



PAF EXPRESS

Family History & Genealogy

Washington County "Personal Ancestral File™" Users Group Newsletter

March 2009 Editor – Denece C. Larsen (435) 634-0204 caboose@skyviewmail.com Vol. 17 #3

GETTING TO KNOW: PAT FOSTER WC-PAF Users Group Board Member

I was born March 1, 1942 in Santa Fe, New Mexico, the daughter of Robert W. DeVor and Evelyn L. Power. Shortly after my birth my parents moved back to their home town of Pueblo, Colorado. During World War II my Dad worked on the railroad and on the construction crew that built the Alcan Highway.



In 1947 we moved to Lamar, Colorado, where my sister was born. I attended school through the 8th grade in Lamar. In 1956 we moved to Campbell, California. In 1960 I graduated from Campbell High School. I attended San Jose City College for the next two years.

I was introduced to Russ Foster through a girl friend of mine. We were married June 23, 1962. Russ was in the US Navy. I was not a member of the church and really didn't know anything about it. Russ was a member. Russ returned from a nine month cruise aboard the USS Ranger.

We bought our first home in Poway, California. Our first daughter Cathy was born while Russ was at sea. We started going to church. It was a small struggling ward. The people were very friendly and caring. I took the missionary lessons and was baptized June 6, 1964. Denise was born in 1964 and Robert in 1968. We were sealed, as a family, March 12, 1966 in the Los Angeles Temple.

In 1970 we moved to the island of Kauai, on the Pacific Missile Range. Russ retired from the Navy in September of 1973 and we returned to the mainland.

In 1977 our last daughter Mariann was born. We lived in San Jose, California. I worked part time as a nursing assistant. In 1988 we moved to Provo, Utah. I worked full time in the operating room at Utah Valley Medical Center.

I was able to retire and we moved to St George, in January, 2003. We are the grandparents of three boys and

six girls and the great grandparents of two girls and a little boy due next month.

I was introduced to genealogy work as a new member of the church. I was fascinated with the work and putting my family together forever. I have worked on it off and on over the years. I thought the computer was the greatest invention and the only way to accomplish this work.

Russ and I are currently serving as service missionaries at the St George Regional Family History Training Center.


GAYLON FINDLAY – SPEAKER

WC-PAF Meeting – Saturday – 21 March 2009

Gaylon Findlay is President of Incline Software, the company that makes Ancestral Quest. He has been creating genealogy software for over 15 years. In 1999, Incline Software donated a copy of the Ancestral Quest code to the LDS Church, who then made some modifications to their copy of the code, and named their copy, "Personal Ancestral File". As a result, Gaylon is also the primary author of the current PAF program.

Gaylon graduated from BYU. He lives in South Jordan, Utah with his wife, Gale, and their 5 children.

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PAF TIPS & TRICKS

By – Elaine Booth – WC-PAF UG Instructor

MATCH-MERGE Part 3

Merge Options

You can choose some merge options.

- **Automatically merge exact duplicates:** If you find duplicates using the Ancestral File number or unique record serial number, and all the data for the two records matches, this option merges the two records automatically. However, if some data does not match, such as the birthplaces differ, it does not merge the records.
- **Combine notes:** This combines all note information into the one record that is kept.
- **Combine source citations:** This combines all source citations into the one record that is kept.
- **Combine multimedia objects:** This combines all pictures or sounds into the one record that is kept.
- **Confirm when Merge button pressed:** This causes a confirmation screen to appear in case you click the Merge button when you didn't mean to.

When the program finds matching individuals, it displays them side by side.

- **Primary Individual** (on left): You will keep this record.
- **Duplicate Individual** (on right): This record will be deleted. You can switch individuals by clicking the Switch button.

Tabs across the top allow you to view the marriage and family information for these individuals.

Note: LMD is Last Modified Date.

ST. GEORGE REGIONAL TRAINING CENTER BOOK ROOM

By - Helen Lenz – WC-PAF UG Board Member

One of the best kept secrets in past years has been the 'BOOK ROOM' at the St. George Regional Training Center.

This room, which used to be the garage of the home which houses all the computers and training held in the old brick home located at 410 South 200 East in St. George across the street from the St. George Temple, is a surprise to many visitors and even staff at the center.

If the computers are down, what do you do for research?

This is an area which holds over 5,000 reference books.

We have had a surge of patrons in the past year coming in to see what we have. Many areas are covered from atlases, gazetteers, research helpers, biographies, maps and books from different states and countries.

Presently, for the past two years, there has been an ongoing indexing system of surnames contained in the books. The patron will type in their ancestor's surname in the computer and a report will tell you how many books have been indexed that have your name and then a surname report will come up. If there are less than ten books, the report can be scanned immediately. If there are more than ten, a report can be printed which will give you each 40 books that contains your surname. This report can be printed for the 'big sum' of five cents a page.

You are invited to come and visit our book room and browse through it to see for yourself what is hidden between the pages of these books.

- **Genealogy : Tracing yourself back to better people.**
- **I trace my family history so I will know who to blame.**

WELCOME TO "QUESTION SURFER GRANDMA!"

It's Surfer Grandma!



Do you have a question about Computers, Family History or Genealogy?

Send it to **Surfer Grandma!**
iflightner@skyviewmail.com

It will be forwarded to an expert! Surfer Grandma needs your questions! If we don't keep her busy she might go to work for someone else!

If that happens – she will be greatly missed!

Q – How can I make some of my notes in PAF Confidential when I print?

A –You can print notes on a Family Group Record, Individual Summary, Book Report, or include them in a custom report. You can use the following:

! Print: If you want to print selected notes, type an exclamation point (!) as the first character of the note.

~ Confidential: If you want to keep a note confidential, type a tilde (~) as the first character.

TAG: If you want to search for, view, or print certain types of note information, add a Tag to the front. A Tag is one word with a colon, or two words connected by a hyphen (-) or underscore (_), such as:

RESEARCH:

TO-DO:

Military Service:

Education:

Obituary:

Census:

A blank line separates one note from the next.

- **It's hard to be humble with ancestors like mine.**

POP-TOP GENEALOGY

Richard Eastman – Eastman Online 9 Mar 2009

I recently read a message on one of the online message boards that disturbed me a bit. Apparently this person is rather new to genealogy and was experiencing some frustrations. He wrote, "I'm bummed though because I am not having any luck with Ancestry.com on finding any of my ancestors. Any advice on that?"

While genealogists have long dreamed of the day when we could sit at home and do all our family tree research via computer, we certainly have not arrived at that Utopian state yet. There are millions of genealogy records available today online, but the data available in electronic format at this time only scratches the surface. The writer of this online message apparently was not aware of the other resources available. From his brief message I would assume that he had only looked at the World Wide Web. Perhaps he only looked at the one site. I must say that several people jumped in to answer his online remarks, and the writer soon received a lot of good advice. However, for every person who asks such a question, I wonder if there are many more who never ask.

I have never seen any statistics on the topic of electronic genealogy resources available, but my "gut feel" is that probably less than 2% of the records of genealogical interest have ever been computerized.

In short, even with all the online databases available today, the newcomer who uses only an online database has searched no more than a tiny fraction of the genealogy records available. The newcomer to family tree research still needs to find and use the excellent genealogy sources that have been available elsewhere for years. Luckily, this is easy to do – and it is rather inexpensive.

Microfilmed records of hundreds of millions of births, marriages, deaths, census records, military records, land transfers, and more are available at no cost or low cost. You can rent the microfilms at any of the thousands of local Family History Centers. In addition, there are still more microfilms available at many larger libraries as well as at the U.S. National Archives Regional Libraries. Major libraries often have both books and microfilms, as do many local genealogy societies. A few societies, such as the New England Historic Genealogical Society, may have very large libraries and many staff members who can help. Of course, writing letters asking for copies of old records still works very well.

In short, perhaps the genealogy community needs to work still harder at attracting, encouraging, and educating newcomers. Maybe I should not say, "work harder;" perhaps I should say, "find new approaches." The new approaches may, in fact, be easier than today's methods. I suspect there are millions of people who now believe that they can have the instant gratification of "pop-top genealogy:" go online and find all your ancestors before the ten o'clock news. These newcomers are disappointed when

that doesn't happen. I suspect many newcomers quickly drop the project and move on to some other interest.

The biggest losers in this process are the would-be genealogists and their families; they do not obtain the family heritage information they seek. However, the providers of online genealogy information also lose out since these short-term genealogists probably will not come back next year to find newly-added information. If we could get these newcomers interested, motivated, and even excited, genealogy database vendors would profit from future sales. I suspect that genealogy societies would profit as well as seeing their membership numbers increase. Best of all, the newcomers and their families would benefit as they discover their true heritage.

What is the answer? I suspect there are several. However, I would suggest that local and national genealogical societies hold the key. How about offering coupons online that can be downloaded and printed, offering a free three-month membership in a local, regional, or even national society? Even better, how about a trial membership in an ethnic society of interest? I am sure an Ohio resident of Hungarian descent would love to find out more about the resources available from the Hungarian Genealogy Society of Greater Cleveland. Today, most Hungarian descendants in Ohio probably don't even know that such societies exist.

Wouldn't it be great if we could give these newcomers an opportunity to discover the world outside of the online databases? Not all of these newcomers will take advantage of such an offer, but a percentage of them will. A society web site's introduction should suggest that the newcomer fill out a form and click a "Submit" button, and voila! They receive a newsletter or two and get invited to the next local meeting.

As I see it, the primary distribution mechanism for these "coupons" should focus on the various online web sites. I do not think the commercial companies will create these "electronic coupons" by themselves. They simply do not have enough profit motive to do so. In these lean business times, we (the genealogists) cannot sit back and wait for a public-minded commercial company to invent this incentive for us. Instead, someone within our own community should invent the "electronic coupon" and then supply it to all the genealogy vendors at no cost. I suspect that most vendors would be willing to include such an "electronic coupon package" on their web sites.

Indeed, any society interested in such offers can contact me and I will be glad to publicize such offers on www.eogn.com. However, that is but one outlet; we need many more.

Hopefully we can encourage the person who wrote, "I'm bummed though because I am not having any luck ... finding any of my ancestors." Any other suggestions?

(The preceding is copyrighted 2009 by Richard Eastman and is re-published with permission. Newsletter information is available at: <http://www.eogn.com>)

Geek Speak GRAPHICS PROGRAMS ARE FUN!

By Shaun McCausland

Friday, February 20, 2009 – Senior Sampler

Computers have opened up a whole universe of opportunities for those of us who are artistically challenged. Even if you can only represent people as stick figures and circles as vague ovals, you can do wonderful things with graphics. Those (like my daughter) who have an artistic eye can still do things better than I can, but I am able to produce very good projects such as books, greeting cards, magazines, brochures, business cards, invitations, certificates—the list is endless. I am only artistic in the average sense—but I have been able to create all of the above projects successfully and have a lot of satisfied customers. I have to admit that I have asked for input from my daughter and wife before I finalize most projects. (Hey, if you have that much talent around you, why not use it?)

The simplest program is "Paint" which is included on most Windows based computers. With it, you can create boxes, add text in various styles and colors and do a number of fun things to make your project look good. The graphics you create can be inserted in most document creation programs such as Word, Word Perfect, etc.

Dedicated card creators and calendar creators are the next step up. They are specific to the task and usually have their own "clip art" graphics which are stylized or cartoon-type drawings). The better ones include the ability to use photos and other graphics that you add to your documents. This is always nice for such things as adding a picture of the person to their birthday on a calendar. "Calendar Creator" and "Hallmark Card Creator" are good examples of this type of program.

Multiple-project style programs such as PrintShop and Printmaster are powerful and give you many options. The newer versions of these programs allow you to use your own pictures and graphics, help you design and layout with borders, give you text and graphics effects such as shadows, gradients (gradually changing your text from one color to another in a title) and shaping (flowing text in arcs and other shapes). My wife prefers this type of program to the really high-end options because they are easier to learn and remember how to use. This is especially important if you aren't using this type of program all the time.

The top-of-the-line programs are those like "PhotoShop", "Illustrator", "Gimp", "Corel Draw" and "In-Design". These are the programs the professionals use, but with a little work and training, they are fairly accessible to the hobbyist and even to some extent beginners. These are the programs you will want to learn if you desire to create professional documents and graphics. They are required by most professional printers and add a level of professionalism and polish to your documents that make them beautiful and sellable. I will do a whole article on this type of program in the near future. Suffice it to say that, if I want my

customers to be happy with their business cards, brochures, magazines, etc., I have to use the advanced features offered with this type of program.

As always, keep backups of anything important, stay safe and happy computing.

Shaun McCausland has been in the computer industry for 27 years (locally with Muicomp & Bits `N' Bytes) and currently does in-home and on-site computer consultation, service, training and repair. If you have questions, you can reach him at 668-7118.

Permission to use articles from Shaun McCausland and Senior Sampler.

WINDOWS 7 IS COMING. SO WHAT?

Kim Komando – 2/21/2009 – www.komando.com

You may be aware that Microsoft is readying a new operating system. It's been dubbed Windows 7. When it is released, you can expect brass bands, dancing girls and mighty huzzahs. But why?

Windows runs your machine. It's the middle man. It tells your programs and your computer how to work together. In geekese, it manages resources. Don't worry about that.

Does this sound exciting? It doesn't to me. It sounds like the transmission in my car.

So why does Microsoft bang the drums? And, really, what do you need?

Let us return to the days of yesteryear, when MS-DOS ruled the PC land. You'd get this on your computer screen: C:\. To the right of the backslash blinked the cursor. That wasn't particularly intuitive. People wanted something better. Thus was born the graphical user interface. Buttons, links, formatting to click on. Today's Windows is a very advanced GUI; so is Mac's OS X.

Windows improved all through the 1990s. Then, in 2001, Windows XP appeared. It didn't crash. It didn't cause trouble at all. People just loved it.

Jump to January 2007. Windows Vista appeared. Bombastic promotion. Events to draw crowds. But the old flying-out-the-doors spirit wasn't there. The "experts" said Vista was a memory hog, it had too many problems, people didn't want it. I say people stuck with XP.

See, people don't just go out and buy a new operating system. They buy computers with the new Windows. But, this time, they didn't need to upgrade. Why spend \$800 when you like XP?

I need to know new technology. I bought a half-dozen computers in January 2007. All had Vista. The hardware has been a pain. Vista has performed flawlessly. So, now comes Windows 7. The guys are looking forward to the dancing girls. And we will switch; we have to be out-front. But most people couldn't care less. They get their operating system with their computer. And they still like XP, which is now eight years old. Or they like Vista.

Why does Microsoft bother with this extravaganza? That's a good question. And I don't know for sure. But I have a the-

ory. (It's possible that 800 people thought of it before me. If you're one, please be nice.)

Microsoft watchers think nearly all profits come from Windows and Office. (This decade, we have had Office 2000, 2002 (XP), 2003 and 2007). The rest of Microsoft's software is peanuts.

When the umpteenth Windows version appears, Microsoft isn't really pushing Windows. It's selling computers. Nearly everyone gets the new operating system with the computer. No computer sales, no Windows sales. (I'm not counting early adopting geeks. Microsoft can't live on them.)

Most people probably like their machines. I don't see a big blastoff for Windows 7. If you like XP or Vista, stick with it.

This is a terrible problem for Microsoft. Coming down the road are Google and The Cloud. Google is believed to have a million servers, more or less.

The logical use for those servers is cloud computing. You get an old computer out of the closet. On it, you install a free, small Linux operating system. But the real operating system is on Google servers. You access them through the Internet. Ergo, the Cloud.

Most people hate buying new computers. They despise learning new software. The Cloud should cure both.

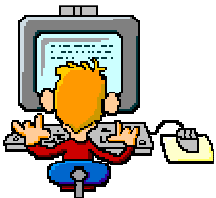
How much will it cost? Maybe nothing. Whatever, it will be less than today's almost yearly changes.

I can't be sure this is coming. But I would be willing to bet on it.

And where will it leave Microsoft, arguably the globe's most powerful firm?

Less than a decade ago, newspapers were rich and powerful. Then, the Internet abruptly reshaped the news world. Newspapers are dead men walking. That could happen to Microsoft. Without Windows and Office, what does it really have for personal computers?

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Ron's Corner
Snippets of
Knowledge
 By- Ron Bremer
 WC-PAF Board Member

QUALIFICATIONS OF AN EDITOR: He must possess the constitution of a horse, obstinacy of a mule, independence of a wood sawyer, endurance of a starving anaconda, impudence of a beggar, spunk of a chicken hawk, pertinacity of a dun, imperturbable good temper, a faculty of doing nine things at once, skill to read the most illegible manuscripts, leisure at all times, and a great knack of going without.

DESCENDANCY RESEARCH - ELIXIR FOR THE HARD CORE GENEALOGIST

By Lesly Klippel

Silicon Valley Computer Genealogy Group

Volume 20 Number 2 -- February 2009

Starting my family history research at age thirteen had some advantages: parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles were still alive to jumpstart my research. The disadvantage is that after some years of researching whenever and wherever the nomadic life of an Army wife and mother of nine took me, I ran out of available ancestors. Most of mine stand on the Atlantic seaboard looking longingly towards England. Only about one percent of early colonists are successfully traced to their mother country. I have only managed to cross the ocean in the 1600s with a handful of my lines, so I keep my fingers crossed and stay current on new publications about those adventurous souls who founded our great nation.

Having traced my husband's Germanic ancestors back to the beginning of their parish registers and my mother's Danish family as far as records could take me, I was fast running out of lines to explore. My addicted brain and computer keyboard were getting shaky and in desperation, I started tracing ALL the descendants of my paternal immigrant ancestor, Johann Jacob Petri who arrived in Philadelphia in 1743 on the good ship Loyal Judith. What a joyful journey that has been! I have corresponded with and journeyed to meet cousins in several states. I even found out that my neighbor is my cousin!

Descendancy Research Begins a Far From Home

To trace all the descendants of one of your ancestors, choose a family line to bring forward. It should be a line about which you have sufficient information with which to begin serious research and about which you have some interest and curiosity. It also helps to start with a family who lived during the 1850 United States census when all family members were enumerated. If you choose a family who lived before the 1850 census, you will need to rely heavily on other types of records, such as probate, land and property, available church records and county records.

Previous Research

If your name is somewhat uncommon, check the Internet to see if someone else is researching the same family and has posted their information. Some good free places to start are: www.rootsweb.com (WorldConnect - you can often download GEDCOMS - be sure to put them in a new file and not in your master database until you evaluate the data.) www.familysearch.org (Ancestral File, Pedigree Research File and IGI) www.ancestry.com (Click on Search, Family Trees, Ancestry World Tree - that part of Ancestry is still free) www.google.com, www.yahoo.com, www.altavista.com (Search on the surname with or without a place name to find privately posted web sites and other important data.) www.genforum.com (Jump to your sur-

name forum and search on a given name or a place - lots of fun postings!)

Be careful about other people's research since it may or may not be accurate. Look to see if it is consistent and that the dates are logical. Do the children's births fall within normal child-bearing years? Drugs to extend those years didn't exist. Check to see if any sources are included with the data. Verify other people's research by checking it against your own accurate data and by finding the family in census and other original records.

Find the Entire Family

Very often you will find that people have done some research on your extended families but have only followed one sibling forward. That's where the fun begins. Try to find all the siblings of your ancestors in census records to learn where they moved. I found that the Petrees generally moved west from North Carolina to Illinois and Indiana and then to Arkansas, Missouri and California. You may find a similar pattern in your family. The Wickliffe family started in Virginia with one branch staying together in Kentucky and other branches moving to Missouri and Indiana. But the Wickliffe family in Ohio came straight from Ireland and isn't related to me. My Kahley family stayed in Pennsylvania and my Hale and Brown families loved Eastern Tennessee so much, they are still there.

Verify, Verify, Verify and Document, Document, Document

Finding previous research is like finding the cover to your box of puzzle pieces so you know what the picture is supposed to look like. Then you go to work verifying the pieces and documenting what you find. It is a work that can occupy your attention for years and actually you are never finished finding cousins with exotic relationships such as 3c4r and 5c3r. Your computer genealogy program can help you figure out how you are related to the hundreds and even thousands of cousins who will eventually reside in your database.

One of the best sources to verify that you have the family correctly put together, is the U.S. census, taken every ten years since 1790. I love my subscription to Ancestry, but you can find many U.S. censuses and other databases free on the Internet. A good site is www.labs.familysearch.org where 150,000 indexers are posting information daily. The 1880 and 1900 U.S. censuses are complete, the 1860 census is 99% complete and the other censuses are getting there. In addition, there are some state censuses, some marriage and death records and various other databases that will help you with relatives who lived in the 1900s.

Another site I use all the time is www.usgenweb.com where every U.S. County has a web site with varying amounts of information posted. Many of them have transcribed the county histories. Even if your ancestor isn't included in one, his or her siblings or their descendants might be. Each site has wonderful volunteers who will do look-

ups free of charge. I use them for marriage and cemetery records constantly and am so appreciative of their generous help.

Some sites that are free at Family History Centers include www.footnote.com which is digitizing records from the National Archives and other sources. They have recently improved their search template and added a lot of records. You can get a free 7day trial to check it out. FamilySearch Extras at Family History Centers also include World Vital Records and Godfrey Memorial Library, both of which have wonderful newspaper archives.

Learn More About Researching

You can learn more about following your family forward through lessons posted on the Internet. There are wonderful free lessons and articles at www.genealogy.com. The lessons on www.ancestry.com are also free. The LDS Church has recently posted a series of lesson on www.familysearch.org that include a lesson on descendency research. Find them on the home page by clicking on *What's New, Family History Lesson Series*. That site offers Research Guides for every locality free as pdf downloads. Click on *Research Helps, Articles* and then the first letter of your locality. General United States Guides are found under "U".

Pack Your Bags

Your research would not be complete without both a trip to a major research library such as the Family History Library in Salt Lake City or the Allen County Public Library in Fort Wayne. Other good regional libraries exist such as the Midwest Genealogy Center in Independence, Missouri. Look up your area on the Internet with the words "genealogy" and "library" to find a place to do local research. Then you must move on to the county where your people lived. Check the local phone directory to find relatives. Be sure you prepare ahead to search the county court house and historical society. You don't want to get there when they are closed for remodeling. There are records in the county that exist nowhere else and cemeteries that hold secrets for you to discover. It is such fun! You will never grow old as long as you have cousins to find and families to complete.

Note: Article used with permission.

SOCIAL SECURITY RECORDS

Donna Murray

Discovering Family History - November/December 2008 –
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www.dlscoringfamilyhistory.com

According to Donna Murray, Social Security Records can help you to unlock your genealogy!

THE US SOCIAL SECURITY Act was passed in 1935 to provide financial assistance to the elderly and not as a resource for future genealogists to tap. Savvy researchers, however, know that Social Security card applications may supply elusive data, like a mother's maiden name, and that the Social Security Administration (SSA) will disclose a

person's death date and where the last benefit check was mailed. (See www.socialsecurity.gov for more details).

But first, a little history. The Social Security Act was signed on 14 August 1935, according to the agency's website, www.socialsecurity.gov/history/hfaq.html. The first Social Security Numbers (SSN) were issued in 1936, and the government began collecting taxes in 1937. Regular ongoing monthly payments began in 1940.

Originally only the worker got benefits. That changed in 1939, when the SSA began awarding survivors' benefits to the spouses and children of workers who paid into Social Security. Since citizenship has never been a requirement to obtain a SSN, anyone who came to the US legally and had permission to work was eligible to apply for a card. There may be records for your immigrant ancestor.

Not all workers contributed to Social Security in the past and some still don't today, such as federal employees hired before 1984 who chose to stay in the Civil Service Retirement System and some state workers whose employers furnish their own pension plans. No SSA records exist for anyone who didn't contribute to the program.

The SSA retains copies of every original application for a Social Security card. Under the Freedom of Information Act, you have a right to obtain copies of certain documents. While the SSA won't release information on living persons without their written consent, dead people have no privacy rights. Therefore, the SSA will give you a copy of a deceased person's Social Security card application upon request.

These little gems usually contain the applicant's name, date and place of birth and parents' names. Citizenship status was added in the 1970s. Applications for those born in 1910 or before generally do not include parents' names or the applicant's place of birth.

You'll pay \$27 for a copy of the application if you know the individual's SSN. If not, it will cost you \$29, and you must provide enough information so that the record may be located.

The original application form was signed by the applicant. If having a copy of the person's signature isn't essential, request a numident or extract instead. For \$18 (\$16 if you know the SSN), you get what is essentially a printout of the data appearing on the application.

If you're merely looking for a death date or want to know where the decedent lived when he or she collected the last payment, you can ask the SSA to conduct a search. If the individual was a Social Security recipient, the SSA can tell you when he or she died and where the last payment was sent. The cost is \$18 or \$16.

To request a copy of a person's Social Security card application, a numident or information about the death of an individual, write to: Social Security Administration, OEO FOIA Workgroup, 300 N. Green St., P.O. Box 33022, Baltimore, MD, 21290. Include a check for the appropriate amount.

A quicker way to get a copy of an application is through the Social Security Death Index (SSDI) at www.rootsweb.com. Just plug in the person's name and, if you get a hit, you'll immediately learn basic facts like the person's birth and death dates.

Itching to know more? Scroll to the far right side of the page and click. Download the form letter, and send it, along with a check for \$27, to the SSA, and you'll get a copy of the person's application.

Unfortunately, most of the people on the SSDI died after 1962, because that's when the SSA began computerizing records. Anyone whose death was not reported to the SSA won't be on it, either.

No matter how you obtain a copy of the original form, remember that the data may be flawed. Likewise, don't assume that the state in which the Social Security card was issued is where the applicant was born. As with any other resource, more research is a must.

KEY TO THE PAST!



The Year Was 1858

The year was 1858 and, after four failed attempts, North America and Britain were briefly connected via a transatlantic telegraph cable. Queen Victoria exchanged brief messages on 16 August, but the weak cable failed by early September. It would be another eight years before another cable linked the continents permanently.

In British Columbia, when gold was found on the Fraser River, a flood of people poured into Victoria to obtain mining licenses and a tent town roared to life as businessmen swept in to serve the needs of the new residents of the area.

In the Rocky Mountains another gold rush was unfolding as a small group of gold seekers from Georgia set off for the Pike's Peak area of what was then part of Kansas Territory--now in Colorado. A small amount of gold was discovered and that was all it took. Prospectors poured into the region and the cities of Denver and Boulder were formed.

Minnesota was admitted as the 32nd state in the Union in 1858 even as the country was headed towards Civil War. The slavery issue had brought the country to a boiling point and in Kansas violence was already breaking out over opposing views. Kansas was poised to attain statehood, but it would it enter as a slave state or free state? With both sides eager to Kansas, pro-slavery and anti-slavery factions had been sending supporters into the area to sway the vote in their favor. The two sides had been clashing in violence beginning in 1854, and in 1858 the massacre of eleven free state men by a gang of pro-slavery men outraged the nation.

WC- PAF MEETING SCHEDULE

The April meeting will be:

18 April 2009 — (No meetings in August)

The WC-PAF Users Group meetings are held the 3rd Saturday of the month – 10.00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. at the Morningside Stake Center — 881 River Road, St. George UT ☺

WC-PAF USERS GROUP MEMBERSHIP DUES FOR 2009

Annual dues are \$12.00 per household for e-mailed copy of the newsletter and handouts at the meeting. For those who want a hard copy of the Newsletter, the dues are \$17 (\$12.00 plus \$5.00 to defray printing and mailing costs when you are not at the monthly meeting to pick up your copy.

New members joining after March 31st – dues will be prorated at \$3.00 for e-mailed copy of the newsletter and handouts at the meeting or \$4.25 per quarter for a hard copy.

Mail your check payable to WC-PAF Users Group

473 So River Road #1-196 – St George UT 84790 ☺

UTAH VALLEY PAF USERS GROUP

Group Meeting and New Location

Meets the second-Saturday-of-the-month from 9 am until noon in the Edgewood/Riverside LDS Chapel, 3511 North 180 East, Provo Utah. You get to it by going on 3700 North east from University Avenue and then south on 180 East. An invitation is extended to anyone that would like to attend their meetings. ☺

Anyone wishing to contribute information, an article, or have any input about the Newsletter contact: Denece Larsen - Editor 435-634-0204 or by e-mail caboose@skyviewmail.com ☺

YOUR HELP IS NEEDED!!!

To save time and work – Please contact me ASAP when you have a change in your E-mail or Snail-mail addresses or if there is a problem with receiving an issue of your Newsletter – Contact – June Morton – Secretary – 652-9463 – Jmorton237@aol.com. Thanks! ☺

**WC-PAF USERS GROUP
2009 OFFICERS & BOARD MEMBERS**

<u>President:</u>	Connie Stewart	628-7932
<u>Vice-President:</u>	Robert Kroff	656-1286
<u>Secretary:</u>	June Morton	652-9463
<u>Treasurer:</u>	Ron Coleman	656-4485
<u>Publicity</u>	Marilyn Rohrer	688-2138
<u>Media</u>	Fran Lightner	688-1260
<u>Set-Up</u>	Curt Rohrer	688-2138
<u>Board Members At Large:</u>		
Ron Bremer		Pat Foster 628-6005
Helen Lenz	635-0519	Dwight Seamons 656-2091
Max Turpin	674-9204	

**WC-PAF Users Group**

473 So. River Road #1-196

St George, UT 84790