



Colorado Genealogical Society

Computer Interest Group

Newsletter

May-June 2008

www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~cocgs/cigmain.htm

P.O. Box 9218, Denver, Colorado 80209

Program Meeting

Mon. June 9, 2008 at 7:00 p.m.

“Indexing”

by Don Elliott

No Meetings July-August

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Workshop Meeting

Mon. May 12, 2008 at 7:00 p.m.

Workshop Sessions:

Legacy

Family Tree Maker

The Master Genealogist

Roots Magic

Scanning/Digital Imaging

DNA New!

STEERING COMMITTEE HIGHLIGHTS:

Treasurer's Report (3/31/2008):
Total Assets \$5,728.51

Positions needed:
 Equipment – Purchase, maintain and set up
 equipment for meetings

Historian – Maintain and archive papers of
 Computer Interest Group

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UPCOMING CGS/CIG PROGRAMS :

All Monday CIG meetings are held at:
 Christ the King Lutheran Church,
 2300 So. Patton Ct., Denver, Colorado

Monday, May 12, 2008 at 7:00 p.m.

Workshop Meeting

Monday, June 9, 2008 at 7:00 p.m.

Speaker: Don Elliott

"Indexing"

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UPCOMING CGS PROGRAMS :

All Friday night programs held at:
 Christ the King Lutheran Church,
 2300 S. Patton Ct., Denver, Colorado

Friday, May 16, 2008 at 7:00 p.m.

Speaker: Annette Bottello

**"Identity Crisis: Pinning down the
 Shifting Sands of West Virginia"**

A case study using indirect evidence to
 solve the problem

Friday, June 20, 2008 at 7:00 p.m.

Annual CGS Potluck Dinner and Annual
 Meeting

Speaker: Bobbi King

"Researching in Nebraska"

Report of the Nominating Committee

The following individuals have agreed to serve as officers of CIG for 2007-2008, if elected by the membership. Anyone wishing to nominate other candidates may do so at the membership meeting when elections occur. We are grateful for the willingness of these individuals to serve.

President: Vern Tomkins

Vice President: Sandy Ronayne

Treasurer: Ray Henney

Secretary: Bob Shankland

Everyone knows Vern and Bob as they continue in their same positions.

Meet Sandy Ronayne: *"Belonging to CIG and CGS has helped me in researching my family. I started researching in 2001 and would not have been so successful without the guidance that programs at both groups presented. I learn something new everytime I attend a program and talk with other researchers."*

Meet Ray Henney: *"My interest in family history began as a teenager when I found an envelope in my paternal grandfather's photos. It was marked "Keep" and contained the family chart back to the 1750's. Ten years later, I had many opportunities to talk to my maternal grandmother who told me about her family. While I have worked off and on with my research, I am a recent member of both the CGS and CIG. The CGS lectures have greatly helped me organize my research and CIG has introduced me to a number of good software packages. I plan to spend many days working on family history after I retire next year. My career has been in accounting or finance with the Walt Disney Company, Time-Warner Cable and currently with Peregrine, a small engineering company. I look forward to helping the CIG group as treasurer."*

We still seek a full slate of 3 nominating committee members.

Current Nominating Committee: Sandy Carter-Duff, Iris Hawkins and Bill Stephens

New CIG website Address

www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~cocgs/cigmain.htm

The Computer Interest Group of the Colorado Genealogical Society has a new website address. Due to the merger of Rootsweb and Ancestry, "Ancestry" has been added to our web address.

Information about our program and workshop meetings are available on the site.



How I Used Free Websites to Uncover My Uncle's Past

By Zoe von Ende Lappin

My uncle Stanford died in an institution for alcoholics in Connecticut in 1964. He worked as an orderly there. That's what my mother, his sister, told me. Later, his wife, Aunt Naomi, gave me the exact date and place – September 7, 1964, in Newtown, Connecticut. She said nothing about demon booze, but I knew that he'd had a problem.

That was all I knew until early in 2008 when I decided to get serious about Uncle Stan. I knew a lot about his early life – birth date and place, marriage date and place, birth dates and places of his two children, jobs he held as a young man. But I knew very little about him after he left our hometown in Wisconsin in 1940 to live first in Brooklyn and then in Connecticut. He and his family came to visit a few times, my grandparents went East to see them, and I knew that he'd had a difficult time late in life. He and Aunt Naomi were divorced.

Dear Aunt Naomi had passed on in 2002, and for touchy personal reasons, I was reluctant to contact their children. So, I went to the Internet, my first resource of choice these days. As you shall see, I was richly rewarded and everything I found was on free Web sites. (I used an Ancestry.com subscription site only once, and that at the Denver Public Library where it's free to registered patrons. And, I paid \$10 for a copy of his death certificate.)

First, I set about to see if I could find his death certificate. That's when I consulted Ancestry.com at the library, using the Connecticut death index, 1949-2001. By entering his full name, Stanford Nugent, I got nothing. Then I tried just Nugent and the year, and there it was with his first name misspelled Stanfor. The death date and places matched those his former wife had given me, September 7, 1964, at Newtown, Fairfield County, Connecticut. The index told me he was a resident of Milford, New Haven County, Connecticut. It gave the state file number. I printed the index item (10 cents a page at the DPL) in preparation for sending for a copy of the complete death certificate. I knew that Connecticut death records are filed by town, not county, so at home I went online to learn the address of the Newtown town clerk and to read instructions on obtaining a copy of the death certificate. I did that by asking Google to find Newtown Connecticut town clerk, and it popped up immediately. I clicked on Vital Records, followed the directions, and sent off my money order for \$10. That was at the end of January 2008.

While waiting for the death certificate, I reviewed my grandmother's old address book and made a timeline for Uncle Stan and Aunt Naomi. Grandma didn't always date her entries, but I found two for her son Stan, in 1958 and 1960, in Milford, Connecticut – 798 Bridgeport and 6 Center Street. It appeared that he and Naomi had divorced before 1958, for she was back in her hometown in New York by then, and Grandma had entered my aunt's new address.

It took less than two weeks for the death certificate to arrive. It stated Uncle Stan had died at Fairfield Hills Hospital in Newtown, and was a resident of 6 Center Street in Milford, matching the information in Grandma's address book. The doctor who signed the death certificate, Jane E. Oltman, M.D., stated that "we" – not "I" – had treated him from April 13, 1961, to the date of his death, September 7, 1964, and that she had last seen him the day before he died. The cause of death was pulmonary infarction (lung disease, possibly caused by a blood clot) with cirrhosis of the liver given as a secondary condition. I knew the latter was usually associated with chronic alcoholism; the death certificate thereby confirmed part of my mother's story.

At this point, I made three wrong assumptions, though they didn't throw me off the track for too long. First, I assumed that the address in Milford, 6 Center Street, was that of the institution my mother spoke of. Second, I assumed that Fairfield Hills was a general hospital. Third, I assumed that my uncle been a patient periodically at Fairfield Hills over the 3½ year period given on the death certificate, always returning to the address in Milford.

None of those were correct, but I didn't know that until farther along in my research. Wisely, I decided to test my assumptions. First – how could I learn what actually occupied 6 Center Street in Milford, Connecticut? I e-mailed a city office and the historical society without satisfactory answers. I also went to my favorite Web sites, message boards at Rootsweb.com <<http://boards.rootsweb.com/>> and Genforum at Genealogy.com <<http://genforum.genealogy.com/>> I posted the same message in three places: the New Haven County, Connecticut, message board at Rootsweb, plus the New Haven County and the Connecticut statewide forums at Genforum. My query was headed "Address Help in Milford," and read:

"My uncle was a resident of 6 Center Street in Milford when he died in 1964. Can anyone tell me what that was? Some sort of institution such as a hospital or rest home, or a

private home or apartment? I understand he was working as an orderly in some type of institution. He actually died in a hospital in Newtown, CT."

I received no replies to the Rootsweb posting (no surprise for that's a cumbersome site), but three gems appeared on Genforum (far easier to browse and use). First was this friendly response from Judy G:

"He was an orderly at an institution? Was that in Newtown? In which case it might have been Fairfield Hills Hospital. This was a very large state psychiatric facility. My uncle worked in the dairy there. Sorry, don't know about the Milford address."

Aha! The institution my mother mentioned must have been Fairfield Hills, not some unknown facility in Milford. It all made sense. Further examination of the death certificate showed that the details came from hospital records, which would have been made at the time of his admission, either by Uncle Stan himself or a family member, probably his former wife. (Even though he and Aunt Naomi were divorced, she looked after him until the end of his life. She was a magnanimous woman whose kindness for his family showed itself over and over throughout her long life.) It was logical to assume now that he had lived in Milford at the time of his admission, and that the time frame covered in the period at which he was treated actually referred to the time he was institutionalized at Fairfield Hills.

Next, it was Google again. Asking for Fairfield Hills Hospital Connecticut, I was rewarded with a Web site <<http://www.fairfieldhills.com/>> which is run, apparently, by a couple of historians fascinated with the place. They call it "The Lost Asylum." It was, indeed, a huge state psychiatric hospital which had more than more than 4,000 residents on 770 acres at its peak. The state closed it in 1996.

Back to Google for the doctor who signed his death certificate, Jane E. Oltman, M.D. A total of 89 entries turned up, and the

third one, a 1960 article in the *American Journal of Psychiatry*, identified Dr. Oltman, a co-author, as clinical director, Fairfield State Hospital, Newtown, Connecticut. Uncle Stan had been under the care of a psychiatrist, and the "we" on the death certificate applied to the hospital staff.

To learn more about the doctor, I went to the Research Resources page on the Denver Public Library Web site, clicked on Databases A-Z, then on America's Obituaries and Death Notices (free to library cardholders). I entered her name, didn't bother with a locality, and found five obituary entries in 2006, all from Connecticut. They described her service at Fairfield Hills, and I learned she had lived to be 96 years old.

Meantime, two other people responded to my Genforum queries. Both referred me to a Website on which I could actually see what the building at 6 Center Street in Milford looks like today. It's called Vision Appraisal Technology at <http://www.visionappraisal.com/databases/> which serves seven eastern states. Following the links, I learned that 6 Center Street is a single-family, two-story home built in 1900, now assessed at \$258,610. It's a large house with a partial wrap-around porch, vinyl siding and a garage. It could have been a boarding house when Uncle Stan lived there in 1960. It most definitely was not a public institution as I had once erroneously assumed.

Everything now fell into place, but there was one last source to consult: Fairfield Hills Hospital records housed at the Connecticut State Archives. Google quickly took me to its home page, <http://www.cslib.org/archives/> and after a few fits and starts, I opened to Finding Aids. There, I scrolled to Record Group 21, Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services, 1866-1994. It had a link to records of Fairfield Hills Hospital, Series 7, 1933-1976, just the place and time period I needed. The catalog suggests that Uncle Stan's records might be in that group, but also states the records are restricted. I found an e-mail address to the archives, a phone number, the

name of the state archivist and his U.S. Mail address.

I assumed I would never see the records, but I could not let the matter rest. I've been wrong before. I believed I needed a source other than the circumstantial evidence on his death certificate and my mother's vague recollection to show that he was a resident at Fairfield Hills Hospital, and I'd also like to know the circumstances of his committal and a diagnosis. I e-mailed and left a telephone message without a reply. Finally I sent an old-fashioned paper letter by U.S. Mail. That was in early March.

In less than a week, a rather apologetic state archivist responded, by e-mail, and he could offer almost no help. Fairfield Hills' chronological log books still exist, he said, but they are not indexed or alphabetized. All he could do would be to check my dates to confirm or refute Uncle Stan's date of admission and death. If the ones on the death certificate are incorrect, the archivist could do no more. Almost all case files have been destroyed, so there's no way he could find the details of my uncle's commitment or the nature of his illness. I decided I'd accept the dates on the death certificate, and let the matter rest.

Even though I did not learn every detail that I was hoping for, I consider this Internet search most successful. It took a little over a month to gather my information. Three cheers for people who answer queries and respond to postings. Those that I received in response to "Address Help in Milford" made me vow to frequently visit sites devoted to surnames and localities with which I am familiar, and to always respond to the serious-sounding ones I can help.

(Note: Stanford and Naomi Nugent are not my uncle and aunt's real names. I have changed them to protect their anonymity.)



Lineage Societies, Hereditary Societies, Family Associations and One-Name Societies

by Bill Nix

The benefits of belonging to a Hereditary Society, Lineage Society or an Organization Requiring Members to submit documented Family History data are:

Preparing the application for such a society requires one to organize his/her family history and to accumulate considerable reliable documentation regarding specific person and life events. Organizing family history data is beneficial.

The prestige of belonging to a respected society can benefit its members. Depending upon the organization, members can be involved in the preservation of their nation's history, in significant charitable work, and be volunteers active in worthwhile efforts.

Organizations can provide access to significant genealogical resources. Some societies have extensive family history related libraries. Some provide, for a fee, copies of application records that contain documented evidence pertaining to individuals and events.

When members qualify to become a member of one of these organizations the family history information that is provided is a matter of record with a reliable and safe repository. Therefore, member's family history is available for the benefit of future generations.

Think for a moment of the special benefit you and your descendants may acquire when you join a Family DNA Project. So many of us are now struggling to have persons who share or may share our DNA tested in order to help us with our genealogical research. DNA that is on file with a responsible DNA lab can benefit lots of people in so many ways.

Some of these "societies" publish books that contain member's genealogies. Such books are of great benefit to families, historians and genealogists.

Favorite Websites for Lineage Societies, Hereditary Societies, Family Associations and One-Name Societies

Cyndi's List is a great website to begin your research into lineage societies, family associations and other groups. These four websites offer links:

<http://www.cyndislist.com/soc-lineage.htm#First>
Lineage Societies

<http://www.cyndislist.com/surnames.htm>
Family Associations

<http://www.cyndislist.com/surn-dna.htm>
DNA Surname Projects

<http://www.cyndislist.com/soc-gen.htm>
Ethnic groups, Military, National Societies,
Religious Societies

Other websites:

<http://www.hereditary.us/chrono.htm>
Hereditary Societies Listed by Chronology of
Years Founded

<http://www.genealogy-quest.com/collections/lineagesoc.html>
Lineage Societies accept members based upon lineal descent from a specific group of ancestors. This list provides the names of some of those ancestors and the society that may accept you if you are able to prove direct descent.

<http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~coccgs/Council-familyrecognition.htm>
Colorado Family Recognition Program

The Colorado Council of Genealogical Societies offers recognition of persons whose families settled in Colorado. There are three categories of certificates: First Family, Territorial and Centennial.



Genetic Genealogy

by Earl Beaty

The workhorse for genetic genealogy is the tests on a man's Y chromosome. The test results are a table of numbers each indicating the number of times a bit of genetic material has been repeated at selected locations. These numbers of repeats are not good for anything except providing a measure of how the testee is related to other men. Relating those numbers to genealogy is not totally easy. At the May workshop we will be discussing the issues surrounding this problem. Here is a brief overview:

The simplest measure of how two men are related is the "genetic distance". In most cases this is just the number of differences in the two haplotypes. There are some more complex parts to the overall calculation but the testing companies supply the answers and it is best for the customers just to take their word for it. The idea is that if the genetic distance is large the two men can consider themselves "unrelated". If the genetic distance is small then there is a likely a rather recent common ancestor. The difficult questions here are: How large? and How recent?

A common and better use of DNA testing involves a known common ancestor for whom results are available on several of his descendants. The value is that it can provide a way to check the genealogical conclusions. Who is really a descendant of the "known" ancestor? Sometimes people make

mistakes in their genealogy. The easiest way to address this is to get together with the other descendants and share information. The problem is inherently statistical and it is best if someone in the group is comfortable with statistical information. If a suitable ancestor is not known, the thing to do is search for matches in some of the large public databases. By far the best place to look for matches is with men of your own surname. Some of the testing companies help to organize surname projects.

Earl runs the DNA class at Workshop Meetings

Understanding Symbols in Old Documents

<http://www.jelleyjar.com>

Initials:

a.a.s. - died in the year of his/her age (56 years died in 1856)
 d.s.p. - died without issue
 d.s.p.l. - died without legitimate issue
 d.s.p.m.s. - died without surviving male issue
 d.s.p.s. - died without surviving issue
 d.unm. - died unmarried
 d.v.p. - died in the lifetime of his father
 d.v.m. - died in the lifetime of his mother
 et al - and others
 F.L.T. - friendship, love and truth
 Inst - present month
 Liber - book or volume
 Nepos - grandson
 Nunc Nun - an oral will, written by a witness
 Ob - he/she died
 Rel. or Relict - widow or widower
 Res. or Residue - widow or widower
 Sic - exact copy as written
 Testes - witnesses
 Ult - late
 Ux or vs - wife
 Viz - namely



Get the Children in Your Life Interested in Family History

Family Tree Magazine has a website especially for kids. It includes:

Family Tree Fun (word search – word scramble)

Family Detective – Junior Tool Kit

My Family Tree - a colored form for kids to download and fill in names and birthdate of parents-grandparents and greatgrandparents, then print. You might even want to fill it in and print it yourself:



<http://kids.familytreemagazine.com/default.asp>

?? Ask An Expert ??

Do you have a question about your computer genealogy program? Digital imaging or scanning? DNA research? Internet research? This column is for you. No question is too simple. Maybe someone else is wondering the same thing.

Email your question to the editor at LKD41654@aol.com and it will be forwarded to one of our workshop leaders. Then, watch for your question and answer in upcoming newsletters.

Computer Tip

Saving Web Page Text

When copying information from a website, you may want only the text. To avoid copying images and other unwanted items, save it as a text file.

1. Open the Web page you want to copy text from and select **File>Save As**.
2. Select **Plain Text (*.txt)** in the **Save as type** field.
3. Create a file name and click **Save**.

An alternate method is to copy and paste the information directly into a word processing or genealogy program as unformatted text.

1. In the Web page, highlight the text with your mouse and copy it. (Press **Ctrl+V**; select **File>Copy**; or right-click the highlighted text and select **Copy**.)
2. Open your word processing program or other program where you want to paste the text.
3. Go to the **Edit Menu** and select **Paste Special>Unformatted Text**, or a similarly worded option.

Above taken from Rootsweb Review, Vol. 11, No. 14



Fathers' Day

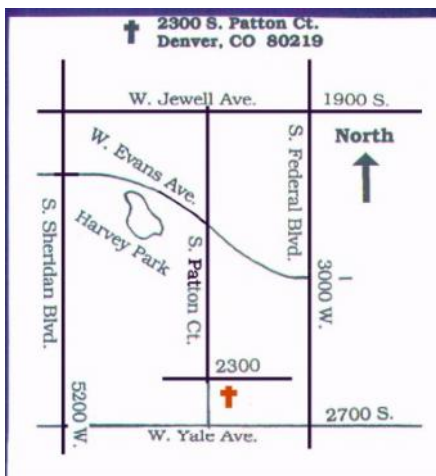
June 15, 2008

Meeting Location

The Monday meetings are held at 7:00 pm at Christ the King Lutheran Church, 2300 So. Patton Ct., in southwest Denver. The church is at the corner of Iliff Ave. and So. Patton Ct. in the Harvey Park area.

When coming from the north: Take Federal or Sheridan Blvd. south to Evans Ave. Turn right from Federal or left from Sheridan and take Evans to Patton Ct. Turn south on Patton Ct. two blocks to the church at Iliff Ave.

When coming from the south: Take Federal or Sheridan Blvd. north to Yale Ave. Turn left from Federal or right from Sheridan and take Yale to Patton Ct. Turn north on Patton Ct. three blocks to the church at Iliff Ave.



Mothers' Day

May 11, 2008

MEMBERSHIP ROSTERS

CIG Members may request a membership roster from Membership Chairman, Charlotte Weiler by emailing her at charjweiler@yahoo.com. A roster of specific genealogy program users is also available.



From the Editor:

Please help make this newsletter a success by submitting articles relating to computer genealogy to me to include in this newsletter. Please be generous with your submissions of your favorite genealogical websites, a new website you have discovered, breakthroughs using your computer, and genealogical news and meetings of other societies.

Articles may be emailed to me at LKD41654@aol.com. Deadline for articles is the 25th of even-numbered months. Next deadline is August 25, 2008.

Thank you for your help,

Lynette Dick

Steering Committee Elected Officers

President..... Vern Tomkins.....303 -922-3639
 Immed. Past Pres.....Patrick Purcell.....303 -973-2185
 Vice President.....Bill Nix.....720 -981-2934
 Secretary.....Bob Shankland.....303 -986-8583
 Treasurer.....Charlotte Weiler.....303 -989-5079

Steering Committee Appointed Officers

Membership.....Charlotte Weiler.....303 -989-5079
 Equipment.....Earl King.....303 -795-1150
 Publicity/Bylaws ...Mike Roman.....303 -504-4314
 Newsletter.....Lynette Dick.....303 -986-7910
 Hospitality.....Lynette Dick.....303.986 -7910
 Programs.....Bill Nix.....720 -981-2934
 CGS Liaison.....Nancy Ratay.....303 -972-2701
 Council Liaison.....Charlotte Weiler.....303 -989-5079

Nominating Committee

Sandy Carter-Duff, Iris Hawkins, Bill Stephens

Workshop Leaders

Family Tree Maker...Ed Richard.....303-355-2592
 The Master Genealogist
 Birdie Holsclaw.....303 -530-4054
 Patrick Purcell.....303 -973-2185
 Bobbi King.....720 -839-4952
 Legacy.....Vern Tomkins.....303 -922-3639
 Scanning & Digital Imaging...Gary Ratay.....303 -972-2701
 Roots Magic.....Jamie Redmond.....303 -751-9075
 Reunion for Mac...Nancy Ratay.....303 -972-2701
 DNA.....Earl Beaty.....303 -494-8713

<u>May 12, 2008</u>	Workshop Meeting
<u>June 9, 2008</u>	“Indexing” by Don Elliott
<u>July-August 2008</u>	No Meetings
<u>September 8, 2008</u>	TBA
<u>October 13, 2008</u>	TBA

**CGS/CIG Newsletter
Lynette Dick, Editor
7440 West Utah Ave.
Lakewood CO 80232**

FIRST CLASS POSTAGE