

PastFinder Bulletin

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Stranger than Fiction

Cemetery Workers Resell Burial Plots

Criminals seem to be working overtime to think of new ways to get rich. A group of cemetery workers in Alsop, Illinois, a suburb of Chicago, found a way to sell burial plots they did not own. All they had to do was to dig up seldom visited graves, remove the bodies, hide the evidence, and sell the plot to an unsuspecting buyer. The scheme worked for a while. Unfortunately for the criminals, the Burr Oak Cemetery has a few famous individuals buried there including blues legend Dinah Washington, lynching victim Emmett Till, and some Negro League baseball players. Some of bodies that were moved to a mass grave may be impossible to identify. Fortunately, four suspects were identified and will be tried in court.

Of Interest

Social Security Identity Theft

A recent announcement that made the national news stated that researchers have "cracked the code to Social Security Numbers," and implied that anyone can use their technique for identity theft. A careful reading of the claims made in the news article reveals that the group apparently "discovered" a few facts that genealogists have known for a long time. Social Security Numbers are given in a systematic manner. If a person knows the date and place where a Social Number was issued, they can predict up to five digits

of the number because blocks of numbers are allocated to the various states. The Social Security Administration has published information on the allocation of the numbers and although genealogists are usually aware of the details of the allocation, the general public is not.

However, the last four digits of the number must be guessed and that would require 10,000 guesses. Other information is also required to obtain the first five digits such as the date and place where the social security application was processed. This is usually done near the residence of the individual, but could be done during a visit to grandma in a neighboring state. This information is not available to an identity thief.

The article claimed a 0.1% success rate in 10 tries. This would not be considered a successful prediction by any scientist. It is the same odds of a successful guess of the last four digits, one in 10,000. The odds of success are much better if the identity thief telephones and claims to be a bank or credit card employee, and asks for the Social Security Number.

The only thing proven by the study seems to be that our new media employees do not understand what prediction means, or that they have a hidden agenda.

If the article had claimed that a Social Security code is not a good security code, they would be correct. One chance in ten thousand is not considered adequate for security. Credit cards use many more digits to reduce the chance that a hacker can break the code. The Social Security number was never intended to be a security code when it originated.

Genealogy Events

The events listed here are some of the major events that may be of interest to our members who may be traveling, vacationing, live nearby, or who may want to attend a special event.

Virginia Seminar

Wholly Genes, Inc. is sponsoring a Genealogy Conference and Land Cruise on August 26-30, Prompted by recent economic conditions, the company has dropped its annual conference on a cruise ship and is hosting this year's event at an historic hotel in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia. Its proximity to Washington D.C. offers the opportunity to follow up the preparatory lectures with an all-day research trip to research repositories of the nation's capital. The speaker list for this year includes:

- John Philip Colletta, Ph.D. - a popular speaker, prolific author, and expert on research at the Library of Congress, among many other topics.
- Marie Varrelman Melchiori, CG, CGL - a full-time researcher for 30 years, an expert on the National Archives, military records, and other topics.
- Patricia O'Brien Shawker, CG - the Director of the National Institute on Genealogical Research, author, and an expert on research at the DAR Library and National Archives, among other topics.
- Craig Roberts Scott, CG - publisher, professional researcher for more than 23 years, and an expert on a wide variety of record types

and resources, including colonial, Civil War, federal records, migration, military, Quaker, and government publications

For more information, go to: www.WhollyGenes.com/conference.htm

England Conference

A family history conference will be held on August 28 at the East Midlands Conference Center, Nottingham, England. Speakers will cover a broad spectrum of subjects of interest to family, local and social historians, the conference will include something for everyone, from the novice to the advanced: family historians, local historians, community history groups, one-name and one-place researchers. Speakers are representing The Galleries of Justice, King's College London, The Library & Museum of Freemasonry, The Media Archive for Central England, National Maritime Museum, The Royal Observatory, National Monuments Record, Parliamentary Archives, Royal Geographical Society, The National Archives, Society of Genealogists and The Women's Library. Other top speakers from the family history world include Paul Blake, Else Churchill, John Hanson, Sharon Hintze, Maggie Loughran, Derek Palgrave, Geoff Riggs, Mary Teviot and Alec Tritton. For more information, go to: www.openthedoor.org.uk

2009 FGS Conference

The Federation of Genealogical Societies will hold its annual conference on September 2-5 in Little Rock, Arkansas. There will be more than 160 lectures, workshops, and other learning opportunities presented by speakers from all over the U.S. For more information, go to: www.fgs.org/

Germans from Russia Heritage Society 39th International Convention

The 39th Annual Convention of the Germans from Russia Heritage Society (GRHS) will be held September 9-13 at Rapid City, South Dakota. It will include workshops on genealogy, customs, history, cultural cooking and programs on using today's technology to bring your heritage to life. For more information, go to: www.grhs.org

Utah Expo

Family History Expos.com, FamilySearch, Family Tree Magazine, RootsMagic, Generation Maps, Genealogy Gems Podcast, and LifeStory Productions are holding a Family History Expo on August 28-29 at Salt Lake City, Utah. Don R. Anderson will be the keynote speaker. The expo will include an exhibit hall with vendors showing genealogical products, consultations with expert genealogists, speakers, and more. For more information, go to: www.fhexpos.com/events/upcoming.php?event_id=51

Washington Seminar

The Eastern Washington Genealogical Society will host a conference on September 11-13 at Spokane, Washington. Megan Smolenyak will be the featured speaker. This is a one day seminar with four tracks offered. For more information, go to: www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~wasqs/

Arkansas Event

The U. S. Marshalls Museum will be held on September 12 at Ft. Smith, Arkansas. Christine Rose, CG, CGL, FASG will speak on "Strategies for Success: A Genealogical Journey." For more information, e-mail: apoppe@usmarshalsmuseum.com

Ontario Canada Conference

The British Isles Family History Society of Greater Ottawa (BIFHSGO) will host their 15th Annual Family History Conference on September 18 – 20 at Ottawa, Ontario, Canada. The event will have a special focus on Scotland. More than dozen international, national and local experts will speak, including: Charlotte Gray, LL.D., biographical historian and Member of the Order of Canada; Duncan Macniven, Registrar General for Scotland; and Colleen Fitzpatrick, PhD., author and forensic genealogist (USA). There are also pre-conference educational events. For more information, go to: www.bifhsgo.ca

Illinois Polish Conference

The Polish Genealogical Society of America (PGSA) will hold their annual fall conference on September 18-19 at Schaumburg, Illinois. Speakers include: Don Litzer, former librarian of the Allen County Public Library, Fort Wayne, IN; Kahlile Mehr, manager of the Slavic/Germanic Collection at the LDS Family History Library in Salt Lake City; Dr. Michael J. Mikos, professor of foreign languages and linguistics at University of Wisconsin at Milwaukee; Cynthia Piech, Board Member and Treasurer of the PGSA; Craig Pfannkuche, president of Memory Trail Research, Inc. and genealogical archivist at the Chicago and Northwestern Historical Society; Julianna Smith, editor of Ancestry.com newsletters, author of genealogy books and magazine articles; Loretto Szucs, author of genealogy books and executive director and vice president of community relations at Ancestry magazine.

For more information, go to:
www.pgsa.org

Massachusetts Conference

The Friends of the National Archives and Records Administration, Northeast Region, Pittsfield, MA, will hold a full-day genealogy conference on September 19 at Williamstown, Massachusetts. For more information go to:
www.narafriends-pittsfield.org

Scotland Research Tour

NEHGS will conduct a research tour to Edinburgh on September 20-27. This weeklong intensive research program will be based out of Scotland's two premier genealogical repositories, The National Archives of Scotland (NAS) and the General Register Office for Scotland (GROS). Together these neighboring repositories house the major collections of government and vital records for more than 700 years of Scottish ancestry. The main holdings of NAS include records created by the government of Scotland beginning in the twelfth century, including records of the crown, parliament, legal registers, courts documents, and records of the Church of Scotland. Vital records including birth, marriage, and death from 1855 and parish registers from 1553 to 1854 are maintained by the GROS. For more information, go to:
www.newenglandancestors.org

Missouri Conference

The Ozarks Genealogical Society will host a conference on September 25 at Springfield, Missouri. The speaker for this year's conference is Thomas W. Jones, Ph.D., CG, CGL, FASG. Dr. Jones is joint editor of the National Genealogical Society Quarterly, former trustee and a past president of the Board for Certification of Genealogists,

board member of the Association of Professional Genealogists, and recipient of its 2004 Grahame T. Smallwood Jr. Award of Merit. Recently retired from a career in higher education, Dr. Jones works full time as a genealogical researcher, writer, editor, and educator. For more information, go to: <http://ozarks.org>

Montana Conference

The Montana State Genealogical Society will host a conference on September 25-26 at Helena, Montana. Jana Sloan Broglin will be the featured speaker. For more information, e-mail: blgsmarket@aol.com

Illinois Conference

The Fox Valley Genealogical Society will present an all-day conference on September 26 at Naperville, Illinois. Lloyd deWitt Bockstruck is the featured speaker and he will discuss "Colonial Connections." For more information, go to: www.ilfvgs.org

Florida Seminar

The Florida Genealogical Society (Tampa) will hold the annual Fall Seminar on September 26 at Tampa, Florida. Elizabeth Shown Mills, CG, CGL, FASG, FNGS, FUGA, will present four excellent lectures:

* The Elusive Ancestor: There's No Such Thing as "Too Poor to Trace"

* Sources & Citations Simplified: From Memorabilia to Digital Data to DNA

* The Identity Crisis: Right Name, Wrong Man? Wrong Name, Right Man?

* Okay, I Got the Neighbors – Now What Do I Do with Them? In addition, an informal luncheon workshop about getting started with your genealogy will be presented. For more information, go to: fgstampa.org

Michigan Festival

The Detroit Public Library's Friends of the Library, the Burton Historical Collection and the Detroit Society for Genealogical Research will hold the Family History Festival on September 26 at Detroit, Michigan. Christine Rose, CG, CGL, FASG will speak on :

1. County and other Local Land Records
2. Solving the Problems in 25 hours or less

For more information, e-mail: phillips@ltu.edu

Maine Conference

The Maine Genealogical Society will hold an annual conference on September 26 at Bangor, Maine. Featured national speakers include Marcia Melnyk and Joe Anderson. Workshop topics include: Deed Research, Taking an Oral History, Franco-American Research with Quebec Records, Immigrant Experience - Sailing to America, Maine's Early Churches, New Trends in Internet Research, Immigrant Research Strategies, Forms, Forms and More Forms, Breaking Through Brick Walls, Native American Genealogy in the Northeast and The Great Irish Potato Famine. For more information, go to: www.maineroots.org

New Jersey Event

The Genealogy Society of Bergen County, New Jersey will host a lecture by Tom Riley, author of "Orphan Train Riders: A Brief History of the Orphan Train Era (1854-1929)" on September 28 at Ridgewood, New Jersey. His program will be Orphan Train Riders. From life in the ghettos of New York to the Children's Aid Society and the era of the Orphan Trains, Mr. Riley will take us on a journey through efforts to help children who were often found wandering

the streets of New York. "The Orphan Train Era" In America during a seventy five year period (1854-1929) over 400,000 homeless children were relocated by means of what were known as "orphan trains." Placing children to live with people other than their parents has gone on from the beginning of time. Known by various names, placing-out has come to be known as "foster care" today. For more information, go to: www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~njgsbc/

Utah British Institute

The 9th Annual British Institute, sponsored by International Society for British Genealogy and Family History will be held on October 5-9 at Salt Lake City, Utah. The instructors are Barbara Baker, and David Rencher. For details, go to: www.isbgfh.org

Ohio Conference

The Czechoslovak Genealogical Society will hold their International Genealogical/Cultural Conference on October 14-17 at Independence, Ohio. Thirty-eight presentations will be given during the 3 days by 21 speakers. The keynote address will be given by John J. Grabowski, PhD. from Case Western University and the Western Reserve Historical Society. Two of the speakers are from the Czech Republic and one is from Slovakia. For more information, go to: www.cgsi.org

Michigan Seminar

This event has been cancelled because of insufficient funds.

The Michigan Genealogical Council will host a seminar on October 15-17 at Midland Michigan. faeae@chartermi.net

Louisiana Seminar

The Southwest Louisiana Genealogical and Historical Library, (a branch of the Calcasieu Parish Public Library), Libraries Southwest, the Southwest Louisiana Genealogical Society, Inc, and Friends of the Calcasieu Parish Public Library will host a seminar on October 16-17 at Lake Charles, Louisiana. The featured speaker will be Carolyn Earle Billingsley, Ph. D. Her topics for the seminar are Communities of Kinship: A New Theory for Genealogy; The Reality of Researching Your Indian Ancestors; Melungeons and Other Mixed Race Groups; and History Lost – History Found. For more information, e-mail: gen@calcasieu.lib.la.us

California Expo

Family History Expos.com, FamilySearch, Family Tree Magazine, RootsMagic, Generation Maps, Genealogy Gems Podcast, and LifeStory Productions are holding a Family History Expo on October 16-17 at Redding, California. The expo will include an exhibit hall with vendors showing genealogical products, consultations with expert genealogists, speakers, and more. For more information, go to: www.fhexpos.com/events/upcoming.php?event_id=51

California Workshop

The Monterey County Genealogy Society will host a workshop featuring featuring Karen Clifford on October 17 at Monterey, California. Space is limited. For more information, go to: www.mococgenso.org

Kentucky Seminar

The Louisville Genealogical Society will host their Family History Seminar and Book on October 17 at Louisville,

Kentucky. The speaker will be genealogist, George G. Morgan, of Tampa, Florida. For more information, go to: www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~kylgs/seminar2.html

Illinois Conference

The Illinois State Genealogical Society (ISGS) will host their Fall Conference on October 17 at Elgin, Illinois. The speakers for this event will be Michael John Neill, Craig Pfannkuche, Larry Pepper, Catherine Bird, Lesley Martin, Tina Beard, DelRay Palmer and Lois Hanley. For more information, go to: www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~ilsgs/

New Mexico Workshop

The Wilson-Cobb History and Genealogy Research Library will host an all-day workshop on Saturday, October 24 at Roswell, New Mexico. Mark J. Lowe is the featured speaker and he will discuss:

- Using the Internet for Genealogy and Research
- Finding Your Landless Ancestors
- Cemeteries as a Genealogical Resource
- Land Barons or Dirt Farmers: Finding Land Transactions

For more information, go to: <http://kytnresearch.com/marklowe.htm> or e-mail: wilsoncobb@dfn.com

Missouri Lectures

The St. Louis Genealogical Society will present their Speaker Series on October 31 at Sunset Hills, Missouri. The Speaker will be Barbara Vines Little, CG and she will lecture on the following:

- County Records: The Nuts and Bolts of Virginia Research
- Patents and Grants: Virginia's Land Records
- Virginia's Tax Records: A Gold Mine of Information
- Virginia's Military Records: Colonial Militia through the Civil War

For more information, go to:
www.stlgs.org

New Jersey Lecture

The Genealogy Society of Bergen County will sponsor a lecture on October 26 at Ridgewood, New Jersey. The speaker is Karen Lamberton, author of *Angels in the Gate: New York City and the General Slocum Disaster*. Ms. Lamberton teaches and lectures in genealogy and is a member of the Genealogy Society of Rockland County, the Chicago Genealogy Society, and the German Genealogy Group. Her program, "Nontraditional 20th Century Military Records," follows alternate routes for finding various types of service records beyond those generally returned from St. Louis when a Form 180 request is submitted. Several case studies are included. For more information, go to:
www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~njgsbc/

Utah Research Retreat

Family History Expos.com, is sponsoring a Family History Library Research Retreat on October 26-31 at the Family History Library at Salt Lake City, Utah. Jimmy Parker, Arlene H. Eakle, and Judith Eccles Wright will be on hand as professional genealogists and research consultants to help with research problems. For more information, go to:
www.fhexpos.com/events/upcoming.php?event_id=51

Indiana Summit

The International Black Genealogy Summit "Reconnecting Lost Links" will be held on October 29 – 31 at Fort Wayne, Indiana. For more information, go to:
www.blackgenealogysummit.com/

Michigan Seminar

The Western Michigan Genealogical Society will hold a seminar on November 7 at Grand Rapids, Michigan. The speakers will be The Genealogy Guys - George G Morgan and Drew Smith who will each teach 3 topics followed by a joint session with George and Drew where they will records one of their famous Podcasts. For more information, go to:
gotancestors.com

New Jersey Event

The Genealogy Society of Bergen County, New Jersey will present a lecture by Dwight de Stefan on November 23 at Ridgewood, New Jersey. Dwight de Stefan, a practicing attorney and former mayor of River Vale, NJ, is the author, of "Emerson: From Basilicata to Etna," a history of the remote Italian province of Basilicata and cultural examinations of its people who settled in the tiny hamlet of Etna, now Emerson, in the 1890s. His program, "Political and Cultural Events Causing Italian Immigration to USA from the Kingdom of Naples, 1790-1890," presents an overview of the modern history of the Kingdom of Naples from 1790 to 1890, focusing on the social conditions and political events that caused the massive emigration starting in 1890. For more information, go to:
www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~njgsbc/

2010 Events

Arizona Expo

Family History Expos.com, FamilySearch, Family Tree Magazine, RootsMagic, Generation Maps, Genealogy Gems Podcast, and LifeStory Productions are holding a Family History Expo on January 22-23 at Mesa, Arizona. The expo will include an exhibit hall with vendors showing genealogical products, consultations with expert genealogists, speakers, and more. For more information, go to:
www.fhexpos.com/events/upcoming.php?event_id=51

Utah Expo

Family History Expos.com, FamilySearch, Family Tree Magazine, RootsMagic, Generation Maps, Genealogy Gems Podcast, and LifeStory Productions are holding a Family History Expo on February 22-23 at Saint George, Utah. The expo will include an exhibit hall with vendors showing genealogical products, consultations with expert genealogists, speakers, and more. For more information, go to:
www.fhexpos.com/events/upcoming.php?event_id=51

2010 NGS Family History Conference

The U.S. National Genealogical Society Conference will be held on April 29–May 1 in Salt Lake City, Utah.

Ohio Genealogical Society 2010 Conference

The Ohio Genealogical Society will hold their annual conference on April 22-24 at Toledo, Ohio.

California Seminar

The Sonoma County Genealogical Society will hold an all-day Seminar on April 24 at

Santa Rosa, California. The featured speakers are Henry Z. "Hank" Jones, Jr., FASG, nationally known genealogical lecturer and author of "The Palatine Families of New York - 1710" and Anthony Hoskins, widely published genealogical scholar, lecturer, and archivist. For more information, go to: www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~cascgs/Jones.htm



Hank Z. Jones



Anthony Hoskins

Ontario Canada Conference

The Ontario Genealogical Society will hold the 2010 conference on May 14-16 at Toronto, Ontario, Canada. Watch www.torontofamilyhistory.org/conference2010/index.html for details when they are released.

FGS 2010 Conference

The Federation of Genealogical Societies 2010 Annual Conference: *Rediscovering America's First Frontier* will be held on August 18-21, 2010, at the Knoxville Convention Center at Knoxville, Tennessee.

OFFICERS AND STAFF

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Please send inquiries, address changes, new memberships, and membership renewals to: SV-CGG, P.O. Box 23670, San Jose, CA 95153-3670 or leslyk@comcast.net (408) 269 5484

SV-CGG meets monthly, except December, on the second Saturday of the month from 9 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 \$15 per year (\$20 for Canada and \$25 for other international). Members are offered classes at meetings, mentor help, *PastFinder* (a monthly newsletter published each month there is a meeting).

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Articles contributed by readers are welcomed. Articles may be submitted as a text file on PC compatible disk, CD-ROM, or as an e-mail attachment. The editors reserve the right to accept, reject, or otherwise edit articles for publication. Articles are not returned.

The following can be ordered from www. FamilySearch.org or at 1-800-537 5950:

Personal Ancestral File 2.3.1 Macintosh (CD version)	US\$6
Personal Ancestral File 4.04(CD version)	US\$6
Personal Ancestral File 5.2.18 and 4 (Windows), PAF 3, & 2.31 (DOS), lessons and user guide, Personal Ancestral File Companion 5.2 evaluation (Windows) (2 CDs)	US\$8.25
Personal Ancestral File 4.04.18 and 5.2.18, PAF Companion Evaluation or PAF User's Guide (English, Spanish, French, German, or Portuguese) downloaded from:	
www.FamilySearch.org	free

The following can be ordered from SV-CGG:

<i>PastFinder</i> back issues if available, per issue	\$1 (order by mail or purchase at meetings)
Videos of classes	for titles and prices see: www.svcomputergenealogy.org
<i>Family History Documentation Guidelines</i>	\$10 + postage (see www.svcomputergenealogy.org for multi-copy orders)
Stuck-on Sources Post-It note pads	Available at meetings and on Web site
Flash Drives with SVCGG logo and loaded with 9000 Internet genealogy sites	Available at cost on Web site and at meetings