

SATURDAY, MAY 19, 2001
10:30 A.M.

The Great Software Shoot-Out

Presented by CAGG-NI Member Panel

Several of our members will demonstrate how different genealogy software packages handle the same data and tasks. Each presenter will use the same data and show how their software handles different genealogy situations. Some of the programs featured will be Family Treemaker, The Master Genealogist and PAF.

JUNE 16th

B.Y.U. Molecular Genealogy

Chris Kite

If there ever was a program designed for this millennium, this must be it! Learn how a small blood sample from you (DNA) and info on your four immediate generations can be used to trace where your ancestors are from. The speakers from B.Y.U. will explain this phenomenon and we will be providing an opportunity for you to participate in the program if you wish. A workshop will follow the session. It will consist of separate genealogy software groups for assistance, demonstration, etc. for the software you use or would like to see. For more info contact: <http://www.molecular-genealogy.byu.edu>

JULY 21st

Social Security - Not Just for Seniors

Larry Olson

There are several sites on the internet where you can look up your ancestors on the SSDI, but each of these sites provide different information and require different criteria for searching. Larry will explain these sites in detail and share with us some of the information that may be obtained.

AUGUST 18th

Palm Pilot Genealogy

Everett Butler

Learn how you can use these small hand held devices to further your genealogical research.

SEPTEMBER 15th

Research Using the Internet

Brother Joseph Martin

Learn how to utilize the internet to let your fingers do the walking.

OCTOBER 20th

Trust Your Research to Bygones

Bev Smallwood

Bev will demonstrate how to use this software package to supplement your current genealogical software.

NOVEMBER 17th

Elections/Project Management/Tips

Member Panel

Come and elect your next leaders and stay for the program. Learn some of the top tricks and techniques from some of our most experienced members.

DECEMBER 15th

Planning Meeting

Club Officers

Help us plan for next year and pick meeting topics.

In this Issue
**Browsing the
New Ellis Island
Web Site**

by Beverly Levine Smallwood
See Page 4

April Meeting Notes

Steve Olson presented 'How to Use Your Scanner for Genealogy'. Although we had a beginning scare due to a small missing piece of equipment, we were able to recover with the greatly appreciated help of the *Schaumburg Township District Library Computer Department*. He was not able to hook his laptop computer to the library's computer projector without this connection piece. By borrowing a library computer, loading his PowerPoint presentation on it, **Steve** was able to give half of his presentation to the group. Due to the problem, he was not able to demonstrate the scanner during the meeting. This was compensated for, on an informal basis, after the meeting with a personal demonstration.

Steve presentation included discussion of digital cameras, scanners and their costs and speeds. He pointed out what you want to consider if/when you move into this area of your genealogy. **Bev Smallwood** told us about the scanner a number of months ago. **Steve** researched this scanner and purchased one. It is a small portable unit which travels well. Due to its size, you can take it with you and scan photos at your relative's home and they don't have to relinquish their precious mementos.

Scanned items are stored in various image formats. These formats are identified by the last three characters of the file name. (Depending on the setting of your computer, these characters may not appear for most files. Only the files which have not been associated with a software package will display these characters.) Commonly used formats are GIF, JPG and TIFF. The reason for using each image format type were discussed. GIF files tend to be small and are mostly used on the Internet. JPG (commonly referred to as JPEG) tends to produce a small file size and is a good format to use if you are not going to update the image. You would update the image to eliminate scratches or eliminate a tear in the picture, etc. TIFF produces the largest file size and is the format to use for images which you will be working on to improve the quality. TIFF format is so large because it stores the most information on the image. This is a good format to initially store images. After all updates, they can then be stored in a JPG format. As JPG is a compressed format, each time you resave a JPG format, it is compressed again. This degrades the image. (Remember, there is a different be-

tween viewing and saving.)

Steve pointed out a feature that you can request when having pictures developed. You can request a CD-ROM copy which means that for \$1.00-\$9.00 (depending on which service you use) an electronic image of each picture is saved to a CD-ROM just as if you had a digital camera. This would be a good alternate to a digital camera especially if you are good at taking pictures. An advantage of a digital camera is that you can review your picture on the spot and retake it if it does not meet expectations.

Another discussion was on the quality of printers. Take into consideration what quality your printer produces. If your printer cannot produce as fine a quality as the camera/scanner creates, you are wasting money. Also, if your goal is to produce for the Internet, these images are of a low resolution and do not require expensive scanners or expensive digital cameras producing large files.

Extra notes: Refreshments were provided by **Rose Marie Ducato** and **LaRaye Rodriguez**. **Joanne Temperly** brought a banana spice cake hot from the oven without even having signed up for refreshments. We love all these contributions.

There is a sign-up sheet available at each meeting. Please look for it and sign-up. If no one volunteers for a month, there may be no refreshments so please volunteer. Anything left over will be taken to Dominck's after the meeting for our lunch bunch group. Please join us if you have the time.

A second sign-up sheet is being circulated for sign-up for the June 16th **BYU Molecular Biology** meeting. Please sign-up for this so plans can be made for staffing and other accommodations.

In collecting FHC news, one of the FHC directors suggested putting the site where you can request death certificates by e-mail from the state for free should be placed in the newsletter. Here is the exact page address: <http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/cgi-bin/archives/arcreq.s>

You have to find the certificate of interest using other sources but you can request a copy of two different certificates at a time on this page.

President's Letter

Dear Lord:
Every single evening
As I'm lying here in bed
This tiny little prayer
Keeps running through my head.

God bless my mom and dad,
And other family
Keep them warm and safe from harm
For they're so close to me.

And God, there is one more thing
I wish that you could do.
Hope you don't mind me asking,
Bless my computer too.

Now I know that it's not normal
To bless a mother board,
But listen just a second
While I explain to you 'My Lord'.

You see, that little metal box
Holds more than odds & ends
Inside those small compartments
Rest so many of my FRIENDS.

I know so much about them
By the kindness that they give
And this little scrap of metal
Takes me in to where they live.

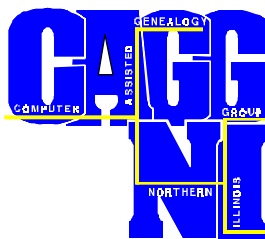
By faith is how I know them
Much the same as you
We share in what life brings us
And from that our friendship grew.

Please, take an extra minute
From your duties up above
To bless those in my address book
That's filled with so much love!

Wherever else this prayer may reach
To each and every friend,
Bless each email inbox
And the person who hits send.

When you update your heavenly list
On your own CD-Rom
Remember each who've said this prayer
Sent up to God.com.

Author Unknown



Officers

President	Ed Rosenthal Rosenthal3@aol.com
VP/Prog. Dir./Web Master	Robert Pulse ROPulse@aol.com
Financial/Membership	Henry (Chip) Douglas CDouglas1@ameritech.net
Promotion/Publicity	Larry Olson LOlson@MountProspect.com
Secretary Newsletter Editor	Anne Jacobs Jim Cottrell JimboDeuce@Yahoo.com
Refreshments/Greeters	Linda Bower
E-mail	CAGG_NI@Yahoo.com
Computer Mentors	Ken Cramer Anne Jacobs Robert Pulse
Genealogy Mentors	Larry Olson Geneva Shay Patricia Weisshaus PatJW28@interaccess.com

Ancestral File Operation Unit BBS (801) 240-3909
Salt Lake Distribution Center (800) 537-5950
Family History Software Support (800) 346-6044
fhdfhsup@ldschurch.org

A Few Tips on the Ellis Island Web Site . . .

if you can get in *by Beverly Levine Smallwood*

As you have all heard, the Ellis Island records from 1892 to 1924 have been put on the internet. They are searchable, but not always easily so.

When you first arrive at <www.ellislandrecords.org> you may enter a first and last name to begin your search. It will then attempt to match both the first and last names exactly. If you don't get good results this way, try clicking on one of the options to the left to narrow or expand the search. You might remove the first name and click on some of the alternate spellings offered. You might narrow the search to a couple of years or select a range of ages for the arriving immigrant. The downside is that you may not make several adjustments at once, each change will be a separate search.

While you can search for similar sounding surnames, there is no such facility for given names. Unfortunately, even when I've typed in some first and last names exactly as I have found them on previous searches, they don't always come up. If at all possible, leave the first name off and then narrow the search by year and age.

There are several things working against us in this search. First of all, you need to know the immigrant's original name. They might have a different first name than the one you've always known them under. The foreign spelling might be something you couldn't anticipate.

The second obstacle is the handwriting. The indexer may not have read the name correctly. I was unable to locate Knut Ragnar Stenlund who arrived here in 1913 at the age of 20. I found him listed as Hunt R. Stenlund. Looking at the original manifest, I can see how the indexer might have made that error. It really does look more like Hunt than Knut. I found him by putting in just the surname and scrolling through the 76 results (4 screens). For more common surnames, I have limited it to a range of years and ages.

The third hurdle is the indexing. After reading the handwritten and faded microfilm, the

indexer now must type it into the computer. There are bound to be some typos in there.

I've seen several entries indexed as Mr. J. Smith or Mrs. Franklin Jones. Because they appear at the top of the index, I suspect there might be a space before the given name. So, while you might be looking for John Smith, it will be indexed as Mr. J. Smith — under either the M's or before the A's.

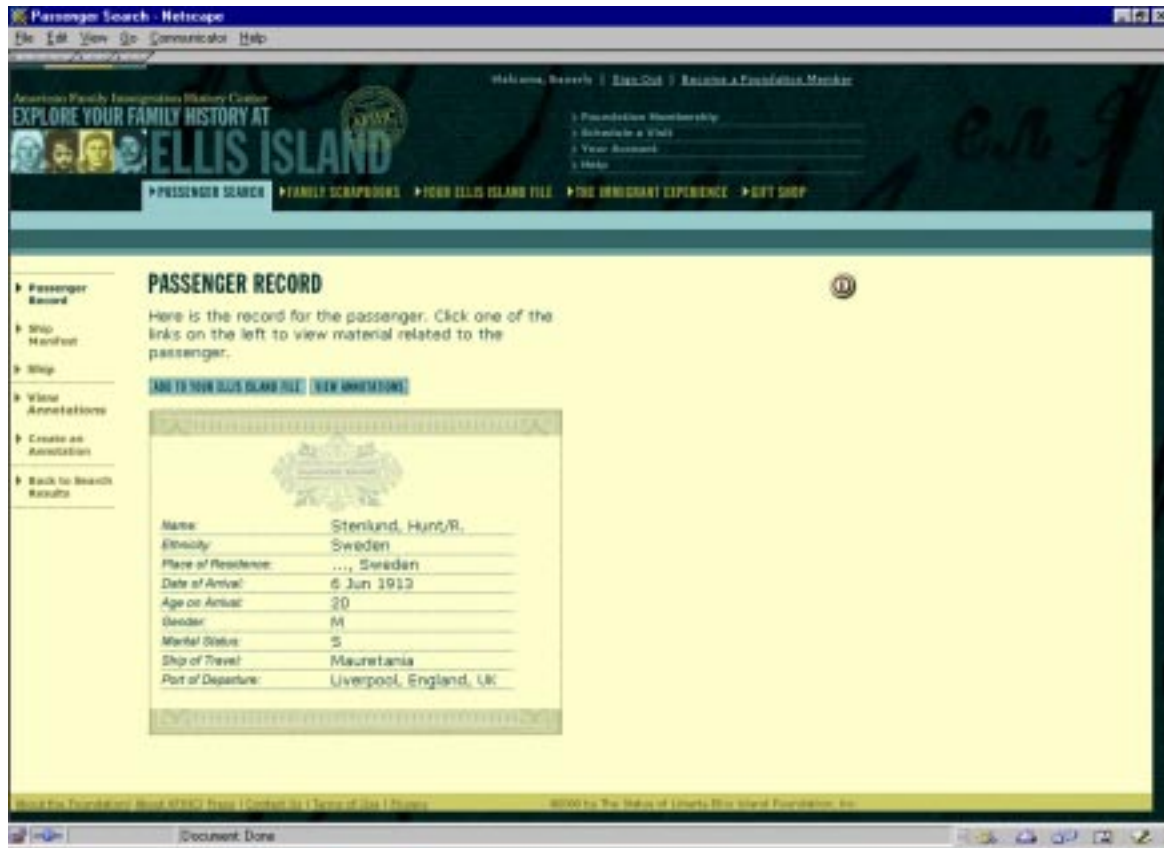
Once you locate someone on the list of possible matches, clicking on him will bring up a short summary screen showing name, ethnicity, residence, date of arrival, age, gender, marital status, ship and port of departure. [Figure 1 - Page 6] If you haven't already logged in, you will be required to do so before the results will be presented. You will need a user name and password, giving you the ability to save searches. You may register with the site at no cost.

To the left of the summary you will see options for the ship manifest and ship. Clicking on ship will give you some facts about the ship and a picture. Clicking on ship manifest will bring up a text version of the manifest so you can scan for other familiar names. [Figure 2 - Page 6] There will usually be a link to the original manifest just above the text manifest. If it is not present, try moving forward or backward a page or two. I have occasionally found the link this way.

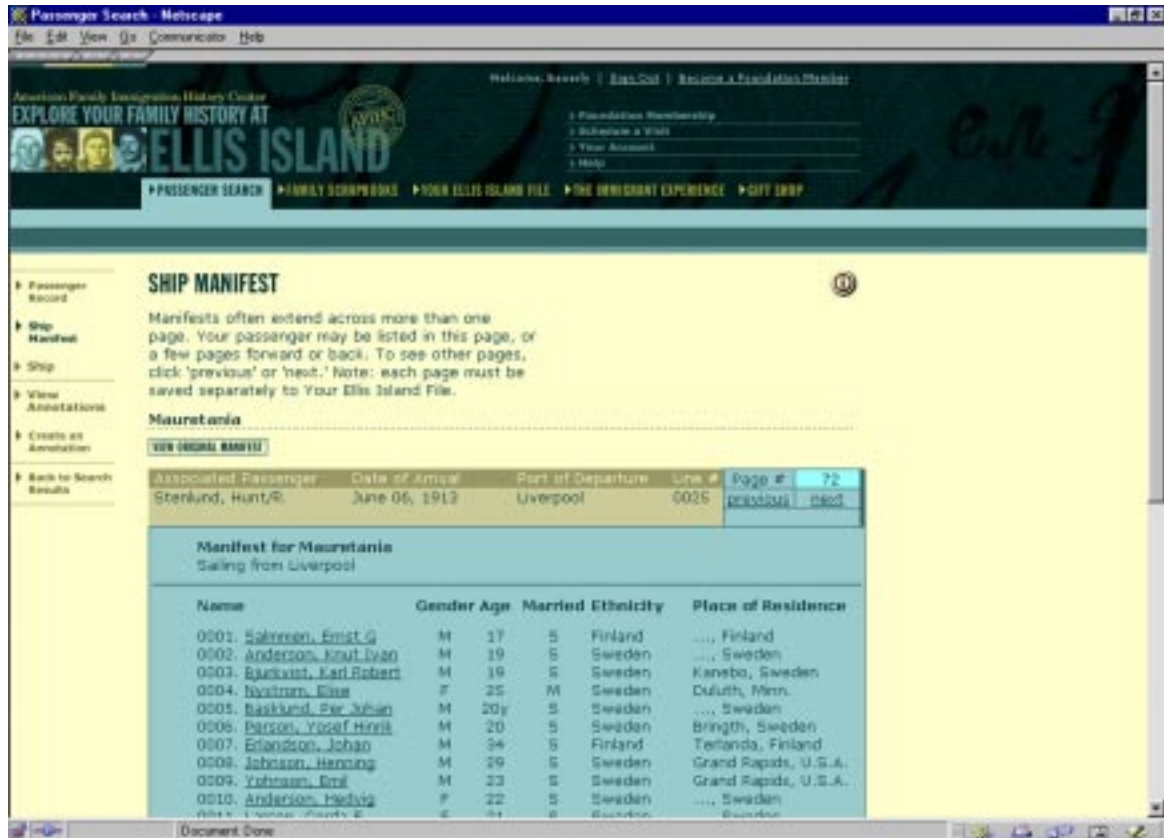
Clicking on the original manifest link will open a page with a very small image. Click on the plus sign to the right to get an enlargement. A manifest will normally span two pages. The link seems to take it to the second of the two pages. Sometimes the first page is the previous image, sometimes it is the next image.

When you get kicked off, and you will, hit reload or refresh. If the responses are too slow and you're getting kicked off each time you click on something, save your finds to your Ellis Island File and try again later. The bottom line is that the site will require a great deal of patience and perseverance on your part - especially while everyone in the world is trying to search at the same time.

[Figure 1]



[Figure 2]



Other Group Events Compiled by Beverly Levine Smallwood

17 MAY 2001 - 7:30PM

Awesome Artifacts Northwest Suburban Council of Genealogists

<http://www.mtprospect.org/nsgs/>
Forest View Education Center

2121 S Goebbert (between Golf and Goebbert),
Arlington Heights

Bring a favorite genealogical artifact, and the story behind it, to tell to the group.

17 MAY 2001 - 7PM

Preservation Week - Highlighting Elgin historic schools material

prepared for presentation by Mike Alft
Elgin Genealogical Society

<http://www.elginarea.org/egs/page3.html>
Gail Borden Public Library
200 N. Grove Ave., Elgin

19 MAY 2001 - 10AM-12PM

Computer and British Isles Research by John McNamee

BIGWILL

<http://www.rootsweb.com/~wiiilbig/meet.htm>
Grace Lutheran Church
6000 Broadway St., Richmond, Illinois

20 May 2001 - 2pm

(library selections available 1-4pm)

Lisa Feder presents Silent Stones: Jewish Cemeteries in Bohemia and Moravia

Jewish Genealogical Society of Illinois
(312) 666-0100

<http://www.jewishgen.org/jgsi/#meetings>
Skokie Public Library, 5215 Oakton Street, Skokie

Ms. Feder will show slides of her photographic collection exploring the lost legacy and present traces of the once large and vibrant Jewish communities of the former Czechoslovakia. She will discuss the challenges of locating, restoration, preservation, and various other aspects of the cemeteries. Her work has been exhibited three times in the Czech Republic.

21 MAY 2001 - 7PM

Clooz (Software Program) presented by Wanda Solheim

Zion Genealogical Society

<http://nsn.nslsilus.org/wkhome/zion/index.html>
Beach Park Village Hall
11270 Wadsworth Rd, Beach Park

23 MAY 2001 - 7PM

New England Research, instructor, Al Story

Naperville FHC (630) 505-0233
1320 Ridgeland Road
(Ridgeland and Naper Boulevard)

24 MAY 2001 - 7:30PM

From Note to Narrative by Sandra Hargreaves Luebking

Kane County Genealogy Society
<http://www.rootsweb.com/~ilkcgs/>
meeting room of the
Kane County Chronicle Building
1000 Randall Road, Geneva

Ms. Luebking is the co-editor of The Source: A Guide to Genealogical Research, Revised Edition and editor of FORUM magazine. Her program will give you ideas on what to do with your information after you have done your research.

30 MAY 2001 - 7PM

How the National Archives Can Be Beneficial to a Researcher

instructor, Glen Longmaker
from the National Archives
Naperville FHC (630) 505-0233
1320 Ridgeland Road
(Ridgeland and Naper Boulevard)

02 JUNE 2001 - 1:30PM

Chicago Irish by Ellen Skerrett

Chicago Genealogical Society <http://www.ameritech.net/users/chicagogs/index.html>
Harold Washington Library, 400 S State Street,
Chicago, Room 4 (4th floor) N (north side) 10

05 JUNE 2001 - 9:30AM

Genealogical Holdings at the Newberry Library by Rhonda Frevert, Curator

Elgin Genealogical Society <http://www.elginarea.org/egs/page3.html>
Gail Borden Public Library
200 N. Grove Ave., Elgin

06 JUNE 2001 - 7PM

Beginning Swedish Research, Helene Leaf

Naperville FHC (630) 505-0233
1320 Ridgeland Road
(Ridgeland and Naper Boulevard)

Other Group Events Compiled by Beverly Levine Smallwood

14 JUNE 2001 - 7PM

Genealogical Treasure at the Arlington Heights Memorial Library

by Michael Mulholland, reference librarian
McHenry County Genealogical Society
<http://www.mcigs.org/>
Greenwood Township Hall
5211 Miller Road, Wonder Lake, IL

14 JUNE 2001 - 7:30PM

Genealogical Records Organization and Clooz Demonstration by Elizabeth Kelly Kerstens

Fox Valley Genealogical Society
<http://members.aol.com/fvgs1/index.html/>
Naperville Municipal Center
400 S Eagle Street, Naperville

15-16 JUNE 2001

Gene-A-Rama 2001

Wisconsin Genealogical Council, Inc.
<http://www.rootsweb.com/~wiwgc/index.html>
Omni Center (note change!), Onalaska, Wisconsin

Featured Speaker: Daniel Schlyter, A.G. a professional Accredited Genealogist with established specialties in Czech, Slovak and Polish research. Since 1996 he has served as a collection development specialist for Poland, Croatia, Czech Republic, Slovak Republic, and all the Scandinavian countries including Finland and Denmark at the Family History Library. Mr. Schlyter is author of the the Handbook for Genealogical Research in Czechoslovakia (1985), Sources of Genealogical Value in Poland and Genealogical Research in Abaghotia (humor). His four presentations (including the Friday night dinner speech) will include the many countries of Eastern Europe & Scandinavia. Other sessions offered at Gene-A-Rama will include a beginners class and an internet presentation. For registration information contact wgcmail@prodigy.net

16 JUNE 2001 8:45AM-4PM

Did Grandpa Come From Germany? Trudy Schenk

Ninth German Genealogical Conference
\$25 - \$35; early registration by June 11th
The German Interest Group
of the Iowa Genealogical Society
<http://www.iowagenealogy.org/>
Des Moines Botanical Center
909 East River Drive, Des Moines, Iowa

Immigration and Emigration Records in Germany
Leading to America; The Wuerttemberg Emigration Indexes
and Emigration from Baden; Research in Thuringen and

Saxony and Bordering States; Naming Patterns, Given and Surnames in All German States.

18 JUNE 2001 - 7PM

How to Reseach German Connections by Patricia Reaves

Zion Genealogical Society
<http://nsn.nslsilus.org/wkkhome/zion/index.html>
Beach Park Village Hall
11270 Wadsworth Rd, Beach Park

21 JUNE 2001 - 7PM

Using City Directories in Your Genealogical Study by Carol Knigge

Elgin Genealogical Society
<http://www.elginarea.org/egs/page3.html>
Gail Borden Public Library
200 N. Grove Ave., Elgin

24 JUNE 2001 - 8AM-5PM

Midwest Jewish Genealogical Conference \$55 - \$80

<http://www.jewishgen.org/jgsi/workshop.htm>
Ezra-Habonim/Niles Township Jewish Congregation
Dempster and Kolmar, Skokie, Illinois
Topics will include beginner's workshops, local and national archives and libraries, visiting ancestral homes, research on the internet, and Jewish Chicago including history and cemeteries. For additional information and registration call (312)666-0100 or email jgsi2001@aol.com.

14 JULY 2001 - 8:45AM-3:20PM

Advancing Your German Research - Roger Minert of Salt Lake City

German Interest Group of Janesville, Wisconsin
<http://www.rootsweb.com/~wigig/workshop.html>
at UW-Whitewater - Whitewater, Wisconsin
\$24 - \$30

Early Registration Deadline is June 29th

Topics: Communicating with Agencies and Individuals in Europe; Church and Civil Records in Germany; Spelling Variations in German Names; Cemeteries in Central Europe. Mr. Minert has a bachelor's, master's and doctorate degrees in Foreign Language Education and is the associate editor of the German Genealogical Digest. He has authored several books which will be for sale at the workshop. He has been operating a German Research and Translation service since 1991, speaks fluent German and can translate old German script. He travels to Europe every year to conduct research in Germany, Austria, Czech Republic, Slovenia and Switzerland.

April Puzzler

What is an active window? What is a good way to determine what the active window is?

April Puzzler Solution

The active window is the one which your computer will respond to with any command you enter. The active window determines what application (program, software) is currently operating in the computer. Let's say that you have 3 applications open at one time, only one of them is actually active. You can see the other ones but they will not respond to your commands. You can determine which is the active window based on the color of the task bar. The active one's task bar will be a different color than the 2 inactive ones. For a nice illustrated tutorial, visit this page: <http://newbieclub.com/anatomy?TCL> You can customize the task bar's appearance (as well as many other elements on the screen) using Settings, Display, Appearance and Item settings.

May Puzzler

What keystroke will show you all the windows you have open and walk you through them sequentially? Hint: It is a combination of keys.

Family Story Question of the Month

What is the oldest furniture heirloom you possess and what is the story behind it?

Tag Line

Why is it that all the ancestors I cannot find never existed?

What's The Buzz ?



CAGG-NI's newsletter contains links to Internet sites and is not responsible for the content located on or through, any such third-party sites. You should always take care when downloading and using software from the Internet.

Subject: Utility to Convert GEDCOM to Spreadsheet

From: "Michael Hobart" mhobart@worldnet.att.net

I am looking for a utility which would allow me to convert the information in a GEDCOM file to a spreadsheet (Lotus), Excel or other. I think I saw something like this about 10 years ago.

Karl S Vorres: ksvorres@flash.net

Luc Comeau wrote:

You can take a look at GENViewer at www.mudcreek.ca. It will allow you to create a Comma-separated file of the contents of a GEDCOM or PAF file. Here are the steps:

- 1) Load the GEDCOM file and go to the List Tab
- 2) Select the columns that you want to export by pressing the "Columns" button. Each column displays some information about the individual.
- 3) Press "Ctrl-C" for Copy to Clipboard
- 4) Choose the option to save to a CSV file
- 5) Load this CSV into Excel.

That will export all individuals. If you want only a sub-set, using the highlighting feature to select the individuals you want and go to the Highlighted Tab, then start at step 2.

Personal Ancestral File 4 and probably 5 will print to file in the custom list a comma delimited file based on the people and fields you select such as parents, birth, death, notes etc.

By filtering you could get only the people and fields you want. Then you could import them into any database, spreadsheet application.

Darryl

In addition to PAF a number of other genealogical programs allow you to export data as delimited (commas or tabs) text data files.

Regards, Mike Hobart