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The former Silicon Valley PAF Users Group

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Legacy Family Tree Software: Version 7.5 Coming

Geoff Rasmussen of popular genealogy software Legacy Family Tree will speak about the program's latest updates at the October 10 meeting of the Silicon Valley Computer Genealogy Group.

Legacy Family Tree software soon will join the ranks of genealogy software certified to work with new.FamilySearch.org (nFS). Both the free Standard and the paid Deluxe editions will interface with the nFS family tree website. The site, currently available only to members of the LDS Church during its development mode, is likely to be available to the public in 2010.

Legacy is a product of Millenia Corp., Surprise, Arizona. Legacy's tools are designed to help families set goals, plan, and organize projects for working with family trees. A step-by-step workflow guide allows constant monitoring of progress and feedback measured against goals. Legacy help collaborators share research information.

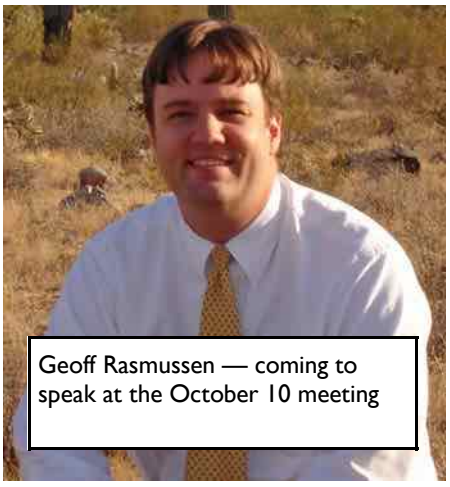
The software is developed with both the beginner and the professional in mind. Genealogists designed the software with researchers' needs in mind. Legacy will publish suggestions for using features such as merging, cleaning data, and standardizing data

Users of Legacy soon will be able to synchronize with, backup, and publish their information to FamilySearch's Family Tree.

"Legacy currently has "Access" certification", explained project manager Rasmussen, "meaning it will automatically search and read information from new. familysearch.org and compare it side-by-side with the user's Legacy data. Once it receives Sync and Update certifications, it will be released to the public."

Features available in Legacy include:

- Using Microsoft Virtual Earth to pinpoint and plot important locations in ancestors' lives. This includes 3-D, satellite, and bird's-eye images .
- Graphical charts for ancestor, descendant, fan, hourglass, bow tie, and DNA charts. Ancestors' pictures can be shared, and the Legacy chart printing service will print large charts on bond, presentation, glossy or matte canvas finishes.
- The SourceWriter assists with properly formatting sources regardless of user expertise.
- The Interview Center provides hundreds of prewritten interview questions and memory triggers.



Geoff Rasmussen — coming to speak at the October 10 meeting

New LDS Church History Library

By Richard and Janet Brigham Rands

In June, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (LDS) opened a new historical library in Salt Lake City, replacing the cramped quarters the library and archive occupied in the church's headquarters building for decades. The new Church History Library and Archive is climate-controlled, "green" in design, and accessible. And, for many family history researchers, it is entirely unfamiliar.

This building is separate from the familiar Family History Library – which is nearby – in several regards. First, its collection is completely separate from the holdings of the Family History Library, and covers LDS history and the locales where LDS history has been recorded. Note that this coverage extends far beyond Utah. Second, its online system is totally separate from that of the Family History Library. In fact, neither catalog is accessible from the other library's building, which should be an obvious service useful to patrons of both libraries. Even though the two libraries are run by separate departments, their mutual ownership by the LDS Church should mandate some degree of cross-pollination.

Both buildings are near Temple Square in Salt Lake City, although not on the same street. The new Church History Library is on North Temple Street, northeast of Temple Square, and near the church's relatively new Conference Center.

The new facility is friendlier than the old, and research is easier to conduct there. In the old facility, library patrons had to stand in what was sometimes a long line to receive an ID badge, which had to be created anew every day. This was be-

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cause the headquarters facility had become a secure facility over the years. The new library does not require a badge, and is designed to be welcoming. Although knowledgeable staff are available, patrons are assisted by numerous missionaries whose calling is to make patrons' library visits productive.

Some materials are housed rather mysteriously. A periodical listed in the catalog as being in the "periodical index" (which translates into "arranged alphabetically by title on the shelves with other periodicals") was housed not with the periodicals, but with books. This was a conscious decision by library staff "because it's bound," we were told by a staff member who didn't seem to grasp that many other periodicals were bound. It was shelved according to a call number that was not listed in the catalog. We assume that these idiosyncratic practices will diminish as patrons require staff help to find inscrutably placed items.

Accessing materials in the Reading Room of the library is still awkward, and the library management needs to rethink the process of ordering and distributing materials. In our visits to numerous libraries' special collections reading rooms, this is the only one that requires staff to reach under a desk and paw manually through rows of retrieved items. Several materials we ordered in our recent visit never were delivered to us, even after ordering them multiple times. (These were not sensitive materials; one was a history of lace-making in England.)

Also, the facility boasts public access to about $50,000 worth of digital microfilm scanners that purposefully and sadly are being underutilized because of concerns about patrons electronically copying sensitive and copyrighted material. Surely in the year 2009 the library management can come up with a way to distribute materials readily, and to send patrons to a reading machine appropriate for the materials. These are issues that should be addressed swiftly, before patrons lose faith and interest in the facility.

Another glitch is the slowness of copying. Many materials not housed in the open stacks are neither rare nor sensitive, but simply are not in much demand. These materials are accessed the same as the rare and sensitive materials, and can be copied only by staff. The wait time for such copies is about a month. We were told this by a staff person who was sitting perhaps 10 feet from several unused copiers. (Think: triage.) We requested that several pages of a book on the history of the Comstock Lode be copied by staff (since the book came from closed stacks, and we could not make copies ourselves). The book is inexpensively available in used book stores and online. Again, this is an issue management should address quickly, before the month-long backlog grows even longer and patrons lose patience.

Overall, we were impressed with the facility and with the breadth of its holdings. Clearly, it is a resource that those visiting the Family History Library should visit. Its new online catalog interface is a major improvement, and we were impressed that the system's architect was openly asking for suggestions. Once the library's minor bugs are worked out, visiting this library will be a worthwhile stop on nearly any research trip to Salt Lake City.

For information, go to: www.lds.org/churchhistory/library/0,15484,3939-1-2050,00.html

The new Church History Library In Salt Lake City

Joseph Smith's Watch

By Allin Kingsbury

In August, I stopped in Salt Lake City as I returned from a trip to Wisconsin. I visited the new Church History Library and looked up Benjamin Bissell, the brother of my 2nd great grandmother, and who was the attorney for Joseph Smith from 1832 to 1838. A number of frivolous lawsuits were brought against Joseph Smith as he served as the first President of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Through the efforts of Mr. Bissell, the charges were all dismissed. At some time before 1838, Joseph Smith gave his watch to Benjamin Bissell in payment for $150 worth of legal services. I had not known of the watch before the visit to the Church History Library.

The watch was made in England in about 1810. It had a gold case and a movement using 13 jewels, an unusual number of jewels for a watch movement. The watch had been owned by Joseph Smith and used by him until he gave the watch to Mr. Bissell.

When Benjamin Bissell died, the watch was given to his eldest grandson who later moved to Southern California. The grandson died in Los Angeles and the watch was sold to an eye doctor who lived in Los Angeles. In 1953, the watch was owned by another individual who wrote to the secretary of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints asking for verification about the history of the watch. The secretary responded with a letter and a brief one-page history of the watch. There was nothing else about the watch in the card catalog. I assume that the watch is in the hands of a private collector, but have no other information to support the assumption.

I found it fascinating that I have this connection to Joseph Smith through this watch. It all came from a thin file with two documents at the Church History Library.

Ohio, the Gateway to the West

By Allin Kingsbury

From the opening of the Erie Canal in 1825, Ohio has been the gateway for the settlement of the West. From that time, the majority of the settlers from the Eastern United States going to the Midwest or to the lands west of the Mississippi River passed through Ohio. Even those moving west from areas west of Ohio were likely to have parents or grandparents who lived in Ohio or passed through Ohio. For the genealogist, Ohio records are important because many families moving west left records in Ohio.

Some settled there for a time and moved on, other families were there for a long time before moving on, and a few may have stopped briefly to earn more cash for the trip west.

Early Ohio

Ohio was admitted as a state in 1803. The large families of the original colonies often left the younger sons without land. Cheap or free land was obtained by moving west where good level farmland could be purchased for much less than land where the families lived. Farming was the easiest way to establish financial independence. It required only a plow, a horse and a few other tools, a horse or other animal to pull the plow, and some carpentry and mechanical skill to build a home and other buildings. Those moving west before the Erie Canal had to travel by land and could not bring many tools and furniture with them. There were routes across Pennsylvania and New York. Further south, the Cumberland Gap provided an easy land route into Kentucky and Tennessee. The Mississippi River and the Hudson River offered transportation by barge or ship, and water transportation made it possible to transport more goods, but the Hudson route stopped near Schenectady where the river became too difficult to navigate and the trip up the Mississippi usually ended with a land journey.

Cheap Land in Ohio

The first settlement of Ohio was accelerated by several land deals. Prior to the Northwest Ordinance of 1787, the colonies of Connecticut, Virginia, New York, and Massachusetts all claimed land that is now part of Ohio. Only Virginia and Connecticut continued to claim specific areas of Ohio land after the Northwest ordinance of 1787 created the Northwest Territory.

The Connecticut Colonial Charter granted the colony a one-hundred twenty mile wide strip of land extending to the Western Ocean. The states of New York and Pennsylvania separated the state of Connecticut from its Western Claim, and the matter was further complicated when the Federal government began carving the land west of the Appalachian Mountains into states. After the Yankee-Pennamite Wars and the intervention of the Federal Government, Connecticut ceded its claim to the Western Claim in exchange for Federal assumption of the Connecticut War debt from the War for independence.

The Connecticut Land Company of Suffield Connecticut purchased 3,000,000 acres of the land claimed by Connecticut, now in Northeastern Ohio in 1796. The Western portion (500,000 acres) became known as the Firelands or Sufferers Lands, and was reserved for residents of the New England Colonies whose homes were burned by the British during the Revolutionary War. Clear title was not achieved until 1805. The Indian tribes had a claim to the land, and these claims were settled by the Greenville Treaty of 1795, and the Treaty of Fort Industry in 1805. Many New England families came to settle this part of Ohio. The remainder of the land purchase was called New Connecticut and later the Western Reserve. In 1800, The Western Reserve was ceded to the Northwest Territory and in 1803 it became part of Ohio.

The Erie Canal

The canal was proposed in 1808, five years after Ohio became a state. Construction started in 1817 from the upper Hudson River to the Niagara River near Tonawanda, New York. At Lockport, a series of locks lifted the westbound traffic sixty feet up the Niagara Escarpment, the same escarpment that created Niagara Falls. The canal was so successful that it was widened from 1835 to 1862. The opening of the canal made it possible to travel by water from New York City to anywhere on the Great Lakes. Cleveland, Toledo, Detroit, Milwaukee, Chicago, and many other cities on the Great Lakes became centers of commerce and inland seaports as a result of the Erie Canal. Migration west was accelerated

In 1832, the Ohio and Erie Canal was opened, and connected Lake Erie to the Ohio River. It was then possible to use water transportation from New York to the Ohio River and to go down the river to Cincinnati, Louisville, and even on to the Mississippi to Saint Louis, Memphis, and other cities on the river. Canal boats carried many more goods than a wagon. A family with enough money could take what they needed to establish themselves on their new land.

The land routes across the Appalachian and the Allegheny Mountains soon carried far fewer families moving west as compared to the Erie Canal. Large numbers of families found the cost of the canal trip affordable and moved west. They included both Americans wanting cheap land and immigrants, mostly coming from Europe. There were the Germans fleeing the European wars, the Irish fleeing the Potato Famine, the Scandinavians, the Polish, and others until the United States became the melting pot of European immigrants.

The Railroads

In 1855 the railroad came to Cleveland, and in the years following, the railroads continued west. Eventually the railroads took the business from the canals because they were faster and competitive in cost. A trip that took several weeks by water could be accomplished is a few days. By the late 1800s, all the major cities had a railroad which serviced the town. The large cities like Chicago, Detroit and Cleveland became hubs where many railroads connected.

Ohio Vital Records

Ohio required counties to record births and deaths starting in 1867. These records were kept in the county Probate Court. Beginning in December 1908, Ohio converted from records kept in a ledger to modern birth and death certificates. At this time, two copies were filed - one with the state and one with the local (city or county) health department. The state copy can be found at the Ohio Historical Society in Columbus (December 1908 through 1944) or at the Ohio Department of Health (1945 to present). The Salt lake Family History Library has microfilmed these records up to 1944. The Ohio Historical Society has the index of the death certificates from 1913 through 1944 at: http://ohsweb.ohiohistory.org/death/index.cfm

Marriage records are filed at the county Probate Court from the creation of the county. The Ohio Department of Health has a statewide index of marriages from September 1949 to present.

Probate Records

Probate was handled by the courts of common pleas. These courts were established when each Ohio county was formed and the court held all probate records including wills, inventories, case or estate files, and related court records. In 1852, separate probate courts were established in all the counties. In most cases, the

wills are indexed. Most of the Ohio probate records were microfilmed by the Family History Library up to 1900 and in some counties they were filmed into the 1970s. The microfilm can be ordered at a local Family History Center.

An index of early Ohio wills has been published in printed form, and is also available on film and fiche at Family History Centers:

Bell, Carol Willsey. *Ohio Wills and Estates to 1850: An Index*. Columbus, Ohio: C.W. Bell, 1981.

Tax Records

When families moved from place to place through Ohio during the early years, they left a trail in the tax records. Tax records complement the land records and are a substitute for the censuses which did not begin in Ohio until 1820, and the tax records cover each year between censuses.

Real property tax lists include the name of the owner, the property location (section, range, and township), the number of acres in the parcel, and the buildings on the land. Land purchased from the federal government (Congress Lands) was not taxable for five years. Owners of these parcels are not listed on tax rolls until their land became taxable. Only owners of taxable property were listed. Many residents were not included in tax lists because they rented or lived with a family. There are gaps in the tax records of some counties because the records for those years are lost or destroyed. Tax records are kept at the county court house, but the Ohio Historical Society has duplicate tax records. The Family History Library has microfilmed early Ohio tax records before 1838.

Several statewide indexes of tax records have been published, including the years of 1800-1810, 1812, 1825, and 1835. These are found at the Salt Lake Family History Library. Be aware that some counties are not in the indices. Other publications about Ohio tax records include:

Tax Records of Ohio Counties: A Register of Contents of the Collection Microfilmed at the Ohio Historical Society Library in 1968. Salt Lake City: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1969.

Ohio Newspapers

Newspapers are an excellent source of information about deaths (obituaries), marriage announcements, biographical sketches, divorce notices, and other family events. It was common for newspapers to list visits from and to out of town relatives. Finding this information is tedious but rewarding as there are no indexes and the complete newspaper must be scanned. Many of the old newspapers are appearing on the Internet, with a search engine, saving much time. There were many English and foreign-language newspapers during the 19th century Ohio. Even though the newspapers were dedicated to religious or political groups, they probably had obituaries and other personal items about their members.

The Ohio Historical Society has a centralized collection of newspapers gathered by the Ohio State Library, Ohio State University Library, the Historical Records Survey, and other institutions. Detailed guides to help locate these publications are:

Green, Karen Mauer. *Pioneer Ohio Newspapers, 1793- 1810*. Galveston, Texas: The Frontier Press, 1986. (FHL book 977.1 B38g.) Contains genealogical and historical abstracts from various newspapers.

Green, Karen Mauer. *Pioneer Ohio Newspapers, 1802-1818: Genealogical and Historical Abstracts*. Galveston, Texas: The Frontier Press, 1988. Contains abstracts of items mentioning local persons from several state newspapers.

Gutgesell, Stephen, ed. *Guide to Ohio Newspapers, 1793-1973*. Columbus: Ohio Historical Society, 1974. (FHL book 977.1 A3g; fiche 6049903.) This is a complete bibliography of all extant newspapers published in Ohio.

Levinson, Marilyn, ed. *Guide to Newspaper Holdings at the Center for Archival Collections*. 3rd ed. Bowling Green, Ohio: Center for Archival Collections, Bowling Green State University, 1991. (FHL book 977.1 B33g 1991.) Contains an inventory of the newspapers at the Bowling Green State University, which come from 19 northwest Ohio counties.

To Be continued

Software Of Interest

AVG Free Edition, Family Tree Maker 2010 Available

AVG Free Edition

AVG Free Edition, produced by AVG Technologies CZ (formerly known as Grisoft), is an excellent anti-virus program for Windows computers that prevents viruses as effectively as most of the commercial products. The program has been tested and verified by West Coast Labs, ICSA Laboratories and Virus Bulletin The program is free, and can be downloaded and installed in a short time. The program updates itself every few days as new viruses are discovered.

The licensing agreement has several limitations that must be considered. First, it can only be used on a home computer used for non-commercial purposes. It cannot be used at schools, charities, churches, or governmental organizations. Second, an individual can use the program on only one computer. Third, there is no tech support available for the free edition of the program. Individuals who do not comply with the licensing agreement can purchase one of the other versions of the program. Prices vary with the number of computers to be protected and the term of the contract. For more information about the AVG Free Edition go to: http://free.avg.com

AVG Free Edition is not the only free anti-virus program available. The Silicon Valley Computer Genealogy Group does not have the expertise to evaluate software and compare the merits of various products, but we do want to pass along information about what is available. There are a number of other free anti-virus programs available including:

Avira AntiVir provides antivirus, anti-spyware, firewall, e-mail protection, and parental controls in a single program. Avira also warns against fraud using falsified Facebook applications. For more information, go to: www.free-av.com

avast! Antivirus Home Edition is a free antivirus product for

non-commercial home use or for non-profit organizations. The company also offers another product for commercial use. For more information, go to: www.avast.co/eng/avast_4_home.html

HouseCall a program by Trend Micro detects viruses already in the computer. It does not prevent viruses. For more information, go to: http://housecall.trendmicro.com

Panda Cloud Antivirus is a "cloud based" program that provides security for computers that are connected to the Internet for long periods of time. Much of the computing is done in other computers connected "in the cloud" via the Internet. For more information, go to: www.cloudantivirus.com

SecureIT Free Edition provides real-time virus protection, real-time proactive spyware protection, a malware blocker, a personal firewall technology, and more. SecureIT Free Edition can be used with Windows XP, Windows Vista and Windows 7. There is no limit to the number of installations and usage of the computers where it is installed. For more information, go to: www.fightspyware.net

Family Tree Maker 2010 Available

Ancestry.com has released Family Tree Maker 2010 and is taking orders online. The program is also available in select retail stores. The following are new or improved features:

- Improved integration with Ancestry.com for downloading your family tree
- New and improved charts and reports
- Better ways to organize photos and other media
- Photo Slideshows
- Slideshows can also be exported to share with others.
- Family books made from your tree
- Standard source templates
- Robust relationship calculator
- Scanner support adds photos from a scanner and can organize them into categories at the same time.
- Extended family birthday calendars
- View a person or family timeline with event locations, like births, marriages, residences and death, mapped geographically to show migration paths.
- Faster load times and quicker performance

Family Tree Maker 2010 comes in several versions starting at $39.95 and can be purchased online at www.familytreemaker.com. Internet access is required for some features.

Mac OS X Snow Leopard

An upgrade to the OS X operating system that Apple uses in the Macintosh computers is now available. It is known as Snow Leopard. The upgrade has the advantages of running faster than earlier versions, QuickTime X (a new QuickTime player with improved performance), and it comes with the software needed to work with Microsoft's Exchange Server. A new technology, Grand Central Dispatch (GCD), increases speed by sharing tasks between the multiple cores of modern Intel CPUs.

Snow Leopard sells for $29. For more information or to order online, go to: www.apple.com The program takes about an hour to install.

Hardware Of Interest

Scan a Bound Book

Scanning a bound book on a flat-bed scanner is hard on the binding of an old book and may even damage new bindings. Of course you can opt not to apply pressure to flatten the pages against the glass, but you usually see the inside of the page distorted where the book pages curve away from the glass.

There are scanners available that are designed to scan bound books. The best-known book scanner probably is one of the Plustek OpticBook series. The Plustek OpticBook 3600 is designed to scan to the edge of the glass bed which goes to the edge of the scanner on one side. The book can be opened to a 90 degree angle and set on the scanner bed with the opposite page hanging straight down. The scanner does scan to the edge of the glass, which the manufacturer calls "zero edge" scanning. The scanner can handle large books with page sizes up to about A5.

The Plustek OpticBook 3600 sells for somewhat more than $200, and the price advertised by Internet vendors varied. Perhaps it is best to shop around the Internet using Google.

Stranger Than Fiction: Earldom For Sale, Crypt Sells for $4.6 Million

Earldom For Sale

Have you have dreamt of having a title? A rare opportunity to be an earl of Scotland has occurred and it may never happen again. Now is the time to act if you want the title. The insiders say the title will sell for about £500,000.

The seller is Brian Hamilton of Dumfriesshire in Scotland. He has been called the "Raider of the Lost Titles" as a result of his business activities in the past. Mr. Hamilton stated that this earldom may be the last to come up for sale because the opportunity is so rare. Baronies and earldoms were rediscovered in the latter part of the last century and when they changed hands, the title went with the land. During the past 5 years, the titles have been separated from the land. Recently, the Barony of Macdonald in Skye was reputedly sold for £1 million.

The title being sold is not the same as a peerage earldom, an inherited rank that can earn a seat in the House of Lords. However, the new earl can petition the Lord Lyon for a coat of arms. This is where a genealogist can take note. If you are publishing a family history, this is your opportunity to have a coat of arms that belongs to you and not some obscure ancestor.

Crypt Sells for $4.6 Million

Elsie Poncher was the owner of a crypt at the Pierce Brothers Westwood Village Memorial Park in Westwood, California. The remains of her husband, Richard Poncher, a businessman who owned several companies, had rested peacefully in the crypt for 23 years. He had purchased the crypt from Joe DiMaggio when Joe was in the middle of his divorce from Marilyn Monroe in 1954.

The crypt is considered prime cemetery real estate by those in the mortuary trade. Marilyn Monroe is buried next door. Others residing in the neighborhood include well-known persons of fame such as Eddie Albert, Eve Arden, Truman Capote, Eva Gabor, Don Knotts, Burt Lancaster, Peggy Lee, Jack Lemmon, Dean Martin, Walter Matthau, Carroll O'Connor, Roy Orbison, Donna Reed, George C. Scott, Mel Torme, Carl Wilson, and Natalie Wood. The temptation was too great for Elsie. She sold the crypt online for $4.6 million to pay off the mortgage on her Beverly Hills home and moved the remains of her deceased husband to a less desirable location with less notable neighbors.

Of Interest Ancestry.com Statistics, Swedish Church Records

Ancestry.com Statistics

Ancestry.com is planning an initial public offering (IPO) and has filed a financial report to the SEC. In the report were some interesting statistics. Ancestry.com has:

- almost one million paying subscribers around the world as of June 30, 2009.
- revenues which have increased from $122.6 million in 2004 to $197.6 million in 2008, a CAGR of of 12.7 percent.
- invested about $80 million to date in making the genealogy content available to subscribers, to acquire or license, digitize, index and publish additional records.
- for six months of 2009, had revenues of $99.9 million with profits of $8.18 million, compared to $87.4 million revenues in first six month of 2008 and profits of $1.24 million.
- the potential introduction of the TV show "Who Do You Think You Are?" in U.S. in early 2010, following a similar show on BBC in 2006.
- an average monthly revenue per subscriber was $16.09 in 2008.

Swedish Church Records

FamilySearch and Svensk Arkivinformation (SVAR), a division of the National Archives of Sweden, announced the start of the largest online indexing initiative undertaken to-date. Swedish volunteers throughout the world will be recruited to index more than 200 years of Swedish Parish Registers containing about 418 million recorded births, christenings, marriages and deaths.

In 1608, the Archbishop of Sweden instituted the Parish Registers. These records have become the best source of genealogical information during the time when the records were kept. The project will be indexing the records up to 1860. After that year, other records are available and the Parish Registers are less important.

Family Search began its indexing project in 2008, just last year. Currently there are 65 online projects underway and the volunteers have already reached the 250 million name milestone. FamilySearch is confident that they will continue be successful in completing these projects. This can be seen in the fact that they are launching a project of 418 million names and a requirement that the volunteers read Swedish. The Swedish Parish Records will require more work than all the work that has been done to date

For this project, FamilySearch will make digital images of the Sweden church records provided by SVAR. Volunteers worldwide will then use the FamilySearch Web-based indexing tool to view the digital images and extract only the desired information from the image. The extracted data will then be processed and published online as searchable indexes which are linked to the digital images.

Volunteers must have Internet access and the ability to read Swedish to participate in this project. Each document is transcribed by two different indexers unknown to each other. If there is a discrepancy in the two extractions, a third extractor acts as an arbitrator and makes corrections to resolve the discrepancies. This quality control process ensures an extremely accurate index when it is complete.

The project will begin with records from Örebro, Uppsala, and Södermanland counties. Indexers will start with the earliest year available for each parish and continue through 1860. The work is divided into batches that should take an average volunteer about 30 to 40 minutes to complete. Individuals want to participate as

extractors and who meet the project requirements can volunteer at: www.indexing.familysearch.org

Spider Webs: Genealogy Podcasts, What Was the Weather Like?, New NARA Blog, Michigan Death Records, Why Arizona?, New York City Birth Records

Genealogy Podcasts

A podcast is simply an audio file which is sent over the Internet. It can be heard on a Windows computer, a MacIntosh, and many newer devices which can be connected to the Internet. The sound is digital and therefore free of any static or distortion. Unlike radio, podcasts are not broadcast, but are available for listening at any time. For the listener, podcasts are usually free. To send a podcast, there are Internet services that provide the service free or at a low price.

A few of the genealogy-related podcasts available on the Internet are:

A genealogy podcast by Will Howells - http://familyhistory.podbean.com/

Anna-Karin's Genealogical Podcast (Swedish) - http://annakarin.libsyn.com/
DearMYRTLE's Family History Hour - http://podcasts.dearmyrtle.com/

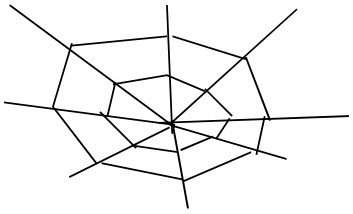
Family History Expos Genealogy Podcast – http://fhexpos.libsyn.com/
Family History: Genealogy Made Easy - http://personallifemedia.com/podcasts/415-family-history

Family History Minute - http://web.mac.com/brianmickelson/Site
Family Roots Radio/Spotlighting Genealogy and Family History - http://www.familyrootsradio.com/
Family Tree Magazine Podcast - www.familytreemagazine.com/podcast

Genealogy Gems Podcast - Your Family History Show - www.genealogygemspodcast.com/
Historyzine - A history magazine in audio - The History Podcast - http://historyzine.com/
Irish Roots Cafe On the Air - www.irishroots.com/content/view/101/143

Nuestra Familia Unida: Podcasting – Genealogia - http://nuestrafamiliaunida.com/genealogy/index.html

Richard Eastman - http://blog.eogn.com/eastmans_online_genealogy/podcasts



The Genealogy Guys Podcast - http://genealogyguys.com

The Genealogy Tech Podcast - http://genealogytechpodcast.com/

Under the Tree - Podcast for African-American Genealogists & Historians - http://underthetree.libsyn.com/

What Was the Weather Like?

When writing family history you may want to include a few details about the setting for those events such as the wedding day of your parents or your grand parents' voyage to America. The Wolfram Alpha Web Site can give you historic weather when you type "weather followed by the date and location. What you get is historic weather data from the nearest weather station. You may be out of luck if your date is before the 1930s when the government began keeping detailed weather records or your location is not in the United States, Canada, and the United Kingdom. To visit the site, go to: www.wolframalpha.com

New NARA Blog

NARAtions is a blog about public access to the records of the U.S. National Archives and Records Administration. As with most government agencies, information released by the National Archives and Records Administration has been almost impossible to read and understand because of the government double-speak used. NARAtions blog is actually easy to read. You can read the blog articles at: http://blogs.archives.gov/online-public-access

Michigan Death Records

Seeking Michigan is a Web site owned by the Michigan History Foundation. The Web site now has the Michigan death records collection at, covering the years 1897 to 1920. The collection has more than 960,000 certificates available free at this site. The project is now 99% complete. To view the death records collection on Seeking Michigan, go to: http://seekingmichigan.org/discover-collection?collection=p129401coll7

Why Arizona?

Arizona State University, the University of Arizona and Northern Arizona University are collaborating on a project to digitally archive migration-related materials for the Arizona centennial in 2012. Included in the archive are photos, video, text and audio recordings. Funding for the project is coming from the universities and the Arizona State Library, the Arizona Archives and Arizona Public Records. The project is funded through multiple sources, including the universities and the Arizona State Library, Archives and Public Records. The University of Arizona has a large collection mf material about the southern Arizona tribal nations. As the material is prepared for the Web site, it will be available for viewing at: http://whyarizona.org

New York City Birth Records

The German Genealogy Group and the Italian Genealogical Group have worked together to index New York City birth records and make them available online. A large group of volunteers representing many ethnic groups indexed the data. The index contains all New York City births for 1901-1907. The birth records for this period have been microfilmed and the microfilm is available at the New York City Municipal Archives and the LDS Family History Library in Salt Lake City. Copies can be ordered at Family History Centers around the world. The index of the New York City Birth Records from 1901 through 1907 is available at both www.italiangen.org/NYCBirthsearch.asp and at www.germangenealogygroup.com/NYCBirthSearch.asp. Steve Morse has written a "One-Step" search tool for these records that is available at his Web site: http://stevemorse.org/vital/nybirthigg.html

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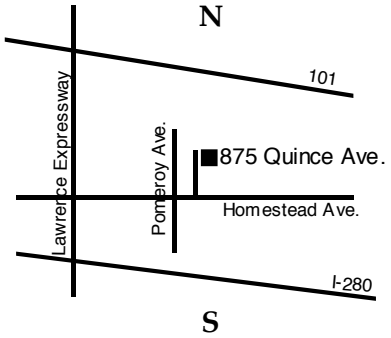

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Articles contributed by readers are welcome. Articles may be submitted as a text file on PC-compatible disk, CD-ROM, or as an e-mail attachment. The editors reserve the right to accept, reject, and edit articles. Articles are not returned.

Silicon Valley Computer Genealogy Group

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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@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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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
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Software Classes

- **Reunion for the Mac**
- **How to Get Started**
-

General Classes

- **Legacy Family Tree 7** (Geoff Rasmussen)
- **The Gold found in Newpapers**

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