



Washington County "Personal Ancestral File™" Users Group Newsletter

May 2006 Editor – Denece C. Larsen (435) 634-0204 dixielarsens91@skyviewmail.com Vol. 14 #5

PLANNING A GENEALOGY VACATION

From Kimberly Powell, Your Guide to Genealogy.
<http://genealogy/about.com>

Combining a summer vacation with a genealogy research trip can be rewarding and fun for you and your family. When your genealogy research next sends you on the road, try these tips for preventing frustration and achieving success.

What is Your Goal? – The first step in the planning process, choosing a specific family or individual to concentrate on will help keep your trip focused and make the planning easier.

Know Where You're Going – Before you go too far in planning your trip, be sure you're headed for the right location! You don't want to spend hours in a church or courthouse, only to learn later that the records of your family are actually kept in the next town or county. Current geographical and political boundaries are not necessarily the ones in existence when your family lived in the area. I've got ancestors who spent multiple generations on the same piece of land, yet resided in three different counties during that time period due to boundary changes.

Know What's Available – Once you have decided which areas you would like to visit, take time to familiarize yourself with the record sources generally available in that region. Some good resources for this include:

- LDS Research Guides and LDS Family History Library Catalog for good, general outlines of available records for a specific location.
- City, county, parish, state or country GenWeb page to learn more about sources for a specific location, and ask for recommendations.
- The Library of Congress Card Catalog to determine what books have been published on the county or area you are planning to visit.

Prepare Checklists – If you haven't already done so, go through the research you have already compiled on the family and use this to create a list of facts or theories that you would like to prove or disprove, and a "to-do" list of records that you would like to check. To help you with this process, many genealogy software programs offer a "to-do" list tool, or the utility software, GenSmarts, can analyze

your genealogy file and produce research recommendations.

Do Your Homework – Before you leave home, spend time on the Internet and on the phone to find office hours, holdings and other details on courthouses, libraries, archives, historical societies and other record repositories that you plan to visit. If the library or archive's catalog is online, make a list of records you wish to find, concentrating especially on sources unique to the area where you are researching, including manuscript collections, unpublished papers and records, photographs and local history books. Call ahead to make sure that the records you want to look at are currently available to researchers.

Map a Strategy – The more familiar you are with the area you're planning to visit, the easier your research trip will be. Obtain not only present-day highway maps, but also maps contemporary with the life of your ancestors. The maps I don't research without are prepared by the USGS. These small-scale, topographic maps include county road numbers, farm roads, and many churches and private cemeteries.

Pack for Success – You don't want to know how many times I've lamented during a genealogy vacation over things that I forgot to bring with me. Here's a short checklist to get you started:

- copies of your research goals and to-do lists
- copies of your pedigree charts and family group records (Continued on Page 2)

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- plenty of pencils (many record repositories do not allow the use of pens)
- blank charts and forms, including pedigree charts, family group sheets, research logs and forms for abstracting or extracting records (such as blank census forms)
- a laptop computer if you have one (check with the individual repositories to be sure their allowed)
- a magnifying glass to help in reading old records
- comfortable clothes and shoes (you may spend a lot of your research time standing at counters or squatting in old, dusty basements). Stick with business casual over sweats or jeans, for better service.
- camera, batteries and plenty of film (or memory cards if your camera is digital)
- a tape recorder

Visiting where your ancestors lived can be an extremely exciting and rewarding experience. Walking the land and visiting the cemeteries where my ancestors lived brings me closer to them than a piece of paper could ever do. While it's great to jump in the car and go, advance planning usually results in a much more rewarding adventure. I'd really hate to have you go home disappointed when you find out the courthouse is closed for repairs. ☺

BOARD TALK

by Fran Lightner – President

It has been a busy time as I get to know many of you and learn more about the PAF Users Group. It takes all of us, the board and members, working together to get our monthly meeting set up, selecting topics for the classes and presenters, trying to get a schedule set up for several months in advance, doing publicity for our meetings, and keeping up on the current subjects and software. Also deciding on having one class for two hours, or two classes for one hour each and mini-classes when needed. Plus we are planning for next years Jamboree and how the PAF Users Group will be involved. We need involvement with the Cemetery Project or possibly working with county records.

Scott Potter, Education Chairman, has been busy getting information on what classes you want to see presented. Please keep giving him your suggestions.

The Washington County PAF Users Group Mission Statement still fits what we'd like to accomplish.

Changes are constantly coming along in how we organize our files, do our research, learn new software, and hands-on experience. We want to keep up in each of these areas.

A beginners PAF class has been offered for some time with Jack Wasden as the instructor. We appreciate Jack's dedication to this class. We realize that many of you have attended Jack's classes and got the help you were looking for. 'Thank You Jack!'

Recently there have been changes in the area of the PAF program. Classes and help are available from the Regional Family History Center, Stake Family History Centers and Ward Consultants. Help is available there, one-on-

one with a Consultant. Some will even come into your home to help you on your computer with your questions.

New online tutorials make learning and using PAF much easier. Many are free online covering the entire PAF program - Importing to TempleReady. One PAF tutorial is accessible at <http://familyhistory.byu.edu/> using the PAF Tutorial link under the Resources menu.

With these various places for help, the PAF Users Group Board have decided to discontinue the PAF Beginners class as part of our monthly meetings. We suggest you use the Family History Centers, Ward Consultants or online help.

One more thing.....how about looking forward to a genealogy cruise this fall? Sound fun - sounds like a fun idea before getting busy with the holiday season. We're just beginning our plans on this, but think it would be a very fun activity. We could have our monthly meeting and genealogy classes in the casual setting of a cruise ship. This cruise would be open to WC-PAF Users Group members, their spouses, other family members and friends. Inviting those who are just beginning their family history research and work would be a great way for them to get a good start.

Since summer seems to be rushing right towards us, hope you have a good one. Keep cool..... ☺

A KEY TO THE PAST!



'FLAKY' ACCIDENT LED TO CHAMPIONS

In 1921, Minneapolis health clinician was making wheat bran gruel for his patients when some spilled on a stove. It crackled and sizzled into crisp flakes.

Tasting one, he decided this delicious accident had promise, so he took a sample to the Washburn Crosby Company, the predecessor to General Mills.

Head miller George Cormack worked to strengthen the flakes so they wouldn't turn to dust in the box and tested 36 varieties of wheat before he found the perfect flake.

The product first was called Washburn's Gold Metal Whole Wheat Flakes. An executive's wife suggested Wheaties as the name for the new product.

It wasn't until 1933 that an advertising executive came up with the slogan "Wheaties—The Breakfast of Champions," tying the brand to baseball radio broadcasts it sponsored.

In 1937, those Wheaties broadcasts also spotlighted a sportscaster from Des Moines, Iowa. He later became actor, governor and President Ronald "Dutch" Reagan. ☺

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- Genealogy: Chasing your own tale!
 - I used to have a life, then I started doing genealogy.
 - I want to fine ALL of them! So far I only have a few thousand.
 - A new cousin a day keeps boredom away. ☺
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TIMELINES AND CHRONOLOGIES

By Bob & Elaine Booth

Bob – WC-PAF Users Group Instructor & Elaine – Vice President

“Genealogists are time ‘unravelers’”

One essential “tool” used by genealogists, is the timeline or chronology. When preparing to do research on an individual or a family, you should prepare a chronology/timeline of the events you know about the person. I like to prepare my chronologies in a word processor on the computer. When I am done I save it in a family folder on the computer.

Chronological order means placing events in date order from the earliest (Birth) to the most recent (Death/Burial). A timeline is essentially the same thing with dates and significant family or world events added in. Such timelines help us to understand and remember sequential relationships; and give us a visual aid to the arrangement of events. When family timelines are accurate, they provide the maximum amount of information in the minimum amount of space. They condense the critical elements necessary for a family history into a concise and understandable summary. A chronology can help to reconstruct a complete history of an individual and serve as a basis for writing a biographical sketch of your ancestor.

Guidelines for preparing a chronology include: 1. Keep it short, yet include all pertinent information. 2. Place in chronological order. 3. Give each event a one word title (birth, death, census, military, land, move, marriage, etc.). 4. Give a geographical location; write in order of country, state, county, & town. 5. Add a brief comment of pertinent information if applicable (for example, after selling land with his wife, (wife: Elizabeth). Or on the birth line (parents William and Martha). The purpose of entering the data in this manner is to make it easy to interpret the chronological life events of an individual. A chronology often lets you see clues to dates, locations, and events that might be overlooked and can direct your research.

Genelines [www.progedysoftware.com] is a fantastic program that brings together elements of time, history and family relationships on visual timeline charts from your family files. *Legacy 6* [www.legacyfamilytree.com] creates timelines and chronologies from your information. Another good one for a personal Timeline is *Personal Historian* [www.PersonalHistorian.com]. For a good general Timeline is [www.ourtimelines.com]. Have fun! ☺

EDITING PLACE NAMES IN PAF INSIGHT

UVPAF-UG – PAFology, May 2006

For all of you who fought battles with global search and replace in PAF here is a new and better way to edit the place names in your PAF Database, and standardize them, if necessary!!

PAF Insight has a new feature. When you first open PAF Insight the second option is "Edit Places". After you click on this option you find that on the left hand side of

your screen are all the places in your database, with the number of occurrences to the left of the place name. Although the place names are listed small to large they are alphabetically in order from largest to smallest; therefore all your California places come before all your places in Colorado.

On the right hand side is a split screen with names of all the individuals, and their RIN numbers, that use the place name you highlight on the left. Below this list of Names you can see the person's individual data when you highlight the individual on the list to the right.

So you can highlight Oakland, Alameda, California on the left, see a list of individuals using that place name on the right, and by highlighting the individual name see what event took place at that location. If the location is a marriage location you may need to scroll down the individual screen to the marriage data.

Because each place is listed only once, even though it may have 67 occurrences in your database, you can change all 67 of those place names at once. For instance you might have 47 instances of Tacoma, Pierce, Washington, one occurrence of Tacoma, Peirce, Washington, and one occurrence of Tacoma, Pierce, Washington. Because the names are directly below one another you can easily see the minor spacing differences as well as those that are just mistyped.

To correct these errors you can just highlight the incorrect listing and type it in correctly OR you can **click and drag** the incorrect listing to the correct listing. When you do this a box appears that asks 'change all instances of "A" to "B"?, with two boxes to choose between – OK or CANCEL. Naturally you need to verify that you dragged the wrong to the right and not the other way around—but soon you will have the hang of it.

Like any other major undertaking in changing your database do it in small increments, backing up as you go. As you leave PAF Insight it will ask you if you want to save your changes. After you save them, be sure you back up the database! ☺

COLONIAL OCCUPATIONS

<http://homepages.rootsweb.com/~sam/occupation.html>

Our early American colonists did not have quite the same employment opportunities as we do today. There were no TV producers, car salesmen, rocket scientists, and certainly no computer programmers. The first emigrants to America had occupations concerned primarily with simple, basic survival in the New World. They were, for the most part, skilled laborers, who could make things most of us now only dabble in as hobbies.

Some occupational names were self-explanatory such as a blacksmith, locksmith, and gunsmith. Of course there were also occupations with names that are recognizable today - coroner, bookkeeper, barber, cabinet-maker, weaver, baker, bricklayer, accountant, printer and musician.

In the above web site you will find hundreds of common and obscure occupational titles and a brief description.

MAKING CEMETERY ROUNDS

By George G. Morgan

Ancestry Weekly Journal – 14 April 2006

To subscribe: www.ancestry.com

Cemeteries can differ from location to location, depending on the geographical area, the population of the surrounding communities, ethnic and religious affiliations, and the purpose of the cemetery. For example, a church cemetery will be very different from a military cemetery in purpose, types of records maintained, physical layout, and the types of markers or monuments.

Before visiting a cemetery for genealogical research, try to determine what type of cemetery it is. You can sometimes accomplish this by searching for a website on the Internet for the cemetery itself, or the municipality or organization responsible for maintaining the facility. You may find information about cemeteries in an area by visiting the [USGenWeb](#) Project sites for states and counties or for different countries at the [WorldGenWeb](#) Project site.

If you are trying to learn about military cemeteries in the U.S., visit the [Veterans Administration](#) website. For U.S. veterans buried overseas, visit the [American Battle Monuments Commission](#). The [Commonwealth War Graves Commission](#) site provides information about military cemeteries, interments, and memorials for more than 1.7 million men and women from the UK, Canada, Australia, and other members of the Commonwealth.

Before visiting a cemetery, it is advisable to make contact with the administrator or sexton. He or she can tell you what is and what is not available in the way of records about each burial and where to locate the graves of your ancestors and family members. You can also make an appointment to visit the administrative office to meet, to obtain copies of records, and to learn about other resources in the community. These might include stonecutters, funeral homes and mortuaries, crematoria, and government offices that handle the issuance of death certificates, burial permits, and who may handle deeds for the cemetery lots and/or plots.

Rural cemeteries and especially family cemeteries may be more difficult to locate, as may be the administrators or sextons. Local funeral homes will usually be able to supply their contact name and information for a rural cemetery to you. The government agency that issues burial permits also may be able to help. However, don't overlook the resources of the local public library reference personnel and the local genealogical and historical societies. All of these people may have contact with the cemetery owners or administration personnel in the area.

Make yourself familiar in advance of your visit with local histories. These can sometimes provide insights into the various national, ethnic, or religious groups in the vicinity, as well as any burial customs that may be different from those you have previously encountered. You might also study something about cemetery iconography so that you

better understand the meanings of symbols and characters inscribed on markers.

If you plan to visit a military cemetery, learn something about the branches of the military and the time period of battles and burials encompassed by the graves. If you understand the basic military organizational structure and the ranks of the servicemen and women, you may gain a better understanding of the cemetery occupants' lives and experiences.

Your advance preparation for your cemetery research trip will increase your ability to anticipate what you will find and your understanding of the available records and of the lives of the people interred there. Good luck! ☺

GUIDE SIMPLIFIES AND ASSISTS RESEARCH FOR MEXICO

SALT LAKE CITY— FamilySearch™ announced today the release of a new research product that will help those with Mexican heritage to succeed in their quest to learn more about their ancestors. The research guide, *Finding Records of Your Ancestors, Mexico*, features easy-to-follow, step-by-step instructions, colorful graphics and tear-out worksheets. A free copy can be viewed or downloaded below. *Finding Records of Your Ancestors, Mexico, 1859 to Present* is the newest addition to a series of popular publications. The guide simplifies the research process for users and clearly explains various genealogical records of interest. It is designed for those who have already gathered some family history information about their Mexican ancestors and are ready to search public and private records. Users will find simple instructions, examples, and removable pedigree and family group worksheets to help them capture what they already know about their families. To further aid users, the guide is also available in Spanish. You will need Adobe Acrobat Reader to view the guide (a free program that can be downloaded at: www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/readstep2.html). [Finding Records of Your Ancestors, Mexico, 1859–present \(English\)](#) (pdf file - 987kb) [Finding Records of Your Ancestors, Mexico, 1859–present \(Spanish\)](#) (pdf file - 7.6mb) This guide and many others are available by clicking on the [guides](#) link from the FamilySearch.org homepage. ☺

UNCLAIMED PERSONS ONLINE

Richard Eastman

Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter – 4/21/2006

Did a relative suddenly disappear, never to be heard from again? The Unclaimed Persons Online service may have the answer for you.

The web site sounded humorous at first, but as I read about it, I realized that it has a very serious intent. The information it provides could be valuable to anyone seeking a long lost loved one.

Quoting from the Unclaimed Persons web site:

The purpose of this web site is to provide information to the public regarding a deceased loved one for whom next of kin has never been located. Coroner's Departments,

Medical Examiner's offices and Sheriff's departments throughout the United States oftentimes conduct an investigation for which a deceased person's identity is known, however due to various reasons, family member(s) could not be located. The respective investigative agency may utilize resources such as a local newspaper to attempt to locate family. When all effort to find family is exhausted, the deceased loved one is generally buried or cremated at the expense of the respective governmental agency. It is our sincere hope that this web site will assist family and friends in locating a lost loved one providing information and closure.

The function of this web site is quite simple. You may search by the person's last name and first name, by county, or you may view all names in the database. If you locate the name of a person in which you would like additional information, simply click on the person's underlined name and another screen will appear with full information including the responsible governmental agency. Simply call the phone number on that screen and refer to their case number.

This web site is maintained by the San Bernardino County Coroner's Department is provided free as a public service to all Coroner's Departments, Medical Examiners Offices and Sheriff's Departments responsible for such related duties.

Unfortunately, the site only lists recent deaths. It won't help with relatives who disappeared 100 years ago.

The Unclaimed Persons Online site may be found at: <http://www.unclaimedpersons.com>.

(The preceding article is from Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter and is copyright 2006 by Richard W. Eastman. It is re-published here with the permission of the author.) ☺

KIDS AND FAMILY HISTORY

by Juliana Smith

Ancestry Weekly Newsletter – 23 April 2006

To Subscribe: www.ancestry.com

My daughter is out of school this week for spring break and one day when we took my husband to his physical therapy, I decided that rather than wait in the office doing my Sudoku puzzles while my daughter fidgeted, I would take her to a Veterans' Memorial that is nearby. I had visited it the week prior and was taken with the displays and the vivid history that they depicted. Since it was a beautiful day, we got a nice walk and I got to sneak in a history lesson—and a little family history.

The memorial, located in Munster, Indiana, begins with the years leading to WWI and as you follow the path, year and event markers pave a timeline of the various conflicts. With each conflict, there are plaques with narratives, and for more information, you can push a button and listen to information about that conflict. The narrative explains the symbolism of each monument and gives more history.

I was very pleasantly surprised by her interest in each piece of history and as we visited each section, we talked about

family members who were in or affected by each conflict. She was surprised to learn just how many members of our family had served. She didn't remember that the Edwin Dyer (from the photograph of the Dyer children) died from the residual effects of gas poisoning in World War I; that my uncles served in Korea and that one of them, whom she has met, was shot in that conflict; and that her grandfather served as a Navy Seal in Vietnam. This gave her a greater understanding of these facts.

Of course, it also made me greedy for more experiences like it. With time flying by and summer vacation looming (yes, it's only a month and a half away!), I thought I'd look at some other activities that might help to both keep her occupied, and develop her interest in history and in our family history. Maybe there's a child in your family (big or little) who may enjoy some of these ideas.

Visit a Historic Site or Monument

If you're fortunate enough to live near where your ancestors lived, it will be an easy task to swing the conversation around to the impact that an event had on your ancestors. Like the Veterans' Memorial, there may be sites that relate to a period in history with effects that were felt nation- or worldwide. One part of the monument my daughter found particularly interesting was the one dedicated to the "home front" during WWII. We discussed rations and other sacrifices made by those at home.

Scan Photographs

If you're like me, you still have boxes and albums full of photographs that still need scanning, and my daughter loves the chance to play with any electronic equipment. A photo scanning project will allow you to spend some time reminiscing over old photographs and share some of your family history.

Database Searches

While I don't let my daughter run loose on the Internet (too much creepy stuff can come up with even the most innocent of search terms), I do feel safe in letting her search the databases at Ancestry.com. Why not print up a pedigree chart and some family group sheets and set them loose in the databases to see what they can find. You'll be teaching them Internet and computer skills, logic in determining who the ancestor you're actually seeking is, and family history too. And who knows, they may stumble across something you missed!

A Trip to the Library

Getting a child interested in family history can be as simple as a trip to the library. A biography of one of your ancestor's contemporaries, or a historical book documenting a period can be read together and the implications for your family can be discussed. There are also some very popular historical fiction books for children, like the *Dear America* series, *American Girl* books, or the *If You . . .* series (e.g., *If You Lived at the Time of the Civil War*, *If You Traveled West in a Covered Wagon*, etc.). Just doing a quick search on the Internet for examples for this article

turned up about a dozen or so books I'll be looking for to supplement our summer reading.

To Sum Up

When my daughter and I finished our tour of the memorial that day, she thanked me for taking her there. By putting the history with the family history, it really had a much more profound impression on her, and we both enjoyed the time together. And lest you think these ideas won't work, I ran this article by her before publishing it. These projects earned her seal of approval and hopefully will also earn the approval of your family too. ☺

CURSE OF THE COMMON SURNAME

How to handle overwhelmingly common surnames.

John M. Hoenig

Family Chronicle • May/June 2006 • Page 54

I am fortunate that most of my surnames of interest are rather uncommon. According to www.placesnamed.com, the name Peller is the 19,008th most common name in America. In other words, it's quite uncommon! However, I found that many of the Peller males were named Max, Moses or Morris, names which are often used interchangeably. So, like most everyone else, I've had to develop strategies to deal with dozens of people with the same name.

The solution to this problem is something you won't want to hear: use the Extra Principle. You have to work extra hard, pay extra attention to details, be extra organized and be extra clever. Fortunately, there is a general strategy for determining concrete ways for this advice to be implemented.

Uncommon Aspects

The basic idea is to focus on the uncommon aspects of the common. Here are three simple examples. Suppose John Smith married Mary and had four children: Robert, David, Susan and Abigail. Which name is the least common? If you're searching through an every-name index, as is often available for federal censuses, I'd search for Abigail Smith rather than Smith or John Smith. Suppose, further, we know that John Smith married Mary Jingleheimersmith. I would focus on studying the Jingleheimersmiths because that name is so uncommon that most Jingleheimersmiths are probably related. You might find members of the Smith family boarding with the Jingleheimersmiths, or living in close proximity, in federal censuses; Smiths might be mentioned in probate of members of the Jingleheimersmith family. As a third example, suppose that John Smith was a dentist. That's a reasonably uncommon profession. An efficient way to wade through all the John Smiths looking for the dentist is to contact the archivists of the American Dental Association and have them look through their records.

Look for Family Clusters

You may find Smiths in almost every cemetery you investigate. However, your Smiths may be localized. To put it another way, unrelated Smiths may be rather uncommon

in the cemetery where your Smiths are located. Therefore, when you locate a cemetery with a grave of a known Smith relative, be sure to look at all the Smith graves in the cemetery. Similarly, look for possible relatives in the censuses in the neighborhoods where you know your Smith relative lived. Relatives often joined the same church and social clubs, so searching a particular church's records is likely to turn up several relatives, if it turns up any at all.

Relatives often went into the same profession. In the 18th and 19th centuries, many of my wife's relatives were roofers in Belgium. So, if you search city directories and find many Smiths, follow up first on the ones listed as having the same profession as known Smith relatives. Also, follow up on names that might follow cultural naming practices.

Efficient Searching

With common surnames, the most efficient research technique is to focus on personal sources and heirlooms. Two minutes of conversation can save you hours of research time in the archives. Your great-aunt Tillie might tell you there were Smith relatives who lived in a big house on a hill in the east side of town. Looking at a map will tell you what streets were on the eastside and a topographic map may identify the hill area. Then, when you search the census for Smiths, you can focus on the right part of town. The clue about a house (rather than an apartment) may also be helpful. As valuable as interviews, is the photographic legacy. Photos often have names, dates and locations that can be helpful. Instead of finding Smiths and then determining if they're relatives, you can find the names of known relatives and then search for them in the records.

It is generally a good idea to start with computerized databases before going to paper and microfilm records. The reason is simply that computerized searching is much faster than manual searching. Here is where attention to detail and organization can pay off big time. You want to categorize all the Smiths you find as being either known relatives, unrelated Smiths, or persons of unknown status.

Furthermore, you want to compile profiles of all Smiths, but especially those known or suspected to be relatives. Then, when you find a record, you have a means of determining quickly if it's of interest.

Compiled genealogies are always helpful but are perhaps even more so for common surnames. A book about Smith that are not relatives might save you a lot of hard work determining that a bunch of records are not relevant. ☺

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- If only people came with pull-down menus and on-line help.
 - My family tree is a few branches short. All help appreciated!!
 - Shake your family tree and watch the nuts fall!
 - How can one ancestor cause so much TROUBLE??
 - Genealogy: Tracing yourself back to better people.
 - I should have asked them before they died!!
-

RANDOM ACTS OF GENEALOGICAL KINDNESS

By Dick Eastman

Eastman Online Newsletter–May 11, 2006

I must say that one web site has an intriguing name: Random Acts of Genealogical Kindness. From what I hear, the site also produces excellent results.

Random Acts of Genealogical Kindness was started by two researchers who saw the need for such a service in their region. This small site grew very rapidly from a statewide service to an international one.

The idea behind the site is that many volunteers have agreed to perform some sort of genealogy research in their area at least once per month. The types of research might be to visit a local archive or library to look up specific information, visit a local courthouse to photocopy a document or two or perhaps to visit a local cemetery to photograph a tombstone.

All the work is done by volunteers. Do not assume this is a free service, however. The volunteers do not earn any payment for their labors but are allowed to charge for their expenses: postage, film, video tapes, the cost of making photocopies, and possibly parking fees. In addition, the volunteers are also allowed to charge up to 50 cents per mile for any automobile travel incurred. There are never any labor fees.

While the volunteers can recover their expenses, no fees are paid to the web site's owners. The owners do sell coffee cups, t-shirts, book bags and other promotional items in an effort to cover the web site's expenses. Donations are also gratefully accepted.

Random Acts of Genealogical Kindness presently coordinates the efforts of more than 4500 volunteers who give of themselves unselfishly in aiding others in their research. Each volunteer agrees to do a research task in their local area as an act of kindness at least once a month.

Many of the volunteers are in the United States. However, there are others listed in the British Isles, Argentina, Belgium, Belize, France, Israel, Russia, Yugoslavia, India, and even one in Botswana.

How well does this volunteer service work? Obviously, there is no guarantee of success. There may not be a volunteer available in the area of interest or the records you seek may not be available. However, take a look at the thousands of "thank you" messages at <http://www.raogk.org/thanks/index.php>. The service obviously has pleased many people.

When visiting the site for the first time, you may be frustrated that there is no place to immediately fill in a request. That design is deliberate; you first must read the Frequently-Asked Questions (often called the FAQs). The FAQ page also contains a link to making requests. That is an effective method of making every newcomer read the basic information needed.

Random Acts of Genealogical Kindness is a first-class operation. It benefits many genealogists at very low costs.

In fact, you might be interested in volunteering to help other genealogists.

Random Acts of Genealogical Kindness is available at <http://www.raogk.org>. ☺

ASK DR PAF

"I Give No Answers Before Their Time"

Silicon Valley "Pastfinder"

Places That Did Not Exist at the Time

Q – What causes some people to enter a place name that didn't exist at the time of an event in my ancestor's life? I find it very frustrating to see a place name like "of, Ohio" for an event in 1786. Ohio wasn't even a territory then.

A – Again, when you are starting to find records for an ancestor you have to start with something you know. If your ancestor was born in Ohio in 1816, you can be quite sure that at least the mother was there. If you don't know anything more about the mother, the "of, Ohio" tells you to search for any records in Ohio that might give you more information. You also learn about the history of Ohio. When did it become a territory? a state? Have histories been published? Where did many of the new settlers come from? What means of transportation was used to get to Ohio and what was the eastern end of that route? What land and tax records are available?

One of the most important rules of genealogy research is to use what you know to find the unknown. An "of" place is a start, but usually only helpful when it is only one generation away from an event with a known place.

You, as a researcher will know that someone in the family was in Ohio. Today, we have many sources of data that are just an index on the Internet, with links to more detail. When you search an index it is helpful if you can separate the individual in Ohio from the one in Oregon. Considering the time period of your ancestor, and the migration routes, you may want to check all references to that family name east of Ohio.

Sometimes the best help is to find out something about your ancestor's siblings and their descendants. Determined searching can help you to find someone who has a family bible or other original records. ☺

YOU KNOW YOU'RE AN ADDICTED GENEALOGIST WHEN:

- When you brake for libraries
 - If you get locked in a library overnight and you never even notice.
 - When you hyperventilate at the sight of an old cemetery.
 - If you'd rather browse in a cemetery than a shopping mall.
 - When you think every home should have a microfilm reader
 - If you'd rather read census schedules than a good book.
 - When you know every town clerk in your state by name.
 - If town clerks lock the doors when they see you coming.
 - When you're more interested in what happened in 1895 than 2006. ☺
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WC- PAF MEETING SCHEDULE

The next meeting will be
17 June 2006

The WC-PAF Users Group meetings are held the 3rd Saturday of the month – 10.00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. at the Morningside Stake Center — 881 River Road, St. George UT. ☺

WC-PAF USERS GROUP MEMBERSHIP DUES FOR 2006

Dues are \$12.00 per household. For those who can attend and want a hard copy of the Newsletter, the dues are \$12 plus a donation of \$4.00 to defray printing and mailing costs when you are not there to pick up your copy.

New members joining after March 31st – dues will be prorated at \$3.00 per quarter.

Those who are unable to attend any meetings, the dues are \$12.00 for an E-mail or hard copy of the newsletter.

— **Mail your check payable to WC-PAF Users Group – PO Box 910187, St. George, UT 84791** ☺

HAVE YOU VISITED THE WC-PAF WEB PAGE?

Click on the link at: www.familyhistorycenter.org or
<http://www.familyhistorycenter.org/wcpaf.html>

WC-PAF Users Group now has their own web page, thanks to Russ Bateman. WC-PAF UG meeting schedule is posted there as soon as available. ☺

UTAH VALLEY PAF USERS GROUP

Meets the second-Saturday-of-the-month from 9 am until noon in the LDS "Red" Chapel at 4000 North Timpview Drive (650 East), in Provo. An invitation is extended to anyone that would like to attend their meetings. ☺

YOUR HELP IS NEEDED!!!

To save time and work – Please contact us ASAP when you have a change in your E-mail or Snail-mail addresses or if there is a problem with receiving an issue of your Newsletter – Curt Larsen, Membership Chairman & Denece Larsen – PAF Express Editor – dixielarsens91@skyviewmail.com – Phone – 435-634-0204 – Thanks bundles!! ☺

**WC-PAF USERS GROUP
2006 OFFICERS & BOARD MEMBERS**

<u>President:</u>	Fran Lightner	688-1260
<u>Vice-President:</u>	Elaine Booth	628-1295
<u>Secretary:</u>	(Need a Volunteer)	
<u>Treasurer:</u>	Ron Coleman	656-4485
<u>Membership Chairman:</u>	Curt Larsen	634-0204
<u>Board Members:</u>		
Pat Erdmann	635-0609	Scott Potter 628-5824
Ken Head	674-0521	Aline Kelm 635-5163

EDITORS NOTE: Please let me know if you like the new format of the PAF Express or prefer the old format with the group information first! Denece Larsen ☺

WC-PAF USERS GROUP

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