



Liz Kelley Kerstens, CG, CGL
editor@digitalgenealogist.com

Do you Web 2.0?

In my other life, I am the executive director of the [Plymouth Historical Museum](#) (PHM). This job, which I have had for fifteen months now, is the most rewarding and fun employment that I have had in my working years. In conjunction with that job, I had the opportunity to spend the last week in Denver attending the annual conference of the [American Association of Museums](#). Wow, my head hurts!

I've been attending genealogy conferences for about twenty-one years now. Before I started vending, I used to be able to attend the sessions and expand my mind on genealogical topics. I don't get that opportunity any more, unfortunately. So I was unprepared for the brain-numbing aspects of attending sessions for four days straight.

Because one of my goals at the PHM is to incorporate technology and interactivity into our exhibits and Web site, I chose to attend most of the media and technology sessions at the conference. They talked about some pretty cool stuff, most of which I should have been familiar with as editor of this magazine. However, I have to admit because I am pulled in about a dozen directions in any given day, I don't have a lot of time to explore new technologies, even though Drew Smith is usually right on top of the latest craze. So, even though I've heard about [Web 2.0](#), [Second Life](#), [MySpace](#), and other social networking sites, I didn't have a clue how they could be of any benefit to me.

Now I do. My mind is filled with so many ideas that I took the precaution of writing down notes and ideas as they occurred to me, because I know what happens when I don't. One of the first items on my agenda is to create a tour of the Plymouth, Michigan, area using [Google Earth](#) and images from the Museum's collection. That tour will be posted on the Museum's Web site as soon as it's ready. Be sure to check it out in the near future (provided I can figure out how to do this myself).

Museums are learning that they have to be technology-savvy if they want to attract the attention of Generations X, Y, and Z. But that doesn't just apply to museums, does it? Family historians need to be thinking of the future and how they're going to interest their descendants in something that doesn't have flashy graphics, move fast, or talk back to them. And we need to figure out how to do this without compromising all of the standards of research and documentation that we've come to know and love. Let's start that dialogue. Send me your ideas about incorporating genealogy with Web 2.0.

Goodbye and hello

I'd like to thank Craig Roberts Scott, CG, for the hours that he devoted to proofing issues of *Digital Genealogist* since its inception. Craig has to move on and he will be missed.

Richard Aurand Sherer, a frequent contributor to *DG*, starts as a proofreader with this issue of the magazine. Welcome, Richard, your journalistic skills are appreciated! **DG**