



Scanning Personal Genealogy Records

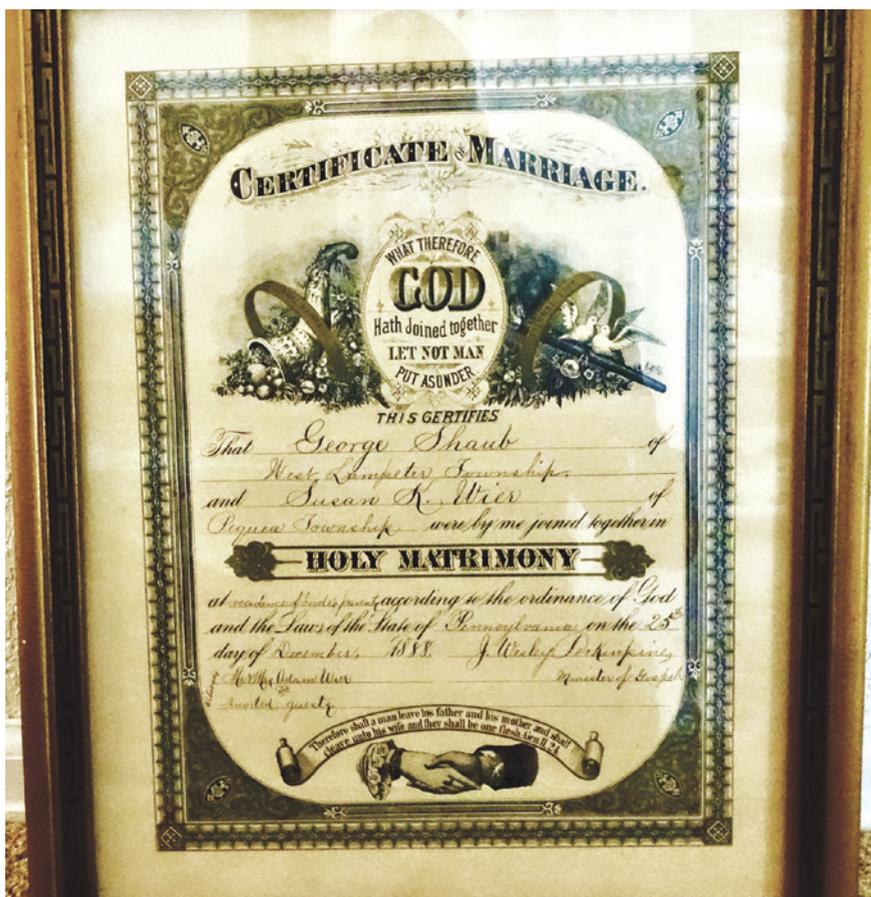
Ed Storey suggests using simple thumb drives to store your valuable family history data

GENEALOGY CAN BE A LONG-TERM ACTIVITY. OVER THE YEARS, we tend to accumulate a lot of photos, as well as copies of documents. When we started, we probably did not realize the extent to which the collection would grow. As a result, many people have a combination of binders as well as folders in drawers. During this same time, computer capability has improved considerably. Finally, our living arrangements change every few years; not always providing more space for our collection.

to do it economically and successfully. We all, secretly, would like to pass on our efforts when the time comes. A little effort now will make that much easier.

First, we have all been unable to find some document we once filed somewhere. Repeated forays into folders or notebooks, might result in tears or misplacement of a record. If we are lucky, it might eventually be found, but it could have fallen out or been torn beyond use. This is especially true if we live in places of higher humidity as it can cause the paper to deteriorate. There could also be documents, like maps that could be oversize or photos that are small enough to hide from view.

Storing the documents on a thumb drive has several indirect advantages as well. The drives are small enough that they are easily stored. In fact, a couple of copies allow one to be placed in a safe deposit box or left with a trusted relative. Canada has had both fires in the west and flooding in the east that could put the copies in peril. I have had common descendants ask for a copy of some records and a thumb drive is an easy way to share multiple files. There are limits to what can be attached to an email. Sending a thumb drive is an alternative with fewer limitations. If you are making the recipient a drive, you can send the whole set of genealogy files.



The original document is securely framed for protection, but it is hard to file with other documents.

Here, we will talk a little about the benefits of digitizing the collection and storing it on a thumb drive, or multiple thumb drives. We will first go through the benefits of digitizing the documents, and then discuss how