GILA
HERITAGE

Quarterly of the
NORTHERN GILA COUNTY
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY, INC.
a non-profit organization
PAYSON, ARIZONA

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The Editor's Corner

This issue is a potpourri of ideas that hopefully will be useful to your genealogical efforts from tips on how to organize your research, doing detective work on family photos, a codicil to your will to tell those you leave behind how to dispose of all those records you've collected, vital records that are available for this century, and Summer School Computer Classes being offered at our local Community College on how to use Family Tree Maker to its best advantage.

NORTHERN GILA COUNTY
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY, INC.
A non-profit corporation
New Genealogy Library Facility
302 East Bonita Street, Payson, AZ
Payson, AZ 85547-0952
(928) 474-2139

WEB SITE: http://users.rootsweb.com/~azngcgs/index.html

New Library Hours: **Thursday, Friday, & Saturday, 9 to 4 p.m. Or By Appointment**

We specialize in helping add branches to family trees!

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MEETINGS: **Meetings are held at 1:30 p.m., the first Thursday of the month** (unless a holiday) at:

NGCGS Library
302 East Bonita Street
Payson, AZ 85541
(928) 474-2139

Visitors always welcome!

CORRESPONDENCE: Please address all correspondence to:

NGCGS Library
302 East Bonita Street
Payson, AZ 85547-0952

Please include a long self-addressed, stamped envelope for inquiries.

MEMBERSHIP:

Individual...................................$15.	Family (related, same address).........$30.
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Tips on How to Organize Your Research

1. **Organizing:**
   a. Make a copy of important documents and write down exactly where your info came from.
   b. Differences between primary & secondary sources.
      1. Primary: birth, christening, marriage, death, family bibles
      2. Secondary: censuses, obituaries, passenger lists, family histories
      3. Can be both
   c. Notebooks or file folders to hold all these copies you've made

2. **Using Research Logs:**
   a. Important for tracking family history research, time saver
   b. Various forms
      1. Ancestry.com (www.ancestry.com/save/charts/researchcal.htm)
      2. Everton Publishers (www.everton.com)
      3. Heritage Quest (www.heritagequest.com)
      4. The Memorabilia Corner (members.aol.com/TMCorner/index.html)
      5. Family Tree Magazine (www.familytreemagazine.com/form/download.html)
      6. Lineages First Steps (www.lineages.com/FirstSteps/Basic.asp)

3. **Creating** "**Favorites" (Explorer term) or "Bookmarks" (Netscape term)**
   a. Used to record the info necessary for the browser to return to that particular website. Saves lots of time trying to figure out how you found a site you want to return to!
   b. Practice how to do this using a Google search for a family name: Hughes to create a folder and copy a URL into it. Can organize by locality or by surname depending on the focus of the site. Here's how to create a Favorite:
      - Select the "Favorites Menu"
      - Select "Add to Favorites"
      - In the window that opens, click the "Create In" button
      - Click the "New Folder" button
      - Name the folder
      - The URL reference will be saved in this folder.
   c. **Multi-tasking Tip:** Have your genealogy software program, your internet browser, and the program you use to keep your electronic log all open at the same time! This way you can switch back and forth between the various programs. To copy a website address (URL) click inside the address field, do a "Control C" to copy, then switch to your electronic log program and place the cursor where you want the URL to be listed and do a "Control V" to paste the URL into your log.

Organize your on-line "Favorites" in the same manner you use to organize your research files.

Little Known American Military History

The U.S.S. Constitution (Old Ironsides) as a combat vessel carried 48,600 gallons of fresh water for her crew of 475 officers and men. This was sufficient to last six months of sustained operations at sea. She carried no evaporators (i.e. fresh water distillers!).

However, let it be noted that according to her log, "On July 27, 1798, the U.S.S. Constitution sailed from Boston with a full complement of 475 officers and men, 48,600 gallons of fresh water, 7,400 cannon shot, 11,600 pounds of black powder and 79,400 gallons of rum."

Her mission: "To destroy and harass English shipping." Making Jamaica on 6 October, she took on 826 pounds of flour and 68,300 gallons of rum.

Then she headed for the Azores, arriving there 12 November. She provisioned with 550 pounds of beef and 64,300 gallons of Portuguese wine.

On 18 November, she set sail for England. In the ensuing days she defeated five British men-of-war and captured and scuttled 12 English merchantmen, salvaging only the rum aboard each.

By 26 January, her powder and shot were exhausted. Nevertheless, although unarmed she made a night raid up the Firth of Clyde in Scotland. Her landing party captured a whisky distillery and transferred 40,000 gallons of single malt Scotch aboard by dawn. Then she headed home.

The U.S.S. Constitution arrived in Boston on 20 February, 1799, with no cannon shot, no food, no powder, no rum, no wine, no whisky and 38,600 gallons of stagnant water.

GO NAVY!

Submitted to newsletter editor by her son Lt. J.G. Kevin Sullivan, serving on board the USS John C. Stennis, a nuclear-powered aircraft carrier based out of San Diego, CA.

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The Elusive Ancestor

I went searching for an ancestor.
I cannot find him still.
He moved around from place to place and did not leave a will.
He married where a courthouse burned.
He mended all his fences.
He avoided any man who came to take the U.S. Census.
He always kept his luggage packed, this man who had no fame.
And every 20 years or so, this rascal changed his name.
His parents came from Europe.
They should be upon some list of passengers to the U.S.A.,
but somehow they got missed.
And no one else in this world is searching for this man.
So, I play geneasolitaire to find him if I can.
I'm told he's buried in a plot, with tombstone he was blessed;
but the weather took engraving, and some vandals took the rest.
He died before the county clerks decided to keep records.
No Family Bible has emerged, in spite of all my efforts.
To top it off this ancestor, who caused me many groans, Just to give me one
more pain, betrothed a girl named JONES.-

by Merrell Kenworthy

Photographic Detective Work
by George G. Morgan

The photography section of the MyFamily site is so popular among our subscribers, that we are featuring this article about ways to identify people in unlabelled photographs. This article is available in the Ancestry.com library.

I just received the most wonderful gift! No, it's not Christmas or my birthday; it is the gift of a special box of photographs. My mother's last surviving sister just sold her home and moved into a retirement facility. In the process of scaling back on her possessions, a box of photographs turned up in the attic. The entire collection had belonged to my maternal grandmother and the contents date from between 1890 and 1920. As the family historian, I was my aunt's chosen trustee for this ancestral treasure trove.

This week, my brother shipped this 10-pound box of history to me and I am in seventh heaven. Its arrival has brought me my first visual images of two sets of my great-grandparents and one set of my great-great-grandparents. Some of the many pictures in the box are labeled but many are not. In "Along Those Lines . . ." this week, I want to talk about some of the detective methods you can use to identify the people in some of these unlabeled photographs.

Family Get-Togethers and Interviews
The most obvious way to help identify the people in old photographs is to ask your older relatives. Holidays can provide a great opportunity to bring people together and discuss "the olden days." While you have aunts, uncles and grandparents together, you might want to consider setting some time aside to look at old pictures. Your relatives can help you identify the people in the pictures, where they were taken and the occasion.
In other cases, you might consider carefully making a copy of a questionable photograph and sending it to a relative and asking their help in identifying the subjects. A self-addressed, stamped envelope can encourage a response. Remember that old photographs can be light-sensitive and that photocopying can damage some photographs. Therefore, if you have a question about a specific photograph, you might want to seek advice from a professional photographer before you make a copy.

To continue reading this article, visit the Web page at Ancestry.com. Other topics addressed in this article include:

Using Type of Photograph to Determine Timeframe

Using Clothing to Determine Timeframe of Photographs

Comparisons of Photographs

Family Resemblance?

Making the Case for Good Detective Work

General Information on Inputting Digital Images

The most common form of digital imaging is by using a digital camera. When you purchase a digital camera you will also receive a compact disc (CD) which contains computer software programs. These need to be installed into your computer so it can convert the digital images in your camera into visual images. These files also allow the transfer of data from the camera to the computer. My camera uses the software program called Fine Pix Viewer; different camera brands use different software programs.

Digital cameras do not use film. They use storage media. My Camera uses Smart Media discs or Microdrive chips to store the visual images created by the camera. Smart Media come in sizes 4 to 128 Megabites. Micromedia chips come from 340 Megabites to 1 Gigabite in storage capacity.

Cameras come in different capacities. My camera is a 6-mega pixel camera while many on the market are 2 or less mega pixel. The mega pixel size of the camera-made image determines the clarity of the final photo. I can set my camera to take photos from 130KB to 18 MB, The larger the setting the fewer photos can be stored on any media. For example: If I have my camera set at 18 MB using a 128 MB chip, I can record only 7 photos on the disc. If I set my camera at 130 KB, I can take 997 photos on the same 128 MB chip. A 1G Microdrive disc would allow me to take 59 or 8213 photos with the same respective camera settings The larger the setting, the larger the photo image and the more pixels used by the picture. The greater the pixels used, the greater the image detail.

Bringing the photo images into the computer from the camera is accomplished by using the USB connections between the camera and the computer or by using some other method to introduce the media card into the computer. Some computers have a built in slot to place the removed chip or card directly into the computer. Other attachments are also available.

When the camera and the computer are connected and the camera is turned on and set to export the photo images, the Fine Pix Viewer will appear on the computer monitor showing all of the stored images of the camera media. To do anything with the images shown, it is necessary to open each of the individual images one at a time and then process each image prior to storing that image.

When you open (enlarge) an image you will have the option to modify the image or to place it into a folder. At this time you can CROP (remove part of the photo) as well as change its pixel size. I usually create a folder to store each batch of photos in the computer, and can name (and/or date) that folder according to the pictures stored in it.

Once your pictures are loaded into your computer, you can e-mail them to friends, families, and even your friendly newsletter editor!

A Genealogical Will

This was sent to me by someone on my e-mail list. It is an excellent idea. If YOU don't do genealogy, SURELY someone in your family MUST!! You are welcome to use it.

Genealogical Codicil to My Last Will and Testament:
To my spouse, children, guardian, administrator and/or executor:

Upon my demise it is requested that you DO NOT dispose of any or all of my genealogical records, both those prepared personally by me and those records prepared by others which may be in my possession, including but not limited to books, files, notebooks or computer programs for a period of two years.

During this time period, please attempt to identify one or more persons who would be willing to take custody of the said materials and the responsibility of maintaining and continuing the family histories. [If you know whom within your family or friends are likely candidates to accept these materials, please add the following at this point: "I suggest that the persons contacted regarding the assumption of the custody of these items include but not be limited to" and then list the names of those individuals at this point, with their addresses and telephone numbers if known] In the event you do not find anyone to accept these materials, please contact the various genealogical organizations that I have been a member of and determine if they will accept some parts or all of my genealogical materials. [List of organizations, addresses and phone numbers at bottom; include local chapters, with their addresses, phone numbers and contact persons if available as well as state- national contact information and addresses] Please remember that my genealogical endeavors consumed a great deal of time, travel, and money. Therefore it is my desire that the products of these endeavors be allowed to continue in a manner that will make them available to others in the future.

Signature _____   Date_____
Witness _____   Date_____
Witness _____   Date _____

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Honoring Our Ancestors: Twentieth Century Vital Records Indexes
By Megan Smolenyak Smolenyak

I'd like to explore indexes for vital records in more depth. In particular, I thought it might be interesting to cover indexes specifically for twentieth century records since access to such records tend to be restricted due to privacy concerns--a pattern which has been exacerbated in recent years. While I cringe each time I hear of a state limiting access or even considering doing so, the good news is that there's more available than many of us realize.

Ancestry.com
If you wish to search vital records indexes for the last century, the best place to start is

Ancestry.com. Some time ago, I developed a presentation that includes a listing of all the states for which Ancestry has at least some twentieth century birth, marriage, or death indexes. Every time I give that presentation, I revisit the list and I've discovered that it's slowly but steadily growing. It's a regular occurrence for me to have to squeeze in a new state or two each time. At present, there is some sort of index for twenty-four states, including:
- AL deaths 1908-59, marriages 1800-1920
- CA births 1905-10, deaths 1940-97
- CT deaths 1949-2001, marriages 1959-2001
- FL deaths 1936-98
- GA deaths 1919-98
- ID deaths 1911-51
- IN births 1880-1920, marriages 1845-1920
- KY deaths 1911-2000
- LA deaths 1900-49
- MA deaths 1970-1998
- ME deaths 1960-97, marriages 1892-1996
- MI deaths 1971-96
- MN deaths 1997-2002
- MT deaths 1907-2002
- NYC births 1891-1902, deaths 1892-1902
- NC deaths 1968-96
- OH deaths 1958-2000
- OR deaths 1903-98, marriages 1906-20
- RI births, deaths, and marriages 1636-1930
- TX deaths 1964-98
- UT births 1897-1905, deaths 1905-51
- VT deaths 1989-98
- WA deaths 1940-96, births 1907-19
- WI births and deaths 1820-1907, marriages pre-1907

Working cases from across the country, I've found this collection to be a valuable resource, especially with the built-in search flexibility. For example, you can hone in on a particular state or use wildcards to accommodate various spellings. The content varies state by state, but at a minimum, you'll find the information you need to order a copy of the relevant certificate to obtain additional details.

Vitalsearch

Another site I like to use is Vitalsearch. It has only a fraction of the states that Ancestry has (AL, CA, FL, GA, KY, OR, TX, WA, and WI at last check) and some of its content overlaps Ancestry's, but for certain states and time periods it's very helpful. I tend to check it whenever dealing with a CA, KY or TX case, but it's worth a look for the other states listed as well. The site will try to entice you into a premium membership, which gives you access to slightly more records, provides easier search tools, and does away with most of the advertising. If you conduct a lot of research in these states, it might be worth it for you, but you'll be able to do most of the searching you'd like (albeit with some extra effort) for free.

If you want to give Vitalsearch a spin, try searching the Texas death records for Lyndon Johnson. You'll probably be startled, as I was, to see that he's listed as being single-- quite a surprise for Lady Bird, I'm sure! This example underscores the constant potential for GIGO (garbage in, garbage out). These indexes inevitably contain transcription errors (I have stumbled across more in the Texas records than elsewhere), so it's always wise to obtain a copy of the original document referenced to be sure.

Joe Beine's Death Indexes

If you're clever at scouring the Internet, you'll discover that there are other vital records indexes scattered here and there, including ones for DE, ID, IL, KY, MD, ME, MN, NM, OH, OR, TN, and TX. They are furnished by a variety of sponsors, such as the states themselves, state archives or libraries, and historical societies, so it can be challenging to find them and keep up on what's available. Fortunately, you don't have to, because Joe Beine does it for you. Check his online Searchable Death Indexes & Records (www.deathindexes.com) for extremely user-friendly lists of what's available for states that interest you. (Incidentally, if you're already a Joe Beine fan, you might want to check your bookmark as this is a new URL.)

Family History Library

If I've tried all these resources and still haven't had success, I'll often take a peek at the Family History Library Catalog under Place Search and then the categories Vital Records and Vital Records--Indexes. It's patchy and as you might expect, most of the entries you'll find this way are for the first half of the twentieth century, but there are some exceptions (e.g., North Carolina death certificates for 1906 to 1994 and indexes for much of that time). For Place Search, be sure to try not only the state, but also the county and even the town (especially if you're searching a large city). What may not be available at the state level might just be found locally.

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Tentative Outline for Family Tree Maker Computer Classes
Instructor: Dr. Valerie Sullivan
Proceeds from classes to go to NGCGS and the Gila County Community College
Classes are limited to the first 25 registered and must have 5 registered to be held.

BEGINNER CLASS:

Pre-requisite: Basic knowledge on how to use computer and mouse, but NO knowledge of the application called Family Tree Maker (FTM). We will be using version 11 of FTM. The class will be offered June 12 from 1:30 to 3:30, the same class will be repeated on June 26 from 1:30 to 3:30. The cost will be $20 registration plus $1.00 for diskette which must be purchased through the college in order to insure that it holds no viruses.

Topics to be Covered at each session:
1. Creating your First Family File
2. Documenting Sources
3. Using "Help"
4. Creating Trees and Reports

5. Printing Trees and Reports
6. Researching Your Family History from Home
7. Backing up Your Files

INTERMEDIATE CLASS:

The pre-requisite for this class is the Beginning Class in Using Family Tree Maker or permission of instructor. The class will be offered July 10 from 1:30 to 3:30, the same class to be repeated on July 24 from 1:30 to 3:30. The cost will be $20.00

Topics to be Covered at each session:
1. Family Finder Center
2. Family Finder Searches
3. Family Finder Reports
4. Online Resources
5. Tips, Tools & References
6. Family scrapbooks
7. How to Find a Missing Fact

An **Advanced class** will be offered on August 14 only, unless pre-registration warrants a repeat class on August 28. The Pre-requisite for this class is the Intermediate class in Using Family Tree Maker or permission of instructor. Cost will be $20.00. Topics to be Covered at this session are The Publishing Center, Creating a Family Book, Exporting Trees and Reports, Creating Gedcom files, Creating a Family Home Page, and Sharing your Family History.

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