

# **FREWARE FOR FAMILY HISTORY:**

## **THE BEST THINGS IN LIFE ARE FREE**

©2015 Donald R. Snow -- RootsTech 2016, Salt Palace, Salt Lake City, Utah; Thurs 4 Feb 2016 3:00 PM and  
Fri 5 Feb 2016 3:00 PM -- This page last updated 2015-12-15.

These notes are online at Don's Family History Notes webpage <http://uvtagg.org/classes/dons/dons-classes.html> . Additional details and many other free programs are on my [SUPPLEMENTARY FREWARE FOR FAMILY HISTORY](#) notes and my FREEWARE CORNER articles there.

1. INSTRUCTORS are Donald R. Snow of Provo and St. George, Utah ([snowd@math.byu.edu](mailto:snowd@math.byu.edu)) and his daughter Linda Snow Westover of Orem, Utah ([linda.westover@gmail.com](mailto:linda.westover@gmail.com))
2. TERMS USED
  - A. "Freeware" refers to computer programs that you can use freely and give copies to anyone else; there are usually no "nag" screens.
  - B. "Shareware" refers to programs that you can try out and use and, if you like them and plan to use them regularly, you should send a specified small donation (usually \$5-\$10) to the author at the address in the program.
  - C. "Portable" means the program doesn't have to be installed on the computer, so it can be run from a flashdrive anywhere, e.g. on a computer at a FHC.
3. CAVEATS -- Be careful when downloading and installing freeware; read before clicking; don't normally use the "express", "standard", or "recommended" installation options since those frequently change your default programs and/or add bloatware to your computer system
4. HELPFUL INSTALLATION AND UPDATING PROGRAMS
  - A. Ninite -- <https://ninite.com/> -- you select the freeware you want and it sets up an installer for the whole collection so you don't have to do each program separately; will also check for updates for your programs
  - B. Glary Utilities -- <http://www.glarysoft.com/> -- includes a program to check for updates for all your installed programs and is a safe place to download the updates without getting viruses -- <http://www.filepuma.com/>
  - C. Portable Apps -- <http://sourceforge.net/projects/portableapps/> -- Put this program on a flashdrive and you can then run other programs from the flashdrive without having to install them on the computer, so they become portable for you to use anywhere, e.g. at a FHC
5. CATEGORIES OF FREWARE FOR FAMILY HISTORY -- See my [SUPPLEMENTARY FREWARE NOTES](#) for more than 70 free programs in these categories
  - A. Record Management Programs
  - B. Other Genealogy Programs and Databases
  - C. Computer Utilities
  - D. Graphics Programs
  - E. Sound and Video Programs
  - F. Text and Office Programs
6. CLASS TODAY -- will discuss five programs; more details are on my SUPPLEMENTARY FREWARE NOTES and my FREEWARE CORNER articles on my webpage -- <http://uvtagg.org/classes/dons/dons-classes.html> .
7. EVERYTHING -- program available from <http://www.voidtools.com/>
  - A. Very helpful to find and work with files anywhere on your computer, if you know anything in name of the file
  - B. Search syntax (See Help Menu): (space) = AND; | = OR; ! = NOT; < > = GROUPING; " " = EXACT PHRASE; Wildcards \* and ?
  - C. Can find, run, rename, delete, form shortcuts, find duplicates, organize -- Number in lower left corner is number of files found for that search criteria
  - D. Sort files found by name, date, size, path, etc. , by clicking in title field at top of column
  - E. Can highlight and drag-and-drop files to a folder on desktop or in Windows Explorer, Q-DIR, etc., to move them
8. Q-DIR -- available from <http://www.softwareok.com/> -- Download is in upper right corner -- FAQ's at <http://softwareok.com/?seite=faq-Q-DIR&faq=0>
  - A. File maintenance program with to four Windows Explorer-type panels in various configurations

- B. Each panel can be set differently to sort the files by title, size, type, date; can then run, move, delete, rename, copy, and organize files
- C. Can drag and drop files between panels, do searches for files, make listing of file names in a folder, and much more
- D. Q-DIR is also portable, so it can be run from a flashdrive without installation on the computer, e.g. run it from a flashdrive at a FHC
- 9. PDF-XChange Editor -- available from <http://www.tracker-software.com/product/pdf-xchange-editor>
  - A. Older version was called PDF-XChange Viewer and is also still available; both are free for private use
  - B. Freeware reader and editor for pdf's with many features including extracting and inserting pages, filling out pdf forms, rotating images, posting "sticky notes" on the pdf, etc.; free version does not include merging pdf's, but there are other freeware programs that will do that
  - C. Has OCR (Optical Character Recognition) for pdf's that will OCR entire books, e.g. can OCR a pdf book downloaded from Google Books
- 10. GOOGLE DOCS -- available from <https://www.google.com> -- use your (free) Google account in any browser, but works best in Chrome
  - A. To set it up go to Google > Apps (3x3 square of dots in upper right corner) > Docs and sign in with your Google account -- if you have a Gmail address you already have a Google account
  - B. Can write, edit, save, and share documents online; available to you through your Google account on any computer connected to the Internet
  - C. Stores your files on Google Drive along with whatever else you have stored there
  - D. Includes programs to handle text files ("docs"), presentations ("slides"), and spreadsheets ("sheets"); if using the Chrome browser, download the extension "Office Editing for Docs, Sheets, and Slides" to edit documents
  - E. Can work with others on the same document and everyone sees all the changes made by everyone in real time with the changes labeled by who made them
  - F. To share a document you send others an email with the link
  - G. Also has a Calendar program you can edit and other calendars you might want to see
- 11. OURTIMELINES.COM -- website online at <http://www.ourtimelines.com/>
  - A. To start go to bottom of home page and click Click Here; you enter the name, birth, and death years, and it generates beautiful color-bar timelines of world events during the person's lifetime -- time period is from 1000 AD to present year
  - B. Color coding shows the type of event, e.g. technology, disaster, personal historical, etc., and underlined events are links to further info about that event; numbers in parentheses are the person's age at that event
  - C. Can enter up to 10 Personal Events for the person, e.g. birth, marriage, military service, etc. -- by including death year on a Personal Event such as Marriage, it generates a color bar over their lifetime and not just as an event in the marriage year
  - D. Shows person's age at the event date, but depending on when the person was born during the year personal events may be computed to be at the wrong age, e.g. for Joseph Smith, since he was born in Dec 1805, it computes his age at First Vision (Spring of 1820), as occurring when he was 15, instead of 14.
  - E. Website also has additional features such as famous people born that year and famous people born on that birthday, regardless of year
  - F. Can save the colorful timeline in various ways, e.g. save the html file (right click and save page) or do a screenshot of it and save it as a pdf; there are helps on the About page on the website for saving in html; some screen capture programs will save the entire scrolling window, e.g. the freeware program FastStone Capture 5.3, but only on some browsers such as Opera and Windows Explorer
  - G. Gives you ideas of further things to check for the person, e.g. Was there a war that he might have served in military for? Were there natural disasters that might have affected him or her?
- 12. CONCLUSIONS
  - A. These are only five of many freeware programs and websites; see Don's [SUPPLEMENTARY FREEWARE NOTES](#) and FREEWARE CORNER articles on <http://uvtagg.org/classes/dons/dons-classes.html> for more details and other programs.
  - B. Get the vision of what can be done and then, when you need it, go back and look up the details of the program.