutch genealogy resources

<http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.com/~northing/placenames/europe/benelux/neth.html>

### Donna Speer Ristenbatt Genealogy

This site has an explanation of surnames originating from Dutch patronymics

[www.ristenbatt.com/genealogy/dutch\\_sn.htm](http://www.ristenbatt.com/genealogy/dutch_sn.htm)

### DutchGenealogy.com

One million christenings in South Holland 1695-1812, court record indexes from the 1600s through the early 1800s, Utrecht Province records from 1600 to 1812 (baptism, marriage, burial), maps of the cities in Holland about 1865 by J. Kuyper, a discussion group on Dutch genealogy, and helpful tips on Dutch research

[www.dutchgenealogy.com/index.html](http://www.dutchgenealogy.com/index.html)

### DutchGenWeb

Like US GenWeb, this site has genealogy information for Holland arranged by province

[www.rootsweb.com/~nldwgw/](http://www.rootsweb.com/~nldwgw/)

### Dutch Patronymics of the 1600s

From The Olive Tree Genealogy site

[www.olivetreegenealogy.com/nn/pat.shtml](http://www.olivetreegenealogy.com/nn/pat.shtml)

### Dutch Research Corner

[www.ristenbatt.com/genealogy/dutch\\_rc.htm](http://www.ristenbatt.com/genealogy/dutch_rc.htm)

### Genealogie - Beginthier.nl

Dutch links for genealogy.

<http://genealogie.beginthier.nl/>

### Genealogie en archieven in Nederland (Molema-Smitshoek)

Information to be found in archives of the Netherlands

<http://home.hccnet.nl/p.molema/archief.htm>

### Genealogie In Zeeland

Dedicated to the province of Zeeleand

[www.genpubl.nl/](http://www.genpubl.nl/)

### Genealogie SPRUIJT

Death announcements from the newspaper "De Telegraaf" More than 26,000 from 1999-2007

<http://members.chello.nl/d.v.eunen/index.htm>

### Genealogy Benelux Home Page

<http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.com/~jberteloot/>

### Genealogy Database Ferwerderadeel

A collection on genealogy of the municipality Ferwerderadeel in Friesland and includes overviews of surnames 1811, emigrants, secessionists, a database and message board

<http://home.planet.nl/~ploe0063/>

### Genealweb.nl - Geneaweb Zaanstad Zaanstreek en omstreken

<http://home.planet.nl/~ploe0063/>

### Het Centraal Bureau voor Genealogie / The Central Bureau for Genealogy

[www.cbg.nl/](http://www.cbg.nl/)

### Holland Page

General information and research facilities with regard to Dutch genealogy and heraldry.

[www.users.bigpond.com/paulvanv/homepage.htm](http://www.users.bigpond.com/paulvanv/homepage.htm)

### Kwartierstraat.nl ( VoorOuders )( Genealogie )( Stamboom )

Link page for pedigrees (Roots in the Netherlands and Belgium).

[www.kwartierstraat.nl/](http://www.kwartierstraat.nl/)

### NedGen Dutch Genealogy Search Engine Nederlandse Genealogie Zoekmachine Stamboom

The first Dutch Genealogy Search Engine which indexes Dutch genealogical homepages exclusively

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

### Netherlands / Nederlands (Dutch) Genealogy - Resources for Family History Research

Genealogy resources and informational Web sites in and about the Netherlands

[www.kindredtrails.com/netherlands.html](http://www.kindredtrails.com/netherlands.html)

### Patronymics

Fixed surnames were not adopted in Netherlands until 1811-1812

[www.angelfire.com/id/vancuren/patro.html](http://www.angelfire.com/id/vancuren/patro.html)

### Research Guidance - Netherlands Events and Time Periods

A research paper from FamilySearch.org

[www.familysearch.org/Eng/Search/RG/frameset\\_rg.asp?Dest=E&JurisI=143](http://www.familysearch.org/Eng/Search/RG/frameset_rg.asp?Dest=E&JurisI=143)

### StamboomSurfPagina.nl - Uitgebreid én Overzichtelijk Dutch genealogy links

[www.familysearch.org/Eng/Search/RG/frameset\\_rg.asp?Dest=E&JurisI=143](http://www.familysearch.org/Eng/Search/RG/frameset_rg.asp?Dest=E&JurisI=143)

### Storme's Genealogy Page

Many great Benelux resource links

<http://webh01.ua.ac.be/storme/genealogy.html>

### Studiegroep Genealogie Westland

Genealogical website devoted to the Westland, a rural area around Naaldwijk to the south of The Hague and Delft known for its greenhouse horticulture

[www.genealogiewestland.nl/](http://www.genealogiewestland.nl/)

### Yahoo! Netherlands Genealogy

[http://dir.yahoo.com/Regional/Countries/Netherlands/Arts\\_and\\_Humanities/Humanities/History/Genealogy/](http://dir.yahoo.com/Regional/Countries/Netherlands/Arts_and_Humanities/Humanities/History/Genealogy/)

### Yvette's Dutch Genealogy Homepage

"How to" articles on Dutch genealogy research

[www.dutchgenealogy.nl/](http://www.dutchgenealogy.nl/)

### Summary

The Dutch kept very good records in Holland. Church records date back into the 1500s. The many European wars may have destroyed some of the records. Research can be difficult because boundaries have shifted and Holland has been a haven for refugees, particularly the French Protestants who came in large numbers. There are many genealogists working on Dutch families. Finding a researcher working on your family can be a great help. Good luck on tracing your Dutch roots should you find them.

## Quotable Quote

An ounce of parent is worth a pound of clergy.

Spanish Proverb

## Software of Interest: Another Microsoft Office Competitor

Sabeer Bhatia and Jack Smith founded Hotmail, the first site to offer free e-mail. Some wondered whether the company could survive by giving their primary product away at no cost. The company was very successful and was eventually sold to Microsoft for \$400 million. Sabeer Bhatia has written the software which performs the functions of Microsoft Office 2007, which includes Microsoft Word, Excel, and PowerPoint. The new software performs all the functions of the Microsoft programs and has two additional features:

1. It is available to the public at no cost. There is a charge for corporate users, but the \$50 per year with discounts for volume is a significant cost advantage over the Microsoft product.
2. It is an online program which can be operated over the Internet using any computer with Internet access including Windows, Macintosh and Linux computers.

The new office suite is called Live Documents. Users can create, view, share, and edit documents from any computer, including Windows, Macintosh, and Linux systems. The new software is as powerful as the Microsoft equivalents, according to users. Mr.

Bhatia believes that by the year 2010 people will not be buying software. Online software has a number of advantages. First of all, the online software is maintained and has the latest updates. Second, documents can be stored on the large servers used by the Web site. And third, by allowing many individuals access to documents, collaborative projects can be done with many individuals contributing to the final result. Software for many applications will be available on the Internet. His new company, Instant Collaboration Software Technologies (InstaColl), is focused on introducing these online applications. He has picked a formidable target. Twenty billion dollars of Microsoft revenue came from Microsoft Office sales last year, about one third of the revenue for the company. Insiders claim that Mr. Bhatia would be pleased if Microsoft bought his company or the Live Documents software for a large sum of money similar to the deal they made for Hotmail.

For the non-corporate user, there is little reason not to try Live Documents unless you have just purchased Microsoft Office. To sign up for the program, go to: [www.live-documents.com](http://www.live-documents.com) The program appears to not be ready, but you can click on "Get Invited" to be notified when the product is officially released.

## Spider Webs:

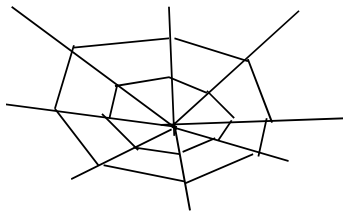
[www.thatsmyfamily.info](http://www.thatsmyfamily.info), GNIS, Acadian Tombstone Photos, Georgia Death Certificates, Los Angeles County Court Records, Tennessee Databases

### [www.thatsmyfamily.info](http://www.thatsmyfamily.info)

Bibliothèque et Archives nationales du Québec (BAnQ) announced a Web site dedicated to genealogical research in Quebec called [www.thatsmyfamily.info](http://www.thatsmyfamily.info) (English) or [www.voicimafamille.info](http://www.voicimafamille.info) (French). The site is the result of a partnership between BAnQ and Library and Archives Canada (LAC) and is available free of charge. The site has a search engine designed for beginning genealogists. It searches a number of databases simultaneously for genealogy data. Some of the data is not on the Internet and copies must be ordered.

### GNIS

Geographic Names Information System or GNIS is a database of place names prepared by the U.S. government. The site is free and contains not only existing places, but a large number of names of places which are no longer used on maps. In all, there are almost 2 million names of places in the database. A search of GNIS will result in the Federally recognized name of the place, the state, county, latitude and longitude. Another feature available is a list of more than a dozen links to map sites and satellite images which can be marked with the latitude and longitude of the place. To visit GNIS, go to: <http://geonames.usgs.gov>



[www.thatsmyfamily.info](http://www.thatsmyfamily.info)

### Acadian Tombstone Photos

Volunteers have taken more than 60,000 photographs of tombstones in New Brunswick, Canada. Most of the photographs are of stones at Acadian cemeteries or cemeteries where there are Acadians are buried. Fifteen volunteers are now indexing the tombstones. The inscriptions can be seen online at: [www.acadian-cemeteries.acadian-home.org/frames.html](http://www.acadian-cemeteries.acadian-home.org/frames.html)

### Georgia Death Certificates

The state of Georgia has released 275,000 death certificates from 1919 to 1927 with index and images linked. The certificates include age, county of death, parents names, occupation, gender, race and cause of death. The linked image of the original death certificate has additional facts such as the

names and birth places of the deceased person's parents, place and date of the decedent's birth, marital status, occupation, permanent residence, and place and date of burial and cause of death. The index and images can be searched and viewed at [www.GeorgiaArchives.org](http://www.GeorgiaArchives.org) (Virtual Vault link) or [labs.familysearch.org](http://labs.familysearch.org). According to a spokesman for FamilySearch, additional state indexes are in production.

### Los Angeles County Court Records

Los Angeles County, California has made their Superior Court records available online. They have passed the costs of the Web site on to the users. There is a \$4.75 fee for each name searched if you do not have the case number, plus a charge of \$7.50 to view a document of up to 10 pages. Additional pages cost 7 cents a page. To visit the site, go to: [www.lasuperiorcourt.org/OnlineServices/CivillImages/index.asp](http://www.lasuperiorcourt.org/OnlineServices/CivillImages/index.asp)

### Tennessee Databases

The State of Tennessee has a variety of databases online including bibliographies, military records, Tennessee post cards, penitentiary records and more. Go to: [www.tennessee.gov/tsla/history/misc/index.htm](http://www.tennessee.gov/tsla/history/misc/index.htm)

## Ancestry.com Replaces Online Family Tree

Generations Network announced that Ancestry.com will discontinue the Online Family Tree system, which was introduced in 2006. It will be replaced by Ancestry Member Tree system. Contributors to the old system are responsible for moving their data to the new system. After March 2008, the old system will not be available online. Any data not removed by that time will remain in the server and can still be added to the new system.

Not only is the system a good tool for finding information about families, but each submitter can be contacted by e-mail. The submitters are distant cousins who are working on your family and are often helpful with further research on the family. About 4 million family trees have been submitted. I find that most of my family members born before 1900 are listed in the system, perhaps as many as 75% of the total. A lot of the trees are from families of spouses to my great aunts and uncles and cousins. These often have information from home sources not easily available to me.

Many submitters have added pictures to their family trees. About 2 percent of the submitters sent photos. One family had pictures of my great-great grandfather and the members of each family that were direct ancestors of the submitter. There were about 100 pictures attached to this tree. They were pictures I had never seen, and the picture of my great-great grandfather is better than the picture which had been in my family.

Most of the many contacts I found who had submitted parts of my family were thrilled to have someone working with them on the family. A small number were sensitive to suggestions that their data contained errors and a few of them ceased contact when I asked questions.

Almost all of the data could be verified from other sources, usually from primary sources such as vital records, census and

church records. Some of the data submitted had life stories, obituaries and other documents attached which authenticated the statistical data and described the individuals and their accomplishments.

The new system at Ancestry.com will have some new features. Submitters will be able to attach video, audio, and document images. A person can add an audio story by telephone. A small number of features will be dropped such as descendent view. Some of the features will be improved such as privacy settings to limit access to living people. Instances of identity theft from genealogy data seem to be non-existent, but a genealogist who decides to supplement his income with identity theft could be very successful in theory.

One useful feature of the system is the ability to add information to trees submitted by others. It is better to have the data linked as one family rather than have many entries for a family, all different. Some families have been submitted many times, but each may list a different group of descendants. To look at all of them is very tedious. The new system will have better tools for merging and linking data. Other features that will strengthen the editing of submitted trees is the adding of comments and stories and more from other researchers. Ancestry .com has published the following statistics about the Ancestry Member Tree system:

Family trees submitted	4.2 million
Individual names included	378 million
Photos uploaded	4 million

Ancestry.com is available to individuals by subscription. It is available free at many public libraries and at the Family History Library in Salt Lake City and 13 regional family history centers.

## Stranger Than Fiction: Son Finds Mother at Work

Steve Flaig, a delivery truck driver at the Lowe's store in Grand Rapids, Michigan, had wanted to find his birth mother. His adoptive parents had told him that he was adopted and did not discourage him from looking for his mother. At age 18, he went to work with a systematic search for her able to get his mother's name from the adoption agency that had placed him with a family shortly after his birth. He tried the Internet, but was unable to find any mention of her. Later he reread the letter from the agency, and realized that he had searched for Christine Talladay, but her surname was actually Tallady. He searched on the Internet again and got some results. He found Christine Tallidy with an address on West River Drive, a place less than a mile from where he worked. Steve mentioned the name to his boss, and she said, "You mean Chris Tallady, who works here?"

Steve was absolutely stunned. He had known of Christine by her married name since she had come to work at Lowe's as chief cashier about six months earlier. He had seen her working at a cash register in the store, and he knew who she was. Steve realized that it would be insensitive to walk up to her and tell her

he was her son. He thought about what to do, and finally contacted the adoption agency and told them the story. The person at the adoption agency told him it would be better if someone else contacted his mother and agreed to make the contact.

When Christine received the call from the agency, she was at work and was thrilled to learn about her son. At first she thought it strange that the agency knew where she worked. Then she was told that her son found her.

The meeting between Christine and her son confirmed that they were mother and son. They both hated olives and loved roller coasters. They had both attended the same Catholic church and the same Catholic School. They had lived in the same neighborhood. Christine had married several years before and had two young children. "I have a complete family now, all my kids," said Christine. "It's a perfect time of year. It's the best Christmas present ever." Now that Steve is reunited with his mother and has met his step-father, half sister and his half brother, he is thinking about looking for his birth father.

## *Of Interest:* **Ancestry.com Agreement, Halifax Church Records, Dundee Family History Center, National Archives and FamilySearch Agreement, Open Content Alliance, Chris Haley Tests DNA**

### **Ancestry.com Agreement**

Generations Network, Inc., announced an agreement with FamilySearch making Ancestry.com available at no charge to patrons at the Family History Library in Salt Lake City and the thirteen largest regional Family History Centers. These include centers at Mesa, Arizona; Los Angeles, Oakland, Orange, Sacramento, and San Diego in California; Idaho Falls and Pocatello, Idaho; Logan and Saint George, Utah; and Hyde Park, London, England. Patrons at these facilities have access to any of the 24,000 databases now part of the Ancestry.com collection. These include some very popular data such as the U.S. censuses from 1790 to 1930, U.S. Passenger Lists from 1820 to 1960, and more.

### **Halifax Church Records**

For the past ten years, volunteers from St. Paul's Anglican Church of Halifax, Nova Scotia have been organizing and cataloging church records. St. Paul's is one of the oldest English speaking churches in Canada. The records include a baptism and burial in the year 1749, the same year the Edward Cornwallis arrived in Halifax to administer Nova Scotia as a British colony. The records had not been stored properly since they were moved to a new location a few years ago. Anyone wanting to use these records must contact the church and travel to Halifax to use them.

### **Dundee Family History Center**

A new research center for family history opened in Dundee, Scotland, at the Central Library. The center offers services of the Dundee Registrar's Office, the city archivist, and the burials administration section, along with a local history library. Individuals from the registrar's office are available to offer advice for visitors and undertake research. For most Scottish ancestors, the staff can trace the ancestry back to the late 17<sup>th</sup> century and provide copies of the related birth marriage and death records. Those with Scottish ancestry, especially from the Dundee area, may want to visit the new center.

### **National Archives and FamilySearch Agreement**

The National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) of the United States and FamilySearch announced an agreement that will result in the digitization of millions of historical documents. The records consist of court, military, land, and other government records that include information of genealogical significance for family historians dating from 1754 to as late as the 1990s. Almost all of the records in the National Archives currently are not readily accessible to patrons who visit the National Archives or one of its regional facilities.

The first project in this effort is a collection of 3,150 Civil War widow pension application files (approximately 500,000 pages). The project is already underway and is a portion of a very large collection of Civil War records. These files will be indexed and posted online by Footnote.com with the indices also available for free on [www.FamilySearch.org](http://www.FamilySearch.org). FamilySearch intends to do all 1,280,000 of these files over the coming years.

The agreement also stipulates that FamilySearch will be oper-

ating highly specialized digital cameras 5 days a week at the National Archives in Washington, D.C. FamilySearch intends to extend the digitization efforts to select regional facilities at a later date. The result will be a continuous flow of new data for genealogy buffs to explore for years to come. The agreement also allows FamilySearch to digitize the thousands of microfilms already created from NARA's holdings, with millions of images for genealogists to search.

The agreement between NARA and FamilySearch is the result of two years of discussion between the two organizations. NARA developed a new long-term strategy for digitizing and making available major segments of its vast collection online to the public. The bulk of the digital images and related indices will be freely accessible through [www.FamilySearch.org](http://www.FamilySearch.org), 4,500 family history centers worldwide, or at the National Archives and its Regional Centers.

### **Open Content Alliance**

Google Books and Microsoft Books and perhaps other organizations have been paying money to libraries to digitize their "out of copyright" books to make the contents available on their Web sites. Millions of old books have been scanned and it has been a major benefit to those looking for information found in these old books. It has been a help to genealogists because the list includes genealogy and local history books, most of which are out of print, rare, and hard to find. Some libraries, including the Boston Public Library and the Smithsonian Institution, refuse to accept the restrictions imposed by Google and Microsoft. Google does not allow the scanned books to be made available on other commercial search services. Microsoft Books has a similar restriction.

Last year, the Boston Library Consortium of 19 research and academic libraries in New England that includes the University of Connecticut and the University of Massachusetts, said it would work with the Open Content Alliance to begin digitizing the books among the libraries' 34 million volumes whose copyright had expired. These 19 libraries are unwilling to accept the restrictions in the Google and Microsoft agreements. For them it is a matter of principle. They see the Internet as a repository of knowledge and dislike the idea of their books being used to maximize profit for a company.

The Open Content Alliance was conceived by Brewster Kahle, the founder and director of the Internet Archive, which was created in 1996 with the aim of preserving copies of Web sites and other material. The group includes more than 80 libraries and research institutions, including the Smithsonian Institution. The Library of Congress agreed to a pilot program with Google to digitize some books. It later announced a project with a more inclusive approach. With \$2 million from the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation, the library's first mass digitization effort will make 136,000 books accessible to any search engine through the Open Content Alliance. The library declined to comment on its future digitization plans. Mr. Kahle's group focuses on out-of-copyright books, mostly those published in 1922 or earlier. Google scans copyrighted works as well, but it does not allow users to read the full text of those books online, and it allows publishers to opt out of

the program. Microsoft joined the Open Content Alliance at its start in 2005, as did Yahoo, which also has a book search project. Google also spoke with Mr. Kahle about joining the group, but they did not reach an agreement.

Libraries that sign with the Open Content Alliance must pay the cost of scanning the books. This is a huge expense for an under-funded library. Several libraries have received grants from organizations like the Sloan Foundation to digitize their books. The Boston Library Consortium, which also includes Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Brown University, was granted \$845,000 for the next two years. The consortium pays 10 cents a page to the Internet Archive, which has installed 10 scanners at the Boston Public Library. The scans are stored at the Internet Archive in San Francisco and are available through its Web site. Search companies including Google are free to point users to the material.

Some of the books of the Open Content Alliance are on the Internet. Many others will appear in time as funding becomes available. Keep searching the Internet until you find the book that you need.

### Chris Haley Tests DNA

Chris Haley is the Research Director for the Legacy of Slavery Project at the Maryland State Archives in Annapolis, Maryland. He is an expert genealogist, historian and researcher. His uncle, Alex Haley, wrote the best seller, *Roots* and the popular television mini-series called *Roots*. The Haley family has long suspected that the paternal side of the family descends from an Irishman. Now they have some proof, and Chris Haley hopes to fill gaps in the family history compiled by his late uncle with a DNA test.

Alex Haley traced a maternal line to Africa in his historical novel. Many people assume his family knows all about its history. However, Chris Haley points out that “*Roots*” mixed fiction with history of one branch of the family.

The DNA analysis can be a shortcut. The test can indicate that the assumptions were correct. If not, Chris and other families will have to do more research. At least with the DNA analysis we all will gain a deeper insight into the work done by Alex Haley to learn who his ancestors are.

### Slave Records

Last year the House of Representatives passed a bill to preserve, digitize and catalog slave records. This would add to records made available under a law passed in the year 2000 that the records of the Freedman’s Bank available for genealogical research. The bill has not been addressed by the Senate. The records to be digitized include records of servitude, emancipation, and Post-Civil War Reconstruction act. When the bill is signed into law and the data is made available, it will be much easier for descendants of slaves to trace their ancestry back to pre-Civil War times.

## Quotable Quote

The goal of marriage is not to think alike but to think together.

**Robert C. Dodds**  
Marriage Counselor

## Hardware Of Interest: Kindle

The book industry likes the concept of electronic book sales. The publishing and shipping costs are almost zero. The inventory is stored in a computer and takes minimal warehouse space. As a result they can offer lower book prices and maintain a larger inventory of books. Many universities began digitizing books about 20 years ago and posting them on the Internet. These are books not subject to copyright and most of them are published before 1922.

Now a product called Kindle has been released to sell current reading material and serve as a reader which can be taken anywhere. Unlike the university book archives which offer books as page images (.pdf) or more commonly as text files, Kindle uses proprietary format for books to discourage pirating. The reader is the size of a small paperback and weighs 10.3 ounces. The rechargeable battery is good for a week of reading, and can be recharged in 2 hours. Kindle is a wireless product that uses the same technology as Sprint cell phones. An order for a book can be placed and delivered in less than a minute anywhere in the U.S. That is any state except Alaska and Montana where there is no coverage yet.

Customers can keep a backup of the books that they have purchased on the Kindle server. If they run short of memory, some of the books can be removed from local memory and



can be downloaded when needed. There are no access charges to shop for books. All the costs of the cell phone network are paid by Kindle.

The display is a 6 inch diagonal with a resolution of 600 by 800 pixels. It is black and white with a four level gray scale. Thus there is no color and the black and white is good for line drawings only. The Kindle reader can be purchased from Amazon.com for \$399. The cost seems high and difficult to justify based on the savings on book prices. If one buys the product, it appears that the major advantage is the mobile nature of the product and the convenience.

## OFFICERS AND STAFF

Richard Rands	President
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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@comcast.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:  
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Videos of classes; syllabus copies See Web site for titles, prices  
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## CLASSES FOR 9 FEBRUARY 2008

### Software Classes

- Scanning
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### General Classes

- Documentation Techniques
- Using DNA Results

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



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The former Silicon Valley PAF Users Group

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