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September 21, 2002 Photo Preservation and Digital Restoration

by Eric Curtis Bond

Through the use of a computer, scanner and a professional photography background, Eric Curtis Bond of Photo Grafix color-corrects, enhances, manipulates and restores all kinds of photographic images for professional photographers and consumers. Eric is the Owner, Senior Retoucher and Janitor for Photo Grafix, an Evanston-based Digital Photo Retouching Studio. Nearly half of Eric's photographic restoration assignments-the repair of damaged photographs-are completed for genealogists. Being a descendant of enslaved Africans whose family history was not preserved well, Eric greatly appreciates the importance of maintaining and advancing family heritage-especially through photography. As part of his duty for public service, Eric selflessly shares his growing knowledge of digital photographic retouching. As an Adobe Certified Expert in Photoshop, he teaches Adobe Photoshop for the Evanston Township Adult Continuing Education program. This includes volunteering his services, retouching presentations and work for professional graphic artists, designers, students museums and genealogical groups. Eric's mission is to provide, and be an advocate for, the highest quality digital photo retouching service throughout the world. He invites all questions and comments regarding photo restoration technique, digital archiving, hardware, software and training. Learn more about Eric and his work at <http://www.abetterreality.net>

October 19, 2002 Sharing and Merging Data

CHRIS W. KITE

Sharing GEDCOM and other files without drowning in a sea of data.

Strategies for merging data and posting messages will be discussed.

November 16, 2002

Cite Your Sources Simply

LARRY OLSON

Identify your sources without driving yourself crazy.



During the third week of August each year Milwaukee holds it's Irish Fest. The fest is held from Thursday through Sunday. The event consists of:

- THE GATHERING: A celebration of the coming together of folks from all corners of the land.
- THE DAY: Consists of sporting events, marriages, folk dancing and good fellowship.
- THE SCATTERING: Conclusion of the event is on the last day and a farewell to the festival.

I attended this event in August which is why I missed the CAGG-NI meeting. It was fun and a profitable event, genealogically-speaking.

A cultural village is set up as part of this event. This is a great source of information for the genealogist doing Irish research. It includes the following:

- LITERARY CORNER: Irish and American magazines, books etc. from the famous bookstore, Kenny's of Galway Ireland (<http://www.kennys.ie>). You will meet the publishers, authors and editors who produced this interesting reading.
- GENEALOGY TENT: You can trace your Irish roots and the meaning of your family surname. Visit the displays and representatives from
 - o The Irish Genealogical Society of Wisconsin
 - o The Irish Emigration Library
 - o The Irish Cultural Center
 - o The Hales Corner Branch Library of Family History
- LDS has a computer database for exploring your family surname at the Genealogy Tent

For information on next year's Irish Fest visit their website at: <http://www.irishfest.com>. As a matter of fact, if you are not Irish, (I am sorry for you ;>)) Milwaukee has two other ancestral festivals which will be publicized on their websites. Find out about Polish Fest at <http://www.polishfest.org> and German Fest at <http://www.germanfest.com>.

In the meantime, here are some other websites where you can explore your Irish heritage:

- <http://www.soc.genealogy.ireland> - Site for questions/answers on Irish research
- <http://www.goireland.com/genealogy> - Search Irish births and marriages and learn meaning of Irish surnames
- <http://www.local.ie/genealogy> - Irish family history including chats, forums, news and networks
- <http://www.nationalarchives.ie/genealogy.html> - Online guide to archives/genealogical resources
- <http://www.rootsweb.com/~irish> - Comprehen-

sive records and volunteer researchers

- <http://www.irishtimes.com> - Online Irish newspaper research
 - <http://www.nationalarchives.ie> - Includes list of genealogical centers in Ireland, national school rolls, prison records and archival links
- And for Ireland's neighbors:
- <http://www.nas.gov.uk> - National Archives Scotland including Scotland's history from 12th to 21st centuries.
 - <http://www.scan.org.uk> - Opening up Scotland's archival heritage to the world
 - <http://www.electricscotland.com> - Web community of all things Scottish
 - <http://www.soc.genealogy.britain> - Site for questions/answers on British research
- And on this side of the pond:
- <http://www.gov/guide/rg085.html> - Guide to immigration records in the National Archives
 - <http://www.ellislandrecords.org> - Site for locating ancestor's arrival at Ellis Island from 1892 thru 1924.
 - <http://www.familysearch.org> - Family History Library which is an excellent site for research for all nationalities

Also, check out the old standby, Cyndi's List at <http://www.cyndislist.com> under Ireland.

CEAD MILE FAILCE

Fall Genealogy Classes

Taught by CAGG-NI Members

A full Genealogy Course taught by **Beverly Smallwood** starts on September 23rd and runs for eight weeks and covers research topics from vital records to probate. Classes meet Mondays from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. at Prospect High School in Mount Prospect (near Randhurst Shopping Center). The field trips include the Arlington Heights Memorial Library, the Wilmette Family History Center, and the Newberry Library. The fee is \$64 both in and out of district, though in-district seniors can qualify for a Gold Card Discount. Call District 214 at (847) 718-7700 to register after the middle of August. If you'd like more information, please contact the instructor: [<Caggi_Bev@yahoo.com>](mailto:Caggi_Bev@yahoo.com).

A one night course titled "How to Write Your Family History" is being taught by **Mike Karsen** at two different locations. The first will be at 7:30 p.m. on October 2nd at John Hersey High School in Arlington Heights. District 214 registration is at (847) 718-7700. The second one will be at 7:30 p.m. on October 23rd at Fremd High School in Palatine. Registration for the second one is through District 211 at (847) 755-6829. The fee is \$15 for either class and additional information is available from [<MikeFamHistorian@aol.com>](mailto:MikeFamHistorian@aol.com).

President's Letter

I'm so excited over this month's speaker. Fixing damaged pictures is more an art than a science in many ways, and a sacred trust. How far should you go? Where does restoration leave off and alteration begin? Digital tools put a darkroom in your computer. Once an image is digital you can archive, repair, improve and share. What could be better?

As Steve Olson presented last year, there are many ways to get digital images. You could scan a photo or document. Digital cameras and camcorders record the images in digital format, allowing you to transfer them to the computer. Suppose you still have a film camera. You could have the film digitized at the same time it is developed, providing both prints and a CD-ROM. Once in the computer, the fun begins.

Images can add so much to our family history. Not only pictures of people, but also homes, neighborhoods, cars, grave markers, and even documents. Your family is so much more than words on a page, so be sure to do both - "show and tell".

Our year is coming to an end. Time to start thinking about next year! We will map out next year's programs at our December meeting (switched to the 7th - so, mark your calendar). Between now and then, please start thinking about CAGG-NI and let us know what you especially liked, hated, and want to learn more about. Write program ideas on a slip of paper and slip it to us at a meeting, or email it to me or the general caggni mailbox. These email addresses are here in the newsletter and the general mailbox is on the website as well. Should we put together another survey?

What do you think? More Bygones? More Internet tips? HTML? What's next? We need to hear your input. We had two programs on Family Tree Maker this year. I'd like someone to volunteer to demonstrate the newest versions of some of the other programs, like PAF or Legacy.

What about the newsletter? Have you seen any interesting web sites? What about product reviews or research techniques? What do you like? What do you dislike? Any ideas for future articles or features?

This is *your* organization. Make it what you want it to be!

See you soon

Beverly Levine Smallwood

CAGG-NI Fund Raisers

CAGG-NI's Dominick's Benefit days are Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, September 23rd thru 25th. If you shop on one of those three days and turn in a coupon to the cashier, Dominick's will make a donation to CAGG-NI at no cost to you. Coupons will be distributed at the meeting and are available to print from our website at <<http://www.rootsweb.com/~ilcaggni/share.htm>>.

Please give coupons to friends, family and neighbors, but do not hand them out in or near the store. Thank you.



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Mailing Lists and Newsgroups

(A New Adventure) By Anne Jacobs

Although I have known about Newsgroups (Usenet) for some time, I have only dabbled in them. Newsgroups are the precursor to the ubiquitous e-mail of today.

At the beginning of the Internet (back in the dark ages of the 1980s), a system of message sharing was devised. This distribution system was called bulletin boards, so named because they performed the function of the bulletin board at schools and grocery stores, impersonally distributing news to a non-descript public. You would log onto a bulletin board and a flood of messages would be available to you. You could search for specific subjects and answers.

My first knowledge of this vast resource was in the days of "Larry, the Lounge Lizard". This was one of the first graphic "games" where you would maneuver Larry through various adventures; you can imagine his goal based on his name. A friend of mine was hooked on this game and searched the Internet for clues on how to further the game whenever there was an impasse. Pages and pages of clues would be returned to a query on this game. I was amazed with the vast knowledge available on this silly little game. Imagine what else, more useful, must be available.

Today, there are lists, bulletin boards, and Usenet (newsgroups). Sometimes there is little difference between these. A list may be "gatewayed" (sent) to a bulletin board server making it possible to access this information in two different ways; one comes to you and one you have to access through the bulletin board site. Other times a bulletin board is gatewayed to a list.

Many of us subscribe to "lists" based on areas of interest to us. RootsWeb, our website host, is the home of more than 8000 genealogy lists. There are lists for nationalities, counties, surnames, dogs, cats and every breed therein, poetry, bike riding, etc. etc. You get the idea.

A list is a "you join us, if you are interested" mailing group. To subscribe to a list, you send a message to the list with a one word body "subscribe". (Some lists require more than this, follow the directions for the specific list.) Once you "join" a list, a copy of every message posted to the list is sent to you (as well as everyone else on the list), duplicating it countless times. This is why you hear of "wasting bandwidth" with "me toos" and "thank yous" ad nauseam. Please keep this in mind the next time you send a message to one of these lists. If

you are thanking someone, why not send it privately instead of to the world of the "list". (Okay, I am getting off my soap box now and back to the subject.)

You can frequently subscribe to a list in digest or list (message) format. The difference is that digest format is a collection of messages for a time period sent as one, large message. List format is each individual message is sent separately.

There is another world of Internet mail, called Usenet or newsgroups. Usenet is short for User Network. The difference between a mailing list and Usenet is the method of distribution. You have to go to the Usenet messages instead of them coming to you automatically. Years ago, a friend of Larry Olson's gave a presentation to our group. He only used Usenet forums saying "I would rather control my mail rather than visa versa." This idea has always stayed with me.

Every time you log onto your e-mail account, you get a flood of e-mail from the mailing lists you are subscribed to. This can be overwhelming. For example, the TMG mailing list averages over 100 messages DAILY. This is an avalanche that many of us don't want to deal with. Usenet messages are only presented to you when you ask for them.

Your e-mail program has two modes of operation, e-mail and newsgroups. Your ISP (Internet Service Provider) has different servers (computers) for different purposes. There is an e-mail server and a separate server for Usenet. You have to define the e-mail server to your software; you also have to define the Usenet server to your software. Only your ISP or their website can supply you with how to do this for your software.

To signal the move from e-mail to newsgroups, you have to select a different queue moving from the in-basket of e-mail (local mail which contains inbox, sent, trash) to the newsgroup queue (news which is empty until you download the Usenet groups.) Once you select Newsgroups and select Subscribe, the index of the over 30,000 groups is downloaded. (This may vary based on what support your ISP gives to Usenet.) From this flood of possible topics, you start navigating from the middle of the ocean (Usenet), to the river (denoted by broad categories of alt., biz., comp., humanities, misc., news. rec., sci., soc., sys., talk to name only a few), to the stream which is the specific area of your interest (genealogy-german, genealogy-english, genealogy-computers,). After studying the list, you select the Usenet groups

Mailing Lists (Continued from page 4)

[Member Services](#)

HOME

Make This My Home Page

Hi james.cottrell !

| [C](#)

AT&T COMM. CENTER

You have 1 new e-mail messages.



Other Tools:

[Address Book](#)

[E-Mail](#)

[Instant Messaging](#)

[Chat](#)

[Newsgroups](#)

[Free Web Page](#)

you are interested in and subscribe to them. After doing this, you select “download new messages”. The downloaded messages are only the last few days of messages or since your last download.

This all sounds great; you can select a subject area and retrieve messages on your schedule, and search them..... Wrong! This is the reason I gave up on Usenet. You can only search the sender and the subject line of these messages. So if a message is about the Olson family but someone had typed “Looking for Family” as the subject or worse yet, reused another subject such as “Somerset Churches”, you will never find the Olson topic discussed in the body of the message. Here comes my soap box again. Do you see how important it is to establish a meaningful Subject Line for every message you send? If you change the focus of the message, it is only courteous to change the subject line. A good genealogy subject line contains the surnames in the message, the time frames and the locations involved. Okay, stepping down again.

This brings us to the impetus for this article. I found a new toy! It is really an old toy with a new twist, Google, a great search engine. Looking at Google’s

web site (<http://www.google.com>), there are four tabs. I have always remained on the first tab, Web. I have tried the Images tab before and now I clicked on the Groups tab. This is where Usenet has found its Internet home.



Déjà Vu was an original repository for newsgroup archives. These two entities have joined together to bring Usenet or Newsgroups to the world of the Internet, center stage, instead of the side room of Usenet. Google has coupled with Déjà vu newsgroup archives to provide the full search capability I have been looking for. The site states “Google offers complete 20-year Usenet archive with over 700 million messages”. (If my ancestors are not in there, I give up!) Go to Google and click on the tab “Groups”. Now key in your search argument(s) and search these archives. You will be presented with a list of only the messages which contain your search “keywords”. You will see that there will be many messages of no interest to you. You can narrow your search by selecting one of the sub-categories such as “soc”. Another way to limit your search is to use the “not” code of Boolean logic. On one of my searches, I noticed that there were quite a few messages related to music so I appended “-music” without the quotes, to my search arguments. This presents only the messages which match my original search criteria, eliminating those that also contain the word “music”. There is no space between the dash and the word you wish to eliminate. Now sit back and read to your heart’s content.



Other Group Events Compiled by Beverly Levine Smallwood

19 SEP 2002 - 7:30PM

Craig Pfannkuche - How to Use Chicago Property Records in Family Research
Northwest Suburban Council of Genealogists
<http://www.mtprospect.org/nsgs/>

21 SEP 2002 - ALL DAY

(EARLY REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS AUGUST 17TH)

**British Isles Research
Over Here/Over There**

BIGWILL & McHenry County Genealogical Society
at McHenry County College
<http://www.rootsweb.com/~wiilbig/meet.htm>

28 SEPT 2002 - 8AM-4PM

Fox Valley Genealogical Society Fall Conference
Unlocking Ancestral Mysteries

WITH HENRY Z "HANK" JONES

<http://members.aol.com/fvgs1/index.html/>

Grace United Methodist Church
300 E. Gartner Road, Naperville

03-05 OCT 2002

Iowa Genealogical Society Annual Conference,
Marshalltown, Iowa

Your Elusive Ancestor

SHARON DEBARTOLO CARMACK

http://www.iowagenealogy.org/Conference/2002Fall/fall_main.htm

04-06 OCT 2002

Polish Genealogical Society

2002 Conference - Basics & Beyond

Ramada Inn, 6600 N. Mannheim Rd., Rosemont
<http://www.pgsa.org/>

05 OCT 2002 - OGLIVIE TRANSPORTATION CENTER

Annual Bus Tour of

Select Chicago Neighborhoods

Chicago Genealogical Society

<http://www.chgogs.org/calendar.html>

08 OCT 2002 - 7PM

JULIE WEBER

**Techniques for German Research
Using the Internet**

Fremont Library in Mundelein

Lake County Genealogical Society

<http://www.rootsweb.com/~illcgs/meetings.htm>

08 OCT 2002 - 7:30 PM

Using Cook County Records

MAUREEN BRADY

Schaumburg Township District Library
Genealogy Group

10 OCT 2002 - 6 PM NEWBERRY LIBRARY

Ask the Experts - Chicago Resources

SPEAKERS FROM THE CIRCUIT COURT ARCHIVES, THE ILLINOIS REGIONAL ARCHIVES DEPOSITORY (IRAD), THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND RECORDS ADMINISTRATION (NARA), AND THE NEWBERRY LIBRARY.

Newberry Library - Friends of Genealogy
more info (312) 255-3510

12 OCT 2002 - 10:30AM

**TMG (The Master Genealogist)
User Group Meeting**

Schaumburg District Library, 130 S. Roselle Road
<http://www.rootsweb.com/~ilcaggni/>

12 OCT 2002 - ALL DAY - WAUSAU, WI

**Wisconsin State Genealogical Society
Fall Conference**

FEATURING HENRY "HANK" Z. JONES, JR., FASG

<http://www.rootsweb.com/~wsgs/meetings.htm>

16 OCT 2002 - 7PM

**Tips & Tricks to Stretch
Family Tree Maker**

by **CAGG-NI member Daniel E. Niemiec**

DuPage County Genealogical Society

<http://www.dcgsg.org/>

17 OCT 2002 - 7:30PM

Cook County History - Ann Keating

Northwest Suburban Council of Genealogists

<http://www.mtprospect.org/nsgs/>

19 OCT 2002 - SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS

**Illinois Libraries and Genealogical Societies:
Their Research Collections**

Illinois State Genealogical Society

<http://www.rootsweb.com/~ilsgs/fallconf/fall02reg.html>

21 OCT 2002 - 7PM

Military Records - Craig Pfankuche

Zion Genealogical Society

Beach Park Village Hall

11270 Wadsworth Rd, Beach Park

<http://nsn.nslsilus.org/wkkhome/zion/index.html>

02 NOV 2002 - ALL DAY

Lake County Fall Conference

FEATURING LLOYD BOCKSTRUCK

<http://www.rootsweb.com/~illcgs/lcigs/workshops.htm>

August Meeting Notes By Anne Jacobs

Custom Fields in FTM

The August meeting was very well attended, especially for an end of the summertime meeting. I wonder if the topic and speaker had anything to do with that. ;>) The speaker was Dan **Niemiec** and the topic involved FTM which is owned by most of our membership. Dan is in the computer field and so he wants his software to do more for him. He has stretched FTM more than most.

One very interesting and clever idea he has is to create unique Christmas card mailing labels. Each label contains the address and at least one picture of the person it is sent to on it. Isn't that clever? When family members get their Christmas card, they obviously take note because they are looking at themselves. This brings a couple of reactions such as:

- Who is this guy, Dan Niemiec?
- I think Dan needs a new better picture of me.

Another possible reaction is, once someone who has no picture on their mailing label (because Dan does not have one) talks to other family members, "I have to give Dan a picture before next Christmas." At family get-togethers, everyone remembers Dan and he get more family information as a result.

Dan creates many custom tags even for information he does not yet have. He does this because he uses his database as his "to do" list rather than FTM's To Do feature, which he found to be less useful. By establishing an OBIT tag for a person, it ties the OBIT to the person so you don't have to key the name and other information as you would have to in the built-in To Do feature. Next, he keys the word "Need" into the tag which gives him a search argument when he wants to create a to-do report. If he expects the obit to be in the Chicago Tribune, he keys in Chicago Trib. Now he can search for OBIT tags which contain Need and Chicago Trib for his research list. After he has found the obit, he removes the word need and changes Chicago Trib to Chicago Tribune. Now he can find all his obits by searching for Obit tags containing Tribune and he will only retrieve the completed obits. As he stated, you can develop your own methods as long as you're consistent.

In addition to discussing these and other ways which he uses FTM, he demonstrated how to design various reports which contain what you need for the particular task at hand.

If you have any specific questions for Dan, he volunteers at the Buffalo Grove Family History Center. Also, you can contact him through the PIPNorth Chapter as he is one of the founders of this chapter. (PIP stands for POINTers in Person. POINTers stands for Pursuing Our Italian Names Together.) Check out his web site at <http://www.rootsweb.com/~itappcnc/>

Family Story Question of the Month:

Tell me a family story relating to a historic home.

Tag Line:

I'm always late. My ancestors arrived on the JUNE flower.

September Puzzler:

When you hit the "print screen" key, why doesn't your screen print?

September Puzzler Answer:

A picture of the screen is placed in a "clipboard" which can be viewed using the Clipboard Viewer. This is also where anything that you have copied, using the "copy icon" of your word processor or the CTRL-C hot key combination, goes. So it is retrieved from here when you paste using the "paste icon" or the CTRL-V hot key combination. Try it out. Hit the print screen (Print screen) key, usually at the top of the keyboard. Now open up your word processor and use its paste key. You will have a picture of the screen you copied inserted into the document. Now type a couple of sentences. Select only a portion of one sentence and copy it using your favorite method. Now move the cursor to the top of the document and paste using your favorite method. Now you know what the Print Screen key does and where copy and paste works its magic.

What's New in TMG 5.0 *by Beverly Levine Smallwood*

The Master Genealogist (TMG) version 5 was released May 21st of this year. At this point it is only available as a download, and is missing some features that will be released as they are completed. If you make the purchase now, the program can be configured to automatically check for and download all updates as they are made available. Once all the features have been released, you will receive a CDROM and manual.

The product was completely rewritten from the ground up to take advantage of a 32-bit interface, which allows for right-click menus, long file names, and support for the mouse wheel if you have one. A read-only version of this product was released last fall as Family Tree SuperTools (see CAGG-NI's November 2001 Newsletter). Many of the features described here can be viewed at the Wholly Genes web site in the Family Tree SuperTools Guided Tour <<http://www.whollygenes.com/ftsttour.htm>>.

Custom Screen Layouts

Control of the user interface is now in the hands of the user. The main elements are: Details window (all data for an individual), Children window, Siblings window, Image window, Flags window, Focus Group, and Project Explorer. Additional tool bar elements may be displayed, including Standard, Layout, Easy Search, Reports, Tag Box, Text Editing, Bookmark Manager, and Custom toolbars. These windows may be sized and arranged to suit your taste, and toolbars may be moved and anchored at the top, bottom or vertically along the sides. Once you arrange the screen to your liking, name and save the layout. You may have several layouts, each suited to a specific purpose and switch between them as necessary. These layouts are stored in files with ".lo" extensions, so you may save and share them with your friends. You may even download some layouts designed by Wholly Genes and TMG users from <<http://www.whollygenes.com/ftsttour/chapter12.htm>> which were optimized for different screen resolutions. If you had Family Tree SuperTools, you may copy these ".lo" files and use them in TMG5.

Data Import and Project Management

While TMG fully supports GEDCOM, it is not the most reliable way to share data. GenTech did an objective test of GEDCOM by importing and exporting data to and from various genealogy programs. You may read the results here <<http://www.gentech.org/TestBook2001/>>. Given these limitations, Wholly Genes developed GenBridge which allows direct import from various genealogy packages without using GEDCOM as an intermediary. This makes for the most complete import possible. GenBridge will import

nearly every major genealogy program's native format.

Even more interesting is the ability to import without merging data. You may have multiple data sets within the same project. This allows you to add GEDCOM files you've found on the Internet, or your cousin's PAF file, and view their data side by side with your own without merging it into your data set. You may copy or move one or more persons between data sets within the project by simply dragging and dropping.

You may enable or disable data sets within the project without deleting or importing again. All enabled data sets can be viewed in Project Explorer or the Picklist in a single, unified list. Accenting each data set with a different color will help you visually sort out who belongs to whom. You may open multiple projects, or the same project twice, and view them side-by-side.

For the Beginner

You may choose between Beginner and Advanced Data Entry Modes. There are also Wizards available to help you import your data or export a GEDCOM file. "Tips and Hints" cards display upon start up and "Cue cards" can pop up as you access different features. There are also expanded context-sensitive help files. Once you know what you're doing, you may turn off most of these features and get them out of your way.

New and Improved Features

You may now link a single research task to a person, an event, a source, a repository or any combination of these. A new Citation Reference field allows you to note your document's physical location. You may use Microsoft Word's spelling and grammar checker as an alternative to the built-in spell checker.

What's in a name?

You have long been able to record every name a person ever used. You have long been able to attach multiple people to an event. TMG5 now allows you to designate which name variation you want to attach to that event. For instance, a woman's death record can now be linked to her name at death, rather than her name at birth. The record of her second marriage can be linked to her first married name, which is how the license will read.

Adding People

The Add Person window can now be customized with whatever flags and tags you want. For instance, I set it up to include birth, marriage, immigration, occupation, naturalization, military service, and my custom RELATION flag. This has streamlined adding new people found on the 1930

census.

Colorize Your World

TMG has long allowed you to set custom flags to denote various conditions of your choosing and to colorize or Accent your data to highlight these conditions. TMG5 has expanded on this capability by allowing you to Accent based on conditions without setting flags. You may name and save these Accent schemes so you can switch between them quickly and easily. For instance, you may have multiple data sets in your projects, each displayed with a different color. You could color code people based on their birth place, age at death, or number of children. The possibilities are endless.

Visual Representations

TMG has not released the narrative reports as of yet, but the new and improved Visual Chartform (VCF) is included. VCF output includes ancestor, descendant, hour-glass, and fan charts. If your Accent scheme is based on Flags, you may carry this color-coding over to the chart you create. VCF will generate the chart according to the settings you choose. Once it is open, you may add additional images, move boxes around, repaginate it so nothing will be broken over pages, and more. These charts may be saved as jpegs and displayed on a web page or sent to a friend. You may also email your finished chart to Wholly Genes for printing on a large format printer. Their prices are quite reasonable and the quality is great.

Searching Tools

You may locate people in many different ways now. The Picklist is a list of every person, with all their name variations, in your data set. The expanded version includes all your Accent colors, and can be customized to include Name, birth and death, reference field, ID number, parent names and spouse names. It has two different layouts or views. The Simple Picklist has less features, but is optimized for speed, even with very large projects.

Project Explorer is a Windows Explorer-like window, but instead of listing files and folders, it lists people. If there is a plus sign next to a person, you may click on it to reveal spouses or children of that person. Each generation may expand to the next by clicking on the plus sign. Thus you may navigate quickly through a family.

You may filter your data in both Project Explorer and the Picklist. Once a filter has been built, it may be saved and reused later. These filter files may be used interchange-

ably in both Project Explorer and the Picklist. For instance, you may make a filter for men with sons but no daughters, or women who have been married more than once. Again, these filters may be named and saved for reuse.

The Master Event List allows you to search and sort every event in your project by Name of the principles, event type or label, event date, or event place. You may filter it to include only a particular data set or the entire project.

User-defined Focus Groups allow you to save groups of people, reload a group you've been working on, or perform operations on the group like doing web searches or deletions. TMG5 includes web searching for specific people or groups of people in Ancestry.com, RootsWeb, Gendex, FamilySearch, and Genealogyportal.com. You may set it up to search for the primary name, or every name variation you've recorded. Additionally, you may customize your favorite geographic or other web links for easy access.

Book Mark Manager allows you to quickly navigate your data set. With the click of your mouse you can move to anyone you've added to your bookmarks. Not working on that family anymore? Just remove their names from bookmarks to make room for your current research focus.

Multimedia Support

The image you designate as primary for a person can be displayed in one of your screen layouts by including the image window, and printed on charts you design in VCF. In addition, the Exhibit Log shows scrollable thumbnails of images, video, sound, and text files. You may drag and drop these files in from Windows Explorer. TMG5 also includes direct scanner support.

Slideshow Manager allows you to build multimedia slideshows with transition effects and other features (much like Power Point). You may add audio files that span multiple slides; a video file will play once the slide it's on is displayed. You may add captions to photos, color backgrounds, add charts created in VCF, and export your slideshow to send to relatives, perhaps on a CDROM, with the viewer included. The recipient will not need special software to view your creation.

This is just a short summary of the features available. You may read more about TMG at the Wholly Genes website <<http://www.whollygenes.com>>. TMG5's new and improved features are listed in a "News Release" and the screen shots and tour of Family Tree SuperTools will give you some good ideas as well. Future articles will focus in more depth on specific features.

Using Google's Usenet Interface

By Anne Jacobs

Once I discovered this new interface into Usenet archives and wrote the article, Bev asked about the search facilities. So I had my next assignment and once again, I learned something. Every time I volunteer, I learn something. You should try it! Now, what did I learn?

Obviously, you don't want to read all 20 years of the 30,000 groups available at Google and will want to limit your search somehow. After clicking on the Groups tab, you are presented with a search form containing a list of the first level of the hierarchy (alt[ernate], comp[uter]., soc[ial].) with a general description of the broad focus of that grouping (the river mentioned in the previous article). You can just enter a search argument such as Schweisthal and hit enter, but you would be searching all categories which would include business, news, science and talk, to mention only a few. If your ancestor was involved in science, it is appropriate; if not, you will be wading through much more than you need. So, it is good to focus specifically, especially at the start.

You can limit your search in a few different ways. You can select a broad category (soc), or specific groups (soc.genealogy) or use Google's Advanced Groups Search. To limit by group, click on the broad subject link, such as soc. This will move you down in the archive hierarchy structure to focus only on the soc. section as indicated by the "Group: soc" at the top of the page. The new screen also displays the next level of groupings, 50 at a time, and how active each group is by the green bar indicator at the left of each sub-category. If there are further sub-groupings, there is a group count to the right. You can page through these categories 50 at a time or use the index at the top left of the screen to skip ahead. Click on each smaller grouping of interest until you have limited your search to your satisfaction. Note that you may also have to change the selection of "Search only in xxx.*", "Search all groups" or "Search the Web" below the search argument entry slot.

Frequently members have a problem with their computer and they wait to come to a meeting and ask their question(s). This new resource may solve your problem prior to the next CAGG-NI meeting. Let's say that you have a problem with your Hewlett Packard 610C printer. You can search these archives to see if anyone else has had the problem AND solved it. I have found

that the best way to search for such a solution is to search all 30,000 group archives as search arguments limit the returns. For this search, you could enter "hewlett packard printer problem" without the quotes. This query returns 13,600 messages. Obviously, you would now want to research adding 610c to the search argument. In the upper left-hand above the returned "hits", are the groups in which hits were found. This is also a good way to find out what groups exist in your areas of interest without paging through the group list.

Note that there may be "(5 articles)" next to the subject in the return list. This is called a thread. Threads are messages in reply to a beginning message and should relate to the same subject (if the senders have kept to the subject and not used an existing message starting a new train of thought (thread). You may find a solution to your problem or at least a clue which leads you in the right direction.

Based on my soap box comments in previous article and the fact that the subject/category may not reflect the content of the message, I prefer using the Advanced Groups Search method which is accessed by clicking on that link. A new more detailed entry form is presented including "with all", "without" Boolean possibilities. Using this entry form, you can still limit to the groups previously discussed as well as limiting by subject or author. The date limitation is my favorite feature. After you have explored Google Usenet archives for all your ancestors, you will NOT want to wade through all the messages you have already read so this feature will become valuable. You can enter the date of your last search and it will only find new postings. You might want to note the last search date on your research log so you know where to pick up the next time.

There is a Help facility which includes a FAQ section, Basics of Usenet, Usenet Glossary and much more. You can also set up Preferences for your Usenet profile which includes language selection, a SafeSearch filter, results display count and the ability to open a new browser window with the search results. This facility requires that you have cookies enabled.

This brings up the next possibility of this new research tool. How do I actively use Usenet to search for my ancestors? Who can research this and write an article for next month's newsletter by October 4th? Is there anyone willing to grab the baton?