

# **DESERT DWELLERS DIGEST**

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BY  
TRI STATE GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY  
BULLHEAD CITY, ARIZONA**

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## **GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE**

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## **MEMBERSHIP DUES**

The annual membership dues is \$10.00 per year for a single membership and \$15.00 per year for a family membership. The dues is due at the September meeting. Please send your membership dues to Membership Chairperson c/o The TriState Genealogical Society, P.O. Box 21902, Bullhead City, AZ 86439.

## **PRIMARY PURPOSE**

The TRI STATE GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY was established in 1990 as a non-profit organization to promote interest in genealogy/history, and to provide fellowship and help among those interested in these subjects.

## **EDITORIAL POLICY**

The TRI STATE GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY assumes no responsibility for errors or opinions expressed by contributors. Information in this publication is obtained from correspondence, newsletters, press releases, the internet and miscellaneous sources, which, in many cases cannot be verified. Material may be reprinted; however, we do request that acknowledgment be given to the Society and/or Author.

## MEETINGS

Regular meetings are held from September thru May on the second Saturday of each month from 10 am to 12 noon their local time at the Laughlin Library, 2840 South Needles Hwy, Laughlin, Nevada. Our meetings are open to the public and no dues are required to attend.

Some meetings will be held at other locations. These meeting will be scheduled, announced at meetings and corresponded to members before that meeting is held. There will also be a calendar of meetings posted to our web page.

## MEETING MINUTES

**Tri-State Genealogical Society  
Minutes of the Meeting  
February 9, 2008  
LDS Family History Center Needles, Ca**

Meeting called to order at 10:00 A.M. California time by President Susan Zmrzel. Eleven members present and 2 guests Glare Johnston and Fran Rowaine all were welcomed by Susan.

Minutes of Dec. and Jan. were read by Secretary Patti Goodman and were accepted and will stand as read.

Treasurer's Report read by Susan as Mary was not present. Balance \$777.40 as of 1-31-08. Report will be filed as read.

Committee reports Ruth Colvin gave membership report and Publicity and program Chair Andrea Wetzstein gave no report as she is attending a Genealogy Seminar in St. George, Utah. Dates and agendas for March, April, May were read and Susan read Communication from the Cemetery and gave info on our Newsletter. Susan also explained where we stand with photographing the local cemeteries.

Susan told us what information she had on the Federation of Genealogical Societies. Insurance would be \$500.00 a year.

Meeting turned over to Ruth Delay of the Family History Center and she explained what they had available and the way to get more info sent to her church and the price and how much help she is able to extend to us. She will bend over backward to help and gave us her personal phone no. 760-326-2474. After the meeting closed, Ruth took members on a tour of the Needles Family History Center.

Meeting Closed 11:18

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED.  
Patti Goodman Secretary

**Tri-State Genealogical Society  
Minutes of the Meeting  
March 8, 2008  
Mohave Community College, Bullhead City, Az**

Meeting Called to order at 10:05 A.M. Eleven members and 8 non-members present. Susan Zmrzel, President welcomed all members and guests. Minutes of Feb. meeting read by Secretary Patti Goodman and

a motion was made that minutes will stand as read. Mary Moffatt, Treasurer gave her report and a motion was made to approve and the report will be filed as read.

Committee chair reports: Ruth Colvin our Vice-President and membership Chairman was unable to attend this meeting and sent a note to Susan that she will not be able to run for those positions again as she is President of CERT again. She will continue to come as much as she can. Andrea our Publicity and Program Chair gave a list of up coming meetings and schedule for next year including Hardyville.

Short reports were given by Mary on Federation of Genealogical Societies, Susan on our newsletter and where we stand with our Cemetery Photos and, Andrea on our Web Page. Andrea also gave an update on her trip to the Family History Expo in St. George Utah.

Handouts given on Mohave Community College Library and Tri-State Genealogical Society , and the Colorado River Museum and the Internet page for Ghost Towns in the Mohave Co., Az.

Meeting closed at 10:40 and the Presentation started.

Meeting Presentation was a talk by Don Plantz, Science Faculty at MCC on Ghost Towns Along the Colorado River.

Respectfully Submitted, Patti Goodman

**Minutes of the Meeting**  
**April 12, 2008**  
**Laughlin Library, Laughlin, NV**

The meeting called to order at 10:15 A.M. There were six members present and after everyone signed in on the attendance sheet President Susan Zmrzel welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Secretary Patti Goodman read the minutes of the 3-8-08 meeting and they were accepted and will stand as read.

Treasurer Mary Moffatt was not here and sent a message that the balance for April was the same as for March. Balance is \$777.40 Clarence made a motion to approve and the report will be filed as read.

Committee reports: Publicity and Program Andrea Wetzstein stated May 10 meeting will be at the Laughlin Library and Election of Officers for the 2008-2009 Season will be held and if anyone wants to run for an office to e-mail Judy our election committee Chairman.

Susan went over the Communications and Newsletter and Andrea discussed the Web Page.

Andrea was thanked for the terrific program she put together for the March meeting.

Susan updated us on the work on the cemeteries, being dropped by ASGS and the pros and cons of being a member.

Meeting closed at 11:45.

Respectfully submitted Patti Goodman

## **TRISTATE GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY WEB PAGE**

<http://www.rootsweb.com/~azcanvtsgs/> Andrea Wetzstein is our coordinator. Please contact her at [azgenealogymail-websites@yahoo.com](mailto:azgenealogymail-websites@yahoo.com) with comments & suggestions.

### **FROM EASTMAN'S ONLINE GENEALOGY NEWSLETTER**

The following articles are from Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter and are copyright 2007 by Richard W. Eastman. It is re-published here with the permission of the author.

## **ANCESTRY.COM AND NATIONAL ARCHIVES ANNOUNCE NEW PARTNERSHIP**

May 20, 2008

The following announcement was written by The Generations Network, the parent company of Ancestry.com:

**Ancestry.com and National Archives Join Forces to Make Millions of Historical Documents Available Online to Americans Wanting to Research Family History This Memorial Day and Beyond**

**New Agreement Features On-Site Ancestry.com Technicians and Scanners at National Archives For Ongoing Digitization of Historical Content**

WASHINGTON and PROVO, Utah, May 20 -- The National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) and The Generations Network, Inc., parent company of Ancestry.com, today announced an agreement that makes millions of historical records more easily available to the American public. The agreement, which will be signed today at the NARA headquarters in Washington, D.C. and celebrated with a military theme in honor of this Memorial Day, allows for the ongoing digitization of a wealth of historical content, including immigration, birth, marriage, death and military records.

The new agreement provides critical access to these important historical records at a faster rate than ever before due to the placement of Ancestry.com technicians and scanning machines at NARA to continually digitize content for online access. The initial NARA collections to be digitized under the new agreement include INS Passenger and Crew Arrival and Departure Lists from 1897-1958 and Death Notices of U.S. Citizens Abroad from 1835-1974, which have not been available to the public outside of NARA research rooms before now.

"The mission of the National Archives and Records Administration is to provide access to the nation's historical records, and we are proud to have The Generations Network among our valued partners," said Professor Allen Weinstein, Archivist of the United States. "With this new agreement, citizens can discover and learn from these records in remote locations faster than ever before."

For more than a decade, Ancestry.com and NARA have collaborated to make important historical records available to the public, demonstrating their dovetailing commitment to preserving America's heritage. Ancestry.com currently has the largest online collection of digitized and indexed NARA content, including the complete U.S. Federal Census Collection, 1790-1930, passenger lists from 1820-1960 and WWI and WWII draft registration cards. Through this new agreement, Ancestry.com and NARA have greatly

enhanced their working relationship. More on the agreement and the long-term relationship between Ancestry.com and NARA can be found at <http://www.ancestry.com/nara>.

"We are honored to be a part of NARA's progressive vision to provide access to our nation's historical records through this kind of public-private partnership," said Tim Sullivan, Chief Executive Officer of The Generations Network, Inc. "We hope the Ancestry.com-NARA relationship can help millions more Americans learn about their own family's history and then pass these stories to their children and grandchildren."

### **Formal Signing Ceremony at NARA**

Ancestry.com and NARA will celebrate their new agreement with a formal signing ceremony at NARA headquarters at 10 a.m. today. In keeping with the Memorial Day theme, veterans as well as Ancestry.com members who have made important family discoveries in the NARA military documents already digitized and available on Ancestry.com will also be in attendance and on hand to share their stories.

### **Free Public Access on Ancestry.com**

To commemorate the NARA-Ancestry.com agreement on the eve of Memorial Day, Ancestry.com is making its entire U.S. Military Collection -- the largest online collection of American military records -- available for free to the public. From May 20 through May 31, people can log on to <http://landing.ancestry.com/military/collections.aspx> to view more than 100 million names and 700 titles and databases of military records, the majority of which come from NARA, from all 50 U.S. states.

### **About the National Archives**

The National Archives and Records Administration, an independent federal agency, is the nation's record keeper. Founded in 1934, its mission is unique -- to serve American democracy by safeguarding and preserving the records of our Government, ensuring that the people can discover, use, and learn from this documentary heritage. The National Archives ensures continuing access to the essential documentation of the rights of American citizens and the actions of their government. It supports democracy, promotes civic education, and facilitates historical understanding of our national experience. The National Archives meets a wide range of information needs, among them helping people to trace their families' history, making it possible for veterans to prove their entitlement to medical and other benefits, and preserving original White House records. The National Archives carries out its mission through a nationwide network of archives, records centers, and Presidential Libraries, and on the Internet at <http://www.archives.gov/>.

### **About Ancestry.com**

With 25,000 searchable databases and titles and nearly 3 million active users, Ancestry.com is the No. 1 online source for family history information. Since its launch in 1997, Ancestry.com has been the premier resource for family history, simplifying genealogical research for millions of people by providing them with many easy-to-use tools and resources to build their own unique family trees. Ancestry.com is part of The Generations Network, Inc., a leading network of family-focused interactive properties, including <http://www.myfamily.com/>, <http://www.rootsweb.com/>, <http://www.genealogy.com/> and Family Tree Maker. In total, The Generations Network properties receive nearly 8.5 million unique visitors worldwide. (© comScore Media Metrix, March 2008). To easily begin researching your family history, visit <http://www.ancestry.com/>.

# THE FLOPPY DRIVE IS DEAD

Posted by Dick Eastman on April 25, 2008 |

It's official: the floppy drive is dead. Dell and a plethora of other PC manufacturers have simply stopped including floppy disk drives, thanks in no small part to the smaller, lighter, and faster USB flash drive that can carry over 1,000 times the standard 3.5" floppy.

In a recent conversation with a newsletter subscriber, I casually mentioned flash drives. These devices are also known as jump drives, thumb drives, USB drives, and probably a few other names as well. The subscriber mentioned that she had purchased a flash drive but didn't know how to use it. This article is for her and probably for a lot of other people who also have not yet used one of these great devices. I am also including information about programs and advanced uses that may be news even for experienced flash drive users.

First of all, flash drives/jump drives/thumb drives are not drives at all. So much for accuracy in naming! These pocket-sized devices contain a tiny circuit board, some amount of flash memory, and some supporting electronics. Flash memory is noted for its storage capabilities; when you turn the power off, the stored data does not disappear. It has been saved in the flash memory. You later can re-apply power and all the data will still be available, identical to what it was when the power was turned off.

Flash drives tend to physically imitate conventional hard drives so that they may act as a replacement for hard drives or floppy drives. When you plug a flash drive into your computer's USB port, it appears in the Windows or Macintosh operating system as another disk drive. You can write data to it or read data from it in the same manner as reading and writing data to and from hard drives, floppy disks, and CD-ROM disks. Since they are portable and very rugged, flash drives are great replacements for floppy disks and CD-ROM disks. They are smaller, more durable, and have bigger storage capacities than floppies. They are also faster than floppy or CD-ROM disks and often are faster than hard drives. (Speeds may vary, depending on the type of flash memory used.) Many flash drives manufactured in the past year or two have even greater storage capacity than CD or even DVD disks.

I carry a 16-gigabyte flash drive in my pocket most of the time, a unit that I picked up on sale recently at a local computer store for \$59.95. Similar units are available from nearly every computer store, department store, drug store, and other places. A local variety store near me sells smaller capacity flash drives for \$4.95.

You can purchase a 512-megabyte flash drive (equal to the storage capacity of 355 floppy disks or nearly the storage capacity of a CD-ROM disk) for \$7.99 at <http://www.compusera.com/applications/searchtools/item-Details.asp?EdpNo=3735735&sku=L61-4400&CMP=ILC-FPM04> and 16-gigabyte flash drive for \$69.99 at [http://www.compusera.com/applications/category/category\\_slc.asp?CatId=2634](http://www.compusera.com/applications/category/category_slc.asp?CatId=2634). Sixteen gigabytes is roughly the amount of data stored on 11,000 floppy disks. Not bad for something that is about the size of a tube of lipstick! Try carrying 11,000 floppy disks in a pocket or purse!

I suspect you might find even lower prices if you look around long enough; the prices on these things seem to drop weekly.

Unlike normal disk drives, jump drives contain no moving parts. The only thing inside the case is flash memory plus whatever other electronic parts are required to make it work. The entire unit is sealed and is more or less impervious to heat, cold, shock, dirt, or most other physical abuse. They will not withstand extreme abuse, however. I did have one jump drive stop working after I accidentally sent it through the

washer and dryer. You'd think that would teach me to empty my pockets before doing laundry! However, a few months later I did the same thing again with the replacement jump drive that I purchased. The second one survived and is still in use today. It also looks very shiny, apparently thanks to the detergent used. However, I do not recommend using Tide on all your electronics gear!

Using a jump drive in Windows ME, Windows 2000, Windows XP, Windows Vista, or Macintosh OS X is simple: insert the jump drive into your computer's USB connector, wait a few seconds for the operating system to detect it, and then start using it. The jump drive will appear as a new disk drive that is attached to your computer.

Jump drives do not work in Windows 98 unless special drivers are loaded first and do not work at all in older versions of Windows.

In Windows, the new disk drive normally appears as the next drive letter in succession. For instance, if your computer has a hard drive that appears as Drive C: and a CD-ROM drive that appears as Drive D: and there are no other drives, the jump drive will probably appear as Drive E:. That is the default operation, but it can be overridden. A few jump drives may appear as a different drive letter, but most will appear as the next letter available.

Operation on Macintosh OS X is similar except that Macs don't use drive letters. The jump drive will appear on the desktop with a name assigned to it. My 16-gigabyte jump drive appeared with a name of "unnamed" when I first inserted it. Another jump drive manufactured by SanDisk first appeared with the name of "SanDisk." I always change the device's name to something that is logical to me by right clicking on the jump drive's icon and then selecting GET INFO. I then change the name that appears in the "Name and Extension" field and give it a new name of my choice.

You look at folders and files on the jump drive the same way as you navigate any other drive. In Windows Explorer, double-click on the drive's letter to open the "tree" of directories and files. Macintosh users can do the same by using Finder.

To execute any programs stored on the jump drive or to open any documents, simply double-click on the file name. This is the same operation you would perform on a hard drive, a CD-ROM disk, or a floppy disk. You can read files or write files from almost any application in the same manner as any other disk drive. For instance, if your jump drive appears as "Drive E:," you can create a word processing document and then save it as "E:\myfile.doc" or something similar.

One thing that is different is the removal of the jump disk. You should not remove the jump drive while it is in use. You should first close all applications that access the jump drive.

NOTE: I must admit that I have unplugged jump drives many times while in use and have never lost data as a result. However, a warning message usually appears and there certainly is a POSSIBILITY of data loss. I suspect that I will lose data sooner or later if I don't abide by the rules, so I do try to remember to follow the recommended procedure.

For Windows users, the correct method is to find the "Safely Remove Hardware" icon in the desktop's System Tray at the bottom right of the screen. Briefly hold the mouse pointer over each icon there until you see the pop-up "tool tip" that says "Safely Remove Hardware." Right click on that icon, and then follow the displayed menus to stop access to the jump drive. When complete, a message will appear on the screen, stating that it is safe to remove the jump drive.

Macintosh users go through a similar, but simpler, process. Right click on the drive's icon on the desktop or

in Finder, and select EJECT from the menu that appears. That's it. Within a second or two, the drive's icon will disappear, and you can safely unplug it. An even simpler method for Mac users is to drag the drive's icon and drop it on the EJECT icon in the bottom right of the desktop screen. Either method accomplishes the same goal.

With both operating systems, if you ever encounter a situation in which you cannot stop access of the drive, power down the system and then remove the jump drive. Power up and proceed as normal.

Anyone who owns both Windows and Macintosh systems will be pleased to learn that a single jump drive can be used on both systems. I frequently move files from a Windows system to a Macintosh system and back by using a jump drive. In fact, jump drives also work with most Linux systems as well. A jump drive is also a great way of copying data from a desktop to a laptop system or back again.

## **Backups and Archival Copies**

I often keep copies of important files on jump drives. When traveling, I carry all my past newsletters plus "work in progress" copies of the articles I am presently working on. These are backup copies in addition to the copies on my laptop and the copies on the desktop computers at home. Carrying backup copies in your pocket or purse provides a lot of protection against hardware malfunctions or human errors. However, just remember that it is easy to lose these small devices!

If my laptop should fail when I am traveling, I can always borrow a computer, insert my jump drive into its USB port, and start using the files I've put on it. Of course, that assumes that the borrowed computer has compatible word processors or other programs installed. (See "A Word about U3 Drives" below for a solution to possible problems with applications.)

When I travel to genealogy conferences to make presentations, I always have a copy of my PowerPoint slides stored on a jump drive that I keep in my pocket. More than once I have encountered a laptop that wouldn't work or was not compatible with a presentation room's overhead projector. It is a great relief to pull the jump drive out of my pocket, insert it into a borrowed laptop, and start my presentation without missing a beat.

One store owner I know uses a Windows XP system with point-of-sale software installed, sort of a "computerized cash register." He leaves a flash drive plugged in all day and instructs his programs to store all data automatically on that jump drive. At the end of the business day, he powers down the computer, removes the jump drive, places it in his pocket, and takes it home. Once home, he copies all critical files to his home PC to make sure he always has a current off-site backup.

Jump drives are great storage media because they are small, lightweight, and impervious to normal handling problems when being jostled around in a pocket or purse. However, the life expectancy of data stored on a jump drive has not been proven. I would suggest that you use jump drives only for short-term storage: a few weeks or a few months. Don't count on them for long-term archival purposes. They might save data for years, but there is no guarantee.

## **Programs**

Not only can you save documents on a jump drive, but you can even store programs on them and run them directly from the jump drive. Actually, this is easy to do with almost all Macintosh programs, but it may be a problem with Windows. Most Windows programs read and write data to the Windows Registry, something that is not stored on a jump drive. Generally speaking, Windows will only let you run programs on jump drives if those programs are specially written for use on jump drives. Almost all Macintosh

programs will operate directly from a jump drive, however, since Macintosh does not have a registry.

NOTE: For a detailed discussion of the Windows Registry, look at [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Windows\\_Registry](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Windows_Registry).

For more information about running Windows programs directly from a jump drive, look at <http://portableapps.com>. Also check out the next section about U3 drives.

Macintosh owners need no special "shortcuts" for most Macintosh programs; simply place the application software on the jump drive and then double-click to run.

## **A Word about U3 Drives**

The following section is for Windows only. Macintosh users can skip this section.

Some jump drives sold today are called "U3 jump drives." In fact, the hardware is identical to other jump drives. U3 devices simply have special software pre-installed.

U3 technology was developed by U3 LLC, a division of SanDisk. U3 was created for Microsoft Windows operating systems so that applications can be executed directly from a specially formatted USB flash drive (that is, these applications can be run without first being installed on the computer). U3 drives are popular for word processors, web browsers, e-mail programs, Skype telephony software, and more. Not only can you execute programs directly from U3 jump drives without first installing software, but you can also store data (optionally) on the jump drive. There is no need to leave your data behind on someone else's hard drive. U3 allows you to keep your sensitive data safe and sound in your own pocket or purse.

USB flash drives adhering to the U3 specification are termed "U3 smart drives" by U3.com. "U3 smart drives" differ from traditional USB flash drives because they come preinstalled with the U3 Launchpad, which emulates the Windows operating system Start menu and also controls program installation and operation. U3 applications will run on Windows 2000 SP4+, XP or Vista. (Vista operation is only possible on U3 firmware version 2.1.5 or newer. Older U3 jump drives do not work on Vista. However, even the newer U3 jump drives will generate lots of Vista pop-up warning windows when trying to execute programs.)

U3 jump drives typically cost \$10 to \$20 more than a standard jump drive of similar capacity.

A wide range of U3-compatible programs are available, including word processors, web browsers, e-mail programs, games, music players, Skype telephony to make free or low-cost telephone calls over the Internet, virus scanners, text editors, encryption programs, checkbook programs, dictionaries, medical reference books and much more. Some of the U3 programs are available free of charge while others are sold for a fee. Almost all U3 programs can be downloaded directly from <http://www.u3.com>.

I carry a tiny 2-pound Windows laptop that has a very small hard drive. To conserve disk space, I installed only a few programs that I use often on the laptop's hard drive. Most of the lesser-used programs are installed on a U3 jump drive. When I want to use one of these lesser-used programs, I simply insert the U3 jump drive and run the program directly from that drive. A side benefit is that I have most of my programs available when traveling and using a borrowed Windows computer at an Internet cafe or elsewhere. This may or may not work at your favorite library, depending on what restrictions that library's staff may have placed on their computers.

For more information about U3 jump drives, look at <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/U3> and at

<http://www.u3.com>. (Try to overlook the tacky background music at <http://www.u3.com>.)

## **Jump Drive Variants**

I have described normal jump drives and U3 jump drives with pre-installed software. Other manufacturers have created still other variations. Since these devices are easily lost and may contain private information, several manufacturers have created high-security jump drives. These may have embedded password protection software or even built-in fingerprint readers. In theory, nobody can extract any data from these jump drives without the appropriate password or fingerprint.

## **Is a Jump Drive a Good Choice for You?**

I would say, "Yes." I suspect that everyone can use a jump drive. It is a great tool for short-term backups of your own data. It is also a great method of taking some of your data to a friend or copying data from your friend's computer to take home. Anyone who owns both a desktop computer and a laptop also needs either a jump drive or a network – and a jump drive is a lot cheaper than a network.

# **COMPUTER PROGRAM REVEALS ANYONE'S ANCESTRY**

Posted by Dick Eastman

Imagine being adopted, with no understanding of your cultural or genetic background. You don't know your heritage or what diseases you are genetically predisposed to. Most of us have some idea about the roots of our family tree, but little understanding of what those lower branches mean in terms of our predisposition to a host of diseases and ailments.

Now, a group of computer scientists, mathematicians, and biologists from around the world have developed a computer algorithm that can quickly trace an individual's genetic ancestry with only a small sample of their DNA. In fact, the program can trace the genetic ancestry of thousands of individuals in minutes, without any prior knowledge of their background.

This new combination of technologies seems best suited for adoptees and others who have no knowledge at all of their ethnic origins. You can read more in an article by Gabrielle DeMarco of the Rensselaer Polytechnic University at <http://www.livescience.com/health/080404-bts-drineas.html>.

My thanks to Sherrie McMillan for telling me about the article.

## **FAMILY SEARCH**

FamilySearch Engages FamilyLink.com to Add Features to Popular Online Family History Library Catalog  
14 May 2008

New functionality and enhancements promise numerous improvements

SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH—FamilySearch has teamed with FamilyLink.com, Inc. to improve the user experience of the Family History Library Catalog for millions of people worldwide by adding new Web 2.0 functionality and enhancements. The improvements will also enable users to spend research time more efficiently by directing them to the information that will generate the quickest results.

FamilyLink.com's improvements to the catalog will make it searchable by major online search engines and allow users to annotate item descriptions—increasing their accuracy and enriching the content.

FamilySearch's Family History Library Catalog is used extensively by genealogy enthusiasts. It is a window to the vast collection of genealogical resources amassed by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints over the past 100 years—millions of microfilms, fiche, and books from 110+ countries throughout the world.

Genealogists use the popular online catalog to see if FamilySearch has any material that can help them in their research. Materials are then requested through one of FamilySearch's 4,500 local family history centers worldwide.

“The enhancements FamilyLink.com will help make to the Family History Library Catalog will increase its usability and exposure. Beginners will find it particularly easier to navigate, and searching and browsing will be more rewarding,” said Paul Nauta, Manager of Public Affairs, FamilySearch.

### **Improved Searching**

Upgrades to the Family History Library Catalog will allow it to be combed by the major Web search engines. That means Web searches done by millions of family history enthusiasts who may not have been familiar with the rich content of the Family History Library Catalog will now discover exciting new sources to assist them in their genealogy pursuits.

In a typical search of the Family History Library Catalog, users first identify known facts about a family and then go through a step-by-step process to locate records. Newly integrated FamilyLink.com tools will help users better identify information. Guided searches will help users decide what they want to learn about their families, point them to relevant records, help them obtain and search the records, provide clues to more information, and assist them with the application of the new information.

As part of the enhancement, FamilyLink.com will make searches more useful by allowing the user to browse, sort (by popularity, relevance, most used, etc.), and perform multiple searches. A new “probability engine” feature will calculate the likelihood that a particular source contains the desired item. It will also be able to search across someone's entire family tree to determine which ancestry lines have the highest likelihood of success based on known sources.

“We are excited to work with FamilySearch and to add this extensive catalog to our database collections,” said Paul Allen, CEO, FamilyLink.com, Inc. “We have looked at doing this collaboration for quite a while. We will enhance the catalog by connecting it with new innovative tools, along with the best resources of our WorldVitalRecords.com databases, the FamilyLink.com social networking site, and our We're Related application in Facebook. Putting all of these resources together will dramatically change the meaning of ‘search’ in genealogy.”

### **Social Networking**

FamilyLink.com will also add an annotation feature that will encourage user contributions and make the catalog much more dynamic and current. Users will be able to add or suggest a new source, enhance an existing source by adding a place (location) or a time period, and rate and review a source based on its usefulness.

Another enhancement to the Family History Library Catalog will be its increased interactivity. Every entry in the catalog will link to an online or digital source, if available. The user will then be able to link directly to the publisher, buy the book, or search for the nearest copy.

“FamilySearch is excited to work with FamilyLink.com to enhance the Family History Library Catalog. They are leaders in the Social Networking space and will greatly enhance and extend the catalog and its usefulness to millions of people,” said Ransom Love, FamilySearch Director of Strategic Relations. “We hope this is the first of many other possible opportunities for FamilySearch to outsource key infrastructure components to innovative companies like FamilyLink.com. They will receive access to key resources to help them grow much quicker and FamilySearch’s assets will be upgraded and extended in return.”

“We know that search traffic will increase on both the FamilyLink services and FamilySearch’s site when users discover the new guided search tools,” said FamilyLink.com President David Lifferth. “Last month we had over 700,000 unique visitors and 8.5 million page views. We are predicting that these numbers will more than double after the first quarter of use.”

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#### About FamilySearch

FamilySearch is a nonprofit organization that maintains the world’s largest repository of genealogical resources. Patrons may access resources online at FamilySearch.org or through the Family History Library in Salt Lake City, Utah, and over 4,500 family history centers in 70 countries. FamilySearch is a trademark of Intellectual Reserve, Inc. and is registered in the United States of America and other countries.

#### About FamilyLink.com, Inc.

FamilyLink.com, Inc. is a family of services that includes WorldVitalRecords.com, FamilyLink.com, and the We're Related application on Facebook. The focus of the company is to provide innovative tools to connect families.

#### About WorldVitalRecords.com

Founded in 2006 by Paul Allen and several key members of the original Ancestry.com team, WorldVitalRecords.com, Inc. provides affordable access to genealogy databases and family history tools used by more than 600,000 monthly visitors. The site registers 9.4 million monthly page views and has more than 25,000 subscribers. With thousands of databases—including birth, death, military, census, and parish records—WorldVitalRecords.com makes it easy to fill in missing information in your family tree. Some of its partners include Everton Publishers, Quintin Publications, Archive CD Books Australia, Gould Genealogy, Immigrant Ships Transcribers Guild, Archive CD Books Canada, The Statue of Liberty-Ellis Island Foundation, Inc., SmallTownPapers®, Accessible Archives, Genealogical Publishing Company, Find My Past, Godfrey Memorial Library, Find A Grave, and FamilySearch. Investors include vSpring Capital and several angel investors.

### **MISC INFORMATION**

#### **Death Certificates**

Most death certificates provide the name of the cemetery and the name of the undertaker or mortician, or

funeral director. It may also include the name and address of the person who supplied the information that appears on the death certificate.

### **Obituaries**

Obituaries help expedite your research by providing the name of the cemetery in which the deceased was interred. Many American newspapers now have the more recent local obituaries indexed on computer, making your job a lot easier.

### **Funeral Director Records**

They started out with the title of undertaker. Over the years this title slowly evolved to mortician. Now they are known as funeral directors.

Funeral directors are sometimes also a great source of genealogical information. Their records are usually well kept and accurate. In some cases they have copies of death certificates and obituaries in their files. They can usually put you in touch with the next of kin of the deceased person you are searching for.

### **Cemetery Management Records**

The official records of a cemetery can provide lots of information of value to a genealogist.

### **Cemetery Land Deeds**

A recorded deed of a family cemetery plot with a municipal government is a cemetery record. Land deeds are similar to property deeds. Like most records, the amount of information is usually governed by the time period in which the event took place. According to the cemetery office, land deeds were generally only recorded on lot-sized indentures. They were not normally issued for individual gravesites.

### **Burial Society Records**

Burial Societies come in all denominations and sizes. Many fraternal organizations like the Moose Lodge and the Elks Club have national cemeteries in which members may be buried. Many of these burial society organizations also had a social side and held regular meetings and kept accurate records that may still exist.

### **Headstone, Vault and Mausoleum Inscriptions**

Many cemetery records are recorded not on paper but in stone. However, even though the information is literally carved in stone, it can contain errors.

### **Medical Examiner's Report**

The medical examiner's office deals with deaths caused by violence, accidents and mysterious causes. There will be an inquest, that will include a list of witnesses, a police report, medical director's report (hospital), and the verdict. An official report is made of the proceedings and filed away.

## **FAMILY TREE MAGAZINE NEWSLETTER**

### **How to Track People Down Online**

So you found an old message board post related to your family, but the submitter's e-mail address doesn't work. What to do? Use this advice from the March 2008 Family Tree Magazine:

First, see if the submitter's user profile includes a Web site and look for a new e-mail address there. If the profile includes a full name, run a Google search on the person (adding the word genealogy may help). Still no dice? Search Google for the person's message board user name—people often use the same ID on different sites.

## **WEB PAGES TO TRY**

<http://germanoriginality.com>

This German-American heritage site has information on different regions of Germany, interactive maps, tourism information and more.

<http://www.everton.com/learn/5steps.php>

5 Steps to Research from Everton's Genealogy

Step 1 - Let's G.O.! (Get Organized)

Step 2 - Choose a Research Objective

Step 3 - Gather Family Records & Remembrances

Step 4 - Research & Document Sources

Step 5 - Evaluate & Share Research

<http://www.genealogytools.net/deeds/index.php>

Platting Deeds in Metes and Bounds

<http://search.labs.familysearch.org/recordsearch/start.html#p=0>

Family Search's Record Search—Pilot Site. Search millions of indexed records for your ancestors. Browse through images of records waiting to be indexed. More records are being added every month.

<http://www.capecodgravestones.com/styles.html>

Included in the tour are some of the outstanding old gravestones on Cape Cod. Some of these are considered historical treasures based on age, condition and carved features.

<http://www.politicalgraveyard.com/>

The Internet's Most Comprehensive Source of U.S. Political Biography or The Web Site That Tells Where the Dead Politicians are Buried

## **A LITTLE HUMOR**

### **Genealogists say the funniest things!**

These quotes are from copies of actual correspondence received by the Family History Department of the LDS Church:

1. We are sending you 5 children in a separate envelope.
2. My Grandfather died at the age of 3.
3. Will you please send me the name of my first wife? I have forgotten her name.
4. We lost our Grandmother, will you please send us a copy?
5. The wife of #22 could not be found. Somebody suggested that she might have been stillborn - what do you think?
6. Will you send me a list of all the Dripps in your library?
7. Further research will be necessary to eliminate one of the parents.
8. He and his daughter are listed as not being born.
9. I would like to find out if I have any living relatives or dead relatives or ancestors in my family.
10. A 14-year-old boy wrote: "I do not want you to do my research for me. Will you please send me all of the material on the Welch line, in the US, England and Scotland countries? I will do the research.