



Final Approach to Kerygma 4

Created using Terragen and processed in several graphics programs

CATCHPENNY

3

GAZETTE

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ROCKET SURGERY



editorial/column
by david burton

Tracing My Roots

A few years ago, when I was running my own software review site, I decided to take a look at some genealogy programs. I'd had a passing interest in tracking my own roots; in the mid-80s I gathered up all the information I could from relatives and started working on a family tree. Even the relatively limited amount of facts I could gather soon became difficult to handle using 3 x 5 cards and notebooks and the family tree I tried to construct

by taping multiple sheets of paper together – that sucker ended up covering most of my living room floor.

So I put all the information in a couple of boxes and stored it away with all the other things that I meant to get to Real Soon Now, and didn't give it much thought. As another decade or so flew by, a number of my relatives passed away and it slowly dawned on me that if I were going to get much-needed data from living relatives to work with, Real Soon Now had arrived.

After reviewing a couple of different programs to keep track of one's roots, I finally settled on PERSONAL ANCESTRAL FILE (PAF) from the Church of

Latter-Day Saints, otherwise known as the Mormons. While this may not be the *most* complete genealogy program available, it certainly does everything I need it to, and is pretty popular with amateur genealogists. It also has the advantage of being free.

After entering all the information I'd already gathered, I went in search of more. Contacting living relatives and asking them for any family tidbits they had was first on my list, and when I'd exhausted *those* sources, I was still looking for more. So I turned to online sites to see what they had to offer.

There are a couple of very large and complete Web sites dedicated to genealogy, both commercial and free. The one that I found most useful is CYNDI'S LIST (<http://www.cyndislist.com>). CYNDI'S LIST won't help you *directly* with your genealogical research, but contains links to over 230,000 genealogy-related sites that will – everything from general information and how-tos to software to online records to Web sites devoted to a single family is listed.

Since I live in a state where virtually none of my ancestors lived (or in many cases, which didn't

even *exist* as we know it now), acquiring source documentation (birth & death certificates, property records, church information and the like) first-hand has been virtually impossible. Certainly this *can* be done through regular mail, but it's slow and entails more expense than I'm able to handle at the moment. So I decided for the most part to “piggy-back” my own research on that already done by others. And the Internet is a *great* way to do this.

When I get involved with projects or hobbies like this, I have a habit of biting off more than I can probably chew, and genealogy was *no* exception. Since it was going to cost me virtually nothing except time, I decided to try and trace *all* my ancestors, direct and collateral. A direct ancestor is one related by blood; a collateral ancestor is one related by marriage. For example, my brother-in-law's family members are certainly not direct ancestors of mine, but I have traced his family back as far as I could, along with



associated spouses and children, to the tune of several hundred people. To date, my database contains information on almost 85,000 people; but of course this is just the tip of the iceberg. I have something like 2,000 people still to do even basic research on, and those of course will lead to *other* people...

I can trace my direct ancestry through my mother's family back 12 generations, to one John Gatchel, born abt. 1608 in West Monkton, Somerset, England – died 1694 in Marblehead, Massachusetts. Using collateral relatives, I can reach back to 2 AD, although this requires accepting quite a number of historically dubious northern European and Scandinavian “kings.” Using more historically verifiable people, going back to the 10th century is more realistic.

Trying to find *any* information about my father's family has been problematic. While I haven't had much trouble with my grandmother's family (although I haven't been able to go as far back as I'd like), my grandfather is an enigma. When I was growing up, I'd always been told that his family came from eastern Europe and sent him over here to live with some friends in Cleveland, Ohio – they

planned to follow when they could raise the money. Now as an adult I'm finding out that this probably wasn't the truth. The man he lived with, Anton Sackash, was a jeweler who made lengthy trips to Russia before the revolution. It seems now that my grandfather may have been the result of a dalliance Anton's wife Mary had when he was on one of his trips. My grandfather never had a birth certificate (which cause problems when he tried to collect Social Security!), and when he was 18 picked the surname Burton out of the Cleveland phone book.

At any rate, like many (if not most) folks of European descent, I can count much of the royalty and aristocracy as branches (or perhaps more accurately, *twigs*) on my family tree, especially those of England. Starting with Charlemagne (in spite of his piety, notorious for being busy in the boudoir, particularly with women he wasn't married to) through the emperors of the Holy Roman Empire, to William the Conqueror, to the Tudors and Plantagenets. Many of my ancestors seem to have picked the wrong side of numerous political disagreements, as their last residence is often listed as the “Tower of London,” where

headroom didn't seem to matter much in their accommodations. I also found it interesting that I'm related (through his brother) to the titular saint of my parish church, St. Edward the Confessor, last Anglo-Saxon king but one before the Norman Conquest.

What's really interested me, though, is finding that I have many Amish ancestors. Even before I started researching my genealogy I was interested in them, and finding so many in my family tree lead me to read even more deeply about them. It isn't surprising that there are Amish "in my woodpile" since for about 100 years my immediate family has come from Stark and Tuscarawas counties in Ohio – right next door to Holmes County, which has the second or third largest concentration of Amish in the country. Every summer when I was young we'd go to the Amish market at Hartville, Ohio, and I have vivid memories of sitting in a small, round horse barn in the stifling heat, surrounded by Amish men bidding on horses at an auction. While I have some theological quibbles about the Amish brand of Christianity, I *do* admire them for their steadfastness in living it out as they do.

While I continue to do my research, it isn't at nearly the pace it was when I first started. These days I'll putter with the database once or twice a month, instead of spending several hours each day working on it.

I do have a Web site devoted to my genealogy online, which has a link to the databases and a message board. If you're interested in checking it out, the URL is:

<http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.com/~davidaelred/index.htm>

From the Who'd a Thunk It? Dept.

From a jar of dry-roasted peanuts I bought the other day: "Allergy Information: Manufactured in a facility that processes peanuts."





Trouble in Paradise

by Ray Shaffer

ALL YOU REALLY NEED TO KNOW IS HARD TO RECALL

It's hard to believe that it's been 15 years since Robert Fulghum reminded us that all we really need to know to live safe, happy and fulfilling lives we learned in kindergarten. His book was so pure, so simple, so obvious-after-the-fact that mil-

lions of us smacked ourselves in the forehead and thot "Damn! I could have written that!" Probably nobody ever smacked themselves like that when *War And Peace* came out. Fulghum's point was that if adults remembered the simple things they learned in kindergarten, their lives would be bet-

ter. Things like ... share everything ... don't hit people ... put things back where you got them from ... clean your own mess ... wash your hands before eating ... flush ... and my favorite ... take a nap every day. I saw Fulghum on a recent teevee talk show, and he sez the 15th anniversary edition of his book has a lot of new stuff. That's good, because times change. Most kids learn all that flushing and washing-your-hands stuff in pre-school. By the time they get to kindergarten, they're taking calculus and pre-med. I haven't read the new book, but I assume it has relevant suggestions for today's realities such as ... don't hit people unless a uni-lateral pre-emptive strike is called for ... and ... put things back where you got them from, hopefully before your neighbor realizes that you took them.

I went to kindergarten in rural Ohio, so I don't think I learned everything I needed to know there. For instance, I learned to take care of cows & goats & pigs ... but that talent hasn't really come in handy in later life. Although the goat stuff did come into play later when I spent the last 17 years shearing Angora goats, a part-time, unheralded, no-demand-for snip-snip occupation.

Where I really learned all I need to know was working at Steven's Super Service gas station (high school years). I learned, for instance, that when a car full of Brando look-alikes pulls up in a clearly stolen car and demands gas ... you give it to them. I learned that working at a gas station two hours before school really sucks. I learned that you never "cool off" a hot engine block by spraying it with water after filling up the radiator. (That's a keeper.) I learned some philosophical things working at the station. I learned that cleaning bathrooms, especially after the boss has taken his morning constitutional, is nasty business. Any education you can get that will assure you can get a job that doesn't involve cleaning someone else's bathroom is worthwhile.

My boss knew he was teaching me things when I worked there. It would be just him and me opening the station in the morning. It would be pitch black. He'd stick a cigar in his mouth and start slowly eating it. By the time we put out the oil cans, swept the place, cleaned the bathrooms and everything else, the boss would have chewed the cigar down to just a stump. Then we'd sit

down just as the sun came up. The boss would light what was left of his cigar, take a drag, and say ... "Boy, go to school, Study hard, Don't be like me, working sunup to sundown." I heeded his advice, & have tried to avoid work whenever possible.

FIRST PLACE?

It seems like very time someone takes a poll nationally or launches a study, Hawaii and/or Honolulu gets the shaft. Like, in the local press I read recently where a new study showed that of the states with the best climate, Hawaii came in fourth or fifth behind Phoenix ... and Nutley, New Jersey. We suspect the competition had to be rigged because Phoenix doesn't have any climate. People there walk around in spacesuits. If they step out of the shade onto a sidewalk without protective clothing, I hear tell that they burst into flames. And there are always contests to determine which state has the best beaches ... and again, Hawaii mysteriously gets whacked. Deadwood, South Dakota apparently has the best beach in the country, followed by some place in Alaska.

Geezzz, Hawaii came in 43rd for best beaches, just behind Phoenix which doesn't even have an ocean nearby. (Phoenix apparently has some of kind of awesome public relations machine working for it.) The biggest insult, however, came from a poll of STATES WITH THE MOST INTERESTING YES INTROSPECTIVE SUNSHINE, in which Hawaii amazingly came in 52nd behind Angkor Wat and Machu Picchu. You rarely hear about those two states because they usually are vacationing in other parts of the world.

All of this whining is actually leading up to something. And that is ... wait, it's coming to me ... uh ... nope, it's gone. No, here it is: a new study has come out, and Ha-



waii actually came in first in one category and placed highly in others. Really! According to an FBI study, Hawaii has a higher occurrence of theft than any other US state. Now, you might ask, how can theft in Hawaii be higher than, say, New York, which has millions more people? The answer is that thieves here know how to apply themselves. (The answer actually is that the stats are based on number of thefts per 100,000 residents. Thank God for that handicapping system, or Hawaii might have been beaten out again by Machu Picchu.) So, yeah ... Hawaii is tops in theft, which might not seem like a great thing for a place that depends on tourism, but you take your victories where you can get them.

Hawaii also did extremely well in subcategories of theft. Fourth in auto-theft nationally, which is surprising because when you steal a car on an island, there's really no place to take it. Third in property crime, a difficult event because it entails things like kidnapping large tracts of land. Hiding a stolen car is tough, but try hiding a beach.

Hawaii didn't do so well in the violent crime category ... 46th in the nation for murder and negligent manslaughter. According to the FBI,

there were 1.9 homicides for every 100,000 residents. I'm not sure what happened to the .9 victim, but I suspect his prognosis is not good. But it's OK that Hawaiians suck in the violent crime competition. It's like losing in synchronized swimming in the Olympics ... a sport, by the way, which has provoked many homicidal tendencies among viewers. It's also an event that clearly would be more interesting with the inclusion of firearms. The FBI report doesn't even mention Phoenix, so I guess it isn't as cool as it thinks it is. At 123 degrees in the morning, how could it be? ▣

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From the **This Must be a Typo Dept.**

“Snails have teeth. They are arranged in rows along a snail's tongue and are used like a file to saw or slice through the snail's foot.” *INDIANA WEEKENDER*

Those buggers must really like escargot.



epistles

Black words by you/blue words by me

LLOYD PENNEY I remember how many of us used CB radio to communicate as we convoyed down to conventions. While the drivers drove, the passengers chatted via the CB. We drove local truckers up the wall, but at least we were moving out of their local area. We'd drive down Highway 401 on our way to the Detroit area...the 401 and US interstates were doing warp speed, and smaller highways were doing impulse. We'd start at Channel 42 (how fannish), and use 33, 24, 15 and 6 as backup channels.

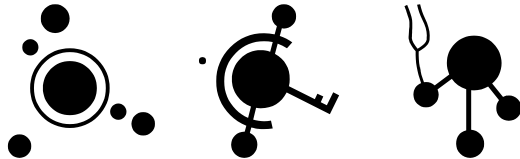
For the past couple of years I've been working as a delivery driver, which means that I need to keep my license in "good order" – no tickets or points. So I tend to drive no more than 10 mph over the speed limit.

Consequently, when I take one of the Interstates I'm passed by at least 75% of the other cars. I'm not exactly sure *where* they're going in such a hurry other than to the next four-lane parking lot caused by some other idiot who thought 30+ mph over the speed limit was "no problem." For that reason I tend to avoid Interstates whenever possible, preferring two-lane state highways that are largely untravelled and largely unpatrolled. And they have more interesting scenery.

I've done some typesetting, but mostly, it's been checking what the typesetter sets. I've worked for Sears Canada in the past on their catalogues, but now, I work for a company north of Toronto that produces the flyers for WalMart across Canada. Pretty good money,

too. Kinda makes up for the long commute. It will definitely help with the financial problems I described in my first loc. Did you ever have to use a Berthold ProfiPage typography system? I was trained in the use of that system at Sears. It was quite detailed, but was displaced by QuarkXPress fairly quickly.

It does seem that once PCs became powerful enough and the software competent enough, the dedicated systems went the way of the covered wagon. I know that once the Macs were in place in the last place I did typesetting, the Compugraphic 7500 became an expensive boat anchor. Likewise some of the fairly high-end dedicated graphics computers that I once trained on. DuPont's VASTER system included a CPU housed in a case literally the size of a refrigerator, and while at the time pretty competent, these days a PC running decent software can do much more.



“Crop Circles”

Gosh, I realize that digital zines (I *hate* the term “electronic” when applied to fanzines – nothing “electronic” here, although it’s certainly all digital!) tend to get fewer LoCs, but only *one* for issue #2 seems just a touch *light*...



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