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In The Electronic Section

Just in Time
for Memorial Day . . .

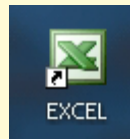
The History of Taps

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May 15, 2004



and



Tips and Tricks for the Genealogist

by Beverly Levine Smallwood

Beverly will demonstrate how to use these tools to facilitate and enhance your research.

She'll demonstrate:

- √ Templates
- √ Macros
- √ Auto text
- √ Auto correct
- √ Forms on the fly
- √ Form templates
- √ Sorting and reformatting of data.

June 19, 2004

Idiot's Guide to Scanning 101 for Dummies

by Larry Olson

Larry will demonstrate the basics he learned about scanning while trying to create an electronic family "album" of photographs and documents.

July 17, 2004

Where in the World Wide Web is Carmen Sandiego's Genealogy?

Carolyn Meeker

Like Carmen Sandiego, CAGGNI members will have the opportunity to give evidence on the effectiveness of various web sites investigated in the pursuit of our heritage.

The History of CAGG-NI

By Anne Jacobs

As stated on our homepage, CAGG-NI is a not-for-profit organization which focuses on assisting its members in research and using computers in this endeavor. It has grown and changed in scope and focus over the years.

Northern Illinois PAF Users Group was the beginning form of CAGG-NI. NIPAFUG was the acronym for this group. It was a product of the early 1990s LDS campaign to provide support for their software package, Personal Ancestral File (PAF). Each Stake House or FHC would create a support group which would meet regularly. The Salt Lake City software support group assisted in creating these groups by sending an initial mailing inviting PAF owners to a formation meeting. Invitations went out to hundreds of PAF owners in the area.

Approximately 250 people attended the initial planning meeting. The group was formed from these initial attendees. Many LDS members were the driving force behind the success of the group. Although not all attendees joined the group, a core group was formed. The first meetings were held on Sunday evening in the Stake building. The only genealogy software discussed was PAF. Various aspects of it and more general genealogy topics were presented at each meeting.

Meeting at the Stake House was very convenient. A church member would set up the equipment (if needed); members would set up and tear down the meeting room. Refreshments were added following the meeting, providing a more social aspect to the group meetings.

As the membership became more diverse, other software was used by members. Meeting topics began to change to encompass these new interests without a name change. Realizing that more people may find the group if its name was changed to reflect the new scope of its focus, the name was changed to Computer-Assisted Genealogy Group of Northern Illinois. This was shorted to CAGG-NI. Ken Brown suggested the

name and Everett Butler designed the logo.

Due to some disgruntled California genealogist and a law suit concerning broader use of LDS facilities, the LDS church moved toward no longer sponsoring and hosting these PAF support groups. The Schaumburg Stake House still offered meeting space at no charge. However, no longer sponsored by the church, it became increasing more difficult to schedule space without interfering with church sponsored organizations and events. The meeting day and time was changed but there were still conflicts. Other locations were contacted, priced and explored. Eventually, the group was



moved to Schaumburg Township District Library. This affiliation has been very amiable and hopefully mutually beneficial. The Library Staff has been very helpful and accommodating to the group.

A monthly newsletter was sent to members from the beginning of NIPAFUG. It began as a paste-up of various short articles totaling from two to four pages (1991-1993). Some software and book reviews were submitted by Jerry Kuntz. However, the majority of the content was created by Kathy Root, Editor. When Anne Jacobs took over the newsletter in March 1993, it grew into an eight to fifteen page publication (1993-2000). The newsletter was, for the most part, created by one person. Contents of these newsletters included notes from the preceding meeting, a listing of various local genealogy group meetings for the near future, copies of e-mails of interest, a monthly computer puzzler question with

the answer to the previous month's puzzler, a "humorous" tag line and a suggested question which may lead to family stories. These first versions of the newsletter were created by non-print savvy "editors". Eventually, a member with print background, Jim Cottrell, volunteered to produce the newsletter (2001-present). The newsletter took on a far more professional appearance. Graphics, including screen shots, were added. Various members provided the content to be assembled by the Newsletter Editor. The contents of the newsletter remained the same with the addition of regular articles on genealogy/computer topics. The main contributors were Bev Smallwood and Anne Jacobs. The newsletter was provided to membership as an attachment to an e-mail. This saved copying costs, postage and provided the newsletter on a more timely basis. Members could still receive a hardcopy, if desired. At this point, it was realized that there was no limit to size of the newsletter for those members who agreed to receive it via e-mail. Two versions of the newsletter were instituted. The shorter version, conforming to a single first class stamp, was sent to other genealogy groups, local libraries and members who still desired a hardcopy. A CAGGNIMember Yahoo Group was also formed to provide a historical repository for the newsletters. Two years of newsletters were kept in this facility. The electronic version is uploaded to this site monthly.

As the Internet became more ubiquitous, it became clear that any group with "computer-assisted" in its name must have a web site. Once again, a volunteer member without formal training in this discipline, Anne Jacobs, established the first web presence (1998-2000). Elements of the site were the portions of the newsletter, a page of members' surnames being researched, information on local Family History Centers and a number of pages of links to other websites of interest. Once a web knowledgeable member, Gerard Czadowski, stepped forward

Continued on page 4

President's Letter

Big news! CAGGNI now owns a projector! This will save us money at nearly every meeting. Once we've replenished our funds, we can look at other ways we can serve our members and expand our membership. Do you have any suggestions?

We have fundraisers scheduled through the end of the year. Please continue to participate.

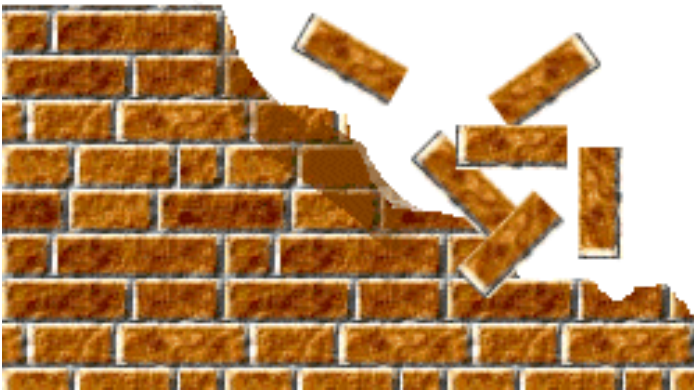
If you are planning a trip to Salt Lake City this summer, be sure to check for remodeling projects that are in progress. These are posted at <http://www.familysearch.org> on the Library Tab, under Remodeling. There are several projects in the works and some materials may be moved or unavailable at times.

This is a short piece and I'm taking a month off from writing. I'm hoping some of you will step up to the plate and provide some newsletter content. If not, it will just be a somewhat shorter newsletter.

See you soon.

Beverly Levine Smallwood

*Breaking Through
The Brickwalls*



Federal Military Pension Application Files Now Online

Did you know that you can now order Federal Military Pension Application files online? This is for the pre-WWI stuff. There is also a link to WWI and later, but only for the soldier or the next-of-kin of deceased soldiers.

Visit the web page located at: <https://eservices.archives.gov/orderonline/start.swe?SWECmd=Start> or follow the links from our web page to the Blog to the NARA pages.

Shop and Share Jewel-Osco



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April Meeting Notes

A Peek into Other Genealogists' File Rooms

By Joe Feitler

Moderator: Ann Ellen Barr

Panelists: Geneva Shay, Beverly Levine Smallwood, Larry Olson

This month's popular topic was well attended and positively received. A panel of members each presented their own methodology for organizing notes, documents and research plans. Each panelist has been collecting research results for 10 years or longer. Their collective knowledge was of great interest; however, it also proved that there is no one right way.

Geneva explained her system of folders using ancestor names and colored tabs to identify the type of information. Each file is sorted by localities, births, marriages, military, medical, tax, church records, obituaries, research notes, Internet leads. She originated this system many years ago in the absence of computers and software packages. Geneva also described her scheme for using Census records alphabetically by year, and histories of a given town or area. She has been maintaining index cards both here and in Tennessee where much of her research occurs. So she tries to maintain each family separately on her computer with CD-ROM backup. She does include material such as photos, directories (occupational, town) in a correspondence file. Geneva also marks her folders to denote if further research is still needed, and if the file's contents have been entered into her genealogy software. Recently, she has started to use Bygones, a free software package for the systematically indexed storage of research information and documents.

Bev outlined her personal strategies for coping with regional Norwegian and Swedish family naming customs that make her ancestry tracing efforts exceptionally tricky. She cites many of her unusual record keeping schemes in her article on page 2 of the April 2004 CAGG-

NI Newsletter. Its title is *Organization is more than a Filing System*. This article also cites several helpful references that she mentioned during her talk. Bev stressed her use of Bygones to "supplement" her *The Master Genealogist* (TMG) database. Her switch to Bygones for the systematic storage of source and supplementary information has occurred on a gradual basis. She also showed several Excel spreadsheets she designed to take notes in forms that mimic the source records she was extracting.

Larry described his personal document organization scheme that he has been using for his complex ancestry searches, as well as his quest for resolving apparent conflicts among various available ancestral research resources. Larry also stressed problems resulting from the unusual regional family naming techniques, apparently conflicting census reports, as well as seemingly contradictory birth, marriage, death, and burial records. He provided a two-page overview of his file organization to demonstrate his very systematic approach. By sheer luck, his ancestors seemed relatively unaffected by the periodic changes in the borders of Central European countries that confound many other ancestry researchers. He also cited William Dollarhide's major contribution *Managing a Genealogical Project*. Larry uses a set of impressive hard-cover notebooks for storing the results of his research. He is also switching over to Bygones on a gradual basis and when time permits, but has no plans to convert all his past research files to Bygones due to the overwhelming effort needed for such a task.

There was a request for more detailed information about two recommended resources of archival supplies:

University Products (Mail Order or Web) <http://www.universityproducts.com>

Calumet Photographic, Inc. (Mail Order, Web, or Retail Shop) <http://www.calumetphoto.com>

Retail Shop at 890 Supreme Drive, Bensenville, IL: Phone: (630) 860-7458 FAX: (630) 860-7481

Driving Directions: They are located in a large white building along Thorndale Road, between York Road and Illinois Route 83 at the only traffic light between these major roads; turn south at light into the first parking lot on the right and look for the large CALUMET sign on the building.



History (continued)

to revamp and manage the site, it grew to a large, informative, well-organized and professionally presented site (2002-present). It has moved from its infancy to a mature full featured site. A search facility now pinpoints pages containing specific content and an RSS feed provides articles of interest to genealogists. More added features include a "Day Trippers Guide to Local Libraries" (a database of resources available at local libraries), PDF census forms available for download, both products of Bev Smallwood's imagination. A new proposed feature of the site may be an index of the newsletter content.

Many members use a software package called The Master Genealogist, TMG. As this is such a flexible package, it may be used in many ways. This special interest group shares their knowledge and techniques in using this software. The group meets monthly on the week preceding the regular group's meeting.

All this adds up to quite an active group putting on over 20 full programs yearly, a prized newsletter and a website which services the local genealogical community, including non-members.

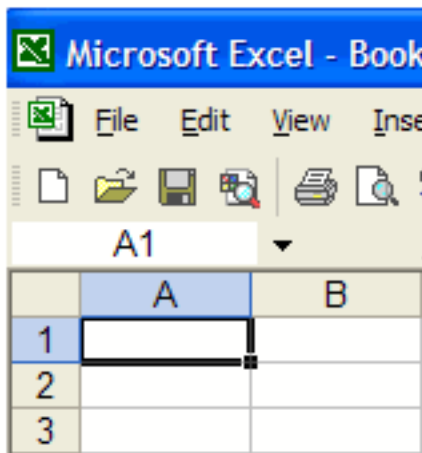
Control Excel Entry Movement for Ease of Use

By Anne Jacobs

At a recent meeting, using Excel was discussed for data capture (and at the upcoming CAGG-NI May meeting). The idea was to create a format for data entry which makes data transcription easy. This would mean that you create a format which lists data columns in the order which you are transcribing. This makes data entry easy. Just look and key, hit enter, look and key. However, if the cursor (selection) does not follow the format you have created, it is no longer easy.

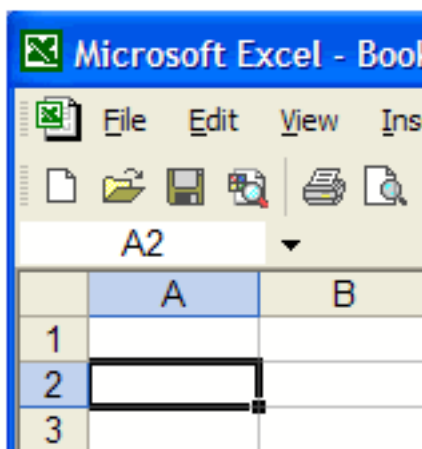
When depressing the Enter key, data entry moves to the next cell which will receive data. This is normally set to move down.

Figure 1



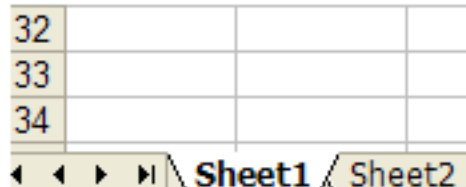
Enter

Figure 2



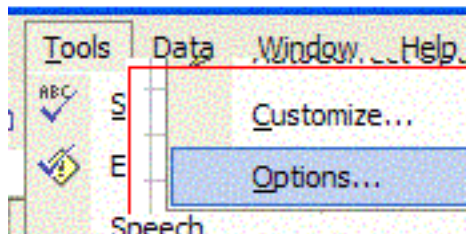
However, you can control this¹. For each workbook, you can change it. The cursor movement applies to all worksheets in the workbook. If you want to change the direction of cursor movement, the same behavior will all occur in all worksheets in the workbook.

Figure 3



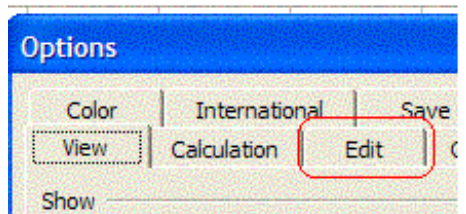
In order to change this setting, you access the Tools>>Options dialog window.

Figure 4



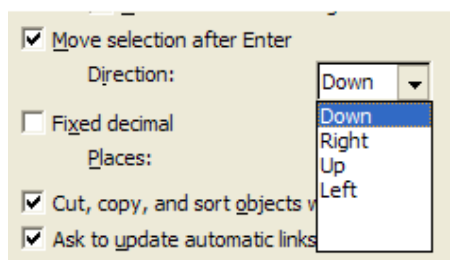
The Edit tab has the setting we are looking for in this case.

Figure 5



The “Move selection after Enter” setting is the one which controls cursor movement. The selections, as you can see in Figure 6, are Down, Right, Up and Left.

Figure 6



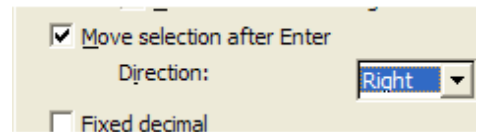
“Down”, listed first, is the default. If we create a template similar to Figure 7, we would want entry to move to the right with each entry.

Figure 7

	A	
1	Name	Relati
2		

Make this change.

Figure 8



And entry becomes easy with each depression of the Enter key.

Figure 9

	A	
1	Name	Relati
2	Jones, John	
3		

Enter

Figure 10

	A	B
1	Name	Relationship A
2	Jones, John	Head of HH
3		

(Footnotes)

¹ Note that this cannot be adjusted for Microsoft Works Spreadsheet. There is only one setting, move cursor or not.

Other Group Events *compiled by June Buller*

17 MAY 2004 - ZION 7 P.M.

SANDRA HARGREAVES LUEBKING

Circumventing Blocked Lines

Zion Genealogical Society

<http://wkkhome.northstarnet.org/zion/>

19 MAY 2004 - WHEATON 7 P.M.

Daniel Niemiec

Methods For Finding Catholic Church Records in Chicago

DuPage County Genealogical Society

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

20 MAY 2004 - 7:30 P.M.

GRACE DUMELLE

If Your House Could Talk

Northwest Suburban Council of Genealogists

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

19-22 MAY 2004 - SACRAMENTO

NGS Annual Conference and Genealogy Exhibit

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

23 MAY 2004 - CHECK BACK FOR LOCATION

RABBI VICTOR MIRELMAN

Sephardim after the Expulsion from Spain in 1492

Jewish Genealogical Society

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

26 MAY 2004 - WAUKESHA

Ellen Follman - Cemetery Research

Waukesha County Genealogical Society

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

27 MAY 2004 - GENEVA - 7:15 P.M.

KEITH CORYELL

Introduction to the New Geneva History Center

Kane County Genealogical Society

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

4-6 JUNE 2004 - MONTGOMERY, IN

DRS. EBERHARD AND RUTH REICHMANN

German-American genealogy workshop

Palatines to America Genealogical Society

<http://www.palam.org/events.htm>

5 JUNE 2004 - CHICAGO

Daniel J. Kane - Planning A Research Trip

Chicago Genealogical Society

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

6 JUNE 2004 - SKOKIE

Full Day Workshop

L'Dor V'Dor /

From One Generation to the Next

Jewish Genealogical Society

Program is now posted on their website

<http://www.jewishgen.org/jgsi/meetings.htm>

8 JUNE, 2004

PAUL VALASEK

Polish and Polish American Research

Lake County (IL) Genealogical Society

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

10 JUNE 2004 - ST. CHARLES - 7:15 P.M.

Sandra Luebking - Genealogy Case Studies

Kane County Genealogical Society

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

13 JUNE 2004

TERESA MILOSZ-HINTZKE WILL DISCUSS HER BOOK

Six Years 'til Spring

A family's experience during World War II

Polish Genealogical Society of America

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

19 JUNE 2004 - DES MOINES

SPEAKER - ROGER MINERT

Summer Conference

German Interest Group

of the Iowa Genealogy Society

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

21 JUNE 2004 - ZION

Blocked Lines Workshop

Zion Genealogical Society

<http://wkkhome.northstarnet.org/zion/>

23 JUNE 2004 - ALBANY, NY

Palatines to America National Conference

Palatine Footprints

RICHARD PAWLING AND JOHN HUMPHREY, PRESENTERS

<http://www.palam.org/events.htm>

Other Group Events

10 JULY 2004 - WHITEWATER WI

**Full Day Workshop
Insights in Your German Past**

ROGER MINERT, A.G.

German Interest Group-Wisconsin

SASE to German Interest Group-Wisconsin

PO Box 2185, Janesville, WI 53547-2185

for registration brochure

<http://www.rootsweb.com/~wigig/index.html>

11-15 JULY 2004 - SPRINGFIELD

**10th Annual Genealogical Institute
of Mid America (GIMA)**

Illinois State Genealogy Society

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

11-17 JULY 2004 - WASHINGTON, D.C.

National Institute on Genealogical Research

Annual week-long study program

www.rootsweb.com/~natgenin/htm

8-11 SEPT. 2004 AUSTIN, TX

**Legends Live Forever: Researching
the Past for Future Generations**

Federation of Genealogical Societies

www.fgs.org

25 SEPT 2004 - ANNUAL CONFERENCE

PAUL MILNER AND BROTHER JOSEPH MARTIN, SPEAKERS

Hopping the Pond...and Back

Fox Valley Genealogical Society

<http://www.rootsweb.com/~ilfvgs/index.htm>

24-31 OCT. 2004

**Fall Research Trip to the
Family History Library**

Palatines to America

MARY LOU DELAHUNT, TRIP LEADER

For more information: Call 309-344-5116

6 NOV. 2004 - COLLEGE OF LAKE COUNTY

Sandra Luebking, Beverly Smallwood

Daniel Niemiec

Ancestral Harvest: Sources and Techniques

Lake County (IL) Genealogical Society

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

TMG Users

A Little Known Fact

By Ken Cowan

If you replace your computer, it is a “given” make a GEDCOM and a backup before replacing your computer. But there is more!

I found it necessary to replace my faithful computer because it was acting sick. Both of my sons had provided me with their independent and personal technical opinions - “replace it”. They also both prompted me to make my backups. They did want to see a grown man cry over lost family history files.

I purchased a new computer and proceeded to take on the task of loading programs and files. It all went smoothly until the TMG loading. I spent about two hours trying to get past the front door. The requirement to provide SN (32 alpha numeric) and my email address sounds easy enough. After a couple of hours of failure, I sought help from tech support at Wholly Genes. The tech response to my problem: “You need to provide your assigned SN and email address”. Then the question, “Have you changed your email address?” My reply “Yes, but I’m not sending an email”. The tech response “Your email address at the time you register your program is part of the key, together with the SN. So both the SN and the email address is the key”. My new email address would not work; my email address had been changed when Comcast and ATT made their change.

So keep your SN and the email address at the time of registering your TMG package in your files for safekeeping and ready for use when you need to confirm your TMG account with Wholly Genes. It will save time and frustration.



Help is now available for Google Searches.

Does Boolean Logic leave you cold? Have trouble constructing advanced searches? Still checking all the hits from your last search? There is a new website to help you use Google more efficiently for genealogy searches.

Free Genealogy Search Help for Google <http://www.genealogy-search-help.com/> will help you construct various search parameters and feed them to Google. All you need to do is fill out some basic pedigree information and the website creates several different, sometime very complex, searches on Google.

A full review can be found in Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter, Vol. 9 No. 12 – March 22, 2004 <http://www.eogn.com/archives/news0412.htm>

The Story of Taps

As told to Frank McGovern by Major Thomas E. Walsh, retired

I thought that you might find this interesting. Recently I attended a funeral with full military honors. At the end, all heard the haunting song, "Taps". It is the song what gives us that lump in our throats and usually creates tears in our eyes. But, do you know the story behind the song? If not, I think you will be interested to find out about its humble beginning.

Reportedly, it all began in 1862 during the Civil War, when Union Army Captain Robert Ellicombe was with his men at Harrison's Landing in Virginia. The Confederate Army was on the other side of a narrow strip of land. During the night, Captain Ellicombe heard moans of a soldier who lay severely wounded on the field. Not knowing if it was a Union or a Confederate soldier, the Captain decided to risk his life and bring the stricken man back for medical attention. Crawling on his stomach through the gun fire, the Captain reached the stricken soldier and began pulling him toward his encampment. When the Captain finally reached his own lines, he discovered it was actually a Confederate soldier, but the soldier was dead.

The Captain lit a lantern and suddenly caught his breath and went numb with shock. In the dim light, he saw the face of the soldier. It was his son. The boy had been studying music in the South when the war broke out. Without telling his father, the boy enlisted in the Confederate Army. The following morning, heartbroken, the father asked permission of his superiors to give his son a full military burial despite his enemy status. His request was only partially granted. The Captain had asked if he could have a group of Army band members play funeral dirge for his son at the funeral.

The request was turned down since the soldier was a Confederate. But, out of respect for the father, they did say they could give him only one musician. The Captain chose a bugler. He asked the bugler to play a series of musical notes



he had found on a piece of paper in the pocket of the dead youth's uniform. The wish was granted. The haunting melody, we now know as "Taps" used at military funerals was born.

**Day is done
Gone the sun
From the lakes
From the hills
From the sky.
All is well,
Safely rest.
God is nigh.**

**Fading light
Dims the sight
And a star
Gems the sky
Gleaming bright
From afar,
Drawing nigh,
Falls the night,**

**Thanks and praise,
For our days,
Neath the sun,
Neath the stars,
Neath the sky,
As we go,
This we know,
God is nigh.**

I too, have felt the chills while listening to "Taps" but I have never seen all the words to the song until now. I didn't even know there was more than one verse. I also never knew the story behind the song and I didn't know if you had either so I thought I'd pass it along. I now have an even deeper respect for the song than I did before.

This Memorial Day and every day remember those lost and harmed while serving their country.

Land Records

The National Archives has a free publication online for genealogists researching Land Records, http://www.archives.gov/publications/general_information_leaflets/67.html#intro

The National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) is the official repository for records of the U.S. General Land Office, Bureau of Land Management, that document the transfer of public lands from the United States to private ownership. The case files generated by over ten million such individual land transactions, known as land entries, and the tract books and various name indexes used to access them, are located in the National Archives Building, Washington, DC.

NARA has custody of the land entry case files for the thirty Federal public land states. There are case files for all states in the US except the thirteen original states, Vermont, Kentucky, Tennessee, Maine, West Virginia, Texas, and Hawaii. These states were never part of the original public domain.

Information Found in Land Entry Case Files

These files can contain a wealth of genealogical and legal information. Depending upon the type and time period of land entry, the case file may yield only a few facts already known to the researcher or it may present new insights about ancestors, family history, title, and land use issues. Case files for land entries made before the 1840s may contain only the name of the entryman; the land's location, acreage, and price; and the date and place of the land entry. Or they may, in cases of military bounty land warrants and private land claims, establish a record of US military service or reveal that the claimant settled a location before it was annexed by the United States.