

*A chicken in every pot,  
PAF in every computer.*



*Our goal this week is for everyone to download the church's PAF (Personal Ancestral File) genealogy program into their computer.*

**HERE IS HOW:**

1. [www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org)
2. On home page find:  
**Free Family History Software**
3. Click on the words **download PAF** and follow instructions. (call bro or sis \_\_\_\_\_ if you encounter problems @ \_\_\_\_\_)

**NOW if you are dying to try out your new "game" this is how you access PAF on your computer:**

1. Click on the PAF icon or find it and open it.
2. At first screen click "new"
3. At 2<sup>nd</sup> screen "Create New Family File" Save in.....wherever you would like to save it. I save it in "my documents."
4. At 3<sup>rd</sup> screen "Preferences" type in your information.
5. Your program is now ready for information.

**DON'T TYPE ANYTHING YET!!!!**

Ok, so if you are dying to type in something just type in your own family. The top left box is dad and the bottom left box is mom and the BIG box is for children. To get information in these boxes, just double click on them. Experiment and see what you can figure out.

**BUT YOU HAVE TO FOLLOW RULES:**

name: given and middle names /surname/

date: day month year (13 Aug 1993)

Place: town,county,state,country

(anything that is missing is indicated with a comma ie:

,county,state,country

or town,,state,country

*You can teach an old dog new tricks  
Discovering genealogy computer websites*



*Our goal this week is to familiarize you with genealogy websites online. Explore one of the following websites.*

**I BET YOU CAN'T EXPLORE JUST ONE**

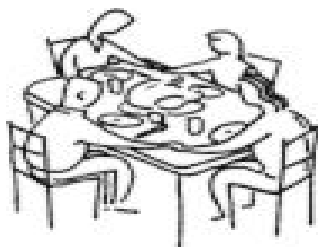
The most popular genealogy websites are:  
**familysearch.org** This is the church's official genealogy website and includes two databases of pedigrees submitted by researchers, the 1880 US census, 1881 Canadian and English census, Social Security death index, and International Genealogical Index. To register so you can sign on, you need your membership number and confirmation date. You will need to be signed on in order to access temple dates in the International Genealogical Index portion.

**usgenweb.org** A collection of state and county websites with a variety of online information.

**rootsweb.org** A database of pedigrees submitted by researchers. It also includes a large database of other volunteer projects.

**ancestry.com** (available for free at our family history center) Large database of records including all the US censuses, many birth, marriage and death records, immigration records and much more.

## WE GATHER TOGETHER GATHERING RECORDS



Our challenge is for you to gather as much information as you can on your family. **DO NOT** enter this information yet – just collect it and group the information by families within file folders.

### Gathering places:

**1. It's a scavenger hunt! Have the family scatter and find certificates, bible records, other records, the box of information Aunt Susan gave you, etc.**

**2. Contact relatives** to see if anyone else is working on your family history and if they are willing to send you a disk with their information on it. Ask questions which will help fill in your pedigree chart and family group sheets.

**3. Collect information from other sources** such as ancestral file, pedigree resource file, rootsweb.com.

## HUNT AND PECK MONTH

### *NOW THAT YOU HAVE...*

- \* downloaded PAF (at familysearch.org)
- \* surfed the internet checking out cool websites such as usgenweb.com, rootsweb.com, familysearch.org, ancestry.com
- \* and gathered information from family members or other sources

### ...YOU ARE READY TO TYPE

#### GENERAL RULES

- 1.** Anywhere there is a box, you can double click to get to another screen for typing information.
- 2.** Given names mean first and middle names, surname means the last name (ALWAYS the maiden name for a woman) Make sure there are // on either side of the surname.
- 3.** Dates are typed day month year as follows: 8 Aug 2006.
- 4.** Places are typed town, county, state, country as follows:  
Greenville, Hunt, Texas, USA  
Do not use abbreviations except for USA. Keep the commas whether you know the place or not. For example: you know a county but not a town - .Hunt, Texas, USA. If you know a town, but not a county - Greenville,,Texas, USA. You do not know a town or a county ,,Texas, USA
- 5.** The little "s" to the right side of places means, "source." If you click on it, you will come to a source screen. To create a new source, click new and type in the name of your source (where did you find the information) Then click "ok." Now you are back to the source screen where you may "select" the source you just created. Eventually you will have a list of sources to choose from and they may be used for others if the source fits.



## *SEARCH AND RESCUE*

*Now that we have GATHERED the information we can from family and/or websites (familysearch.org, rootsweb.com, google search), and we have learned how to TYPE our family names into our computer genealogy program (PAF – Personal Ancestral File),*

We are ready to begin to **SEARCH** for the information we need and **RESCUE** our ancestors. Note the picture is a house in a life raft. That is what we are doing – saving our family members.

This month I will be teaching classes and sending excerpts in email about different ways of researching. The following order is how I usually approach finding missing people, dates or places:

- 1) A broad census search to discover where they were living when.
- 2) A vital records search for birth, marriage and death records (public records or church)
- 3) Obituaries and cemetery records
- 4) Court records – land and probate (wills)

I implore you once again to find an ancestor who needs rescuing and search for that one piece of information that will help them get to the temple.

AND, discover the truth of the statement, “Old genealogists never die, they just lose their census.” ☺