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Saturday  
February 18, 2006

## Real Research on the Web

Presented by  
Jeffrey A. Bockman

Jeff will review the basic steps of genealogical research while showing useful internet sites containing "real records", indexes, or information about where to obtain records needed to do real research.

See the results from contacting new cousins and researchers. Learn how the speaker was able to contact and eventually meet cousins in Slovenia that were still living in the village and house where his grandmother was born.



**New Location for  
This Meeting Only!**  
Schaumburg  
Family History Center  
1320 W. Schaumburg Rd.  
Schaumburg, IL

March 18, 2006

### What's new 2006

Presented by Ed Rosenthal

Technology guru Ed Rosenthal will update us on the latest and greatest gadgets.

Previously, Ed has build several television stations and worked on TV shows such as Phil Donahue, Dinah Shore, and Al McGuire with Sports.

April 15, 2006

### Organizing Browser & Email

Presented by  
Beverly Levine Smallwood

Can't find that great website you found last week? Overwhelmed by so many emails that you can't keep up? Did you know that there are tools built right into your browser and email programs to control chaos?

## President's Letter

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25. ATTENTION: Change of Location for our Regular Meeting and following Board Meeting: Schaumburg Family History Center, 1320 W. Schaumburg Rd., FEB 18th ONLY!!! (Mormon Church) located 1.7 miles West of Roselle Road (on the North Side of Rd.)-- .3 miles East of Springinsguth Rd. Pizza will be served for Lunch, and the Family History Center hours (9-1) may be extended, so that you can check out the facilities. Everyone is Welcome at both meetings! Thanks to CAGG-NI VP/Programs, Everett Butler, for making the arrangements.

26. Bev Smallwood is keeping us up-to-date on the National Genealogical Society (NGS) Conference, to be held 7-10 JUN 2006, at the Hyatt Regency O'Hare, in Rosemont. CAGG-NI is a co-host on Wednesday Night, June 7th, 6:30-10:00 P.M. We hope to have a lot of members there as participants, as well as, volunteers and hosts. The cost is \$27 for this Night of jazz, desserts, and the opportunity to visit with conference attendees. The Exhibit Hall is free. We will need volunteers for our table during the conference, and The Chicago Consortium, which hosts the Conference, will also need volunteers. Until April 21, 2006, the Conference costs \$175 for NGS members and \$210 for non-members. Hotel accommodations would be an additional cost.

27. For most of the past 15 years, Anne Jacobs has been CAGG-NI's #1 Booster. She has started and handed over our Website, Newsletter, and Database. She regularly makes contributions at our meetings, mentors, advises, and has written articles for the Newsletter. CAGG-NI salutes her tremendous personal investment, and her many past, and present, contributions to CAGG-NI. Anne is presently CAGG-NI Fund-Raiser. She has scheduled Dominick's Benefit Days following our FEB 18th meeting –FEB 21-23 (Monday-Wednesday). Please postpone your regular shopping routine

until Monday, so that CAGG-NI will benefit. Please remember also that CAGG-NI is registered with Ancestry.com on our Website. Qualified purchases you make at that link, will benefit CAGG-NI.

28. In the January issue of the CAGG-NI Newsletter, 4 workhorses were recognized. In this issue, CAGG-NI recognizes Jim Cottrell, Newsletter Editor-in-Chief, our unsung hero. Jim has been Editor for the past 4-5 years, and he has been responsible for many improvements in the Newsletter as well as cranking one out every month.

29. One year ago, in April, The State of Illinois opened The Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum. The innovative Museum has a Disney-influenced interactive design. <http://www.alplm.org>

The Library includes The State Historical Library, as well as the Henry Horner Abraham Lincoln Collection. Ancestry.com, Heritage Quest, and a very complete collection of Illinois Newspapers are available. This is an often-used genealogical library.

Over the years, many Lincoln historical sites have been developed around the Springfield area. <http://www.state.il.us/HPA/> Watching the State Legislature is always entertaining. <http://www.illinois.gov> On April, 21-22, there will be a Secretary of State Illinois Archives Tour, sponsored by the Illinois Genealogical Society. <http://www.rootsweb.com/~ilsgs/spwkshp> In August, the Illinois State Fair is held. <http://www.agr.state.il.us/isf/> Our State Capital of 14 Million People is a lively place, and a tourist destination.

If you have the time, St. Louis, Missouri is only 100 miles further. The NGS collection is located at the St. Louis County Public Library. <http://www.slcl.lib.mo.us>. There is also a Missouri State Historical Society Library in St. Louis. <http://www.mohistory.org>. The St. Louis Genealogical Society is having a Genealogy Fair on April 8th. <http://www.stlgs.org>

[www.stlgs.org](http://www.stlgs.org)

30. Many of our members have heard of the Allen County Public Library in Fort Wayne, Indiana. <http://www.acpl.lib.in.us> This is a major genealogical library, after the Family History Library in Salt Lake. The Auburn, Cord, & Deussenberg (ACD) Festival is held every Labor Day, about 30 miles North of Fort Wayne. <http://www.acdfestival.org> CAGG-NI member, Paul Cord, contributed a family chart to the ACD museum. There is also a Lincoln Museum in Fort Wayne. <http://www.thelincolnmuseum.org>

31. Many of our members have also heard of the fantastic newspaper collection at The Wisconsin Historical Society, in Madison. <http://www.wisconsinhistory.org> The Max Kade Institute for German-American Studies is on the University of Wisconsin campus. <http://www.mki.wisc.edu> Madison is the State Capital of Wisconsin, <http://www.wisconsin.gov> and home of the University of Wisconsin. <http://www.wisc.edu>

32. Yahoo Groups is intended to be our interactive communication platform. Presently, only 80 of our 120+ members are enrolled. CAGG-NI will be working on 100%! You must accept the invitation timely, as well as keep your current email address up-to-date. After you have accepted the invitation and have a current email address, check Yahoo Groups, as well as our Website and Newsletter, in order to be an active member.

33. A ski area has a place for Snow Bunnies, Beginners, Intermediates, and Experts. Similarly, CAGG-NI hopes to serve many computer-skill levels. Many levels are part of any learning curve. Our programs are intended to appeal to all levels. Don't be afraid—ask questions. We are a support group in the struggle to make computers do what they are supposed to do in Genealogy.

## Using Geo Coordinates

By Ken Cowan

Hopefully your family history papers and etc. will be preserved for generations. Descriptions, such as, 'one mile north of the old mill' or 'one mile east of the town square' may not be relevant to your g g g g grandchildren in 200 years. These 'signposts' may be lost to the world.

Use Geo coordinates to supplement your data and verbal description in Your Notes and Records, as not all natural and man-made objects will remain fixed or even exist as you have described them in your family history notes in 100 – 200 years.

On all field trips, including cemetery visits, I carry a GPS instrument to establish the geographic position in universal coordinates, e.g.: lat 32 19 34N, long 106 33 19W. This expression of position on earth is well established and accepted. This can be accomplished with a hand-held instrument.

Below is a note from my wife's file, using both the physical and GPS description of the site.

BURIAL SITE: Organ Mountains, New Mexico.

Abiding by Beverly's wishes, she was cremated and later, April 3, 2004, her ashes were dispersed on the Organ Mountains, New Mexico, lat 32 22 17N, long 106 30 45W, in the vicinity of Organ Needle. On the east slope, above White Sands Missile Range, this mountain is east of Las Cruces, part of the San Andres Range.

Beverly made her wishes known in 1958-1960, while we were living at the White Sands Missile Range, she often, admired the majestic mountains from the patio, especially during the spring when the lavender and yellow flowers were in bloom. Kenneth, Mark, and Justin (husband, son and grandson) carried out her wishes from a chartered Cessna 402B, with a clearance (restricted area) from Range Control, WSMR. We made three passes, one pass to select the site and two passes to make the scatter, about 11:00am April 3, 2004. Beverly had placed a picture post card, 6 x 9, of the Organ Mountains in her cedar chest, formerly mother's cedar chest. This mountain was called 'Los Organos' by the Spaniards, because of the resemblance to a gigantic pipe organ, this range rises over 9,000 feet. Visible for miles, the Organ Mountains lies just east of Las Cruces, west of the White Sands Missile Range, New Mexico.

Land mark Organ Peak, lat 32 19 34N, long 106 33 19W.

MYRBLM015P.

Copy in poss of K D Cowan, Schaumburg, IL

On field trips I carry a camera and a GPS instrument. In cemeteries, I also carry a kit for cleaning head stones: consisting of a note pad for logging the data; and non-metal tools to clean the headstones such as a plastic spatula to clean off debris, a cuticle orange stick to clean out any engravings, grass shears, bottled water, and a soft cloth.

## Support CAGG-NI

by shopping February 20-22

Our 2006 fundraising opportunities start this month with Dominicks the week after the February meeting. Dominicks Benefit Days coupons will be available at the meeting as well as on our website. If you are unable to attend the meeting, print coupons from the link on our home page at <http://www.rootsweb.com/~ilcaggni>. Print a number of them and give them to your family, friends and co-workers.



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Refreshments	<b>Chris Herrmann</b> <a href="mailto:ucherm@yahoo.com">ucherm@yahoo.com</a>

# New Tech. . . Blogs and More

by Beverly Levine Smallwood

The Internet is always growing and evolving, spurred on by new ideas and new software. You may have heard or read some of these terms but don't know exactly what they mean. I saw some blank looks at the last meeting when I mentioned our Blog for NGS 2006 and its associated RSS feed. By the time you finish this article and explore some of the links, you'll be in the know. Impress your grandkids by throwing around some of these terms....

## Wiki

A Wiki is a type of web site that uses Wiki software and collaborative writing to create content. One example of this is the Wikipedia, a "free encyclopedia that anyone can edit." That's right, anyone. The software is extremely easy to use and contributors don't need to know html or xml to add content. Anyone can contribute what they know. Other users can correct errors in content.

You'll notice many of the technobabble terms in the more recent CAGGNI program reviews are underlined. They are linked to associated entries in Wikipedia. So, if while reading the review of Everett Butler's excellent talk on video editing <<http://www.rootsweb.com/~ilcaggni/meetings/2006/200601review.html>>, you stumble over MPEG-2 – just click on it and a page will open to define and explain the term and may even have illustrations.

Dick Eastman is endeavoring to create an Encyclopedia of Genealogy using wiki software and contributed content. Check it out at <http://www.eogen.com/>. This might be a good place to find out more about, say, Acadian "Dit" Names.

## Blogs

A blog uses different software and typically has only one author or a select group of authors. The word "Blog" is short for "web log". A blog web site

contains a series of entries, usually in reverse chronological order. The older entries get archived, usually by month. The entries may appear in full, or you may have to click on a link to see the full article. The act of creating, authoring, or maintaining a blog is called "blogging" and the person doing the blogging is a "blogger". (See <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Blog> for more details.)

Blogs can be a general journal – like a diary posted to the Internet – or specific to a topic. Bloggers have had a big impact on political coverage over the last five years, often picking up on

**By the time you finish this article and explore some of the links, you'll be in the know.**

and investigating stories that mainstream media was ignoring.

There are many genealogical blogs now. Selected headlines from two are featured on CAGGNI's main page on the left side. Dick Eastman ( ) converted his weekly newsletter into a daily blog some time ago – with the articles collected together to form one weekly email for those who subscribe to it in email form. The local host consortia established a blog to highlight the societies hosting NGS 2006, speakers, research opportunities and sightseeing. I hope you'll visit <http://ngs2006.blogspot.com/> often.

I'll feature a listing of genealogy related blogs in a future newsletter.

## RSS

RSS stands for Really Simple Syndication. The idea is that rather than going to your favorite news sources and blogs on a daily basis, you simply subscribe to a feed and your reader goes out and retrieves either the headlines or the content. It's like having a newspaper delivered to your doorstep vs. going to the news stand every day to purchase one. Most subscriptions are free. More details can be learned here: [\[en.wikipedia.org/wiki/RSS\\\_%28file\\\_format%29\]\(http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/RSS\_%28file\_format%29\).](http://</a></p></div><div data-bbox=)

Many blogs, news sites, and even some wikis contain links for RSS. You will typically see these links in an orange rectangle with the letters XML or RSS on them in white lettering. On CAGGNI's main page, you will see an RSS link at the bottom of the right hand column. If you subscribe to this, you will get monthly meeting notices.

Subscribing to RSS feeds is a simple process, but you do need a feed reader or aggregator. A feed reader or aggregator is just software that keeps track of your subscriptions and periodically checks the subscription link for new content. Dick Eastman has written several excellent articles about RSS and feed readers. His explanation of "What Can RSS Do For You?" [http://blog.eogn.com/eastmans\\_online\\_genealogy/2005/12/rss\\_explained.html](http://blog.eogn.com/eastmans_online_genealogy/2005/12/rss_explained.html) got me started. He has a link within that article to a list of feed readers.

My Thunderbird email program contains a feed reader and I like the way it handles RSS better than any other reader I tried. Thunderbird treats the RSS feeds like email and will even let me forward a link to an entry just as I would forward an email message. It lets me decide when I subscribe to a page whether to download the page or just a headline with a link.

Now I don't have to remember to visit Dick Eastman's site for new articles or worry that my ISP mistake his email newsletter for spam and block it. The RSS feed sends new articles to me automatically. Here's all I have to do. I right click on the orange rectangle that says RSS or XML and select "copy shortcut". Next, I open Thunderbird and click on "News & Blogs" in the left folder pane. Then I click on "Manage subscriptions" in the main window and Add a new Feed. In the box labeled "Feed URL" I paste the shortcut I copied in step one. Lastly,

# New Tech. . . Blogs and More

select where to store the feed articles and whether to show the summary instead of the web page.

## Podcasting

Since RSS is just copying a file from one place to another, the next idea was – Why not an audio files? Podcasting was named for broadcasting and the trendy hardware from Apple, but you don't need an iPod to do this. A podcast is a web feed of audio or video files. Read up on the details here: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Podcast>.

You subscribe in much the same manner as with RSS feeds, but a different reader is usually required – called a “podcatcher”. One such podcatcher is Juice, formerly known as iPodder, <http://juicereceiver.sourceforge.net/index.php>. As with blogs, in most cases you can go to the web site regularly and manually download the podcast, but using a podcatcher is just easier. Once your podcatcher has downloaded the audio or video files, you may watch/listen on your computer or on a portable device like a mp3 player or iPod. Again, most subscriptions are free.

There are several directories to point you to podcasts but they are also easy to find by simply googling “podcast” and whatever topic you are interested in, for instance: “genealogy podcast”. I've found podcast for an amazing range of topics including knitting, sports, music, literature, pop culture fandom, and even alternate commentary tracks for DVD movies! (Queue up the movie, turn down the sound, and hit play when you're told in the podcast).

There are now a couple of podcasts for genealogy:

- The Genealogy Guys Podcast: George G. Morgan and Drew Smith discuss genealogy! Web site: <http://genealogyguys.com/> Podcast feed: <http://genealogyguys.com/rss>
- DearMYRTLE web site: <http://www.ourmedia.org/user/33644>

Podcast feed: <http://www.ourmedia.org/mediarss/user/33644>

## Screencasting

A screencast is a little different than the other topics here, but is a new tech term that you'll be hearing more about in the near future. A screencast is the digital recording of a computer screen, often containing text and/or narration, in either a slide show or video format. Its purpose is usually to demonstrate how software works. I haven't found any RSS feeds of screencasts, yet, but I did find one podcast of screencasts.

Word of warning: Often these mini-movies will loop back to the beginning and play again and again until you close the window.

Since a screencast is simply a slideshow of screenshots or movie of a computer screen annotated with either text boxes or narration, it is particularly well suited to software demonstrations and tutorials. This is an aspect we may experiment with at CAGGNI in the future. Another potential use is to show developers how the software is malfunctioning. Isn't it frustrating to try to describe to a help desk person what you are doing and how the program is failing to do what it is supposed to do? Don't you wish you could just show them?

Unfortunately, most of the better screencasting software is somewhat expensive. There are some less expensive or free programs, but they don't have the best capabilities yet. Once this catches on, I'm sure there will be more open source alternatives.

See Wikipedia for definition and software reviews. <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Screencast>

Some examples of screencasts:

- Bygones has a bunch of the slideshow/text screencasts to show off different aspects of the software and how to use it: <http://www.bygonessoftware.com/>
- How to create a Contents in

Microsoft Word using bookmarks and hyperlinks <http://www.digitalcuriosity.com/Envision/Samples/sample1.html>

- BB FlashBack (screencasting software) has posted several useful screencasts to demonstrate what its software can do. Visit <http://www.bbsoftware.co.uk/BBFlashBack/DemoMovies.aspx> to learn how to set the default printer, find the Access 2000 Easter Egg, enable the Windows XP firewall, and how to switch off Windows XP graphical effects.

- O'Reilly Network: Jon Udell's Prime-Time Hypermedia Column “Movies of Software” <http://www.oreillynet.com/pub/a/network/2004/11/11/primetime.html>

- Jon Udell's Weblog “Simple single sign-on” <http://weblog.infoworld.com/udell/2005/05/03.html#a1227> has a link to a screencast of using a password generator/manager.

- Jon Udell's Weblog “Heavy metal umlaut: the movie” <http://weblog.infoworld.com/udell/2005/01/22.html#a1156> is an audio-visual tour through the process of a Wikipedia article creation. It is interesting to see how it evolves over time and through the input of multiple users.

- Other articles containing screencasts by Jon Udell <http://del.icio.us/judell/screencast>

- Alex Barnett give us “Using RSS 101” which demonstrates the concept using FeedDemon software. <http://www.extremepodcasting.com/screencasts/usingrss101.htm>

- Andy Wibbles shows us how to use Google Reader for RSS at [http://andywibbles.com/flash/google\\_reader.htm](http://andywibbles.com/flash/google_reader.htm)

So – blogs, RSS, podcasting, screencasting, and wiki – now you are in the know.

These are exciting times to be alive! I can't wait to see what's next!

## Other Group Events *compiled by Beverly Levine Smallwood*

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23 FEB 2006 - DARIEN

**Chuck Wingard - Photo & Document  
Restoration and Preservation**  
Indian Prairie Public Library - Genealogy Group  
[http://www.indianprairie.lib.il.us/  
genealogy\\_group.htm](http://www.indianprairie.lib.il.us/genealogy_group.htm)

26 FEB 2006 - CHICAGO

**Genealogy Committee Meeting**  
CONTACT: BRIAN DONOVAN  
(P) 773-282-7035 (SATURDAYS 9-2)  
Irish American Heritage Center  
<http://www.irishamhc.com/programs.asp#history>

26 FEB 2006 - SKOKIE

HARRIET RUDNIT & JUDY FRAZIN  
**How to use FamilySearch.org**  
Jewish Genealogical Society of Illinois  
<http://www.jewishgen.org/jgsi/index.htm>

26 FEB 2006 - GENEVA

KATHRYN BARRETT  
**The WPA: Its Records and History**  
Kane County Genealogical Society  
<http://www.rootsweb.com/~ilkcgs/>

04 MAR 2006 - CHICAGO

**Ridge Historical Society Museum Tour  
and Presentation Meeting**  
at the Ridge Historical Society  
Chicago Genealogical Society  
<http://chgogs.org/calendar.html>

04 MAR 2006 - SCHAUMBURG

**Italian Genealogical Research**  
NOTE DATE CHANGE  
POINTers in Person (PIP)  
<http://www.rootsweb.com/~itappcnc/>

09 MAR 2006 - McHENRY

**Craig Pfannkuche - Dealing with Black  
Sheep in One's Family Tree**  
McHenry County Genealogical Society  
<http://www.mcigs.org/>

11 Mar 2006 - Schaumburg

**The Master Genealogist (TMG) User Group**  
CAGG-NI TMG Special Interest Group  
<http://www.rootsweb.com/~ilcaggni/>

11 MAR 2006 - GLENVIEW

JILL REBMAN MARTIN  
**Demolishing Brick Walls at NARA**  
North Suburban Genealogical Society  
<http://www.wpld.alibrary.com/nsgs.asp>

11 MAR 2006 - HAZEL CREST

**Jon F. Rice - Early Chicago**  
South Suburban Genealogical & Historical Society  
<http://www.rootsweb.com/~ssgshs/>

14 MAR 2006 - MUNDELEIN

**Tim Pinnick - Coal Dust in their Veins:  
Tips, Strategies and Resources to Bring  
your Coal Mining Ancestors to the Surface**  
Lake County Genealogical Society  
<http://www.rootsweb.com/~illcgs>

14 MAR 2006 - SCHAUMBURG

**Break Out Sessions/Small Group Discussions**  
STDL Genealogy Group  
CONTACT TONY KIERNA AT 847-923-3393  
<http://www.stdl.org/>

16 MAR 2006 - ARLINGTON HEIGHTS

CRAIG PFANNKUCHE  
**Identifying and Dating Photographs**  
Northwest Suburban Council of Genealogists  
<http://www.mtprospect.org/nsgs/>

18 MAR 2006 - RICHMOND, IL

S. LYNN SCHOFIELD-DAHL  
**Keeping History Alive: The Adventures of  
a Modern Elizabethan**  
BIGWILL  
British Interest Group of Wisconsin and Illinois  
<http://www.rootsweb.com/~wiilbig/meet.htm>

18 MAR 2006 - SCHAUMBURG

**Ed Rosenthal - What's New in 2006?**  
CAGG-NI  
<http://www.rootsweb.com/~ilcaggni/>

23 MAR 2006 - DARIEN

**Kathleen O'Leary - Using Filby**  
Indian Prairie Public Library - Genealogy Group  
[http://www.indianprairie.lib.il.us/  
genealogy\\_group.htm](http://www.indianprairie.lib.il.us/genealogy_group.htm)

## Other Group Events

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23 MAR 2006 - GENEVA

COREY SHORT

### Funeral Home Laws and Records

Kane County Genealogical Society

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

26 MAR 2006 - CHICAGO

### Genealogy Committee Meeting

CONTACT: BRIAN DONOVAN

(P) 773-282-7035 (SATURDAYS 9-2)

Irish American Heritage Center

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

26 MAR 2006 - SKOKIE

Myrna Siegel & Walter Reed

### How to visit your ancestral homelands:

Lithuania, Belarus, and Germany

Jewish Genealogical Society of Illinois

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

### Special Events

04 MAR 2006 - ST. CHARLES

### 31st Annual Conference

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

DuPage County Genealogical Society

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

10-11 MAR 2006 - BYU CONFERENCE CENTER

### Computerized Genealogy Conference

BYU Conferences and Workshops

<http://ce.byu.edu/cw/cwgeneal/>

25 MAR 2006 - TINLEY PARK

CONFERENCE FEATURING LORETTO SZUCS

### Focus on Your Ancestors

CALL MARGARET KAPUSTIAK 630-753-9807 FOR INFORMATION

Tinley Moraine Genealogists

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

01 APR 2006 - AUSTIN, IN

### Annual Conference

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

Indiana Genealogical Society

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

08 APR 2006 - CHICAGO

### Dick Eastman

### Genealogy Research & Technology

(CALL 312-255-3700 FOR RESERVATIONS)

Newberry Library (reservations Required)\$

<http://www.newberry.org/genealogy/genealogyevents.html>

08 APR 2006 - ST. LOUIS

### Genealogy Fair - featuring Richard G.

Sayre & Pamela Boyer Porter

St. Louis Genealogical Society

<http://stlgs.org/fair.shtml>

21-22 APR 2006 - SPRINGFIELD, IL

Pre-register by April 15th

### Illinois State Archives Tour and Death

Certificate Assistance Program

<http://www.rootsweb.com/~ilsgs/spwkshp/O6SPregistration.html>

21-22 APR 2006 - STEVENS POINT, WI

### Gene-A-Rama - John Konvalinka

Wisconsin State Genealogical Society

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

## Presidents Letter

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34. Please remember that you must improve your genealogy-skills as well as your computer-skills. CAGG-NI is dedicated to Computers and Genealogy. It's a tough and unique assignment, but CAGG-NI is equal to the challenge.

35. Thanks to old member Ken Cowan for sharing a most personal article in this Newsletter. He had the courage to submit an article to the Newsletter. Hopefully, he has set an example for other members, who have not-yet submitted an article. Thanks also to new member Barbara Coughlin, for submitting an article.

36. March Reminders: Ed Rosenthal will talk about "What's New?" at our March Meeting in our usual Schaumburg Library location. CAGG-NI will be participating in the 31st DuPage County Genealogical Society Conference on March 4th in St. Charles. <http://www.dcg.org> As Bev notes elsewhere, there will be a computerized conference from Brigham Young University, March 10-11. <http://www.ce.byu.edu/cw/cwgeneal/> On March 25th, The Tinley Moraine Genealogists will be holding a Conference: <http://www.tmgenealogists.org>

Remember The Saint Valentine's Day Massacre and Happy Mardi Gras!

<http://www.prairieghosts.com/valentine.html>

<http://www.mardigrasneworleans.com>

Let the Good Times Roll!

*Harve*

# Links Around the World

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Frank McGovern, Columnist  
Dan Wertz, Columnist\*

Listed below are a number of web sites that provide online education courses in genealogy related topics. All are free except as noted otherwise. Some are text presentations and some are audio/video multimedia. If anyone knows of any others please let us know so that we can pass the information along,

**NEHGS Online Seminar Series** - The New England Historic Genealogical Society is excited to announce their new online seminar series. Lectures will be presented by their staff of genealogists. NEHGS will be offering new seminars on a regular basis so check back frequently for updates. You will need the Macromedia Flash Player to run the lectures.

[http://www.newenglandancestors.org/education/main/online\\_lectures.asp](http://www.newenglandancestors.org/education/main/online_lectures.asp)

Seminar titles:

Introduction to NewEnglandAncestors.org  
Genealogical Tips: Transcribing Gravestones  
Getting Started in Genealogy - Part 1.  
Getting Started in Genealogy - Part 2.

**Genealogy.com – Online University** – Courses are prepared by Karen Clifford, Genealogy Research Associates and Marthe Arends, Online Pioneers. New lessons are added every few weeks, so be sure to visit often. Lessons are presented in text mode.

<http://familytreemaker.genealogy.com/university.html>

Seminar titles:

Beginning Genealogy 2 Parts - 14 lessons.  
Tracing Immigrant Origins 5 Parts – 40 lessons.  
Internet Genealogy 3 Parts – 41 lessons.



**Brigham Young University Independent Study** – free web courses. Courses are presented in audio/text mode. You must register your e-mail address in order to access these courses.

<http://ce.byu.edu/is/site/courses/freecourses.cfm>

Seminar titles:

Family History/Genealogy – Introductory – 4 courses.  
Family History/Genealogy – Record Type – 3 courses.  
Family History/Genealogy – Regional and Ethnic – 19 courses.

**MyFamily.Com – Genealogy Online Training Courses** - MyFamily.com offers interactive online genealogy training courses to help you discover what the world of genealogy is all about. These courses will be led by popular family history experts to help you with all your genealogy needs. Learn from eight independent study lessons per course through site interaction and worksheets. Each course costs \$29.95. Interact with a genealogy expert on each lesson through the site message board. Students will have access to select Ancestry.com collections for 30 days. Receive tips and advice on how to find ancestors online. Learn about family history through online interaction and worksheets.

<http://www.myfamily.com/isapi.dll?c=h&htx=onlinetraining&school=GEN>

Seminar titles:

There are currently 21 individual courses scheduled between Feb 2 and June 8, 2006. If you're interested in them, check this website out as soon as possible before their various start dates end.

We welcome website link suggestions from our members. We need more participation. Remember group participation makes every group grow. Send your links to dan.wertz@comcast.net or mcgovern34@hotmail.com

# Getting the Most Out of the Master Genealogist

## A Book Review

By Tony Kierna

Schaumburg Twp Dist Library

Genealogy Coordinator

We have added *Getting the Most Out of the Master Genealogist* to our circulating collection. The book was compiled and edited by Lee H. Hoffman. The book was published in 2004 and was added to our collection in March 2005. The call number of the book is 929.1 GETTING. It is available to check out and can be found on the circulating shelves on the 2nd floor of our library.

The chapters in the book are:

- 1 - Introduction
  - 2 - Project Management
  - 3 - Importing Data
  - 4 - Customizing the Program
  - 5 - Customizing the Data
  - 6 - Sentence Structures
  - 7 - Sources
  - 8 - Concepts
  - 9 - Controlling Narrative Reports
  - 10 - Customizing Reports
  - 11 - Filtering and Sorting
  - 12 - Multimedia and Exhibits
  - 13 - Generating Charts for Use in Visual Chartform
  - 14 - Working with Charts in Visual Chartform
  - 15 - Exporting Data
- Appendix A - Glossary  
Appendix B - Standard Tags and Sentences  
Appendix C - Sentence Variables  
Appendix D - Standard Source Categories  
Appendix E - Source Element Groups and Source Elements  
Appendix F - Standard Source Templates  
Appendix G - TMG5 and GEDCOM File Export Comparison  
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For those of you using lineage

based programs to enter data of your ancestors, the Master Genealogist is one of the programs available to purchase and use. The Master Genealogist is considered to be the best of the best of these programs although it is often considered a very difficult program to learn how to use. If you have the program or have thought about getting it to use or just want to see what features exist in it, then reviewing this book may be a big help to you. It can be very helpful to better understand a program if you can review the features of the program in print. This is a large book of 309 pages that can help shed light on all of the features and functions of this very powerful program.

The book does indicate in Chapter 1 – Introduction that the intended audience is for those who have purchased Version 5.0. It is also intended for the user of computers that is literate and experienced rather than a novice. It is also intended for someone that already has some working knowledge of The Master Genealogist.

The book also alludes to some other useful web resources to consider for help with the Master Genealogist. These web sites are:

Wholly Genes Software

<http://www.whollygenes.com>

Lee Hoffman's TMG Tips

<http://www.tmgtips.com>

John Cardinal's TMG Companion Programs

<http://www.johncardinal.com/tmg/index.htm>

Allen Mellen's TMG Resource Page

<http://www.geocities.com/heart-land/hills/2909/tmg.html>

Terry Reigel's TMG Tips

<http://www.reigelridge.com/tmg>

The book is definitely power packed with detail upon detail of aspects of this comprehensive program. Just browsing through early on chapters you will encounter references to such terms as “project”, “data set”, “flag manager” and many others. Do not be intimidated by such term. If you do not use The Master Genealogist then you can not expect to be familiar with the terms. Any lineage based program will contain terms the developer created applicable to their own created program. Be patient, learn the terms and see how they apply within the program.

I did notice that although the book is compiled and edited by Lee Hoffman, each individual chapter has its own contributing author. I also noticed that the names of the author of each chapter often are the names I noticed in other resources noted above as web resources e.g. John Cardinal, Terry Reigel. It appears that these are the experts about this program and even about the specialty topic identified for the individual chapters.

Each chapter is loaded with many matrices, screen shots, tables and the like. These can be helpful for the reader and user to then associate the topic to a screen image they can pull up from the program itself.

For those of you who are users of the Master Genealogist, Version 5.0, this is a book you should consider to purchase as a reference for your own use. Using a print source sometimes can help you more than the electronic help guides contained as part of the program itself. Browsing and flipping through real pages can allow you to explore and learn the powers of your program much better. Even though the author indicated that this book is intended for actual users of the Version 5 program, I still think that this book

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# Preparing Your Home Movies for Future Generations

*Presented by Everett Butler*

*January 21, 2006 Meeting Notes*

*By Gerard Czadowski*

Preserving your family's memories and history in video format is evidently a subject of great interest based upon the large turnout for this topic. Although this presentation focused on home movies recorded on film, much of the information is also applicable to that recorded on the various video cassette formats which were ubiquitous over the past 25 years.

Many of us are fortunate to have home movies of family events taken over the years by either ourselves or other family members which can serve to provide us with an interesting additional method of telling our family's story. Among the issues facing those looking to preserve their treasure of video resources are:

- potential loss of the resource due to certain deterioration of older media (e.g. color loss)
  - equipment for displaying very old media formats (e.g. 8mm and 16mm film) have disappeared from the consumer market and more recent formats (e.g. VHS) will most likely disappear in the near future
  - supplies needed for maintaining these older formats are becoming scarce
  - older formats are expensive to copy for distribution purposes
  - editing video in older formats required professional equipment so most of the images we possess is raw footage which is uninteresting or does not tell a story.
- Modern digital technology has come to the rescue in helping us address these limitations:
- negligible deterioration of the image over time
  - equipment is both plentiful and affordable
  - supplies are abundant
  - reproduction for distribution is easy and cheap
  - PC based video editing soft-

ware is available in the consumer market to allow us turn the raw footage into interesting stories.

Conversion of older media into digital format is at the heart of preserving your home video. Issues to be aware of include:

- Film deterioration - Acetate based film (pre 1940) are most unstable. Ektachrome film (introduced 1940) is moderately better but suffers from color fading over time. Kodachrome film (introduced 1950) is best. However, all film types become brittle over time
- Frame rates - Home movie film was shot at 18 frames per second and must be converted to 29.97 frames per second for editing and playback. Quality is not improved by frame rate change
- Conversion media - In order to preserve all the quality contained in the original source media be sure get a DV MASTER tape copy. Don't just settle for a DVD copy as the DVD copy will be compressed (MPEG-2 format)
- Individual frames - Still images are not as sharp so any prints or projected copies of individual frames will be lower quality
- Conversion services - Many services exist which can convert you existing media. Basic cost is 12 cents per foot (expect quantity discounts).

The major problem facing us in preserving existing home movies is a result of the amateur nature of the videographer who made the original recording and the equipment limitations that he faced. Common issues faced are:

- little or no plots
- film either not edited or poorly edited
- amateur filming
- lack of narrative, background music and sound effects

Creative video editing is the key for improving the visual and content quality of your home movies when undertaking the preservation process. Things to keep in mind for creating a



better experience for your audience are:

- make a creative plot by adding title and new footage from other sources including photographs (use pan and zoom to improve the experience of still pictures - some software refers to the technique as the "the Ken Burns effect")
- reduce the amateur film clutter by leaving it on the cutting room floor
- effectively use editing effects and features such as cutaways and transitions - be judicious in their use and take care not to go overboard
- add insightful narratives, background music and sound effects
- create high quality packaging for distributing your final product

For those of us who will be making home movies in the future, Everett suggested that the following be considered:

- Start with a production plan and try to use a slate to identify the scenes (the slate will help in you with later editing)
- Many roles are involved besides the cameraman and the subjects (director, lighting, etc.) so enlist a production staff
- Use more than just the microphone integrated with your camera - consider external and wireless mics to improve the sound quality. A zoom microphone may be available for your

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## Home Movies

camera. Such zoom mics work in conjunction with the camera's zoom lens focusing the field of sound being captured as you close in on your subject in your field of view.

- Take time to learn to use your digital camera and understand its features
- Lighting is essential so consider the use of off camera lights and reflectors
- An editing system is essential and many are available in the consumer market
- You need Hollywood skills so read up on the subject

Everett concluded his presentation with a short overview and demonstration of Ulead's VideoStudio 9, a video editing tool bench for Windows based computers. Information on this software package can be found on the manufacturer's web site at <http://www.ulead.com/vs/runme.htm>.

## TMG

can be very insightful to potential users of this program. Seeing in text what are the features and the powers of a program can truly steer you to making a purchase or at least downloading a demo of the real program. At least you will have a better idea of what you are getting yourself into in terms of a learning curve.

Please feel free to take a look at this book or check it out from the 2nd floor of our library. The call number of the book is 929.1 GETTING. It will also be worth your effort to check out the above web sites I included in this review to get other insights into the use and power of the Master Genealogist Version 5.0. I did visit them and they seemed to be loaded with further additional resource material to help the user of the Master Genealogist Version 5.0.

## Fake Genealogy

### False, Fake or Fraudulent Ancestries and other Genealogy Scams

Here are a couple of web sites to help you if you are relying on published or compiled genealogies for your colonial or Mayflower lineages. Back in the day, people were scammed out of money for fake lineages and bad research. Much of this wound up published by the victim in very nice genealogies mingling the good and the bad.

False and Faked Mayflower Genealogy, Caleb Johnson © 1998, <http://members.aol.com/calebj/hoaxes.html>

Genealogy Frauds, copyright© 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001 2002 Sons & Daughters of America's First Families, <http://personal.linkline.com/xymox/fraud/fraud.htm>

A Warning to Ward Researchers by Jerry Merritt, January 2000, <http://pamajo.home.comcast.net/warnings.htm>

genealogymagazine.com, Watch Out for Fake Family Trees by James Pylant © 2002, 2004 <http://www.genealogymagazine.com/watoutforfak.html>

Errors to Beware in the 1970 Burke's Peerage <http://www.baronage.co.uk/bphtm-01/essay-7.html>

Unfortunately, bad lineages live on as the unsuspecting incorporate them into their family tomes and republish over and again. Even the best researchers made mistakes, so the best advice is to do the research rather than to rely on someone else's published findings.

Today, scammers don't have to go to the trouble of concocting a fake lineage. Now it is easier to separate you from your money in other ways. A letter in the mail offers a book all about your surname – but really contains names and addresses that can be found in the phone book and other publicly available databases; a pushcart operator at the shopping mall is happy to

supply you with your family coat of arms; a website charges you to view content they stole from freely available databases; a phone call alerts you that you may be entitled to a share of the --- estate, but you'll need to pony up your share of the legal fees to collect.

The newest twist is to create fake content to attract viewers to a web page with the purpose of exposing said viewer to advertising in the hopes that viewer will click on advertisement and buy something, thereby putting money in the pockets of the site owner. Dick Eastman exposed one fellow with a system of generating fake family trees for a website and Christopher Dunham exposed another operator for creating fake census records and posting them online, intermingled with real census records, for the same purpose. Read more at Dick Eastman's site (below) and here:

Genealogy Signs of the Times, 04 Nov 2005, <http://planet.kzion.com/?cat=3420>

IBSSG/International Black Sheep Society of Genealogists Genealogy Hall of Shame, © Copyright 1998-2005 IBSSG/Blacksheep Genealogy, <http://blacksheep.rootsweb.com/shame/>

Some Great Genealogical Frauds Copyright © 2002 T. Mark James <http://www.geocities.com/Athens/Acropolis/4317/GeneFrauds.html>

Practicing Safe Genealogy: Protecting Yourself from Hoaxes and Scams by Kimberly Powell <http://genealogy.about.com/library/weekly/aa101501d.htm>

Dick Eastman frequently publishes scams as they come to light in his Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter <http://blog.eogn.com/> which can be subscribed to in a number of ways for free and by subscription; as an email, blog, or rss feed. A search of his article archives for "fraud" found 46 articles and "scam" found 61 articles. I highly recommend reading his column regularly for the newest software, gadgets, and consumer protection.