



# GENEALOGY NEWS

By Jack and Sylvia Sonneborn, York, Pennsylvania

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## Holding a Family Reunion

For 94 years the Barefoot Family of the Bedford County, Pennsylvania, area has been meeting for a family reunion. I am lucky enough to be the treasurer and also the newsletter editor – which is exactly why you are not getting this June newsletter in a timely fashion. I just completed the Barefoot newsletter.

I just thought that I might share some ideas with you about holding a family reunion. My first suggestion is to gather together some interested family members and elect or appoint officers until you can meet and elect them in a big meeting. We have all the regular officers – president, VP, secretary, and treasurer. Then we added a corresponding secretary to be in charge of doing the postcard reunion announcements.

We hold our reunion the same date and the same place – 12:00 noon, the first Sunday of August in the Windber Recreation Park. So the first thing after organizing your officers is to decide where to meet. We rent a pavilion for \$210.00 a year, and we pay another \$50.00 for liability insurance for the day. There is a swimming pool, so the kids go swimming after we eat with a \$1 discount.

The dinner is potluck and always delicious. We have a mother-daughter combination that oversees the food. The pavilion has tables and benches. The president brings vinyl tablecloths, dishrags, paper goods for those who forgot, and serving utensils (we bought some cheap ones at the dollar store).

How do you get a mailing list? Well, we had a man and woman who wrote a Barefoot book and wanted to sell it. They gathered a list of over 600 Barefoot descendants and then gave the list to us. Postage got to be too expensive, so we have cut the list down. We had a postcard printed and sent it out to the 600 people the first year. On it we announced the information about the reunion and the treasurer's address to send a donation or to donate \$3 to receive a newsletter, which is now up to \$5. At the present time, we are down to 400 postcards.

Our attendance had been waning, so I began to write a newsletter about 13 years ago. About 120 persons subscribe to that. People began to submit information for Ancestor Spotlight and letters as well as obituaries. In the newsletter, I include the notice of the next reunion, the minutes, the winners of all prizes, president's notes, social news (babies born, graduations, weddings, anniversaries, engagements, special recognition, etc.). Then I list the obituaries. I do an Ancestor Spotlight, items of business, notes from me, a treasurer's report, and candid shots of the previous year. I also have 5 blogspots going on the family:

<http://2006barefoot-family.blogspot.com/>

Our prizes include door prizes, oldest man, oldest woman, traveled farthest, most recently married, youngest child, and longest married.

How do we continue to finance the Barefoot Reunion? From donations. 1. Mail-in donations, 2. Subscriptions to the newsletter,

3. Pass the hat at the reunion, 4. Contributions of up to 5 white elephant items for auctions the day of the reunion, 5. Theme-filled baskets, like Pittsburgh Steelers items, that are donated for the auction, 6. Guess Item baked in cake, 7. Jar of Candy guess, 8. Purchasing of items for sale, like mugs with coat of arms, or chances on a Barefoot blanket [not always available]. So far we have been able to support the business of running a reunion. Most of our income goes towards printing post cards and newsletters, postage to mail both, gifts, and renting the pavilion. When we are able, we also donate to the Pleasantville Cemetery and also ask for private donations for the upkeep of the cemetery, which is done by Bob Felton gratis. Many of our ancestors are buried there.

Yearly, we need people to do 1. Children's Games/buy gifts for games, 2. Buy door prizes and gifts, [reimbursement available] 3. Be in charge of the auctions – silent and Chinese, 4. Oversee the food, 5. Highlight one of their ancestors, 6. Lead the music. This way we involve a lot of people.

The auction is divided into two parts: a silent auction and a Chinese auction for nicer items and baskets. We usually bring in between \$300 to \$400 dollars on the auctions, another \$200 on passing the hat with about 100 in attendance, and then about \$50 – 100 on the extra things we sell or charge for guessing.

Just about every month I get donations in the mail and letters. Even people who say they will never be able to attend send money. We are in need of a sound system, so that will be the next thing that we will need to ask for donations for.

Our meeting is an after-lunch business meeting with awarding of prizes, auctions,

socializing, and cleaning up. We usually leave about 4 or 5:00, and we make sure we clean up. Our reunions are fun, and we usually keep about \$2000.00 in our treasury.

A reunion is a good place to update the family history also. My husband used to take his laptop and a scanner. We invite people to bring photos of ancestors, and we usually have a few photo exhibitions going on during the reunion. The family grows closer, and it gives those who are far away a target date to come "home" to visit their loved ones. During the reunion my husband and my nephew take candid shots, and we use those in our newsletter. At the present time the newsletter has gone out, and I have had 5 people send donations for next year and subscriptions for the 2012 newsletter. The donations average about \$20 per person. The person also often writes a note, and I include those that are not too personal in the newsletter. It takes me about 2 weeks to do the newsletter, but in return, we get a lot of positive feedback from those attending, and we keep our family updated by including the obituaries. The Barefoot Book is still for sale, and the newsletter lets people update the book.

Door prizes this year will be mugs with a panorama shot of the entire clan (except kids who went swimming early) stretched all around the mug. We spend About \$15 per gift for each person, and the gifts might include a watch, garden tools, a cooking item, a basket of lotions and perfumes for a lady, a car kit with an emergency window breaker and other items to keep in the car, a small clock, or knick-knacks. People always seem pleased to win the prizes.

Keeping a family together takes planning, and while some families plan trips, the one-day Sunday reunion works well, and we have time to socialize.

## Biographies of All Family Members

If the time period and locations are appropriate, have you looked for biographies of all the grandchildren of your "problem" ancestor? It is always possible one of them mentioned a detail about their grandfather in their own biography--and that could be a big clue.

**Source:** Michael John Neill, Genealogy Tip of the Day, posted: 25 May 2011

## Have You Tried These Helpful Websites?

- **Have a Civil War ancestor?**  
<https://www.familysearch.org/civil-war> FamilySearch announced last month of its release of hundreds of millions of online records. The collections include service records for both the Confederate and Union armies, pension records, and more. Some of these records have been available for some time but have been added to the web site.
- **TechTips** -  
<https://www.familysearch.org/techtips/> -Technology is a wonderful genealogical tool. This site provides easy to understand information on how to utilize technology in your family history research. Articles range from techniques you can use to restore old photos, tips for scanning documents, ways to use mobile genealogy tools, and much more.

**Source:** *Family History/Indexing Newsletter*  
--SLC Area Family History Advisers, June 2011

## WHY I DO FAMILY HISTORY

Frederick William Hurst was working as a gold miner in Australia when he first heard Latter-day Saint missionaries preach the restored gospel. He and his brother Charles were baptized in January 1854. He tried to help his other family members become converted, but they rejected him and the truths he taught.

Fred settled in Salt Lake City four years after joining the Church, and he served faithfully as a missionary in several different countries. He also worked as a painter in the Salt Lake Temple.

In one of his final journal entries, he wrote:  
"Along about the 1st of March, 1893, I found myself alone in the dining room; all had gone to bed. I was sitting at the table when to my great surprise my elder brother Alfred walked in and sat down opposite me at the table and smiled. I said to him (he looked so natural): 'When did you arrive in Utah?'"

"He said: 'I have just come from the Spirit World, this is not my body that you see, it is lying in the tomb. I want to tell you that when you were on your mission, you told me many things about the Gospel, and the hereafter, and about the Spirit World being as real and tangible as the earth. I could not believe you, but when I died and went there and saw for myself, I realized that you had told the truth. I attended the Mormon meetings.' He raised his hand and said with much warmth: 'I believe in the Lord Jesus Christ with all my heart. I believe in faith, and repentance and baptism for the remission of sins, but that is as far as I can go. I look to you to do the work for me in the temple. ... You are watched closely. ... We are all looking to you as our head in this great work. I want to tell you that there are a great many spirits who weep and mourn because they have relatives in the Church here who are careless and are doing nothing for them'"

Source: Diary of Frederick William Hurst, comp. Samuel H. and Ida Hurst [1961], 204).

## Navy Muster Rolls and Cruise Books

Odds are, if you had an ancestor who served as enlisted personnel aboard a U.S. Navy vessel in WWII, you'll most likely find him or her in the [U.S. World War II Navy Muster Rolls, 1938-1949](#) database that recently went live on Ancestry.com. You'll also find some civilian passengers and a few officers here and there among the records. But don't stop there. If you're lucky, your Navy ancestor will pop up among the pages in the [U.S. Navy Cruise Books Index, 1918-2009](#) collection.

Navy cruise books—think yearbooks at sea—are unofficial publications put together by crew members aboard ship. This means they can have an informal, candid feel, but it also means that not every ship created one. The Navy Library holds the largest collection of cruise books in the U.S.—about 3,500 volumes—and these make up the bulk of our database, with the oldest going back to 1918 and the newest printed in 2009.

**Source:** [Ancestry.com blog updates](#), Posted: 06 Jun 2011 12:46 PM PDT

## Hugh Wallis's Genealogical Web Sites

A great menu of Genealogical web sites found at

<http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~hughwallis/>

Submitted by Trudy Bremer

## 5 Minute Genealogy: Find a Record in Five Minutes

This is a great video from FamilySearch. Host, Jessie Davis, will inspire and excite you with the new resources FamilySearch has to offer—for FREE. Click to [watch the video](#).

## Complete 1930 Mexico Census Now Available Online for Free

The FamilySearch volunteers did it! With the completion of the state of Veracruz, they indexed the entire 1930 Mexico Census—almost 13 million records. Add the census to the millions of Mexico church records FamilySearch also has online for free, and FamilySearch patrons now have a phenomenal, fundamental asset for their Mexico ancestral research. There were 59 collections updated in this release, comprising 25 million new images and records for 19 U.S. states and 16 countries. You can search all of these updated collections now for free at [FamilySearch.org](#).

## Family History Facebook Page and Blog

I have a Family History Facebook page. I also started a Family History Blog. From these two ways of sharing my family history I have been contacted by quite a few distant cousins. One cousin has his own Facebook page of family history. From his page I have gathered about 150 more names than I had. Another cousin has her own blog and has been adding what I have to her blog. What a difference the computer makes! I remember my mom and her cousins gathering around the kitchen table to share family history. Now I share with cousins from around the world with just a click of a button.

Submitted by: Shauna Wheelwright

## BIRTHDAYS

Birthdays are good for you.

Statistics show that the people who have most live longer.

## I.G.I. Batch Number Search

*What are Batch Numbers?* Vital records of many countries worldwide which had been extracted in past years under the Extraction program were organized by batch numbers. (example: C003712 - refers to "England births and christenings 1538-1975")

What are the benefits? You could search a specific collection of extracted vital without going to the original record. The original microfilm number is listed, however, so you can easily find the original record. For those of you who already know batch numbers of ancestors, this new feature provides a shortcut to searching a specific collection of records.

Go to <http://www.familysearch.org>. Click on **Advanced Search**. The batch number field appears where you can enter the batch number.

If you do *not* know a batch number, there are instructions given in the article under "What's New?" You can usually find the batch number of an ancestor by finding that ancestor, then click on the triangle (on the right) that expands the entry. If your ancestor was from an extracted entry, you should see a batch number. (It may be listed under "indexing project" instead of "batch number") Copy and paste that number into the "batch number" field of Advanced Search (or New Search).

Tips: You can enter a surname only to see all of the records by that surname in the batch. To see *all* of the records in the batch organized alphabetically by last name, leave the name and other fields blank. Just enter the batch number. Then you can use the filters to narrow in on the exact time period or place that you want. Then click Search. (Note: you will not see images.)

Experiment with this new feature. It is exciting!

**Source:** June 2011 Family History/Indexing Newsletter --SLC Area Family History Advisers

## Avoiding Abbreviations

Use abbreviations sparingly. Does "w/o James Rampley" mean "wife of James Rampley" or "without James Rampley?" Of course on a cemetery transcription site, what it means is obvious. But remember, what is one person's "obvious" is someone else's "huh?" Abbreviations can easily confuse--use them with care. Avoid them if at all possible.

**Source:** Michael John Neill, Genealogy tip of the Day, Posted: 31 May 2011

## Indexing Help Resources

A new online source has been added for stake indexing directors at

<https://indexing.familysearch.org/public/publications.jsf>

Under the heading, Stake Indexing Directors, click on "Stake Indexing Training" to learn more about your responsibilities, such as recruiting and training new indexers and arbitrators, as well as working with High Councilors.

There are also numerous help and resources available for all indexers on this site.

## County Boundary Change Tool

We all know the importance of county governments for maintaining various types of records that are useful for genealogical research. But how often have you tried searching for an ancestor's historical records for a given county, only to realize that you were searching in the right place but the wrong county? With this tool, you can type in ANY PRESENT-DAY PLACE in the U.S. and ANY HISTORICAL YEAR to see the map of county boundaries then in effect, and then click any county on the map to see the specific history of the boundary changes, and type in different years to see the boundary changes over time.

Try it at: [RandyMajors.com](http://RandyMajors.com)

## Cyndi's List Website Upgraded

CyndisList is proud to announce a newly upgraded web site. With improved navigation, a custom database, and a custom administrative interface, the upgrade means that everything will be quicker and easier for both visitors and for the site's owner and administrator, Cyndi Ingle Howells.

CyndisList.com is the world's largest one-woman family history resource, with more than 300,000 categorized links for genealogical research. For more than 15 years Cyndi's List has helped hundreds of thousands of people with their online journey to trace their family history. The site averages 275,000 unique visitors and 5,000,000 page hits every month. Cyndi's List has won numerous awards and consistently remains one of the top genealogical portals for beginners, intermediate, and veteran researchers.

**Source:** Washington DC FHC, Generations Newsletter, June 2011



The following announcement was written by Cyndi Ingle Howells, owner of Cyndi's List at <http://www.cyndislist.com>:

A major upgrade to celebrate 15 years of service

EDGEWOOD, WASHINGTON (June 6, 2011) – Cyndi's List is proud to announce a newly upgraded web site. With improved navigation, a custom database, and a custom administrative interface, the upgrade means that everything will be quicker and easier for both visitors and for the site's owner and administrator, Cyndi Ingle Howells. The upgrade has been done by fusionSpan of Maryland. Their staff worked closely with

Cyndi to make improvements and to implement new technology and new ideas designed specifically for Cyndi's List and for the genealogical community.

Part of the upgrade was made possible by donations from generous users of Cyndi's List. To date, 20% of what was accomplished in the project was thanks to them. Donors have been listed on the web site.

[http://blog.eogn.com/eastmans\\_online\\_genealogy/2011/06/cyndis-list-launches-a-new-web-site.html](http://blog.eogn.com/eastmans_online_genealogy/2011/06/cyndis-list-launches-a-new-web-site.html) 6/8/11

## FAMILY HISTORY AS A HOBBY VERSUS COVENANT

"Searching for our kindred dead isn't just a hobby. We believe that families may continue in the next life if they have kept the special covenants made in one of the sacred temples under the authority of God. We believe that our deceased ancestors can also be eternally united with their families when we make covenants in their behalf in the temples.

It is not likely that you will find any horse thieves in your ancestral line. But if you do, it is important that their temple work be done, because we believe in repentance for the dead also. The dead, who repent, will be redeemed through obedience to the ordinances of the house of God. And after they have paid the penalty of their transgressions, and are washed clean, shall receive a reward according to their works, for they are heirs of salvation."

**President James E. Faust Priesthood  
Session October 2003**

## JERUSALEM FILMED IN IMAX

<http://vimeo.com/15034110>

## DECEASED ONLINE AND OTHER SITES

Deceased Online is the central [database for UK burials and cremations](#). You can search registers by Country, Region, County, Burial Authority or Crematorium free of charge, but you would need to register to see images and additional information. By early August, [www.deceasedonline.com](http://www.deceasedonline.com) will have added another 1.25 million burial and cremation records from the north of Scotland to South Devon. And this on top of nearly a million burial records from the UK's largest cemetery added in February this year, just in time for the *Who Do You Think You Are Live* exhibition at London Olympia. [39,000+ Records for Romford Cemetery Added to www.deceasedonline.com](#)

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### [TheGenealogist.co.uk Adds new Wills, Parish Records and Directories](#)

The following announcement was written by [TheGenealogist.co.uk](#):

We have added the following books to our Parish Record collection:

- Bradfield, York Parish Register 1559-1722 over 32,000 individuals
  - Redruth, Cornwall Parish Registers 1560-1716 over 10,000 individuals
  - Newenden, Kent Parish Records 1559-1813 over 4,000 individuals
- .....

### [GenealogyBank Now has Over 70 Million Obituaries Online Plus Offers Special Price for EOGN Readers](#)

**Huge Historical Newspaper Archive at [GenealogyBank.com](#)**

The following was written by Thomas Jay Kemp, NewsBank's Director of Genealogy Products: Discover Unique, long-forgotten Information about Your Ancestors. GenealogyBank recently added over 32 million records and now has more than 855 million records online. 70 million of these records are obituaries published in newspapers and documents from the late 1600s to today.

Eastman 10 July 2011 [blog.eogn.com](http://blog.eogn.com)

## Free Online Converter

Bookmark this site: <http://www.online-convert.com/> It converts files from hundreds of formats to any of hundreds of other formats. Want to convert a DOC file to a PDF file? Online-Convert will do that. Want to convert an audio MP3 file to WAV format? Online-Convert will do that. The site has many, many other formats available as well. If you can't find the conversion you need, you can contact the site owners and they will try to help you. Best of all, the service is available free of charge.

Source: Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter, May 16, 2011

## One Letter is All it Takes

Sometimes it can be difficult to get the wrong name out of your head--especially when you have only one spelling or rendering of the name to go on. I was stuck on Emma Olenbaugh. She was only found in one census record. It turns out Olenbaugh were not her last name--Osenbaugh was. Could a change in one letter make all the difference in your research?

Source: Michael John Neill, *Genealogy Tip of the Day*, 5/6/2011

## Family History Training

The Family History Library in Salt Lake City and FamilySearch have provided many, many sources for training.

**Patron Class Calendar** - If you're visiting the Library, check this [schedule](#) for patron classes while you are there.

**Family History Lesson Series** - Several short [lessons](#) covering a variety of topics are available for download. Use as self-study guides or class supplements.

**Research Online Training Courses** - FamilySearch has many free [online courses](#) to teach you basic methods and resources to start your family history.

## Church History Online Catalog

The Church History Department has just released a Beta release of their new online catalog. Go to [churchhistorycatalog.lds.org/](http://churchhistorycatalog.lds.org/)

**There are six main sections on this catalog:**

**New Church History Catalog:** learn about the new features and increased search capability of the Church History Library Catalog.

**Digital Collections:** Explore the writings of early Church leaders as well as architectural renderings of historic Church buildings.

**Research Guides:** Get help from our online research guides of selected Church History topics created by their knowledgeable staff.

**Journal History:** Search the Journal History index to broaden your understanding of Church History events. This is a day by day history of the Church from 1830 - present day taken mostly from newspapers, but also from some minutes and diary entries.

**Church History Photographs:** Discover the visual past of the people and places of Church History through the online photograph collections.

**Mormon Pioneer Overland Travels:** Find a pioneer ancestor and relive their experience of crossing the plains.

## Other Features:

**Digital content is increasing.** At the present time you will not be able to actually see all of the records in the Church History Library, only the catalog. But, digital images are rapidly being created with several projects:

- Hundreds of 19<sup>th</sup> century books.
- Full text of the *Juvenile Instructor* and the *Relief Society Magazines*.
- Manuscripts in selected collections. Over 50,000 photographs.
- Tens of thousands of printed family histories.

**Ask a Librarian:** Get research help by submitting questions to the archivists and librarians, who will try to provide you with helpful information on your research.

**Patriarchal Blessing Requests:** This page gives information on requesting copies of blessings for yourself or a deceased direct-line ancestor.

**Church History Websites:** This provides links to a variety of Church History topics.

- Joseph Smith, Prophet of God.
- Joseph Smith Papers, which website will include diaries, outgoing and incoming correspondence,
- revelations, contemporary reports of discourses, editorials, and notices. Most of the information deals with information about the project rather than actual digital copies of documents, though there are some.
- Presidents of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. This site contains basic facts about each president of the Church, including biographical sketches, testimonies, quotes, and images.
- LDS Church Periodical Index. Index of Church Magazines and some other historical and doctrinal journals.

Searchable by keyword, author, title, subject, and publication.

## THE 1918 INFLUENZA: NO ORDINARY CASE OF THE FLU

By Mary Penner 07 July 2011

[www.marypenner.com](http://www.marypenner.com)

Taken from Ancestry.com Weekly Discovery

### Additional Church History Links, including:

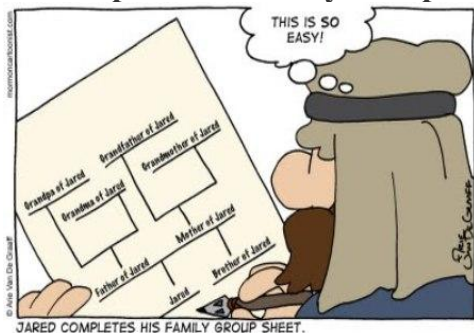
- BYU Websites, including their digital collection, images of photographs, drawings, and paintings of LDS historic sites, Holy Land sites, and significant people in Church history, and many more wonderful collections.
- Utah State Historical Society and Community of Christ Library collections.
- Links to all state university and major library collections.

### Digital Books and Newspapers, including:

- Utah Digital Newspapers, Library of Congress's American Memory Project, Google Books, etc.
- The Church History Library is an important place to do Church History research or Family History research. Besides the items listed above, two other collections are wonderful places to research: Manuscript history of wards and stakes and manuscript history of missions.

**Prepared for the newsletter by Maurine Ward**

### Jared Completes his Family Group Sheet



William Sanders probably wondered when the horror would end. The Carter County, Missouri resident watched his 14-year-old son, Leonard, die on October 8, 1918. Two days later, his 21-year-old son, Willie, died, followed by 7-year-old Timon, 15-year-old Simon, 3-year-old Dallas, and finally 17-year-old Maude. He lost six children in a span of nine days. Ten days later his 48-year-old wife Sarah died, leaving William a widower with three children under the age of 10.

William's stunning tragedy wasn't unique. Families across the United States, and around the world, grappled with a killer of unprecedented proportions - the Spanish Influenza. My grandfather, Henry Bergman, a healthy 37 year old man, fought his way back from near death when the flu struck him. He was one of the lucky ones.

It's fairly certain that the disease didn't originate in Spain. It was likely called the Spanish flu because Spain was one of the first countries in Western Europe that publicized significant numbers of flu-related deaths in the general population. Even today, nearly a century after the pandemic, virologists still remain fascinated by the origins of this catastrophic illness and its worldwide deadly march. While it's difficult to pinpoint exactly when, where, and why the illness developed, documented cases appeared among British troops in France in late 1916 into 1917. Other countries reported sporadic outbreaks of flu, including a particularly ominous outbreak in Kansas in

early 1918. Wherever it started, most agree that the conditions in France, the major battleground of World War I, contributed to an opportunistic perfect storm for this deadly strain of flu to strike throughout the world. Soldiers were on the move and they carried the illness with them.

A massive wave of the flu struck soldiers in Europe in the spring of 1918. Nearly 25,000 French troops reported ill with the flu in May. But, only a handful died, and the illness seemed to fade away during the summer. In late August and September, the flu re-emerged worldwide. This strain, though, proved to be lethal for millions of people. Accurate numbers aren't known, but estimates suggest around 30 million deaths from the flu. Some assert the number was probably much higher, approaching 100 million.

In practical terms for genealogists, hardly any American family escaped the effects of the flu. More than 25 percent of the American population became ill over a span of a few months. Fortunately, many of them recovered, but it was no ordinary case of the flu. Recovery was often a long and arduous undertaking. Even if your family members avoided getting sick, they may have felt the impact of the pandemic on their daily lives. Public gatherings were strictly curtailed. Schools were closed. People on the streets wore masks. Some communities posted guards on the roads and wouldn't allow strangers in, and some wouldn't allow anyone to disembark from trains that rolled through town. While church services were discouraged, some congregations met outdoors thinking that would be safer than meeting inside.

For many Americans, like the Sanders family in Missouri, the entire makeup of their family changed. John Oxford, a British virologist, noted that when "one person dies

... there are repercussions through the next generation." Was your family affected by the 1918 flu? Look for clues in these records.

**Census Records** - Study the changes in the family from 1910 to 1920. Don't forget to look for state census records, as well. Iowa and Kansas, for example, took a census in 1915. Genealogists are used to seeing children disappear from family groups, as childhood diseases often proved deadly. The preferred target of this flu, though, was seemingly healthy young adults between 20 and 40. Many children lost one or both parents. If you spot widows, widowers, and orphans in 1920, consider the possibility that the flu may have struck the family.

**Death Certificates** - By 1918, most states had laws requiring death certificates, although compliance could still be sporadic. Deaths from the flu might have been recorded in several different ways: Spanish influenza, influenza, bronchopneumonia, pneumonia, or respiratory infection, for example. Many death certificates list influenza as a contributory factor. One North Carolina death certificate, for example, lists the cause of death as "pneumonia following Spanish influenza." However, because of the swift and devastating nature of this illness, death certificates were never made for some people, especially those in large cities. Some cities were so overwhelmed by the number of dead people, that they were buried in mass graves. In Philadelphia, for example, at least 2,600 people died in the first week of October from the flu and its deadly complications. The next week at least 4,500 people died. Whole families were wiped out and bodies were piled high in the city morgue. Many of them were never properly identified.

**Military Records** - If you had any family members in the military, check for muster

rolls and service records. A scan of the Marine Corps muster rolls shows page after page of servicemen “sick in hospital” during the fall of 1918. Most of them had the flu. If your ancestral relative died in France in 1918, don’t assume it was a battle death. He may have died from the flu. One Army division reported 90 men wounded, captured, or killed in battle during the final weeks of the war. Yet, 444 men in the same division died from the flu.

Don’t forget to look at the records created for Gold Star Mothers. These records are a major source of information for World War I soldiers and their families.

**Historical Newspapers** - One of the best ways to understand the impact of the flu on your family is through the newspapers. It was news everywhere. Look for notices of who was ill, who died, and what precautions were taken by the local populace.

**Cemetery Records** - Walk through any cemetery in existence in 1918 and you may find a large number of grave markers from 1918. Check the cemetery records to see if they have interment files that list cause of death. Some newspapers reported that unscrupulous cemetery workers charged high burial fees, but made the families dig the graves themselves.

**Mortuary Records** - Many communities banned funerals for flu victims, allowing only minimal graveside services for the immediate family. If your ancestor was lucky enough to receive a funeral, you may find records at the funeral home, if it still exists. Some old mortuary records have been placed with local and state historical societies, libraries or archives. This example is from the new collection of California, San Francisco Area Funeral Home Records, 1895-1985 on Ancestry.com.

This flu left the landscape almost as quickly as it arrived. Another round, not nearly as deadly though, struck in the spring of 1919. And, there were scattered reports of this flu strain through 1920.

Scan your family history databases and look for deaths clustered around 1918. Every person’s death had an impact on other family members or perhaps even a direct impact on you. If you have deaths in your family related to the flu, do a little research. There are many excellent books, websites, and articles devoted to this catastrophe. Understanding the world in which our ancestors lived helps us to understand the challenges they faced.

### SYLVIA’S GENEALOGY CORNER

A life cut short before experiencing the happiness ahead for most young women - that's how the Krise Family of 1288 Franklin Street, Johnstown, Pennsylvania, in the area of Roxbury, felt when their beloved daughter Ruth was swept away by angels, taking her to a higher realm. She succumbed to the devastating Flu of 1918.

Ruth was born 16 February 1896 in Gazzam, Cambria County, Pennsylvania, to Alderman Warren Samuel Padget Krise and his wife Ella Genora (Hammer) Krise. She was the second child and second daughter of the Krises, who would give birth to 11 children.

Ruth was enjoying being a popular and pretty young woman despite the hard times of war and illness. She loved to pose for photos. Here Ruth Krise is in her dustcap.

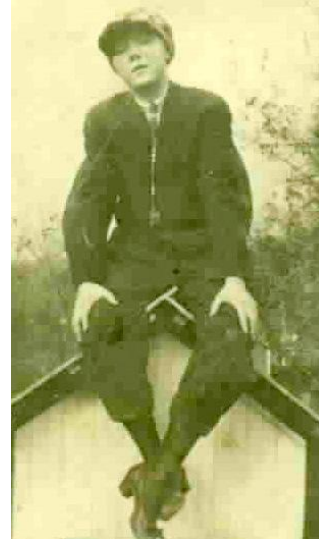




Ruth poses with two of her beloved sisters. L to R- Ruth, Elizabeth, and Lois Krise.

Ruth is my aunt. My mother Elizabeth, who was 11 years younger, shared a bedroom with Ruth. As a young girl, she remembers the love and admiration that she had for her older sister who lost her life at the age of 22. She remembers Ruth contracting a type of flu or consumption that caused her to cough and which weakened her until her spirit was called back home. My mother Elizabeth was moved to another bedroom so that she would not contract the contagion, and she remembers crying for her sister when she returned to an empty bedroom and slept in a bed alone after Ruth's death and after the bedroom had been fumigated. Ruth was laid out in the parlor of their home, and many friends called to offer their condolences. My grandfather Warren Krise sat up all night with the corpse to watch over her so that rats or other vermin did not disturb the body until she was taken to Grandview Cemetery and laid to rest. Because of her father's political career, hundreds of people visited in the big parlor with pocket doors to pay their last respects.

Ruth had been an unconventional lady. She loved to dress like a man. Here she is in her unconventional outfit in 1918 in Johnstown, PA. Certainly for the time period, a woman in pants would be most unusual, and one might assume she was a very independent young lady.



But she could also dress like a lady. Here she holds the youngest sister Mary, b. in 1914.

Ruth got to meet her baby sister Mary Isabella Krise before Ruth died. Ruth passed away from the flu on the 17 November 1918 in Johnstown, Cambria, Pennsylvania, and she is buried in the Grandview Cemetery.

Extremely stricken with Ruth's death was her fiancé, who was away at WWI in France and could not come home for her funeral. After he returned home, he would pace in front of her grave as he chain-smoked cigarettes in his grief for the loss of his beloved Ruth. Her mother Ella (my grandmother) always took an old coffee can to the gravesite so that the children could pick up the cigarette butts that were strewn in front of her grave by a man who obviously loved her.



Here is Ruth with her beau.

One wonders what her mission in life was as she was allowed to taste only the first fruits of love and then left this earth so soon.

After Ruth died, my mother received her dressing table, which has passed onto me. Mother also received her hair box, which I have passed on to my daughter-in-law Lisa.

These articles remind me of a life ended early and the grief the family felt for her. I look forward to meeting this beloved aunt who died long before I was born.

## SAVIORS ON MT. ZION

"Do what you can in this respect [Temple & Family History Work], so that when you pass to the other side of the veil your fathers, mothers, relatives, and friends will bless you for what you have done and in as much as you have been instruments in the hands of God in procuring their redemption, you will be recognized as Saviors upon Mount Zion in fulfillment of prophecy." **Source:** "The Teachings of Presidents of the Church: Wilford Woodruff", pg 185.

## THE TESTIMONY GLOVE

What are the five most important points that a little child needs to know about the Gospel of Jesus Christ? Primary leaders of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints are using a testimony glove to teach these points:

1. God is their Heavenly Father,
2. Jesus Christ is our Savior and Redeemer,
3. Joseph Smith is a prophet of God,
4. The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is the Lord's church on the earth today,
5. The church is led by a living prophet.

To illustrate these points, the Primary is using a white glove for the child to put on with a stamp-like picture of God, Jesus Christ, President Joseph Smith, a temple, and President Thomas S. Monson glued to the finger tips.

Information posted in *Mormon Times*, Sat., 2 July 2011, pp. 1 and 9

For copies of Genealogy News, go to

<http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~payork/York2Ward/>

**Thanks to Don and Jeanine Hartman of Utah for posting the newsletter online for us. You can contribute your family history of original York County ancestors at**

<http://familyhart.info>

## SEALING FAMILIES TOGETHER FOREVER

One of the beliefs of the Latter-day Saints is that families can be together forever. We believe that God's unit of organization in the eternities is the family. We also believe that in a civil ceremony, a couple is married "till death do ye part." By revelation to our first prophet Joseph Smith, we have been taught that the priesthood of the church has the power to seal families together forever at the altars of our holy temples. In our church, this is a momentous occasion.

On June 18, 2011, my son Patshal Landis and his wife Lisa were sealed in the temple at Washington DC. After they were sealed as a couple for time and all eternity, their son William was brought to the altar and was sealed to his parents. The priesthood member doing the sealing was a former bishop of Patshal's named Roger Morgenegg of York. As mother and grandmother, I want to tell you of the joy I feel for my children. My husband Jack and I attend the temple as often as we can, but I must confess that this was a very special day for all of us.



William, Patshal, and Lisa Landis on their sealing day at the Washington DC Temple, June 18, 2011.

## DESERET BOOKSHELF APP FEATURES OVER 1,500 E-BOOKS

As Deseret Books became aware of the surge of e-book or digital book purchases, they announced a software application (APP) called **Deseret Bookshelf** that will allow customers access to over 1,500 digital LDS titles.

Instead of storing traditional books that take up large amounts of space in the home, people can store e-books on a small, electronic device. The e-books are generally cheaper than the traditional books also.

To use Deseret Book's new e-reader, a person will need an iPhone, iPod Touch or iPad and access to the Internet. From the Apple application store, a consumer will need to search for Deseret Book and click on the install application button. It is free. As soon as the user downloads the application, he can log in, create an account with Deseret Book, and view these books that are immediately part of his library:

### FREE DESERET BOOK TITLES:

- *Autobiography of Parley P. Pratt*
- *Discourses of Brigham Young*
- *Gospel Doctrine* by Joseph F. Smith
- *History of Joseph Smith* by Lucy Mack Smith
- *Jesus the Christ* by James E. Talmage
- *Lectures on Faith* by Joseph Smith
- *The Miracle of Forgiveness* by Spencer W. Kimball
- *Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith*, compiled by Joseph Fielding Smith
- The LDS Standard Works
- Monthly issues of *the Ensign*, *New Era*, and *The Friend*.

The consumer can then purchase additional books – more than 1,500 titles with some of them being out-of-print books. Other special features include scriptural cross-references, searchable content, and book suggestions based on your purchases. “Bookshelf is the only e-reader on the market that offers instant full-text search of your entire library.” You can find favorite quotes and passages easily.

Slow loading time may be a challenge. Also, the app is available for Apple products. The Android version should be available by the end of summer, and in the future D.B. plans to have a version that works on any Internet browser. Information by Ryan Morgenegg, *Church News*, Week ending 9 July 2011

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## FAMILYSEARCH CENTERS

The umbrella name for all FamilySearch facilities will be FamilySearch Centers. Locally we have a Family History Center, which is also a FamilySearch Center. The main library in Salt Lake City is still the only Family History Library, and it is a FamilySearch Center. Check for additional information.

<https://www.familysearch.org/locations/>

And here is clarification from the senior manager of nFS:

Family History Centers have not been renamed. FamilySearch Center is an umbrella term being used for all "brick and Mortar" FamilySearch facilities. FamilySearch Centers include Family History Centers, the Family History Library in Salt Lake City, the FamilySearch Library in Riverton UT, and affiliate libraries (public facilities with access to the Church's film collection).

The updated familysearch.org provides the

ability to search for any FamilySearch Center in a particular location, with the exception of the affiliate libraries.

Lance McIntosh

Senior Manager of FamilySearch

## FAMILY HISTORY CENTERS

The most complete instructions on hours of operation seem to be on page 10, “Family History Center Operations Guide” United States and Canada

### Hours of Operation

The center director and high council adviser determine the days and hours of operation for the center.

- Centers should be open enough hours to meet the needs of members.
- Centers are encouraged to open on Sundays for a family history or other Sunday School class.

Members may use the center during other hours on Sunday that do not conflict with regular Sunday meetings.

- Centers must not be open on Monday evenings after 6:00 p.m.
- Centers may schedule members-only hours to ensure members have access to center resources.

Members-only hours should not be advertised to the general public.

[http://broadcast.lds.org/elearning/FHD/Local\\_Support/Priesthood/T3H/En/To\\_Turn\\_the\\_Hearts.pdf](http://broadcast.lds.org/elearning/FHD/Local_Support/Priesthood/T3H/En/To_Turn_the_Hearts.pdf)

## ONLINE FILM ORDERING

**In the near future Family History Centers will change over to having patrons order their films online, using a credit card. The local centers will no longer handle money except for copies.**

## HOW TO PRINT FILM LABELS

In OpenOffice.org Writer, click File, then New, and then Labels to open the Labels dialog box.

At the Labels tab, under Format, choose the label format you are using. For example, click the radio button next to Sheet; next to Brand, click Avery Letter Size from the drop-down box; and next to Type, click 5160 from the drop-down box, which is a 3 across and 10 down address label by Avery which measures 2.63" x 1".

Click New Document, which creates a new document in OpenOffice.org Writer where you can type or copy and paste your information about the patron and microfilm.

You might want to include this information:  
Name of the Patron (type or copy and paste from the Online Film Ordering administrator site)

Order Number (type or copy and paste from the Online Film Ordering administrator site)

Microfilm Number (type or copy and paste from the Online Film Ordering administrator site)

Description of Microfilm (type or copy and paste from the Film Ordering screen or the Family History Library Catalog)

Return Date (type the date, which is 90 days from the ship date, or copy and paste from the Online Film Ordering administrator site).

To print on a specific label, type the information into the appropriate label box. For example, if you want to print a label in the 3rd column and the 5th row, count over 3 and down 5, and start typing there.

Load the label paper into the printer correctly. You may need to experiment with your printer to see how the label paper should be loaded - face down or face up. Click File and then Print.

Another option for printing labels for centers in North America is to use Inventory Manager. See document 103088, which has an attachment at the bottom for the Inventory Manager Guide. Pages 48-49 list directions for creating and printing microfilm labels. In areas using online film ordering, center directors may keep Inventory Manager on a computer at the family history center for the purpose of creating labels. However, they will no longer be able to place orders using Inventory Manager.

So as you can see there are 2 ways to print labels.

Elder Walworth

Thank you for your responses. I know you can make your own labels, but didn't want to have to enter all the info by hand. From your response I see we can copy and paste from the admin site for online film ordering. I haven't been able to get on there yet as there is a glitch with the password retrieval button. Certainly not as easy as the current system in IM that automatically generates the labels, but workable.

Regarding the labels themselves...we use a removable label, rather than a permanent one, and remove them before returning films to SLC. They work very well and don't leave a messy residue. Avery makes them, and I believe we also have a generic brand as well.

Leslie Johnson

Redlands CA Family History Center Director

You cannot register (fully) for on line film ordering until they turn the key. If you go into film.familysearch.org you can register, but you can't pick your FHC because it has not been loaded at the bottom of the registration screen, but you can wander

through the different states and see which have been loaded and which have not been; for example only one FHC is on line in Florida; looks like maybe 50% in Utah but have no idea. Many Eastern states have no representation; some, like Idaho, maybe 50%. The point is, we got two emails Saturday before last stating that we were going online, and when, and it gave us a couple of real good training sites if you go into lds.org and burro down to service in the church and family history middle cell of that web page, you can link to some neat videos on the new system... We also got a number of pdf files for training; those should be available to everyone regardless of when they go on...

On Mon, Jul 18, 2011 at 1:43 PM, Rosemary Hopkins

#### FILM ORDERING con't

I believe that the online film ordering program is being rolled out by areas of the country. The Southwestern US was rolled out late last month. As one of the Area Advisers in the Southwest, I was notified to let the FHC's know about the scheduled rollout in our area. I informed the FHC's of the webinar training and the code to enter the class. I am sure that each area of the country will receive notification shortly before they receive the training. The big thing that everyone needs to do is ensure all films and fiche that the Center has on hand are entered into Inventory Manager. That will preclude patrons re-ordering films and fiche that you already have on hand.

Len Ingermanson

<https://familysearch.org/serve>

PREVIEW OF PERSONAL HISTORIAN 2 BY ROOTS MAGIC

Roots Magic will soon release a personal history writing software. At the present time it is still in beta. But in their latest newsletter, they have shared this screen shot:

<http://www.facebook.com/PersonalHistorian>

## CEMETERY UPDATES

Subject: New Oxford Cemetery - Excel index . Pictures can be found on familyhart web site by picture numbers

<http://midatlantic.rootsweb.ancestry.com/familyhart/pictures/HarrySenft/>

Thanks so much for the work you've done on cataloging the stones/ cemeteries in York and Adams Counties, Pennsylvania. It has allowed me to research my ancestors so much more from Missouri than I would have been able to do otherwise...(and saves a stone image from the ravages of time/weather). I hope the completed indexing of the New Oxford Cemetery is helpful to you. [robinfarris@juno.com](mailto:robinfarris@juno.com) (If you are interested in this index, please e-mail me for a copy. [slysyl@verizon.net](mailto:slysyl@verizon.net)).

Also available are the Folkenroth Burial Grounds in North Codorus Township. E-mail for list of this small cemetery if interested.

06-02-2011 Added about 600 pictures to Mount Rose Cemetery by Kathy Francis

<http://www.usgwarchives.net/pa/york/yccemeteries.htm>

HARRY E SENFT  
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DOVER, PA 17315  
(717) 792-9253

## FIND MY PAST.CO.UK WEBSITE

BRITISH MILITARY - Leading family history website, [www.findmypast.co.uk](http://www.findmypast.co.uk) has published the records of over half a million men who served in the British militia, the precursor to the UK's Territorial Army. The Militia Service Records, covering 1806 to 1915, have been made available online for the first time to coincide with British Armed Forces Day. Thanks to Lida Larkin – Lida's Tips

## BYU 43rd Annual Conference on Family History

The 43rd annual Conference on Family History and Genealogy will be held from July 26 to July 29, 2011, at the BYU Conference Center and will feature more than 100 classes for beginning, intermediate, and advanced participants. This year's theme focuses on building and strengthening your family ties through family history and genealogy.

<http://byucemedia.org/emailBlast/cwgen/email.html>

## Newspaper Archive Now Available Through Family History Centers

An additional site, "Access Newspaper Archive," has been added to the other subscription fee-based Premium Family History Websites offered for free at Family History Centers.

**You can find our 2011 compilation of 101 Best Websites for genealogy at <http://familytreemagazine.com/article/101-Best-Websites-2011>**

## FIVE MINUTE GENEALOGY

"5 Minute Genealogy is a new series of short videos posted on YouTube and FamilySearch.org that is being created by members of the Publications and Instructional Design Team. The series is all about doing genealogy, five minutes at a time. Each episode is designed to help people just getting started in family history. The viewer will learn new steps, be shown others who have experienced success, and assimilate the new information by completing a 5-minute challenge..."

See the new Patron Services Blog article, "5 Minute Genealogy is a Hit!" at <https://fch.ldschurch.org/blogs/andersondr>.

## LOST COUSINS NEWSLETTER

<http://lostcousins.com/newsletters/latejul11news.htm>

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## FAMILYSEARCH.ORG NEWS

<https://www.familysearch.org/news>

"Temple and family history work is a sacrifice of love. Faithful Saints contribute millions of hours compiling family history. They research microfilms and records, and with pens and computers, they record dates and events. In the temple they perform sacred ordinances for their precious ancestry. Like the Savior, this is an expression of sacrifice - doing something for others which they cannot do for themselves."

**Robert K. Dellenbach Of the Seventy**  
*"Sacrifice Brings Forth The Blessings of Heaven"*, Conference October, 2002.

## FOR WARD COUNCILS

Suggestions for Ward Councils: View the new online course titled “Family History and Missionary Work” found at [http://broadcast.lds.org/elearning/FHD/Local Support/Consultant/FH Missionary/player.html](http://broadcast.lds.org/elearning/FHD/Local%20Support/Consultant/FH%20Missionary/player.html)

### Help for High Council members assigned to Family History

Your support for ward Family History Consultants is vital to the success of Temple and Family History work in your Stake. The *Leader’s Guide to Temple and Family History Work: To Turn the Hearts* (available at <http://lds.org/service/serving-in-the-church/temple-and-family-history?lang=eng>) describes how leaders can organize, lead, and implement temple and family history work in wards and stakes. It gives details not found in *Handbook 2: Administering the Church*. The guide describes how family history can be an integral part of the ward council’s efforts to bring about the salvation of souls. It also contains relevant information on how family history consultants can help ward and stake leaders implement and advance family history efforts. The guide is currently available online and is also scheduled to be printed and distributed to local units in October 2011. You can also find it at [LDS.org](http://LDS.org). Select Menu > Serving in the Church > Temple and Family History > Resource for Leaders.

Newsletter compiled by Jack and Sylvia Sonneborn – [jsonneborn@verizon.net](mailto:jsonneborn@verizon.net) or [slysyl@verizon.net](mailto:slysyl@verizon.net)

## NEW BYU-TV WEBSITE

State-of-the-art meets elegant on the new BYUtv website. As BYU Broadcasting boldly goes where no other university media organization has gone before, we thought it would be great to give our website a sleek new look. The new look, simplified navigation, and updated social features make it easier to find what you’re looking for and connect with others in the community. Check out the new [byutv.org](http://byutv.org) today.

### OHANA SOFTWARE OFFERS HELP

We know you want to get working on your family history, so we thought you might enjoy some help:

FamilyInsight Tutorial Videos:

<http://www.OhanaSoftware.com/VideoTutorials>

Free Live Webinar Trainings- Sign up, watch, & ask questions...all from home. These cover both FamilyInsight and other general family history topics:

<http://www.OhanaSoftware.com/Webinars>

Click on the “Guide me” button in FamilyInsight. This gives help based on where you are in the program.

See the video at:

<http://www.OhanaSoftware.com/GuideMeVideo>

If you need further assistance, please don't hesitate to email us at

[support@ohanasoftware.com](mailto:support@ohanasoftware.com).

We hope you enjoy your new tool as much as we've enjoyed making it.

Aloha,

The Ohana Software Team

## INTERESTING READING

Heaven Is for Real – By Todd Burpo - the story of Colton Burpo who recalls out-of-world experiences after he comes out of a serious surgery at age 4.

## LOOKING FOR A COMPANY TO PRINT FAMILY HISTORY CHARTS?

Family ChartMasters

<http://www.familychartmasters.com/consult>.

## NOTES FROM DICK EASTMAN

Dick Eastman maintains a wonderful family history blog at

[http://blog.eogn.com/eastmans\\_online\\_genealogy/2011/06/bluegriffon-a-wysiwyg-html-content-editor.html](http://blog.eogn.com/eastmans_online_genealogy/2011/06/bluegriffon-a-wysiwyg-html-content-editor.html)

Each month I include a few tidbits of information from his website. I list the date so that if you want to search for the article, you can find it. You can read entire articles if you subscribe to the Plus Edition.

Instructions on how to self-publish a book:  
[http://blog.eogn.com/eastmans\\_online\\_genealogy/2011/06/how-to-self-publish-a-book-and-sell-it-on-amazon.html](http://blog.eogn.com/eastmans_online_genealogy/2011/06/how-to-self-publish-a-book-and-sell-it-on-amazon.html) 6/5/11

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Who has the best Civil War facial hair?

<http://www.smithsonianmag.com/history-archaeology/Who-Had-the-Best-Civil-War-Facial-Hair.html> 6/7/11

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Note: Too bad my Jack's was not eligible for the race. Lately he has been sporting a beard as well as a moustache. If he could be put beside the Civil War men, I'm sure he could win the contest!

## Together Genealogy and Technology

I believe this is a major announcement. As readers of this newsletter already know, using technology is not necessary to research one's family tree, but it certainly can help! FamilySearch has been involved in providing genealogy information for decades. Now the same organization is assembling technical information on a new web site with the purpose of providing helpful information to you and to everyone else interested in genealogy. The following announcement was written by Family Search:

Genealogy has been a popular hobby for over a century, but the pursuit of one's ancestors is now a decidedly technology-intensive endeavor. To help family historians take advantage of the latest technology, FamilySearch has launched a new section on its FamilySearch.org website called [FamilySearch TechTips](#).

The goal of TechTips is to continue building a bridge between the developing worlds of technology and genealogy, according to FamilySearch product marketing manager Jim Ericson.

“For someone who is already excited about family history, FamilySearch TechTips can introduce them to technologies that will help them climb their family tree,” Ericson said. “Those who may not be familiar with genealogy, but are technology enthusiasts, can learn how products can be applied to family history.”

<https://www.familysearch.org/techtips/> 6/9

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## GENDETECTIVE

You can learn more about GenDetective at <http://www.rumblesoftinc.com>

GenDetective tells you what you don't have on your ancestor. 6/20/11

**London 1911 Census Now Available on TheGenealogist.co.uk**

The following announcement was written by TheGenealogist.co.uk: We have now completed our transcription of Paddington, Chelsea and Kensington from the London 1911 census, and these have been added into our Diamond Premium subscription. 6/9/11

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**British Library and Google to Make 250,000 Books Available to All**

The British Library and Google today announced a partnership to digitise 250,000 out-of-copyright books from the Library's collections. Opening up access to one of the greatest collections of books in the world, this demonstrates the Library's commitment, as stated in its 2020 Vision, to increase access to anyone who wants to do research. Once digitised, these unique items will be available for full text search, download and reading through Google Books 6/21/11

**ABBY TextGrabber for the iPhone/iPod Touch**

This week I added a new software tool to my genealogy toolbox: **ABBY TextGrabber**. Actually, this program uses a process that I have been using for several years: take a picture of documents and then later convert the image to text by use of OCR (optical character recognition).

The one difference is that ABBY TextGrabber provides the software to "package" everything together in one easy-to-use program. If you already own an Apple iPhone or iPod Touch, you might want to add this...6/25/11

**HOMEPIPE FOR STORAGE**

HomePipe is a FREE online service that allows you to easily access and (optionally) share your files. You can store any form of digital files: text, pictures, video, music, presentations, or even genealogy databases. You can use disk space on any Windows, Macintosh, or Linux computer at home or at the office and yet be able to access the files within that disk space from another location. You can make all your files available or just a few; you remain in control at all times. Files may be retrieved to any Windows, Macintosh, or Linux computer, such as a laptop computer in a hotel room, or to an iPhone, iPad, Android, or Windows Phone 7 handheld device. You can learn more about HomePipe at <http://www.homepipe.net/>. 6/26/11

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**14,000 SSDI RECORDS WRONG THIS PAST YEAR**

How accurate is the Social Security Death Index? Apparently not accurate at all, according to Thomas Hargrove of the Scripps Howard News Service. He writes, "The Social Security Administration each month falsely reports that nearly 1,200 living Americans have died. These clerical errors, found in a federal database ominously titled the "Death Master File," might be darkly humorous - evoking Mark Twain's famous quip that death reports can be greatly exaggerated.6/27/11



I [wrote before](#) about [Mocavo](#) and called it "a genealogy search engine." Now the company has added new functionality and my earlier description is no longer accurate. But now I think I need to describe Mocavo as "a genealogy search and matching service." 7/1/11 Eastman

## Geni.com



Geni is a collaborative online service that is solving many of the problems of genealogy by inviting the world to build the definitive online family tree. Using the basic free service at Geni.com, users add and invite their relatives to join their family tree, which Geni compares to other trees. Matching trees are then merged into the single world family tree, which currently contains nearly 50 million living users and their ancestors. 6/27/11 Above – Photo of the pres. of Geni along with Dick Eastman

### USING NEW FAMILYSEARCH

I recently posted an update to my manual "How To Use New FamilySearch Correctly" at my website,

[www.usingfamilysearch.com](http://www.usingfamilysearch.com).

The updated manual is now available for free download. This was a major update, as it is the first update in 17 months, so a large portion of the manual has been modified to reflect the many changes which have occurred in New FamilySearch. So I suggest you will likely want to print the entire manual.

The manual is 81 pages in length, including 3 un-numbered pages at the beginning. This is about 7 pages longer than the previous version. Changes include the Watch feature, the termination of Disputes, the new

Discussions feature, the rollout to the general public, and many smaller issues. I also updated the chapter on future changes to New FamilySearch and the chapter on third-party (Affiliate) software programs.

George Scott of Orem, Utah

[FamilySearch Records Update: 25 million new records for Scandinavia, Eastern and Western Europe, North America, Mexico, and Peru](#)

**FamilySearch Updates 55 Collections; adds 25 million new records**

The recent collection updates at [FamilySearch.org](http://FamilySearch.org) reflect FamilySearch's commitment to digitally convert and publish its microfilm collection online. The latest additions include 25 million new images of historic records for 16 countries. The new records were added for Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Czech Republic, England, Italy, Netherlands, New Zealand, Peru, Poland, Slovakia, South Africa, Spain, Switzerland, U.S., and Wales. Of particular interest is the addition of over 8 million civil registration records for the Netherlands. Search the records online now at [FamilySearch.org](http://FamilySearch.org).

The 1930 U.S. Census indexing project will be completed this month. This enhanced index will be a great benefit to online patrons. We will now start many new U.S. projects for volunteers to consider. We are working toward building a nationwide marriage index. There are several already underway, and many new marriage projects are coming. We also started a Civil War era initiative recently that will include record collections expanding before and after the Civil War that will help researchers identify their Civil War era ancestors. We're also adding some fun emigration projects (passenger lists, naturalization records).

*That's All Folks! July 's newsletter will soon follow.*