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April 19, 2003

XML: Using Extensible Markup Language for Genealogy.

Presented by Tim Costin

Have you ever received or sent a GEDCOM file and lost some information in the transfer? Do you resort to cut and paste or retyping because your genealogy program is unable to transfer its data into another form, such as a web page or spreadsheet? Is your genealogy data held hostage by a single program on a single operating system? When adopted by software vendors, XML is a solution to these problems and gives genealogists open access to their data. XML is something a computer genealogist should be aware of and look forward to.

XML is an industry standard format for exchanging and sharing text-based data between programs. Data in XML format can be reused by an XML-capable web browser, word processor, spreadsheet, and genealogy program. XML is platform-independent, human readable and editable, resistant to obsolescence, and is easily manipulated and displayed. Searches of XML data on the web will be much smarter and productive. The next GEDCOM version will be XML-based.

May 17, 2003

The Effective Use of Email & Message Boards

by Dan Niemiec

Nearly all of us use e-mail and many of us use message boards, but there are techniques we can use to increase the chance that we will make contact with others who can help us with our genealogy.

June 21, 2003

Software On Parade The Saga Continues

by Mike Karsen and

Beverly Levine Smallwood

Mike, an avid user of FTM, and Bev, equally devoted to TMG, will demonstrate their software packages and techniques that help organize your research data

March Meeting Notes - Software On Parade *by Marilyn Alton*

Personal Ancestral File 5.2

Presented by Elder King, missionary of Latter-day Saints assisting at the Schaumburg Family History Center

PAF software is an earlier version of Ancestral Quest. Many enhancements have been made to the PAF 5.2 software. Some of the features demonstrated were:

- GLOBAL SEARCH - When a correction is made for the name of a city, the system will correct all entries with that city. This will also work in notes.

- REPLACE FEATURE - Now has 6 areas to make changes including full name field, notes and temple codes.

- ORDINANCE - The dates can be added from .OUP file from Temple Ready. (Note: OUP stands for ordinance update.

- PRIVACY PROTECTION - When a web page is created the Hide Detail option is selected by default. This means only the name will be shown.

- PALM PILOT - If you own a Palm Pilot you can create a GEDCOM File and view it on your Palm Pilot. At this time this feature is offered only for the Palm Pilot.

- LANGUAGES - Six different languages are available: English, Japanese, Chinese, Korean,

- German and Swedish. Non-Roman characters may now be used.

- SURNAME - The surname may appear first or last and double surnames are accepted.

- TEMPLATES - The individual and marriage screens can be customized. You can specify which fields appear and in what order they appear.

- ADD FAMILY - You can now add an entire family at once.

- FAMILY & PEDIGREE VIEW SCREENS - By clicking each tab, they may be viewed.

- LIST OF INDIVIDUALS - You may sort alphabetically or numerically by RIN.

- CITING SOURCES - Sources may be cited by description, citation and repository. The sources can be linked to the information you have such as linking the birth certificate to the birth information.

- NOTES: Large storage capacity. With Windows 95 & 98 you have up to 59,000 characters. In Windows NT & 2000 you have an unlimited number of characters. Notes in the .paf file can be used to print books, family group sheets, individual summaries and custom reports. A list of individuals with notes can now be included in web pages. You can create focus lists based on notes and tags used in them thereby limiting the view of your database. You can export notes into GedCom file.

- MULTI-MEDIA SHOWS - Multi-Media shows can be produced with digital pictures. You can edit the photos, flip images and rotate them. Scrapbook pages are easily formatted.

- TAGS - The Tag is an identifier typed at the beginning of a note in all uppercase letters followed by a colon. If more than one word is used, type a hyphen or underscore instead of a space between words.

- CONVERTING NOTES TO CUSTOM EVENTS - You can include the custom events on ancestry and/or descendancy wall charts. Notes cannot be printed on these reports. Custom events can be included on web pages, family group records, books, individual summaries and custom reports.

PAF may be downloaded free from the Latter-day Saints' website.

ANCESTRAL QUEST 2002

Presented by Everett Butler

As both of these programs have a common origin, the strategy of Ancestral Quest is to stay ahead of PAF in offered features such as:

- NetFam - (A new collaboration feature) You can work together with other researchers on the same master files, in realtime through the Internet, without sacrificing speed or ease-of-use. No other software helps bring your family together in a search more effectively. Everett made the comment "once you have used NetFam you will wonder how you ever got along without it".

- RESEARCH MANAGER - Research Log helps you consolidate and organize your research tasks and the TO DO Items. You can even record research dead-ends so you won't repeat fruitless searches.

- Once you have completed a task with a click of a button you can convert your finds into one or more source citations.

- While working on your normal work, if you think of another task, you can record the task without interrupting your work flow.

- DOCUMENTATION CENTER - You can view notes or sources for the individual or any marriage. Add or edit sources, re-sequence sources of an event and spell check your notes. There is unlimited note size.

- You can automatically merge all source and repository records that are identical.

- You are able to print and view Source and Citation lists. Categories can be assigned and a list can be printed of just one category, if desired.

- QUICK ENTRY - If the information has been entered before on a name or place, you can enter the first letter or two and the system provides suggestions to complete the information.

- ADJUSTABLE INDIVIDUAL EDIT SCREEN - You can now adjust the placement of the "Other Events" and "LDA Ordinance" blocks to fit your entry.

- ADDITIONAL DATA - Adding additional events to records such as Military Service and Emigration is now available.

- GLOBAL SEARCH & REPLACE - Lets you search for and replace names of people and places as well as dates in your data base.

- NEW REPORTS - Fan charts up to 13 generations. Ancestry charts can now have siblings listed. You can print your documentation on the Pedigree Charts and Fan Charts.

- LINE OF DESCENT - This report shows how you relate to a common ancestor.

- REPORTS TO FILE - Most reports can be printed to text files and book reports can be printed in format of most word processors, such as Word and WordPerfect.

- SORTED PLACE LIST - This list gives all recorded events that occurred at each place. This can help you find patterns in your family history and for research purposes.

- NOT A PROBLEM REPORT - Records that show up on the Possible Problem report can now be marked so they won't show up on future reports.

- ODD/EVEN & SELECTED PAGES - When printing reports for a book you can print odd pages or even pages for two-sided printing and adjust to different margins.

- NAME LIST VIEW - A Name List gives you a list of all the individuals in your data base which can be sorted by name, date, place and RIN.

- BOOKMARKS - Bookmarks give you the capability to return quickly to key individuals.

- EXPORT SCRAPBOOK COLLECTION - This feature lets you share items such as photos, source images and related documents with others. Photos can also be generated into web pages.

- SCRAPBOOK (MULTIMEDIA) ENHANCEMENTS - Documents or any other digitized information can now be attached to the scrapbook collection of an individual. An Item Report can organize files that are attached to your family data. When used with FilterPro, you can see items belonging to a set of individuals.

ANCESTRAL QUEST provides compatibility with the PAF program published by the LDS church. Many users of PAF could benefit from Ancestral Quest's additional power and features; it has the ability to read PAF 5 databases. The cost of Ancestral Quest is \$39.95 on CD or it can be downloaded from the web site for \$34.95.

Links to the websites of both of these packages can be found on our website at: <http://www.rootsweb.com/~ilcaggn> Just click on the software's name.

President's Letter

After seeing Virginia Jenkins give us the basics of HTML last year, I started bugging Tim Costin to explain XML to us. You should have at least some small familiarity because future genealogy programs may use it to export data (a new GEDCOM standard); submit data to online databases; or generate your own genealogy presentation for sharing with your relatives on CD-ROM. The idea is that you create a model of how a page should look and include the data, then the page will generate based on whoever the viewer chooses with a mouse click. It may also give way to a web based genealogy program, or a web based form for people to fill in their information and submit it to your database.

Do you need to understand how a car works to drive it? No, but even a simple understanding of a new technology model will take the fear out of using it or adopting it. Come to the meeting to learn about the new data model, or at least the new buzz words, that are in our future.

By the time you read this, my genealogy class will be over for the semester. I've spent a lot of time these last eight weeks talking about what records to look for and where to find them. It struck me that census records were becoming easier than ever to find and view. Any library with a subscription database has the "film" and many indexes for the entire country. On microfilm, this would take up tremendous space, and would have to be replaced as they wore out. Now they take no more space than a computer workstation. Now my students with ancestry in states other than Illinois can still find their census records at the Newberry, but on AncestryPlus rather than on microfilm.

A friend of mine volunteers at the Winnetka Public Library and she let me know when they started subscribing to AncestryPlus (the library version of Ancestry.com) and later when they added HeritageQuest Online. I recently went to meet her for lunch, and as I waited for her to finish up I noodled around with HeritageQuest.

HeritageQuest had indexes that Ancestry lacked, so I decided to seek out the third big player, Genealogy.com, and do a comparison. I initially thought it would be a short report listing who-had-what. This list of census indexes and images for various years could be used with our Library Database to go to those libraries with the subscription to the service you need for that particular census year. Looking at the services though, it became clear to me that each online census subscription service

had different strengths and weaknesses. I tried to give you an idea of how these various services work in an article that appears in the electronic section this month.

Though not mentioned in my article, it would also be possible to use a soundex microfilm, and noting the state, county, township/city, enumeration district, etc., you could go to the virtual archives with one of these services and pull up the "film" and look up your ancestor without an online index. You can order the soundex microfilm at your nearest Family History Center. If it is an Illinois soundex, your public library should be able to get it from Springfield, often without charge, or you could go to the Newberry to use it. (Hint: use the CAGG-NI Library Database to see who has those films!)

See you soon

Beverly Levine Smallwood



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What's Nu with Stephen P. Morse

From Gary Mokotoff's Nu? What's Nu newsletter

Stephen Morse is in the process of moving his site to a new server. The new Home Page address is <http://stevemorse.org>. It may take a few days for this new domain name to populate throughout the Internet so, if the URL does not work, try again at a later time. His motivation is the recent erratic nature of the server at his current Internet Service Provider. This web site contains portals to the Ellis Island Database, Census records and other functions.

Stephen Morse Takes On Ancestry.com

After taking on the technical staff that developed the Ellis Island Database and putting them to shame, Stephen Morse has set his sights on genealogy giant Ancestry.com. He has created a superior portal to the 1920 and 1930 census data at the Ancestry.com site. He allows searches that go well beyond what the Ancestry technicians offer the user. Morse's new site is at <http://stevemorse.org/census/ancestry.html>

The Ancestry.com technicians designed a system that allows you to search by Last or First Name (Exact spelling, American Soundex or some wildcard ability), State, County, Township, Age, or Birthplace. To these capabilities the Morse portal to the Ancestry census sites has added the following search features:

- First, middle and last name may contain a set of characters or End with a set of characters
- Ancestry requires at least three characters to start a name for a wildcard search. Morse allows one or two characters.
- Search by relationship to Head of Household. An important feature.

One of the great advantages of the Ancestry.com index is that it is an all-person index; you can search for any person in the household. As I noted in a previous edition of "Nu? What's New?" this can also be a disadvantage when browsing for a particular family, because it increases the number of false positives (people that meet the criteria but are not who you are looking for). Restricting the search to only Head of Household narrows the search for a particular family.

- Search by microfilm number including a specific frame on the roll.
- Search by Enumeration District including page within the ED.

Morse 1930 Census Site Now Links to Ancestry.com

If you use the fee-for-service Ancestry.com site to retrieve images of 1930 census records, Stephen Morse and his colleagues have added a feature to their 1930 census site of value to you. The original purpose of the Morse site was to determine the Enumeration District from a street address. It covers all cities that have at least 45,000 people and some smaller ones too. Now the site also gives you the option to automatically retrieve the census image at Ancestry.com. To use this new feature, once an ED is determined, click on its identification and a new web page displays the streets that bound the ED. Then click the button "View Microfilm" which opens another page that provides details about the film itself. The section of this page titled "View Census Images" permits you to automatically link to the Ancestry.com site. Just click the "Display" or "Display-2" button. Another section, titled "Contents of Roll" provides valuable information about searching the actual microfilm roll, identifying the position of the ED within the roll itself. The Morse site is located at <http://stevemorse.org/census/index.html>

Morse Ellis Island Site Now Includes All Ports

For some time the Morse Ellis Island in One Step site permitted searches by port of departure. This list of ports was only a sampling of about 100. Morse has informed me that he has completed implementing all 732 ports that brought immigrants to Ellis Island. The feature is available on the so-called White (background) Form located at <http://www.jewishgen.org/databases/eidb/ellis.htm>

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Chicagoland Family History Centers

FAMILYSEARCH™



Buffalo Grove FHC News (Cook, Lake Counties)

15 East Port Clinton Road
(Corner of Prairie & Port
Clinton Roads)
1-847-913-5387

Hours: Wed., Thurs. 10:00am-
2:00pm and 7:00pm-9:30pm
Sat. 10:00am-2:00pm
Closed Sunday, Monday, Tuesday
and Friday

This FHC conducts educational sessions on the 3rd Tuesday of the month beginning at 7:30pm at the FHC. Call the FHC to find out what the topic will be. April 15th was use of land records presented by Jonathon Scribner. You could find out what your ancestors paid in taxes.



DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
NATIONAL CEMETERY ADMINISTRATION
WASHINGTON DC 20420

April 14, 2003

Dear Volunteer:

Thank you for contacting the National Cemetery Administration (NCA) as a potential volunteer in our Memorial Inventory project. Thus far we have received a very good response to this project from individuals, organizations, and government offices across the country. We will continue to seek volunteers until all our memorials are inventoried—probably through spring 2003.

Now that you've indicated an interest, here is how the program works. NCA estimates there are approximately 300 memorials located at about 100 of its cemeteries. We know more about some of these structures than others, and there may be some memorials "discovered" during the survey process. We will attempt to match interested individuals or a group of volunteers to one or more memorial(s) at an NCA cemetery near them. Once a volunteer accepts the project and a start date is set, he/she will go to the Cemetery Director or office that administers the cemetery (not all cemeteries are staffed) to pick up an inventory packet. Volunteers may survey multiple memorials.

- The survey package will contain: a 4-page survey questionnaire, *Supplemental Instructions*, cemetery map, one roll of black-and-white film per memorial, an application for voluntary service and waiver of data ownership.
- Volunteers are responsible for providing their own transportation, 35mm camera, measuring tape, clipboard, and the cost of local film processing (about \$10).
- Volunteers are asked to take measurements and photographs, write down memorial inscriptions, keep a log of photographic views, and record other physical attributes of the memorial on the form. Most questions are multiple choice, with one or more selections to be made. Volunteers are encouraged to conduct some historical research at local libraries, archives, historical societies, or similar repositories. We recommend allowing approximately 8 hours per memorial for all information gathering.
- At the conclusion of the information-gathering phase, volunteers will return all documentation to the cemetery office. In the next stage, the cemetery staff enters the survey information into a computer database, and forwards all original materials (survey, photographs/negatives, photocopies of research material) to NCA headquarters. Eventually these records will be provided to the Smithsonian American Art Museum for inclusion in its sculpture database, which can be accessed at: <http://www.siris.si.edu/>.

NCA will make every effort to assign memorials to volunteers on a first-come, first-selected basis. Because there are typically one to five memorials in a cemetery, we anticipate many more volunteers than memorials in some localities. We will post periodic updates about the Memorials Inventory project on our website, at www.cem.va.gov, under "What's New."

If you wish to be assigned a memorial(s) please reply to this email, or write to:

Darlene Richardson (Memorials Inventory)
National Cemetery Administration
Department of Veterans Affairs
810 Vermont Ave., NW (402B4)
Washington, DC 20420

Sincerely,
NCA History Program

This letter was sent to Larry Olson in response to his inquiry.



Other Group Events *compiled by Beverly Levine Smallwood*

21 APR 2003 - 7 PM

Using MadCat (Library Catalog) for Genealogical Interlibrary Loan (Tentative)

Zion Genealogical Society

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

24 APR 2003 - 7:15 PM

St. Charles Public Library

Linda Bloom-DeGroot - Cemetery Research

Kane County Genealogical Society

<http://www.rootsweb.com/~ilkcgs/>

26 APR 2003 - MOLINE, ILLINOIS

2003 Annual Quad Cities Genealogical Conference

FEATURES 4 TOPICS BY MARK LOWE, CG.

<http://www.rootsweb.com/~ilbgsrim/news/2003GenConference.html>

01 MAY 2003

TBA: Preserving & Restoring Photographs

Tinley Moraine Genealogists

Tinley Park High School, 6111 W 175th Street

03 MAY 2003 - 10 AM

Schaumburg District Library

POINTers in Person

<http://www.rootsweb.com/~itappcnc/>

03 MAY 2003 - 1:30 PM

Union Ridge Cemetery Tour

One of the oldest cemeteries in Chicago, located on the Northwest side of Chicago.

Chicago Genealogical Society

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

08 MAY 2003 - 7 PM - CRYSTAL LAKE

Grace Dumelle - Genealogical Resources at the Newberry Library

McHenry County Genealogical Society

<http://www.mcigs.org/MeetingNew.htm>

13 MAY 2003 - 7 PM - FREMONT LIBRARY

PAUL MILNER

Finding Your English Ancestors: The Big Four (civil registration, census, church records, and probate)

Lake County Genealogical Society

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

15 MAY 2003 - 7:30 PM

Forest View Educational Center

Becky Stewart Higgins - Orphan Trains

Northwest Suburban Council of Genealogists

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

15 MAY 2003 - 7 PM ELGIN

HELEN SCLAIR, THE CEMETERY LADY:

Mourning Customs: Past and Present

Elgin Genealogical Society

<http://www.elginarea.org/egs/page3.html>

17 MAY 2003 - 10 AM - RICHMOND, IL

Kathleen Pickens

The Wonderful Welsh:

An Introduction to the History and Culture and Country of Wales

BIGWILL

<http://www.rootsweb.com/~wiilbig/meet.htm>

17 MAY 2003 - 8:30 AM - CRYSTAL LAKE

Maureen Brady - The "Mysteries" of FamilySearch.org

½ day seminar, \$15

McHenry County Genealogical Society

<http://www.mcigs.org/HalfDay.htm>

19 MAY 2003 - 7 PM

Julie Weber - German Research

Zion Genealogical Society

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

21 MAY 2003 - 7PM - WHEATON

Linda Herrick Swisher - Beyond Obituaries: Using Newspapers in Genealogical Research

DuPage Genealogical Society

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

Other Group Events (Continued)

**** Workshops & Conferences ****

28-31 MAY 2003 - PITTSBURGH

National Genealogical Society Conference

<http://www.eshow2000.com/ngs/>

21 JUN 2003 - DES MOINES, IOWA

German Conference

SPONSORED BY THE GERMAN INTEREST GROUP OF THE IOWA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY FEATURING MARION WOLFERT
Contact Celia Mitschelen at cmitsch@ix.netcom.com
for more information

07-10 JUL 2003 - SPRINGFIELD

**Genealogical Institute of Mid America
(GIMA)**

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

11-12 JUL 2003 - INDIANAPOLIS

Midwestern Roots 2003

Family History & Genealogy Conference

<http://www.indianahistory.org/midwesternroots/>

SPEAKERS INCLUDE TONY BURROUGHS, AMY JOHNSON CROW,
JOHN PHILIP COLLETTA, CYNDI HOWELLS, MICHAEL JOHN
NEILL, LORETTO SZUCS, CURT WITCHER, AND OTHERS.

12 JUL 2003 - WHITEWATER, WI

German Interest Group

Wisconsin - Conference

Featuring Marion Wolfert of Salt Lake City, Utah
<http://www.rootsweb.com/~wigig/workshop.html>

03-06 SEP 2003 - ORLANDO

Federation of Genealogical Societies Conference

<http://www.fgs.org/2003conf/FGS-2003.htm>

22-24 JAN 2004 - ST LOUIS

**National Genealogical Society
GENTECH Division**

<http://stlgs.org/gentech2004/index.html>



How Can We Help?

**Write an Article
for the Newsletter**

**Bring Refreshments
to a Meeting**

**Present a Meeting
Program**

**Suggest a Topic
for a Meeting**



Locating Census Records *by Beverly Levine Smallwood*

Census records are rich sources of information about family units and individuals. There are more ways than ever to access the census and more indexes than ever to help you locate your families. I will discuss how the records are arranged and microfilmed, as well as reviewing three subscription services that provide images and indexes for a price.

The census has been taken every 10 years since 1790. The first several census returns were to be kept in the county and just the totals were reported to the Federal government. Years later, the Feds asked for the original returns, only to find that many of them had gone missing.

The Feds took the census records and bound them into volumes. These are arranged by year, state, and county. Within the county they are typically broken down by enumeration districts in the later years or by township or ward in the earlier. No name indexes were necessary until the mid 1930s when people needed to use recent census returns to prove their age and birth place in lieu of a birth certificate. Because of the size and scope of the records, an index became necessary.

The census books were transferred to St. Louis where a team of WPA workers filled out index cards. They began with 1920 and 1900 censuses for all states. The cards were then arranged alphabetically – but the census bureau still couldn't find anyone due to problems with spelling variations. After studying the problem, they decided to use the soundex system. Each card was pulled and soundexed, then filed by state, soundex code, and first name of head-of-household. Only partial soundexes were produced for the 1880, 1910 and 1930 censuses. See Table 1 page 10 for details.

Also in the 1930s, the Feds began microfilming the census records in their possession (most of 1890s returns had burned and part of some early census years never made it to Washington). They also filmed the soundex cards. The originals were later destroyed. The microfilms are made available to the public 72 years

after the original census day, so 1930 was released in 2002.

Fast forward to the present. Heritage Quest digitized the census and will sell you film rolls on CD-ROM, one disk per film reel. They also produced indexes for the 1870 and 1910 censuses on CD-ROM. Ancestry.com began putting digitized images online as a separate subscription. They were the first to completely post and index the 1930 census. Genealogy.com also began putting census images online for their subscription service, including a complete index for 1900. Heritage Quest eventually teamed up with ProQuest and now has an online version as well, though it is available only to libraries.

As you can see from Table 1, every census year is covered and many of them are indexed by one service or another. Other than Ancestry's 1930 and the 1880 on FamilySearch.org, all indexes are only the head of household, unless someone with a different surname is found in the household. If you go to the Place Index on CAGG-NI's library pages, and click on "Entire US", you will find them under Misc. Databases.

I went to the Winnetka Public Library to look at HeritageQuest Online and was very impressed with many aspects of their site. The simple search allows input of a name, a state, and the census year. The Advanced search [Figure 1] accepts in-

put of name, state, census year, county, location, age, sex, race, and birthplace. Age is a drop down box with decade selections like 0-10, 11-20, 21-30, etc. So, you can search for the Hugo Larson living in Cook County, Illinois, who was born in Illinois and is between 21-30 years old.

My only complaint is that you could not do a soundex search, nor could you use wildcards (a symbol to stand in for one or more letters). Thus, you would need to perform separate searches for every possible spelling of the name: Larson, Larsson, Larsen, Larssen, etc.

Once found, you are able to view the census image at 100%, 200% or 400% as either a positive or negative image. You may also print it or save it to file. If you wish to transcribe the census, and I recommend that you do so in addition to saving or printing, don't forget the PDF census forms on the CAGG-NI web site under Research Data Forms.

Ancestry has a newer, better viewer for the 1930 census than the others. Eventually, they should reconfigure them all. Ancestry's search form for 1930 [Figure 2] & 1920 allows searches by name, age, birthplace, and state, county, and township/city of residence. The name field allows either exact or soundex searches on the last name. You may also use a wildcard symbol in either or both of the name fields, but must specify the first three letters. In other words, "Hen*" will pull both Henry and Henrik. Since the

1930 census is indexed on every name, not just head of household, take advantage of the child with the unusual given name to locate the family. Once found, you may zoom in and out, print, or save the image.

The earlier indexes allow searches by name and location only; birth place and age are not available options. You

Figure 1



HeritageQuest Advanced Census Search

Locating Census Records (Continued)

Figure 2

Search the 1930 U.S. Federal Census

First Name: Last Name: Spelling:

Filter Your Search By:

State: County: Township: Age: Birthplace:

Ancestry.com 1930 Census Search Screen

may also read a census page by page by clicking on the year, the state, the county, and the district/township/ward.

Genealogy.com, the subscription side of Family Tree Maker, had the most disappointing search facility. The initial search screen [Figure 3] has places for First, Middle, and Last names and a

to find him. You may not use wildcards or soundex either, so you must try every possible spelling of the surname with each possible first name. Even more frustrating, I could not limit my results to only those men living in Illinois or the 1900 census.

If you click on the US Census col-

Once you get your list of men and their locations (county, township/ward, page), you will have to look at each image to see if you found the right guy. Many of the links were to the image before the one containing the name, so you should also page through it as well.

I was unable to view 1910 images online, though it would let me print a rather unreadable copy. There is no toll free support, so you have to call long distance during business hours to get help on this.

The indexes of the three services were of varying quality as well. I was unable to locate Hugo Larson in the 1920 Ancestry index. I found him quite easily in the HeritageQuest index. Having found him, I went back to Ancestry and searched for any man whose name is Hugo, age 32, born and living in Illinois. It brought up my guy under “Tarson”. Other searches came up on Ancestry that could

Figure 3

Search for an individual:

First Name: Middle: Last Name: Show Results For:

Your Data Collections



The U.S. Census Collection
Follow your U.S. family history decade by decade, getting reliable documentation of births, moves, and marriages — all the changes that happen over time.

Genealogy.com "main" search screen

dropdown box to select either all databases or just one (in this case the census collection). You cannot limit it to a particular census year, state, or county from this screen.

The Advance search [Figure 4] screen lets you search on name, birth date, birth place, and collection (census – not a particular year or place though). It also has a spot for death date and place, but that doesn't apply to the census collection. You can not leave the first name blank as you can on the other two services, even though it does not say “required”. Thus, I had to do searches for Charles, Carl, and Karl, before I was able

lection from the main search page, under Your Data Collections, you'll get a list of census years. From there you may select “1900” to get a list of places that have been indexed. After clicking on “Illinois”, you may enter a first and last name. [Figure 5] This brought up nearly 100 Henry Nelsons in Illinois, with no way to narrow that down to just Cook County or men who are 28 years old.

Lastly, you can search using just the surname by putting it in next to “Jump to page containing surname”, but I don't suggest doing this for a common name.

Figure 4

Name

First: Middle: Last: (required)

Event

Event	Date	Location
Birth:	<input type="text" value="1856"/>	<input type="text" value="Sweden"/>
Death:	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

What to Search

Choose which Online Data Collections you wish to search.

Genealogy.com Advanced Search Screen

not be found in HeritageQuest. HeritageQuest's indexes are not yet complete for every state either, which can also cause some confusion.

None of the three sites has the 1880 indexed. For that, search www.familysearch.org then go back to one of these three and locate the image using the location and page number.

Locating Census Records (Continued)

My recommendation is to start with Ancestry since more libraries subscribe to it, then go to HeritageQuest for 1910, 1870, and anyone you can't find in 1920 with Ancestry. Use Genealogy.com only for 1900. If you still can't find them, go to the Newberry for Illinois census research. They have soundex films for 1880, 1900, 1910, and 1920. They also have maps for Chicago to help locate enumeration districts based on addresses. To use microfilms for other states, go to the National Archives on the south side of Chicago <<http://www.archives.gov/facilities/il/chicago.html>>, Allen County Public Library in Fort Wayne, Indiana

<<http://www.acpl.lib.in.us/>>, or the Wisconsin Historical Society in Madison, Wisconsin <<http://www.wisconsinhistory.org/>>, or order the film at your closest Family History Center.

If the online services were to ask my advise, they would digitize the soundex films and other finding aids so you could utilize their images in unindexed years. This would also provide a way to locate someone who doesn't turn up in the index. It would also be nice if they added an easy way to send in corrections or additions to the index.

Carefully note in your research log which searches you have performed – both the online service and the parameters and spellings you tried. Go back and recheck the various online indexes as they are corrected and completed over time. Don't assume that because someone is not on Ancestry's index for 1920 that the census taker missed them. Check out the HeritageQuest index, the soundex, and if all else fails, locate the enumeration district he should be living in and read it line by line.

Sometimes they pop right up, other times you work a little harder.

Figure 5

Table 1

	Ancestry.com	Genealogy.com	ProQuest	National Archives Microfilm
1930	images & every name index	images	images	soundex for select states ¹
1920	images & index	images	images & index	soundex for each state
1910	images only	images & index	images & index	soundex for select states ²
1900	images only	images & index	images	soundex for each state
1890	images & index	images & index	images & index	
1880*	images only	images	images	soundex for certain families ³
1870	images only	images & index	images & index	
1860	images & partial index	images	images	
1850	images & index	images	images	
1840	images & index	images	images	
1830	images & index	images	images	
1820	images & index	images & index	images & index	
1810	images & index	images & index	images & index	
1800	images & index	images & index	images & index	
1790	images & index	images & index	images & index	

*1880: every name has been transcribed at FamilySearch.org

1. 1930 soundex: AL, AR, FL, GA, KY (part), LA, MS, NC, SC, TN, VA, and WV (part)
2. 1910 soundex: AL, AK, CA, FL, GA, IL, KS, KY, LA, MI, MS, MO, NC, OH, OK, PA, SC, TN, TX, VA, and WV
3. 1880 soundex: only families with children under 10 years of age

Well, here we are again hoping to introduce new links that are informative and that will help you in your research.

LURGAN ANCESTRY

“A site developed by genealogy enthusiasts in Lurgan, Northern Ireland. To aid genealogy enthusiasts from all over the world.” As I browsed thru the site I discovered that it was divided into six different parts, a] Records on Line, b] Time Line, c] Maps/Photographs, d] Churches. e] Links and f] Message Board. A valuable resource for research

<http://www.lurganancestry.net/>

TOM'S BIG CHEST of OLD WELSH MAPS

“This is a set of Welsh county maps by Samuel Lewis and published in 1833. They have been photographed by a hand held digital camera directly from an original atlas, hence the fact that they may look distorted and some slightly out of focus.” As you review the links, you will also find maps on Scotland, England and Ireland.

http://homepage.ntlworld.com/tomals/Welsh-Maps-of-Samuel-Lewis_1833.htm

THE IRELAND CMC GENEALOGY RECORD PROJECT

The letters “CMC” in the project name represents what is collected and displayed. They stand for Christening, Marriage and Cemetery, as well as death records. Primary focus is directed toward the nineteenth century time period. The search engine lists data from all counties.

<http://www.cmcrp.net/index.html>

ADMINISTRATIVE DIVISIONS of IRELAND

There seems to be two books that refer to geographical divisions of Ireland that are key sources. “PARISH MAPS of IRELAND” and “A NEW GENEALOGICAL ATLAS of IRELAND” by Brian Mitchell. It shows the counties, dioceses, probate districts, parishes, baronies and poor law unions of each county. One error is noted: parishes of County Kildare. Also, it does not show the location of townlands. ISBN 0-8063-1152-5, Library of Congress 85-82530

<http://www.genealogical.com/ireland.htm>

OTHER SITES

The following two sites should be reviewed for content.

<http://www.rootsweb.com/~fianna/guide/land-div.html>

<http://www.from-ireland.net/contents/dublincontents.htm>

One site of interest suggested by Pat Weissshaus is:

<http://www.searchservices.net>

This site starts with a link to the various states. Each state's page then has links to various public records for that state. It is amazing the list of databases available just for Illinois. If you are working on your next high school reunion, try it out, the first database is for you.. Some databases are fee links but most are free.

The proverb I thought might be a motto for all researchers that I came across at one of the sites. “PROCASTINATION IS THE THIEF OF TIME.”

I hope the above links will assist you in your research. Please send your contributions to this column to cagg_ni@yahoo.com to be included in next month's column.

