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Claudius Stanton in 1918



**Claudius Stanton**  
1893-1946

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
THIRTEENTH CENSUS OF POPULATION

NAME	SEX	AGE	DATE OF BIRTH	PLACE OF BIRTH	ETHNIC OR RACIAL ORIGIN	EDUCATION	INDUSTRY	INDUSTRY	INDUSTRY
Claudius Stanton	M	25	1893	Utah					

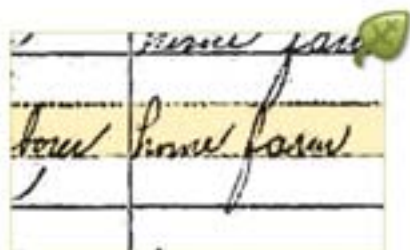
REGISTRATION CARD # 38  
Name: Claudius Stanton 28  
Signature: [Handwritten Signature]  
December 10<sup>th</sup> 1918  
National Home Admin  
Utah U.S.A.

# HOW A FARM BOY BECAME A HERO TO HIS COUNTRY.

Three records can tell so much about one life.

According to the U.S. Federal Census, Claudius Stanton was just a 16-year-old American farm boy back in 1910. But Claudius was no ordinary farm boy.

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Claudius in the 1910 U.S. Census



His World War I draft registration card



His World War II draft registration card

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## Two Great Conferences!

We recently attended the Ohio Genealogical Society Conference at the Hyatt on Capitol Square in Columbus in early April. The organizers did a great job with the location and the program, and the attendance was higher than expected (always nice to see that!). From the conversations I had with many of the attendees, they were pleased with the variety and quality of the presentations and speakers. Congratulations to the organizers on a job well done!

Our next stop on the Spring conference circuit was the NewEngland Regional Genealogy Conference (NERGC) held cooperatively at the Sheraton Springfield Monarch Place Hotel and Marriott Springfield Hotel in downtown

Springfield, MA. This proved to be another winner of an event with an attendance of about 900. Well done! Check out Dick Eastman's full wrap-up of the event at [http://blog.eogn.com/eastmans\\_online\\_genealogy/2011/04/nergc-2011-wrap-up.html](http://blog.eogn.com/eastmans_online_genealogy/2011/04/nergc-2011-wrap-up.html). The next NERGC will be in Manchester, NH in April 2013. We hope to see you there! Next stop for us is the NGS 2011 Conference in Charleston, SC. If you plan to be there, drop by and say hi!



The busy vendor hall at the Hyatt on Capitol Square in Columbus.



Left to right: Ed Zapletal, Leslie Albrecht Huber, and Rick Cree at Leslie's book signing for *The Journey Takers*.

## APPEAL FOR SUBMISSIONS

We are in the early stages of planning a new book, a follow-up to our successful *Brickwall Solutions* series. Tentatively titled *Internet Brickwall Solutions*, we want to hear how you overcame your brickwall using the World Wide Web! Was it an obscure online database? A posting on an online message board? An old photograph you identified using a fantastic website you discovered? Whatever it is, we want to know about it!

Please e-mail your submissions (Word document or RTF file) to [brickwalls@internet-genealogy.com](mailto:brickwalls@internet-genealogy.com). Please limit your submission to no more than 500 words, and include images (200 dpi or higher) as a separate email JPEG attachment, with caption details.

Please include your name, address and telephone number. Each submission used will receive one free copy of the book upon publication. Please note that, at this time, we do not have a publication date. Thanks for your help!

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# Google's Archives: News You Can Use

GOOGLE HAS BECOME A favorite “go to” tool for genealogists. But beyond vanity searches and plugging a surname and hometown into the search box, there are a number of other features of this Internet giant that can provide valuable information about an ancestor. This article will discuss five ways to find ancestors using the Google News Archive.

## GETTING STARTED

The News Archive program is part of Google News, <http://news.google.com>, in which Google partners with publishers and repositories to bring historical newspaper archives online. Using the search function provides an easy way to search and explore millions of articles of historical value, which contains both free and pay-for-access content. For more information, visit the “Frequently Asked Questions” page at <http://news.google.com/archivesearch/partner.html>. There are several ways to access the Google News Archive. The easiest is to Google it! In other words, search for it by name: “Google News Archive.” It will typically appear as the first result, with other related entries also appearing close to the top. You may find these other hits worth a look for additional information. (This tip applies to getting to other lesser-known features of Google as well.) You can also type in the specific URLs for accessing either the news archive or news timeline, <http://news.google.com/archivesearch> and <http://newstimeline.googlelabs.com>. You can then bookmark these URLs or add them to your favorites (depending on your browser). In order to see currently included newspapers, simply go to <http://news.google.com/newspapers> (titles are categorized alphabetically).

To get the most out of your

searches on News archive, you can add “operators” that fine-tune your search terms. There are three

to easily select a particular time period you’re interested in). There are other additional operators you

Search results for “Andrew Carnegie” with a specified date range of 1890-1920.

major operators for News archive search: Date Restrict (lets you specify a time period for a specific event by entering the date as a year, month and year, or particular day); Source Restrict (to search for information from a particular publication or information provider); and Price Restrict (no price or all prices). For example, if I was searching for information on Andrew Carnegie, I could date restrict the search to between 1890 and 1920; I could further restrict it to articles just from the “Pittsburg Press”. When the results are returned, you also see a handy clickable timeline (this helps you

can use just as you would with Google Web search (“+”, “-”, “site:”, and more) to further restrict your searches. For more information, see: <http://news.google.com/archivesearch/refinesearch.html#date>. Keep in mind that many digitized newspapers are made searchable using OCR (Optical Character Recognition) — a technology that’s far from perfect, and may actually hinder your attempts at locating key information. Search features will vary by newspaper archive. You should plan on spending some time trying out different search terms and opera-

## Google News Archive

tors to maximize your search and obtain the best potential results.

### FIVE WAYS TO FIND YOUR ANCESTORS

There's a wealth of information waiting for you in the Google News Archive. Here are five types of information you can search for.

#### 1. Records of major life events.

This can include obituaries, marriage or birth announcements, and more. While it's often difficult to find exact names in digitized newspapers due to issues with OCR technology, and issues with the way names appear in print (for example, names can be misspelled or perhaps a nickname or initials were used), sometimes searching on surname only can turn up interesting results. If you have a common surname (e.g., Smith, Jones, etc.), a surname only will net too many results to sift through, but if you have an unusual surname, a search for a last name may net you success. For common surnames, try adding a location, or other unique facts. You may not find your direct ancestor, but could discover other relatives who lived in the same place. If a surname only search turns up too many results, add other identifying facts such as a location. By searching for "Alzo", I found obituaries for a number of my Alzo relatives, and other tidbits about more family members. Adding a location of "Duquesne" narrows the results further. Also, when I search for common keywords (e.g., marriage" or "obituary"), I make it a point to search on variations (e.g., "wedding announcement", "wedding bans"; "deaths" or "death notices".) too.

### ADDITIONAL RESOURCES FOR USING GOOGLE NEWS

- "Getting More from Google," by Lisa A. Alzo, *Internet Genealogy*, May 2010.
- "Google 2010: The Hits Just Keep on Comin'!" by Daniel M. Lynch, *Family Chronicle*, May/June 2010
- *Google Your Family Tree*, by Daniel M. Lynch, 2008, FamilyLink.

#### 2. Financial and occupational history.

Check old newspapers for any articles related to an ancestor's occupation, or if he ran a business, scope out the advertisements to see if you can find any clues in them. Both of my grandfathers were steelworkers in Andrew Carnegie's steel mill in Duquesne, Pennsylvania. I have used Google News to find articles related to the steel industry, steel strikes and

locate your ancestor in notices or articles just by doing a search on the surname. Try adding an address (e.g., 10 Linden Street). Remember to use variations as well: 10 Linden St., 10 linden street, 10 linden st. 10 Linden, Ten Linden Street, etc.

#### 3. Historical happenings.

Find unlimited articles about world events-wars, disasters, labor strikes, etc. (e.g., San Francisco Earthquake; Steel Strike of 1919, etc.), which may have influenced your ancestors' lives or impacted their personal decisions. Check for social events too. Perhaps your ancestor made the news for being a star athlete, a 4-H fair prize winner, performer, or some other notable accomplishment. A search for my father turned up a 1941 news item from the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* men-



Researchers can use the Google News Archives to locate articles about a particular topic, such as the Steel industry. This screenshot is of a front-page article in the Monday, 11 August 1919, edition of *The Pittsburgh Press*, announcing the death of steel mogul Andrew Carnegie.

other topics to learn more about my grandfathers' jobs and the working conditions they endured. You may find articles related to an ancestor's financial status (buying land, sheriff sales, bankruptcy notices, etc.). When doing your search, note that last names can often be misread in OCR technology, so you may not be able to

tioning him as a player for the Duquesne High School basketball team. Keep in mind that just because a newspaper has been digitized, you may have more success finding content by simply browsing the newspaper page by page (in fact, I often browse the entire issue just to make sure I don't miss anything). If you're

looking for a particular event (marriage, death, military service, etc.), and you have a date and location, you can use the <http://news.google.com/newspapers> link to go to a particular newspaper and see if there is an edition near the day, month and year you're interested in and start scrolling through the pages. Be sure to check several days in either direction so you don't miss anything. For example, when searching for obituaries and funeral notices, you may find them listed as soon as the next day after the death, or as far out as several weeks after.

**4. Criminals, scoundrels and rogues.**

If your ancestor happened to land on the wrong side of the law or perhaps committed some newsworthy indiscretion, you're likely to find some mention of him or her in the press. The printed newspapers were the "Inside Edition" or "National Enquirer" of their day. Look for news stories, jail lists, confessions, and court reports, and in the classifieds for lists of "wanted" individuals. Keep an eye out for relatives' names in a coroner's press report, witness lists and any documents from trials or court proceedings that made the headlines. I found several obituaries that were really news stories discussing the "murder" of a cousin on my father's side of the family.

**5. Community events.**

If you're using the technique of "cluster genealogy" — researching relatives, friends, neighbors and associates of your ancestor, you may find articles about particular immigrant groups, or employer-sponsored events, fraternal benefit organizations or social clubs your ancestor participated in. Apply the "cluster" principle to your searches. If you're getting too many hits because you're searching for a common surname, try the search again using a combination of given (first) names of other family members, relatives, neighbors, etc. For example, if you're searching for a death notice or obituary, try adding the first names of an



By searching Google News Archive on "Alzo" and "Duquesne", the author located this 1941 newspaper article mentioning her father as a player on the Duquesne High School basketball team

ancestor's parents, children, or spouse along with his or her name. Again, the less common the name, the better chances you'll have getting some useful hits. Cast a wider net than just your ancestor and you may find some interesting and unexpected results.

**CONCLUSION**

The Google News Archive is just one place to find historic newspapers online. There are many other subscription and free sites you can, and should, utilize. For a list, see the November 2006 and November 2010 issues of *Internet Genealogy*. You can purchase online editions of these and other back issues at [www.internet-genealogy.com/online\\_backissue.htm](http://www.internet-genealogy.com/online_backissue.htm). Take some time to explore the Google News Archive. I think you'll be pleasantly surprised to find out just how much "news you can use" for your genealogical research.

Author, Instructor and lecturer, Lisa A. Alzo, is a regular contributor to Family Chronicle and Internet Genealogy.

# Family History Centers: Visited One Lately?

I AM WRITING THIS AS I once again spent part of today at my local Family History Center (FHC). I don't get there as often as I used to and I really should get there and use its resources more! And, when I mention about using microfilm at an FHC, I am often greeted with a blank stare. I find that there are so many genealogy researchers, whether beginners or more advanced researchers, who are not aware of and/or have yet to make use of renting and viewing microfilmed records at their local FHC. You might be doing your research a disservice by overlooking this affordable (it typically costs about \$5.50 USD to rent a microfilm) means of gaining access to microfilmed copies of original records.

I first visited a Family History Center back in 1988 — in the wilds of New Jersey. One evening, every week or so, I would trek “over the hills and through the woods” to do this thing called genealogy, leaving my husband to entertain himself back at our apartment.

This was the place where I rented all the microfilms for the Ylistaro Parish Church, Vaasa Province, Finland (and many for the nearby Soini Parish). Using my rudimentary Finnish word guides and related word lists, I learned all about my Kujanpaa, aka Lammi, ancestors back to the time when the Parish was founded and the

Page	Name	Date	Other
1	Anders Mattsson	1754	W W W
2	Anders Mattsson	1754	W W
1	Anders Mattsson	1758	W W W
2	Anders Mattsson	1755	W W W
1	Anders Mattsson	1762	W W W
2	Anders Mattsson	1769	W W W
11	Anders Mattsson	1770	W W W
2	Anders Mattsson	1775	W W
1	Anders Mattsson	1791	W
2	Anders Mattsson	1791	W
1	Anders Mattsson	1791	W W W
2	Anders Mattsson	1791	W W W
1	Anders Mattsson	1795	W W W
2	Anders Mattsson	1797	W W
1	Anders Mattsson	1795	W W W
2	Anders Mattsson	1796	W
1	Anders Mattsson	1796	W
2	Anders Mattsson	1796	W
1	Anders Mattsson	1799	W W
2	Anders Mattsson	1798	W W
1	Anders Mattsson	1798	W W W
2	Anders Mattsson	1794	W W W
1	Anders Mattsson	1778	W W W
2	Anders Mattsson	1799	W W W
1	Anders Mattsson	1759	W W
2	Anders Mattsson	1779	W W W
1	Anders Mattsson	1781	W W W
2	Anders Mattsson	1782	W W W
1	Anders Mattsson	1784	W W W

One of the first records that the author explored at an FHC in New Jersey in the late '80s — a 1792 Communion Book For Ylistaro Parish, Finland.

first ancestor was in the area. I looked into baptism, marriage and burial records, “moving in and out” records, communion records, census records and whatever records made sense to me at the time — all written in Finnish or Swedish. This initial, slow-going and yet satisfying research was validated when, many years later, by the early 2000s, many Parish records were transcribed, and I was able to verify my findings and

add in a few missing family members. This article contains two such images of early documents, though these were not consulted for a few more years, since all my initial research were handwritten transcriptions of the microfilmed records — there was no way to make copies at the time.

These, and many more finds like these, sparked a love affair with renting microfilm of original records from Family History Centers.

With the increased digitizing of records becoming available via FamilySearch Labs, commercial service websites and elsewhere, it has become easier for people to “decide to just sit back and wait until the records they need are digitized.” Not to be too blunt, but I’m not counting on that necessarily happening in my lifetime (there are some records that won’t ever be digitized). Also, many

projects that I am working on for clients (or myself) need to be done sometime this year and not “down the road”. And finally, for some projects, it is not possible to gain access to records unless you live locally — with budget shortfalls, many local libraries, government repositories and genealogy/history societies are not able to provide any support to genealogy researchers, even when you offer to pay!

*Admitterade år 1869*

By	Parson Namn	Födelse år	3 Ark	4 Ark	Luthers Kyrkans Kyrkostyrelse	Spörs mål	Stat mål
	<i>Flickor</i>						
<i>Kuusikangas</i>	<i>Lappi Anna Lena Maria</i>	<i>2/1851</i>	<i>Y</i>	<i>Y</i>	<i>YYY</i>	<i>Y6</i>	
	<i>Pontinen Lena Erikdotter</i>	<i>9/12/1853</i>	<i>X</i>	<i>Y</i>	<i>YYY</i>	<i>Y6</i>	<i>7</i>
	<i>Pohjasmäki Maja Kristina Erikdotter</i>	<i>22/7/1852</i>	<i>X</i>	<i>Y</i>	<i>XXX</i>	<i>Y6</i>	<i>7</i>
	<i>Nurminen Lisa Johansdotter</i>	<i>29/4/1852</i>	<i>Y</i>	<i>Y</i>	<i>YYY</i>	<i>Y6</i>	
	<i>Nieminen Lena Maria</i>	<i>16/8/1859</i>	<i>Y</i>	<i>Y</i>	<i>YYY</i>	<i>Y6</i>	

Another early record found: An 1869 Baptism for Anna Lena, Soini Parish, Finland.

So, if I am in a position to wait a little bit, and there is microfilm available via a FHC, I will often choose that option over hiring a local professional, though, depending on the circumstances, I will sometimes hire a local researcher instead. This means, if I cannot get to the records, I arrange for them to be “brought” to me at my local FHC. This year, I have looked at microfilms for Croatian Parish Records in advance of a client’s trip to Croatia, where it was hoped that the research could be advanced — specifically, I looked at metrical books (births, marriages, deaths) for the Roman Catholic congregation at Jaszka, Kroatien, Austria; later Jastrebarsko (aka Jaska), Zágráb, Hungary; now Jastrebarsko, Croatia (Text in Latin and Serbo-Croatian), and identified some relevant baptism records.

Besides the Croatian records mentioned above, I have also “rented” various indexes for Patterson, (Passaic County) NJ records and just today, Munsala Parish Baptism Records, Vaasa Province, Finland (though many Finnish Parish records have been transcribed and are online — not ALL records are available — in this case, the records of interest were not old enough to be part of the HisKi transcription project, <http://hiski.genealogia.fi/historia/indexe.htm>. Again, I identified a relevant

baptism and then used the records to learn more about siblings and parents.

In the past, besides extensive collections of Finnish records, I have also looked into documents written in German about what was Galicia at the time my ancestors emigrated — trying to learn about Pietrusza Wola and Deszno.

Though it is tempting to view such a low-tech means of accessing information as unnecessary in the digital age, it is just as important as always. The Internet does not have all the answers! One cannot necessarily travel to where the original records are held! Nor, can one necessarily get local assistance to view extant records. At an FHC,

**A BIT SCARED OF LOOKING INTO NON-ENGLISH RECORDS?**

You have probably noticed that many of the records that I have accessed are NOT available in English — this does not mean that you cannot look at US, UK and other records in English — it just happens that many of the projects where I am really stumped to access original records just end up being for non-English speaking countries!

For many of us, our research can sometimes quickly take us to the records for other countries, which will be written in their native tongue or possibly Latin. This can be intimidating and the perceived language barrier may cause us to pause (permanently) in our research. I have found that with a little preparation and a sense of adventure, non-English records do not have to defeat us. Many parish records were printed in

columnar books (handwritten or pre-printed) where you can fairly easily identify dates, places, forenames, surnames, etc., — enough to determine most of what is being conveyed as far as baptisms, marriages and deaths.

FamilySearch has produced a series of Research Helps, [www.familysearch.org/eng/search/RG/frameset\\_rhelps.asp](http://www.familysearch.org/eng/search/RG/frameset_rhelps.asp), which I have used for Finnish, German and Swedish Genealogical Word Lists — these can be downloaded in .PDF. If you do not find an appropriate word list, a general internet search will reveal helpful guides — for the Serbo-Croatian documents, I made use of resources on this website, Croatia-in-English.com, [www.croatia-in-english.com/gen/](http://www.croatia-in-english.com/gen/).

## Family History Centers

you still can see microfilms of original documents, which are invaluable to one's research.

For example, for the Munsala Parish (Finnish) records, I had been in touch with a nearby Parish, Oravais (using an amalgam of English and Finnish and then English and Swedish, it ends up being a Swedish-language parish where other parishes in the Vaasa Province are Finnish-language, learned the name of the Parish Clerk for Munsala and tried to contact, writing in Swedish, said person several times. I also asked the Oravais Parish Clerk to intervene on my behalf. I was told that genealogical research is only accommodated when time permits and is not a priority for the Parish Clerk (even as a paid service). After about six months and no successful contact with the local Parish clerk, it made sense to pursue records that I knew had been microfilmed — my so-called "Plan B." The day that I first viewed the ordered microfilm, I found the baptism entry for the bride listed in this marriage record.

### ADDITIONAL INFO

- Locate Family History Centers [www.familysearch.org/Eng/Library/FHC/frameset\\_FHC.asp](http://www.familysearch.org/Eng/Library/FHC/frameset_FHC.asp)
- Checkout Catalog [www.familysearch.org/eng/Library/FHLC/frameset\\_fhlc.asp](http://www.familysearch.org/eng/Library/FHLC/frameset_fhlc.asp)
- Don't Have Ready Access to an FHC or Just Need a Few Pages Copied? It is possible to make a "Request for Photocopies" of Census Records, Books, Microfilm or Microfiche if you have precise reference information and use this form, [www.familysearch.org/Eng/Search/RG/images/FReqMicrofilm.pdf](http://www.familysearch.org/Eng/Search/RG/images/FReqMicrofilm.pdf)

7.10.1866

*Oravais församling  
bondes:n, ungd. Jakob Isaksson Rausk  
bonde:dren Lisa Isaks:dr Pesonen  
Pensala by*

This led to siblings and parents — I have my fingers crossed that on my next trip to the FHC, I will be able to determine grandparents, et al as I trawl backwards through the records!

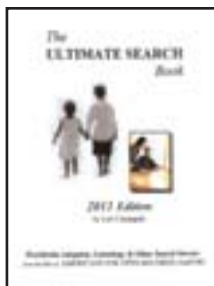
I hope that my examples encourage you to check out the

Family History Catalog and see if records that might be invaluable to your research have been microfilmed. If so, do consider this option. Though you may wait four-to-six weeks (or longer) for your microfilm to arrive at your local FHC, the minimal cost and four-week loan period definitely can make this an affordable and attractive means of gaining access to original records that may be unavailable to you otherwise. The results I achieved above either would not have been possible or the cost of hiring local research help would have been so prohibitive, that I might not today be able to write of successfully learning more about these families and places.

IG

*Diane L. Richard has been doing genealogy research for over 22 years. Though she has ebbed and flowed in her usage of FHCs, they have always been an invaluable resource for her. She currently does professional research in NC and DC and can be found online at [www.mosaicrpm.com/Genealogy](http://www.mosaicrpm.com/Genealogy).*

## Internet Genealogy Library



This all new 2011 edition of Lori Carangelo's *The Ultimate Search Book: Worldwide Adoption, Genealogy & Other Search Secrets*, is the first new edition of this guide since 2002. As director of the organization Americans for Open Records, Ms. Carangelo has amassed considerable expertise in helping people, and especially birth parents, find their missing loved ones. In this textbook, she shares the secrets to successful searching with a broader audience. The first five chapters of the new edition lay out Ms. Carangelo's blueprint for successful searching. Chapter One identifies the major categories of databases that a researcher is likely to consult (DMV records, voter registrations, etc.). Chapters Two and Three home in on missing children, old loves, war buddies, child support deadbeats, and so on. Chapter Four treats missing persons whose names you may or may not have (birth children, foster care records, missing person locators), while Chapter Five concentrates on the principal websites for finding missing persons. The bulk of the book leads the reader, U.S. state by state, and then country by country through the specifics of successful searching. ISBN: 9780806355153, Item #: 9634, \$45.45 ppd.



*The Complete Beginner's Guide to Genealogy, the Internet, and Your Genealogy Computer Program. Updated Edition* shows how to combine traditional research methods in the National Archives, the LDS Family History Library, and other major resource centers with today's technology; how to conduct research in courthouse records, censuses, and vital records using techniques unheard of just a decade ago. It shows you how to get started in your family history research; how to enter information into a genealogy computer program so that you can easily manage, store, and retrieve your data; how to analyze the data and place it in various tables, charts, and forms; and how to put together a family history notebook—all the while using conventional record sources with a modern search and retrieval system. The new updated edition contains references to current URLs and databases, discusses new genealogy software options, describes the latest procedures at FamilySearch, and includes a revision of the census chapter to reflect the release of the 1930 census. This book is also designed as an instructional manual, and each chapter of the book is a self-contained teaching module. ISBN: 9780806318752, Item #: 1047, \$45.45 ppd.

Genealogical Publishing Company, 3600 Clipper Mill Road, Ste 260, Baltimore, Maryland 21211  
Toll free: 1-800-296-6687, website: [www.genealogical.com](http://www.genealogical.com)

# The New Look of FamilySearch

IF YOU HAVEN'T visited FamilySearch, [www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org), for a while, you might be surprised at what you see. FamilySearch has a new look. This new look doesn't just represent a change in design though. Changes go much further than skin deep at FamilySearch. The revised site incorporates fundamental adjustments to some of previous information and searches at FamilySearch, as well as the introduction of some new elements.

Recently, I spoke with Jim Greene, Marketing Director of FamilySearch, about what's new at FamilySearch — and about what the future holds for this website.

## THE REVISED FAMILYSEARCH SITE

First, for those who may not be familiar with it, FamilySearch is a free website owned by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (LDS Church) — the organization who also runs the Family History Library (FHL) in Salt Lake City and Family History Centers located across the world. The website, which first launched in 1999, contains a variety of expanding information, including searchable family trees, original records, research guidance, and the Family History Library Catalog (the online catalog to the FHL's collections). Some people have begun referring to the revised FamilySearch site as the "new FamilySearch." This immediately causes confusion since there is a site entitled "New FamilySearch" — and this is not it. In fact, currently, there are three separate FamilySearch sites! Here's the basic breakdown.

## FamilySearch

[www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org)

This is the site you'll find if you type FamilySearch's familiar URL. And it's here that you'll find the changes discussed below. These

changes have gotten users of FamilySearch all abuzz. As the FamilySearch staff is quick to admit though, their comments haven't always been positive. "At first, I'd say we got at least

information that we can use to improve it for everyone."

Greene assured me, though, that everything — yes, everything — that was on the old site is still available on the revised site. It



The new FamilySearch website is much more than just an updated homepage!

two negative responses to every positive response," Greene explained. He attributes this to two things: 1) People are resistant to change — even when it really is a good change. 2) The FamilySearch team still had some bugs they needed (and still need) to work out.

Feedback has gotten more positive as time has passed. The FamilySearch team is still actively working on the site and appreciates getting specific feedback from users. "Having people tell us 'I hate the new site!' isn't useful," Greene said. "But having them tell us what it is about the new site that they don't like — that's infor-

might just take a little effort at first to figure out where everything has been moved.

## "Old" FamilySearch

[www.familysearch.org/eng/default.asp](http://www.familysearch.org/eng/default.asp)

If you're among those who haven't yet been won over by FamilySearch's revisions, don't fret! You can still access the "old" site — just as it used to be. You'll find a link at the bottom of the page on the right-hand side of FamilySearch's homepage, [www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org), or you can just type in the address above directly.

FamilySearch hopes to remove this website at some point in the

## The New Look of FamilySearch

future. “We will be watching the hits to both sites, and when it becomes apparent that the great majority of people have switched over and are comfortable with the new site, that’s when the time will be right to remove the old one,” Greene said.

### New FamilySearch

[www.new.familysearch.org](http://www.new.familysearch.org)

New FamilySearch is not so new anymore. If you still aren’t familiar with it, here’s why: New FamilySearch is not yet open to the public. To access the information available here, you have to have a user name and password — and these are currently only provided to members of the LDS Church.

New FamilySearch contains one massive family tree which includes the information from a number of different databases, such as Ancestral File, the International Genealogical Index, and Pedigree Resource File (databases currently available through the “regular” FamilySearch site). But there are a couple of unique aspects here. For one thing, the tree also contains living people — although only those directly related to the living people can see them.

Another unique aspect of new FamilySearch is that it is interactive. In this way, it is much like a Wiki, with the philosophy being that if the entire community works together, the accuracy and thoroughness of the information will increase at a much faster rate. Frustrated that your ancestor is in Ancestral File 12 times? Now, you can combine these people into one. Convinced that the family tree has the wrong death date for your great-grandmother? Now, you can change it.

FamilySearch has always intended the site to eventually be opened to everyone — but they have had to proceed slowly in order to make sure their server can handle the number of users. In fact, the site was unrolled in stages even to LDS Church members. Soon, this unrolling process will expand little by little to include people outside the LDS Church.



The New FamilySearch website isn’t open to the general public; you’ll need to be a member of the LDS Church.

If you’re confused by all these different FamilySearches, you aren’t alone. What did Greene have to say about it? “I was not part of the team that chose these names!” he told me, laughing. “I know it’s confusing. But someday, there will only be one FamilySearch site — one that integrates all of these.”

### THE BIGGEST CHANGES AT FAMILYSEARCH

There are lots of things different about FamilySearch. Perhaps the biggest changes have occurred with the integration of the Wikis, the new Family History Library Catalog, and the additional models for searching original records.

#### Research Wikis

Previously, users of FamilySearch could find wonderful information through the Research Outlines, Resource Guides, Letter-Writing Guides, Word Lists, and other research tools. With information on each of the US states and Canadian provinces and many foreign countries around the world, these guides helped researchers understand the historical setting, the types of records available, and how to access these records.

For years, FamilySearch has been developing another format for this information: FamilySearch Wiki. FamilySearch’s first step was to put all the information from the outlines, guides, etc. into the Wiki. But they didn’t stop there. Like other Wikis on the web, FamilySearch Wiki is open to the community so that others can add updated information and web-sites, or even completely new information. You will not be able to find the Research Outlines and other documents at [www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org) anymore (although they are still in their original format at the “old” site). Instead, the Wiki has been integrated into the site. You can access it by clicking the “Learn” tab on the homepage. Then, type the name of the country or state, or the topic in which you are interested, into the blank to pull up the relevant Wiki.

If you have something to contribute, the FamilySearch Wiki is still open to anyone. Although photographs go through a review process, all other information is posted directly.

#### Family History Library Catalog

Many family history buffs have been taking advantage of

FamilySearch's Family History Library Catalog for a long time. This online catalog includes all the books, microfilms, etc. available at the FHL. The exciting part for most of us, who live far from Salt Lake City, is that these films can also be ordered to local Family History Centers which are found throughout the US and Canada and beyond.

The Family History Library Catalog has now taken the first steps to being much more than a catalog to the FHL's sources. A place search will still bring up a list of available sources for that particular place, but now some of these sources will also contain links. Currently, these links lead only to historical records available through FamilySearch. So, if you search for a village in England, and it just so happens that FamilySearch has digitized and indexed the parish records for that parish, then your search will bring up all the records for that village WITH the parish record entry being linked to the actual searchable parish records. As the historical records expand, the value of this extra component of the catalog will also expand, of course.

But this is just the beginning. The FamilySearch team would like to one day have a catalog search that also told of records outside of the FHL. Someday, a search for that same village in England will lead to a list of entries that includes the parish records and their link, as well as a village history available at another library, and online genealogical records (with a link to the site of course) of families from that community. The catalog would function much as a Wiki does, allowing people everywhere to input and link sources for places in the catalog.

### Searching Original Records

Those who have been watching the changes in FamilySearch over the past few years will be familiar with the Historical Records section of the website. Several years ago, FamilySearch announced their Record Access Program, a multi-faceted program intended to increase the availability of



*If you'd like to give back to FamilySearch, they are always looking for help with indexing records. In fact, they currently have 400,000 volunteers hard at work indexing records. Why not volunteer yourself?*

genealogical records. Over the past several years, the main evidence of the results of the Record Access Program has been digitized records (generally previously in the FHL's microfilm collection) that were becoming available — and searchable — through the FamilySearch site. Now other parts of the originally announced program are also visible at [www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org).

To access the Historical Records section, scroll down the front page to the map. You can browse records by region or by country. For your country of interest, you can view a list of sources. If you see a small picture of a camera by the title, that means images are available. Sometimes you will also see the words "Browse Images." These records are digitized and online — but aren't yet indexed. You will have to look through the images yourself. Also, some searches will lead to transcribed index entries that will direct you to fee-charging websites if you would like to view the images themselves. FamilySearch doesn't have these images on its site, but only has access to the index. Some Family History Centers will have free access to

these images.

Keep in mind that only a small fraction of the FHL's resources are currently digitized and online. Work is continuing, so check back often. If you'd like the progress to move along a little faster, one great way to make this happen is by volunteering. FamilySearch currently has 400,000 volunteers helping with indexing records. But as Greene said, "We could use 400,000 more. It's a great way to give back." For more information about how you can get involved with indexing, go to [www.familysearch.org/volunteer/indexing](http://www.familysearch.org/volunteer/indexing).

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# Top Websites For Irish Research!



Remains of the 11th-century Trim Castle in County Meath. The largest Norman castle in Ireland.

RESEARCHING YOUR IRISH ancestors is just getting easier and easier! The last few years have seen an explosion on what is more readily available to those researching Irish ancestors — and, many of these resources can be accessed online! The following is a summary of “some” of the online resources that you might want to check out when researching your Irish Ancestors! This list is not exhaustive! In fact, as soon as it’s written, there will probably be a new source that could be mentioned!

And, some resources, such as the Griffith’s Valuation, are available at multiple sites, whereas others are only available at one. And, not all Griffith’s Valuation resources are the same — some might be just an index, one might have a better or easier-to-use search engine, one might be linked to digitized images, etc. Do explore the listed resources and

then decide which ones work best for your purposes and/or budget.

Let me now introduce you to a mix of 45 free and subscription/ pay-per-view websites, large commercial ventures and some small personal efforts. What they have in common is that any one of these might crack your Irish brickwall. So, sit back, rest your legs and learn about the wonderful world of online Irish genealogy research.

**GENERAL RESEARCH INFORMATION**  
These websites are a mix of tutorials and related resources that are important to your understanding of Irish record-keeping and history. Remember that the more you know about these topics, the more likely that your research might be successful.

- Your Irish Roots  
[www.youririshroots.com](http://www.youririshroots.com)  
This site provides a simple

overview about tracing your Irish Genealogy. The best section on this site is “Irish History.” Learn about the famine, A History of Ireland; 3000BC to 1922, and much more.

- Sean Murphy’s “A Primer in Irish Genealogy”  
<http://homepage.eircom.net/~seanjmurphy/epubs/primer.pdf>  
This is a great, easy-to-read overview on both genealogy and the specifics of Irish Genealogy. It will help give you some context for understanding what records are available (and not) and where they might be found as you pursue Irish ancestry.

- Fianna Guide to Irish Research  
[www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~fianna/guide/index.html](http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~fianna/guide/index.html)  
Lots of good information on just about any topic related to researching one’s family that you can think of, as well as some transcriptions

of records.

- Ask About Ireland  
[www.askaboutireland.ie](http://www.askaboutireland.ie)

This site is an initiative of public libraries together with local museums and archives in the digitization and online publication of the original, the unusual and the unique material from their local studies' collections to create a national Internet resource for culture. It's a kind of mix of useful information about Ireland and researching in Ireland, along with links to actual resource material. As a minimum, check out the Digital Book Collection and the History & Heritage section — you might find those ancestors you are seeking! And, don't forget to check out the Griffith's Valuation Index, [www.askaboutireland.ie/griffith-valuation/index.xml](http://www.askaboutireland.ie/griffith-valuation/index.xml).

- FamilySearch (also see Non-Commercial Websites with Irish Records)  
[www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org)  
The long-available (and online) basic research guides have now been supplemented with video's on select topics. Check these out if you are looking for a concise and informative overview of various elements of Irish research and/or want to sit back and enjoy some videos. For classic research guides, at the website, click on the tab labeled "Research Helps." You will find the following (and more) entries for Ireland — Ireland 1901/1911 Census Worksheet, Country/City Maps Register, Research Outline, Historical Background, How to Find a Place Name, How to Find Compiled Sources, etc. Additionally, there are now videos available on such topics as Church Records, Civil Registration and Immigration (Strategies, Famine/Post Famine, Ulster/Scots Irish). To access the videos, on the drop down menu for "Research Helps" click on "Online Classes."

- Irish Genealogical Society International  
[www.irishgenealogical.org/irish\\_genealogical\\_res\\_intro.asp](http://www.irishgenealogical.org/irish_genealogical_res_intro.asp)  
A great feature of this website is

[www.internet-genealogy.com](http://www.internet-genealogy.com)

that you don't have to be a member to access a nice collection of articles on doing Irish Research — Intro to Research, Starting Your Irish Research, Records to Search at Home, Problem of Names, Irish Places and Irish History, Digging Deeper in Ireland and Irish Sources. And, the Irish Sources piece provides links to some nice overviews of particular types of documents that may prove useful.

### IRELAND REPOSITORIES

Just like in the US, Canada and elsewhere, Ireland has a national library, archives, "the keepers of the vital records" and other country-wide resources that are invaluable to the Irish genealogist.

- The National Archives of Ireland  
[www.nationalarchives.ie](http://www.nationalarchives.ie)  
Besides the Irish 1901 and 1911 census records discussed later, there are other free searchable databases, such as the Ireland-Australia transportation database (1791-1853). To get the most out of visiting this website, checkout the page dedicated to genealogical research, [www.nationalarchives.ie/genealogy/index.html](http://www.nationalarchives.ie/genealogy/index.html) — where there are very useful overviews of the various records collections, though note that most records are not available online.
- National Library of Ireland  
[www.nli.ie](http://www.nli.ie)  
The most valuable resource is its catalog where you can easily learn about what is available — use a single interface to simultaneously search across the Library's printed, manuscript, visual and digitized material. Additionally, there is a new digital database — Sources: A National Library of Ireland database for Irish research which contains over 180,000 catalogue records for Irish manuscripts and articles in Irish periodicals. You will also find supplementary materials, such as the Newspaper Database, a database of downloadable Manuscript Collection Lists and more.
- Public Record Office of Northern Ireland (PRONI)  
[www.proni.gov.uk](http://www.proni.gov.uk)

Established in 1923 following the partition of the island into the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland, the Public Record Office of Northern Ireland is the official repository for public records for the six counties of Antrim, Armagh, Derry (Londonderry), Down, Fermanagh and Tyrone. Digital collections (with links to digitized images) include The 1912 Ulster Covenant archive and pre-1840 Freeholder Registers and Poll Books. Additionally, an index to the will calendar entries (grants of probate and letters of administration) for 1858-1900 is available and there are plans to link the index to digitized images of the wills. And, there are useful guides, such as the ones for church records, [www.proni.gov.uk/guide\\_to\\_church\\_records.pdf](http://www.proni.gov.uk/guide_to_church_records.pdf) and newspapers, [www.proni.gov.uk/newspapers\\_on\\_microfilm.pdf](http://www.proni.gov.uk/newspapers_on_microfilm.pdf).

- Irish Genealogy  
[www.irishgenealogy.ie](http://www.irishgenealogy.ie)  
This service of the Department of Tourism, Culture and Sport, contains a Step-by-Step Guide, The Central Signposting Index (C.S.I) which contains over three million genealogical records from Armagh, Cavan, Derry, Donegal, Fermanagh, Leitrim, Limerick, Mayo, Sligo, Tyrone & Wexford (details of the included records are at [www.irishgenealogy.ie/csi/csi\\_breakdown.html](http://www.irishgenealogy.ie/csi/csi_breakdown.html)), and an online search engine of church records for Carlow, Cork & Ross, Dublin and Kerry. For found entries, you can view a high-quality image of the church register.

### VITAL RECORDS

Though, anyone born in Ireland is Irish, it is an island governed by two distinct governments which means that vital records are kept in two different places.

- General Register Office (GRO) (Republic of Ireland)  
[www.groireland.ie](http://www.groireland.ie)  
The GRO in Dublin holds vital records for the whole of Ireland before 1922 (vital records of non-Catholic marriages began in Ireland in 1845; births and deaths, and Catholic marriages in 1864)

## Top Irish Research Websites

and for the Irish Republic from 1922 onwards.

- General Register Office (GRONI) (Northern Ireland)

[www.groni.gov.uk](http://www.groni.gov.uk)

The GRONI holds all birth & death records for Northern Ireland, as well as marriages from 1922 onwards.

### CLEARINGHOUSES FOR INFORMATION

Some websites are just great places to go and get the “scoop” on what types of records might exist and where you might find them. These are a great way to quickly learn what may or may not survive in terms of records and what may or may not be available online for you to readily access.

- Genuki

[www.genuki.org.uk/big/irl](http://www.genuki.org.uk/big/irl)

Provides links to hundreds of sites that might help your ancestral research. First are listed resources applicable to all of Ireland. Then you can select a county of interest and see an overview of content particular to that county — some online and a lot of offline resources are listed.

- Ireland GenWeb

[www.irelandgenweb.com](http://www.irelandgenweb.com)

As is true for the world-wide GenWeb projects, you will find free resource material, organized by county. The material will range from databases to mailing lists to historical information and much more.

- Mary's Genealogy Treasures —

Ireland and Northern Ireland  
[www.telusplanet.net/public/mtoll/ireland.htm](http://www.telusplanet.net/public/mtoll/ireland.htm)

A nice collection of links to resources grouped under such headings as Archives, BDM, Cemeteries, Census, Church Records, Databases, Directories, IGI Batch #s, Immigration, Land Records, Libraries, Maps, Military, Newspapers, Research Helps, Societies, Surnames, Tax & Electors, Miscellaneous and others.

- A Little Bit of Ireland

[www.celticcousins.net/ireland/index.htm](http://www.celticcousins.net/ireland/index.htm)  
Another nice collection of

resources, ranging from *Walker's Hibernian Magazine* Irish Marriage lists to Freeman of Limerick (1746-1836) to items from the 1823 editions of the *Connaught Journal* and more.

### NON-COMMERCIAL WEBSITES WITH IRISH RECORDS

Though much of the newest digitized content available online is via subscription and/or pay-per-view websites, they are not the only places providing access to transcriptions and/or digital images of original source documents.

- Familysearch

[www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org)

Familysearch has updated its Classic search engine with a new version that showcases new family history technologies that are now ready for prime time! As we go to press, the Irish records Available include: Ireland Births and Baptisms, 1620-1881, Deaths, 1864-1870, Marriages, 1619-1898 and Civil Registration Indexes, 1845-1958.

- Fáilte Romhat

[www.failteromhat.com](http://www.failteromhat.com)

This is the personal website of John Hayes and contains a number of online Irish databases and transcribed documents, including Irish Flax Growers List 1796, Land Owners in Ireland 1876, Pigot & Co's Provincial Directory of Ireland 1824, other directory and census record collections, cemetery transcriptions and photographs, a searchable Griffith's Valuation (1848-1864), and much more.

### PAY-PER-VIEW (FREE SEARCH) COMMERCIAL WEBSITES WITH DIGITIZED IRISH RECORDS

A typical pay-per-view service allows you free access to indexes of the available material and then you can pay to access specific documents. These are great if you only have a very specific record you are seeking, or only one family branch that might be Irish — basically, rather than jumping into to a full subscription service that maybe more than you need, this allows you to dabble. For my one lone Scotsman, who in the 1800s hap-

pened to live for about 10 years in Ireland, this was the perfect type of service for my needs!

- Irish Family History Foundation

[www.RootsIreland.ie](http://www.RootsIreland.ie)

The new online record research system of The Irish Family History Foundation (IFHF) will eventually contain almost 40 million Irish Ancestral records (currently over 16 million are available). The ability to search country-wide into Irish birth and baptism, marriage, death, census or Griffith Valuation records is invaluable. You must register (for free) to use the website. You can search the indexes for free — the indexes list surname, first name, year and county. To view a detailed record, you can purchase credit online for instant access. A great feature is that the available records are not necessarily limited to just those of the Roman Catholic Parishes.

- Irish Ancestors (via Irish Times),

[www.irishtimes.com/ancestor](http://www.irishtimes.com/ancestor)

This site contains a plethora of records, organized by county, and includes Census, Local history, Local journals, Directories, Gravestones, Estate records, Catholic records, Civil parishes and more. You can browse the current holdings, by county, at [www.irishtimes.com/ancestor/browse](http://www.irishtimes.com/ancestor/browse). This page is also important as it provides a gateway to a series of articles on Emigration and The Records, amongst other topics.

### SUBSCRIPTION COMMERCIAL WEBSITES WITH DIGITIZED IRISH RECORDS

Where a typical pay-per-view service allows you some access to indexes of the available material and then you can pay to access specific documents, a subscription site is one where you purchase a subscription and then gain unlimited access to the available records. Sometimes, there is a “trial” option, which gives you free access for a limited period of time.

- Emerald Isle Ancestors

[www.emeraldancestors.com](http://www.emeraldancestors.com)

This website focuses on the Ulster region — counties Antrim,

Armagh, Down, Fermanagh, Londonderry and Tyrone. It contains baptism, marriage, death, burial and census records for over one million Irish ancestors. Most of the results are indexes or partial transcriptions. To learn about what is included, visit [www.emeraldancestors.com/databases](http://www.emeraldancestors.com/databases).

- Irish Origins

[www.irishorigins.com](http://www.irishorigins.com)

Like the other subscription services, you will find that new material is constantly becoming available. Check out the main page to see what resources await you. The site features an Irish Wills Index (1484-1858), the 1851 Dublin City Census, Irish Royal Garrison Artillery Records, Griffith's Valuation, Directories of Ireland, Griffith's Survey Maps & Plans 1847-1864, etc. You will also find some helpful articles at [www.originsnetwork.com/Help/resarticles-io.aspx](http://www.originsnetwork.com/Help/resarticles-io.aspx).

- Ancestry.com

[www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com)

Some of the records currently found in the ever-growing Irish collection include the 1766 Religious census, Irish Marriages, 1771-1812, Irish Passenger lists, 1847-1871 and the Irish Emigrants in North American series, The Royal Irish Constabulary 1816-1921, Index to Griffith's Valuation, 1848-1864, Famine Relief Commission Papers, 1844-1847, Tithe Applotment Books, 1824-1837, Irish Flax Growers List, 1796, Railway Gazette Worldwide Historical Data, 1860-1930, The Public Register or *Freemans Journal* (Dublin, Dublin, Ireland) and much more.

- Family Relatives

[www.familyrelatives.com](http://www.familyrelatives.com)

For a current listing of the Irish records available, check out [www.familyrelatives.com/post\\_search.php?sr=Ireland](http://www.familyrelatives.com/post_search.php?sr=Ireland). Some of the Irish records found include Return of Owners of Land as well as Indexes to Irish Wills, Quaker Records Dublin Abstracts of Wills, Alumni Dublinense 1593-1846, Irish Immigration records 1846-1850, Index to Prerogative Wills of Ireland, select directories, etc. Note

[www.internet-genealogy.com](http://www.internet-genealogy.com)

that this website also has a pay-per-view option.

- FindMyPast

[www.findmypast.co.uk](http://www.findmypast.co.uk)

Though this site doesn't currently have a lot of Irish records, it is in the process of expanding its collection and it does have two databases that you might want to check out: Outbound Passenger Lists for long distance travel (encompasses Irish ports) and Civil Service Evidence of Age records 1752-1948 (28 percent are Irish born, many before civil registration was man-



**The Bridge of Tears in West Donegal, Ireland. Family and friends of immigrants would accompany them as far as the bridge before saying goodbye.**

dated). And don't forget to check out the "specialist records" tab to see what other Irish research records are listed.

- Irish Family History Research,

[www.irishfamilyresearch.co.uk](http://www.irishfamilyresearch.co.uk)

A smorgasbord of databases can be found on this site — the most popular database features transcriptions of gravestones from old churches and graveyards. Other interesting databases include the various directories, electoral registers, yeomanry arms lists, landowners lists and more. A full listing of what's available (many unique databases only found here) can be found at [www.irishfamilyresearch.co.uk/dbshortlist.htm](http://www.irishfamilyresearch.co.uk/dbshortlist.htm).

### CENSUS RECORDS

For a variety of reasons, many of

the Irish census records, including most of the 19th century ones, have NOT survived to the present day. Fortunately, the 1901 and 1911 censuses have survived and are accessible online.

- Census of Ireland 1901 and 1911

[www.census.nationalarchives.ie](http://www.census.nationalarchives.ie)

These two census collections for all 32 counties in Ireland include digitized images of the original forms. The 1901 is the earliest surviving complete Census of Ireland and enumerates some 850,000 households. You are able to search on all

fields — this means more than just names, county, address, age, etc., — and includes religion, occupation, relationship to head of family, literacy status, county or country of origin, Irish language proficiency, specified illnesses, and child survival information. Be sure to read the detailed guide at [www.census.nationalarchives.ie/help/about19011911census.html](http://www.census.nationalarchives.ie/help/about19011911census.html).

### GRIFFITH'S VALUATION

This was the first full-scale valuation of property in Ireland and is a primary substitute for the lost censuses for landed individuals in the mid-19th century (it also lists anyone leasing land from the owner). It was overseen by Richard Griffith (hence the name) and was published between 1847 and 1864. It is available, in various forms, at a

## Top Irish Research Websites

multitude of websites which have already been mentioned previously.

### COUNTY & REGIONAL-FOCUSED RESOURCES

As when researching any locale, there are some local groups, individuals, authorities, etc., which strive to make their historical records available online. Let's talk about a few of these and make sure that you look and see if your county of interest might also have undertaken such an initiative.

- County Clare

[www.clarelibrary.ie/eolas/coclare/genealogy/genealog.htm](http://www.clarelibrary.ie/eolas/coclare/genealogy/genealog.htm)

Having researched my lone Scotsman with Irish roots who just happened to settle in County Clare, you will understand, once you see this website, why I felt fortunate! There is a lot of invaluable, freely-available material for those researching County Clare ancestors.

- Limerick Digital Archives

[www.limerick.ie/DigitalArchives](http://www.limerick.ie/DigitalArchives)

A great collection of unique resources have been put online by the Limerick City Council — these include various and unusual Limerick resources, such as the Private Papers and Business collection [Limerick Chamber of Commerce 1807-1946, Bedford Row Lying-In Hospital, 1868-1971, Rentals and Particulars of Sale, 1808-1923, Devon Estate Rentals, 1774-1893, Fair Rent Tribunal, 1881-1916, etc.], the City Council and other local government documents [Limerick Corporation (Pre-Reform), 1719-1917, Limerick City Council Minute Books, 1841-1972, Commissioners for the Improvement of St. Michael's Parish, 1810-1851, Limerick Union Board of Guardians Minute Books, 1842-1922 and Rate Valuation Books, 1893-1971], as well as burial records covering 1855-1961 for Mount Saint Lawrence (Limerick's largest cemetery).

### MAPS, PLACENAMES, ETC

When researching any place in Ireland, make sure you understand "where" your ancestors lived.

Given an island split under two governments, never mind the large number of churches sometimes close to a community, complicating factors of ecclesiastical versus geopolitical boundaries and that it's not unusual to have several locales in the country that share similar names, e.g., Miltown Malbay and Miltown [near] Tulla, both in County Clare. Geography is important.

- Past Homes

[www.pasthomes.com](http://www.pasthomes.com)

A collection of the First Edition 6-inch-scale Ordnance Survey maps of Ireland, 1829 and 1843. These are extremely detailed maps of Ireland's townlands. You can purchase access to individual maps or take out a one year subscription.

- Ireland's Historical Mapping Archive

[www.irishhistoricmaps.ie/historic](http://www.irishhistoricmaps.ie/historic)

This site provides access to Irish maps from 1829-1913, including the first ever large-scale survey of an entire country, between 1829 and 1842. You purchase credit to view the available maps for one day, three days, one week, one month or one year.

- Irish Maps Online [via the National Archives (UK)]

[www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/documentsonline/irishmaps.asp](http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/documentsonline/irishmaps.asp)

Digitized collection of early Irish Maps (c. 1558- c. 1610) from the State Papers of Ireland. You can search and download more than 60 different maps depicting plantations, fortifications and townships in Ireland during the reigns of Elizabeth I and James I.

- Placenames Database of Ireland

[www.logainm.ie](http://www.logainm.ie)

Make sure to click in the upper right hand corner on "English version" and you'll have immediate access to the official translation of approximately 100,000 Irish place-names. Some names have sound files associated with them and sometimes informative notes.

- IreAtlas Townland Database

[www.seanruad.com](http://www.seanruad.com)

Search for a particular Irish place-name, or enter a townland or

county to generate a list all of the civil parishes, poor law unions, and townlands in a particular area.

### NEWSPAPERS

Newspapers, both those produced in Ireland or where the emigrant settled, can be very important when researching Irish Ancestry. Given the complexity of Irish records, you want to have a very good idea of what county and hopefully townland is pertinent.

- Irish Death Notice Index

[www.irelandoldnews.com/obits](http://www.irelandoldnews.com/obits)

An index of 54,500 obituaries of people who were born and/or died in Ireland, or whose deaths were mentioned in Irish newspapers. The actual obituaries are not necessarily available online. They have been indexed from newspapers all over the US and Canada, as well as Ireland and elsewhere, including 25,056 entries from *The Cork Examiner* of the 19th and early 20th century, and 1,947 entries from the 19th century [New York] Irish-American.

- The Irish Times Digital Archive 1859-2009,

[www.irishtimes.com/search/index.html](http://www.irishtimes.com/search/index.html)

This is an archive of the *Irish Times*, the newspaper of record for Ireland. You can search for free and then access any found articles via a one-day, one-week, one-month or one-year subscription type.

- Irish Newspaper Archives,

[www.irishnewsarchive.com](http://www.irishnewsarchive.com)

A subscription service to more than two million pages of newspaper content for 23 newspaper titles such as: *The Freeman's Journal* (1763-1924), *Leitrim Observer*, *Sunday Independent*, *The Connaught Telegraph*, *Irish Independent* (1905-2003), *Meath Chronicle*, *The Anglo-Celt* (1908-2001), *The Tuam Herald* and more.

- Information Wanted: A Database of Advertisements for Irish Immigrants Published in the

*Boston Pilot*

<http://infowanted.bc.edu>

From October 1831 through October 1921, the *Boston Pilot*

newspaper printed a "Missing Friends" column with advertisements from people looking for "lost" friends and relatives who had emigrated from Ireland to the United States. This collection of 35,159 records is available as a searchable online database, which contains a text record for each ad that appeared in the Pilot.

**EMIGRATING**

Obviously, many of us are researching Irish records because we had ancestors who had emigrated from that country to the US or Canada. If you haven't yet found a passenger record for your Irish emigrant, it is definitely worth the effort to try and do so!

- Irish Passengers Research Guide [www.genealogybranches.com/irishpassengerlists/](http://www.genealogybranches.com/irishpassengerlists/)

The resource lists created by Joe Beine are unparalleled in providing you excellent guidance about what records may or may not be available online (and off-line). For Irish ancestors, do check out his helpful guide on Irish Passenger records.

- Passenger Records and Ship List - Irish Famine (via the National Archives and Records Administration) <http://aad.archives.gov/aad/series-description.jsp?s=639>

If your ancestry includes someone who emigrated during the Irish Famine, check out the two databases here, Famine Irish Passenger Record Data File and List of Ships that Arrived at the Port of New York During the Irish Famine, both dated 1/12/1846-12/31/1851, which collectively contain over 600,000 records.

- Irish Famine Migration to New Brunswick, <http://archives.gnb.ca/Irish/IWDP/en/Default.aspx>

What used to just be a list of passengers who traveled from Ireland to New Brunswick during the Irish Famine (1845-1852) has now expanded to not only include these passenger records, but it has extensive information about the Irish in New Brunswick, including

[www.internet-genealogy.com](http://www.internet-genealogy.com)



Old postcard of Dublin, early 1900s.

almshouse, funeral home, letters, newspapers, as well as a source for many of those emigrants, over 6,000, the Fitzwilliam Estate Emigration Books (County Wicklow) and more.

**MISCELLANEOUS**

There are always some sites that defy pigeon-holing. This list features those gems that simply don't seem to fit in with the previous sections, and yet you want to be sure to check them out.

- Irish Mariners [www.irishmariners.ie](http://www.irishmariners.ie)  
Contains an index of Irish-born merchant seamen contained in the CR10 series of index cards (270,000) in the Southampton Civic Archives covering the multination work force of the British Merchant Marine during the period from late 1918 to the end of 1921. If you find a relevant card, you can then order a copy of the found card — many of which contain photos!

- 1939 "War Time" National Register [www.ic.nhs.uk/services/1939-register-service](http://www.ic.nhs.uk/services/1939-register-service)

In 1939, for the entire UK, including Northern Ireland, all households were documented. Information gathered for each person was their name, sex, date of

birth, marital condition, occupation and whether a member of the armed forces or reserves. This information (for a fee) can only be accessed for those individuals who are deceased and, if like me, you had parents, grandparents, or grandparents alive — it provides a great snapshot of your family.

**CONCLUSION**

After reading this article, trawling the Internet, hopefully discovering your Irish ancestors and/or possibly other wonderfully relevant databases, I hope you will agree that researching your Irish ancestors is easier-than-ever! *Éirinn go Brách!* (Ireland Forever!)



*Diane L. Richard has been doing genealogy research for over 23 years. Besides researching her one Scottish branch with connections to Ireland she has researched many Irish families for clients. She is currently a professional genealogist and can be found online at [www.mosaicrpm.com/Genealogy](http://www.mosaicrpm.com/Genealogy)*

# Net Notes

## DIGITIZED HISTORICAL NOVA SCOTIA NEWSPAPERS

<http://gov.ns.ca/nsarm/virtual/newspapers/default.asp>

RESEARCH IN NOVA SCOTIA is now more fun than ever. There is nothing like “reading” a good newspaper with our morning coffee and how special would it be if the newspaper in question was from the year 1769! Unfortunately, old newspapers are continually at risk of surviving and if they do survive, they are only accessible in archives or libraries.

Now, select digitized historical newspapers from Nova Scotia are online and include *The Nova Scotia Chronicle and Weekly Advertiser* (1769-1770), *The Royal American Gazette* (1785), *The Port-Roseway Gazetteer* and *The Shelburne Advertiser* (1785), *The Nova-Scotia*

*Packet and General Advertiser* (1786-1787), *The Bee* (1835-1838), *The Tiny Tattler* (1933-1938), and *The 4th Estate* (1969-1977).

We are reminded that “Newspapers are, and always have been, a mirror held up to reflect who we are, how our communities came to be, how we live our daily lives, and how we view the world around us. ‘Old’ newspapers have special value, because they enable us to look back and see what the world was like 20, 50, 100 or even 200 years ago.”

— DIANE L. RICHARD

## THE 1939 NATIONAL IDENTITY CARD (UK)

[www.ic.nhs.uk/services/1939-register-service](http://www.ic.nhs.uk/services/1939-register-service).

WITH THE PERSONAL information lost from the 1931 census and no census taken in 1941 due to World War II, identity cards created in 1939 are invaluable to those researching late 19th and 20th century UK ancestors.

An enumeration occurred on 29 September 1939 and a National Registration number was assigned to each person after the following data was collected from each household: Names, Sex, Date of Birth, Occupation, Profession, Trade or Employment, Residence, Condition as to Marriage and Membership of Naval, Military or Air Force Reserves or Auxiliary Forces or Civil Defense Services or

Reserves, if recorded. The 1939 Register was structured by geographical area and was used for a range of purposes, including the issue of identity cards during and after the Second World War. The registers are based on the actual whereabouts of individuals on the night concerned. Thus, if an individual was not at his/her usual place of residence, e.g., in the hospital or at a hotel, or already called up and serving in the military, he/she will not appear at that address in the books.

To learn more about these national identity cards (for deceased individuals), visit [www.1911census.org.uk/1939.htm](http://www.1911census.org.uk/1939.htm).

— DIANE L. RICHARD

## JEWISH DATABASES AT ANCESTRY.COM AND CENTRAL DATABASE OF HOLOCAUST VICTIMS

<http://search.ancestry.com/search/db.aspx?dbid=1765>

THREE NEW COLLECTIONS from the American Jewish Historical Society (AJHS) recently went live on Ancestry.com and include: WWI Servicemen Questionnaires, Jews and Non-Jews, 1918-1921, Undated, <http://search.ancestry.com/search/db.aspx?dbid=1765>, WWII Jewish Serviceman Cards, 1942-1947, <http://search.ancestry.com/search/db.aspx?dbid=2125>, Jews in Colonial America (Oppenheim Collection), 1650-1850, <http://search.ancestry.com/search/db.aspx?dbid=2146>. Additionally, the New York Hebrew Orphan Asylum Records, 1860-1934, <http://search.ancestry.com/search/db.aspx?dbid=1611>, are now indexed to make them more accessible.

Also facilitating Jewish research, The Yad Vashem Library in Israel has announced that it has identified four million of the six million Jews killed in World War II. Yad Vashem and its partners

endeavor to recover the names and reconstruct the life stories of each individual Jew murdered in the Shoah (*Shoah*, in Hebrew means calamity or destruction) You can search for Victims' Names at [www.yadvashem.org/wps/portal/IY\\_HON\\_Welcome](http://www.yadvashem.org/wps/portal/IY_HON_Welcome).

Yad Vashem is always looking to expand its collections dealing with the experiences of the Jews during the Holocaust period. If you are aware of original documents from the period before the war, from the Nazi rise to power until the liberation, the period immediately after the war including the DP camps, or the time of legal or illegal immigration to Eretz Israel that may be available to be contributed, please contact the library at [registrar.archives@yadvashem.org.il](mailto:registrar.archives@yadvashem.org.il).

Keeping a memory of as many people as possible is a goal of any genealogist!

— DIANE L. RICHARD

## NORWEGIAN 1910 CENSUS

<http://da.digitalarkivet.no/ft/sok/1910>

THE 1910 NORWEGIAN CENSUS is now available, and better yet, it's free! Go to the site and click on the British flag to get the English-language interface (unless Norwegian is your language!). You can enter as much or as little as you want in terms of name, gender, family position, marital status, occupation, birth details and more. You can also choose to search country-wide or select particular counties (fylker). The search results will be a list of found individuals meeting the criteria. Clicking on any individual brings up an overview of that person's information, a list of the other members of the household and information on residence and census district.

The 1910 Census joins the 1801, 1865, 1875 and 1900 Censuses as well as digitized parish registers, probate material and court records as part of the Digital Archives maintained by The National Archives of Norway, <http://da.digitalarkivet.no>.

All of this means that researching those emigrant Norwegian ancestors has gotten that much easier, especially when you consider that "Between 1825 and 1925, more than 800,000 Norwegians immigrated to North America — about one-third of Norway's population with the majority immigrating to the USA,



The 1910 Norwegian Census Homepage.

and lesser numbers immigrating to the Dominion of Canada. With the exception of Ireland, no single country contributed a larger percentage of its population to the United States than Norway." (source: [www.worldlingo.com/ma/enwiki/en/Norwegian\\_American](http://www.worldlingo.com/ma/enwiki/en/Norwegian_American))

— DIANE L. RICHARD

## MANUSCRIPTS COLLECTIONS RELATING TO SLAVERY

[www.nyhistory.org/slaverycollections/](http://www.nyhistory.org/slaverycollections/)

THE NEW-YORK HISTORICAL SOCIETY has a substantial collection of manuscript materials documenting American slavery and the slave trade in the Atlantic. There are currently 14 collections on this website and they consist of diaries, account books, letter books, ships' logs, indentures, bills of sale, personal papers, and records of institutions. Some of the highlights of these collections include the records of the New York Manumission Society and the African Free School, the diaries and correspondence of English abolitionists Granville Sharp and John Clarkson, the records of the Massachusetts Anti-Slavery Society and an account book kept by the slave trading firm Bolton, Dickens & Co.

Even searching on "Carolina" identified 123 items with that term. Many of these are connected to Charleston and South Carolina, given its role in slave importation. This site boasts a wide array of documents of interest to historians and genealogists alike.

— DIANE L. RICHARD



The New York Historical Society features 14 collections on its website.

# Don't Just Sit There... Volunteer!

FOR YEARS, VOLUNTEER opportunities in genealogy meant traveling to a facility such as a library or a courthouse and dealing with musty old documents, many so fragile you worried about working with them. Some volunteers have braved the elements to document and photograph cemeteries. All of these efforts have been greatly appreciated by genealogy researchers for generations. Have you been compelled to help, but your lifestyle did not make the opportunity to volunteer possible? Now you can volunteer from the comfort of your home or wherever your laptop/computer connection allows!

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints provides the free software and the projects to be indexed via their website, [www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org). Their projects are worldwide and as such will be available to the world as the indexing is complete. Some countries included to date are: Argentina, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Columbia, Ireland, France, Mexico, UK and the United States of America. Some of the USA records that are indexed and currently available include marriage; census; death indexes; death certificates; draft registration and mortuary records from various states.

Future FamilySearch Index projects include: "England, Bristol Parish Registers; England, Essex, Parish Registers, U.S., 1920 Federal Census, U.S. New York Marriages, U.S., Tennessee County Marriages and many more" according to their website.

Indexing provides a valuable service to researchers. Family history information is extracted and searchable databases are created. Electronic databases allow more information than print copies of the past have allowed. These databases (indexes) generally include

more information than surname and given name. Depending on the document type the index may include city, county and state, to name a few. The goal is to build databases that allow the researcher

the right length to give you a feel for what you will be working on. Your first batch is provided by FamilySearch and is especially selected for first time users.

Helpful definitions when



Figure One: An example of the "Tip of the Day".

to narrow down the results as they search for their ancestors.

FamilySearch.org has a section set up especially for groups or organizations that wish to work on Indexing. Each project is established for the group and FamilySearch provides a unique set of indexing guidelines and interesting facts. To view the current Partner Projects visit [http://indexing.familysearch.org/projects/current\\_partner\\_projects.jsf](http://indexing.familysearch.org/projects/current_partner_projects.jsf).

## HOW DO YOU START?

Select the "Get Started" button at the LDS website, <http://indexing.familysearch.org>, and follow the simple enrollment process. After completing the FamilySearch Indexing Registration form you receive an acceptance email with instructions on how to proceed with set up and downloading the required software. The quick start video is well done and approximately two minutes long. It is just

indexing include: 1. *Project*: a large group of records. 2. *Batch*: a small unit of a project. An example of a Project is the 1920 United States Census for Douglas County, Kansas, and a batch is a single page of the Douglas County, Kansas Census (the project).

Each time you open the Indexing software and log in you can receive a "Tip of the Day". (see Figure 1, above). These tips are designed help you learn about the Indexing process. You can opt to not receive the tips by unchecking the "Show tips on start-up". You can read additional tips by selecting the "Next Tip" button or close the pop up window by selecting the "Close" button.

Your work is automatically saved as you proceed, and you may return the completed batch before it is submitted at anytime but FamilySearch prefers indexing be completed and returned within a week from the time you start. If

you start a batch and fail to return to complete and/or submit the batch in three (3) days you will receive an e-mail reminder. If three (3) more days pass without action, the system will assign the batch to another indexer.

If you worry that online projects come with little or no help, this is not the case with the FamilySearch.org Indexing project. There are several ways to get assistance if you need it. If you start a batch and find you need assistance, you can select "Indexing Links" in the bottom right hand corner. (Figure 2)

Additional help can be accessed by selecting the Help field in the Indexing software. There is an option to watch the "Quick Start" video, mentioned above, as well Indexing Tutorials.

The Tutorials are broken up in three pieces. (see Figure 3) The

first is the Indexing Tutorial and takes an estimated 20 minutes to complete. This section covers areas including, but not limited to, Navigation, Using a Lookup List, Quality Check, How to Index,

Indexing Guidelines, Unreadable Records, Punctuation and Abbreviations. There is a practice section, check your learning and a survey at the end of the tutorial.

To ensure the best quality of data FamilySearch has set up the system so each record is entered two times by two different Indexers. When there are differences in the data entered the file is sent to an Arbitrator. An Arbitrator compares the differences with the document image and either selects the most correct version or types in a value he or she feels more accurately reflects what is on the image.

The second tutorial is Arbitration and takes an estimated

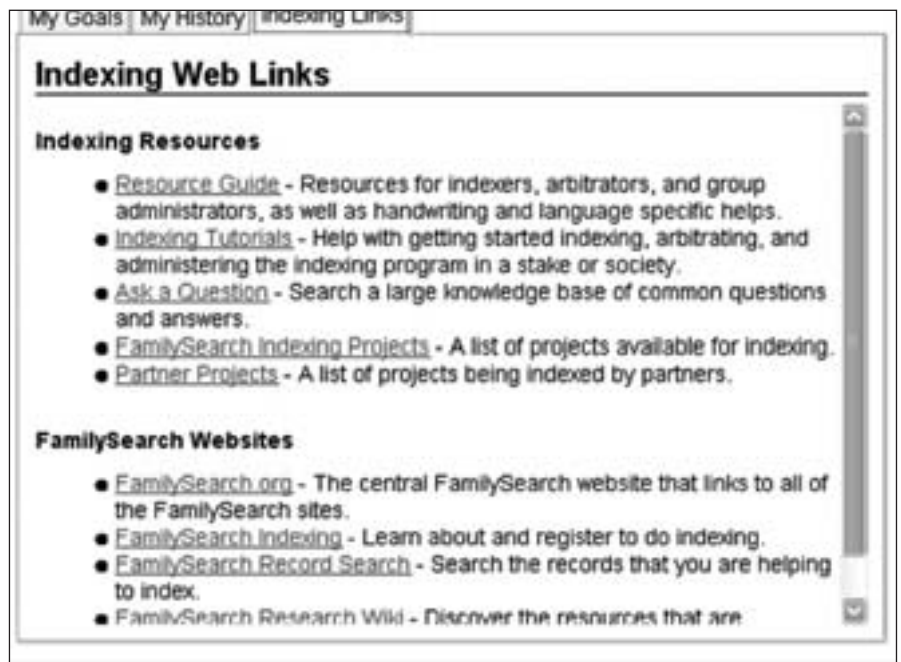


Figure Two: "Indexing Web Links" page.  
Figure Three: Example of a "Tutorials" page.



10 minutes to complete. Arbitrators are experienced Indexers that are assigned the role by a local leader. The tutorials for Arbitrators include Purpose of Arbitration, Record Matching and When to Return a Batch for Re-indexing, to name a few.

The third tutorial is Administration and takes an estimated 10 minutes to complete. This tutorial is designed for administrators of the indexing program such as group, society or stake organizer. In addition to explaining the role as an Administrator this tutorial provides information on selecting Arbitrators and creating and viewing reports and other

Administrator activities.

Another way to access help information is via the Links tab on the Facebook.com page for FamilySearch Indexing. Click Help on the menu bar, and then click Support to get contact information for your local Administrator or Indexing Support.

When resorting to e-mail for assistance the responses are timely and informative. At no point in the process are you alone in your endeavor.

Upon completion of the batch the quality check follows which allows you make corrections if needed. After the quality check process you submit the batch and you are ready to move to the next

## Don't Just Sit There...Volunteer!

batch. After you index five batches, you will receive an e-mail thanking you for your participation. This e-mail includes instructions on setting your preferences. This includes areas such as the type of records you enjoy entering (i.e., census records) and your project difficulty and project languages.

If you open a batch and determine for whatever reason you can't work with the batch, simply return it. It will go back into the system for another transcriber to complete. FamilySearch organizers know that some people can't read the handwriting or like the flow of the document and the design of the system reflects this.

If you find you really enjoy transcribing Federal Census records you can select them if available when you download your batch to work with. Transcribing different types of records will help you grow in your genealogy skills as well and is encouraged.

FamilySearch plans to digitize Billions of records they have stored at the Granite Mountain Records Vault. Your goals can be a more manageable number and you can set and track your progress on the indexing window. After you submit a batch your goals are automatically updated. You can set a weekly or monthly goal and track your own progress. The "My Goals" tab (figure 4) in the lower right hand corner allows setting a goal and tracking the progress. (See Figure 4, above.)

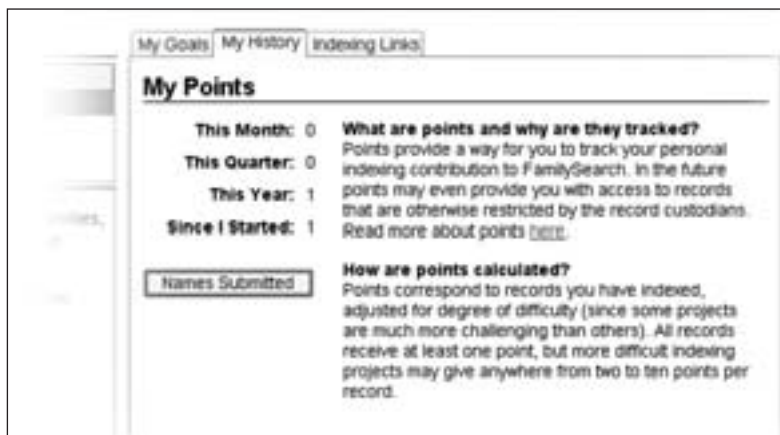
The My History Tab tracks the points the Indexer earns for the names indexed. If you index a batch a day, a week, a month or a year your contribution will earn

you points for future access to records that are normally restricted by the record custodians. If you do



Figure Four: The "My Goals" tab in the lower right hand corner allows setting a goal and tracking the progress.

Figure Five: The My History Tab tracks the points the Indexer earns for the names indexed.



not feel you will use the Historical Records the points will continue to add and you can ignore this tab. (see Figure 5, above.)

Thousands of volunteers around the world are working on this project and best of all the resulting indexes and records are available to researchers at no cost — that's right — Free! On 28 April 2010 FamilySearch released 300 million indexed records. November 4, 2010 they announced over two million more records from six countries are available for searching. To view the records that are currently available go to <http://beta.familysearch.org>.

Facebook.com users can follow the FamilySearch Indexing project by selecting the 'Like' button on the FamilySearch Indexing page at [www.facebook.com/familysearch](http://www.facebook.com/familysearch)

indexing. The "Goals" tab shows over 163 million records have been indexed and they note on the page that "Nearly 300,000

volunteers have helped access more than 700 million records since 2006." The "Goals" tab also shows the Top Indexers and Top Arbitrators. The weekly averages of Indexers are 326 records and Arbitrators average is 849 records.

Among items found on the "Links" tab are tutorials that individuals have put together to aid in the Indexing project. Be sure and join the Facebook.com page if you are an Indexer or Arbitrator, it is a great way to follow the progress of the project.

There is no set time you need to commit to this volunteer project. If you can't volunteer on a regular basis it is advisable to sign in occasionally to keep your login active in

the system. Volunteering provides great pride, satisfaction and the sense of accomplishment when sharing your time and talents and generations worldwide will be able to benefit from your efforts.

IG

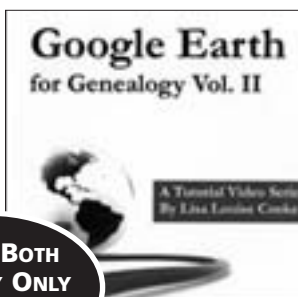
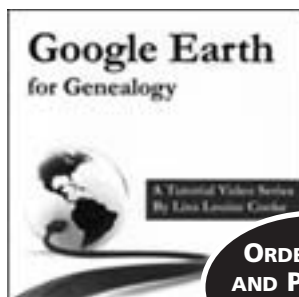
*Sharon A. Wilson volunteers for several genealogy related projects, including FamilySearch Indexing. She has conducted research for more than 30 years and enjoys sharing her skills with researchers and introducing genealogy to novices. She has written several articles for local and surname related quarterly periodicals. She can be reached at [familychaser@gmail.com](mailto:familychaser@gmail.com).*

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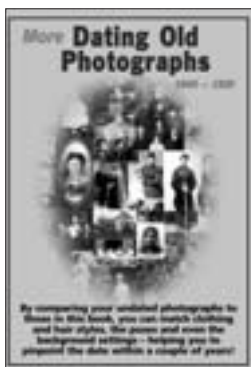
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Google is the most powerful tool available worldwide for online research! With over 20 billion pages in Google's index of the Web, it's likely that some of them contain clues about your ancestors. Finding these pages, however, requires an understanding of filtering and other techniques that have never been explained to many computer users — until now! **\$34.95 + \$7.95 S/H (USA) or \$9.95 S/H (CAN)**



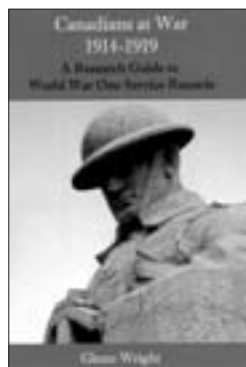
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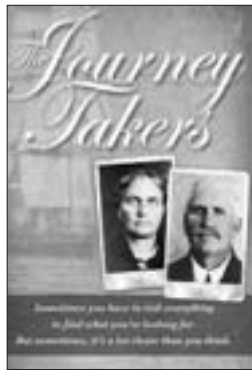


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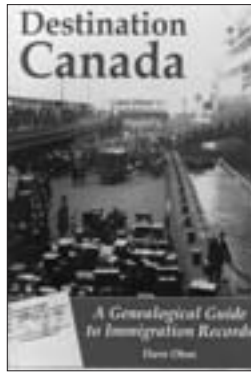
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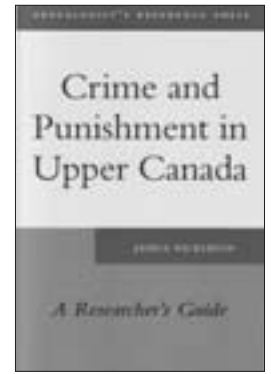
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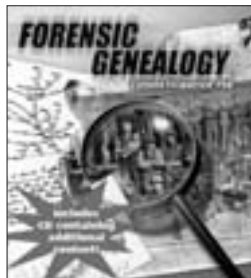


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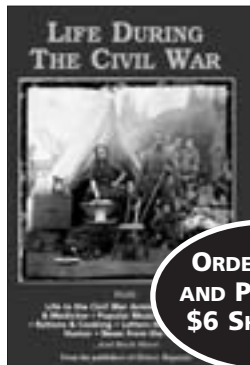
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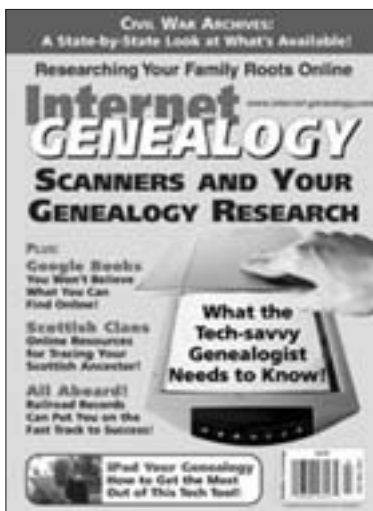
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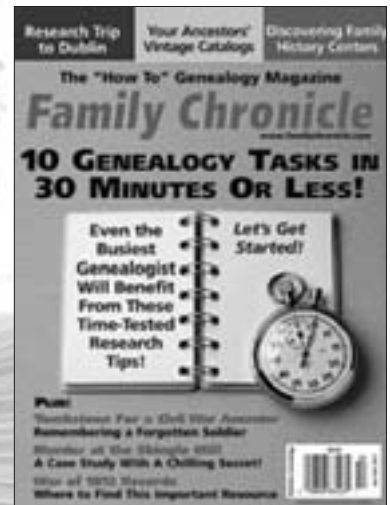
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# Civil Registration Records in Western Europe

IF YOU HAVE TRACED your Western European ancestors, you have probably used parish records. But have you used civil registration records? If not, you might be missing out on a valuable resource that could make your research easier. What exactly are civil registration records? They are vital records (birth, marriage, and death records) kept by the government. The importance and availability of civil registration records vary greatly from one country to the next. In general, they do not begin nearly as early as parish records. Because of this, civil registration records are sometimes forgotten since parish records form the backbone of many people's European research.

When civil registration records do exist, though, they can be a wonderful resource that can make all the difference to someone tracing their European roots. In some areas, civil registration records contain more detailed information about a family than the corresponding parish records. Civil registration records may be indexed in areas where parish records are not, making them an important alternative when you are having difficulty finding a particular ancestor.

And finally, civil registration records can sometimes clear up confusion created by a parish record that is incomplete — or even incorrect. For example, an English parish record of one of my ancestors showed that one child in the family had a different mother than all of the other children. I was confused by this entry and formed all kinds of possible scenarios in my mind — most consisting of the father having an illegitimate child with another woman. Fortunately, I was able to get a copy of the civil registration record. This showed that the

mother actually was the same. This parish preacher had simply made a mistake in recording her name.

I have summarized some of the most important civil registra-

riages were registered at the district level.

Authorities created quarterly indexes to these records. These indexes are available online. Perhaps the most important web-



Palace of Westminster, the seat of the Parliament of the United Kingdom.

tion records by country below. For more information, read the FamilySearch Research Wiki for your country of interest. To find it, simply Google (or enter into another search engine) "FamilySearch Wiki Civil Registration Records" and the name of the country of interest.

## ENGLAND

Parliament passed legislation requiring civil registration to begin in England on 1 July 1837. For recording purposes, cities and villages were divided into registration districts, which were further divided into sub-districts. Births and deaths were registered at these sub-districts, while mar-

riages were registered at the district level. Authorities created quarterly indexes to these records. These indexes are available online. Perhaps the most important website for finding English civil registration records is Free BMD located at [www.freebmd.org.uk](http://www.freebmd.org.uk). The founders of Free BMD undertook the noble project of transcribing the English and Welsh Civil Registration Index and making it available online for free. Keep in mind that this is the index, not the actual civil registration records. However, with two hundred million total records online, it's an impressive collection. Other websites, such as Ancestry, [www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com), Find My Past, [www.findmypast.co.uk](http://www.findmypast.co.uk), and World Vital Records, [www.worldvitalrecords.com](http://www.worldvitalrecords.com), also have civil registration indexes.

You will not find the actual

## Civil Registration Records in Western Europe

civil registration records online because these are closed to the public. To obtain copies of the records, you must order them from the General Register Office for England and Wales. You can do this online through their website at [www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/certificates](http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/certificates).

The GENUKI website also has a useful resource located at [www.ukbmd.org.uk/genuki/places/index.html](http://www.ukbmd.org.uk/genuki/places/index.html). Here you can look at specific places to find out to which counties and registration districts they belonged.

### FRANCE

Civil registration records in France should make anyone with French roots excited. These wonderful records begin in 1792 and include just about everyone. They tend to be more thorough than parish records from the same time period. (The exception is if your family lived in Paris. A fire destroyed nearly all the civil registration records there that dated before 1860.) As in other countries, to use these records, you must first determine which civil registration office covered your ancestor's hometown.

Another wonderful aspect of French civil registration records is that, in most cases, they are indexed. One-year and 10-year indexes exist. Yearly indexes are kept with the actual records, while

the ten-year indexes were kept separately. The Family History Library has microfilm copies of about half the civil registration records from France until 1870, and some towns up until 1890. It is possible that the record you need has been digitized and put online. Many departments in France have begun the process of digitizing their records. Check on the website of the archive for the department in which your family lived to see what they have available.

### GERMANY

Since Germany didn't exist as a nation until 1871, civil registration did not begin at a uniform time in the German states. Alsace-Lorraine, then a part of France, began keeping civil registration records in 1791. As Napoleon invaded the German states, he often brought civil registration with him. These early records were usually kept in French and used the short-lived French Republican calendar. After Napoleon was defeated, many German states no longer kept these records. Civil registration became mandatory in all German states again in 1876.

German civil registration records often contain more detailed information than parish records. Recent changes to privacy laws have made these records more accessible, although rules still somewhat limit access. Civil registration records were kept at the local Standesamt (civil registration office). Indexes were sometimes created with the records, and can be found before or after the records, usually arranged alphabetically within the year. Alsace-Lorraine has 10-year indexes.

Some of the earlier civil registration records have been filmed and are available at the Family History Library in Salt Lake City. Otherwise, you will need to write to the appropriate Standesamt to obtain a copy of the record. Some civil registration records have also been gathered at German archives.

### IRELAND

Civil registration began in Ireland in 1864 (although registration of Protestant marriages started about 20 years before this). Births, marriage and deaths were recorded at district offices. The records often contain numerous useful details. For example, in a marriage record, you will probably find the bride and groom's names, ages, occupations, residences, and signatures, along with the names and occupations of the fathers and whether or not they were deceased. The marriage record will also have the date and place of marriage and the witnesses.

Civil registration records are indexed. Prior to 1878, the index is alphabetical by year. After 1878, it is alphabetical by each quarter of the year. You can search the indexes up through 1958 at [www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org) through the Historical Records section. Read the Wiki, located at [https://wiki.familysearch.org/en/Ireland\\_Civil\\_Registration](https://wiki.familysearch.org/en/Ireland_Civil_Registration), for more information. Some of the actual records (births until 1881 and marriages and deaths until 1870) are also available this way. Once you have the information from the indexes, there are several ways to access the actual records. The Family History Library in Salt Lake City has many of the records available on microfilm to order to your local family history center. You can also order certificates from the General Records Office of the Republic of Ireland (steps are a little different for ancestors from Northern Ireland). Follow the instructions at [http://www.groireland.ie/apply\\_for\\_a\\_cert.htm](http://www.groireland.ie/apply_for_a_cert.htm).

The Irish Family History Foundation's website, [www.rootsireland.ie](http://www.rootsireland.ie), also has civil registration records. It's free to search the index, but you must pay to view a record.

### ITALY

Similar to Germany, Italy did not unify until late in its history, meaning that civil registration records here also followed an uneven course in different parts of the country. When Napoleon invaded Italy, he brought require-



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ments for civil registration.

Because of this, civil registration records in many parts of Italy begin in 1809. Once again, like Germany though, once Napoleon left, many of these places ceased keeping civil registration records. Much of southern Italy continued keeping the records, and Sicily began recording this information in 1820. Later, as Italy unified, civil registration became law. Most places kept these records by 1866.

In addition to birth, marriage, and death records, some Italian civil registration records also include Stato de famiglia (state of the family) records. These records cover an entire family unit, with the priest updating the record with changes as people married, died, or moved.

Civil registration records were kept at the local register's office. Therefore, it is necessary to determine which office covered your ancestor's village. Records originally were indexed annually by given name (instead of surname). Eventually, the indexing system changed to surnames, though. Beginning in 1875, many places have 10-year indexes available. The Family History Library has some of these records available up until 1910. Search the Family History Library Catalog to determine what is available. If you can't find the records you need here, you can write to the local office. Commercial websites also offer services in which researchers go into the records office for you to search for your family. One of these services is explained at [www.italiamerica.org/id19.htm](http://www.italiamerica.org/id19.htm). Other options of hiring researchers are available as well.

### THE NETHERLANDS

Civil registration records are the star of the show for people tracing Dutch ancestors. There is simply not another record that can compete in importance for the post-1811 period (when they began). These civil registration records cover the entire population. Even better, they are indexed in one and 10-year intervals. Records usually include names, dates, witnesses' names, occupations, residences,

and relationships.

You can't talk about Dutch civil registration records without mentioning Genlias, a website available at [www.genlias.nl/en](http://www.genlias.nl/en). Genlias represents the collaborative effort of a number of archives in the Netherlands. Their ambitious aim is to enter all the data from the open civil registers. The site already includes over 15 million civil registration records representing 61 million people. You can search for free, but must pay a fee to order copies of original records.

### SCANDINAVIAN COUNTRIES

Civil registration records are not as important of a resource in the Scandinavian countries as they are in other Western European countries. In Sweden, separate recording of records by civil authorities didn't begin until 1950. Prior to that, "civil records" were simply copies of church records sent to a central bureau of statistics. In Denmark, valuable civil recordings of marriages in Copenhagen were done beginning in 1851. Outside of this, not much exists other than limited death certificates for wealthy people in urban areas. Civil records began in 1876 for statistical purposes in Norway, but these are generally not available to the public. And Finland also did not have important distinct civil records.

### SCOTLAND

Although Scotland isn't a separate country now, it has had a separate history when it comes to civil registration records. Civil registration of births, marriages, and deaths began across Scotland on 1 January 1855. Yearly nation-wide indexes were then created of the records. Since these records are indexed and include almost everyone in the country, they are one of Scotland's most important genealogical sources.

There are a number of ways to access Scotland's civil registration information. First, the commercial website, ScotlandsPeople, [www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk](http://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk), has both the records and the indexes. Several purchasing options allow

you to find a plan that will work for you.

The Family History Library has microfilmed the records from 1855 to 1875, along with 1881 and 1891, and the indexes up until 1956. Birth and marriage records through 1875 are also available online at [www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org) in the Historical Records section. Finally, you can order a copy from the General Register Office in Scotland. Go to their website at <http://www.gro-scotland.gov.uk> for more information.

### SPAIN

Spain did not generally begin recording civil registration records until 1871, although records in a few places do date back to 1837. These records tend to have amazing, detailed genealogical information — but accessing them may be a challenge. Few are currently online or on microfilm through the Family History Library. Your best option may be to write to the appropriate archive to obtain a copy. For more information, visit the online Archive Directory available at [http://aer.mcu.es/sgae/index\\_censo\\_guia.jsp](http://aer.mcu.es/sgae/index_censo_guia.jsp). At this site, you can search for archives, find an inventory of materials at the archives, and get contact information for the archives.

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*Leslie Albrecht Huber is a regular contributor to Family Chronicle and Internet Genealogy. Her first book, The Journey Takers, was published in the summer of 2010. For more information, visit her website at [www.understandingyourancestors.com](http://www.understandingyourancestors.com).*

# Write On! Writing Your Family History

YOU'VE GATHERED THE facts, interviewed your relatives and entered the names, dates, and places into your genealogical software program. Now what? Family history is so much more than just a collection of facts or charts. This article will offer five tips on producing a "can't put down" family history.

## Step 1: Do Your Homework.

Don't just focus on getting the names, dates, and places. In addition to the details, use social history to help bring your ancestors to life. How to do this? First, if you're talking to your relatives, don't just ask questions that require a one- or two-word answer — for example, "What is your date of birth?" or "Where did our family come from?" Instead, go for questions that are more open-ended or that require a bit of thought. For example, "How did you celebrate birthdays as a young child?"; "Do you remember your parents or grandparents talking about their hometown?"; "What was the closest big city and how far away did they live from it?"

Find more detailed questions for documenting your own life story, or interviewing others in the Life Story Writing Guide (available via download from Lulu, \$1.95), <http://bit.ly/fPpcJY>. If you don't have any living relatives to interview, see if there is a town historian or someone who knows the history of the area where your ancestors lived. Read historic newspapers to gain an idea of the current events of the time. For an overview of how to locate old newspapers, consult the November 2010 issue of *Internet Genealogy* — you can purchase back issues at [www.internet-genealogy.com/online\\_backissue.htm](http://www.internet-genealogy.com/online_backissue.htm), search Google Books, <http://books.google.com>, for related topics, or visit the local library or historical society. Look for vintage photographs for



*Anna Alzo (left), the author's mother was an inspiration and main source of information for her book, *Three Slovak Women* (2001). Mother and daughter posed for this photograph at a family reunion in 1999 in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.*

purchase at Vintage Aerial, <http://vintageaerial.com/photos>, or search for free ones at the Library of Congress, [www.loc.gov/pictures](http://www.loc.gov/pictures), or Google Images, <http://images.google.com>. Search for Blogs by town, ethnic group, or other subject — you'll find more than 1,800 listed at Geneabloggers, [www.geneabloggers.com](http://www.geneabloggers.com). For more tips, consult the book, *Bringing Your Family History to Life Through Social History* by Katherine Scott Sturdevant and Sharon DeBartolo Carmack (Betterway Books, Out of Print). Look for used copies online or check your local library.

## 2. Show, Don't Tell.

This is the classic nonfiction writer's mantra, and the key to making any story stand out. Take some time to think about your

favorite novel. Why is it your favorite? What keeps you turning the pages? Is it the characters? The setting? The plot? As you compose your narrative, try incorporating some elements of good fiction writing, such as dialogue, suspense, sensory details, etc. Work hard to bring your ancestors to life by treating them like characters in a book. Make us like them (or dislike them as the case may be). While writing my book, *Three Slovak Women*, I included a chapter called "Discipline" where I describe my mother's love/hate relationship with her father. I had completed six oral history interviews with my mother (all captured on audiotape), and it took me at least three interviews to get her to open up and discuss her relationship with her parents. I

wrote the chapter from the interview transcripts, and my aim was to draw the reader in with the opening sentence:

*“My mother remembers kneeling behind the black coal stove in the basement of the house on Crawford Avenue. Each strike of the leather strap — first across her shoulders, then over her back and legs — stung more than the last one. Large red welts appeared on her body, but the physical pain was nothing compared to her fear and embarrassment. She thought he would never stop. When he finally did, she sobbed and lifted herself from the floor. In spite of the beating, she did not hate her father; she vowed not to do anything wrong again and wanted to please him.”*

To read the rest of this chapter, listen to the audio, or view the original transcript of the interview, go to [www.lisaalzo.com/other-writings.htm](http://www.lisaalzo.com/other-writings.htm).

The more you can show what happened to your ancestors, rather than just listing the facts, the better chance you’ll have for attracting and keeping readers. For example, the following facts about my grandfather, don’t offer much in the way of a story — they’re simply a list of key life events: János (John) Figlar b. 14 March 1896, Osturna, Slovakia; d. 3 July 1974, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. But note the following paragraph:

*“During the war, János spent time in a Russian prison where his ability to repair carriages and make wheels saved his life. Eventually, he managed to escape and returned to his Rusyn Village of Osturna in 1920.”*

These few sentences capture something beyond just the basics — noting how my grandfather possessed a skill (ability to repair carriages and make wheels) and how that skill helped him out of a difficult situation. The dates and other supporting information can be added as endnotes or in a bibliography section at the end of the profile or character sketch so as not to interrupt the story, but at the same time illustrate the



*The author’s grandfather János (John) Figlar, is shown in this 1921 photograph. His role and back-story figure prominently in her family history narrative.*

sources for the information.

### 3. Outline & Organize.

Before you write that first sentence, create an outline, or a storyboard. You can do this with a word processing document, notecards, or software, such as

Scrivener (MAC version \$45 USD, Windows in Beta — free trial available), [www.literatureandlatte.com/scrivener.php](http://www.literatureandlatte.com/scrivener.php), or Personal Historian (\$29.95 USD), [www.rootsmagic.com/personal-historian](http://www.rootsmagic.com/personal-historian). If you’re focusing on a particular ancestor or family, it may help to

#### SELF-PUBLISHING RESOURCES FOR GENEALOGISTS

- Amazon.com Author Central: [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com)
- Barnes & Noble: [www.barnesandnoble.com](http://www.barnesandnoble.com)
- Blurb: [www.blurb.com](http://www.blurb.com)
- BookSurge, [www.booksurge.com](http://www.booksurge.com)
- Bowker Identifier Services: [www.bowker.com/index.php/identifier-services](http://www.bowker.com/index.php/identifier-services)
- CreateSpace (Amazon): [wwwcreatespace.com](http://wwwcreatespace.com)
- Lulu: [www.lulu.com](http://www.lulu.com)
- PayPal: [www.paypal.com](http://www.paypal.com)
- Scribd: [www.scribd.com](http://www.scribd.com)
- Smashwords: [www.smashwords.com](http://www.smashwords.com)

## Write On! Writing Your Family History

create an Ancestor Data Sheet — see [www.lisaalzo.com/other-writings.htm](http://www.lisaalzo.com/other-writings.htm) for a sample, and a blank form. Building a timeline for your ancestor's life also helps. You can use your genealogical software program, or specialty software such as Genelines (Progeny, \$29.95 USD download; \$34.94 USD CD-ROM), [www.progenygenealogy.com/Products/TimelineCharts.aspx](http://www.progenygenealogy.com/Products/TimelineCharts.aspx), or free online programs such as OurTimelines, [www.ourtimelines.com](http://www.ourtimelines.com), or TimeToast, [www.timetoast.com](http://www.timetoast.com).

When writing stories from your family's past, ask yourself three simple questions: So What? Who Cares? Who am I? These questions give you a vision or mission statement for your narrative that tells why you are writing the book, who your target audience is, and why you are qualified to tell the story. Certainly, your answers will differ depending on the circumstances. If you're writing a basic family history, then you pretty much know that you will be directing the book to your relatives and extended family and your purpose will likely be to pass down information to future generations. Your qualifications are the years you've spent searching for your ancestors. But if you have loftier ambitions — a book you plan to sell to the genealogical community or the larger public, then you'll need to think more carefully about how you will answer these questions.

### 4. Add Visuals or Interactive Components.

Family histories are much more interesting if you can add photographs, maps, and document images. If you're able to add audio and video (turn it into a Video Book, *aka* V-Book), you can make the pages really come to life. You may want to set up a family website, make videos to post to YouTube, [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com), or share via social networking sites, or write a Blog. These extra multimedia goodies are certain to especially appeal to the younger generations in your family. For detailed instructions on how to incorporate video, audio, etc., consult sites



*Scrivener, [www.literatureandlatte.com/scrivener.php](http://www.literatureandlatte.com/scrivener.php), is a great example of the many cool tools available to help genealogists write their own life stories or narratives about other individuals.*

such as e-How, [www.ehow.com](http://www.ehow.com), or simply do a Google search, [www.google.com](http://www.google.com). The GeneaBloggers website has plenty of resources and advice for bloggers available for free at [www.geneabloggers.com/blog-resources](http://www.geneabloggers.com/blog-resources).

### 5. Prepare It & Share It.

Writing down the family facts or lore is not enough, and it doesn't do much good if you keep what you've written on your hard drive for your eyes only. Thankfully, today there are plenty of tools and resources to help you publish your work and share with family members. For a brief list, see the sidebar (on the previous page) on Self-Publishing Resources for Genealogists.

### CONCLUSION

With today's technology and a little creativity, your family history book no longer needs to be a litany of who begat whom. And the good news is you don't have to be a professional writer to compose a compelling family history narrative. By investing some time

and effort you can successfully relate all those details you spent years tracking down in interesting formats that will hopefully keep your family coming back for more.

IG

*Author, instructor and lecturer, Lisa A. Alzo, is a regular contributor to Family Chronicle and Internet Genealogy. She will be presenting a session entitled "Write Your Family History Step-by-Step" at the Federation of Genealogical Societies conference September 7-10 in Springfield, IL.*

# Upcoming Genealogical Society Events

*Editor's note: Please check the end of this listing for the e-mail address for upcoming events. Please allow at least 10 full weeks advance notice of your event to ensure inclusion in the listings. Due to space limitations, we cannot guarantee that listings submitted will be included in a given issue.*

## JUNE 2011

**Quebec Family History Society Roots 2011, June 3 to June 5, 2011. McGill University, Montreal, Quebec.** The QFHS event is the largest English-language genealogical conference held in Quebec. Numerous well-known speakers discussing all aspects of family history research, computer demonstrations, and a book fair. For complete details and registration forms, please visit [www.qfhs.ca](http://www.qfhs.ca) or e-mail [roots2011@bell.net](mailto:roots2011@bell.net).

**The 42nd Annual Southern California Genealogy Jamboree will be held Friday through Sunday, June 10 through 12, 2011.** The conference will again be held at the Los Angeles Marriott Burbank Airport Hotel, 2500 Hollywood Way, Burbank, CA 91505. Speakers at this event include John Colletta, PhD, FUGA; D. G. Fulford; Loretta "Lou" Szucs, FUGA; Dawn Parrett Thurston and many more. For complete information on the Jamboree, visit <http://scsgsgenealogy.com/2011jam-home.htm>.

**Castle Rock, Colorado, Genealogical Society (CRCS), Saturday, 18 June 2011: 10 AM - Noon,** Philip S. Miller Library, 100 S. Wilcox Street, Castle Rock. Topic: "Are You Ready for a Lineage Society?" Speaker: Paula Lasky. For more information, e-mail [crcgspublicity@gmail.com](mailto:crcgspublicity@gmail.com) or visit [www.crcgs.org](http://www.crcgs.org)

**Monday June 20th, 7 PM, Wellington County Branch Ontario Genealogical Society, Crown Cemetery, Concession V111, Lot 28, Puslinch, ON and Duff's Presbyterian Church, 319 Brock Rd S., Guelph, ON N1H 6H9. Topic:** A joint meeting with the Puslinch Historical Society. A member of the Puslinch Historical Society will take us on a 'spirit walk' through Crown Cemetery. We will then meet in Duff's Presbyterian Church for a Genealogy 101 given by a member of the Wellington County Branch OGS. More information and directions can be found at [www.wellington.ogs.on.ca](http://www.wellington.ogs.on.ca)

**Ottawa Branch Ontario Genealogical Society, 21 June 2011, 7 PM. Library and Archives of Canada, 395 Wellington Street, Room 156.** Topic: Your Family History in Newspapers Online. Speaker: John Reid, Genealogy Blogger at Anglo-Celtic-connection. For more information contact <http://ogsottawa.on.ca>. Everyone welcome. Free refreshments. Free evening and weekend parking.

## JULY 2011

**Nashville, TN, Sat. July 16, 2011, 1 PM, FiftyForward Knowles Senior Center, 174 Rains Ave., (Across from the State Fairgrounds) The Middle TN Genealogical Society** presents speaker: Karel Lea Biggs of Clarksville, TN. Her topic: "It is a Happy Thing These Days to Be Obscure!" Women and Civilians in Occupied Middle Tennessee. This program examines what life was like,

during the Civil War, living under Union occupation. No charge for this program. Refreshments served. We look forward to seeing you there! Visit our website for more information at [www.mtgs.org](http://www.mtgs.org).

## AUGUST 2011

**Nashville, TN, Sat., August 13, 2011, 10 AM to 3 PM, FiftyForward Knowles Senior Center, 174 Rains Ave., (across from State Fairgrounds).** The Middle TN Genealogical Society will sponsor a BEGINNING LAND PLATTING WORKSHOP, with Certified Genealogist, J. Mark Lowe. This hands-on session will enable you to plat a deed and much more. Cost: \$40 per person, (lunch and materials included) Contact: Deborah Stillwell, 615-743-3487, or [dstillwell@fiftyforward.org](mailto:dstillwell@fiftyforward.org) to register. Visit our website: [www.mtgs.org](http://www.mtgs.org) for more information. Don't miss this down-to-earth presentation.

## SEPTEMBER 2011

**The Ontario Genealogical Society is putting on unique seven-day Carnival Cruise Lines Canada/New England Genealogy Cruise** slated for September 10, 2011. Ports to visit include: New York City, NY; Boston, MA; Portland, ME; St. John, NB and Halifax, NS. For more information contact: [director09@ogs.on.ca](mailto:director09@ogs.on.ca)

**September 16 & 17, 2011, Richland, WA – The Tri City Genealogical Society will host the WA State Genealogical Society's 2011 Conference "Building Ancestral Bridges" at Richland Baptist Church, 1632 George Washington Way.** Main Speaker PATRICIA WALLS STAMM, CG, CGL One Friday night and three Saturday. 15 Breakout sessions available from which you can choose three on Saturday. **Online Registration available early May.** Take advantage of an exciting surprise when signing up early. Go to [www.tricitygenealogicalsociety.org](http://www.tricitygenealogicalsociety.org) for details.

## OCTOBER 2011

Central New York Genealogical Society (CNYGS) 50th Anniversary Conference Oct 14 - 15, 2011, Syracuse, New York. For information, visit [www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~cnygcnygs](http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~cnygcnygs) or e-mail: [cnygs50th@yahoo.com](mailto:cnygs50th@yahoo.com).

### Genealogical Society Announcements

Send us a short description (**60 words max.**) of your event, the date, time and location and any contact numbers or e-mail addresses. A full 10 weeks is the minimum required for lead time. Example: Announcements for the Jan/Feb issue must be in by November 1... March/April must be in by January 1, etc.

E-mail to: [announcements@internet-genealogy.com](mailto:announcements@internet-genealogy.com)

# Family Tree Maker For Mac: Research Ready!

SINCE MOVING FROM a Windows-based computer to an Apple iMac last year, I've been looking for Mac-version replacements of my favorite genealogy programs. It's not been an easy search! However, in just the last few months, I've found out about the availability of Family Tree Maker for Mac by Ancestry.com. Having used the Windows-based 2010 version previously for my own review and research projects, I was instantly curious about this, especially any new updates or changes that might have been included.

After acquiring a copy of the software and using it on my latest family research project, I've found it easy to use and with a great mix of features. If you're a Mac user, or thinking about acquiring a Mac, let me share with you a little bit more about what I found out.

## ABOUT

You can find the software in many places, ranging from Ancestry.com, the still new Mac App Store, [www.apple.com/mac/app-store](http://www.apple.com/mac/app-store), and regular places like Amazon, Micro Center, and Office Max. Pricing for the package can vary, from around \$69 online at Ancestry.com to \$99 at the Mac App Store or various retailers.

According to Ancestry.com staff, the pricing difference is attributed to extra software and a guidebook, which is found in the retail version. Regardless of where you purchase the software, you get a full "Deluxe" subscription for a "trial" period of time, during which you can use the full range of Ancestry.com resources through the software or their website.

From a system standpoint, and still being a new user to the Mac world, I also paid some extra

attention to the requirements, including both recommended memory and storage space. While it should run quite well on most modern Macs, the requirements are listed on the website as:

- Mac OSX 10.5
- Intel-based hardware
- CD-ROM for installation\*

\*Note that the CD-ROM drive is not needed if you are using the

visual and practical differences in how the two different operating systems present the desktop and installed applications.

If you are new to the Mac or even an experienced user, then you will understand that programs converted to Mac from Windows sometimes get completely changed, with program displays and menu items in different places, or even, in some cases,



*Family Tree Maker for Mac is flexible and easy to use!*

Mac App Store for purchase and installation. Instead, that is a direct download from the Internet.

Having acquired the CD version rather than the direct download, the install was quick and went well without any problems or glitches. Space used on the hard drive was around 450 MB, which isn't too bad, considering many programs frequently require much more.

After installation, I registered the program, which gave me access to Ancestry.com with a guest account and the ability to upload and search the online site through the program as mentioned above.

## DIFFERENCES?

Since I've started using my Mac almost exclusively for all of my daily computing and family research projects instead of Windows, I've gotten used to the

non-existent.

However, using Family Tree Maker for Mac, I can report that this was not the case. The layout and visual aspects have remarkably stayed the same as the Windows version, and were instantly familiar.

## LAYOUT

Given the fact that genealogy software programs are asked to do a wide variety of different duties, designing a flexible visual interface is no easy task. Much as in the Windows version, Family Tree Maker for Mac accomplishes this goal.

In general terms, the top part of the display is reserved for overall task options with headings such as People, Plan, Places, Media, Sources and more. The bottom half of the display is your "desk" with space to input data and work with your family infor-

mation/tree.

To the left and right of this bottom area is what I call “mini-panes” of information, and will change depending upon what you are currently working with.

For example, if you are just starting out, these windows will contain basic family tree information and a weblinks option, called the “Web Dashboard” by Ancestry.com. This helps you to quickly get on task and get the information into your project. However, if you have already created a tree or family file, these “mini-panes” contain more options, such as indexes, specific personal information and notes. Lastly, all of the layouts can be customized via option choices and/or resizable windows.

Given the specific nature of Mac displays, I particularly enjoyed these flexible screen customizations. If you own a larger Mac monitor, such as the 27-inch Cinema display, then you will have plenty of working room for your project. Even if you have a regular iMac monitor or even a MacBook, this layout can help you to be very productive.

### GETTING STARTED

So, how do you start using the program? For myself, beginning a new family project can very often be frustrating, especially if I’m not sure where to go or who I’m even looking for. This is where Family Tree Maker helps with three options to get your research going. You can:

- Input data you might already know
- Import from an existing file or tree
- Download Information from Ancestry.com

Having this approach helped me to focus on the task at hand, especially knowing that I would have to import data from another family tree I had been working with.

### DATA IN — AND OUT!

Fundamental to any genealogy software is the ability of the program to work with your data files that may already exist. Family

Tree Maker for Mac, much like the Windows version, directly imports GEDCOM and previous editions of Family Tree Maker files.

However, be aware that GEDCOM support is only for 5.5 and Family Tree Maker Version 5 and up.

I did notice that import support for Personal Ancestral File (PAF), Legacy Family Tree, and the Master Genealogist were not present in the Mac version as they were in the Windows software. In talking with Ancestry.com staff about this, there were technology differences that prevented this support.

*Family Tree Maker has been the #1-selling family history software for two decades now.*

However, importing my project’s GEDCOM files went easy and without any problems. There are many options present at this point, including placement of the newly created data file and naming options. After the import is finished, you are presented with statistics about the information that was imported, including:

- Individuals
- Families
- Sources
- And even multimedia

Other information included an error report, with the chance to view the actual log file. This is a nice feature considering that GEDCOM files can vary quite a bit, depending upon where and how they have been created previously.

### FILE CONVERSION?

If you have worked with the program previously via a Windows version, then you will want to ensure that you take a look at the data migration tool that is included with Family Tree Maker for Mac. This handy tool is included both on the installation CD-ROM, as well as online from the support section of FamilyTreeMaker.com, according to Ancestry.com staff. This tool enables you to quickly convert and transfer any existing Family Tree data files from Windows to Mac or Mac to

Windows.

Giving this application a try, I was able to successfully convert and transfer my Family Tree Maker 2010 data file over to my iMac without any problems. If you have a large file, I would recommend backing it up before attempting to convert and transfer it over, or perhaps even doing a test file or two just to make sure things will work as they should. I should note here as well that the conversion tool will only work on the Windows PC, not the Mac.

### NEED TO PRINT?

While its been said that paper isn’t important in our digital age, I’m finding that in researching my genealogy, the need for printing

## Family Tree Maker For Mac

family information and charts is still needed, no matter how much I try NOT to. Because of this, any program I've selected needs to have the flexibility to output many formats and methods. While maybe your needs are different or if you do print a lot of things from your existing genealogy program, Family Tree Maker for Mac has many options in this area. These include regular reports, family charts, calendars and more.

Testing this option with the printers on my home network, I was able to easily print a pedigree report with specific details, such as title, layout style, spacing and more. A neat feature also included the ability to specify background images and themes like aged paper, maps and even famous landmarks. With the ability to save your settings and even create templates, this can save quite a bit of time if you do any amount of printing.

### WEB INTEGRATION

The Internet has proved to be a game-changer when it comes to researching family history. Online databases, social media, digitized newspapers and books — all of these have allowed great advances in following our ancestor's footsteps and learning more about them. Genealogy programs have changed to reflect this as well, allowing deep integration with web resources, search engines and application-level databases.

Much like the Windows version that preceded it, Family Tree Maker for Mac provides these functions in a wide variety of ways. If you already have an established Ancestry.com account, you can log-in from within the program and import family information, trees and other new facts and notes.

You can also search Ancestry.com's related sites, such as Rootsweb.com and Genealogy.com from within the program as well. Using the included mini-browser, I was able to pull in some family facts and attach them to specific persons in my file rather quickly. Notes and "web-clipping" options save time and



*The migration tool helps you to bring your family research to your Mac.*

help you to keep track of the new information you find while online. Family Tree Maker also has options to customize this web-searching portion of the program with your favorite sites and other search engines you use on a regular basis.

### OTHER FEATURES

Besides integration and data transformation, Family Tree Maker includes a host of other program options from media imports to maps and even several "mini-programs" which can help improve your project and save you time. Let's talk about a few.

#### • Media Options

Most genealogy programs today offer you various methods of including many types of media alongside your family tree. Family Tree Maker for Mac is no exception and offers the ability to import images, scans and other types of media directly into your family research. From here, you can link this information to specific persons, create a slide show and even link to the source where you may have originally found it. If you work with public domain resources or scanned family history items, this is a particularly great

feature.

#### • Maps & Locations

Becoming a more popular option among genealogy programs today, the option to integrate maps and family information has become quite popular. Family Tree Maker offers some great mapping options from within the program. Using the Places tab, you can quickly link persons and places to specific family locations, export a report to share with others and even view various maps, such as aerial, road view and others, via the Bing search engine from Microsoft. I had used this extensively in the Windows-based version of the program and was glad to see it in the Mac version as well. However, I did note that the Mac version does not support the 3D option present in the Windows version.

#### • "Mini-Programs"

For all of the excitement that the major features can provide in genealogy software, sometimes it's the smaller options that can really speed up research. Family Tree Maker, like earlier versions, offers various calculators, such as dates, relationships and Soundex. I enjoyed seeing the Soundex option especially, as I had used it

extensively in the Windows version.

**MORE INFORMATION**

There is so much more that this program can do and because everyone's family research projects are different and have different requirements, I do want to share with you more information about the software. What follows are some links to reviews, blogs and details I've found that might prove helpful to you as well.

- Ancestry.com Message Boards: Mac Family Tree Maker:  
<http://boards.ancestry.com/boardinfo.aspx?p=topics.software.ftmmac>

- Family Tree Maker Comparison With Other Programs:  
[http://ancestry.custhelp.com/cgi-bin/ancestry.cfg/php/enduser/sab\\_answer.php?p\\_faqid=5311](http://ancestry.custhelp.com/cgi-bin/ancestry.cfg/php/enduser/sab_answer.php?p_faqid=5311)

- Family Tree Maker for Mac is Here! (Ancestry.com Blog):  
<http://blogs.ancestry.com/ancestry/2010/11/04/family-tree-maker-for-mac-is-here>

- For More Information From MacGenealogy.org:  
<http://www.macgenealogy.org/about>

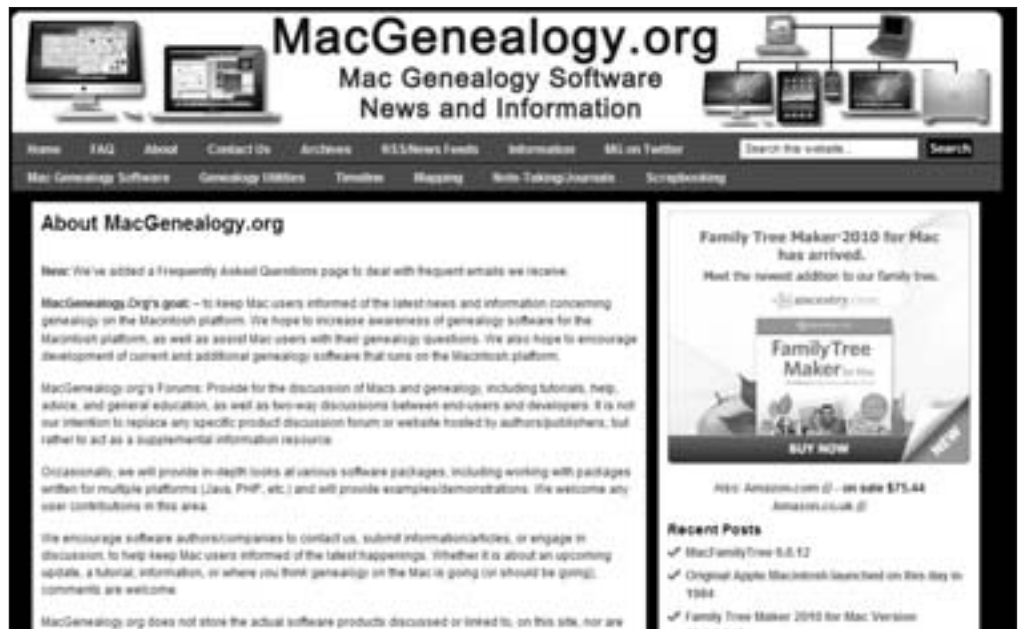
- Pricing and System Requirements:  
[www.familytreemaker.com/Views/Support/Support.aspx](http://www.familytreemaker.com/Views/Support/Support.aspx)

- Review and Information on Family Tree Maker for Mac:  
<http://www.macgenealogy.org/family-tree-maker-mac-2010>

**ON THE OTHER HAND...**

While I found working with Family Tree Maker on my iMac to be a great experience overall, there were a few things that you should be aware of about the program that either were not included in the conversion or just missing. These include:

- Missing Tools



*The MacGenealogy.org site is a great source of news and information concerning genealogy on the Macintosh platform.*

Going from the Windows to Mac versions of the software, the vast majority of options and programs are the same and work well. However, perhaps due to the proprietary nature of Windows or just being a different operating system, there were some missing options such as plugin management and other specialized system options not present in this version.

- Missing Import/Export Options  
As mentioned above, there were fewer import options for the Mac version of the software, including no support for PAF, Legacy Family Tree or the Master Genealogist. Does this matter? It can, depending upon your choices.

- Version?  
As outlined in the beginning, the Mac version of Family Tree Maker is based on the Windows 2010 program and does not include many of the new features present in the newer 2011 Windows version. While this is not necessarily a bad thing, it's something you should be aware of as you research the program.

**FINAL THOUGHTS**

Given the fact that so many of us now rely on genealogy software for our family research, using dif-

ferent computers or different versions of software can be downright scary, especially if your family file is large and complex. Also, as a newer Mac user, I've been somewhat frustrated in finding replacements for many of my Windows-based programs.

Family Tree Maker for Mac helps to solve these problems and provides a great transition point in going from Windows to Mac. A few minor points aside, my experience with the program was great and I'm glad to see Ancestry.com provide this option. Will it work for you? It might! Take a look at the program, use the links provided, and see if it can help you achieve your research goals!



*Freelance writer, librarian and historian, Tony Bandy can be found researching forgotten topics in history at [Adventures in History, http://history.writingwithtony.com](http://history.writingwithtony.com), or finding more library research topics and databases at [Library Knowledge, www.libraryknowledge.com](http://www.libraryknowledge.com).*

# Historic Pittsburgh Research Resources

FORMERLY THE HEART OF United States steel manufacturing, Pittsburgh Pennsylvania and surrounding areas hold a special place in American history, both through industry and innovations. But it's also home for people, our families, and our ancestors. If your current genealogy research points towards this area, then I want to share with you a project known as Historic Pittsburgh. Through this online historical site, you can search vast archives of photos, census information, maps, and even digital documents and other resources. Let's take a closer look!

## ABOUT THE PROJECT

Part of the Digital Research Library at the University of Pittsburgh, the project's origins date back to 1998. Available online at <http://digital.library.pitt.edu/pittsburgh/>, the project has focused on providing access to primary source materials about the history of Pittsburgh and the surrounding areas. Partnerships with local universities, museums and civic organizations include the University of Pittsburgh, Carnegie Museum of Art, the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation and even the Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania. With this wealth of information, the site, according to the founders and partners, "...provides an alternative means of access to materials that otherwise could not be viewed at one time or in one place as a single coherent collection".

## GETTING STARTED

Historic Pittsburgh offers many avenues in which to begin your research. From Polk city directories to topographical and street

and shared with you details about what each contain, how to search them, and how to use the results of your search.



Homepage for Historic Pittsburgh.

maps from the City of Pittsburgh and the G.M. Hopkins Company, thousands of detailed images, and even census records, the following categories can be found on the site:

- Texts
- Maps
- Images
- Finding Aids
- Census
- Chronology
- Videos

Where to start depends mostly on what you are looking for. In this article, I've outlined each of the major categories of materials

## DIGITIZED TEXTS

Electronic and scanned books usage in genealogical research is a growing trend, and the Historic Pittsburgh collection contains over 1,200 resources of all types for your study and use. With both basic and advanced searching options available, it's easy to quickly zero in on important information. Basic searching is quick and can give you a starting list sortable by author or title with collection information easily available. Advanced searching gives you additional options to search the full text of the source as well as by author, title, and subject. Besides texts such as *Adventures in Power: A Fact History of Westinghouse and Alumni Directory, University of Pittsburgh*, a valuable research tool can be

found in the collection of city directories. If you've ever had a chance to use one of these research tools, then you know they are valuable resources both for finding where your ancestors might have lived as well as tracking family moves, relatives and even employment. Historic Pittsburgh currently contains over 125 of these directories from the years 1815 up through 1945.

Doing a search for my own surname in the directories, I was quickly able to bring up 67 resource links to various texts. Viewing the results, it's possible to

see the actual digitized page, a textual representation or even the table of contents. You can also email yourself the results, download them for further study or just link to them via URL. This linkage option is a great tool, especially if you maintain an online presence and want to be able to direct visitors to the project.

### FOCUS ON: MAPS

As mentioned above, the Historic Pittsburgh project has fascinating map coverage, both from the city and surrounding areas. From city street maps to topographical land maps and more, these resources can help you to quickly pinpoint historic structures or specific residences and streets where your ancestors might have lived/ worked. Some specific resources include:

- The Darlington Digital Library maps
  - City of Pittsburgh maps, 1923-1961
  - G.M. Hopkins Company Maps
- Choosing to search the Darlington Digital Library mapping resources takes you to a different website, available at <http://digital.library.pitt.edu/d/darlington/maps.html>. Mapping resources at this collection includes historic colonial maps, atlases and much more. A broadly-scoped collection, there is much more here than is first apparent, so take the time and choose to search carefully. The City of Pittsburgh map collection offers an overview interface, enabling you to quickly zero down on specific areas of the city. With lots of details, you will find this collection very informative and somewhat similar in details to the G.M. Hopkins Company maps.

Speaking of the G.M. Hopkins Company maps, they might remind you a bit of the Sanborn Fire Insurance maps, [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sanborn\\_Maps](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sanborn_Maps), if you have ever worked with them in the past. Very detailed, this collection is available for the years 1872 through 1940. You can either search through index maps of the city/area or go specific, searching for streets,



*Known for its steelmaking skills, Pittsburgh and the surrounding areas also contain a treasure trove of family history and information.*

wards and other topics. Viewing results are downloadable and online viewing options include various map controls such as zoom in and out. Go to <http://digital.library.pitt.edu/abouthp/#hopkins> to learn more about these fabulous resources.

### FINDING PHOTOS

Photographs can often tell us far more than just data, especially in the case of genealogical research. With this in mind, the Historic Pittsburgh project offers an amazing quality and quantity of photos for your study. The basis of the collection can be found among 48 separate collections from a variety of project partners from the Heinz History Center, Point Park University and others. Subjects and topics included, says the project, "...offer a compelling and comprehensive look at how Pittsburghers lived and worked in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries."

Searching the collection is quite easy with the ability to examine by topic, time, location, collection, or by just basic or advanced searching. The basic search gives quick results, but by

choosing the advanced options, you can include parts of the image record itself. These include title, creator, description and other fields. Results are returned in "gallery" format with tabs across the top to limit results to images, images with "full record" or just captions.

Viewing individual pictures brings control and information options on the left in a new browser tab/window. Using this approach, I was able to zoom in or out on specific images, capturing both details and important information. The descriptions are very complete and include additional information to add to your searching or notes. Lastly, from the individual picture, you are able to move forward or backwards through the individual results or just return to the gallery view, viewing all the images once again.

### SEARCHING THE CENSUS

One of the most popular ways genealogists search for relatives and family members is via the United States census. While not complete, the Historic Pittsburgh project has a unique partial collection of census records for your

## Historic Pittsburgh Research Resources

research needs. In particular, they offer name, street and advanced searching options for the census years 1850-1880 for Pittsburgh, and the same options for Allegheny for the years 1850-1870. Results are returned in textual format and include typical categories such as name, age, sex, dwelling type and more. Note that returned results are not actual census images, but the data recorded from the census records.

### OTHER RESOURCES

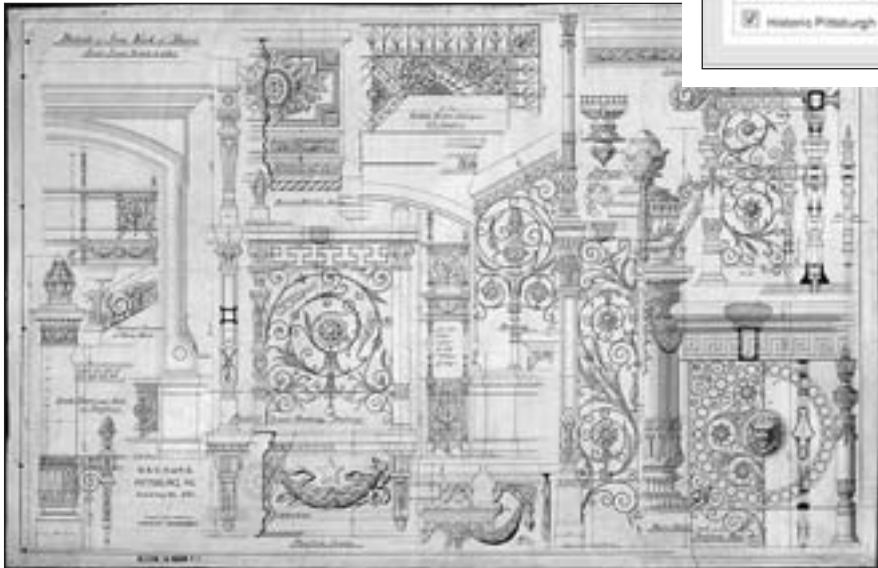
Historic Pittsburgh offers some additional methods of searching the materials while you are at the site. These include timeline searching, or what the project calls "chronology," as well as various

that just facts and dates cannot provide or very often just leave out. The videos include textual descriptions and video control options as well.

### NEED MORE?

If you want to know more about the project or for more details on how to search and use the contents, try the following links to get started:

- About the



video options. The videos available for viewing start in the era of the Forties and go forward. The "chronology" approach is a great way to see the time period which your ancestors might have lived in and can give you a more accurate picture as to their everyday lives. Doing a basic search for the years 1900 and up, I came across different facts about the city and area including information on the Pittsburgh Pirates and Carnegie Steel corporation activity. The videos offer a fascinating glimpse into a bygone era. Although not having sound, we can see industry at work and people living their lives, something

Historic Pittsburgh Project:

<http://digital.library.pitt.edu/abouthp/>

- Other sites the project mentions: <http://digital.library.pitt.edu/abouthp/relatedsites.html>

- Pittsburgh Timeline: <http://digital.library.pitt.edu/chronology/>

- "Finding Aids": <http://digital.library.pitt.edu/ead/>

- Latest Updates: [http://digital.library.pitt.edu/cgi-bin/news/historic\\_pittsburgh/](http://digital.library.pitt.edu/cgi-bin/news/historic_pittsburgh/)

### FINAL THOUGHTS

If you have family history or ancestors in Pittsburgh or even the state, then this project should be one of the first places to start your

Basic Search

Basic Search Boolean Proximity Bibliographic History

Search in: full text

Find:

Tip: work finds "worker," "working," etc.  
war and peace finds "war and peace"

Limits:  in  author

and  in  author

Search

Check collections to add them to a search.  
Visit the collection Home site for more information, and for more search options.

Collection	Number of Texts
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Historic Pittsburgh City Directories	128
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Historic Pittsburgh General Text Collection	1877

*Above: Easy to search, you easily become aware of the historic significance of Pittsburgh in your family research!*

*Left: Many images similar to these blueprints are available for your research.*

(Source: NARA)

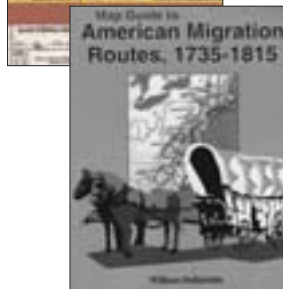
research. Free to use and easy to search, there's a wealth of information just waiting for you to find it! From city directories, to pictures, maps and more, this website can be the cornerstone of your current or future family research! Give it a try today!

IG

*Freelance writer, librarian and historian, Tony Bandy can be found researching forgotten topics in history at [Adventures in History](http://history.writingwithtony.com), <http://history.writingwithtony.com>, or finding more library research topics and databases at [Library Knowledge](http://www.libraryknowledge.com), <http://www.libraryknowledge.com>.*



***Genealogical Resources of the Civil War Era - Online and Published Military or Civilian Name Lists, 1861-1869 & Post-Civil War Veteran Lists***, by William Dollarhide; Item # FR0113; \$32.95; FRPC website price: \$32.29. Most genealogical records during the decade of the Civil War are related to the soldiers and regiments of the Union and Confederate military. However, there are numerous records relating to the entire population as well. This new volume identifies the places to look and documents to be found for ancestors during the decade, 1861-1869, as well as post-war veterans.



***Map Guide to American Migration Routes, 1735-1815***; by William Dollarhide; Item #A0140; \$19.95; FRPC website price: \$19.55. Family researchers need to locate and understand the early American migration routes their ancestors may have traveled. In this book, acclaimed author, William Dollarhide, shows these early roadways with well-researched and consistently drawn maps. Dollarhide's guide begins with the King's Highway of 1735 from Boston to Charleston and ends with the roads that resulted from the War of 1812 in the Old Southwest. These maps provide critical information for researchers trying to locate the passages of early migration in America.

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# How Safe is Your Genealogy Data?

**Lisa A. Alzo shares some valuable lessons learned about protecting your genealogical and personal info**

I NEVER IMAGINED it would happen to me. Last November, I was on my way home from the Atlanta Family History Expo and had stopped overnight in Philadelphia. I used my computer in my hotel room to check my e-mail and Facebook accounts. I did not leave the room again until the next day, when I packed my car and drove back to New York. Once home, I went to my backpack to retrieve my netbook computer and discovered it was not there. I frantically searched my luggage, my car and the house until I finally realized it was nowhere to be found. I called

the hotel. After three attempts, I finally spoke to a manager who said that there was no sign of my computer — even after I asked them to please thoroughly check the room again and offered to give a reward to anyone who found it. By the end of the day, I knew it was fruitless. I must have checked out without packing it, leaving it behind in that locked room — so sometime between check out and my calling the hotel, my netbook had vanished.

As you would imagine, at this point, I was in a state of panic. Sure, the netbook had a password

required for log in, but it's no secret that passwords can be hacked if somebody has the knowledge and desire to gain access. I wasn't too worried about the software programs I had installed, or the few documents that were on the hard drive — some articles I had written and the PowerPoint presentations from the Expo. But, during my packing, I had placed in my computer case two USB drives that held backup copies of my work, some genealogical research data, and files with some personal information. These drives did not have

## How Safe is Your Data?

encryption capabilities, nor were they password-protected. Granted, it was a seemingly “stupid” move, but I intended to place everything in my backpack and put it straight into the car. I don’t know whether I got distracted, or somehow simply forgot to take the computer case and the drives when I left the room. I’m usually extremely careful with my electronics. I never leave them unattended, and triple check that I have them with me. Losing the computer was bad enough, but I was more concerned about the USB drives.

### DAMAGE CONTROL

I immediately phoned my friend, Dan — a former police officer, and owner of the Crime Guru website, [www.thecrimeguru.com](http://www.thecrimeguru.com). He suggested I call the local police department in the town where the hotel was located to file a report. He also instructed me to notify my bank, credit card companies, etc., and to immediately change all my pins and e-mail and online account passwords, and in a few months time, to monitor my credit report for any suspicious activity (see [www.annualcreditreport.com](http://www.annualcreditreport.com)).

I had secretly hoped that perhaps a “Good Samaritan” would find the computer and turn it in to the hotel, or perhaps even try to contact me (I had ID stickers with my name and telephone number on all the equipment). But it has been several months now, and sadly, the netbook was never recovered.

### “TEACHABLE MOMENT”

Genealogists are advised to be careful what information we share, and with whom we share it. We know not to post personal data about living individuals online, not to advertise on our blogs, or on our Facebook or Twitter accounts when we’re not going to be at home, etc., and to always back-up our family trees, photographs, documents, and research. But when it comes to electronic gadgets (computers, smartphones, etc.), it’s easy to forget just how much personal data we have on them that could easily fall into the wrong hands if they’re lost or

stolen. Depending on the type of information, there’s also the potential risk for identity theft, which can be a costly and traumatic experience. For me, the loss of my netbook was more than just a financial loss. Not only did I have to purchase a replacement computer at my own expense, but

people out there, and while I can’t do anything to change that, I can take steps to keep my data safe in the event a similar loss occurs in the future.

### 1. Travel Light

Because I’m always working on multiple projects at any given



*Depending on the type of information, there’s also the risk of identity theft, so keep your information, both genealogical and personal, under lock and key at all times!*

I also lost countless hours of my time reinstalling software, and recreating those documents that were not backed up (thankfully, it wasn’t too many). Then there was the mental anguish of constantly wondering where that netbook ended up. Who had it? What did they do with it? Did they scour my USB drives and find any personal information that could potentially be used for identity theft? What did they learn about my family? How did this happen? Why didn’t I check one last time that I had packed everything?

I made a mistake. It can happen to anyone.

But I learned some valuable lessons from the experience. The reality is that there are dishonest

time, I tend to take a lot of work with me on the road. But my new mantra is “less is better.” From now on, I will take only what I need because less data = less worry. I now have a designated USB drive that only holds what I need for a particular trip. Because I do hit the road quite frequently, I’m also considering purchasing LoJack, [www.lojack.com](http://www.lojack.com), which tracks hardware (for a minimal fee), and if it’s lost or stolen, reports it to the police once located.

### 2. Put Stuff in the “Cloud”

I’ve been slowly moving and storing many of my files in “the cloud” (using Internet storage options). I have a Dropbox,



*Don't forget to do frequent back-ups of all your files on a regular basis!*

*www.dropbox.com*, which provides me with plenty of free storage and access to my files both from their site and from any computer on which I've installed it. I also utilize Google Docs, <http://docs.google.com>, to store additional copies of certain documents. I can then access needed files whenever I connect to the Internet on the road.

### 3. Make Frequent Back-ups

Thankfully, I had back-ups of most of my files. But I know I can do better. In addition to several external hard drives, I will likely use an online service as well. Mozy, [www.mozy.com](http://www.mozy.com), provides up to 2 GB of free storage. Additional storage is available starting at \$4.95 USD per month. There are other paid services too — such as Backblaze (for as little as \$5 USD per month), [www.backblaze.com](http://www.backblaze.com), or Carbonite, [www.carbonite.com](http://www.carbonite.com), (\$55 USD per year) that keeps all of your files in the event of a theft, loss or catastrophic failure.

### 4. Keep Detailed Records

When filing my report, I had to provide details about my computer (make, model, and serial number). I keep a folder of this information at home and a backup

stored in a safe-deposit box off-site, as well as a digital file of the information that is password-protected and stored in the cloud. I also keep a photograph of all my equipment, and receipts, if possible, for insurance purposes.

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**Technology makes us more productive, but in some ways, it can also make us more vulnerable...Remember the old scouting motto: "Be Prepared!"**

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### 5. Use Secure Passwords

I've now started to also set passwords to restrict initial access to my phone and netbook, and, where necessary, on individual files. I don't use passwords that someone can easily guess and I change all of my passwords routinely — especially for e-mail and other online accounts.

### 6. Stay Safe While Surfing

I'm extra careful about using free Wi-Fi in public places (airports, hotels, coffee shops, etc.). I keep

up-to-date virus protection software installed on my netbook, use a personal firewall and have just installed a Virtual Private Network (VPN). In fact, to avoid the public Wi-Fi risks altogether, I now bring my own personal mobile hotspot device with me. For more information on these topics, I highly recommend Dick Eastman's articles at <http://blog.eogn.com>. (Note: A Plus Edition subscription is required to read the full versions of some of the articles.)

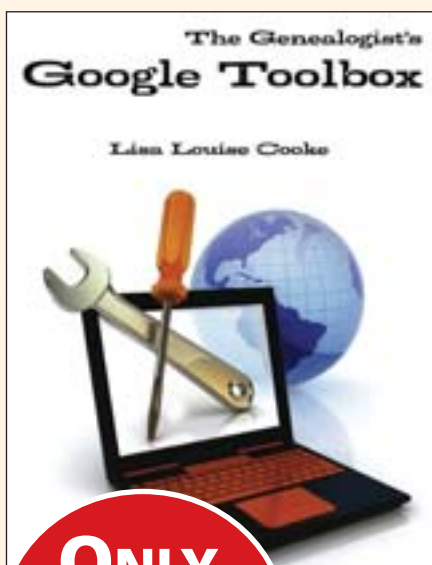
### CONCLUSION

Technology makes us more productive, but in some ways, it can also make us vulnerable. This experience was a huge wake up call for me. While there's no guarantee that a similar situation won't happen again, I can take steps to minimize the impact if it does — and so can you. Remember the old scouting motto: "Be Prepared!"

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*Author, lecturer and instructor, Lisa A. Alzo is a frequent contributor to Internet Genealogy.*

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# Get Involved With The WikiTree!

WIKITREE, [www.wikitree.com](http://www.wikitree.com), is a completely free and collaborative family history website. It gives families an easy way to privately organize and share information while also enabling distant cousins to grow a world wide family tree. Although WikiTree is a relatively new website, it has a very active community of users and is fast becoming a valuable resource for Internet genealogists.

## GETTING STARTED

The first step is to create a free account. In the upper right hand corner of the WikiTree homepage, click on "Register". Enter your name, e-mail address, and the password of your choosing. For experienced genealogists, the next step is to import a Gedcom. First, you must export a Gedcom from your current genealogy program. Then follow one of the links on WikiTree for importing your Gedcom or go directly to [www.wikitree.com/wiki/Special:UploadGedcom](http://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Special:UploadGedcom). In addition to the extensive privacy controls discussed below, during the import you can choose to have WikiTree remove any street addresses, e-mail addresses, phone numbers or Social Security number fields.

After your GEDCOM has been processed into WikiTree webpages, you can begin to explore the full array of features that the site has to offer. The Help pages are a good starting point, [www.wikitree.com/wiki/How\\_to\\_use\\_WikiTree](http://www.wikitree.com/wiki/How_to_use_WikiTree), or you can click on the "My Nav Page" in the top menu. This will take you to your personal navigation page where you can add to your family tree, edit a profile, search for profile matches on the website, and monitor changes or edits from other family members or distant cousins. From here, you can also create new webpages for events, places, family heirlooms or anything else related to your family history.



This is the author's Profile page that displays a biography, her photo, and some basic information about her. Users can also use the tabs to explore her tree and other profiles.

## NAVIGATING & ADDING TO YOUR TREE

Once you are logged into WikiTree, click on "Tree" in the top menu to view your family tree. From this view, you can see the names in your five generation pedigree chart, as well as the birth and death dates. If a name does not appear in the five generation

eration pedigree chart or descendant list. A person's profile displays all of the information about that person, including links to profiles of immediate family members, a biography section, space for personal memories about the person, and a public bulletin board. There is also room for an unlimited number of photos so you can bring the stories of your ancestors to life.

At any time, you can send invitations to your family members or others who might have something to add to your tree or who might just enjoy browsing it. When viewing a profile, click on "Invite Others" on the right hand side.

## PRIVACY

For most researchers, privacy is a top concern when submitting their tree anywhere on the Internet. This is where WikiTree really stands out.

WikiTree has a unique system that balances privacy and collaboration. It is based on a Trusted List system. Each individual profile has its own list of trusted users who can access and edit the profile. The

### GLOSSARY OF TERMS:

**Trusted List:** A list of trusted users who can view and edit a profile. Each profile has its own Trusted List.

**Profile Manager:** The user(s) with ability to add or delete other users from the profile's Trusted List.

**Widget:** A small application that can be installed and viewed on a webpage. Also known as badges or apps.

pedigree chart, a link enables you to add a person.

Links for each name inside the tree will take you to the person's individual profile or their five-gen-

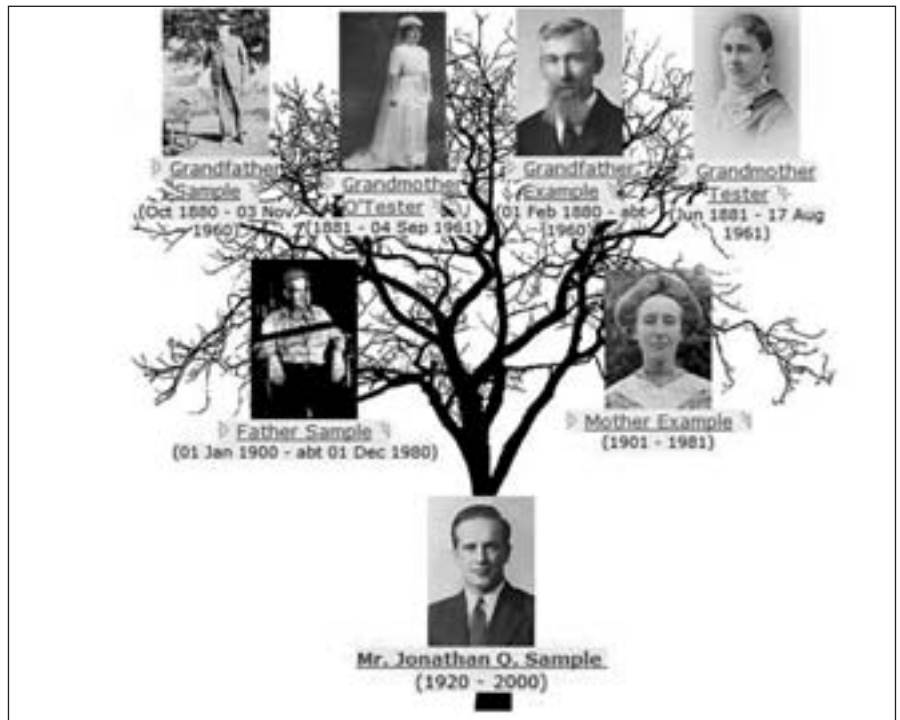
Trusted List is primarily controlled by the Profile Manager. Each profile also has its own Privacy Level. This is also controlled by the Profile Manager. The Privacy Level determines how much people outside the Trusted List can see. There are six levels; enough to make any user comfortable. "Unlisted" profiles are completely hidden from public view. They don't even appear in search results or indexes. At the other end of the privacy spectrum are the "Open" profiles. All their information can be viewed by anyone, and the public can even make some edits, which can later be reviewed and modified by the Profile Manager and Trusted List. Most profiles are somewhere between Unlisted and Open, at one of the semi-private levels.

To make it easy to manage the privacy settings for everyone in your family tree, there are tools that enable the Profile Manager to change the Privacy Level or Trusted List for many profiles at the same time.

Because it's completely new — and unlike any other system you might be familiar with — WikiTree's privacy system can seem complicated at first. But you will soon find that it's a powerful tool for protecting the privacy of living individuals while still allowing the right level of openness that's necessary for collaboration with cousins and other researchers who need access to certain profiles, but not others.

#### SEARCHING FOR COMMON ANCESTORS

WikiTree has a variety of automated and manual systems for matching users who share common ancestors. The most basic method is to use the search box at the top of any WikiTree webpage. Search results display the names of potential matches and their Profile Managers along with other information that depends on the Privacy Level. For example, listings for public profiles will include full birth and death dates, while semi-private profiles will only list the birth and death decades. If you find a matching profile, you can easily request to be placed on that



This is one of the variety of dynamic embeddable family tree widgets.

profile's Trusted List or start the process of merging it.

#### WIKITREE WIDGETS

One of the site's most interesting features for advanced Internet genealogists are the Widgets. These allow website owners and bloggers to "embed" dynamic content from WikiTree inside their own webpages or blog posts.

There are basic Contributions Widgets for displaying what you're currently working on at WikiTree. More exciting are the Family Tree Widgets. These are unlike anything else available from other family tree websites.

The Family Tree Widgets offer more than a dozen different formats for displaying up to 10 generations of your family history. These can be used almost anywhere on the Internet, for example, to illustrate a family story or a surname discussion. They can also be used to solicit help in breaking through brickwalls. If a viewer sees something they can add, they can contact you, or request Trusted List access and add it themselves. Since the widgets are dynamic, they will be instantly updated with the most current information, so you don't need to go back and

modify the webpage or blog post. See [www.wikitree.com/about/family-tree-widgets.html](http://www.wikitree.com/about/family-tree-widgets.html) for more information.

WikiTree is still growing fast. Every month it releases new features that have been suggested or developed by its community of users. By mastering the delicate balance between collaboration and privacy, and keeping it all free, WikiTree has developed an active following among Internet genealogists. It is quickly becoming competition for the big genealogy websites that require you to pay for a premium membership in order to share your research.

Be sure to visit WikiTree's Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/WikiTreeOnline](http://www.facebook.com/WikiTreeOnline) and follow WikiTree on Twitter, [www.twitter.com/WikiTreeOnline](http://www.twitter.com/WikiTreeOnline).

IG

*Elyse Doerflinger is a young genealogist with a specialty in technology. She is also the social media and PR consultant for WikiTree.*

# Two Great Collections Available Online

THANKS TO PARTNERSHIPS WITH Footnote, [www.footnote.com](http://www.footnote.com), FamilySearch, [www.familysearch.org/eng/default.asp](http://www.familysearch.org/eng/default.asp), Ancestry, [www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com), and others, massive amounts of digitized material has become available online to researchers. These partnerships include digitizing records that more people are familiar with (e.g., the US Census), as well as obscure classes of data which were pretty much inaccessible to most researchers. as they were only available as paper documents physically held at the National Archives and Record Administration (NARA) in Washington, DC or at one of the regional offices.

Under these non-exclusive agreements, NARA receives copies of digitized records and makes them available free at NARA facilities, while the commercial entities (Footnote and Ancestry) make them available through their subscription services.

Historically, these partners have had to access the materials held at NARA where it was physically located, typically in Maryland. Ancestry announced last year that it has a facility in the Washington, DC area where it has been scanning NARA-held documents off-site. This scanning facility allows Ancestry.com to digitize more than five times the records than it could at the NARA archive, with the capacity to scan at least five million documents, many still in paper form, each year.

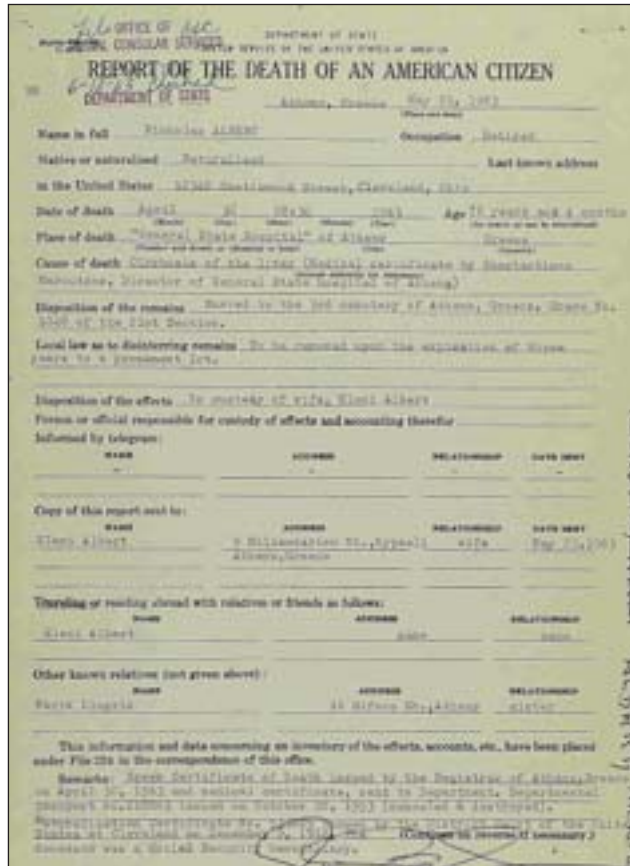
In the announcement, James Hastings, Director of Access Programs at NARA stated "Considering the enormous num-

ber of historical records housed at NARA archives across the country, the cost is too great for us to digitize the documents on our own

famous people are included in both of these databases.

For the first collection, recognize that since these passenger records cover a fairly broad time period — the information collected and included on the passengers lists varies quite a bit. The entry might be as simple as name, age, notation that they were born in the US and nothing more. Or, you might learn details of place of birth and/or date and place of naturalization if not a US citizen, possibly last permanent residence, occupation and other details.

For the second collection, one limitation is that you can only search on name, death year and country, birth year and keyword(s). This makes it challenging to search on individuals who were born in a certain locale, though found entries include this and more information. Having never seen a "Report of the Death of an American Citizen Form" before, I found these a fascinating read as the information included often references if they were holding a passport, if so, where and when issued and that it was returned to an identified relative.



An example of a Report of the Death of an American Citizen Form from the Ancestry.com collection.

...this allows us to drastically increase the rate of digitizing records in a fiscally responsible fashion and helps us provide the public with even greater access to America's treasured collections."

As part of last year's announcement, two new collections which were apart of the agreement between NARA and Ancestry were introduced — Honolulu Passenger List, 1900-1953, and Reports of Deaths of American Citizens Abroad, 1963-1974. As one anticipates, some

#### MORE INFORMATION:

- To read more about this endeavor, check out the Ancestry.com blog, <http://blogs.ancestry.com/ancestry/2009/10/06/ancestry-com-announces-new-washington-dc-scanning-facility>.
- If you want to learn more about NARA's digitization strategy, including current partnerships, read <http://archives.gov/digitization>.

## A Shopkeeper...



...in the complete census collection for England & Wales, including the 1911 census in association with The National Archives.

## A Teacher...



...in the records provided by the Society of Genealogists, including Teachers' Registrations from 1870 to 1948.

## A Soldier...



...in the military records, including British Army Service Records 1760 – 1913 in association with The National Archives.

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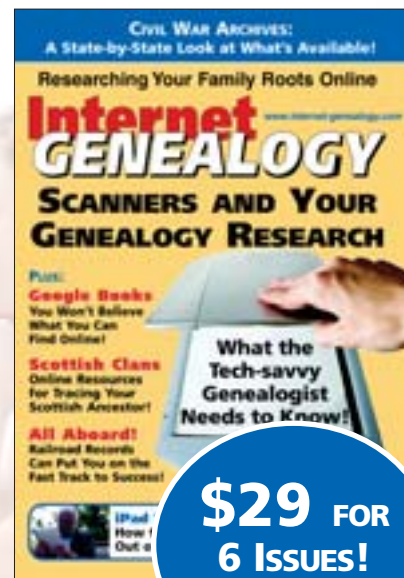
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