Genealogy Computer Society

GENEALOGY COMPUTER SOCIETY

Bytes & B ranches

The Other "Trail of Tears"

Most people are aware of the "Trail of Tears" when the Cherokee Indians were marched from Georgia to Oklahoma. When gold was discovered in the Dahlonega area it gave the gold seekers and early settlers reason enough not to honor our previous treaty with the Indians. 4,000 Indians died before reaching their destination.

The next "Trail of Tears" occurred during the Civil War. The "Roswell Women" worked in the cotton mills in Roswell, Georgia. When Sherman's goal was to make sure that Atlanta could no longer furnish any supplies to the Confederate Army, he made sure that these women and children would never help the southern cause. He ordered all of the mill workers to be sent north beyond the Ohio River. Many of them ended up in Indiana.

I wanted to know more about this episode of our local history. Ted Brooke suggested a book, North Across the River by Ruth Beaumont Cook. At about the same time, I was trying to find some new speakers for our meetings. Ruth Roeder suggested several possible speakers, but the first was a Roswell policeman named Michael Hitt. He is a genealogist and a historian. He was quoted many times in the book Ted had suggested.

Michael has agreed to meet with us on Saturday to share his knowledge with one condition. At this time (Tuesday morning 3:00 AM), he still does not known his son's band practice or soccer practice schedule. If it conflicts with our time, his priorities are with his son, as it should be. If we can't do it this Saturday, he will be with us at a later date. I'm sure we will all find him to be very interesting.

On March 10th, Karen Opps will talk about "Organizing your research."
On May 12th, Ruth Roeder will enlighten us on "Immigration and Emigration."
Join us and bring a friend.

How to Become a Smarter Computer Software User
by Glen Engels

Sorry if any of you were expecting anything profound, but all I have is a simple suggestion. Practically all Windows programs have something like an Options or Preferences or Customize field found from one of the tabs at the top of the screen. After you install a program and have used it for a little while, be sure to check this out. Try out some of the things. You'll probably learn something about the program and how to make better use of it. Here are some examples. My point here is not to identify these particular programs as anything special, but rather to point out that you'll probably find something useful with almost any program you have.

In Microsoft Word (I have '97), click on Tools / Options. The screen that pops up has about 10 different tabs that let you adjust things within the program. For exam-

Glen's Article Continued

ple, if you have an HP Printer, and you print a multi-page document, you may be used to finding the pages in reverse order when you get them off the tray. But from the Options window on the Print tab, there is a box called "Reverse print order". This will print the pages in reverse, which will leave them in the order you want! As another example, on the File menu in Word, down towards the bottom there is a list of the last few documents you edited. If you want to edit the same document again, instead of going through the "Open" dialog, you can just select the file here. The only problem is, by default only the last 4 documents show up. Do you want more documents to show up? Well, from the Options window on the General tab, there is a Recently used file list where you can bump up the number of entries.

In Netscape, click on Edit / Preferences. A screen pops up with a Windows Explorer type inter-face, where you can click on the "+" next to one of the Categories at the left to expand it out, and then click on the item itself to change the screen. Since I have covered Netscape at a couple of GCSGA meetings, I won't dwell on this, but as a simple example under the "Navigator" category (which comes up initially when you get into the Preferences window), you can change the Home page (i.e. the page that comes up when your browser first opens). If you use Internet Explorer (IE) instead, click on Tools / Internet Options. You have six different tabs to pick from.

In Family Tree Maker, click on File / Preferences, and then you have several things to choose from. I personally found very little in this case to change from the default value. But there are a few things to choose from - e.g. under Dates & Measures, if you want to see dates displayed as "23 Nov 2000" instead of "Nov 23, 2000" you can change it here.

Whatever programs you use, you will probably find them just a little more user-friendly after you have customized them a little. If you are paranoid about having a program do something unexpected - well just change one or two things at a time, and make a written note of what you changed. That way if you don't like it, you will know how to go back and undo it.

This is a short newsletter. My procrastination (excuse) was that a speaker had not accepted our invitation for this meeting. I was out of town all last week and did not get Michael telephone number until Saturday. He did not return my call until Sunday evening, but I really held out in hopes we could get him.

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