Curious About CuriousFox

By Richard Rands

Recently I became aware of a peculiar genealogy Website that until now had escaped my attention. Besides having an unlikely title, it has an unusual set of features. Nevertheless, it strikes me as a resource that has the potential of leading you to a breakthrough in your research without breaking your budget.

The site is called CuriousFox.com. The description on the home page says it is "the village-by-village contact site for anybody researching family history, genealogy and local history in the UK and Ireland. Every UK county, town and village has a page for family history, local history, surname and genealogy enquiries."

The site's creator explains the driving force behind the site as follows:

CuriousFox was created in August 2002. The aim was to provide a resource for finding and identifying the myriad of UK villages, and allow genealogists, family history and local history researchers to make contact and share knowledge at a village level. We wanted to avoid annoying banners and end-less affiliate links so the site costs are covered by a small annual subscription fee. In the interests of encouraging the widest possible participation we have made it possible to use the site as either a free member or a paid member.

When research for English and Irish ancestors stretches back before the 20th century, we often discover that families were established in the same village or nearby towns for many generations. Hence, the ability to focus research efforts on a village and nearby villages becomes highly effective. CuriousFox has created a few effective tools that allow you to start with a specific location, and see who is looking for surnames from that place, then widen the search to neighboring towns up to ten kilometers away. In addition to scanning lists of surname postings for a location, members can add their own search message to the list.

As an adjunct to a place-centered search engine, users may also link to a couple of sites that provide access to old maps and modern street maps for each town. If the village you are researching has disappeared from modern maps, this feature will solve the problem of pinpointing where it was in Victorian times.

If you are uncertain of the exact spelling of a location, the search engine offers a browsing feature by name or by county to help narrow your search to the most likely place. If that doesn't help, there is a surname search engine available in case the place you want can be pinpointed by a surname.

My direct ancestral line originates in Debenham, Suffolk. Over the years as I have poured over the records for the De-benham region, I have discovered numerous peripheral families in nearby villages, but only when I knew the name of a nearby village. When I entered Debenham at CuriousFox and selected a radius of ten kilometers, it gave me a list of 99 villages, many where I have not searched for family names. This one feature alone has added significantly to my list of sources that could expand my knowledge, and perhaps break down a brick wall.

One of the attractive aspects of CuriousFox is the effort to avoid commercial banners and advertisements, as well as the system for preventing marketing robots from extracting email addresses from the message board. The most attractive aspect is the low cost of membership; you can use many features for free, and a paid membership is only $10 per year. You never will receive a spam message from using this site.

Paid membership allows the user to:
- Add entries with green mailboxes
- Search surnames
- Send messages to all mailboxes
- Add a profile
- Submit a URL
- Receive new entry alerts

The free membership limits the user to:
- Add entries with red mailboxes
- Search Surnames
- Send messages to green mailboxes

When I joined CuriousFox with a paid membership, the first step I took was to do a surname search for Rands. I had 17 hits for postings about the surname in places

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Mark the Date

Be sure to reserve 10 May 2010. The Silicon Valley Computer Genealogy Group has invited Barry J. Ewell to be the speaker at an all-day seminar. Mr. Ewell has extensive genealogy research experience tracing his family in the United States, United Kingdom, Scandinavia, Germany, and Russia. He is a popular speaker at many genealogy seminars and was the keynote speaker at the Family History Expo in Logan Utah earlier this year.

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that I suspect were on the list of 99 places within ten kilometers of Debenham. I will need to correlate each post with the list of places. Then I entered the village of Winston where some of my ancestors were born. The response was a list of four villages containing Winston:

- Winston, Durham
- Colwinstone, Tregolwyn, Glamorgan
- Winstone, Gloucestershire
- Winston, Suffolk

Each of the locations is a link to the CuriousFox page for that place. A single click will take you to the list of postings for that village, and the links to the map servers for that village. Another click on the link broadens the search radius, expanding the list of posts to villages within the specified radius. I expanded my search from within the village of Winston to include a radius of 2 kilometers, and the list grew from two postings to 28 postings. When I went to 5 kilometers, I had seven pages of postings. A quick glance through the list

gave me at least a few contacts that I found potentially useful.

Using the map feature allowed me to link to Streetmap.co.uk for a modern map of Winston, and a link to Old-maps.co.uk, where I had a choice of three different maps dating from 1885, 1892, and 1905. Without a doubt, this newly discovered resource will significantly expand my research opportunities in ways that I have not explored.

Ohio, the Gateway to the West

By Allin Kingsbury

Continued from the September 2009 issue

Ohio Periodicals

The major genealogical periodicals that are helpful for research in Ohio include:

Gateway to the West. Greenville, Ohio: Anita Short, Ruth Bowers, 1967-1978. 11 vols. (FHL book 977.1 B2gw.) A 1989 edition that selected principal articles from the original is Bowers, Ruth, and Anita Short, comp. *Gateway to the West.* Baltimore, Md.: Genealogical Publishing, 1989. 2 vols. (FHL book 977.1 D25g 1989)

Ohio, the Cross Road of Our Nation. (Also known as *Ohio Records and Pioneer Families.*) Akron: Esther Weygandt Powell, 1960-. (FHL book 977.1 B2o; vols. 1-5 are also on films 873936 or 974051; vols. 6-9 are on films 873937 or 974052)

The Report. Mansfield, Ohio: Ohio Genealogical Society, 1960-. (FHL book 977.1 B2r; vols. 1-8 on fiche 590280)

The Firelands Pioneer. 13 Vol. Norwalk, Ohio: The Firelands Historical Society, 1858-1878. (FHL book 977.1 B2f; film 1320962 items 1-13)

The periodical was continued by:

The Firelands Pioneer, New Series. 25 Vol. Norwalk, Ohio: Firelands Historical Society, 1882-1937. (FHL book 977.1 B2f new ser.; film 1320968 vols. 1-4, 6-12, 14-16; film 1321376 item 5 vol. 13; film 1320969 items 1-4 vols. 17-18, 20-21; film 1320984 items 2-5 vols. 22-25)

It is then continued by:

The Firelands Pioneer, Third Series. Norwalk, Ohio: Firelands Historical Society, 1980-. (FHL book 977.1 B2f 3rd ser.; film 1035999 item 3 vol. 1.) This series includes cumulative (1858-1937, FHL film 1320941 item 1) and obituary indexes (1857-1909, FHL fiche 6088685). This periodical is invaluable for north central counties in Ohio.

Most of these periodicals have annual indexes in the final issue for the year. The PERSI index is an index for all U. S. and Canadian periodicals:

PERiodical Source Index (PERSI). Ft. Wayne, Ind.: Allen County Public Library Foundation, 1987-. (FHL book 973 D25per; fiche

6016863 [set of 40] (1847-1985); fiche 6016864 [set of 15] (1986-1990). Refers to items published in thousands of English-language and French-Canadian family history periodicals. Annual indexes have been published yearly since 1986. For further information, see the *PERiodical Source Index Resource Guide.*

A compact disc version that includes all PERSI volumes published through 1996 is:

PERSI Periodical Source Index. Orem, Utah: Ancestry, Inc., and Allen County Public Library Foundation, 1997. (FHL compact disc 1313 no. 61.)

Another periodical index just for Ohio is:

Bell, Carol Willsey. *Ohio Genealogical Periodical Index: A County Guide.* Youngstown, Ohio: Bell Books, 1987; 6th ed. (FHL book 977.1 B22o 1987.)

Ohio Land Records

Ohio Land was transferred to private ownership with state and federal land grants. This was the first public domain land to be made available for private ownership. The rectangular land survey system using sections, townships, and ranges was established by the Land Ordinance of 1785, and was first applied to the federal land grants in Ohio.

Some of the early land grants dealt with specific groups, and the identification of individuals with these groups can help trace their origin. These tracts include:

The Ohio Company First Purchase. This land was sold by the Continental Congress to an association of former officers and soldiers of the Revolutionary War from Massachusetts and nearby areas. *The Ohio Company Second Purchase*, made in 1792, was acquired by redeeming military bounty land warrants obtained by the association. Original records of the Ohio Company of Associates are in the custody of Marietta College, Dawes Memorial Library, Marietta, Ohio.

The Donation Tract. One hundred-acre parcels were offered to legal-age males who would occupy the land immediately, thus becoming a buffer between the Indians and those settling on the *Ohio Company Purchases*. Deeds were issued by the Ohio Company of Associates until 1818, when the Marietta Land Office obtained jurisdiction of unclaimed lands.

Symmes Purchase or Miami Purchase. This land was pur-

chased partly with military bounty land warrants. The survey for this land was done privately and does not conform to the United States rectangular survey system. Symmes and many of the first settlers in this area came from New Jersey or had ties to New Jersey.

The United States Military District. Ohio land was granted to soldiers from any state who served in the Continental Army during the Revolutionary War. The tracts were 4,000 acres each, yet military bounty land warrants specified land area from 100 acres for a soldier to 1,100 acres for a major general. Since few people could buy a tract, individuals pooled warrants and subdivided their tract among themselves. Others sold their warrants to land speculators.

Moravian Indian Grants. The United Brethren Church was a grant as trustee for Indian converts who sustained great losses in 1782.

French Grants. Lands were granted to 101 Frenchmen who bought land through the Scioto Company, which had no land that it could sell legally.

Refugee Tract. These lands were granted to refugees from Canada who came to the Colonies before 4 July 1776 and who aided the Colonies during the Revolutionary War.

Congress Lands. Tracts of 320 acres were purchased by individuals. Because buyers paid 25 percent in cash and had four years to pay the balance, the property was exempt from taxes for the first five years after being purchased.

The Western Reserve was surveyed and organized into six mile square townships which became the pattern for the Midwest but differed from the remainder of Ohio. Land in the Western Reserve was given as a bonus for military service beginning with the Revolutionary War and lasting to the Mexican War through 1855. To get the bounty land as it was called, a veteran had to apply for a warrant. The warrant was then used to apply for a land patent for available land in the Western Reserve. The warrants could be sold and often were.

The warrants are kept in the National Archives and are a valuable record for the genealogists working with early Ohio families. The application contains the rank and military unit of the applicant, and usually the age, name and current residence. If the application was made by a widow, the application had her name, age, maiden name, residence and date and place of their marriage.

The U. S. Military District was created and used as bounty land. Other Ohio land was sold by land offices. Often this land would be sold to speculators who would subdivide the land and sell to settlers.

The first Federal land offices to sell the Congress lands began operating in 1800. Each land office had land to sell in a specified district. When land in a district was almost completely sold, the remaining parcels were sold by a new land office that had opened further west. The following land offices sold land in Ohio for the period specified:

Steubenville, 1800 to 1840

Marietta, 1800 to 1840

Chillicothe, 1801 to 1876

Cincinnati, 1801 to 1840

Zanesville, 1804 to 1840

Canton, 1808 to 1816

Wooster, 1816 to 1840

Delaware, 1820 to 1828

Piqua, 1820 to 1833

Tiffin, 1828 to 1832

Bucyrus, 1832 to 1842;

Wapakoneta, 1833 to 1835

Lima, 1835 to 1843

Marion, 1837 to 1845

Upper Sandusky, 1843 to 1848

Defiance, 1848 to 1855.

Approximately 100,000 land patents were issued in Ohio. The patent is a Federal record. When land obtained with a patent was sold, it was recorded on a deed which is a county record. Many county land records have been microfilmed.

Census Records

Federal census records for Ohio are available from 1820 through 1920 (the 1810 census for Ohio was destroyed). Researching these census records is made easier with published indexes through 1880, as well as Soundex or Miracode indexes for 1900, 1910 and 1920. Of course, the 1890 census was destroyed, though a few fragments of Hamilton County survived and are on microfilm.

There are no state censuses for Ohio. However, some counties took quadrennial enumerations - a census every four years of males over 21. Some counties enumerated only the white men over 21. Not all of these schedules have survived. Some can be found in records of the Common Pleas Court, county or regional archives or on microfilm.

Ohio Research

Ohio has good records. Most county records are intact and are either available on microfilm or by a visit to the county courthouse. Some of the early Ohio records are published in books.

There are many books that have been published about genealogy research in Ohio. One recently updated book is an excellent guide to Ohio research: Sperry, Kip; *Genealogical Research in Ohio,* 2nd Edition, 2003, ISBN: 9780806317137.

Good Luck with your Ohio research.

Classic Tombstone Inscription

Here lies John Adam, who received a thump

Right on the forehead from the Parish Pump,

Which gave him quietus in the end

Though many doctors did his case attend.

from the grave of John Adam

Cheltenham, England

Two Nevada Libraries: Plan Ahead and Watch the Clock

By Janet Brigham Rands

Nevada had a rich history long before it was rich with glitz and glitter. If your knowledge of Nevada history is limited to *Bonanza* reruns, you might not know that Nevada does have a vivid history, and that history is well documented and preserved.

Two institutions charged with preserving that history and making it accessible to the public are the Nevada State Archives and Library in Carson City, and the Nevada Historical Society Library in Reno. The facilities differ, but both can contribute greatly to your family history searching. At present, both are open for limited hours and days, so it's best to use online catalogs before you go, and to pay attention to the listings of both facilities' holdings.

Nevada State Archives and Library

http://nevadaculture.org/nsla/

100 Stewart St.

Carson City, NV 89701-4285

The Nevada State Archives and Library is open five days a week, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Its open stacks are organized geographically, allowing the user to browse the shelves for useful background material. Because the hours are limited, look through the online catalog ahead of time. It features a straightforward search system that allows you to do broad or narrow searches. For example, a search for *washoe city* yields 196 hits, but *washoe city history* yields 15. Don't bother to search for vague terms such as *mining*; instead focus your search with specific locations and persons.

The library has a row of computer microfilm readers where microfilm pages can be saved to a flash drive. You can browse the library's sizable collection of historical newspapers on the readers, but it's best to bracket the time frame for searching, since reading film of old newspapers rapidly eats up the library's four available open hours.

Looking through old newspapers is an excellent way to get a general historical flavor for a location. Even though many old newspapers are available online either free or for a fee, the bulk of newspapers in small locales and ghost towns have never been digitized, and may never be. They remain a remarkable source of information; often, the only way to access them is to visit archives and libraries with extensive local collections.

In the case of our Nevada research, we needed to focus on a small valley near Washoe City, which was once a sizable town before Reno boomed. Washoe City isn't quite a ghost town, but its host of short-lived old newspapers are available primarily at the state library and historical society library.

Housed in the archives are numerous rare documents, which can be accessed, but retrieval may take time. Keep that in mind when you are planning your four hours. A case in point is a rare court transcript available only at a handful of libraries, including the library in Carson City. Reading it closely would take many hours – in other words, many four-hour stints at the Carson City facility. However, having a brief archival look at unique, rare, or expensive material can help you determine whether it is worth pursuing through other means (buying it online, asking a local library to borrow it through interlibrary loan, or planning a longer visit to the archive).

Nevada Historical Society Library

http://nevadaculture.org/museums/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=446&Itemid=122

1650 North Virginia St.

Reno NV 89503

Adjacent to the University of Nevada Reno campus is the Nevada Historical Society facility, which features a small museum worth visiting, a gift shop worth visiting, and a well staffed archive and library.

The library is open only four days a week, Wednesday through Saturday, from noon to 4 p.m. This is because of state budget cutbacks, which those of us in California are all too familiar with already. Don't expect the library staff to answer the telephone if you call, but do expect them to handle your requests promptly, and to suggest ways you can search the collections most effectively.

One of the unadvertised highlights of the library is a handmade card index of the library's old newspaper microfilms. We were told that in many cases, journalists writing the news stories created their own index.

The power of this sizable card index is evident in an example: We were searching for accounts about a George Smith Sr. who settled near Washoe City in the mid-1850s. We found numerous entries for him in the newspaper card index, which listed newspaper articles by date, page, and column. To our amazement, one of the articles mentioned only "Old Man Smith" yet was correctly indexed under George Smith Sr. Whoever indexed it had intimate knowledge of the area, its history, and its people.
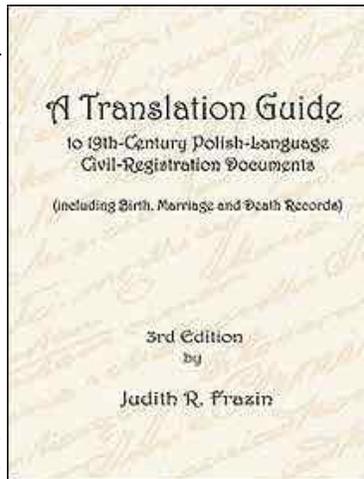
We learned much about George, his family, and his environs thanks to the extensive index. We learned how many times buildings on his property burned, how many tons of various kinds of produce he farmed, and what happened to his mentally handicapped daughter.

Thankfully, an anonymous donor had given the library a computerized ScanPro digital microfilm/fiche reader which allowed detailed manipulation of images.

Among the library's popular holdings are a photography collection indexed in a card catalog, an ephemera collection of documents such as posters and tickets.

Recently Published: A Translation Guide to 19th-Century Polish-Language Civil-Registration Documents

The Jewish Genealogical Society of Illinois (JGSI) has recently published the third edition of *A Translation Guide to 19th-Century Polish-Language Civil-Registration Documents (including Birth, Marriage and Death Records)*. Anyone with roots in Poland can use this book to help locate ancestral towns on a modern map, determine the existence of old vital records, and help to get and translate the records. The book contains a step-by-step guide which illustrates how to divide each document into a series of "minidocuments." Examples using seven sample documents are included with the important words and the information which follows these words highlighted. There are fifteen topical vocabulary lists to explain entries such as for Age, Family and Occupations. The entries include words that occur in many 19th-century documents.

The author of the book is Judith R. Frazin, who has created all three editions of the book. The Polish Genealogical Society of America has honored her for her contribution to genealogy by awarding her the Wiglia award in 2000. She has been a genealogist for 39 years, and has been the program chairperson for the 1984 national seminar on Jewish genealogy, has served as president of JGSI for ten years, and has been a member-at-large on the Board of the International Association of Jewish Genealogists for three years. She is recognized as an author, lecturer and researcher.

A Translation Guide to 19th-Century Polish-Language Civil-Registration Documents is a 472-page hardcover book which sells for $41 which includes shipping and handling for U. S. destinations. The book can be ordered at www.jewishgen.org/JGSI/theguide.html

Software of Interest: Legacy Family Tree Certified, DropBox

Legacy Family Tree Certified

Millenia Corporation announced that the Legacy Family Tree genealogy program has completed the certification process for synchronization with the FamilySearch software. Both the free Standard Version and the Deluxe Version are certified. When the certified software is released, Legacy users will be able to link to the new software at the new.FamilySearch Web site and add names to the database. The new database is being tested and is only available to members of the LDS Church, but when the testing is completed, it will be opened to all users.

Goeff Rasmussen, the project manager for Legacy Family Tree, explained that the Legacy program now has "Access" certification which means that the user can automatically search and read data at the new.FamilySearch.org Web site. He expects to have "Sync" and "Update" certification very soon, at which time a new version of the program will be released. The additional certifications are necessary to utilize all the features of the software at the new.FamilySearch.org Web site. The follow the status of the Legacy Family Tree update, go to the Legacy blog at: www.legacynews.typepad.com

Users can try out the Legacy software (old version now or new version when available) by downloading the free Standard Version at: www.LegacyFamilyTree.com The new version, when released, will have all of the features to work with the new FamilySearch software. If users want the features found in the Deluxe Version of Legacy, they can purchase the Deluxe Version from the Legacy Web site.

DropBox

DropBox is a program which can copy files to an online backup site and also to other computers designated by the user. All computers must be operational and connected to the Internet for the transfers to happen. The computers can have a variety of operating systems including Windows, Linux, or native Macintosh, and can include an Apple iPhone or Blackberry devices.

To use the software, the user creates a DropBox on the DropBox Internet site and a DropBox on each computer where the files are to be stored. Files on the other computers can be immediately used, but the transfer of files on the Internet is secure through the use of a 256 bit encryption and a password.

By using DropBox for backup of data files, the user will have several advantages over backup done with the backup command in the operating system. The first advantage is that files are backed up as they are changed. The backup is automatic and is done each time the file is changed. The only data lost when a computer crash occurs is data that is changed but not stored. Every time the user executes a "Save" command, a backup file is stored in the DropBox.

The second advantage is that each change to a file is stored separately and kept for up to 30 days. Only the changes to a file are stored after the entire file is stored. Should data be lost as a result of a keystroke error or any other cause, the bad file can be restored back to any date within the past 30 days. This is equivalent to an "Undo" command which can be executed after the application program is closed.

The third advantage is that the backup process requires less operator time to backup and recover data if there are many files stored in memory. The user does not have to wait for the backup of all files to finish because the files are backed up as they are changed. Restoration of a single file can be done, making it unnecessary to wait for a restoration of all files before a quickly-needed file is available for use.

Only files in the DropBox are transferred. To ensure backup of all data files, all files must be stored in the DropBox. The files can be separated into folders and subfolders as is normally done, but the same folder system must be used in each DropBox where

transfers are done.

DropBox is free for users who can get by with the 2 gigabytes of storage available. The free storage can be increased by (500 up to 6 gigabytes) megabytes for each new customer introduced by the user. If a larger DropBox is needed, the space can be purchased. For example, 100 gigabytes of storage can be purchased for $199 per year. For more information or to establish a Drop-Box account, go to: www.getdropbox.com Be aware that there are other products called DropBox, so do not be confused.

Of Interest

Irish Parish Registers at Waterford Library, Michigan Genealogical Council Organizes Protest, Alien Files, Genealogists Oppose UK Budget Cuts

Irish Parish Registers at Waterford Library

The Central Library has acquired the Roman Catholic Parish Registers for Waterford City and County. The registers are the earliest source of information for family history research in the area. Until the Central Library in Waterford acquired them, it was difficult to obtain access to them.

Michigan Genealogical Council Organizes Protest

We are seeing a lot of political protest these days, but protests about genealogy are rare. The Michigan Genealogical Council recently tried to send a strong message to Governor Jennifer Granholm to protest a proposal to break up the genealogical collections at the Michigan Historical Center. About 400 people gathered at the state capitol and created a human barrier around the entire Michigan Historical Center. It was not known if Governor Jennifer Granholm was aware of the protest, but the event was well publicized by the news media.

Governor Granholm, a Canadian birth, was faced with an overwhelming deficit of several billion dollars in her state budget. She chose a strategy used elsewhere of cutting services directly affecting the voters, such as schools, parks, libraries, and so forth, to intimidate voters so they will accept higher taxes to balance the budget. She decided to eliminate the Department of History, Arts and Libraries, which would close the Michigan State Library, break up the historic collections at the library, and renovate the library building so it put to some other government use. The executive order came as a surprise and sent shock waves through the historical societies and genealogical organizations throughout the state. Opposition to the order came quickly and unanimously. The Michigan State Library is among the best libraries in the United States and its genealogical collection is outstanding. It attracts individuals from all over the country who come for family research.

The Michigan Senate has voted to reject the executive order, but the Michigan House has done nothing to respond to the outcry. Governor Granholm has amended the original executive order, stipulating that the rare books and genealogical collection would be preserved and the online databases, heavily used by genealogists, would be maintained and not taken off the Internet.

The language of the amended order is vague and has not satisfied the Michigan Genealogical Council. In fact, several other organizations have joined the protest including the Michigan Library Council and the Gale Group, plus many individuals. At the FGS Conference, recently held in Little Rock, petitions to stop the closure of the Michigan State Library were circulated.

As matters stand, a large group has been mobilized that strongly oppose the dismantling of the library, but the governor has not rescinded the order. A few state senators have joined the opposition to the closing of the library, but still the stand-off continues.

The Silicon Valley Computer Users Group is pleased to call attention to the news about the Library closing, but as a non-profit organization, our charter excludes us from taking sides in the issue as it could be construed as political activity. However, our members are free make themselves heard on this issue if they wish to do so.

Alien Files

The "Alien Files" are files on immigrants kept by border agents. The files contain information about 53 million immigrants who came to the United States beginning in the late 19th century. This year an agreement was signed stating that the files would be transferred to the National Archives from the Department of Homeland Security, starting in 2010. The government had authorization to destroy the records after 75 years, but organizations, including Ancestry.com and Footnote.com, along with many individuals who heard about the files, demanded that they be saved. The files represent the largest addition of immigration records in the history of the National Archives. They will be indexed and made available to the public.

For the families of these immigrants, the files often contain a treasure of family history information. Some files contain than100 pages of material, all of it original documents. There may be photographs, letters, interrogation transcripts and recordings in the file. Many files have fascinating stories to tell about the immigrants, such as the Jews fleeing Hitler, or the Chinese looking for a loophole in the Chinese Exclusion Act which barred most Chinese from entering the United States.

At present, individuals can gain access to the Alien Files by submitting a Freedom of Information Act request. This is a tedious process which may take months before access is granted to produce documents. In the end the individual will only see a photocopy. For photographs, a photocopy is a poor substitute for an original document. Perhaps under the National Archives, access to the data will be easier to obtain and individuals will be able to see the original documents.

Genealogists Oppose UK Budget Cuts

The United States is not the only place with budget problems. The National Archives of Great Britain proposed a reduction of staff and the elimination of many services that The National Archives (TNA) was chartered to provide when it was created. The proposal would cut operating cost by 10% and save £4,200,000. However the cuts would eliminate much more than 10% of the services. Genealogists, historians, and the general public are angered by the proposed cuts. Senior management at TNA is claims there is no room for discussion on the matter. Opposition to the cuts is being led by Nick Barrett, a well-known UK TV genealogist. A Web site for the opposition campaign has been set up at: www.action4archives.com

Spider Webs: Croatian Web Site, Canadian War Children, Ancestry.com Expands Jewish Collection, World War II Records at Ancestry.ca

Croatian Web Site

A Croatian Family History & *Genealogy* Web site is now available. Most Croatians in the United States have come in recent years as the result of the wars resulting from the disintegration of the former country of Yugoslavia. The Croatians have their unique language and culture which are reflected at the site. The Web site belongs to Sambunjak Genealogy Research, which offers research services for anyone with ancestors from Croatia or Slovenia. Members offer their expertise and experience in genealogy research to the public at this Web site.
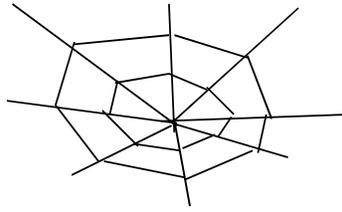
For those engaged in Croatian research, the site includes a directory of most common Croatian surnames as well as given names, an address book of the Croatian Parishes, and articles and educational material about Croatian Genealogy research. The owners of *Croatian Family History & Genealogy* promise that the Web site will be updated with new services and resources. The Web site is currently published only in English, but there are plans to add other languages to the site. To visit the site, go to: www.croatian-genealogy.com

Canadian War Children

The war children are the children fathered by soldiers during a war. War children in the UK fathered by Canadian servicemen now have a Web site, Canadian Roots UK, to help them find their missing parent, or the Canadian soldiers can find help tracing their children. The site serves as a clearinghouse for both parties and hopes to help them to contact each other. Interested parties can search queries posted under fathers or children. Many of the queries include pictures and personal information. Reunions with long lost or unknown family are emotion experiences for both parties. It seems everyone hopes for a successful reunion. To visit the site, go to: www.canadianrootsuk.org

Ancestry.com Expands Jewish Collection

Ancestry.com, through a partnership with the American Jewish Historical Society and the Routes to Roots Foundation

has added more than 200,000 Jewish records to its online data. These records are in addition to many other Jewish records already available at the site. The American Jewish Historical Society documents that have been digitized as part of this relationship include six remarkable collections:

• **Brooklyn Hebrew Orphan Asylum Records, 1878-1934** - applications for admission; and discharge ledgers

• **Selected Naturalization Records, New York City, 1816-1845** - declaration of intention for New York County; containing name, age, birthplace, nationality, place of emigration, occupation and place of intended settlement

• **New York Hebrew Orphan Asylum Records, 1860-1934** - applications for admission; and discharge ledgers

• **Industrial Removal Office Records, 1899-1922** – records of Jewish families and individuals who were assisted in moving from harm's way in various countries

• **Selected Insolvent Debtor's Cases, 1787-1861** - approximately 2,000 cases, some containing an inventory of assets

• **Selected Mayor's Court Cases, New York, 1674-1860** - 6,000 selected briefs that include summons, complaints, affidavits, and jury lists

Ancestry.com has also added Miriam Weiner's Routes to Roots' Eastern European Archival Database, a collection that includes references to Jewish and civil records from archival holdings in Belarus, Lithuania, Moldova, Poland and Ukraine. It includes a variety of documents including property records, census lists, vital records and Holocaust records.

Along with the records from AJHS and RTRF, Ancestry.com will also launch two

new collections from JewishGen, including *Lithuania: List of Donors of Charity from HaMagid (1871-1872)*, the Persian Famine donation list printed in the Hebrew newspaper, HaMagid, and *Hungary: Jewish Census (1848)*, a survey of Jews in Greater Hungarian countries including Hungary, parts of Slovakia, Croatia, Ukraine and Romania, among others.

To search Jewish record collections at Ancestry.com, go to: www.ancestry.com/JewishFamilyHistory

World War II Records at Ancestry.ca

Ancestry.ca now has more than 100,000 records of World War II British and Commonwealth prisoner of war records for British and Commonwealth personnel imprisoned between 1939 and 1945 in Germany, Austria and Poland available on their Web site. The records were compiled by German military authorities as required by the 1929 Geneva Convention. The Convention required notification to opposing countries in time of war, of all captured combatants. The United Kingdom has a 75-year rule limiting access to World War II records by the public, but the rule does not apply to these records.

The prison camp where captured combatants were incarcerated depended on where they were captured and their rank. Officers were kept at an Oflag and lower ranking personnel sere sent to a Stalag (base camp). Conditions in the prison camps varied greatly. The captured western forces received better treatment from the Germans than from the German allies.

Ancestry.ca also has the *UK Army Roll of Honour, 1939-1945* available on its Web site. This database has the records of all British Army personnel killed in action during World War Two. The data was compiled between the end of 1944 and 1949 and has data for more than 170,000 individuals. The data includes the name, rank, date of death, service number, birth place, residence, branch at enlistment, and his regiment at the time of his death.
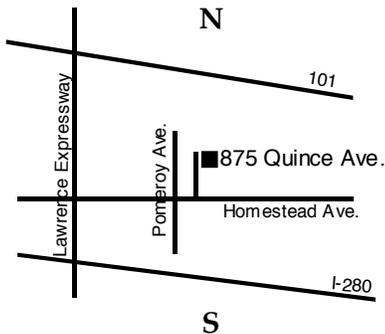
Ancestry.ca is a subscription site available with a monthly or yearly fee. For more information or to subscribe, go to: www.ancestry.ca

Silicon Valley PastFinder

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

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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.

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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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