EAST GIPPSLAND FAMILY HISTORY GROUP INC.

P.O. Box 1104   21 Morgan St   Bairnsdale
Vic. 3875   (03) 5152 5590
egfhg@egfhg.org.au or **egfhg@bigpond.com** www.egfhg.org.au

BULLETIN

Meetings are held at 2.00 p.m. on the second Saturday in the month

JANUARY 2015 – Happy New Year!!

2015 is going to be a great year for the East Gippsland Family History Group!

We have some major projects underway and we have already shifted in to our new brighter and bigger premises. Over the Christmas break a number of very industrious members cleaned, built and shifted all of our resources to our new rooms. These are conveniently located next to the old ones.

I encourage you to come along and have a look at the results, I am sure you will be pleased with what you see.

I would like, on behalf of the group, to thank everyone who assisted in the move. Without the help of a dedicated group of volunteers we would not have been able to create such a marvellous place for our research. There will be an official opening of the rooms at a date to be advised

Our major projects are a joint production with the Bairnsdale Advertiser to honour the memory of those with a close connection with East Gippsland who died as a result of their participation in the First World War. We will be publishing a lift out in the Advertiser before each ANZAC Day and Remembrance Day with the names and a short biography of those that died during the period marking the centenary of their death.

More details can be found on our website, if you have any information or photographs and documents that you feel may be useful please contact us.

Another project is the proposal to bring St Andrews Church back into public use and to provide a permanent home for us. We have been getting a lot of positive feedback from many people who believe that the proposal that this building should be preserved has much merit.

We have held a number of fund raising sausage sizzles at Bunnings over the last few months and we have four more dates during the year. Any enthusiastic sausage sizzlers are welcome to assist us in this endeavour. The group gets a good return for the effort and with our larger premises we have larger overheads that must be financed.

There are still a few members that have not paid their subscriptions for 2014/2015, we would like to see all members financial as soon as possible. It has been suggested that an electronic membership payment may be of assistance to members, please let us know if you would use this facility.

The projects this year will raise the profile of EGFHG in the public sphere and it is hoped that we will see an increase in active membership.

Darren Goodmanwedrfghjmk,l.

Thought for the Day

The biggest lie I tell myself is ... "I don't need to write that down, I'll remember it."

AUSTRALIA

Australia WWI – The following appeared on three Victorian Rootsweb mailing lists – accompanied by a long list of names too numerous to include here but can be seen (with the photo) by clicking on the link below.

"I am seeking contact with relatives of the below named soldiers of WW1 in the hoping of identifying a mystery war photo (which can be seen at http://jfawcettblog.com/ancestors/ww1-mystery-photo-3rd-reinforcement-14th-battalion-aif/)"

Australia - the New Year brings another year of indexes available online:

NSW Births to end of 1914 and Deaths to end of 1984:
http://www.bdm.nsw.gov.au/bdm_fh.html
NSW Marriages to end of 1964 (50 years):
http://www.bdm.nsw.gov.au/bdm_fh.html
Queensland Births to end of 1914:
https://www.bdm.qld.gov.au/IndexSearch/queryEntry.m?type=births
Queensland Deaths to end of 1984:
https://www.bdm.qld.gov.au/IndexSearch/queryEntry.m?type=deaths
Queensland Marriages to end of 1939 (75 years):
https://www.bdm.qld.gov.au/IndexSearch/queryEntry.m?type=marriages

---

Australia – Trove: The National Library of Australia's Trove of digitised newspapers now contains 15 million pages, making it the world's largest freely available collection. (As at 9th December 2014) The 15-millionth page added to the National Library of Australia's online collection of digitised newspaper pages came from the 8 December 1917 edition of The St George Call, which was published in the Kogarah district of Sydney.
The full article from ITWire:
http://www.itwire.com/government-tech-news/govenrment-tech-policy/66382-national-library-hits-15-million-digitised-newspaper-pages

---

Adoption problem –
Q.
We have recently discovered that my grandmother had a child when she was 16, she was sent up north to have the baby and it was adopted out. I applied to BDM for the birth certificate, however as it is less than 100 years old they will not provide it without the parents/person/children of person permission. Nanna has passed away and we don't know who the person is….. so wondering if there is any way that we can find out the details for this child who would now be in their late 70's if still living. Any guidance would be greatly appreciated.
A.
(1) Hello, I had a similar thing with me trying to get a Death certificate. In the end I rung up and said I can't get the next of kin's permission. I then went to a JP stating this and had proof of my connection and I was able to get the death certificate. This may help.
(2) I am writing as an adopted person who worked through the system. The bureaucrats you deal with are very understanding ... but have to work within the guidelines. I suggest Kate's idea for a stat dec (available on line) would fit the bill. You will need documentary proof the person whose information you require is related to you. Anecdotal information is not sufficient.

Enjoy Sydney back then -

To see Sydney Harbour with no bridge, and the Ferry's and Trams at Circular Quay. You'll be blown away by the sound track. Did they all talk like that back then???

http://www.youtube.com/embed/Jy5cZ-IO0Eg?feature=player_detailpage
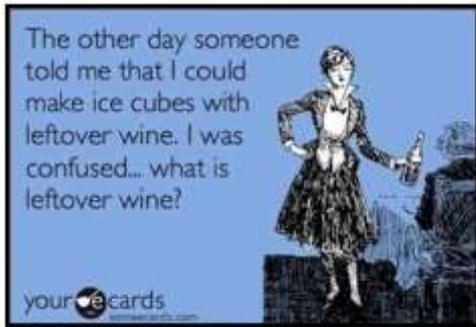
Western Australia - this page of links from SLWA is great.

http://slwa.wa.gov.au/bookmarks/alltags.php/family_history?sort=alphabet_asc

Queensland

Family History Journal is a quarterly newsletter for anybody interested in Queensland's history. It will be of particular interest if you are researching your family tree or you are a genealogist using the family history research search and order as a source for historical information.

Family History Journal is a great way to keep you up to date with the latest developments in the family history research area and a useful resource if you want to get the most from using our historical archive.

Family History Journal is an electronic newsletter sent free of charge to our subscribers. We welcome your feedback and suggestions for future editions.

Subscribe

Family History Journal is a free electronic newsletter. You can subscribe by providing your name and email address.

(Note from Robbo – editions 1-5 are available on the website.)

Queensland

 More than 470,000 records made available as images in three months

RBDM* are proud to announce that more than 470,000 new historical images have been made available over the last three months. These include records for 3,500 Marine births, 15,000 WW1 and WW2 deaths and many more 'Brisbane' and 'Country' deaths. There are now over 1,000,000 register images available.

*(RBDM = Registry of Births, Deaths & Marriages) ☺ Search the files at:

http://www.vision6.com.au/ch/33521/jn90p/2090194/bd60crmkj-1.html

Taxi ride.wmv

Talk is cheap...except when government does it.   Anonymous

The only difference between a tax man and a taxidermist is that the taxidermist leaves the skin.   Mark Twain

Findmypast has announced the release of newly added resources:
- **South Australia Births 1842-1928** contain over 727,000 records and date back to when the compulsory registration of births first began in 1842.
- **South Australia Marriages 1842-1937** contain over 457,000 records.
- **South Australia Deaths 1842-1972** contain over 605,000 records and span 130 years of the state's history.

You can read the details in the Findmypast Blog at http://goo.gl/Kev8It.

IRELAND

Ireland From the latest Ulster Ancestry newsletter –

"I saw behind me those who had gone, and before me those who are yet to come, I looked back and saw my father, and his father, and all our fathers, and in front to see my son, and his son, and the sons upon sons beyond.

And their eyes were my eyes.

As I felt, so they had felt and were to feel, as then, as now, as tomorrow and forever. Then I was not afraid, for I was in a long line that had no beginning and no end, and the hand of his father grasped my father's hand, and his hand was in mine, and my unborn son took my right hand, and all up and down the line that stretched from time that was to time that is, and time that is not yet come! , raised their hands to show the link, and we were as one."

Ireland – FindMyPast has completed their online collection of *Irish Petty Sessions Court Registers 1828 to 1912* with the upload of the last 710,000 records. This collection involves small offenses like trespassing and disorderly conduct. We have talked about this collection in some detail before (see below). With this last update, the total collection now stands at some 22 million records. [Ireland Petty Court Records]

Ireland – This is a preannouncement that will warm the hearts of anyone with Irish ancestors. The National Library of Ireland (NLI) plans to put online (for free) their entire collection of Catholic parish registers. It is expected that this massive and very important collection will be online by the summer of 2015. *These records are the single most important source of genealogical information on Irish families in the 1700s and 1800s.* The records date from the 1740s to the 1880s and cover some 1,091 parishes throughout Ireland.

The collection consists primarily of baptism and marriage records. According to NLI, "This is the most ambitious digitisation project in the history of the NLI, and our most significant ever genealogy project. We believe it will be of huge assistance to those who wish to research their [Irish] family history." The collection consists of some 390,000 digital images. When this collection does go online, it will be free.

In the initial phase, the records will not be searchable by name. Instead, they will be searchable by parish location only. At the moment, the NLI does not have the financial resources to transcribe the records.

While you wait for this collection to become available, it would be a good idea to do some advance research to determine the exact historic Catholic parish where your ancestors lived. The best way (really the only good way) to do this is to use Brian Mitchell's A New Genealogical Atlas of Ireland, which you can buy from Amazon. This atlas is a key resource for anyone researching their Irish ancestry. Each Irish county is presented in multiple detailed maps: Roman Catholic parishes and dioceses; Church of Ireland parishes and dioceses; townlands; poor law unions and parishes and probate districts. A separate set of maps deals with the nine counties of Northern Ireland and shows the various Presbyterian congregations. Basically, the atlas shows all the different kinds of historic subdivisions that have occurred in Ireland over the last couple hundred years. This atlas is invaluable for tracing your Irish ancestors.

I don't have gray hair. I have "wisdom highlights". I'm just very wise.
My people skills are just fine. It's my tolerance to idiots that needs work.

Ireland - A huge change is coming soon for everyone involved in Irish genealogy. By summer 2015, the National Library of Ireland http://www.nli.ie/ will have a dedicated website making its collection of Catholic parish register microfilms freely available online. These records are - by a long way – the single most important source of historical Irish family information, one of the greatest legacies of the Catholic Church to Ireland.

Ireland - Also, if you are an Australian resident, you are entitled to free access to the National Library of Australia's E-Resources which includes:
"Irish Newspaper Archives is the largest online database of Irish newspapers in the world. The archive dates from 1763 to the present and includes a mix of out of print titles and current titles, providing word-searchable access to articles or full pages. Titles include the Irish Independent (1905 - current), The Freeman's Journal (1763-1924), the Connacht Tribune (1909-2007), the Leitrim Observer (1924-Jan 1976), the Meath Chronicle (1897- April 2005) and the Southern Star (1892-2006)."
... and a multitude of other resources. You need to get a library card (free) see:
http://www.nla.gov.au/getalibrarycard/

Irish Petty Sessions

Although most defendants got away with a fine, the variety of cases heard offer family historians a valuable insight into society at the time
Over 710,000 new records have been added to Findmypast's Irish Petty Sessions collection. Spanning 1828-1912, the documents provide information on court hearings across Ireland concerning lesser criminal and civil legal proceedings. Fully searchable, this includes the names of victims, witnesses and the accused, as well as details of the offence and verdict given by the presiding Justice of the Peace. Digitised from records held by the National Archives of Ireland, the latest tranche brings the total number of records in the collection to 22 million. Explore here(requires subscription).

Irish Genealogical Research Society adds more records to the Early Irish Marriage Index

Dick Eastman

The Irish Genealogical Research Society's Early Irish Marriage Index has been updated again. With the addition of over 4,000 new entries, it now contains 62,065 records (from alternative sources for marriages) noting approximately 139,000 names of brides, grooms and their parents.
This particular update has drawn new material from the Registry of Deeds and from the surviving manuscript and published indexes to Church of Ireland Marriage Licence Bonds (MLB) from the diocese of Cloyne, Kildare and Elphin among others. MLBs not infrequently include marriage licences issued to Roman Catholic couples who wished to ensure that their union was legal, particularly so in the eighteenth century.
This database is still being added to and new records are uploaded every month. It is available free-to-all at: http://www.irishancestors.ie/?p=6207.

Irish Dog Licences
More than 3.6 million additional Irish Dog Licence registers. Now containing over 6 million records, the Irish Dog Licences list not only the name, breed, colour and sex of your ancestor's four legged friend, but also the owner's address and the date the licence was issued, making them a valuable census substitute.

Why do I have to press one for English when you're just gonna transfer me to someone I can't understand anyway?

SCOTLAND

Scotland - Now available to view are images for Scottish statutory births in 1914, marriages in 1939 and deaths in 1964. These digital images of the official records are released under the legislation that allows the publication of birth, marriage and death (BMD) records that were registered in Scotland more than 100, 75 and 50 years ago.

Scotland - Glasgow WW1 database launches online
Details of Glaswegians who fought during the First World War have been captured in a new resource. Glasgow City Archives has released a free online database giving details of nearly 2,800 men who served in the 1st and 2nd Glasgow Battalions of the Highland Light Infantry, known respectively as the 'Tramways' and 'Boys Bridgade' battalions. Created from original records by volunteers John and Margaret Houston, the resource can provide information such as rank, religion, height and even boot size. Download as a PDF here.

Scotland - ScotlandsPlaces has uploaded a collection of 17th-century poll tax records. Searchable by county and parish, the 88 volumes provide names of people from all walks of life liable to pay the tax, which was introduced in 1694 to pay off the debts and arrears of Scotland's army and navy. Explore here (requires subscription).
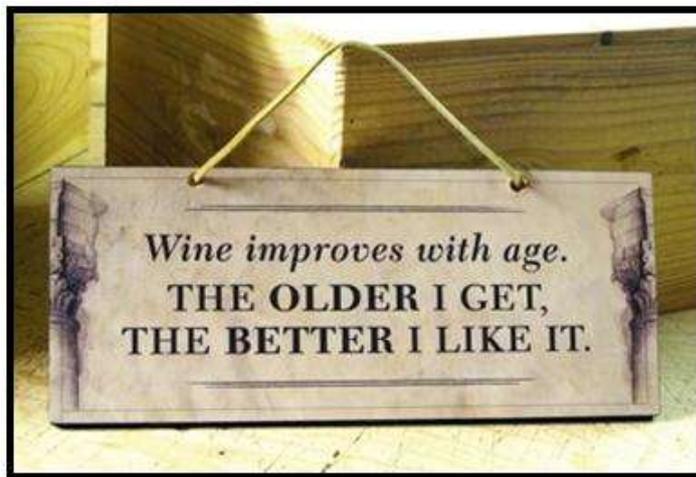
UK

England and Wales – FindMyPast has added some 31 million records to their collection of England marriage records. These records come from the *International Genealogical Index* and span the years from 1538 to 1975. Most of the records list the names of the bride and groom, place of marriage, date of marriage and the names of the groom's parents. Access is by subscription. [England Marriage Records] Also included are some 131,000 Welsh marriage records (1541 to 1900). [Wales Marriage Records]

 UK - Tip: probate calendars can also provide useful clues - often one of the children, or the surviving spouse, will be named as executor or administrator. It's quickest to search at Ancestry, but you can only search from 1858-1966; if you don't have access to Ancestry, or want to search after 1966 you'll need to use the free Probate Service search at https://probatesearch.service.gov.uk/#calendar
(copied from http://lostcousins.com/newsletters/xmas14news.htm)

> *Old age is coming at a really bad time!*
> *When I was a child I thought Nap Time was a punishment ... now, as a grown up, it just feels like a small vacation!*

England and Wales - Millions of Wills Available Online
Dick Eastman

The wills of more than 41 million people, some dating back 156 years, are now available online for the first time in a huge online archive. The new database allows the public to search a government archive of 41 million wills dating back to 1858. The search is free, but payment of a £10 fee is required to download and view the complete details. A name and year of death is required to find wills, which should be ready for download within 10 days of order. Previously, copies of many such documents could only be accessed by a face-to-face request.

Click on the above image to view a larger version

In many cases the displayed information is enough to verify the person's identity. For example, the man's past residence, residence at death, occupation, and spouse's name sufficed to confirm that this is definitely the right person.

Click on the above image to view a larger version

The site accepts payment by either Visa or MasterCard as well as by JCB or Maestro card. The payment confirmation screen informs you that, when the purchased wills are available for download, a message will be sent to the email address you provided when you registered.

NOTE: The database contains wills only from England and Wales. Different procedures apply in Scotland and Northern Ireland. Information about Scottish wills may be found at

http://www.nas.gov.uk/guides/wills.asp while information about wills in Northern Ireland may be found at http://www.proni.gov.uk/index/search_the_archives/will_calendars/about_wills.htm.
The wills, covering England and Wales and owned by Her Majesty's Courts and Tribunals Service (HMCTS), were painstakingly scanned in by hand. The work was performed by Iron Mountain, a specialist records management company.

To access the wills:
1. Log on to https://probatesearch.service.gov.uk/#wills and create an account.
2. Choose the section you wish to search – Wills and Probate 1996 to present; Wills and Probate 1858 to 1996; or Soldiers' Wills.
3. There are two search fields – the surname of the deceased and year of death. Both must be filled in. With the exception of the 1858 to 1996 section, you can also carry out an advanced search, which requires more information.
4. In the 1996 to present section, a list of results will appear, giving the names, date of probate, probate number, date of death and registry of each person with that name. For instance, for a person called Stanley Wood who died in 2005, there are 12 results. To order a document, click "Add to basket."
5. Under the 1858 to 1996 section, a page from the probate calendar for that year is returned in search results, providing summaries of names, birthplace and other details. These must be typed into an online ordering form on the right of the screen.
6. Click on "Proceed to checkout" to pay. Some documents take up to ten days to be sent as electronic copies. The files can be accessed for 31 days.

The wills now available include those of:
Winston Churchill, who left a fortune worth £304,004 – or more than £5.3 million in today's money.
Alan Turing, the cryptologist who cracked the Enigma code to help bring the war to a close, committed suicide by cyanide poisoning in 1954. The brilliant mathematician left a short will with instructions to share his possessions between his colleagues and his mother.
Winnie the Pooh creator AA Milne, who gave shares of his future royalties and copyright to the Garrick Club, his favorite club, and Westminster School when he died in 1956.
One researcher, Jan Meisels Allen, found wills for her great-great grandfather Sellers and his grandfather, even though she did not have their death dates. She simply began searching with the surname and earliest possible death year. Some years showed two or three pages of listed search results, but persistence paid off.
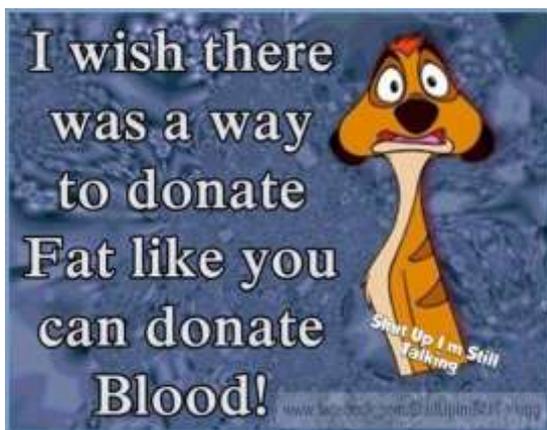
Wouldn't it be great if we could put ourselves in the dryer for ten minutes; come out wrinkle-free and three sizes smaller!
I don't trip over things, I do random gravity checks!

UK research - some contacts that may help:
For parish register transcriptions have a look at: http://www.freereg.org.uk/
Coordinator of The Recordsmiths Syndicate of volunteer transcribers working for FreeBMD.
See http://www.freebmd.org.uk/ .

England - Online BMD certificates discussed in House of Lords
The possibility of providing copies of civil registration certificates online has been discussed in the House of Lords. Baroness Scott of Needham Market has put forward an amendment to the Deregulation Bill, highlighting the need to make birth, marriage and death certificates more accessible to genealogists. Instead of solely offering 'full' copies of certificates, Baroness Scott told the Grand Committee that providing electronic versions would be more efficient for both the General Register Office and researchers. Read our full story here.

England - West Yorkshire
More than 14,000 bastardy records held by West Yorkshire Archive Service have been indexed and made available to explore at Ancestry.co.uk. Spanning 1690-1914, the collection comprises documents relating to the maintenance of illegitimate children, including bastardy bonds and warrants for apprehending men who tried to escape responsibility for paternity. Explore the collection here (requires subscription).

UK – FindMyPast has put online the 1871 worldwide British army index. This collection of some 207,000 records identifies the men serving in the British army on the 1871 English census day (2 April 1871). It includes lists of both officers and enlisted men serving in the cavalry, artillery, engineers, guard, infantry and colonial units throughout the British Empire. A typical record lists the name, service number, rank, regiment and regional location of each person. The collection can be searched by name, service number, rank and regiment. Access is by subscription. [1871 British Army Records]

UK Military Records
The 1871 Worldwide British Army Index – British Army Other Ranks & locations contains over 207,000 records compiled using data extracted from the War Office army pay lists held in The National Archives at Kew. As with the 1861 Worldwide Army Index the primary aim has been to identify the location of men serving in the British Army throughout the world as at the 1871 Census day – 2 April 1871. However, the index generally covers much of the June Quarter 1871. The Index contains the details of both officers and men of the Cavalry, Royal Artillery, Royal Engineers, Guards, Infantry and Colonial units serving both in Britain and elsewhere in the British Empire. archives reference.

UK Deaths & Baptisms
England deaths and burials, 1538-1991 contain over 14 million International Genealogical Index (IGI) death and burial records for England have been added to our collection of UK birth, marriage and death records. Spanning the 453 years between 1538 and 1975, each record consists of a transcript of the original document.
Wales, deaths and burials, 1586-1885 contain over 1,200 International Genealogical Index (IGI) death and burial records for Wales have been added to our collection of UK birth, marriage and death. Most records are from the historic counties of Glamorganshire and Monmouthshire and each consists of a transcript of the original document.
The Ryedale baptisms contain over 12,000 records listing the details of Baptisms that took place in nine parishes across the Ryedale district in North Yorkshire.

> *If people evolved from apes, why are there still apes?*
> *Why is it that no matter what color bubble bath you use the bubbles are always white?*

England - New Research Shows the Vikings were Misunderstood – They Were Family Men and did not Rape and Pillage - Well, maybe they pillaged a bit.

Dick Eastman

I am not sure I believe this but researchers now say DNA evidence shows that women often accompanied Viking men on raiding trips and sometimes even children were in the longboats. The study has shed light on the importance of women in the colonization of the British Isles in the Middle Ages, suggesting that Viking men were family-orientated and not as blood-thirsty as previously thought. Researchers from the University of Oslo have revealed that 'significant' numbers of women accompanied Viking men when they sailed to places like the Scottish mainland in longboats.

The research, which was published in the *Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society,* compared the 1,000-year-old mitochondrial DNA of Viking skeletons to that of modern-day people living in Norway, Iceland, Britain and other places in north west Europe. From this biological data, the experts built up a picture of how the maternal Norse lineage spread throughout areas that were colonised. You can read more in an article by Sarah Griffiths in the Daily Mail at http://goo.gl/RbSOtj.

England – Dorset (From Rootsweb mailing list for Sth Oz.)
I am happy to tell those who are interested in the Village Winterborne Kingston in Dorset that Pat Thompson has done her best in transcribing baptisms, marriages, and burials from the late 1500s to 1700 and Jon has graciously now put them all on the OPC site for you all to see. I hope you all find your lost family members.
This is what is available now for that village
Baptisms 1586-1641*, 1652-1700*, 1700-1813, 1814-1837
Marriages 1597-1697*, 1753-1812, 1814 - 1836
Burials 1578-1676*, 1700 - 1837
* Transcribed by Pat THOMPSON
http://www.opcdorset.org

England – The website *Essex Ancestors* run by the Essex Records Office (ERO) has uploaded an additional 22,500 historic wills. This brings the total number of wills on the website to some 70,000. The wills span the years from the 1400s to 1858. All the wills in the ERO's possession up to 1720 have now been put online. Work is continuing on digitizing the remaining 28,000 wills dating from 1720 to 1858. Access to the collection is by subscription. [Essex Ancestors]

Why, Why, Why do we press harder on a remote control when we know the batteries are getting dead?

Findmypast has announced the release of newly added resources:

- **British Trade Union Registers** – Containing over 3.4 million records, the Trade Union Membership registers consist of digitised images of original records books from 9 different unions. The documents include details about individual members such as payments made, benefits received, names of spouses, and a number of unions published profiles of their members or those who held offices.
- **The new Peninsular War, British Army Officers 1808-1814**
- Over 60 million **International Genealogical Index (IGI) English birth and baptism records**
- A further 700,000 **IGI Welsh birth and baptism records** spanning the 366 years between 1541 and 1907 have also been added to the collection.
- **PERSI Update**

Indexes to over 28,000 new articles have just been added to over 2,000 PERSI periodicals. These include magazines, newsletters and journals, according to location, topic, surname, ethnicity and methodology.

The Periodical Source Index, or PERSI, is the largest subject index to genealogy and local history periodical articles in the world.[1] Created by the staff of the Allen County Public Library Foundation and the ACPL's Genealogy Center, PERSI is widely recognized as a vital tool for genealogical researchers. PERSI indexes articles in 11,000 periodical titles (including 3,000 defunct titles) published by thousands of local, state, national and international societies and organizations, arranging 2.25 million entries by surname or location and 22 basic subject headings. An important tool for genealogists looking for new avenues of investigation, PERSI's usefulness is not limited to family history researchers. Local historians and academics, archaeologists and demographers, as well as students from elementary to graduate school and beyond, will all find PERSI an important asset in their research.

Kent Records

Kent, Bexley Asylum Minute Books 1901-1939 contains over 11,000 records. Bexley Asylum opened in 1898 and was London's 7th asylum. Built on 750 acres of land next to Dartford Heath, the so-called 'Heath' Asylum housed 2,544 patients at its occupancy peak in 1915. None were there on a voluntary basis. Records include details of release and temporary release of patients as well as the hiring and promotion of staff and tradesmen's contracts.

Over 15,000 North West Kent Marriages 1562-1951 from the Parish of Westerham have been added to our collection of UK Marriage records. Spanning the 389 years between 1562 and 1951, the records consist of a transcript of the original burial registers.

Over 5,000 North West Kent Burials 1686-1983 Westerham have been added to our collection of UK Death and Burial records. Spanning the 418 years between 1563 and 1981, the records consist of a transcript of the original burial registers.

Over 7,000 North West Kent Baptisms 1560-1962 from the Parish of Westerham have been added to our collection of UK Death and Burial records. Spanning the 402 years between 1560 and 1962, the records consist of a transcript of the original burial registers.
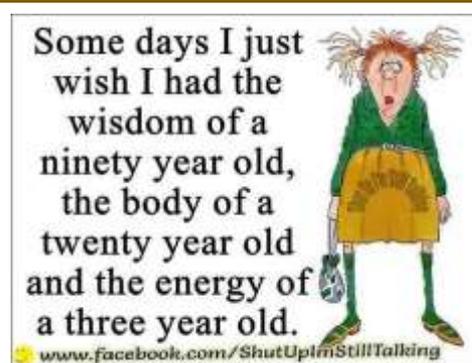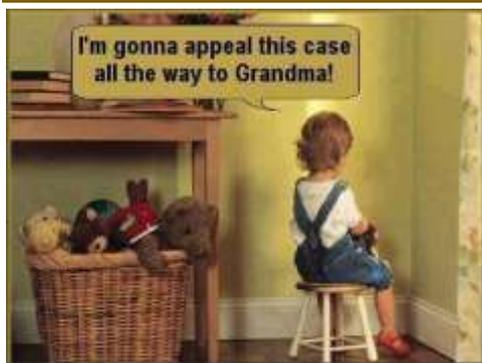
Jersey

Dick Eastman

TheGenealogist have added over 22,000 records to their Headstone project with another 23 cemeteries from across the twelve parishes of the Island of Jersey (Covering all of the island's historic cemeteries).

Mont a L'Abbe Old cemetery, St Helier, Jersey

Also released are a further 13 cemeteries from Buckinghamshire, Devon, Gloucestershire, Northamptonshire, Somerset, The West Midlands and Wiltshire.

The records are linked to images of the stones and maps to locate the actual burial grounds, they are searchable by name, year of death and graveyard.

These monuments can reveal facts, not recorded elsewhere, about the deceased and their family. Dates, carved in stone, can give away real ages misreported to census enumerators. Siblings, with the same name, can be recorded on graves with their birth and death dates and so helping researchers to identify the child that survived infancy.

Lillie Langtry's grave, St.Saviour, Jersey.

Some of the famous people that are to be found buried in this release and searchable include Lillie Langtry, the Edwardian actress and friend of the Prince of Wales; Sir William Edmond Heygate Colborne (Billy) Butlin, showman and holiday camp entrepreneur; The first Baron Trent of Nottingham, better known as Jesse Boot the founder of Boots the Chemists and his Jersey born wife Florence, Lady Trent.

The Priory Church of St Mary and St Hardulph, Breedon on the Hill, Leicestershire.

Is there ever a day that mattresses are not on sale?

Customer: Hi, good afternoon, this is Martha, I can't print. Every time I try, it says 'Can't find printer'. I've even lifted the printer and placed it in front of the monitor, but the computer still says he can't find it.

The trouble with bucket seats is that . . . not everybody has the same size bucket.

EUROPE & SCANDINAVIA

Poland 200,000 Additional Gravestone Records Now Searchable on JRI-Poland

Dick Eastman

As a result of a historic agreement between Jewish Records Indexing – Poland and the Foundation for Documentation of (Polish) Jewish Cemeteries (FDJC), a search of the JRI-Poland database links to the Foundation's Database with more than 200,000 gravestones from 81 towns.

The Foundation has developed the most extensive source for locating Jewish Cemetery gravestones in Poland.

The aim of the JRI-Poland / FDJC agreement is to bring the work of the FDJC to the widest audience as well as to utilize the multi-faceted JRI-Poland search engine options to dramatically increase the potential for finding gravestones of interest in the FDJC database. For a full list of cemeteries now included in the database, go to: http://cemetery.jewish.org.pl/list.

A routine JRI-Poland search www.jri-poland.org will now generate search results that include entries from the FDJC database and link directly to both digital images and full transcriptions of the gravestones.

The JRI-Poland search system provides important additional features when accessing the FDJC database, features not previously available in an FDJC search. Instead of just surnames, it is now possible to search by surname, given name, and town or a combination of these. In addition, you can search by year ranges. (IMPORTANT: The FDJC database contains entries for cemeteries all over Poland. Therefore, do NOT indicate a specific "geographic region" when searching for records in the FDJC database.)

Together, these features provide an invaluable tool – both for expanding your overview or focusing searches and solving dilemmas associated with getting too many results when a search involves common surnames.

The origins of the FDJC

The creation of the FDJC is another dramatic illustration of how one individual's vision and generosity can be the start of a project far exceeding the original intentions. Mr. Emile Karafiol of Chicago recognized the need to have every gravestone in the Warsaw Okopowa Street Cemetery digitally photographed and transcribed and made available on the Internet for all to benefit. That was just the beginning!

Under the local management and direction of Witold Wrzosinski and Remigiusz Sosnowski, as well as The Jewish Community of Warsaw (JCW), and under the patronage of Rabbi Michael Schudrich, Chief Rabbi of Poland, work started on the inventorying, imaging and gravestone mapping project.

By 2010, work on the Okopowa cemetery had been virtually completed and with the additional financial support of Mel and Dina Fishman of Toronto and the JCW, the cemetery in Szydłowiec was documented in a similar fashion. Since then, another eighty cemeteries followed.

The Foundation is managed by three highly qualified and dedicated individuals: Alicja Mroczkowska, an anthropologist and heritage conservation specialist from the Jewish Historical Institute, Remigiusz Sosnowski, cemetery Halacha specialist from the Warsaw Jewish Community, and Witold Wrzosinski, graduate of Jewish History, Culture and Languages Department at the Warsaw University, philologist and a professional genealogist.

For the history of the Foundation for Documentation of Jewish Cemeteries and full description of its activities, see: www.jri-poland.net/foundation-for-documentation-jewish-cemeteries.htm.

The Board of JRI-Poland is indebted to the Foundation and its management for their confidence in JRI-Poland and their vision and co-operation in making this historic agreement possible and their database so widely accessible.

The agreement dramatically illustrates how good will and cooperation between two organizations with a common interest can best serve researchers with Jewish roots in Poland.

I smile because you are my sister-in-law and laugh because you married my brother!

If God wanted me to touch my toes, he would've put them on my knees.

The kids text me "plz" which is shorter than please. I text back "no" which is shorter than "yes".

Denmark

Dick Eastman

MyHeritage has announced that millions of Danish historical records will be made available to search on its website. The announcement follows an agreement between MyHeritage and the Danish National Archives to index Census and Parish records from 1646 to 1930, providing access to significant sources of family history information in Denmark. The move will enable MyHeritage users to learn more about their ancestors and the lives they led, using records that were never digitally available before.
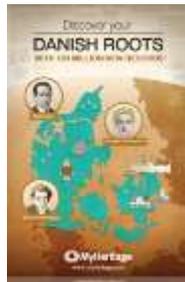
The records, spanning almost 300 years, provide a window to the lives of Danish ancestors during fascinating periods in history including the Napoleonic wars, liberalism and nationalism of the 1800s, the Schleswig Wars and industrialization. Users will be able to search for records about their ancestors using names, dates, locations, relatives and other keywords via SuperSearch, MyHeritage's search engine for historical records. MyHeritage users also enjoy powerful matching technologies that research their family trees automatically and notify them whenever Danish records relevant to their family are found. This makes discoveries easier and quicker than ever before. Once indexed, this will be one of the most comprehensive and valuable data collections for millions of Danes, and millions of people with Danish roots.

Many of the records will be made available on MyHeritage as early as April 2015 and the rest will be added during the year.

MyHeritage will index Danish national censuses, including approximately 9 million images and 31 million records, covering the years of 1787 through to 1930. One of the most enlightening sources of historical content, census records provide a glimpse into a family's past listing information about each household including the names of occupants, information on residence, ages, places of birth and occupations.

In addition, MyHeritage will index 3.9 million images of Church records containing approximately 90 million names from 1646 to 1915. The Parish Register provides information regarding anyone who was born, baptized or confirmed (after 1737), married or died in a particular parish. The records include rich information about a person's family: for example, for baptisms they list the date of birth, date of baptism, name of the child, parent's names, occupations and residence, and often names of witnesses and godparents.

MyHeritage is already the family history market leader in the Nordic region and is the only major company providing services in Danish, Norwegian, and Finnish. With more than 430,000 users in Denmark and an additional 600,000 registered users in Sweden, 500,000 in Norway, and 280,000 in Finland, MyHeritage has amassed the largest Nordic user base and family tree database in the market. The records will be available on MyHeritage SuperSearch at www.myheritage.com/research.

Austria – The genealogy website *GenTeam* has added some 400 new collections. Some highlights include citizen rolls from Bratislava, a marriage index for Vienna (starting in 1542), an index of Catholic baptisms in Vienna and Jewish indices of Prague for the years 1784 to 1804. The website currently has over 11 million records from Austria and surrounding countries. It covers most of the former Austro-Hungarian Empire, as shown in the map below. The website is in English. Access is free upon registration. It is definitely worth checking out if you have ancestors from the region. [GenTeam]

AMERICA

US – The State Library of Massachusetts has completed digitizing 8,400 images of World War I soldiers primarily from Massachusetts, with some images of soldiers from surrounding states. Many of the images are of individual soldiers and contain biographical information, as shown in the sample image below. This collection was donated to the state library in 1935 by the Boston Globe newspaper. It is a good collection to search if you had ancestors from the Northeast who were soldiers in WWI. Access is free. [Massachusetts WWI Soldier Images]

US – FindMyPast has put online the remains of the US 1890 Census. Most of the records from this census were destroyed in a fire in 1921 (at the time, the records were being stored in the basement of the Commerce Building in Washington, D.C). However, about 1,000 pages and fragments of pages survived the fire. It is these records that FindMyPast has put online. The records come from specific counties in Alabama, Georgia, Illinois, Minnesota, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, South Dakota and Texas.

The US 1890 census enumerated each member of the household, including their name, age, gender, relationship to the head of the household, occupation, marital status, place of birth, parent's place of birth, level of literacy, number of years in the United States and whether they were a civil war veteran or widow.

Although there is a low probability that your ancestors will be listed in the limited remains of the 1890 census, it is still worth taking a look if you happen to already have a subscription to FindMyPast. Access is by subscription. [US 1890 Census]

US Records

Containing over 15,000 records Idaho births and christenings 1856-1965 can reveal vital biographical details on the first settlers of Idaho right up through the state's 20th century residents. Idaho ordered counties to register births after 1911, but some counties and even individuals began recording this information much earlier.

Arizona deaths & burials 1910-1994 contains over 2,000 records. Arizona first began recording deaths in the state in 1909 and by the early 1920s compliance across the state had been achieved, although there are some significant gaps in the records after 1911.

Utah Marriages 1845-1935 contain over 781,000 records that date back to before the state wide registration of marriages became compulsory in 1887. Utah became the 45th state admitted to the Union on January 4, 1896 and is the most religiously homogeneous state. It is the only state with a Mormon majority and the only state with a majority population belonging to a single church.

ISRAEL
MyHeritage's Efforts at Digitizing Cemeteries

Dick Eastman

MyHeritage has mounted a major effort to preserve and digitize cemeteries worldwide, with the help of some friends. This is expected to be a multi-year effort. A major milestone has already been met with the ambitious goal to digitize Israel's largest cemetery, Holon, collaborating with genealogy companies, genealogy organizations, societies and other volunteers who love genealogy. It was one of the largest events of its kind ever organized – in the world!

In one day, more than 150,000 gravestones were photographed. Yes, more than 150,000 in one day! It is a great model for how similar activities can be organized around the world.

You can read more in the MyHeritage Blog at http://blog.myheritage.com/2014/12/digitizing-cemeteries-myheritage-is-at-it-again-with-friends.

FAMILY TREE MAKER

FTM timeline query

    Q. I am wondering if it is at all possible to add items to the Timeline. I have read the 'help' section but think it doesn't apply to what I'd like to do.

My requirement is to add the birth, marriages and deaths of grandchildren to a person's timeline.

Can I do it and how?

    A. In FTM and FTMM the timeline is a timeline of a person and it displays the various Facts pertaining to that person.

You can also add family events and historical events as well your own historical events.

So to do what you require you could use the Manage Historical Events function and create some historical events for that person which contain the Facts that you wish to apply in the person's timeline.

Another way around it (which I have not actually tried but it would work) would be to create your own Custom Facts for the person e.g. death of 'grandchild A' and then it would show up in the person's time line as well as of course any other report or chart where you use the Items to Include to include the custom fact.

http://help.ancestry.com/app/answers/detail/a_id/4394/kw/Creating%20custom%20Facts

---

FTM

From the Gumnet mailing list –

    Q. I would like to create report from Family Tree Maker showing the life spans in years of all my blood relatives.

    A. Have you considered using the Index of individuals set up this way?

Set the report up as

    All Individuals radio button

    List type 'birthday list'

    Sort by oldest first year, month, day

    And the key bit which I think might get you what you want

    Tick the check box 'Include only living people'

This gives you a great report much favoured at reunions of just living people in the database. The frightening thing of course is that gradually you bubble up to the top of the list!

The report can be used as is or exported to csv for more analysis

To save this export maybe

    Create a custom report just for your ancestors

    Export this list to a new file

    Then apply the Index of individuals as noted above

John D

An archaeological team, digging in south west Alberta, has uncovered 10,000 year old bones and fossil remains of what is believed to be the world's first politician

Another FTM (report) query

Q. Hi To All,

Sorry to interrupt holiday time. I hope to visit a cemetery next week, and would like to know if it is possible for my 2014 FTM program (all updated with patches) to give me a list/report of, Cemetery
Names, and Family Names of those buried there?

A. This is entirely possible and quite straightforward in FTM providing that.....

1. You have been consistent in spelling the cemetery name the same way each time you have entered it. (if you have used a Description field the fastfields fill in in FTM will assist).

AND

2. You have been consistent in adding the cemetery name in the same field.

Normally this is either the Description field in the Death Fact or the Description field in the Burial Fact.

(Note the word **consistent**)

For this example, let us say that the cemetery in question is the Brighton General Cemetery.

Of course you will use the name of the cemetery that you plan to visit.

Open FTM and go to the Publish Workspace and click on the Person Reports>Custom report.

In the right hand editing panel click on Selected Individual Individuals to include.

This opens the FTM filter which allows you to create a report with just the individuals buried in the Brighton General Cemetery.

Example 1: the Cemetery info is in the Death Fact Description field

Now in example 1 I have assumed that you have entered the cemetery name in the Description field of the death Fact.

So in the filter clear anything in the right hand window and then click on Filter In.

The Filter Individuals by criteria dialog appears.

Click on the vital facts radio button.

In the Search Where drop down select death.

This will display a second drop down list and this time select Description.

The middle box will show "contains".

Now in the value box type in the name of the cemetery.

Make sure that the Match all Values radio box is ticked and click OK.

So what you have asked FTM to do is "find all individuals whose Death Date Description contains Brighton General Cemetery".

FTM will create a report with all the individuals buried in that cemetery.

You can save the report as well as printing.

You can also uses the Items to Include to modify what else you want in the report, eg name, date of death etc.

Note the saved report is dynamic and if you later add more people buried in that cemetery they will be displayed next time you run it.

Note all the report controls ate at the top of the right hand editing panel.

Example 2: Cemetery info is in the Burial fact description field

Repeat the steps above except instead of clicking vital Facts select All Facts.

In the long drop down Fact list select the Burial Fact.

Some references

GUM Newsletter April 2014 My article on using the Filter

AND from the knowledge base (on line support).

http://help.ancestry.com/app/answers/detail/a_id/1823/kw/Custom%20report

AND a YouTube

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=roOMdEhB8ww

MISCELLANY

BillionGraves now claims to have the world's largest collection of **GPS tagged headstones**. Its competitor, Find-A-Grave, still has more headstones catalogued, but the majority of those do not have GPS locations. In a small cemetery, the GPS location of an individual headstone may not be important but in larger cemeteries it can be a critical piece of information for anyone seeking to visit the tombstone.

BillionGraves also has announced Map It, BillionGraves.com Ad Free, an enhanced Virtual Walk-through, new Record Notifications to be sent to you via email, and BillionGraves Priority Support. Details on these new features and more may be found at http://blog.billiongraves.com/2014/10/billiongraves-introduces-5-new-amazing-features/.


Ahnentafel Explained

Dick Eastman
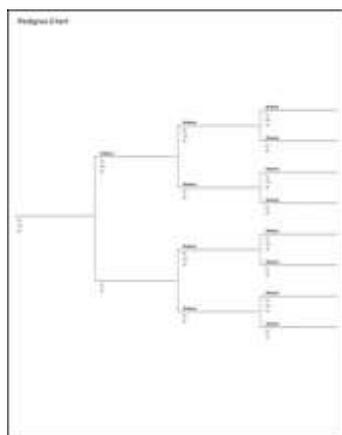
Ahnentafel is a word commonly used in genealogy although it probably confuses most newcomers. Ahnentafel is a German word that literally translates as "ancestor table". It is a list of all known ancestors of an individual and includes the full name of each ancestor as well as dates and places of birth, marriage, and death whenever possible. It also has a strict numbering scheme.

Once the reader is accustomed to ahnentafels, it becomes very easy to read these lists, to move up and down from parent to child and back again, and to understand the relationships of the listed people. Ahnentafels are very good at presenting a lot of information in a compact format. However, the numbering system is the key to understanding ahnentafels.

To visualize the numbers, first consider this typical pedigree chart:

```
                                                  8. great-grandfather
                            4. paternal grandfather-|
                            |                     9. great-grandmother
               2. Father--|
               |            |                     10. great-grandfather
               |            5. paternal grandmother-|
               |                                  11. great-grandmother
               |
    1. Person-|
               |
               |                                  12. great-grandfather
               |            6. maternal grandfather-|
               |            |                     13. great-grandmother
               3. Mother--|
                            |                     14. great-grandfather
                            7. maternal grandmother-|
                                                  15. great-grandmother
```
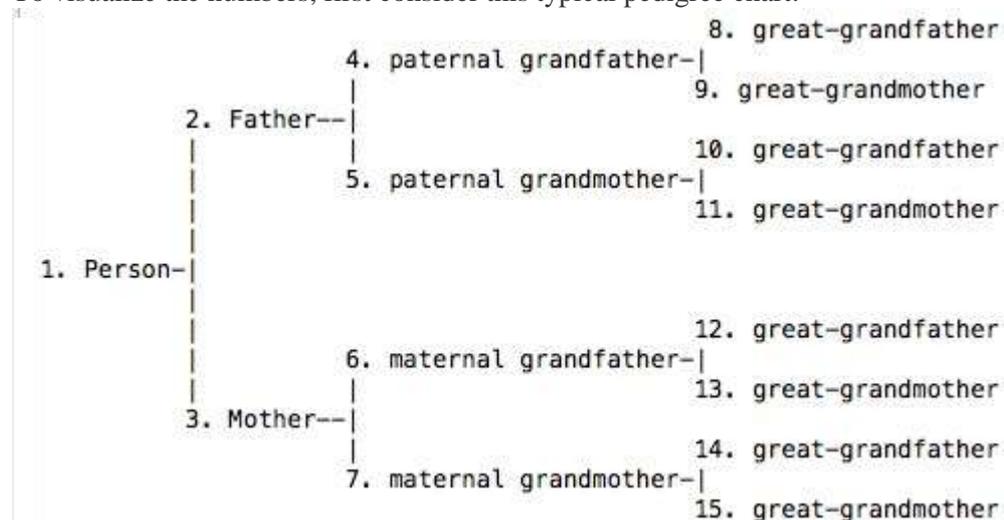
Carefully observe the numbers in the above chart. You will notice that every person listed has a number and that there is a mathematical relationship between parents and children. The number of a father is always double that of his child's. The number of the mother is always double that of her child's plus one. The number of a child is always one-half that of a parent (ignoring any remainder).

In the above example, the father of person #6 is #12 (the father is double the child's number). The mother of #6 is #13 (the mother is double plus one of the child's). The child of #12 and #13 is #6 (the child is always one-half the parent's number, ignoring remainders).

Now, let's take the above chart and write it in ahnentafel format:

1. person
2. father
3. mother
4. paternal grandfather
5. paternal grandmother
6. maternal grandfather
7. maternal grandmother
8. great-grandfather
9. great-grandmother
10. great-grandfather
11. great-grandmother
12. great-grandfather
13. great-grandmother
14. great-grandfather
15. great-grandmother

Notice that the numbers are exactly the same as in the pedigree chart. The rules of father=2 times child, mother=2 times child+1, child=one-half of parent, etc., remain the same. This is an ahnentafel chart. For a more detailed example of an ahnentafel, here's an excerpt from the ahnentafel of one well-known American:

1. George Walker Bush, b. New Haven, Conn., 6 July 1946, m. 5 Nov. 1977, Laura Lane Welch
2. George Herbert Walker Bush, b. Milton, Mass., 12 June 1924, m. Rye, N.Y., 6 Jan. 1945
3. Barbara Pierce
4. Prescott Sheldon Bush, b. Columbus, Ohio, 15 May 1895, m. Kennebunkport, Maine, 6 Aug. 1921, d. New York, N.Y., 8 Oct. 1972
5. Dorothy Walker, b. near Walker's Point, York Co., Me., 1 July 1901, d. Greenwich, Conn., 19 Nov. 1992
6. Marvin Pierce, b. Sharpsville, Pa., 17 June 1893, m. Aug. 1918, d. Rye, N.Y., 17 July 1969
7. Pauline Robinson, b. Ohio, April 1896, d. Rye, N.Y., 23 Sept. 1949
8. Samuel Prescott Bush, b. Brick Church, N.J., 4 Oct. 1863, m. Columbus, Ohio, 20 June 1894, d. Columbus, Ohio, 8 Feb. 1948
9. Flora Sheldon, b. Franklin Co., Ohio, 17 Mar. 1872, d. "Watch Hill", R.I., 4 Sept. 1920
10. George Herbert Walker, b. St. Louis, Mo., 11 June 1875, m. St. Louis, Mo., 17 Jan. 1899, d. New York, N.Y., 24 June 1953
11. Lucretia [Loulie] Wear, b. St. Louis, Mo., 17 Sept. 1874, d. Biddeford, Me., 28 Aug. 1961
12. Scott Pierce, b. Sparkville, Pa., 18 Jan. [or June?] 1866, m. 26 Nov. 1891
13. Mabel Marvin, b. Cincinnati, Ohio, 4 June 1869
14. James Edgar Robinson, b. near Marysville, Oh., 15 Aug. 1868, m. Marion Co., Ohio, 31 March 1895, d. 1931
15. Lula Dell Flickinger, b. Byhalia, Ohio, March 1875
16.

The above examples show information about 15 individuals, but ahnentafels typically contain information about many more people than this. You can often find ahnentafels that list hundreds or even thousands of individuals, all ancestors of person #1 in the list. For instance, a much longer ahnentafel for President Bush may be found at: http://www.wargs.com/political/bush.html.

Notice that the mathematical rules about relationships shown in the pedigree chart still apply in the ahnentafel chart. Also, the true ahnentafel lists the person's full name, along with dates and places of birth, marriage, and death, if known.

All modern genealogy programs can produce ahnentafel charts. Of course, you could also create an ahnentafel chart by hand or by using a word processor. Whatever method you choose, an ahnentafel is an easy method of presenting a lot of ancestral data in a compact format.

Cemeteries of the Future… Built like a Vending Machine?

Dick Eastman

Well, perhaps it **LOOKS** like a vending machine…
Cities are running out of space for all sorts of things, including cemeteries. Where can the urban dead rest in peace these days? Constellation Park is one of several concepts by DeathLab, a Columbia University-based research and design space focused on "re-conceiving how we live with death in the metropolis." And you might not believe some of the other ideas this group of researchers and architects are quietly working on: a looming tower that that holds "pods" (i.e., graves) that light up and above which people can stroll, and a spaceship-like structure on Manhattan's waterfront that's like a park where waking can slip in and out.

Visitors' center at meguro anyoin, a buddhist temple in Tokyo..

Meguro Anyoin, a Buddhist temple in Tokyo, contains vaults large enough to hold the urns of 7,200 families are stored in a massive warehouse developed by the carmaker Toyota. After mourners who are visiting their long lost loved ones punch in a code, a small urn with a person's remains pops out of a slot, rather like a soda from a vending machine.
You can read more in an article by Farah Halime in the OZY.com web site at:

http://www.ozy.com/fast-forward/your-dearly-departed-in-a-vending-machine/37417

A **Preservation Problem**

Dick Eastman

Do you plan to leave your genealogy records for use by others after your death? If so, what storage method will you use for the information?

Paper doesn't work too well. Today's acid-based paper will probably last only for fifty to one hundred years or so. Even worse, toner used by modern laser printers and photocopy machines will only last ten to twenty years although the paper itself will last longer. Nobody will be able to read the paper documents if the toner has faded.
Archival quality paper with high-quality ink will last more than 100 years, but such ink is not readily available for computer printers. Would you want to write your entire genealogy by hand? Using a fountain pen?
Microfilm has been the medium of choice for years but is now disappearing. If you delay for another ten or twenty years, you probably will be unable to purchase new, unexposed microfilm, even if you can find a museum that still has a working microfilm camera. Besides, microfilm has never been a very good solution for a private individual with only a few hundred pages to preserve. Due to the expense of the film and the equipment, microfilm has been a reasonable solution only for larger organizations with millions of pages to preserve. Those organizations are now all moving away from microfilm.
An article in the Chronicle of Higher Education a few years ago illustrates the problems involved in archiving contemporary records. As part of his legacy, novelist John Updike left behind floppy disks at Harvard's Houghton Library. The library now has approximately 50 three-and-a-half and five-and-a-quarter-inch floppy disks — artifacts from late in the author's career when he, like many of his peers, began using a word processor. These weren't Windows or Macintosh or MS-DOS machines.

They were proprietary format disks used by the dedicated word processors that were popular in the 1980s and early 1990s but have now disappeared.

I suspect that this is not a serious problem for Updike's books. After all, there are many copies of his books still available on paper that will probably last many more years. The Houghton Library has plenty of time to create archival copies digitally from the printed books. The potential for loss involves his personal notes and revisions, the items that were never published.

Harvard isn't the only university puzzling over new media from old — and not-so-old — masters. Emory University recently received four laptops, an external hard drive, and a Palm Treo personal digital assistant from Salman Rushdie. The University of Texas at Austin recently acquired a series of Zip disks and a laptop containing Norman Mailer's files.

Even NASA had problems with keeping readable backup copies. The agency had 2,500 2-inch wide magnetic tapes full of pictures from the lunar missions, enough to fill a good-sized truck. Assembled on pallets, the required storage space was 10 feet wide, 20 feet long and 6 feet high. Most of the pictures had never been seen by the public, and no backup copies existed on any media. These obsolete tapes were the only copies available.

There was but one problem: the tapes could only be played back on FR-900 Ampex tape drives. Only a few dozen of the machines had been made for the military. The $330,000 tape drives were electronic behemoths, each 7 feet tall and weighing nearly a ton. Worst of all, both NASA and the military had scrapped their FR-900 Ampex tape drives years ago. There was not a single working FR-900 Ampex tape drive left on the face of the earth.

So, how will you preserve your information?

A little late but still topical ☺

With New Year's Eve only just gone I would like to share a personal experience with my friends about drinking and driving.

As you may know some of us have been known to have brushes with the authorities from time to time on the way home after a "social session" out with friends. Well two days ago I was out for an such an evening with friends and had several cocktails followed by some rather nice red wine. Feeling jolly I still had the sense to know that I may be slightly over the limit.

That's when I did something that I've never done before - I took a taxi home. Sure enough on the way home there was a police roadside checkpoint but since it was a cab they waved it past. I arrived home safely without incident.

This was a real surprise, as I had never driven a taxi before, I don't know where I got it and now that it's in my garage I don't know what to do with it.