



Recording Longitudes and Latitudes

Within Legacy we have the ability to record Longitudes and Latitudes. This can be a very important source that you record. I say source because it can find a location that later might have a name change or be removed.

We record the name of a book or other source of genealogy information so why not these? Typically when we record something we will record the name, street address, city and state. What happens when you pay that site a visit and it is no longer there by that name, maybe now a Wal-Mart? Yuck.

GPS is used to pinpoint a cemetery location, and within that cemetery especially if a large one, the location for your ancestors final resting place.

Now lets think of grandpa's farm.

It would seem to me that if you can find and record the latitude and longitude of exactly where he lived and farmed this would aid future genealogists who have access to your data even if no longer is a farm there but some other building. At least you can get a feel for the locality then.

What about g-uncle's home in town?

You now have a street, a house number, color of the house, even a photo maybe. Good! But, not so fast streets disappear, house numbers get renumbered by the town, and, houses get painted and remodeled. Even years down the road towns disappear or get renamed.

Topographic maps will provide accurate information to a point, but be aware that the GPS system, charts and maps use several coordinate systems, so if you are looking for the ultimate position accuracy, you should also record the coordinate system used.

WGS-84 is probably a good choice: <http://www.ngs.noaa.gov/CORS/Articles/Reference-Systems-Part-3.pdf>

You could also use one of the greatest free sources of lat/long: Google Earth. Just zoom in to the site, place your cursor over the grave location and copy down the lat/long from the screen. For example, one of my ancestor's stone is at 41 38'45.48"N 85 07'54.13"W (degrees, seconds, minutes, using Google's notation). You can copy/paste that in the search area to locate the stone. Not all locations are so detailed that one can pick out gravestones, but there is one, with many of my ancestors buried in, which is.

Recording this information

Following extracted from the Help file within your Legacy program

You can record the latitude and longitude coordinates of a location if you know them. These are sometimes useful while trying to locate old cemeteries or when wanting the distance and direction from one town to another. (See Latitude and Longitude for more information on this subject.)

(The latitude and longitude must be in the form of degrees, minutes and seconds. The degrees must be between 0 and 90, if a latitude and between 0 and 180, if a longitude. The minutes and seconds must be between 0 and 59. The seconds can have up to three decimal places after it. e.g. 681234.293)

The Deluxe Edition of Legacy includes a Distance and Bearing Calculator that can be used to find out how far any two points on earth are in miles (statute or nautical) or kilometers and what compass heading to take from one to the other. You can also convert decimal coordinate values to the required degrees, minutes and seconds. Click the button to access it. (See Distance and Bearing Calculator for more information.)

Following is an example:

Add / Edit Location

Preposition in **Location (city, county, state/prov, country)** Portland, Multnomah, Oregon - Willamette National Cemetery

Short Location Name (abbreviated version of above) Portland, (Multnomah), Oregon - Willamette National Cemetery

Notes:
11800 S.E. Mt. Scott Blvd
Portland, Oregon 97266-6937

Latitude and Longitude (optional)

Latitude		Longitude	
DDMMSS.xxx	N/S	DDDMMSS.xxx	E/W
452744	N	1223228	W

Verified

I have also included here the street address along with other data should I wish to write to them. I also need to records the website address within the notes section, something for me to yet do.