



**Computer  
Genealogy  
Society**

**O F L O N G I S L A N D**

July 2006  
Newsletter

**Just a reminder, there will be no meetings during July and August.  
Have a great summer!**

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### ***At the June meeting...***

Member Walter Kehoe led a presentation on GEDCOMs. GEDCOM stands for Genealogical Data Communication. According to Cyndislist.com a GEDCOM is described as “a generic, database format designed to allow users to share family history database files between differing genealogy software programs.”

Walter demonstrated how to create a GEDCOM file using a wizard program on The Master Genealogist program. Without a wizard program, in most genealogy programs you can create a GEDCOM just by going to File and selecting Export and selecting Gedcom. He also showed how to open up a GEDCOM file by using Word or Wordpad. It opens as a text file. The beginning of the file is labeled Head and the end of the file is labeled TRLR. Once it is opened, you can make changes to it.

One reason you may want to create a GEDCOM file is to share it with others. You may want to email it to other relatives to share information or you may want to send your GEDCOM file to web sites such as [www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org), The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints web site, or to [www.rootsweb.com](http://www.rootsweb.com). Creating GEDCOMs are also helpful if you change genealogy programs. You can create GEDCOM files and then import your information into your new program.

More information about GEDCOMs, can be found at [www.cyndislist.com](http://www.cyndislist.com).

## **Best of the Web sites named by Family Tree Magazine**

The August issue of Family Tree Magazine, features its annual 101 Best Genealogy Web Sites.

They are divided into categories such as: foreign databases, state standouts, census records, history sites, photo finishers, and reader favorites.

To take a look at the sites go to:

[www.familytreemagazine.com/101sites/2006](http://www.familytreemagazine.com/101sites/2006)

On the left side of the page, you will see links to six previous 101 Best Web Sites listings.

## **Ancestry.com finishes indexing all census years**

At the end of June, an announcement was made that Ancestry.com has finished creating the every name index for the 1910 census. Now all census year can be searched on an individual name basis. Previously, the 1910 census could only be searched on head of household.

## **Maps added to grave locator site**

The Nationwide Gravesite Locator ([gravelocator.cem.va.gov](http://gravelocator.cem.va.gov)), administered by the Veterans Administration, has added a new online feature. After entering a veteran's name to search, click on the “Buried At” (burial location) link and a map of the national cemetery is displayed, showing the section where the grave is located. Also, added recently to its database are the cemeteries in which veterans were buried with VA grave markers. These are mostly in private cemeteries.