

Is there a Revolutionary War Veteran in Your Family?

By Allin Kingsbury

My grandmother wrote letter after letter as she tried to learn who her ancestors were. In one letter she mentioned that she wanted to become a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution. She should have lived in our generation with the Internet and the fast access to source material for research. She was plagued with difficult research for families that lived out on the frontier where record keeping was poor and with families not mentioned in compiled genealogies either published or in manuscript form.

I have been able to trace much of her family back to the Revolutionary War period and have found several ancestors who participated in the Revolutionary War. I not only have the Internet available to me, but also have the advantage of knowing how to do genealogical research. The latter knowledge has come through affiliation with organizations which have spread knowledge of genealogical research technique.

If your ancestors were in the colonies during the time when the colonies declared independence, you have a good chance of finding an ancestor who served in the military. Not all families participated. Many objected to the drive for independence. However, enough of the colonists supported independence to raise an army and hold off the British. Whether or not you

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want to join a patriotic society, you will appreciate knowing any of your ancestors who joined the military to gain independence from Great Britain.

Research of Revolutionary War Veterans

Those who fought in the Revolutionary War may have made research much easier for you because they probably left records during a period when records useful for genealogical research were scarce. Records unique to Revolutionary War veterans include:

- Revolutionary War Pension Records
- Military Records such as Muster Rolls
- Bounty Land Warrants and Land Records
- Census and Index lists of veterans
- Lineage Books of Patriotic Societies
- Military Histories

A closer look at these records can help with genealogy research.

Bounty Land Records

Bounty Land was granted to Revolutionary War veterans

by states and by the Federal government as partial compensation for their military service. The practice began during the colonial period and continued through the War of 1812 and the Mexican War. The award of warrants for bounty land ceased in 1858 and the right to take position of bounty land was finally terminated in 1863. Some land was awarded after this time up until 1912 as a result of civil suits and other litigation.

The grants of bounty land for Revolutionary War service began as a result of a congressional act passed on 16 September 1776 which authorized parcels of 100 to 500 acres to be given to those serving in the Continental Army based on rank. Most early bounty land was in Virginia, located between the Mississippi, Green and Ohio Rivers, which is now in the state of Kentucky. This area did not have enough land to satisfy the demand, so the Virginia Military Tract was surveyed in the present state of Ohio. Only soldiers from Virginia were given land in this tract.

The Congressional Military Tract was established in Ohio in 1796. A survey divided the tract into five mile square townships. The vast majority of land in the Midwest was divided into 6 mile square townships. The minimum

redemption of land in this tract was one-fourth of a township or about 4000 acres. Warrants were awarded for 160 acres of land. Claimants had to band together with enough claims to claim at least 4000 acres.

By 1800, 100-acre parcels were available for claim for the War of 1812 veterans. Three new districts of bounty land had been surveyed and made available for claim. These tracts were in Michigan, Illinois and Arkansas. The land in Michigan was considered less desirable, so land in Missouri was substituted for the Michigan land.

The bounty land procedures became more complicated by the entry of the Federal government into the process of awarding and redeeming the bounty land warrants. This entry was made necessary by the fact that the landlocked states such as New Jersey, Maryland, and Rhode Island had no land west of the Appalachian Mountains to award veterans. The state of Connecticut had been given a western boundary in the state charter as the "the great south sea" (Pacific ocean). This gave a claim to Connecticut for land across the colony of New York and continuing through the states of Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, Iowa, Nebraska, Wyoming, Utah and Nevada. Much of this land was not part of the United States at the time. The Federal govern-

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Revolutionary War Veteran

(Continued from page) placed on their web site at: www.glorerecords.blm.gov This site has a searchable database of the federal land patents with the name, location, date and type of transfer. Digital images of Federal land title records issued between 1820 and 1908 are available on the site and more records are being added.

ment claimed this land as Federal territory and the area was made into new states as they were settled. Of course, the Native American tribes also claimed this land and some of their claims were supported by treaty, but the tribes were divided and no tribe was a match for the United States after the colonies were united as a nation.

Connecticut finally gave up its claim to the western lands on 14 September 1786 when the state was given ownership of the Connecticut Western Reserve. This land was sold to a land company which surveyed the land and resold the land to individuals. The quick profit from the sale was used to finance a public school system for Connecticut. This tract of about 3,500,000 acres included a 500,000-acre tract of land known as the Firelands Tract. The Firelands Tract, located primarily in Lorraine County, Ohio, was set aside in 1792 for 1,866 Connecticut citizens whose property was destroyed by British privateers during the Revolutionary War. Connecticut was the last state to give up its western land, and the land east of the Mississippi and west of the Appalachians and not incorporated into states later became the Northwest Territory with its capital in Cincinnati.

Some Canadian refugees and volunteers supported the colonies in the Revolutionary War or the War of 1812, and were later awarded Canadian Refugee Warrants and Canadian Volunteer Warrants. These warrants are kept in the National Archives.

The original applicant was required to personally apply for a warrant after it was awarded. The warrant could be sold or assigned, which was often the case. If an ancestor was awarded bounty land, he may never have seen the land. The land may have been far from where the ancestor lived.

Sources for Bounty Land Records

Warrants for the state of Virginia are found in Record Group 49 at the National Archives. These records are divided into sixteen sub-groups with categories such as warrants issued under each of the acts of congress, treasury certificates, exchange certificates, scrip certificates, and others. The scrip certificates could be exchanged at any land office.

The most complete index of Bounty Land Warrants is found in Record Group 15 at the National Archives. The index includes Bounty Land applications for the Revolutionary War, the War of 1812 and the War with Mexico. Many applications for the years 1789 to 1800 were destroyed by fire. However, some abstracted data exists for this period.

The *Federal Land Series* by Clifford Neal Smith lists bounty land claimants by land office. A land office was established for each federal district. As the land was settled and the population grew, the districts were subdivided and more land offices were established to handle the demand for land.

The *Index for Federal Land Entries, circa 1802-1849*, published by the Ohio Historical Society is useful for finding bounty land claims in Ohio. However the Symmes Purchase, the Connecticut Western Reserve, and the Firelands are not included in the index.

The GLO (General Land Office) records are being digitized and

There are a number of indexes and reference books which are helpful in locating land records related to bounty land:

- *A Digest of the Laws of the United States Governing the Granting of Army and Navy Pensions and Bounty-Land Warrants; Decisions of the Secretary of the Interior, and Rulings and Orders of the Commissioner of Pensions Thereunder* by Frank B. Curtis and William H. Webster, (Washington, DC: Government Printing Office, 1885).
- *Federal Land Series: A Calendar of Archival Materials on the Land Patents Issued by the United States Government, with Subject, Tract, and Name Indexes, Vol. 4 (Parts 1 and 2), Grants in the Virginia Military District of Ohio* by Clifford Neal Smith (Chicago, IL: American Library Association, c1973-c1986). These are transcriptions of bound volume 6 and 9 and list persons, acres granted, and to whom transferred.
- *History of the Public Land Policies* by Benjamin H. Hibbard (New York, NY: Macmillan, 1924).
- *Military Bounty Lands and the Origins of the Public Domain* by Rudolph Freund (*Agricultural History* 20 (1946): 8-18).
- *Old Kentucky Entries and Deeds* by Willard Rouse Jillson (Filson Club Publication No. 34, Louisville, KY: Standard Printing Co., 1926).
- *Preliminary Inventory of the Land-Entry Papers of the General Land Office*, by Harry Yoshpe and Philip Brower (Preliminary Inventory No. 22, Publication No. 49-30, Washington, DC: National Archives, 1949).
- *Revolutionary War Bounty Land Grants Awarded by State Governments* by Lloyd DeWitt Bockstruck (Baltimore, MD: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1996).
- *Revolutionary War Records, Vol. 1, Virginia* by Gaius Marcus Brumbaugh (Washington, DC: Lancaster Press, 1936)
- *Richard Clough Anderson and Nathaniel Massie and the Impact of Government on Western Land Speculation and Settlement, 1774-1830* by Asa Rubenstein, (doctoral dissertation, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, 1986).
- *Sixty Million Acres: American Veterans and the Public Lands before the Civil War* by James W. Oberly (Kent, OH: Kent State University Press, 1990).
- *The Bounty Lands of the American Revolution in Ohio* by William Thomas Hutchinson (doctoral dissertation, University of Chicago, 1927).
- *The Kentucky Grants: A Systematic Index to All of the Land Grants*

Recorded in the State Land Office at Frankfort, Kentucky, 1782-1924 (Filson Club Publication No. 33, Louisville, KY: Standard Publishing Co., 1925).

- *The Official Ohio Lands Book* is a booklet published in 2002 by the Auditor of the State of Ohio. It contains information about how Ohio lands were originally surveyed and sold.
- *The Western Reserve in Ohio: Sources for Genealogists* by Kip Sperry is a useful aid for Ohio research.
- *Virginia Land Grants in Kentucky and Ohio, 1784-1799* by Clifford Neal Smith (*National Genealogical Society Quarterly* 61 (1973): 16-27).
- *Virginia Military District Papers* by J. J. Horton (unpublished four-page finding aid at the Western Reserve Historical Society, dated February 15, 1962).

If an ancestor is found in one of the indices for the Virginia Military District records, more information can be obtained from the databases at the Library of Virginia (www.lva.lib.va.us/) and the Kentucky Secretary of State's Office (<http://sos.ky.gov/>).

To be Continued . . .

Genealogy Quote

A man who is always satisfied with himself is seldom satisfied with others.

Francois de Rochoucauld
1613-1680
French Writer

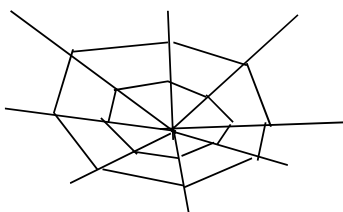
Spider Webs: Historic Map Works, Irish Historic Maps, Massachusetts Death Index

Historic Map Works

Historic Map Works has a collection of 19th and early 20th century American city, town, and county maps. These maps show every building and every street in each city or town. Each home is marked with the name of the family who resided there, and each apartment complex is marked with the property owner's name. In some cases, the owner's occupation is also listed. The homes and other buildings can be located by entering a street address and searching for the appropriate map. In some cases, the building appears on a series of maps, and the history of ownership can be tracked. In a few cases, the ownership of a building can be traced over a period of about 250 years. The maps also show how neighborhoods evolved, when neighboring homes were built, and who the neighbors of a particular ancestor were.

Charles Carpenter, the founder and president of Historic Map Works, began the Web site to share his collection of antique atlases, which he has gathered over a 30 year period. His library has more than 30,000 maps and is said to be the most extensive collection of county atlases, except for the U.S. Library of Congress.

The maps can be viewed on the Web site at no charge and higher quality printed maps can be purchased on the Web site. To visit the site, go to:
www.historicmapworks.com



Irish Historic Maps

The Irish Historic Maps Web site has a database containing details of every town, street, and farm in Ireland for the past 200 years. Users can access images of more than 30,000 maps of Ireland dating back to 1824. A user can search the database using place names, zoom in on a map, and find details about individual plots of land, including cemeteries, businesses, factories, schools, and hospitals as well as individual residences. Often streets and farms mentioned in old records are no longer found on modern maps. A look at old maps can pinpoint the location of these places. The maps cover all of Ireland, but do not include Northern Ireland which is part of Britain.

Most of the maps were found stored at Trinity College, the National Library of Ireland, and the Royal Irish Academy, all located in Dublin. The maps cover two periods, from 1824 to 1847, and from 1888 to 1913. The maps were scanned at high resolution so they could be enlarged to show the details of individual residences. Examples of the maps are found at:

www.irishhistoricmaps.ie/historic/sample.htm

To use the site there is a fee of 5 euros a day which is between six and seven dollars. For more information, go to:
www.irishhistoricmaps.ie/historic

Massachusetts Death Index

The Massachusetts Archives has an index of all recorded deaths in Massachusetts from 1841 through 1910 available on their Web site. The index can be searched by first and last names, year, and city or town. The information from the index consists of full name, year of death and the town. One peculiar feature is that, although the site only has deaths, the box marked "death" must be checked or the user will never see any results when a search is requested. Another odd feature is that, occasionally, the maiden name of a female is added to the first name field. These instances can be found if the maiden name in parenthesis is entered in the first name field for the search. When the person is found, the user can contact the Massachusetts State Archives and order a copy of the death certificate, which usually has the exact date of death, usually the date of birth, the surviving next of kin, the cause of death, the residence of the deceased, and more. The records are also available on microfilm from the Salt Lake Family History Library and through their many Family History Centers. Images of the original records are also available in the members-only section on the Web site of the New England Historic Genealogical Society. To view the Massachusetts Death Index, go to:

www.sec.state.ma.us/vitalrecordssearch/VitalRecordsSearch.aspx

Software Review: Map my Family Tree

Map my Family Tree is a Windows program available from Progeny Software that displays locations from a genealogy database on a map. The program automatically geocodes the data so that locations where ancestors were born, married, and died can be displayed. "Geocode" means to include latitude and longitude information of each location stored in the genealogy database. *Map my Family Tree* does not store the geocode data in the primary genealogy database. It stores all geocode coordinates in a separate database that is internal to *Map my Family Tree*.

Map my Family Tree then can display the locations on a map in a variety of formats. The maps can be printed or can be used as illustrations in family history publications. The maps can be formatted for large sizes which can be taken to copy centers where they can be printed at full size for you. Files of maps can be saved in JPG, GIF, BMP, PNG, and TIFF formats which provide enough choices to print on almost every printer or plotter. The maps are designed for the computer. As the user zooms in, additional details appear on the map to show the local geographic features. In this way, the maps do not appear cluttered. Only as many features that will fit on the map at the scale selected are included in the map. The political boundaries shown on the maps are current. To show early political boundaries when the ancestor lived, one must find an old map. The content and purpose of the map can be selected. For example, birth and death locations for selected ancestors can be plotted on a map or the migrations of selected ancestors can be plotted. Many options are available to

change the color, style, and font sizes of the map to provide a custom map for specific need. Examples of the maps from *Map my Family Tree* can be seen at:

www.progenygenealogy.com/map-my-family-tree-details.html

Map my Family Tree has a link to MapQuest. The user can select a place name from the results list in the gazetteer, and then click on the "MapQuest" button to see a current map for that location. MapQuest will also provide driving directions to the location via the latest highway information. MapQuest requires an Internet connection for this feature and for automatic update of the software.

Map my Family Tree will read data directly from many of the popular genealogy programs. These include:

- Ancestry Family Tree™
- Ancestral Quest™
- Family Historian
- Family Tree Maker®
- Heritage Family Tree Deluxe
- Legacy Family Tree
- Personal Ancestral File
- RootsMagic™
- The Master Genealogist

For those using a program not on the list, *Map my Family Tree* will read data from a GEDCOM 5.5 file, including data with Western European diacritics.

The geocodes come from a gazetteer of more than three million geographical names from around the world. Almost every town

in North America, Europe, the British Isles, Australia, and New Zealand are included as well as major towns and cities in the remaining parts of the world. Errors in syntax or spelling of places will be detected by the program. If there are place names that are not in the gazetteer, the user can add them. The gazetteer can be used as a tool for checking a specific place name or to look up the latitude and longitude of the place.

Map my Family Tree has the following system requirements:

- Windows 2000 or XP (and not Windows 95, 98 or ME)
- 300 MHZ-speed Processor (Pentium III or faster recommended)
- 64 megabytes RAM (more recommended)
- 260 megabytes of free disk space (Additional disk space is required to create a geo-coded file from a genealogy database.)
- VGA or better monitor
- Internet connection to view maps on MapQuest.com (optional)

Map my Family Tree is priced at \$49.95, but is now available at an introductory price of \$39.95. For registered users of World Place Advisor, an earlier Progeny Software product, the cost to update to *Map my Family Tree* is \$19.95. For more information, or to order the program, go to: www.progenygenealogy.com/map-my-family-tree.html

Of Interest to Genealogists: Logan Utah Library to Open, Little Orphan Annie Found, History of Slave Trade

Logan Utah Library to Open

After a few years of uncertainty, the city of Logan, Utah, is about to make the 82,000-piece Everton Collection available to the public for the first time. Local city council members have been skeptical of the new library, and have twice voted down funding before agreeing to the new library. Some of the city officials remain skeptical, but the library will open.

Jason Cornelius was recently hired to be the custodian of the collection, ending a months-long search. Cornelius, a native of Vermont, is working on a master's degree in library sciences and

will move to Cache County from Salt Lake City for the job.

Little Orphan Annie Found

After Megan Smolenyak offered a reward for "Little Orphan Annie" which was a nickname for Annie Moore, the first immigrant to arrive at the new facility at Ellis Island in the New York Harbor, the mysterious immigrant has been "found." After arriving from Ireland in 1892, and receiving great fanfare and a \$10 gold coin as the first arrival, Annie disappeared into America's melting pot. A bronze statue of Annie Moore has recently been erected on Ellis Island for all the many visitors to enjoy.

After some research, we now know that Annie Moore never traveled far from Ellis Island after she arrived in America. She arrived from Ireland with her brothers, Anthony and Phillip. She married a German immigrant named Joseph Schayer, who worked at the Fulton Street Fish Market. She spent the remainder of her life residing on Manhattan's Lower East Side. The couple had 11 children though not all survived birth and early infancy.

Annie Moore died of heart failure at the age of 47 in 1923. She is buried with six of her children in an unmarked grave at Calvary Cemetery in Queens, only a few miles from Ellis Island. A fund has been established to buy a headstone in Calvary Cemetery for Annie Moore.

History of Slave Trade

Emory University was awarded grants of more than \$349,000 from the National Endowment for the Humanities and the W.E.B. DuBois Institute for African and African American Research to revise and expand an existing database on slave trade voyages and make it available online for free. The project is scheduled for completion in 2008. This year will also have a bicentennial observance of a congressional ban on the importation of slaves into the United States. The founders of the United States had an unwritten agreement that there would be nothing done to change the institution of slavery in the country for a period of fifty years in order to unite the North and the South regarding the issue of American independence.

The first African slaves were brought to Jamestown in 1619 in a Dutch ship. The slaves were traded for food and supplies. Experts have estimated that from the first import of slaves until the import of slaves was banned during the nineteenth century, more than 12 million people were taken from Africa. About 10 million survived the voyages to the America. Many died of disease and malnourishment, and others were put overboard to avoid punishment by the British for defying their ban on slave trade.

Several scholars worked on a 1999 CD-ROM project called "The

Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade," which contains records of 27,233 transatlantic slave ship voyages made between 1595 and 1866. The CD-ROM is expensive. It sells for \$305 on Amazon.com. Many universities, researchers and the public could not afford the CD-ROM for their research. As a result, the grants were awarded to expand this database and make it available to those who need the data.

Because slaves were considered property, and were very expensive at the time, they were a major business. Excellent business records were kept regarding the import and sale of the slaves. Not only will the database contain the names of many of the slaves, but also recorded are many individuals employed in the business of transporting, buying or selling of slaves.

Shetland Archives

In November the new Shetland Archives will open to the public. The archive has been closed for a year so the staff could move the archive collection to the new facility which is three times the size of the former cramped facility. The new facility is located at Hay's Dock at Lerwick in the Shetland Islands. The collections will occupy a large repository on the second floor of the Museum and Archives building. A specially designed search room on the first floor will accommodate 18 people at a time, where they can read printed materials, microfiches and images, and listen to audio archive materials. Until the museum in the same building is open next spring, visitors must make an appointment and enter through the building's back door.

The new archive will house a huge collection of historic material that goes back to the sixteenth century, covering the past 500 years in the Shetland Islands. Included in the records are those of the Shetland Islands Council and its local government predecessors dating back to 1750. Other records include court and police records from the nineteenth century; a wide variety of papers generated by companies, individuals, estates and societies; and a large body of printed material concerning the Shetland's history.

Stranger Than Fiction: Too Old to Surf

Shirley Greening-Jackson has recently walked the Great Wall of China and is planning a trip to Russia. She sits on the boards of several charities and is considered a model citizen. When she saw an offer from Carphone Warehouse for the TalkTalk phone and broadband package, she decided the Internet package was for her.

When the young man behind the counter at Carphone Warehouse learned that Mrs. Greening-Jackson was 75 years old, he informed her that she was not eligible for the offer. The company had a policy that anyone more than 70 years old could not sign up for the service. It was company policy. To add insult to injury, she was told that if she was accompanied by a younger member of her family who could explain the small print to her, she would be allowed to sign the forms to get the service.

Shirley Greening-Jackson did not like the policy. Instead of bringing a grandson who is computer savvy, she began a publicity

campaign. A spokeswoman sheepishly admitted publicly that the company does have an over-70 rule after much pressure from Mrs. Greening-Jackson. But the firm insisted it was not a blanket policy and claimed the rule was to protect the elderly. The spokeswoman said: "It is not our policy to refuse business from adult customers of any age group. However, we do ask our agents to use their discretion when dealing with older customers." She also said that the discretionary rule had been introduced because there were complaints that staff had mis-sold products in the past.

Many of the elderly agree that a silly over-70 rule should not be allowed to keep them off the Internet. If the Silicon Valley Computer Genealogy Group were based in England, a large number of our members would be denied Internet service as was Shirley Greening-Jackson. How would we get our genealogy research completed?

Hardware of Interest: E-Book Readers

About twenty years ago the cost of floppy disks dropped to a point where an electronic book with few illustrations could be published digitally for less than a printed copy. Readers continued to prefer printed books because they were rugged and could be read anywhere, did not require a computer device, and the image was not affected by the glare of sunlight.

As technology has improved, the e-book has gained several other advantages. High quality color pictures can be added and the only cost is additional memory space. E-books can be downloaded over the Internet which eliminates the shipping cost. Storage space is also significantly reduced using DVD or CD-ROM technology.

The portability of the printed book is now rivaled by the Palm Pilot and other hand held computers. A book can be loaded into one of these devices and carried about comfortably in a pocket or purse. The place is remembered if reading is interrupted.

Now several new devices are on the market for e-book readers. These devices may make e-books more popular, especially if the prices drop significantly.

One of the devices for reading e-books is the Sony PRS-500 e-book Reader. It is a little larger than a Palm Pilot and has a monochrome flat panel display. Users claim the screen is easy to read and causes no problem with glare. The device also plays music like the iPod. The price tag of about \$350 is a little high and will dis-

courage many potential buyers. For more information about the Sony PRS-500, go to: <http://tinyurl.com/82bbn>

Another device is the iLiad e-reader manufactured by Irex. It appears to be larger than the Sony device with a screen that is the size of an A5 document (about half of a letter-size page) and uses a similar electronic paper display. The display reads just like normal paper in full sunlight or indoors and is perceived as such by the human eye. The iLiad has the unique feature of a touch screen with a stylus. It can be used to make notes about passages as they are read like one would do in the margins of a printed book. The font size of the e-book can be changed for reading comfort. A USB port can be used for loading the device or connecting a flash drive. The iLiad reader sells for 649 Euros or about \$825. For more information, go to: www.irexshop.com/product_info.php/products_id/28

Many thousands of books with expired copyright have been scanned and converted to text files. Most are done as projects by some of the large universities. These books are usually available in text format files from the Internet at no cost. These books can be read with any computer or printed. They could also be read with one of the new e-book readers by converting the text format to one of the formats supported by the devices if necessary. The latter device apparently does not support text or word processor formats.

Recently Published: Getting Started in Genealogy Online, Digital Genealogist

The Ricker Compilation of Early Connecticut Records

The Ricker Compilation of Vital Records of Early Connecticut - Based on the Barbour Collection of Connecticut Town Vital Records and Other Statistical Sources, compiled and edited by Jacquelyn Ladd Ricker, is a CD-ROM disk containing the birth, marriage, and death information for early Connecticut. More than 1.5 million records of Connecticut residents up to 1850 are listed. From the Barbour Collection, there are about 1.2 million records of births, marriages, and deaths from over 135 Connecticut towns and about 300,000 records from cemeteries, probate records, tax records, and family Bibles. The amount of information varies, depending on the source, but always includes the name, date, and event (birth, baptism, marriage, or death). The record often includes names of parents, the mother's maiden name, ages of parents, birthplace and occupation of parents, and cause and place of death. Sources other than the Barbour Collection include: vital statistics from the few Connecticut towns not included in the Barbour Collection; lists of source records, Bibles, and church records held in the Connecticut State Library in Hartford; and tombstone transcriptions from more than 400 cemeteries published in *The Connecticut Nutmegger*.

The Barbour Collection has long been a primary source of genealogy data for colonial and post-colonial Connecticut. It is expensive to purchase, but is found in many large libraries and is available on microfilm from the Salt Lake Family History Library.

The printed copies come in a series of 55 volumes. Most of the data was recorded by the town clerks in Connecticut, who did an excellent job of recording vital statistics during a time when most of the other states did not record this information. The data on the CD-ROM is the equivalent of about 15,000 printed pages.

The data can be found using the search engine to search for names or phrases, or the data can be browsed. The data is in alphabetical order by name of the individual.

This CD-ROM can be read on PC or Macintosh computers. It has the advantages over the Barbour Collection of being searchable, having many additional records, and being much less expensive. *The Ricker Compilation of Vital Records of Early Connecticut - Based on the Barbour Collection of Connecticut Town Vital Records and Other Statistical Sources* is priced at \$59.95. It can be ordered from Genealogical Publishing Company Web site at: www.genealogical.com/products/The%20Ricker%20Compilation%20of%20Vital%20Records%20of%20Early%20Connecticut/7535.html

Genealogy Quote

Lack of pep is often mistaken for patience.

Frank McKinney Hubbard

1868-1938

American Humorist

Ask the Doc — “I Give No Answers Before Their Time!”

By Dr. Cornelius D. PAF

PAF Backup Problem

Q I don't know if you are the person to ask for help but if not perhaps you can direct me to someone who can help me. While working on a database I stupidly deleted the main person so it deleted most of my file, because that person was linked to most of the names in the database. I have a back-up file on a floppy and also a Zip disk, but when I try to put them into the main PAF file, it tells me it is a read-only file. So now the entire data base with quite a few lines are all read-only on my main computer!

I can see the material but can't do anything to it, I put a .zip file on my desktop, thinking I could put it into PAF, and that did not work. Can you tell me how to get the entire data base back to normal? What a mess is all I can say. Anything you suggest will help me.

A Your question suggests that you have a misunderstanding about how PAF 5 back-ups work, so I'll assume that is the primary problem. However, if that is not the issue, please be patient with my delving into the cause of your problem.

When you run the back-up function in PAF 5, it compresses your file into a much smaller binary file and saves it as a .zip file. This process essentially squeezes out all the unused space in the database to make it possible to archive the back-ups more efficiently. You cannot open a .zip PAF file as you would the normal .paf PAF file. The only way to access a .zip backup copy is to run the restore function in PAF 5, which decompresses it and puts back all the unused space so that the PAF 5 program can read it. Hence, when you put the .zip file on your desktop, the only way you can read it is to start PAF 5 and run the Restore function on the .zip file to restore it to normal access.

But before you do that, there are some other issues with your message that concern me. If you delete the main person in a PAF database, that does not automatically delete anyone else connected to that person. Unless you did more than delete the main person, the others linked to that person are still intact in the database. You should be able to access the parents of the main person and have all the rest of the lines available. It may be easier to add the main person back and link him/her as a child to his/her parents and to his/her spouse, and you will have recovered the whole database, instead of restoring from an old backup and losing any work done on the database since the backup was created.

The second issue has to do with the read-only problem. When you make a copy of a database on a read-only device such as a CD-ROM, it sets a flag in the database that marks it as read-only. Then if you copy the database back to your hard drive, that flag is not cleared, and you are left with a read-only file. You mentioned



that your copies were on floppies and a Zip drive, neither of which are read-only, so you should not have a read-only problem. In any case, there is a way to clear the read-only flag on the copy of your database that is on your hard drive. To do that, you need to use the Windows utility program called Explore, not to be confused with the Windows Internet Explorer program that you might use to surf the Web. In these instructions, when I say to *click*, it means click on the left mouse button. When I say *right-click*, it means click on the right mouse button.

Step one. Right-click on the Start button in the lower left corner of your screen. In the pop-up menu, click on the Explore option. When the Explore program starts up, it displays in the left column a diagram of your computer's file folders with pluses and minuses in front of them. As you select one of the folders in the left column, the contents of that folder are displayed in the right side of the screen.

Step two. Using the directory in the left column, navigate to the folder where your .paf file is located. Since I do not know where you have your PAF files located, you will have to figure this out on your own. You may need to click on a plus sign in front of a folder to open it up and see what folders are inside it.

Step three. Once you can see the .paf file listed on the right side of your screen, right-click on the file name. It will pop up a little window that contains the option to select Properties at the very bottom. Click on the properties option to open another pop-up. Near the bottom of this last window, you will see a box labeled Read-Only that will have a check in it. Click on the box to clear the check mark. Now close all the windows and exit the Explore program.

Your file should now be available for normal access.

Reply:

Thank you very much for these instructions. I have followed them doing the restore from the file in the .paf file and then on the desktop icon .zip and got the message "Restore failed: problem reading back up file!" So then I went back and looked deeper into the C drive and found the main or original file under a longer file name, since this is the fifth computer the files were transferred to, and I repeated the directions. It seems to be working now, thank you, thank you!

I never quite understood about PAF back-up files. I have been very fortunate and not lost anything so far, but have made many back-up files on 4 floppies, 3 Zip disks, and even a flash drive now—rather neurotic, but it's better to be safe. I even made a hard copy of your email directions and filed it away for safe keeping.

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Silicon Valley Computer Genealogy Group

www.svcomputergenealogy.org

Richard D. Rands, President rrand@earthlink.net (650) 969 6567

Please send inquiries, address changes, new memberships, and membership renewals to:
SV-CGG, P.O. Box 23670, San Jose, CA 95153-3670 or Leslyk@earthlink.net

SV-CGG meets monthly, except December, on the second Saturday of the month from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints building, 875 Quince Avenue, Santa Clara, CA. We offer classes and sponsor guest speakers at meetings to help family historians with computer technology and research techniques. Membership dues are US\$15 per year (US\$20 for Canada and US\$25 for other international). Members are offered classes at meetings, mentor help, *Silicon Valley PastFinder* (a monthly newsletter published each month there is a meeting).

CONTACT INFORMATION

Membership	Lesly Klippel	Leslyk@earthlink.net
Newsletter	Allin Kingsbury	Allin8@juno.com (408) 257 8447
Classes	Brian Smith	bsmith4gen@yahoo.com (408) 255 6663
Questions	Dr. PAF	rands@earthlink.net

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