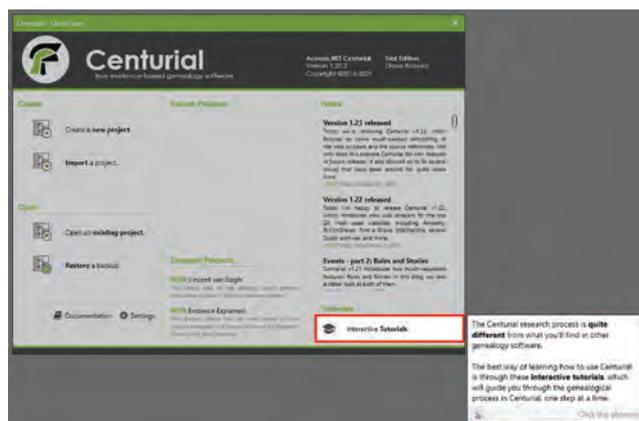# Centurial
Diane L. Richard looks at an evidence-based application to create family trees

Centurial, *www.centurial.net/en*, describes itself as an evidence-based approach to establishing genealogy trees as "the genealogist starts off by entering the information as found in a source. It's only later in the process that this extracted information is correlated into a single family tree, automatically drawing conclusions from the available evidence", versus what the creator calls the "conclusion-based" software in use by most genealogists which "allows the genealogist to create a family tree by entering data about persons and relationships. Most of them also allow the genealogist to enter a line or two about the source of the information." As we know, for the latter, the software does not provide "critical thinking" aspects to help ensure that the information you are entering is accurate and substantial, nor that the correct conclusions are drawn.

Intrigued? Then, please give it a spin using the free trial option. Once you download the software (see comment below about the free trial option), explore the provided tutorial, which will pop up on the software's main navigation panel (see lower left "Interactive Tutorials"). It will guide you on establishing a project and then use Vincent Van Gogh as the subject for the included activities/exercises. This tutorial is one of the best tutorials I have ever seen. It is interactive–you don't just look at screenshots as you walk through various steps and scenarios; you have to insert text, click on options, and more. It is also easy to use, and the provided directions are very clear. As it guides you through the tutorial, you experience exactly what you will do for your own project(s).

I also appreciated the extensive options for "type of source," even including "personal knowledge" under the research category. Though the focus is for our genealogies to be based on documents and unmistakable evidence, we do sometimes have personal knowledge due to direct interactions with the target individual or via family stories and lore–don't discount the latter. Though family stories and lore might contain inaccuracies, there are often "elements of truth" which

This shows you the main software navigation or start point page with the "Interactive Tutorials" option highlighted in the lower right. I strongly suggest you take the time to explore these tutorials.

we need to be cautious in preemptively discarding! By explicitly including this information, I think it also makes the collected data more comprehensive and eliminates the possibility that you overlooked something. After all, as the Genealogical Proof Standard states, we do want to be "reasonably exhaustive" in our research.