



NEWSLETTER

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SEPTEMBER 13, 2017

FUNERALS AND FUNERAL HOME RESEARCH

Victorian Mourning and Funeral Practice

By

Steve Person

Funeral Home Research

By

Bob Heck

Next Month's Meeting is October 11, 2017

Klemmer's Banquet Center

10401 West Oklahoma Avenue

Milwaukee, WI 53227

Roots Magic by Bob Tatalovich

Summarized by Louise Stack

Roots Magic advertises that their program is "Family History Made Easy." Bob Tatalovich was first up to bat to give us his take on what to expect if you choose Roots Magic for your genealogy software program. Bob advises that it is a well-constructed program dating from the 1980's, does a lot and does it well. He further advises that it is a good alternative genealogy program with straightforward data entry and is versatile, customize-able or can be used the way it is.

Let's start by talking cost. There is a FREE version of Roots Magic that you can download at www.rootsmagic.com, but of course it probably does not do everything you will want as it is a stripped-down version. The better choice then will cost you \$29.95, with major upgrades available for additional charges. There is a MAC version but it has not had good reviews so be careful.

Roots Magic is compatible with other software so you can directly import from Family Tree Maker, PAF, Family Origins and Legacy. It interfaces with Family Tree and is Family Search certified. That means Family Search certifies that the information will be accurate when transferred. You will also have Family Search support.

Bob shared some great examples of the files in his Roots Magic program. He showed a pedigree chart for his mother as well as a family sheet for her parents and siblings. Under the tab for "descendants" he showed three generations under his maternal grandfather. He pointed out that under the "People" tab you can customize the view with what details you want such as baptismal date, adoption date, death date and so on. The name will always be listed first though. There is a "web search" tab with a search bar for Family Search and there is a "timeline" tab. A point of interest was a slider on the left side which Bob noted can be used to show siblings, lists of names, groups or show bookmarks.

Altogether Bob had 7 strategies for you to fully utilize your Roots Magic program. Strategy 1 was to use Roots Magic to collect data from the internet through web hints. How would you get a web hint? A little yellow lightbulb icon shows up – fun, huh? Web hints can be turned on and off and you can decide where you

want your hints to come from such as Ancestry, Family Search, My Heritage or Findmypast. Click on the lightbulb and see what you get.

Strategy 2 would be to use Roots Magic to go back and forth from the public tree on Family Search as it allows you to download from and upload to the tree. For this you will want to enable Family Search support. Strategy 3 is sharing data and sources. You can do this with reports, CD's, flashdrives (also known as Roots Magic to Go) or publishing on the internet. Note that flashdrives can be used at the Family History Center, but not at most libraries. An example of sharing data Bob showed was under Family Search Person Tools. Using one of his female relatives as the subject, "My Roots Magic Person" was compared to "My Family Search Person." A point of interest was that his Family Search Person had a number in parentheses indicated on the record which is called a Personal ID number and is permanently assigned by Family Search.

Strategy 4, according to Bob, is more of a dilemma than a true strategy. Would you rather just do research or more thoroughly learn the software so you can make the most of it? It's up to you on how to handle this one. You can learn more about Roots Magic through user groups, message boards, Facebook and the RM mailing list. All of those might answer some of your questions. You can also learn from the Roots Magic homepage where you can find webinars, training videos and guides, etc.

Strategy 5 has tips on what to consider doing with the research you have collected to improve it. For instance, you can review for duplicate entries and spelling errors. Did you know you can "name clean" and "place clean"? First of all, Roots Magic doesn't like the word unknown so it is better to leave a blank. Name clean will find and correct discrepancies in people's names. Place Clean will find and correct inconsistencies or misspellings in city and place names. You could also choose to use descriptions instead of names or use alternate names. In addition, improper spacing, punctuation and the use of caps will be corrected.

Strategy 6 is all about problem searches. There are a number of choices to check on the Problem Search page. The list of problems to search for include; individuals without sex entered, marriage date after a birth date or a birth date after a baptismal date and age discrepancies. Strategy 7 is the use of your database tools. You can test your database integrity, rebuild indexes, clean phantom records and compact the database.

At the beginning of his presentation Bob said that it wouldn't be likely you would switch programs based on what he said. However, in the end he believed you would want to make the move to Roots Magic.

Bob's tip: Remember that personal identification numbers are given out by Family Search – this might show up later in a Bob Heck quiz.

Legacy by Bruce Butterfield

Summarized by Louise Stack

Bruce Butterfield was the second speaker of the evening with his presentation about the Legacy Family Tree genealogy software program. Bruce began by stating that Legacy does all the same things as Roots Magic. He finds Legacy version 9.0 to be a user-friendly program and he really enjoys the little details. Legacy imports directly from PAF. Remember that it is also recommended by the Family History Center as a good replacement for PAF. In his presentation, Bruce used a different approach and highlighted the functions he prefers.

Again, let's start with cost. As with Ancestral Quest and Roots Magic there is a FREE version of Legacy available. The deluxe edition is similar in price to the other two at about \$30 and, according to Bruce, has some very nice functions which make it worth every penny. In fact, he mentioned that there are at least 14 features in the deluxe version that are not in the basic version. Bruce also liked the manual that could be purchased for \$14.95 to accompany the program. Sorry MAC users it will not work for you.

If you choose to use Legacy, Bruce recommends that you begin by watching the "Beginner's Video" as it could help you off to a smooth start. Actually, he stressed that it is very important to watch it the first time you start Legacy, but also suggests you watch it several times after that. The tricky part is that to get to the Beginner's Video you have to look under the "Help" tab. As with the other two programs there are webinars and tutorials to help you along the way.

Once you have installed the Legacy software it will open with the Family screen and will always start with person #1 unless you tell it not to. There are several details on the Family screen that Bruce likes. You can see the number of spouses and their names. You can see the number of parents and their names. You can see the number of siblings; boy's names are in blue and girl's names are in a dark pink color. One particularly helpful function is that in the case of multiple spouses, half-children are also displayed, actually with a ½ symbol behind their name. You can also see whether there are notes, stories, sources, aliases and more for a particular person.

There is an "Individual's Information" screen for each person you enter into the program and this is where you would enter all their pertinent information such as birth, marriage, death as well as any other data. Here you can also add notes and events. By clicking on the "add" button you can choose from a list of event types or you

can simply enter one of your own. There is a place to put in DNA information and a box to check if the person was never married and had no children. Bruce says that those that never married or had no children are treated a little differently. At the bottom of this screen there are boxes to record important numbers such as the Family Search ID# or Ancestral File#. One other box in the bottom section is where you can choose to *exclude from a potential problem. That one is for those instances where a person is still living past 100 say or a baby was born before the mother married and so on; by using that field you would keep the program from always indicating a problem with the data.

What about hints? Yes, just like in Roots Magic there is an icon for hints, but it is an orange ball rather than a lightbulb.

What else can Legacy do? A fun feature is "Map My Family" that will show you on a map all the locations where an individual family member lived. Per Bruce, the most exciting aspect though is Sourcewriter because it uses a template system to help you cite those important genealogical sources. You choose the input screen and fill in the blanks. Legacy has an extensive HELP system, but again Bruce suggests using the Beginner's Tutorial video in conjunction with it. And he recommends having a copy of the User Guide nearby which he claims is well written in a conversational style by someone who probably had their fair share of mistakes and wants to help you avoid those.

Bruce's tip: It's all in the details!

Now it's **decision time** on which of these two software programs or Ancestral Quest will work the best for you. You've learned that they are all basically the same as far as functions. You've learned that they all have a FREE version, but to get the most out of the program it is perhaps worth spending the money to get the deluxe/upgraded version.

Upcoming Programs

October 11, 2017 – Terminology & Stuff

What You'll Find in the US Census & City Directories (Cathy Dailey)
Research Land Records (Gary Haas)

October 21, 2017

FREE Genealogy Workshop at the Family History Center, 9600 West Grange Avenue.
8:00 AM – 4:00 PM

November 8, 2017

Courthouse Research (Guy Porth)
Researching Will & Probate Records On-Line (Bob Heck)

December, 2017 – No Meeting

Do NOT forget, there is **NO** meeting in December

About This Newsletter

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Meeting Bits and Bytes

The Wisconsin State Fair was in full swing with perfect summer weather for those who chose to attend that event. However, 90 people decided to come on over to Klemmer's Banquet Hall instead to learn about Genealogy Software. At 7:00PM Bob Heck welcomed everyone including 2 new members/guests who had come all the way from Port Washington.

Along with the handout for this month's meeting there was a flyer for the upcoming FREE Genealogy Workshop scheduled for October 21, 2017 at the Family History Center. Referring to that, Bob pointed out a couple of things: first, the online registration begins September 1st and secondly that the workshop runs from 8:00AM to 3:00PM. There will be 12 presentations on a variety of topics so mark your calendars.

Before starting the much-anticipated pre-presentation questions, Bob asked how many members read their newsletter and if it had anything to do with his meeting questions. A good portion of the audience raised their hands so it must indeed mean they are looking forward to the valuable prizes Bob awards for correct answers. For this meeting Bob had 7 questions prepared and Bob has ramped up the difficulty. As you may know Bob doesn't just quiz on what may have been in the newsletter, he also takes questions from the periodic emails he sends out. Question 1 referred to a July 10th email on locating small villages and the other villages within 10 miles. Bob was asking for the number of villages within 10 miles of Rudimov, Czech Republic, his ancestral village, which incidentally is where he was planning to be 2 weeks from this meeting date celebrating his 50th wedding anniversary. He stated that he was opening the bidding at 100. Clearly a difficult question with answers all over the map. Especially interesting was that answers ranged from 140-147 and jumped to 149 skirting the correct answer of 148. There was an eventual winner however.

Question 2 was equally entertaining because it also became a guessing game after an initial moment or two of silence. Bob's question again referred to an email which related to genealogy videos on YouTube in which he specifically mentioned Ukrainian Genealogy. It was a nice geography lesson before the right answer came up. Apologies to anyone who read the newsletter and thought they knew the answer to Question 3 because it clearly said that the last date you could order a microfilm from the Family History Center was July 31, 2017. What, was there a *mistake* in the newsletter??? The true answer was August 31, 2017. Despite evidence to the contrary it was not a trick to see if you really do read the newsletter.

Questions 4, 5 and 6 were much less mind-bending. What does RAM stand for? -- Random Access Memory. What vertical character cannot be used in a file name? -- a Pipe. How many pages were in Sam Colon's July handout? -- Five. The last question was just for fun so no prize and asked what Sam considered scanners to be with the answer being a genealogist's best friend. Our group name is MPAFUG which stands for Milwaukee Personal Ancestral File Users Group. The Personal Ancestral File program is no longer supported by The Family History Center in Salt Lake City because they have chosen to now use their on-line genealogy program, Family Tree. As replacements for PAF The Family History Center recommends Ancestral Quest, Legacy and Roots Magic. Ancestral Quest was covered in a presentation given by Earl Capps on October 12, 2016. For this August 9th meeting both Legacy and Roots Magic were explored. There were 6 items on the opportunity table this month including a copy of Legacy 8.0 and Roots Magic 7 which tied in nicely with the Genealogy Software topic.

Help with PAF

Call us if you need assistance in using PAF, or if you have question about MPAFUG
We're here to help!

NAME	PHONE	E-MAIL Address
Bruce Butterfield	414-462-6097	Babtrfld-mke@wi.rr.com
Sam Colon	414-327-2133	genrschr@gmail.com
Bob Heck	414-421-7143	bheck@voyager.net
Bob Tatalovich	414-897-8280	bobt3725@gmail.com
Jane Orne	262-938-9371	orne@Rworld.net
Guy Porth	414-510-0563	guyporth9@yahoo.com
Earl Capps	414-327-4327	elcapps@yahoo.com

MPAFUG Key Information

The Steering Committee

Steering committee meetings are held on the 3rd Wednesday of every month except December. The meetings start at 7:00 pm at Bob Heck's house (4910 Steeple Drive, Greendale, WI). The Steering Committee is an informal group of members who get together to plan the general agendas for future meetings. All MPAFUG members are welcome to attend and participate in the meetings.

Our Web Page: <http://mpafug.org>

We invite you to visit our web page and even print a copy of this and the previous month's newsletter. We also have a surname section where you can see who is working on your family line. Members of MPAFUG have access to a members-only web page which contains past newsletters and handouts from our meetings.

Resources Available:

In addition to our monthly meetings and website, we offer 3 CD's that are available to members for purchase. CD's are \$5 each if picked up at a meeting, or an additional \$2.50 for shipping/handling. Contact Lynn Thrasher - MPAFUG Treasurer, PO Box 14222, West Allis, WI 53214-0222.

- ◆ MPAFUG Newsletters – December 1991 thru December 2013
- ◆ MPAFUG Handouts – 1999 thru 2013
- ◆ MPAFUG Utilities CD – contains 16 useful programs including PAF, Picasa, GenViewer, Open Office, Adobe Reader, PDA to Palm OS, FastStone, IRFAN Viewer/Plugins, FamilySearcher and more

Membership Information

Membership in MPAFUG is open to anyone interested in learning more about computer genealogy. Membership is \$12 per calendar year for an individual or family. Dues are \$6 for the balance of a year if you join after June 30th. To join, send a check made payable to "MPAFUG" to: Lynn Thrasher – MPAFUG Treasurer, PO Box 14222, West Allis, WI 53214-0222.

Questions about MPAFUG?

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