



Sorting it out

Dear Myrtle & Sam,

The cartoon (above) was in our local newspaper recently. I'm not fond of cartoons but this one had me smiling from ear to ear. "That's me!" I mused.

I have been totally awash in a sea of paperwork; time to begin "sorting it out." Computers and genealogy are great hobbies but they generate an awful lot of paper! Hundreds of wonderful people--and organizations--have contributed to my mounting stacks of information. (God bless them--and keep the data coming!)

Four computer classes at the local college (in '88) cut into my genealogy time. It's become a pleasant habit so I plan to continue with at least one class per semester.

Last fall, in an effort to organize my genealogy, I purchased a computer program that is a "data manager." Several months went by before I installed the program--I forced myself to work on class assignments and study for finals. I'm just beginning to learn the software--and "file" information. What a blessing! While the computer helps me "sort it out" I'm finding photocopied articles and data that I forgot I had.

Learning one new software program is interesting; learning two new software programs is a challenge! My newest purchase is a sophisticated genealogy software program that will create a book from Table of Contents to Index. It has numerous features that are yet unfamiliar to me. I spend hours figuring out how to do "this or that."

Originally I thought I could "export" my genealogy from one program to another. However, I'm faced with retyping all the information. That, too, is a blessing. Now I'm taking a microscopic look at the data and recording the sources. To this day, I can't tell a fellow researcher where I acquired various bits of the compiled data. For the record: I won't be rekeying all 5500 names from the other genealogy program. Just those families that will be a part of my FRANTZ and SHOWALTER books. Nor will I abandon the genealogy software program that has served me faithfully for several years.

Mar 15, 1989

Dear Myrtle and Sam

Just a note to "touch base." It has been ages since I heard from you. I hope you aren't mad because I haven't been down.

I'm taking the "Desktop Publishing" class again. Wednesday night from 5-11 p.m.!! I love it, even though it makes a long day.

My current project is The La Verne Cemetery. I have just over 1900 names in the computer — and I have two "cemetery" files. One is the plot plan and the other is alphabetized. Lots of work but gratifying. The story is enclosed re: the circumstances leading to the project.

My "cousin" Louise has a Traxler listed in her Sarick book.

Lewis Peter Sarick b 3 Oct 1855
b Wyandot, OH d 20 Jan 1941

m. 31 Mar 1881

Mary Eliz. "May" Traxler
b. 29 Oct 1859 Nevada, OH

Did you iron out all the wrinkles with FHS? Are you mastering the other computer peculiarities? I hope so!! I, too, have a lot to learn with my two new programs at home — and several new programs on the Macintosh at class. Have to learn WordPerfect 5.0 too because Louise just bought that for our cemetery book. WP 5.0 has desktop pub; my 4.1 does not.

use well, number in a computer use. Let love, foraine a postcard will do.