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September 18, 2004

GenSmarts

Presented by
R. Aaron Underwood

GenSmarts is an inexpensive software "add-on" tool that uses artificial intelligence to analyze your existing genealogy file and produce research suggestions. It has a list price of \$29.95.

GenSmarts directly integrates with several popular genealogy programs including: Ancestral Quest™ (AQ), Ancestry Family Tree, Family Tree Maker® (FTM), Gedcom, Legacy Family Tree®, Personal Ancestral File (PAF), RootsMagic™ and The Master Genealogist™ (TMG). It helps you generate and track "to do" lists, print worksheets to record your search results, and plan research trips to libraries, court houses, etc. To link you to online research, it also features direct integration with FamilySearch.org and several other popular research web sites. This integration produces links that already have your ancestors name and specifics embedded - making it much easier to perform online record lookups.

October 16, 2004

How to Learn Software in 30 minutes

Presented by Everett Butler

Everett has years of activity in genealogical research and enjoys helping others get started. His passion is learning to leverage new software tools and guiding others to do the same.

November 20, 2004

Quick and Easy Photoshop Elements

Presented by
Beverly Levine Smallwood

Beverly will show some simple fixes you can make to your old photos using Photoshop Elements including cleaning up dirt, dust and scratches, adjusting brightness and contrast, layers, history, filters and printing.

August Meeting Notes

GEDCOM Presentation

by Anne Jacobs

Reported by Joe Feitler (Secretary)

GEDCOM is LDS's special software standard to facilitate the systematic conversion of information stored by one of several popular genealogy software packages into data appropriate for another vendor's genealogy package. Anne then explained when to use the GEDCOM program, as well as how to use it. She explained that an intermediate GEDCOM file is structured like a book: A Preface, one (or more) Chapters to represent a particular family, an Index, and an Epilogue. Here she illustrated this with a partial GEDCOM file.

GEDCOM represents LDS's acronym for Genealogical Data Communication; currently it is at Revision 5.5, with a version 6.x promised in the future. Anne pointed out the important difference between GEDCOM as a standard used by genealogical researchers, and GEDCOM as an intermediate storage medium (such as a diskette or a CD-ROM) using a text (or ASCII) file format that still resembles that originally used for a punch card record (with the data type suffix ".txt").

There are several key considerations for planning a successful (i.e., a complete with minimal human intervention, or even none) GEDCOM file transfer:

- Every single data type in the source information (for example, a "Tag Type" in TMG) needs a corresponding unique and pre-defined GEDCOM data type for its intended intermediate GEDCOM file.

- Similarly, every single data type in the intermediate GEDCOM file needs to be matched up to corresponding unique and pre-defined GEDCOM data type to accept this information for the intended genealogy package (e.g., PAF or Family Tree Maker).

- If either of these necessary matching requirements is not met completely, some of the available source (or intermediate) information cannot reach the desired destination data file, with po-

tentially dire results – "The information described by any unmatched or missing data type will fall on the floor!"

- The character symbols used for foreign language place and people's names usually create special problems since are not identifiable as peculiar data types. For example, German "umlauts", Swedish, and Slavic letters in their respective alphabets usually have very different equivalents in the popular Genealogy software packages (or even in a word processing package like WordPerfect or MSWord).

- In special cases the information within an intermediate GEDCOM file may need special editing before submitting this particular GEDCOM file to the destination software package, perhaps with the aid of a utility program.

Recent GEDCOM versions now include the ability to transfer graphics and photographic images, again with the prerequisite need to confirm the presence of the special matching data types for automating these transfers.

Anne then cited several helpful utility software packages to ensure the completeness of a planned GEDCOM information exchange: GENTECH (www.gentech.com) offers GenViewer to provide examples of data that help explain why information disappears during a GEDCOM conversion. A CAGG-NI visitor suggested that GenViewer seems to be an excellent technique for reviewing GEDCOM files received from another researcher. In addition, Anne also provided copies of a prior CAGG-NI handout that included numerous special hints on how to cope with certain GEDCOM problem situations.

Similarly, WhollyGenes (<http://www.whollygenes.com>) offers GenBridge as a conversion tool for use in conjunction with their The Master Genealogist (TMG) package. By the way, TMG can accept information from certain other Genealogy products directly (that is, without using a separate GEDCOM conversion step).

Virginia Military Dead Database

The Library of Virginia is posting a database to honor Virginians who lost their lives while in military service. It may be searched in a variety of ways. Guides detail the nearly 385 sources of information. It currently contains more than 18,145 records covering the Indian Wars up through the current war in Iraq. The Revolution is not represented here.

<http://www.lva.lib.va.us/whatwehave/mil/vmd/index.asp>



CAGenWeb Archives Project

CAGenWeb added a new archives project as of June 28, 2004. "The intention of this site is to provide the researcher with as much information as possible through the collection of many databases. All information on the site is free - to remain free - and will not be used for any profit or gain whatsoever."

<http://www.cagenweb.com/archives/>

President's Letter

September already! The kids are back in school and it is fall genealogy conference season. There are plenty of local societies hosting an all day seminar with multiple lecture tracks and vendors showing their goods. The price usually includes a very nice lunch as well.

- Minimal travel.
- No hotel costs.
- Genealogical education.
- Browsing books and other genealogy stuff for sale.
- and Lunch!

I highly recommend you check out the Other Events section of this newsletter or go to the calendar on our web site and pick out a couple.

Last month, our own **Anne Jacobs** give us the low down on GEDCOM. I know that we all came away with new ideas to tackle those downloads that our software just won't seem to open.

This month we have **R. Aaron Underwood** demonstrating his GenSmarts software. I wrote a mini-review of an early version of the software in our August 2003 newsletter. He has made many improvements and added many new sources since then. A reprint of **Beau Sharbrough's** review from *Ancestry Daily News* is in the electronic section of this newsletter. (see below)

Briefly, GenSmarts is a software package that will read your genealogy database (many popular programs are directly imported, but GEDCOM is an option). Once inside GenSmarts, your data is analyzed and research suggestions are offered. It will print specific to-do lists for a visit to various libraries or initiate searches of various free and subscription web sites. (In order to search a subscription web site, you'll need to be a subscriber.) Not only does it tell you that you should search a particular source, it tells you *why* you should search that source. Other reviews include:

Beau Sharbrough's "Rootsworks: GenSmarts" *Ancestry Daily News* (8/12/2004) <http://www.ancestry.com/rd/prodredir.asp?sourceid=831&key=A890901> (reprinted in this newsletter's electronic section)

Megan Smolenyak Smolenyak's "Honoring Our Ancestors: GenSmarts" *Ancestry Daily News* (1/22/2004) <http://www.ancestry.com/learn/library/article.aspx?article=8077&print=1>

Nancy Hendrickson's "Digital Aide" *Family Tree Magazine* (February 2004) <http://www.familytreemagazine.com/articles/feb04/genSMARTS.html>

Leland Meitzler's "GenSmarts - the Program We've Been Waiting For" *Genealogy Blog* (1/23/2004) <http://genealogyblog.com/index.php?p=638&more=1&c=1>

In addition, RootsWeb hosts a GenSmarts mailing list at <http://lists.rootsweb.com/index/other/Software/GENSMARTS.html> and the software web site has a forum and newsletters. (<http://www.genSMARTS.com/>).

CAGGNI's October speaker, long-time member **Everett**

Butler, will show us how we can learn any software package in 30 minutes. In November, I'll be showing you how PhotoShop Elements can help you easily fix old photos. So, using Everett's advise, you'll quickly master both GenSmarts and Elements!

See you soon.

Beverly Levine Smallwood



Officers

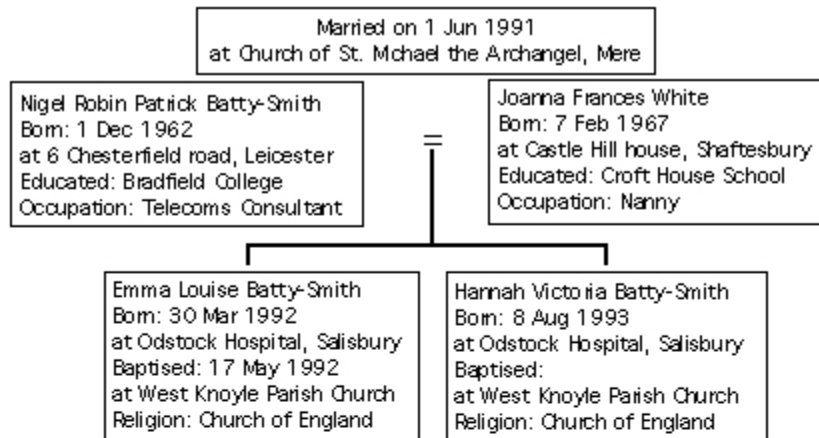
President	Beverly Levine Smallwood caggni_bev@yahoo.com
VP/Program Director	Harve Mankopf waterlooboogaloo@yahoo.com
Financial	Garth Conley G.Conley@Prodigy.net
Secretary	Joe Feitler j.feitler@ieee.org
Membership	Larry Olson LOlson@mountprospect.com
Promotion	Dan Wertz Wertz.mail@comcast.net
Publicity	Frank McGovern mcgovern342003@yahoo.com
Ways & Means	Anne Jacobs
Newsletter Editor	Jim Cottrell Jim@JCottrell.com
Webmaster	Gerry Czadowski GerryCzadowski@Covad.net
Librarian	Otto Knapp OKnapp@Juno.com
Archivist	Christine Clark clc1040@aol.com
Refreshments	Chris Herrmann ucherm@yahoo.com

GEDCOM Presentation Handout

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<http://web.ukonline.co.uk/nigel.battysmith/gedinfo.html>

copied from article: Introduction to GEDCOM



This is the start of the Header section. It contains information about the file, it's creator, when created etc.	0 HEAD 1 SOUR REUNION 2 VERS V4.0 2 CORP Leister Productions 1 DEST REUNION 1 DATE 19 APR 1997 1 FILE Master Database 1 GEDC 2 VERS 5.01 1 CHAR MACINTOSH
This is the first person in the file.	0 @I1@ INDI 1 NAME Nigel Robin Patrick /Batty-Smith/ 1 SEX M 1 BIRT 2 DATE 1 DEC 1962 2 PLAC 6 Chesterfield Road, Leicester 1 OCCU Telecomms Consultant 1 EDUC Bradfield College 1 RELI Church Of England 1 FAMS @F1@ 1 CHAN 2 DATE 24 NOV 1996
This is the next person in the file.	0 @I2@ INDI 1 NAME Joanna Frances /White/ 1 SEX F 1 BIRT 2 DATE 7 FEB 1967 2 PLAC Castle Hill House, Shaftesbury, Dorset 1 OCCU Nanny 1 EDUC Croft House School 1 RELI Church Of England 1 FAMS @F1@ 1 CHAN 2 DATE 24 NOV 1996
This is the next person in the file.	0 @I3@ INDI 1 NAME Emma Louise /Batty-Smith/ 1 SEX F 1 BIRT 2 DATE 30 MAR 1992

GEDCOM Presentation Handout (continued)

This is the last person in the file.	2 PLAC Odstock Hospital, Salisbury 1 CHR 2 DATE 17 MAY 1992 2 PLAC West Knoyle Parish Church 1 RELI Church Of England 1 FAMC @F1@ 1 CHAN 2 DATE 17 FEB 1996 0 @I9@ INDI 1 NAME Hannah Victoria /Batty-Smith/ 1 SEX F 1 BIRT 2 DATE 8 AUG 1993 2 PLAC Odstock Hospital, Salisbury 1 CHR 2 PLAC West Knoyle Church 1 RELI Church Of England 1 FAMC @F1@ 1 CHAN 2 DATE 20 JAN 1996 0 @F1@ FAM 1 HUSB @I1@ 1 WIFE @I2@ 1 CHIL @I8@ 1 CHIL @I9@ 1 MARR 2 DATE 1 JUN 1991 2 PLAC Church Of St. Michael The Archangel, Mere 0 TRLR
This is the data to link the family together.	
This is the marriage data.	
End of the file.	

Other Resources

Family Search - FAQ - GEDCOM menu selection

http://www.familysearch.org/Eng/Home/FAQ/frameset_faq.asp?FAQ=faq_gedcom.asp

Cyndi's List: <http://www.cyndislist.com/gedcom.htm>

GEDCOM 101 by Jan McClintock <http://www.leisterpro.com/doc/Articles/GEDCOM101.html>

Paul McBride's link collection: <http://homepages.rootsweb.com/~pmcbride/genweb.html>

GENTECH: <http://www.gentech.org/ngsgentech/projects/Projects.asp>

XML GEDCOM Spec: <http://www.familysearch.org/GEDCOM/GedXML60.pdf>

Dick Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter: <http://www.eogn.com/>

The Genealogy Anonymous FTP site (lots of GEDCOM programmer goodies)

<http://ftp.cac.psu.edu/genealogy/gedcom/INDEX.html>

Perl (Computer Programming Language) GEDCOM manipulation extension module

<http://search.cpan.org/dist/Gedcom/>

Other Group Events *compiled by June Buller*

21 SEPT. 2004 - BUFFALO GROVE - 7:00 P.M.
**Mike Karzen - Genealogists' Higher Calling:
Reaching Out to Family**
This is a special training meeting of the Buffalo
Grove Family History Center
For information: George Rigert 847-838-2725

23 SEPT 2004 - GENEVA - 7:30 P.M.
Geneva History Center
Member's night - Hand's On Project Night
Kane County Genealogical Society
<http://www.rootsweb.com/~ilkcgs>

23 SEPT. 2004 - DARIEN - 7:00 P.M.
Myra Walcott - Using Family Tree Maker
Indian Prairie Library Genealogy Computer Group
[http://www.indianprairie.lib.il.us/
genealogy_group.htm](http://www.indianprairie.lib.il.us/genealogy_group.htm)

25 SEPT 2004 - ANNUAL CONFERENCE - NAPERVILLE
Grace United Methodist Church
Paul Milner and Brother Joseph Martin, Speakers
Hopping the Pond...and Back
Fox Valley Genealogical Society
<http://www.rootsweb.com/~ilfvgs/index.htm>

26 SEPT. 2004 - NILES - 2 P.M.
DR. RON GROSSMAN
Ashkenazic Jewish History
Jewish Genealogical Society
<http://www2.jewishgen.org/jgsi/index.htm>

30 SEPT - 2 OCT. 2004 - CLIVE, IOWA
Cindy Howells and Leland Meitzler
Using the "Net" On Your Family
Iowa Genealogy Society
<http://www.iowagenealogy.org/>

1-3 OCT. 2004 - DETROIT, MI
Convention: What is Past is Prologue
Crowne Plaza Hotel, Detroit Metro Airport
Polish Genealogical Society of Michigan
List of speakers and topics at
<http://www.feefhs.org>

2 OCT. 2004 - CHICAGO - 1:30 P.M.
Dan Niemiec
Tips and Tricks For
Family Treemaker Software
Chicago Genealogical Society
<http://www.chgogs.org/calendar.html>

9 OCT. 2004
Family History and Genealogy Fair
Walworth County Genealogical Society
CONTACT: DONNA KJENDLIC OR WRITE
Walworth County Genealogy Society
P.O. Box 159, Delavan WI 53115

11 OCT, 2004 - GLENVIEW
1:00 P.M. Computer Interest Group
2:00 P.M. - Lois Goff and Nancy Frederick
Help Can Be Around the Corner
North Suburban Genealogy Society
<http://www.wpld.alibrary.com/nsgs.asp>

12 OCT. 2004 - MUNDELEIN
Fremont Township Public Library
R. Aaron Underwood - GenSmarts
Lake County (IL) Genealogical Society
<http://www.rootsweb.com/~illcgs/index.htm>

12 OCT. 2004 - SCHAUMBURG - 7:30 P.M.
Maureen Brady - Using FamilySearch.org
Schaumburg Township District
Library Genealogy Group
Contact Tony Kierna at 847-923-3390

14 OCT. 2004 - CRYSTAL LAKE - 7:00 P.M.
Maureen Brady - Scottish Research
McHenry County Genealogical Society
<http://www.mcigs.org/>

16 OCTOBER 2004 - SPRINGFIELD, IL
Illinois State Genealogical Society
Fall Conference
Topics include: DAR, computers, document preserva-
tion, the WPA & CCC
<http://www.rootsweb.com/~ilsgs/>

16 OCT. 2004 - MADISON, WI
Wisconsin State Genealogical Society - Fall Seminar
Principle Speaker - James L. Hansen
Breathe New Life Into Your Research
<http://www.rootsweb.com/~wsgs>

18 OCT 2004 - BEACH PARK - 7:00 P.M.
Beach Park Village Hall
NANCY SALMELA
Capturing the Past - Writing Our Stories
Zion Genealogical Society
<http://wkkhome.northstarnet.org/zion/>

Other Group Events

21 OCT. 2004 - WHEATON - 6:45 P.M.

RALPH AND MARGE KROEHLER

Mistakes We May Make in Our Research: Based on 25 Years of Mistakes

DuPage County Genealogical Society
<http://www.dcgs.org/>

21 OCT. 2004 - ELGIN - 7:00 P.M.

Gail Borden Public Library

Dan Niemiec

Methods for Successful Italian Research

Elgin Area Genealogical Society
<http://www.elginarea.org/egs/>

23 OCT. 2004 - CHICAGO - 9:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M.

The Newberry Library - Open House

<http://www.newberry.org/events/L3calendar.html>

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 - GRAYSLAKE

Sandra Luebking, Beverly Smallwood; Daniel Niemiec Ancestral Harvest: Sources and Techniques

Lake County (IL) Genealogical Society

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

26 FEB. 2005 - ST. CHARLES, IL.

Workshop - 8:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.

Save the Day!

DuPage County Genealogical Society

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

1-4 JUNE 2005 - NASHVILLE, TN

NGS GENTECH 2005 National Conference

National Genealogical Society

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

9-11 JUNE - FORT WAYNE, IN

Palatines to America

2005 National Conference

Palatines to America

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

Webpages by Stephen P. Morse

You probably first heard about Stephen Morse when he developed alternate search forms to access the Ellis Island database. Using his forms, you could search in ways that the Ellis Island site simply had not provided, like browsing a particular ship manifest by ship name and arrival date.

Did you know that he has also developed new ways to search through data online, including those at Ancestry? Of course, you need an Ancestry subscription to view those results.

Ships Lists

- Ellis Island (1892-1924)
- New York City arrivals pre-dating Ellis Island including 1851-1855; 1855-1890 at Castle Garden; and 1890-1891 at the Barge office (Ancestry).
- Morton Allan Directory
- Ship Pictures (points to 10 web sites featuring ship pictures)

Census & Soundex

- ED finders for large cities by street names 1910-1930
- Get the NARA film number for a given ED number
- A 1920/1930 ED converter
- 1930 Occupation code converter
- Advanced Census search forms allowing you to search by name, age, birthplace, relationship, sex, race, place, or go directly to a particular film roll, enumeration district, and page.
- Street Name changes
- Soundex code generator

Vital Records & Naturalizations & Prison Records

- search forms to explore Anybirthday.com
- search different Social Security Death Indexes
- New York Naturalizations
- New York Incarcerations

Maps

- search forms to get zip codes
- search forms to get road maps & aerial photos
- convert an address to Latitude/Longitude

He also has tools on his web site to help you create your own search forms, search engines, and databases. Have a look at <http://www.stevemorse.org> and check back often for his latest additions.

Reprint of Beau Sharbrough's "Rootsworks: GenSmarts"

Ancestry Daily News (August 12, 2004) <http://www.ancestry.com/rd/prodredir.asp?sourceid=831&key=A890901>
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R O O T S W O R K S :
"GENSMARTS," by Beau Sharbrough

Sometimes you can't see the forest for the trees. If you've gotten as far back as your great-grandparents, you're working on eight families, and you can lose track of your research goals. GenSmarts (<http://www.gensmarts.com/>) is a great tool for helping you organize your research.

WHAT'S GENSMARTS?

GenSmarts is a computer program that compares your genealogy file to its knowledgebase of records and recommends research tasks. Your file is analyzed for missing or conflicting information, missing dates are estimated, and then research tasks to locate records containing the missing information are suggested. If you indicated that you have access to an online service such as Ancestry.com or Genealogy.com, the program will initiate online searches for you, filling in the name of the person and helping you get the search going.

It's a lot like having a knowledgeable research guide. I used to say "research assistant," but the program is too well versed in record contents to be a mere assistant. There is a free trial version available online. Try it. You might be surprised at the results.

THE SOURCE

The first thing you need is a genealogy file. GenSmarts features a "File Open Wizard" that will read files made by Family Tree Maker, Personal Ancestral File (PAF), Legacy, The Master Genealogist (TMG), Ancestral Quest, Ancestry Family Tree (AFT), or any GEDCOM format file. Once you identify the file type, you can either type the path where your file is located, or you can scan for it. This programmer must know me pretty well, because I would rather scan than type.

I've successfully opened files made in AFT, Legacy, TMG, and GEDCOM files. It takes only a few seconds to open a file, and files all work as you would expect.

THE RECORDS

GenSmarts is familiar with many kind of records, such as U.S. federal census, Illinois marriage records, Philadelphia County birth records, Worcestershire cemetery/burial records, Chester County will records, and U.S. revolutionary patriot grave records. The records are grouped by research locations, such as online sites (including Ancestry.com), the Allen County Public Library, the Clayton Library in Houston, the Family History Library in Salt Lake City, and many more.

Better yet, it will explain to you why that record would be important to you, such as this suggestion the program provided for my files:

"Researching the Mississippi 1880 Census makes sense because his child, Lulu Sharbrough was married in 1877 in (perhaps Smith County, Mississippi) and his spouse, Elizabeth Caroline Yelverton, died in 1891 in MS. The 1880 census is important because it contains birthplace information for parents of the people listed, as well as the relationships between people living in the household.

"NOTE: This suggestion is important because his mother's birth place has not been recorded, and could be obtained from this record."

THE LINKING

If you ask for just the Allen County Library tasks, you'll see the library's address and a long list of tasks for that repository. If you select the "Fauquier Virginia Marriage Records for Richard Luttrell" line on that page, you'll see the call numbers for four books at that library that should include this information.

You can also focus your search. On the "To Do List" tab, you can ask the program to show only tasks related to direct ancestors, tasks that fill missing data only, or tasks that are available free online. When you perform a search, you

can update the task as "found" or "not found." You can flag tasks as "plan to search" and limit the list to only the tasks that you marked with that flag.

Finally, you can sort your "To Do List" by research priority, surname, date, or geography.

THE SEARCHING

For example, I imported an AFT file. GenSmarts suggested that I check the Ancestry 1880 Census for Mississippi to find James Ivie Sharbrough's mother's birthplace. It suggested that the census record might look something like this:

Here is what this family might look like in 1880:

Father	Mother
Name	Age Born Born Born
SHARBROUGH, James	55 AL NC
Elizabeth	43 SC NC SC
Joseph	24 MS AL SC
Lulu	19 MS AL SC
Martha	16 MS AL SC
William	12 MS AL SC

When I clicked the link, a search of the 1880 census was initiated in a browser window, using "James" as the first name, "Sharbrough" as the surname, and "Mississippi" as the state. It came up empty, because he's on that census as J. J. Sharbrough, but dropping the first name produced a search result with 40-odd names, and J. J. was on there. The record said:

Father	Mother
Name	Age Born Born Born
SHARBROUGH, J J	53 AL NC SC
Elizabeth	43 SC NC SC

This search took about a minute, and one more piece of missing information in my file was found.

By the way, you can't enter the new information into your GenSmarts file. You have to go to your original genealogy program and enter your changes there. This makes sense to me—I'm using GenSmarts for research assistance, not for my main genealogy program. GenSmarts is an add-on.

Reprint

THE CLEAN-UP

I'm a bit of a nut about getting the data in my tree to be consistent—always using my place names consistently, for example. I like the Data Cleanup tab for just that reason. It contains three sub-tabs: Place Names, Save Issues, and Estimating. An example from a place name note:

“The place name in question, ‘Alsheim Bei Gronau, Rhineland-Pfalz’, comes from the birth event for Hottel, Anna Barbara (B.1713 D.1798). Because GenSmarts could not interpret this place name, GenSmarts estimated a place name for use in generating research suggestions, based on other events. The place name used by GenSmarts for this session will be ‘Alsheim Bei Gronau, Rhineland-Pfalz (perhaps Germany).’”

In the Estimating section, you will find things like:

“GenSmarts did not estimate a date of birth for this person because the date of other recorded events seemed to conflict.

“Here is a chronology of events for this person that may help you determine if there are any illogical dates in your data:

“ABT. 1900—her parent, A Clayborn Sr Jones was born GSEST. 1903—her parent, Ola Smith was born GSEST. 1909—her spouse, A J Wilson, was born GSEST. 1928—she was married
1929—her child, Emily Anne Wilson was born
1940—her child, Daniel Wilson was born
GSEST. 1948—her child, Emily Anne Wilson was married”

If her mom was born in 1903, and her child was born in 1929, that leaves only 26 years for her mother to get old enough to have her, and for her to get old enough to have the daughter Emily. GenSmarts thinks this is pushing it. Me too.

SUMMARY

I like the way GenSmarts helps me focus on and organize my research tasks. I think that one of its real strengths is that it explains why you want to see a given record and how that record might look when you find it. Such information would help beginners to understand the research process and to visualize success. Of course, I'd like it if this logic was part of my regular genealogy program, and I expect that GenSmarts is only the first program to manage research tasks the way that it does.

LINKS

The GenSmarts site <http://www.gensmarts.com/>

“GenSmarts,” by Megan Smolynyak Smolynyak (“Ancestry Daily News,” 22 January 2004) <http://www.ancestry.com/rd/prodredir.asp?sourceid=831&key=A807701>

MORE INFORMATION If you want to discuss your research organization issues, please drop by the RootsWorks

Forums at <http://www.rootsworks.com/forums>. Registration is free, and I'd be interested to know what kinds of issues you are facing.

Beau Sharbrough is a product manager at Ancestry.com. His articles contain his own views and opinions and do not reflect any corporate policy or statement by the company. He lives in Provo, Utah, where he is trying to see all of Utah's national parks. The RootsWorks series of articles focuses on genealogical applications for generic technologies. Please note that he cannot assist you with your individual computer and genealogy problems. Visit the RootsWorks website (<http://www.rootsworks.com>) for links to previous articles and Beau's lecture schedule (next stop: FGS conference in Austin, Texas, in September 2004). Copyright 2004, MyFamily.com.

Web Site Lists British Births, Deaths, Marriages - But You'll Pay

from Research Buzz newsletters

Submitted by Christine Clark

<http://www.researchbuzz.org/archives/001931.shtml>

If you're looking for information on British war dead and you don't mind filling out a somewhat snarky registration and paying some moolah, you might be interested in the Web site 1837Online (<http://www.1837online.com>).

(How is the registration snarky? Because you have to tick a box if you DON'T want a newsletter. Why do sites do this? You may gain subscribers to a newsletter but you lose gutbuckets of goodwill and credibility. Now every time I have to fill out a form on this site I will regard it very suspiciously. Is that what they want?)

Anyway, back to the site. Once you've registered you can start searching. Searching is divided into 1837-1983, 1984-Present, and Overseas. Pick a time period (or place) and you can search births, deaths, or marriages. You can narrow your search by date and by specifying the first three letters of a surname. I searched for WOD births, 1850-1900.

I got a list of search results which showed the quarter, the year, and the number of pages. However I couldn't view the page results until I bought "units". Units are cheap (£5 for 55 units, and they get cheaper as you buy more) and it doesn't look like you'll be able to pinpoint what you're looking for, view it, or print it, until you buy some.