



GENEALOGY NEWS

Compiled by Jack and Sylvia Sonneborn.....

75 BEST STATE GENEALOGY WEBSITES

State historical societies and archives are taking the lead in preserving and providing access to records kept on the state and county levels....you now can access a lot of these materials online-many for free. In some cases, you can search online indexes and then order copies of the original records for a fee. Sites increasingly are providing searchers with digital images of original records for free. We commend these state organizations-and a few very ambitious individuals-for making valuable genealogical information easily accessible online.

To read more, click [here](#).

Source: *FamilyTree Magazine*, October 26, 2013 AS
REPORTED IN GENERATIONS NEWSLETTERS

YOU MAY HAVE MISSED THESE IN NOVEMBER/DECEMBER ANCESTRY BLOG:

Just click on the hyperlink:

- [Using the Ancestry.com Card Catalog \[VIDEO\]](#)
- [New Content: Census of Canada Index, TX Weddings, NC Cherokee, Pension Records](#)
- [AncestryDNA Can Take You On A Historical Adventure](#)
- [Ancestry.com: Inc. Hire Power Award Honoree](#)
- [Native American Records LIVE Training](#)
- [Getting High Tech for Holiday Storytelling](#)
- [Visiting Historic Boston: The Freedom Trail and More](#)
- [Commemorate the Veterans in Your Tree on Fold3's Honor Wall](#)

[Newspapers.com Blog](#)

- [Veterans Day](#)

[Fold3 Spotlights](#)

- [The Gettysburg Address](#)
- [A Powerful 24 Notes](#)
- [The Tin Noses Shop](#)

Videos

[From the Barefoot Genealogist:](#)

- [Sharing Family History With the Genealogically Challenged](#)
- [Getting the Most Out of the 1921 Canada Census](#)
- [Collection Spotlight: WWII United News Newsreels](#)
- [Ancestry.com Family History Wiki \[VIDEO\]](#)
- [Looking Back at the Assassination of President John F Kennedy in New Online Historical Record Collection](#)
- [Why You Need to Learn About Changing County Boundaries](#)
- [Is Your Family History Safe from Disaster?](#)

[Fold3](#)

- [Commemorate the Gettysburg Address and Honor the Fallen by Planting a Tree](#)
- [This Month in History — JFK Assassination](#)
- [JFK](#)
- [Six Brave Marines](#)
- [The Gettysburg Address](#)
- [A Powerful 24 Notes](#)

[Newspapers.com](#)

- [Sadie Hawkins Day](#)
- [Coming Soon: A New Viewer](#)

- [Historical Headline – 50th Anniversary of the Assassination of John F. Kennedy](#)

Archives: [New Collections: Delaware, Rhode Island, South Dakota and D.C.](#)

- Expert Series: [Family History Research in Georgia](#) from Stephanie Pitcher Fishman

Videos: [From the Barefoot Genealogist:](#)

- [How Laws Affect the Records Created About Your Ancestors](#)

[Sharing Family History With the Genealogically Challenged](#)

- [Daughters of Utah Pioneers](#)
- [What Kind of Beard Did Your Ancestor Sport?](#)
- [Thanksgivukkah and Family History](#)
- [Every Picture Contains a Story](#)
- [New Content: Vets, Criminals, Immigrants, and Engineers](#)
- [Window To the Past: Vintage Photos Blended With Modern Day Scenes](#)
- [Fill in Ancestral Backstory with New Texas Research Guide](#)
- [New Content: British Quakers, Hawaiian Passengers, and AP Stories](#)
- [Tips for Memorable Family Photos Fit for Your Family Tree](#)
- [Hunger Games Hometown Favorites – Katniss? Haymitch? Coriolanus Snow?](#)

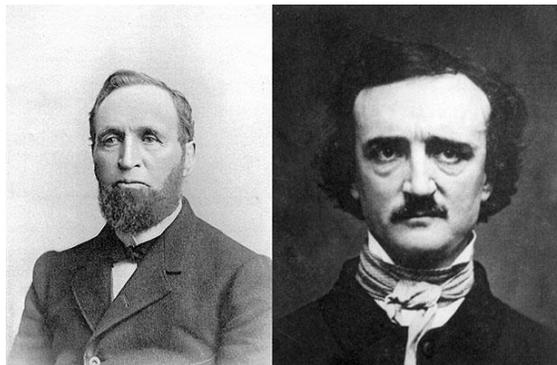
Newspapers.com: [Thanksgiving Sides from Years Past Archives](#)

- [Highlight: Massachusetts Collections](#)
- [Preventing the Spanish Flu](#)
- [An Army of Deception](#)
- [A Vietnam War Thanksgiving](#)
- [The Legend of Vivia Thomas](#)

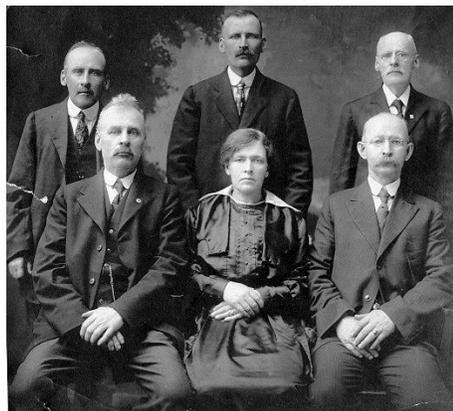
Videos: [From the Barefoot Genealogist:](#)

- [Researching Your Relatives from the Lone Star State](#)

Why Didn't People Smile in Old Photos?



Ever wonder why people in old paintings and photographs generally don't have smiles on their faces? We [explored this subject a little](#) back in November 2012, and found that reasons may have included technical limitations, oral hygiene, and the seriousness of formal occasions. Over at the *Public Domain Review*, Nicholas Jeeves has [written up an in-depth piece](#) on this subject that comes to some different conclusions.



Do a search for vintage portraits online, and you'll see that generally people looked serious (and sometimes pissed).

First off, Jeeves dismisses the notion that people of old refused to smile because their teeth were rotting. It wasn't that people didn't have bad teeth, as dental hygiene really was awful, but rather that bad teeth were so common that seeing them did not take away from a person's attractiveness at the time.

So what were some of the real reasons people didn't smile? Jeeves writes that in addition to the simple fact that nice-looking smiles are difficult to create and capture, one of the main reasons was how smiles were perceived centuries ago.

Although nowadays we think of smiles as being indicative of happiness, humor, and warmth, they

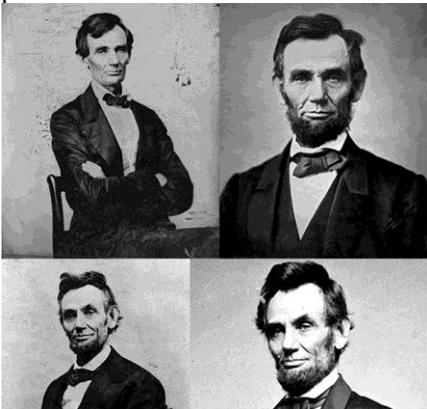
apparently had a very different meaning back in the day:

By the 17th century in Europe it was a well-established fact that the only people who smiled broadly, in life and in art, were the poor, the lewd, the drunk, the innocent, and the entertainment

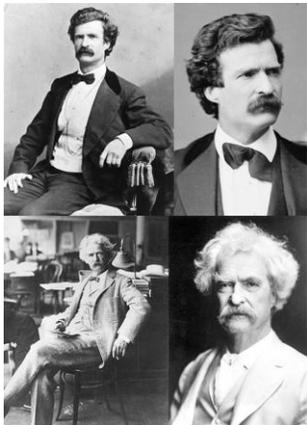
Want to be seen as upper class and as a person of good character? Don't smile.

For this reason, both the creators and the sitters of portraits had good reason to keep the smiles out of the resulting images, which explains why we don't see photos of famous figures donning a grin in their official portraits.

Abraham Lincoln, although known for his humorous personality during his time, is now remembered more by the extremely serious expressions he chose to wear during official portrait sessions:



Another man Jeeves cites is author and *humorist* Mark Twain. He was quite a funny guy as well, but Twain hardly let any of that show in his portrait photographs:



In a letter to the *Sacramento Daily Union*, Twain wrote, "A photograph is a most important document, and there is nothing more damning to go down to posterity than a silly, foolish smile caught and fixed forever."

PetaPixel

Quick-Tip of the Month for Preservation--Back to Basics: Paper Preservation

by Dawne Slater-Putt, CG(sm)*

The Genealogy Center gets calls on a regular basis from people who are interested in preserving – or conserving might be a better term – their paper memorabilia. This might include old family bibles, cookbooks, military discharge papers and countless other treasures. It's all well and good to extract the information in these documents into a genealogy program, and even to scan them and create a digital copy that can guard against loss of the information if the original deteriorates further. But how can one try to preserve the original paper document or book?

Some suggestions are:
*Contact an antique dealer, preferably one who handles old paper items if that can be determined, and ask for advice.

*Contact used book dealers in your area and ask if they use or know of a paper restoration/conservation specialist locally.

*Historical societies and museums also might be a source of information.

*The State Historical Records Advisory Board (SHRAB) could be an important resource. Contact information for each state can be found here:

www.statearchivists.org/shrabs.htm. While these boards are largely advisory and administrative, some have expanded their mission and conduct workshops on paper conservation.

*Locally-owned (not chain store) stationers might know of other "paper people" and be able to give you some leads.

*Scrapbooking or paper arts stores often know a great deal about working with acid-free and photo-safe materials and might be able to give you the names of companies that

sell tissue, file folders, storage boxes and clear sleeves designed for keeping documents from deteriorating further.

*Check out the section on Cyndi's List of Genealogical Sites on the Internet that is devoted to preservation of paper and books: <http://cyndislist.com/preservation/paper/>. Cyndi has thirty-one links to articles and information on the Internet about paper conservation. Many of them have tips for things you can do at home to preserve your documents.

Keep in mind that all of the above suggestions might serve as "middlemen." They might not be able to help you directly or give you an answer to your specific question. But any one of them might provide a lead to someone who can provide the paper preservation/conservation services or advice you need.

*"CG" & "Certified Genealogist" are service marks of the Board for Certification of Genealogists, and are used by authorized associates following periodic, peer-reviewed competency evaluations. Certificate No. 386 awarded 4 July 1996; expires 4 July 2016.

GENEALOGIST'S CHRISTMAS EVE --Author Unknown

*'Twas the night before Christmas
And all through the house
Not a creature was stirring,
Not even my spouse.*

*The dining room table with clutter was spread
With pedigree charts and with letters which said...
"Too bad about the data for which you wrote;
Sank in a storm on an ill-fated boat."*

*Stacks of old copies of wills and such
Were proof that my work had become too much.
Our children were nestled all snug in their beds,
While visions of sugarplums danced in their heads.*

*And I at my table was ready to drop
From work on my album with photos to crop.
Christmas was here, and such was my lot
That presents and goodies and toys I'd forgot.*

*Had I not been busy with grandparents' wills,
I'd not have forgotten to shop for such thrills,
While others bought gifts to bring Christmas cheers,
I'd spent time researching those birth dates and years.*

*While I was thus musing about my sad plight,
A strange noise on the lawn gave me such a great
fright.
Away to the window I flew in a flash,
Tore open the drapes and yanked up the sash.*

*When what with my wondering eyes should appear,
But an overstuffed sleigh and eight tiny reindeer.
Up to the house top the reindeer they flew,
With a sleigh full of toys and 'ole Santa Claus, too.*

*And then in a twinkle, I heard on the roof
The prancing and pawing of thirty-two hooves.
As I drew in my head, and bumped it on the sash,
Down the cold chimney fell Santa--KER-RASH!*

*"Dear" Santa had come from the roof in a wreck,
And tracked soot on the carpet, (I could wring his short
neck!)
Spotting my face, good 'ole Santa could see
I had no Christmas spirit you'd have to agree.*

*He spoke not a word, but went straight to his work
And filled all the stockings, (I felt like a jerk).
Here was Santa, who'd brought us such gladness and
joy,
When I'd been too busy for even one toy.*

*He spied my research on the table all spread
"A genealogist!" he cried! (My face was all red!).
"Tonight I've met many like you," Santa grinned,
As he pulled from his sack a large book he had
penned.*

*I gazed with amusement--the cover it read
Genealogy Lines for Which You Have Plead.
"I know what it's like as a genealogy bug."
He said as he gave me a great Santa hug.*

*"While the elves make the sleighful of toys I now carry,
I do some research in the North Pole Library!
A special treat I am thus able to bring,
To genealogy folk who can't find a thing."*

*"Now off you go to your bed for a rest.
I'll clean up the house from this genealogy mess."
As I climbed up the stairs full of gladness and glee,
I looked back at Santa who'd brought much to me.*

*While settling in bed, I heard Santa's clear whistle
To his team, which then rose like the down of a thistle.
And I heard him exclaim as he flew out of sight,
"Family history is Fun! Merry Christmas! Goodnight!"*

iPad Tip for Family Tree- Sources

Family Tree Sources open differently on an iPad than they do on a computer. At the top of your Source list, tap the "Open Details" tab. This will open details for all of your Sources. You can now tap the URL for the selected source to see the Source Index and from there tap on image (if available) to open the actual image. At the top of your Source list, you can click "Close Details" if you so desire. Going to another person and coming back or refreshing (reloading) the page will also close the Source Details.

Submitted by Derwin Merrill, Assoc Director
Logan FamilySearch Library

WOW Saturday

A very successful evening was held at the Richland Family History Center, a "Date night" for the Stake Presidency, Stake Executive Secretary, Stake Clerk, and High Councilman assigned to Family History. The Center was closed except for the guests and six adult and five **youth consultants** to assist them.

After prayer, a short power point presentation about FamilySearch Family Tree started the evening. The guests then each went to a computer with a consultant to explore Family Tree and look for Temple Opportunities. Several were new to the programs. It was a wonderful, "Heart Turning Evening."

A little pre-work was helpful in guiding the Stake President and one of his counselors to help them discovery ancestors that were waiting for temple ordinances. Puzzilla.org was useful in guiding them to fruitful locations in their descendency research. Most of the guests were from generational Mormon families, and this REALLY helped.

A welcome display to greet and make the center friendlier for the evening was on a

large table. In the center was a Temple picture and a small sign that said, "The Temple connects Generations"; on the left side of the temple picture were three grandchildren pictures: youth in front of the Temple, a missionary, and an 8 x 10 of the Stake President's grandchildren (which was a surprise to him). On the other side were eight or nine pictures printed from FamilySearch Family Tree from the two lines that we had information on. It was amazing how good the pictures printed and how nice they looked in frames. It was really fun to see the looks on the faces as family members recognized some of the pictures and then realized from the names others were also theirs.

The message was good and very personal. Many of those attending found new information or printed Ordinance Requests. The most interesting thing was at the end of the evening - the Stake President and his councilor asked if they could have the pictures related to them. Just black and white pictures from the Family Tree. They were pictures of their ancestors that they had not seen before. The "Pictures" really do turn hearts. It was an amazing evening.
Submitted by Janet McKinnon, Richland Washington FHC



Announcing RootsTech 2014 Registration and Limited Time Discount

August 28, 2013 By [Amy E. Smith](#)



Registration is now open for RootsTech 2014, which will be held February 6–8, 2014 at the Salt Palace Convention Center in Salt Lake City, Utah.

This annual family history conference, hosted by FamilySearch, is a unique global event where people of all ages learn to **discover** and **share** their family stories and connections through technology. Over the past three years, RootsTech has grown in popularity with attendees to become the largest family history event in the U.S.!

Whether attendees are just beginning their family history, an avid hobbyist, or an experienced researcher, RootsTech has something for everyone:

- [Classes and Computer Labs](#)
—Over 200 classes and computer labs taught by knowledgeable experts and enthusiasts in family history.
- [Getting Started Track](#)
—A track of over 30 classes designed to help beginners start their family tree. Passes start at only \$19.
- [Developer Day](#)
—A preconference event on Wednesday, February 5, for developers to innovate and collaborate with other engineers and family history industry experts.
- [Expo Hall](#)
—A huge expo with over 100 informative vendors and interactive booths where attendees can record a family story, scan a book or photo, or create a visual family tree.

- [Family Discovery Day](#)
—New! A day of free inspirational classes for members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints to learn more about strengthening family relationships across generations through family history.

Pass Pricing and Early Bird Discounts

Various [pass options](#) are available, with pricing set to make RootsTech an affordable experience. Early Bird pricing discounts for a Full Access Pass (\$159) and a Getting Started Pass (\$39) are available until January 6, 2014. To get more information and register, visit rootstech.org.

family history

How to Call a Center Director

November 13, 2013 By [David Green](#)

Family History Centers are now under the direction of the stake. All family history centers are “stake” family history centers even if there are several family history centers in one stake. On page 9 of in [To Turn the Hearts, Leaders Guide to Temple and Family History Work](#), the purposes of family history centers are outlined. “Family history centers operate under priesthood direction. The assigned high councilor responsible for temple and family history work, under the direction of the stake presidency, oversees all family history centers in the stake”.

The calling of a family history center director is outlined on page 10 in [To Turn the Hearts, Leader’s Guide to Temple and Family History Work](#).

“Directors and assistant directors are recommended to serve by the stake presidency and are approved by the stake presidency and the high council. The stake presidency may ask the assigned high councilor for a recommendation”

The family history consultant calling is issued by the ward. Consultants could be called to serve as family history center staff. Also on page 10 in [To Turn the Hearts, Leaders Guide to Temple and Family History Work](#), the calling of a family history consultant called to serve in the family history center is outlined.

“The high councilor coordinates through bishoprics and high priests group leaders to assign enough family history consultants to staff family history centers in the stake. Consultants are called by bishoprics.”

To conclude, the position of family history center director is a stake calling. The assigned high councilor oversees all family history centers in the stake. He recommends members to be called as family history center directors and assistant directors (if needed). A member of the stake presidency or the high councilor calls and sets apart these members ([Leader’s Guide to Temple and Family History Work: To Turn the Hearts](#) (2011), 24).

Two previous articles and one below are found in <https://familysearch.org/blog>

Family Discovery Day for LDS Church Members

In conjunction with the third day of RootsTech, on Saturday, February 8, 2014, Family Discover Day is a day of devotionals, classes, and interactive experiences designed especially for members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. Whether you’re just getting started with photos and stories or are already into your family tree, there is something for everyone.

Hear inspirational messages from Elder Neil L. Andersen, Elder Allan F. Packer, Elder Bradley D. Foster, and popular speakers who will:

- Help inspire you to record, preserve, and share your family stories.
- Teach you to find and prepare your family names for temple work.
- Teach you the powerful features of the Family Tree on FamilySearch.
- Help those with family history callings with insightful training.
- Help you get started on your family history.

Family Discovery Day is **free** to attend and includes access to the huge RootsTech Expo Hall, where more than 100 vendors will help you with things, such as:

- Recording your story.
- Scanning photos and books.
- Creating a visual family tree and more.

Family Discovery Day Classes

<https://rootstech.org/discovery/>

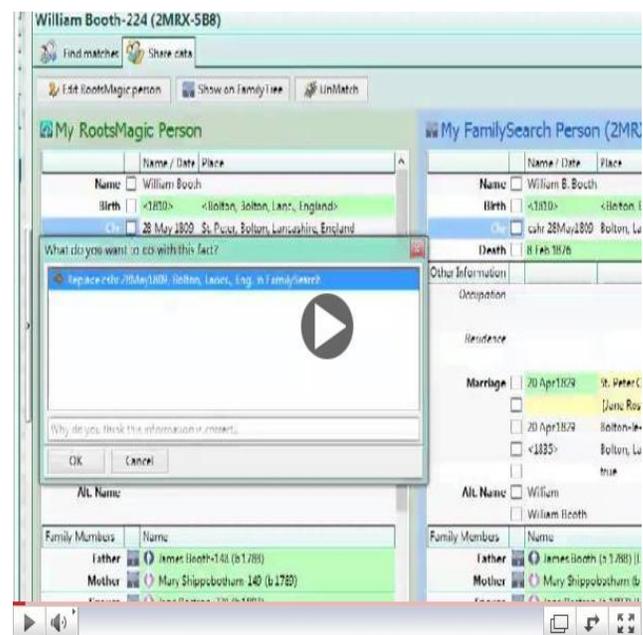
Family Discovery Day classes have an ID number that starts with LDS.

Register for Family Discovery Day

Family Discovery Day is **free** and includes access to the RootsTech Expo Hall. Click the **orange registration button** at the top of the website. Begin the registration process, and on step 3, select **Family Discovery Day** as your pass option.

RootsMagic TV

[RootsMagic TV](#) is a YouTube site where you can access full one-hour webinars and brief how-to tutorials. Below is a sample of a short tutorial. We encourage you to check out [RootsMagic TV](#) and to learn the many features of this software.



Sharing Data with RootsMagic and FamilySearch Family Tree

GENEALOGY TIPS OF THE DAY

by Michael John Neill

Record Copies are Handwritten, Usually. Most of the local copies of records used by genealogists are not originals but are record copies. While it is always possible the local courthouse will have the "original," most likely the material you are using from the courthouse is a manual transcription of the original item. Because of this, the copy you are using does not contain the original signature, could contain transcription errors, may have been made from an original which was occasionally difficult to read. If you are not certain whether the item you have is a "record copy," ask.

Bits and Pieces of Truth. It sometimes is tempting to completely ignore a document that contains some information that is clearly incorrect. Avoid this temptation. It is possible that the informant was only confused (or lying) about some of the details they provided for the record. There may be other details that are entirely correct. That may be because the informant actually had first hand knowledge of those details or those details were not a part of the lie. Any document can contain pieces of information that are true, pieces of information that are false and pieces of information that are somewhere in between. Don't remove a document from consideration only because a few parts of it are known to be incorrect.

Did They Lose Part of the Last Name? Did your ancestor, either intentionally or on accident, lose part of his last name? Did some of your DeMoss ancestor's records get recorded with the last name of Moss? Did your VonDeHeide ancestor become DeHeide or just Heide? It is always possible that the clerk only bothered to use part of your ancestor's last name.

Were They in the Poor Farm? If you can't "find" your ancestor for a few years, have you considered the possibility that they fell on hard times and spent a while in the local poor farm or almshouse? Records of the county poor farm may be at the local county courthouse, county seat library, a county historical society, or elsewhere.

Was the Nearest Church Close Enough? If your migrating ancestor settled where there was no church of the "right" denomination, he may have attended the nearest church with religious practices fairly close to his own. Don't get stuck in the mindset that "all members of my family were members of only one denomination." Your Methodist may have attended Lutheran services if that was the nearest church. Or your Baptist may have attended a Methodist church if that was the closest option. Of course this also depends upon how "strong" your ancestor's convictions were.

Source: [Genealogy Tip of the Day](#)

CAN A CHILD BE SEALED TO A SINGLE MOTHER?

Re. sealing to an unknown father, the following can be found by going to familysearch.org. Sign in. Click Get Help in the upper right corner and then click Product Support in the white box. On the Product Support page, click the Temple icon to find only articles regarding temple policies. I typed in "seal unknown father" in the search box and found the following policy statement: "A child cannot be sealed to parents without a father, regardless of the circumstances. The father's given name or surname must be provided."

Sister Tychonievich

CHANGING INFORMATION IN FAMILY TREE AND NOT PROVIDING CONTACT INFORMATION - One man's opinion

James Tanner, blogger at Genealogy's Star makes the same point in today's posting:

"Today I have been looking at FamilySearch.org's Family Tree, helping other users, and finding instance after instance where the contributor has no email address. This is especially disconcerting in the Photos, Documents and Stories section where you cannot edit the wrong tags or anything else and the person has left no way to make contact. One of the fundamental concepts of a collaborative program such as Family Tree is, of course, the ability to collaborate. The absence of contributor's email addresses makes that virtually impossible and seriously undermines the integrity of the entire database."

DISCUSSION OF CHANGES BUT NO CONTACT INFORMATION

WHY are people allowed to make changes to vital information in FT or why are they allowed to delete and remove Notes and individuals in FS - Family Tree when they do not provide at least e-mail contact information?

IF the purpose of the Family Tree website is to collaborate with others, how can we work with others if the department allows people to come into the site and change information without providing a means to correspond with them?

A member contacted me this morning because she

has a watch on her grandmother's data in Family Tree and the department sent her a 'Weekly FamilySearch changes for things you are watching' notice that her grandmother's name had been modified. The person who made the change offered no reason nor did he provide contact information.

So all that is left is to go into the 'History' and change it back. It doesn't matter that this is happening by using third party API software or that changes are made within Family Tree directly. I think it horribly rude to have a contributor change or remove my data and that they provide no source documentation, no discussion, and then the worst part is they provide no means to communicate with them.

Every week I receive a 'Weekly FamilySearch changes for things you are watching' notice from FS for names I have being Watching on Family Tree and in three-fourths of the cases where changes are done by contributors, there is no contact information. They are making needless work for me to undo their errors.

I will gladly work with others if they are willing to correspond. But the department is set up under the excuse of protecting their rights for privacy to not require them to provide contact information. Fine. But if they do not provide contact information then the department should NOT let them made changes to the data.

Are any of you or your patrons experiencing this problem?

Terry
Clermont FL

Mason

TOLLS FOR THE GENEALOGIST

Here's a great link to About.com Genealogy where Kimberly Powell tells us all about Free and Open-Source Tools for Genealogists. I've tried some of them and think they are great.

Free and Open-Source Tools for Genealogists

http://genealogy.about.com/od/research_tools/tp/open-source-tools-for-genealogists.htm?nl=1

Kimberly also has an excellent article about Oral History Step-by-Step

Use this link

http://genealogy.about.com/od/oral_history/ss/oral_history.htm?nl=1

Enjoy learning more about Family History!
Lida larkin Thanks Lida

ATTENDING A FAMILY HISTORY CENTER

there are more than 4,600 local family history centers worldwide, often located inside our Church meetinghouses. Their purpose is to teach people how to search for their ancestors. They're staffed by local Church members who volunteer their time, and all these services are provided free of charge.

Family history centers give members of the Church and the surrounding community access to family history resources, the Church's circulating collection of microfilmed genealogical records and access to affiliate sources. Centers can train members and consultants in how to use family history resources.

Family history is not a program of the Church; it is an important principle of the gospel of Jesus Christ and part of the plan of salvation. It is one of the four divinely appointed responsibilities of members.

Attending a Family History Center is regarded with the same attitude of reverence we have when entering into a sacred temple of the Church. Please leave concerns about worldly things outside. T. Mason from Handbook

Note: We invite the community as well as members of the Church to use our Family History Centers. We can provide expertise on family history as well as information to get information from our main library in SLC as well as many subscription sites which are free to use in our centers.

Tip of the month: Map your ancestry

Here's a special tip for Family Tree Builder™ users. It is easy to display the geographical locations where your ancestors lived. Enter location information such as where they were born, married and died, plus any other places where they lived, in your Family Tree Builder™ project. Include the town, county/state, and country for each location. Then click on the "Maps" button and see the places where your ancestors lived shown by pins on the map.

[Download Family Tree Builder™ for free >>](#)

From MyHeritage Newsletter

"YOU LEFT BODIES AND YOU ONLY MOVED THE HEADSTONES"

http://theindepthgenealogist.com/you-left-the-bodies-and-you-only-moved-the-headstones/?utm_source=The+In-Depth+Genealogist+List&utm_campaign=37f1e6343e-November+2013+Newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_f4c12bb316-37f1e6343e-85196741

SYLVIA'S GENEALOGY CORNER

Where are James Hott's remains?

Jack and I had a similar experience when we helped to restore the George Hott cemetery in White Hall, VA, in 1990. The organizer Mary Catherine Hott Kuykendall told us that James Hott was really interred on the hill in the old cemetery. The story went like this: James Curl Hott was married twice and was buried in the George Hott Cemetery in the cow pasture of the Renner Farm next to his wife Susan. But his second wife Tamsin Hott outlived him by a goodly number of years and was buried in the church cemetery, so the family went up to the cow pasture and took a few shovels full of dirt, then drove down to the church cemetery, buried it beside Tamsin Fries Hott, and erected a second headstone to mark the final resting place of James and Tamsin Hott, who are buried in the church cemetery next to each other.

When Mary Catherine told me this, I said, "That's preposterous." Obviously taking soil from the top of a gravesite is not the same as collecting the remains of a person buried 6 feet under. So where are James' remains? If any still exist, they are beside Susan.

George Hott Cemetery, White Hall, Frederick, VA



Susan Hott, Aged 51 years 1 mo & 1 days. Consort of James C. Hott (James Curl Hott, son of George Hott, Jr., and Eve Rebecca Steidley, was buried beside Susan Streit Hott, but he {a shovel of dirt} has been moved to Pleasant Valley Church Cemetery beside second wife Tamsin Fries Hott)

Pleasant Valley United Methodist Church , White Hall, VA



[James C. and Tamsin Fries Hott](#) In Memory of James C. HOTT, Died June 10, 1891, Aged 73 yrs., 7 mos., 6 ds.[James Curl Hott, son of John and Margaret Rebecca Fries Hott, James born 4 Jan. 1817; married 1 Susan Streit, 2 Tamsin Fries.]

In Memory of Tamsin FRIES HOTT, Died August 19, 1911, Aged 73 years, 4 months, & 16 days.[b. 1838, wife of 1 James C. Hott and 2 George Nesmith.]

That day I learned that the only legal requirement for moving a corpse is to take several shovels of dirt from atop the grave site (It is assumed that aged remains have disintegrated.) and move the soil to the new location. Essentially, if the road crew is moving a cemetery for progress (new construction), then all they have to do is take top soil and the stones and dump the soil on the ground and place the tombstones on top of it. That is quite some tale! As for me, when James Curl Hott arises in the Millennium, I believe he will rise up beside Susan.

By Sylvia Hott Sonneborn

December 05, 2013 - Dick Eastman Blog

FamilySearch Adds More Than 1.2 Million Indexed Records and Images to Collections from BillionGraves, Bolivia, Germany, and the United States

The following announcement was written by FamilySearch:



FamilySearch has added more than 1.2 million indexed records and images to collections from BillionGraves, Bolivia, Germany, and the United States. Notable collection updates include the 512, 388 indexed records and images from the [BillionGraves Index](#), the 230,873 images from the [U.S., North Carolina, Civil Action Court Papers, 1712-1970, collection](#), and the 79,078 indexed records from the [Germany, Prussia, Pomerania Church Records, 1544-1945, collection](#). See the table below for the full list of updates. Search these diverse collections and more than 3.5 billion other records for free at [FamilySearch.org](#). Searchable historic records are made available on [FamilySearch.org](#) through the help of thousands of volunteers from around the world. These volunteers transcribe (index) information from digital copies of handwritten records to make them easily searchable online. More volunteers are needed (particularly those who can read foreign languages) to keep pace with the large number of digital images being published online at FamilySearch.org. Learn more about volunteering to help provide free access to the world's historic genealogical records online at [FamilySearch.org](#).

FamilySearch is the largest genealogy organization in the world. FamilySearch is a nonprofit, volunteer-driven organization sponsored by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Millions of people use FamilySearch records, resources, and services to learn more about their family history. To help in this great pursuit, FamilySearch and its predecessors have been actively gathering, preserving, and sharing genealogical records worldwide for over 100 years. Patrons may access FamilySearch services and resources for free at [FamilySearch.org](#) or through more than 4,600 family history centers in 132 countries, including the main Family History Library in Salt Lake City, Utah.

Collection	Indexed Records	Digital Images
BillionGraves Index	256,194	256,194
Germany, Prussia, Pomerania Church Records, 1544-1945	79,078	0
U.S., Illinois, Lee County Records, 1830-1954	0	94,647
U.S., New York, Orange County Probate Records, 1787-1938	0	201,417
U.S., North Carolina, Civil Action Court Papers, 1712-1970	0	230,873
U.S., Oregon, Douglas County Records, 1850-1983	0	91,860

HANDWRITING RECOGNITION BREAKTHROUGH BY MOCAVO

A little something we've been working on...

A little over a year ago, Mocavo acquired ReadyMicro and the incredible mind known as Matt Garner. One of Matt's lifelong passions and curiosities is to enable computers to read historical handwritten documents to bring [genealogy search](#) to the next level. It's well known in the genealogy industry that historical handwriting recognition is the Holy Grail – the single largest technological advancement that would enable more content to become accessible online (except for maybe the invention of the Web). For the past year, we've joined with Matt to tackle this very hard problem, and have finally made enough progress that we can begin to report on it.

Let me start by explaining the problem. Ask a computer to read the page below and it will stumble all over place. OCR (optical character recognition) technology could read some of the typewritten text – but would be confused by the handwriting (and invent typewritten letters that it thinks it sees inside handwritten text). To make matters worse, this page has multiple typewritten font types, including one that looks like cursive handwriting.

The first process we had to develop was a way to perfectly separate handwriting from typewritten text. If we could do this, the OCR could read the typewritten text, and Matt's code could attempt to read the handwritten text. We call this process Handwriting Detection, and we figured that if the system couldn't detect the presence of handwriting, how on Earth would we hope to decipher the marks into words? In the example below, you can see how our system marks typewritten text in green and handwritten text in red – with blue to denote what it believes are graphics or

images. It's not 100% perfect, but hopefully you agree that it's headed in the right direction.

Historical handwriting recognition is one of the toughest technical challenges to solve. First, penmanship is entirely unique to the individual. Second, because it's historical handwriting, it's in cursive. All the letters run together, adding another layer of complexity. Third, the way we wrote cursive in the 1700's is different than the cursive we write now. There are even variations between decades. Our mind has an incredible capability of seeing through incomplete sets of data (a missing character stroke, poor handwriting, an A that sort of looks like an O, etc). Our brains do all of this for us and we don't even notice it. When you think about how to describe this to a computer, you begin to lose your mind! I believe some of the greatest problems mankind can solve are those that someone would never have started if they had known how hard the challenge was ahead of time. Matt fooled himself just enough to start on the problem and now he's making real progress from which we are all going to benefit.

Here's the exciting part: Our recognition technology is starting to work. With limited vocabularies (potential answers), we're achieving 90-95% accuracy. Sometimes, the technology is able to read things we're convinced are unreadable (but after getting the answer back from the computer, you realize what was actually written). We grow closer to the Holy Grail every day and can't wait until we can use the technology to bring more content online, free forever. Mocavo.com

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>

DICK EASTMAN SAYS...

November 24, 2013

A Little-Known Government Genealogy Service

A little-known program of the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) provides genealogy information that may be difficult or impossible to obtain elsewhere. The records include naturalization files, visa applications, and citizenship tests, and may reveal family secrets and mysteries. In addition to relatives, historians or researchers can also request files. Under the USCIS Genealogy Program, which started in 2008, requests are usually completed within 90 days. The government will run a search of the name, as long as the person is deceased. If there are records available, the government charges additional fees for the files. The fee for a record copy from microfilm identified as (M) is \$20 per request. The fee for a copy of a hard copy file identified as (HC) is \$35 per request. More information about the fees associated with each file series may be found at <http://www.uscis.gov/history-and-genealogy/genealogy/historical-records-series-available-genealogy-program>. For more information about the program, check out <http://www.uscis.gov/genealogy>.

November 18, 2013 Ancestry.com Partners With Associated Press

Ancestry.com has announced a deal to add historical news articles to the site, via a new link with the Associated Press, according to an announcement released by the two this morning. Ancestry.com said it will feature the original, wire copy format of fifty years of news stories from the Associated Press as part of the deal, spanning from 1937 to 1985. The deal brings more than one million AP stories to the site. Financial details of the deal were not announced. The companies said the stories are indexed by name, and can also be searched by subject and date. You can read more in the Ancestry.com Blog at <http://goo.gl/klqfsl>.

November 2013 The US Archivist who saved the History of Iraq's Jews

A flood in a basement beneath the ruins of Saddam Hussein's intelligence service nearly destroyed centuries of history of Iraq's vanished Jewish community. An article by Jane O'Brien of BBC News tells of the American archivist who led the effort to rescue the books and papers, enabling their display this week at the National Archives in the US capitol. You can read the

article at <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/magazine-24830078>.

November 17, 2013 What Will Happen to Your Genealogical Collection?

Patsy D. Herring has written an article that I think should be required reading for all genealogists. It seems that Stephen Brown Simmons (1918 - 2012) spent more than half a century collecting hundreds of family group sheets, pictures, letters, notes, documents, newspaper articles, birth, wedding, and death announcements, books and historical information about residents. It was apparent this valuable collection needed to be preserved and shared with the public. The article describes one solution being performed by Mr. Simmons' friends and family. I suggest you read Patsy Herring's article at <http://goo.gl/JqbPEz> and then think about what will happen to **YOUR** collection after you are gone.

November 14, 2013 MyHeritage Adds a Method to Enrich Multiple Profiles from a Single Historical Record

at the MyHeritage Blog at: <http://blog.myheritage.com/2013/11/new-enrich-multiple-profiles-from-a-single-historical-record>.

November 14, 2013

Google's Book-Scanning Is Fair Use, Judge Rules in Landmark Copyright Case

This legal ruling probably will have a major impact for genealogists and an even bigger impact on genealogy publishers. For years, Google has been scanning all sorts of books and publishing them in the popular Google Books service. Books that are out of copyright are available in their entirety while books that are probably protected by copyright laws may be searched but only small snippets of the text are displayed to the user. Eight years ago, the Authors Guild and others challenged the practice saying that it violated copyright laws. The case worked its way through the courts. Today, a court in New York issued what may be the landmark decision: Google's limited use meets the definition of "fair use" under copyright law.

You can read the details in an article by David Kravets in Wired.com at <http://www.wired.com/threatlevel/2013/11/google-books/>.

November 10, 2013

GreatAuntyAlice.com

This web site has a cute name but is a serious resource for genealogists seeking information in the UK and elsewhere. [Great Aunty Alice](#) is a directory of family history researchers based across the UK and around the world...The site contains listings of genealogists, some are professionals while others are amateurs who would like to help. All genealogy research questions are handled privately in email, not on the web site. Of course, professionals expect to be paid for their time and everyone should be reimbursed for any expenses they may incur, such as travel expenses, photocopying fees, postage, and more...Great Aunty Alice simply serves as a directory to help put people in touch. GreatAuntyAlice.com's design is simple and easy to use. You can see for yourself at <http://greauntyalice.com>.

November 04, 2013 Have You Used the FamilySearch Free Lookup Service?

If you wish to use the FamilySearch free lookup service, I would urge you to first read Nathan W. Murphy's description on the FamilySearch Blog of how it all works at <https://familysearch.org/blog/en/google-books-free-copies-pages-family-history-library-books/>. Nathan even supplies screenshots showing the step-by-step process of using Google Books to find snippets of genealogy information.

Nineteen Kinds of Death Records and Their Uses

<http://blog.worldvitalrecords.com/2013/10/23/nineteen-kinds-of-death-records-and-their-uses/#more-3165>

Find complete articles at Dick Eastman's blog at <http://www.eogn.com>

Or visit his store at <http://www.RootsBooks.com>.

LOOKING FOR CATALOGS?

FamilySearch Catalog

Search the catalog of genealogical materials (including books, online materials, microfilm, microfiche, and publications) made available by FamilySearch. Many items can be loaned to local Family History Centers around the world.

<https://familysearch.org/catalog-search>

Other Catalogs to Consider:

[OCLC WorldCat](#)

WorldCat is the world's largest network of library content and services. WorldCat libraries are dedicated to providing access to their resources on the Web, where most people start their search for information.

[Archive Grid](#)

ArchiveGrid is a collection of nearly two million archival material descriptions, including MARC records from WorldCat and finding aids harvested from the web.

To all our readers, we hope that you have a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

This newsletter is compiled by the Sonneborns, York, PA.

Contact - Sylvia at slysyl@verizon.net and Jack at jsonneborn@verizon.net for additional information.



That's all, Folks!

