

Big News from Salt Lake City

by Beverly Levine Smallwood
Page 2

Making Long URLs Tiny

By Beverly Levine Smallwood
Page 2

Family Histories Online

By Beverly Levine Smallwood
Page 4

Electronic Pages

Links Around the World

by Frank McGovern & Dan Wertz
Page 8

September Program Notes

Page 9

August Program Notes

Page 10

Tiny External Hard Drives

By Beverly Levine Smallwood
Page 11

Saturday, October 15, 2005

ISGS Fall 2005 Conference

Building Family Bridges Linking the Present to the Past

Holiday Inn Itasca, Illinois

There will be no regular meeting this month as CAGG-NI members will be presenting one of the tracks at the Conference.

CAGG-NI members who register for the conference will be getting a discount on the registration fee.

Please join us there!



November 19, 2005

Software Duel

Presented by Anne Jacobs

Learn the differences between our members' three most popular genealogy software packages. Each package is demonstrated by a member who uses that software.

December 3, 2005

2006 Planning Session

All Are Welcome!

Meet with the club officers and committee chairs to plan events for the coming year.

Big News from Salt Lake City

by Beverly Levine Smallwood

As you know from last month's newsletter, I was in Salt Lake City to do research and to attend the FGS/UGA conference. The big news at the conference was the LDS digitization project. They have begun the process of digitizing the microfilms they hold in the granite mountain storage facility. They project that it will take them six years to digitize their holdings, far outpacing their ability to index the images and thus make them manageable.

Hence the need for their second initiative: indexing. They are working on version one of indexing software designed to facilitate these projects. The software is quite impressive. An indexer using this software would download batches of images. The software moves the image around to pre-mapped views where the data item being entered should appear in the image. Context sensitive help and pre-loaded lists of possible entries (like all possible counties or cities for that area) further aid the indexer. Batches are sized to take about a half an hour to complete. When finished, the index is uploaded and compared to the same batch indexed by

someone else. The differences between the "A" and "B" index batches are reviewed by an arbiter. The software is also designed to help the project administrator oversee the volunteers with status reports, accuracy reports, and the like.

The plan is to match up genealogy societies or other groups with indexing projects and to put the results online. Future implementations could include linking existing indexes to images.

I had a chance to try out the indexing software in the exhibit hall. The first project is indexing Georgia state death certificates. I was amazed at how quickly and easily I was able to progress through the batch. This software really rocks!

The idea is to put the images and indexes online and make them freely available. One of the goals is to make doing research more accessible to the beginner. Making the process revolve more around names is certainly a good start in that direction.

Right now the process of finding a particular image is not for the faint of heart. In some cases it means consulting one or more indexes, then reviewing the catalog to try to decipher which film

would contain that entry, then scrolling through that film in hopes of finding the entry of interest. If it is the wrong John Doe, the process is repeated for each possible match until the right man is found.

Imagine instead plugging great-grandpa's name into a search form, perhaps limiting it to a place and time period, and clicking on the most promising result would bring up the image of the document as instantly as your connection speed would allow. If that is not the right guy, click on the next possible match until he's found.

To learn more about this project, visit www.ldsindexing.org.

PDF files of three of the presentations on this topic are available for viewing at http://www.familysearch.org/Eng/Library/Education/frameset_education.asp?PAGE=education_conferences_fgs_2005.asp

Other related links:

<http://deseretnews.com/dn/view/0,1249,605153189,00.html>

<http://www.dearmyrtle.com/05/0806.htm>

<http://tinyurl.com/8dtz2>

Making Long URLs Tiny

by Beverly Levine Smallwood

Ever have trouble sending a web link to someone because their email program breaks up that impossibly long URL into unusable chunks. Ever try to describe to them how to use copy and paste to reassemble the broken URL into the browser's address bar?

Fret no more. You may have noticed that I've included some really short links in the last couple of newsletters that expand into their former selves when used. This was made possible by a free web service called SnipURL of all things.

Just point your browser to <http://snipurl.com/> and paste the long URL into the box and click the button below that says "SNIP URL" and a new, small URL is generated and copied to your clipboard. Now all you have to do is go to your email or word processor and paste that new link in. In my article about tiny hard drives elsewhere in this issue I replace links that took three lines and contained 250 characters with one that was 23 charac-

ters.

Additional features are available if you become a registered user.

The screenshot shows the SnipURL website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for HOME, FAQ, SNIPURL, TERMS OF USE, BBS, and EVERYTHING ELSE. The main content area displays a success message: "Successful. Your snipped url(s): http://snipurl.com/8dtz2". Below this, it shows the "Original URL: 250 characters" and the "Snipped URL: 23 characters (9% of original)". There is a "SNIP THIS" button and a "URL in your clipboard now." message. A text input field labeled "THE LONG URL (required)" is visible. On the right side, there is an "OPTIONAL:" section with a "NICKNAME" field and a "PRIVATE? ENTER KEYCODE" field. At the bottom, there is a footer with links for Text-only version, Editor's picks, Contact us, Credits, and Copyright © SnipTools.com.

President's Letter

The planning meeting in September went very well. We have the program for 2006, planned as follows:

Jan	Everett Butler	Preparing Home Movies for Future Generations
Feb	Jeffrey Bockman	Real Research on the Web
Mar	Ed Rosenthal	What's new in 2006
Apr	Bev Smallwood	Organizing your Browser & Email
May	Carolyn Meeker	Genealogy: The process
Jun	Dan Wertz	Document Organization using Paper Port
Jul	Panel	Computer Basics
Aug	Breakout Groups	Software Fair
Sep	Larry Olson	Building Your Book
Oct	Gerry Czadowski	The Three G's – GIS, GPS, and Genealogy
Nov	Byron Atkinson	Digital Photography
Dec		Planning

Looks like another year of great programs for CAGGNI.

Thanks to the committee that created the program brochures for 2006! We will be handing out program brochures at the October 15, Illinois State Genealogical Society Annual Conference. CAGGNI will be delivering the technology track for the state conference, for the first time this year.

REMEMBER, THE OCTOBER 15, CAGGNI MEETING HAS BEEN CANCELLED.

We discussed the slate of officers for next year. We have some open positions. Thanks to the members, who have agreed to continue in their positions for another year or have volunteered to take over another position.

If you are interested in volunteering for any of these positions, please contact me.

The following is the slate of candidates which will be offered for approval in the November meeting.

2006 Slate of Officers

President	Open
Vice President	Harve Mankopf
Treasurer	Beverly Smallwood
Secretary	Joe and Eleanor Feitler
Publicist	Frank McGovern
Promotion	Dan Wertz
Membership Coordinator	Carolyn Meeker
Fund Raising Coordinator	Anne Jacobs
Web Master	Open
Newsletter Editor	Jim Cottrell
Newsletter Distribution	Sandy Franklin
AV Tech Team	Gerry Czadowski/ Beverly Smallwood/ Everett Butler
Meeting Coordinator	Charlie Ori
Archivist	Open
Lending Library	Open

Carolyn Meeker

Coming Next Month



Officers

President	Carolyn Meeker cmeeker8844@wowway.com
VP/Program Director	Harve Mankopf waterlooboogaloo@yahoo.com
Financial	Beverly Levine Smallwood caggni_bev@yahoo.com
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
Lending Librarian	Otto Knapp OKnapp@Juno.com
Archivist	Christine Clark cclark60646@yahoo.com
Refreshments	Chris Herrmann ucherm@yahoo.com

Family Histories Online

by Beverly Levine Smallwood

A growing collection of published family histories are going online, fully indexed and searchable, at Brigham Young University Library. These are out of copyright books obtained from the Harold B. Lee Library of BYU, BYU Hawaii, BYU Idaho, LDS Business College, Family History Library, and Church History Library which have been scanned, indexed, and converted to pdf files. There are reportedly 5000 volumes currently online and more being added every day.

To get there from BYU, go to <http://www.lib.byu.edu>. On this opening page there is a drop-down box labeled "more". Select "Online Collections" [Figure 1]. Once on the Online Collections page, click on the Text Collections tab and then click on Family History Archive. [Figure 2].

Now you may search for key surnames and places or even by title or author. [Figure 3] If you have a very unique surname or place name, you may type that in the "Search All" box and put a check mark in the box labeled "Search full text for additional results". This should be used sparingly as it could produce an unmanageable number of results. The search results may be viewed in a variety of formats, but I prefer the grid [Figure 4].

Once you are looking at a book, you may perform added searches within the book. [Figure 5]. Pages containing the search result are highlighted in red. Page numbers listed are the same as the page numbers in the book. Open a page highlighted as containing the search term you used. Now you may use the Find feature in Acrobat* to locate the text within the page. (*click on the binoculars or CTRL+F). [Figure 6]. Printing from Acrobat yields a better result than I ever got from wrestling with a book and copy machine.

Additionally, these online books are being linked to the Family History Catalog description. To access them

via the Family History Library's catalog, you must do a Title Search*. [Figure 7]. Titles of these family histories generally contain the root ancestor or at least the surname. Pick one of the results to see the catalog entry. Red text reading "To view a digital version of this book click here ." will link you to the book online. [Figure 8]

What could be easier?

*According to the instructions I heard it only works with Title Search, but I did find the same entry using Surname Search.

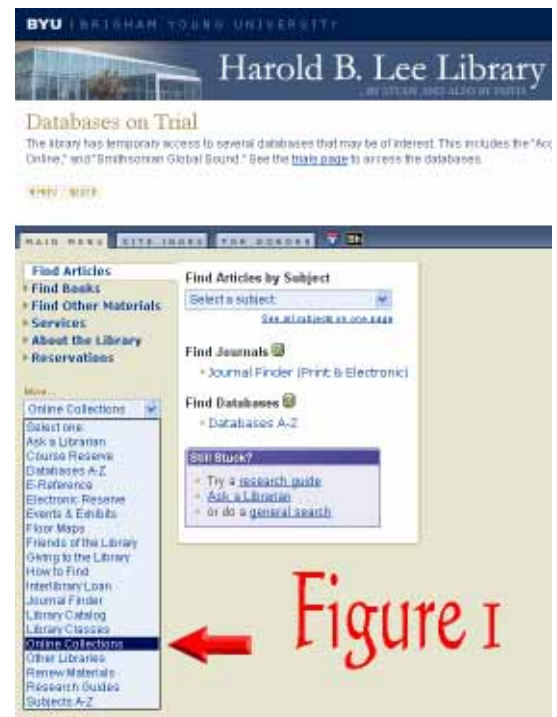


Figure 1



Figure 2



Figure 3

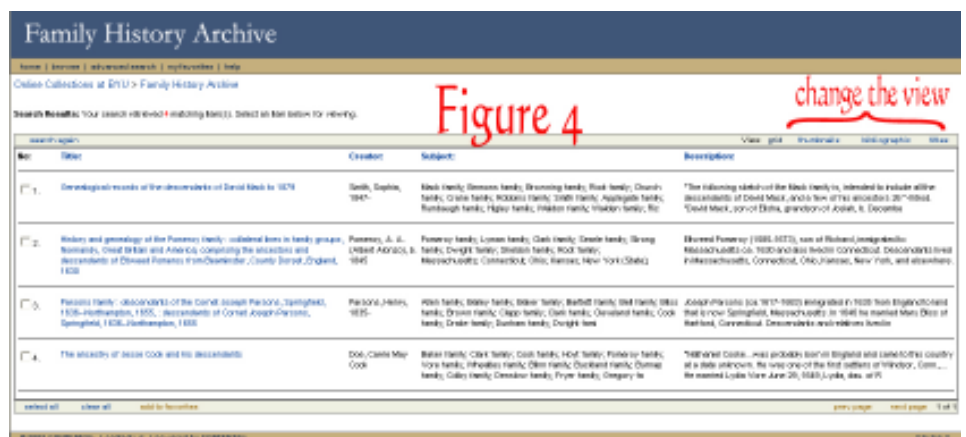
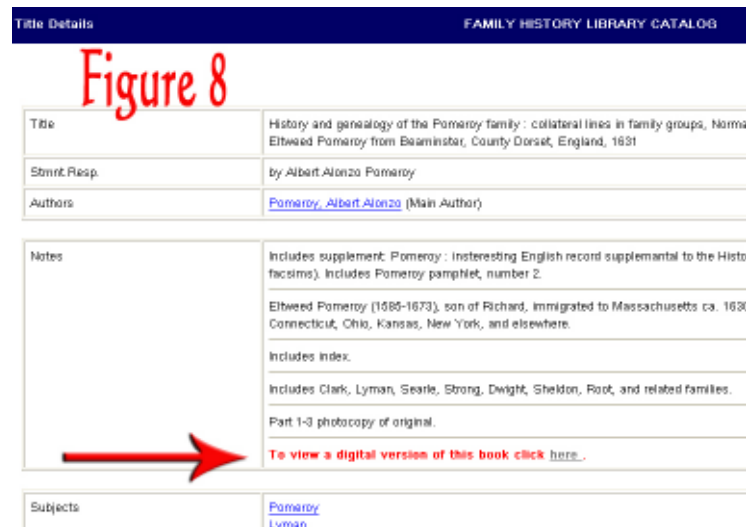
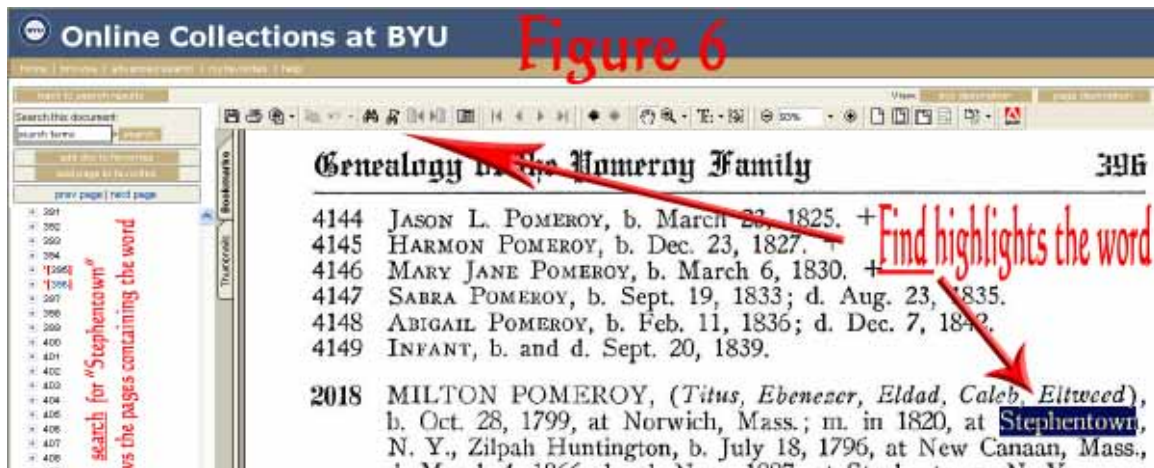
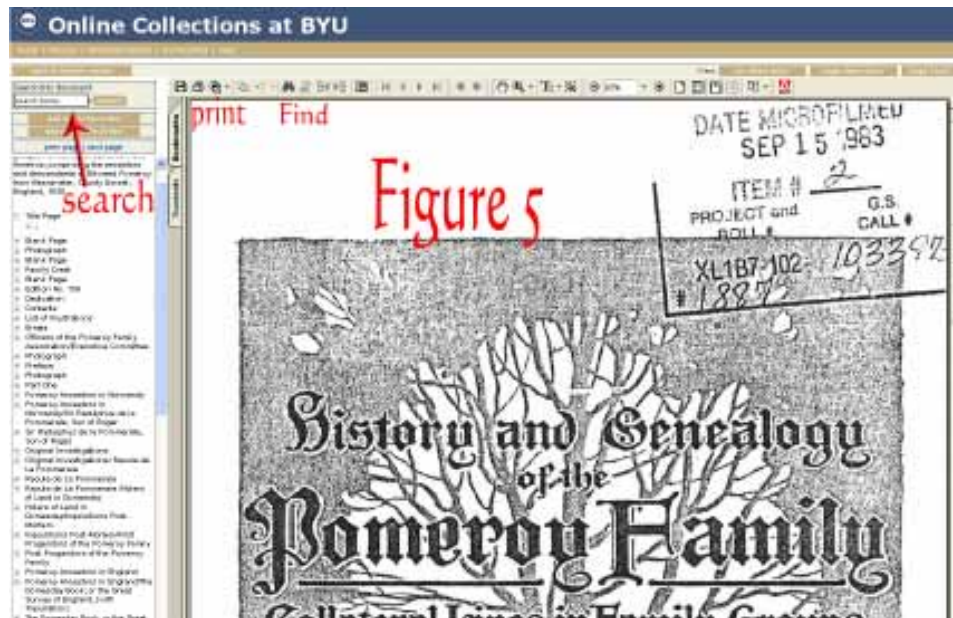


Figure 4

change the view

Family Histories Online



Other Group Events *compiled by Beverly Levine Smallwood*

17 OCT 2005 - BEACH PARK, IL

**Gloria Henke - Using State Censuses
in Genealogical Research**

Zion Genealogical Society

[http://wkkhome.northstarnet.org/zion/
zgsmeeting.html](http://wkkhome.northstarnet.org/zion/zgsmeeting.html)

20 OCT 2005 - ARLINGTON HEIGHTS

Everett Butler - Digitizing Records

Northwest Suburban Council of Genealogists

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

20 OCT 2005 - ELGIN

DEBBIE MIESZALA

World War I Draft Registrations

Elgin Genealogical Society

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

27 OCT 2005 - GENEVA

**Sharing Your Family History With Your
Family. How Do You Do It?**

Kane County Genealogical Society

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

30 OCT 2005 - SKOKIE

**Waldheim Cemetery Genealogical
Database Development Report**

Jewish Genealogical Society of Illinois\

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

30 OCT 2005 - CHICAGO 1-3 P.M.

Irish American Heritage Center

Genealogy Committee Meeting

<http://www.irishamhc.com/programs.asp#history>

03 NOV 2005 - TINLEY PARK

**Ron Otto - Seeking Villages of Origin
for German Born Ancestors**

Tinley Moraine Genealogists

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

05 NOV 2005 - NEWBERRY LIBRARY

REV. WILLIAM CORCORAN

The Irish after WWII

Chicago Genealogical Society

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

05 NOV 2005 - SCHAUMBURG

DR. GARY L. LIVACARI, D.D.S.

My Driving Tour of Mount Carmel Cemetery

POINTers in Person

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

07 NOV 2005 - JANESVILLE, WI

JOE SALMON

**When, How, and Why Wisconsin's German
Immigrants Came to Speak Only English**

German Interest Group - Wisconsin

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

08 NOV 2005 - SCHAUMBURG

JEFFREY BOCKMAN

**Cemeteries - Look High, Look Low,
Look Above and Below**

Schaumburg Twp Dist Library Genealogy Group

http://www.stdl.org/programs/programs_adult.asp

09 NOV 2005 - WINFIELD, IL

Jackie Torrence - Scottish Research

DuPage County Genealogical Society

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

10 NOV 2005 - NAPERVILLE

ANN KEATING

Development of the Encyclopedia of Chicago

Fox Valley Genealogical Society

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

12 NOV 2005 - HAZEL CREST

Mike Karsen

How to Write Your Family History

South Suburban Genealogical & Historical Society

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

13 NOV 2005 - CHICAGO

**The First Permanent Polish Settlers in
America Found Hope in Texas - 1854**

BY KATHRYN G. ROSYPAL

Polish Genealogical Society of America

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

17 NOV 2005 - ARLINGTON HEIGHTS

ANNE SHAUGHNESSY

**Genealogical Research at the
Mt. Prospect Library**

Northwest Suburban Council of Genealogists

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

17 NOV 2005 - ELGIN

BILL BLOHM

The Web Guide to Your Family History

Elgin Genealogical Society

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

Other Group Events

19 Nov 2005 - RICHMOND, IL

**Paul Milner - Effective Use of England's
National Archives**
BIGWILL

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

20 Nov 2005 - SKOKIE

BARRY FINKEL

**Unusual Sources of Genealogical
Information: Undiscovered Riches**
Jewish Genealogical Society of Illinois
<http://www.jewishgen.org/jgsi/index.htm>

21 Nov 2005 - BEACH PARK, IL

MAUREEN BRADY

Cook County Births, Marriages & Deaths
Zion Genealogical Society
[http://wkkhome.northstarnet.org/zion/
zgsmeeting.html](http://wkkhome.northstarnet.org/zion/zgsmeeting.html)

27 Nov 2005 - CHICAGO 1-3 P.M.

Irish American Heritage Center

Genealogy Committee Meeting

<http://www.irishamhc.com/programs.asp#history>

Workshops & Conferences

05 Nov 2005 - CLC

Annual Workshop

FEATURING PAULA STUART-WARREN, DAVID McDONALD, AND
BOB HECK

Lake County Genealogical Society

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

09-13 JAN 2006 - SALT LAKE CITY

Salt Lake Institute of Genealogy

FEATURING JAY VERKLER & JOHN PHILIP COLLETTA, PH.D.

<http://www.infouga.org/slc.aspx>

04 MAR 2006 - ST. CHARLES

31st Annual Conference

FEATURING JOHN KONVALINKA, ELIZABETH KELLEY KERSTENS,
CRAIG PFANNKUCHE, & MIKE KARSEN

DuPage County Genealogical Society

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

01 APR 2006 - AUSTIN, IN

**Indiana Genealogical Society
Annual Conference**

FEATURING DIANE VANSKIVER GAGEL, NAOMI SEXTON, DOR-
OTHY RICE & KANDIE ADKINSON

<http://www.indgensoc.org/conference.html>

22 APR 2006 - QUAD CITIES

**32nd Annual Quad Cities
Genealogical Conference**

JAMES L. HANSON, REFERENCE LIBRARIAN

Wisconsin Historical Society

[http://www.rootsweb.com/~ilbgsrim/news/
2006GenConference.html](http://www.rootsweb.com/~ilbgsrim/news/2006GenConference.html)

07-10 JUN 2006 - CHICAGO!

**CAGGNI is among the Consortia hosting the
National Genealogical Society Conference**
<http://www.ngsgenealogy.org/2006Chicago.cfm>

AUG 30-SEP 2, 2006 - BOSTON

**Federation of Genealogical Societies and
New England Historic Genealogical Society
Conference**

<http://www.fgs.org/2006conf/FGS-2006.htm>

AUG 15-18, 2007 - FORT WAYNE

**Federation of Genealogical Societies and
Allen County Public Library Conference**
<http://www.fgs.org/2007conf/FGS-2007.htm>



Check Your
Calendar

Links Around the World *by Frank McGovern & Dan Wertz*

Land Records Research Directory - Website gives you a good introduction to land records by state and a complete list of courthouses. You won't find individual land records here though.

<http://www.land-records.com>

GenLias - Civil Register —The information in GenLias is taken directly from the Civil Register, the most important Dutch source for genealogical research. Since 1811 the most important events in the life of every person resident in the Netherlands - birth, marriage and death - have been systematically recorded. Marriage records from all provinces are currently being entered into the system. After that most of the participating archives will start entering records of birth and death.

www.genlias.nl

German Genealogy - Links to German databases, ship lists, maps and how-to help.

www.geocities.com/german_genealogy

It's All Relative Genealogical Research Pages offers tools, resources, and information to help you search your Czech, Bohemian, Moravian, Slovak, Lemko, or Carpatho-Rusyn family history and ancestry. You will also find links to a wealth of information on the area formerly Czechoslovakia and now known as Slovakia and Czech Republic and related areas.

www.iarerelative.com

Croatia in English - This site is for English-speaking people who have an interest in Croatia — and especially for people of Croatian descent who were born into other cultures and who are now trying to learn more about their ethnic roots. The focus is primarily genealogy, but there is also some information on translation, travel, customs, and encouragement to visit the homeland.

www.croatia-in-english.com/gen

The Swenson Center, located at Augustana College, is a national archives and research institute providing resources for the study of Swedish immigration to North America, the communities the immigrants established, and the role the immigrants and their descendants have played in American life. This is achieved by promoting and initiating academic research in the field and by collecting and cataloging Swedish-American archival and library materials. Another major role for the Center is to assist people researching their Swedish-American family history.

<http://www.augustana.edu/swenson>

Applied Language Solutions - This free online resource translates up to 150 words or any Web page between English and 10 different languages, even Chinese. You'll find world maps and online foreign-language dictionaries here.

www.appliedlanguage.com/free_translation.shtml

This website is amazing. They actually have photographs of almost every School in the World. I was able to find my class picture. Unless you went to School when cameras weren't invented, you will find a photo of yourself or at least your classmates. Click on the link below: Enter the name of your school and Year that you were there.

<http://www.worldschoolphotographs.com/>

NEWS EVERY WHERE IN THE WORLD WITH JUST A CLICK.

<http://www.newseum.org/todaysfrontpages/flash>

<http://www.newseum.org>

The Statewide Illinois Library Catalog (SILC) is Illinois' first all inclusive statewide union catalog that integrates WorldCat and the Illinois Library Systems' local consortial OPACs, to provide both shelf status and interlibrary loan capabilities in a single searchable interface.

<http://findit.ilsos.net/OCLC>

We wish to thank Anna Jacobs for contributing websites to Links Around the World.

Group participation makes every group grow. If CAGG-NI members have any sites of interest please forward them to: mcgovern342003@yahoo.com or dan.wertz@comcast.net

September Program Notes

by Beverly Levine Smallwood

As is always the case, trying to describe one of Ed Rosenthal's programs is nearly impossible. There are so many facts and so much information that it's hard to get all the details. Thus, I include his handout with some comments and amplification of my own in brackets.

Video/Digital Conversion 9/17/05
Edward W. Rosenthal Sr., MPM, PMP
- rosenthal@aol.com

A Picture Is Worth A Thousand Words - Video Tells the Whole Story!

Types of Video

- VHS (only 240 lines of Horizontal Resolution)
- SVHS (400-450 lines of Horizontal Resolution) 60% better than regular VHS
- HI-8 (400-450 lines of Horizontal Resolution) Two separate channels also
- Digital 8 (525 lines of Horizontal Resolution) Another 60% better than SVHS
- MiniDV (525 lines of Horizontal Resolution)

• The size of the chip 1/3, 1/2, 3/5 makes a difference The bigger the chip the better the picture

• Use at least a 3 CCD video camera for 8MM film transfer

What is the relationship between VCD/SVCD/DVD and MPEG 2?

VCD/SVCD/DVD formats stored in optical disc & MPEG is a technology to compress audio & video data. VCD uses MPEG1 technology to compress data into 352x240 in NTSC SVCD uses MPEG 2 technology to compress data into 480x480 in NTSC * DVD uses MPEG2 technology to compress data. DVD can accept a variety selection of different resolution. Most common ones are 720x480 in NTSC (use no other format!)

VHS to DVD: Plextor/InterVideo ConvertX Plays back on Computer & TV

[This is a small device that connects to your computer and VCR, TV or camcorder to convert video tapes to

digital. Details are here <http://www.plextor.com/english/products/ConvertX-AV100U.htm>]



Roxio Easy Media Creator 7.5 Comprehensive suites of CD & DVD authoring and burning, photo, video, and music applications on the market - Available in NOW, Easy Media Creator 7.5 targets consumers who want to create, manage, share, and preserve their personal digital content.

[I have version 7 of this product and have found the "motion pictures" to be one of the best Ken Burns Effect generators I've tried.]

At 8x speed, the industry's fastest DVD DL burning speed, an entire 8.5GB disc can be filled to capacity in less than 16 minutes*-66 percent faster than first-generation 2.4x DVD+R DL media.

[DL = Dual Layer, a single layer DVD holds 4.8GB, a Dual Layer disk can hold nearly 9GB]

- 3 CCD Camcorder/SD Cards
- Panasonic's SDR-S100 camcorder
 - 2GB-SD Memory Cards (worlds most popular)
 - NO moving parts
 - Holds about 100 minutes of MPEG2 Video
 - Palm-held in October 2005 - \$1200

[Camcorders are getting smaller, lighter, and more capable. Storage is moving to flash memory cards which are fast and contain no moving parts.]

Thomson picks JPEG2000 for pro camera. Other uses are- Satellite Photos, Medical, High-end Reason - Encode once & decode in many ways

- Epson Perfection 4490 Photo
 - Digital ICE software for scratch and dust removal
 - Epson's Easy Photo Fix technology for color restoration
 - Perfection 4490 Photo (\$249) resolution of 4,800 x 9,600
 - Perfection 3590 Photo (\$149) and Perfection 3490 Photo (\$99) scanners have 3,200 x 6,400 dpi resolution. All three have front-panel buttons for automatic copying as well as generating Adobe PDF files.

[Scanners have dropped in price and contain features to make some clean-up automatic.]

Treasures – Talents –Technology Have a quarterly goal - One Project at a Time - Publish your dates

Here are a couple of related articles:

Melissa J. Perenson, "Burning Questions: Ten Tips for Durable DVD" PC World Magazine, December 4, 2003 <http://www.pcworld.com/howto/article/0,aid,113716,tk,wb120803x,00.asp>

Stan Miastkowski, "Step-By-Step: Burn Your Own DVDs for Backup or Video Playback" PC World Magazine, January 2004, <http://www.pcworld.com/howto/article/0,aid,113461,pg,1,00.asp>

Also mentioned at the meeting was a place in Naperville that Carolyn Meeker had used to convert 8mm movie footage and pictures to DVD called Memory Keepers. She was happy with the service they provided. Check them out at <http://www.memorykeepersonline.com> or at 216 South Main Street, suite 2A, Naperville, IL 60540 phone (630) 717-0278.

August Meeting Notes

21st Century Census Tools - (Part ONE) Presented by Beverly Levine Smallwood

CAGG-NI Meeting on August 20, 2005

Reported by Eleanor and Joe Feitler

The first talk presented several powerful techniques to simplify the access to census data consisting of numerous handwritten manuscripts with the aid of appropriate online indices and images. (See pages 5 and 6 of our August 2005 CAGG-NI Newsletter for printed details and numerous useful references provided by our speaker, and referred to here as “the article”). Additionally, there are many web pages explaining what they are, how to use them, how to find people [of current interest], etc. Furthermore, users can download helpful entry forms from certain web pages, or they can create customized forms with the aid of Excel spreadsheets and word processing software. Our CAGG-NI web site lists the search category “Research Sources” that leads to “Research Data Forms” where you may open and print census extraction forms. Ancestry has an online set as well. Excel spreadsheets are available for download from www.censustools.com.

Our speaker described her early approach (starting about 15 years ago) to this type of census search based on a limited set of printed indices, Soundex cards created by some 1930’s WPA workers, and then perusing microfilm records laboriously at the National Archives facility or at the Newberry Library. Today, images and indices are available on a home computer on a 24/7 basis (with a paid subscription), or gratis at many local Public Libraries.

Understanding the Census

The article described the web pages that describe the Census questions and the relevant instructions for the enu-

merators. The Census Day sets the legally defined date for the answers needed by the enumerators, even though perhaps solicited at a later date. The Census Year refers to the 12-month period immediately preceding the Census Day, starting in 1850. The Censuses taken from 1790 to 1840 listed only the “head of household” name (i.e., the name of a spouse or of a minor or adult child at that home did not appear), with tallies by age group, sex, and a few other characteristics. Starting in 1850, every person’s name appears, and as of 1880 these entries describe each person’s relationship to the “head of household”. Some supplementary schedules cited slaves, Indians, farms, businesses, (see the article for more categories).

The Soundex Indexing System

The Soundex Indexing System is a powerful search tool that tries to accommodate typical alternate spelling formats for surnames, and thus tends to improve the number of search results retrieved. But any use of such somewhat less rigorous search criteria also tends to display some irrelevant information that the researcher may disregard on a judgmental basis.

The article described the basic rules for creating these codes and for using such a code as a search argument. She notes however, that alternate spellings may generate different Soundex codes; furthermore, certain transcription errors or typos may complicate the online searches. Our speaker illustrated the selective use of “wild card” characters as particularly helpful for retrieving variants of first and last names.

Alternatively, searches were demonstrated using only a first name and other identifying characteristics (such as birthplace, approximate birth year, and county of residence) to get past a badly transcribed last name. For example, “Everyname” indexes allow a search for the children (or spouse),

rather than only for the head of household.

21st Century Census Tools - (Part TWO) Presented by Weldon Johnson

CAGG-NI Meeting on August 20, 2005

Reported by Eleanor and Joe Feitler

The speaker presented a novel timeline format from a free downloadable program package called CensusMate. The specialized format enables the genealogist to put the 1790 through 1840 US Census data to use in tracing one’s family members (a spouse or child) for name, age, and birth dates. The program offers downloadable spreadsheet tools to assist in analyzing pre-1850 census data. All such earlier census data listed only the “head of household”, in addition to the number of other persons within the household by age group (but not by name). In other words, “CensusMate” offers a systematic method for correlating potentially matching family members based on alternate sources with the tally numbers shown under male/female age groups. Using the provided forms (see how the forms were developed under the program’s subtitle – Explanations), as well as any supplemental data extracted from wills, bibles, marriage records, cemetery records, later census returns, vital records, probate records, land records, tax records. etc., the genealogist can try to reconstruct who and where the earlier family members were in these early census documents. This elegant scheme is designed to demonstrate family structures, as well as to reduce the uncertainty of birth years down to the smallest range of years possible as derived from an analysis of the ages cited at the time of the various censuses.

Furthermore, users can create even more customized work sheets that

August Notes (Cont)

result from adapting the postulated tabulation method to fit the individual researcher's need more closely.

The systematic approach prescribed by "CensusMate" thus offers a sophisticated approach for analyzing the early census returns with information you may have gathered from other – and perhaps later – sources.

Additional Resources for Searching and Expanding on Census Information

"Busting Out", (In the October 2004 issue of Family Tree Magazine on pp 26 – 33)

This article describes several powerful "work-around" techniques to avoid some typical roadblocks in genealogical searches such as the following:

Look for variations in a first, last, and middle name caused by transcription errors

Search for some misunderstood hand-written letter in a Census entry

Think of a phonetic transposition resulting from difficult foreign pronunciation and/or spelling

Don't be surprised by an "informal" change in the first and/or last names to "Americanize" an ancestor's name between successive Censuses

Try to search for companion travelers during the boat trip to the USA or Canada

Search for a woman by maiden name instead of married name (or the inverse)

Add a search of state and city directories (or databases)

Ask fellow genealogists to help in your search via an appropriate genealogy web site/page

Join some potentially helpful local, regional, or national genealogy group(s).

Tiny External Hard Drives

by Beverly Levine Smallwood

Once again, I was showing off my tiny external hard drive and many of you wanted to know how to get one of your very own. I truly think it's one of the best buys I made this year. It's small and light enough to cart with me everywhere. It's powered through the USB cable, so there are no bulky power supplies and cords.

I took it with to Salt Lake City last month and in addition to using it to back up my laptop hard drive, I used it like a jump drive in the copy center. Allow me to explain.

In the copy center of the Family History Library, on nearly every floor, they have microfilm scanners. You load your microfilm exactly as you would on any microfilm reader/printer, but you use the attached computer to scan the image to the hard drive. Once all the scans are finished, you name and save the folder. At this point you can burn the images to a CD or copy them to a USB connected device. Many people there were using jump drives or flash drives, but I plugged in my tiny 80GB external and copied the images to that.

Here's how to get one of your very own. You can go one of two routes. You can it ready made or buy the enclosure kit and hard drive and do it yourself. Ready made units are slightly more expensive, but typically are already formatted and ready to go – just plug and play.

Building it yourself involves a couple of screws and following the instructions on how to make your computer recognize the drive, naming the drive, and formatting the drive. None of this is particularly difficult, but can be scary the first time.

I got mine at newegg.com. I know that Fry's has them and I'm sure you can find them elsewhere as well.

The kit I bought is shown at the right. It's neither the cheapest nor the most expensive. It comes with the USB cable, the drive enclosure, software (if

you need it), and a nifty leather pouch. You can find this one and others at: <http://snipurl.com/ianv>

Next you need to pick out a 2.5" hard drive to put in the enclosure. There are a wide range of models and prices depending on the amount of storage you want and the speed of the drive. I chose a drive with 80GB of storage spinning at 5400 rpm. <http://www.newegg.com/ProductSort/SubCategory.asp?SubCategory=380> Then just follow the instructions.

If you want a ready built one, check these out: <http://snipurl.com/iao0>. The prices, again, will rise with increased speed and storage capacity.

By the way, if you were wondering what is a jump drive or thumb drive or flash drive. They are very small, plug in to a USB port, and typically come with a key chain or lanyard for wearing around your neck. They come in sizes from 32MB up to 2GB.

