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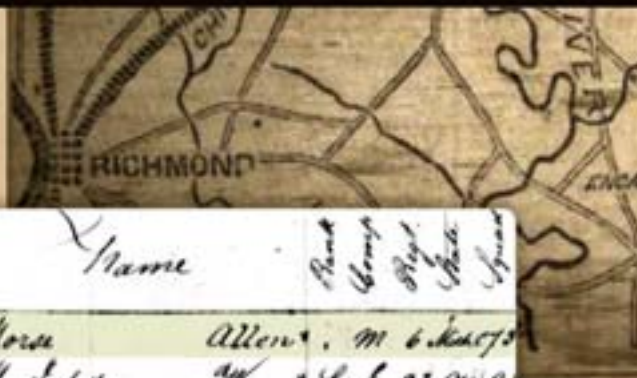
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## A Civil War cavalryman's last stand.

Three records can tell so much about one life.



Name	Rank	Company	Regt.	Date	Source
Morse	Allen	M	6	Mich 9	
Mc Intosh	W.	L	3	23	Mich 9
Widdington	Charles	L	1	Mich 11	

Allen's Civil War Prisoner of War Record

Through many battles and skirmishes Private Allen Morse, 6th Michigan Cavalry, fought. But on June 11, 1864, at the Battle of Trevilian Station, his luck ran out. He was taken prisoner by Confederate forces.

Commanded to charge a Confederate wagon train by General George Custer himself, Allen and the rest of the 6th Michigan fought valiantly in "Custer's First Last Stand." But the Michigan Brigade suffered significant losses that day in Virginia and Pvt. Morse was one of almost 300 captured.



**Morrison, Hiram B.**, Lexington. Enlisted in company C, Sixth Wagoner, Sept. 3, 1862, at Lexington, for 3 years, age Oct. 11, 1862. Mustered out at Fort Leavenworth, Kan., Present residence, BFsfield, Mich.

**Morse, Allen, Lowell.** Enlisted in company A, Sixth Cavalry, at Grand Rapids, for 3 years, age 28. Mustered Aug. 28, ferred to company M, March 1, 1863. Taken prisoner Station, Va., June 11, 1864. Died in prison at Andersonville, 1, 1864. Buried in National Cemetery, Andersonville, Ga 10134.

**Morse, Carlton, Lowell.** Enlisted in company A, Sixth Cavalry, 1862, at Grand Rapids, for 3 years, age 21. Mustered...

#### U.S. Veterans Gravesites, ca.1775-2006 about Allen

Name:	<b>Allen Morse</b>
Death Date:	<b>1 Oct 1864</b>
Cemetery:	<b>Andersonville National Historical S</b>
Cemetery Address:	<b>Route 1, Box 800 Andersonville, O</b>

#### *Allen's Record of Service*

For four months, Allen was held in the notorious Andersonville Prison. Conditions were abysmal — as many as 13,000 prisoners died there in the short time the prison existed. Among them, was Pvt. Morse who succumbed to disease on October 1, 1864 and was buried in what is now the Andersonville National Cemetery.

#### *Allen in the U.S. Veteran's Gravesites, 1775-2006*

Allen Morse never again saw the wife and young son he left behind in Michigan. But his story lives on for his ancestors in historical documents from Ancestry.com.

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Who will you discover?

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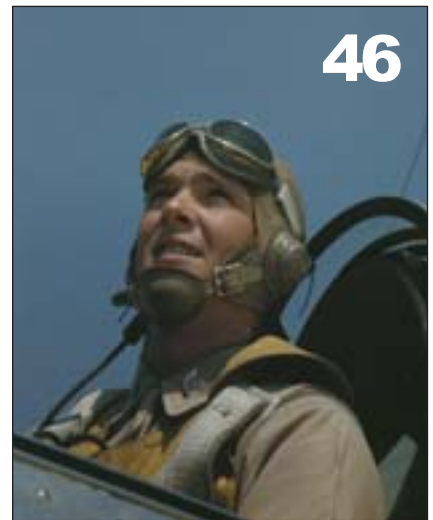
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## Footnote.com becomes Fold3 — Primary Focus Now on U.S. Military Records

Footnote.com, a premier destination for discovering family history records, recently announced it will now focus primarily on offering the finest and most comprehensive collection of U.S. Military



records available on the Internet. The site gathers the most valuable U.S. military records, photos and stories to help family historians and others discover and share the memories of those who served. As part of this new focus, the name of the site will change from Footnote to Fold3.

The Fold3 name is derived from the third fold in a traditional military flag folding ceremony, which "is made in honor and remembrance of the veteran departing our ranks who gave a portion of his or her life for the defense of our country to attain peace throughout the world." Fold3 will continue to operate as a subsidiary of Ancestry.com. Fold3 currently offers a free Basic membership, or an All-Access membership which can be purchased on a monthly or annual basis.

Visit <http://www.fold3.com/> to start searching!

## FamilySearch Unveils Updated YouTube Channel

FamilySearch has unveiled a newly updated YouTube channel, giving viewers an informative, fun and fascinating look at several different aspects of genealogy, through a growing number of videos in five playlists.

High-quality videos are available for the rookie genealogist and the seasoned veteran alike. The Genealogy in 5 Minutes playlist demonstrates how, in just a few minutes, individuals with little or no genealogy experience can make some headway on their family's history.

The Woven Generations playlist features powerful, personal experiences from those who have found success or inspiration through family history work.

Additionally, FamilySearch sent camera crews to Virginia, Ohio, California, Indiana and other locations for a closer look at how FamilySearch works with societies and archives to provide access to more records online and to further mutual interests in family history. These videos can be found in the Societies and Archives playlist.

Check out <http://www.youtube.com/familysearch>.

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# Web-based Software: What You Need to Know!

Tony Bandy looks at how you can utilize Internet-based software in your genealogical research!

FROM TWITTER TO FACEBOOK, Gmail and more, our digital world just keeps expanding, with new methods of writing, communications, and yes, genealogical research! Used to be, my family research was done with a legal pad, a three-ring notebook, and a pocketful of dimes for the photocopier! Now, I never go anywhere with less than my laptop and cell-phone, always connected, always online. My notes are electronic as well, uploaded to the Internet and instantly replicated on both my mobile computer as well as my desktop back at the home office. It's not as hard as you might think, thanks to the amazing amounts of Internet-based, free software that's available for you to use!

If you are thinking about doing the same or if you are just new to the idea of utilizing Internet-based applications for your family research, it can be confusing getting started. Which method is best? What service is the easiest? Which is most compatible with your hardware? Is it safe? Maybe we can help answer some of these questions! In the following sections, we'll examine why these services make sense and profile a few of them, giving you highlights, information and more. Let's jump right in!

## WHY DO THIS?

At first glance, you might be asking yourself many questions,



including:

- Why should I change my research methods?
- How are these Internet-based applications any different than my regular genealogy software?
- Doesn't this cost extra?
- What about my privacy?
- Are they safe?

These are all valid queries, and ones that I asked myself as well at one point. But after spending time investigating what was available and trying out many of these services, I changed my ways of thinking and my approach to how I conducted my family research. Some advantages that readily became obvious once I converted included:

- Portability
- Collaboration & Sharing
- Safety and Security

Let's talk portability. With portability comes flexibility. With easy access to your notes, pictures and more, you can always have your information with you, ready at a moment's notice to update or just to refer back to. Collaboration and sharing brings others to you, reducing duplication and giving you and your group more efficiency. Safety and security is always important. How many of us have lost data through bad or forgotten backups, or even accidental deletions? With your information online, there's always a redundancy to help you out.

## THE APPLICATIONS

With these things in mind, let's get started on profiling some of the services and software available for you to consider. In the sections below, I've divided them up by different categories, ranging from online storage to collaboration and even documentation. Within each category, I've listed two or three of the most common services and software now available. With each, you will find the name, company name, address on the web, and a brief synopsis of some of the features that each contain. Is this a complete list? No, not by any means, but it should be enough for you to use as a starting point for further reading and investigation.

## ONLINE STORAGE

One of the biggest game-changers I've encountered in using Internet-

## Web-based Software

based services is in the area of files and file storage. Having the ability to upload notes, scanned pictures and other documents has enabled me to make the most use of my limited research time while on site. While everyone's methods vary, usually I will use my smartphone as a mini "instant scanner", taking pictures of handwritten notes or other paper documents, and then uploading them to Dropbox or Evernote, currently my services of choice.

Later, back at my home office, I can then open up my local Dropbox or Evernote desktop application and take a look at the files I had sent earlier, actually taking the time to sit down and do in-depth research and investigation. Using this approach, I have found that I can really increase my efficiency, making my way through much more material than I could before.

As to the sites and related software mentioned below, for the most part they are free, but some services do offer paid versions, with more options and/or storage space. Take a few moments and investigate each one—perhaps you will find one that works best for you!

**Company:** Dropbox  
**Software:** Dropbox  
**Website:** [www.dropbox.com](http://www.dropbox.com)  
**Category:** Online file storage, sharing, and collaboration  
**Thoughts:** One of the best service offerings available in my opinion, Dropbox is used widely by many to share documents, images, and almost any sort of files you can think of. Different versions of the software are available for almost any platform, from desktops to laptops, tablets, and smartphones. Includes version control, instant synchronization, a public Internet address for sharing as well as free and paid plans. I've used Dropbox for a while now and it has worked flawlessly.

**Company:** Box  
**Software:** Box.net  
**Website:** [www.box.net](http://www.box.net)  
**Category:** Online file storage, sharing, and collaboration

**Thoughts:** Used by many as an alternative to Dropbox or even in combination with it, Box.net offers many of the same features, but also contains more granular options for utilizing and sharing the files you have uploaded. Different service plans do exist and the paid versions offer a wealth of extras such as group access and various encryption offerings.

**Company:** Microsoft  
**Software:** Windows SkyDrive  
**Website:** <http://explore.live.com/windows-live-skydrive>  
**Category:** Online file storage, sharing, and collaboration  
**Thoughts:** Microsoft has long offered online storage, but this latest version includes 25GB of free online storage and integration with their other online services such as office applications, photo galleries and more. If you use Microsoft software on a daily basis, this service works pretty well and you will feel right at home!

**Notable Mention:** Apple's upcoming iCloud service.  
**Thoughts:** If you're an Apple fan, be aware of this new service just now coming online. Promising easy synchronization, file storage, document sharing and much more, it's certainly sounds appealing. Free and paid storage options do exist as well as other features, so try this link for more information, [www.apple.com/icloud/what-is.html](http://www.apple.com/icloud/what-is.html).

**COLLABORATION & TASKS**  
With the advent of Facebook, Google+, Twitter and more, social sharing of all types is becoming more and more popular. Beyond just status updates this has brought about increased collaboration and working together on projects. Considering that genealogy is family-based, this makes online collaboration tools a natural for your group or friends. The following applications will help you to stay on task, get your goals accomplished, and help your group to become more efficient!

**Company:** Remember The Milk  
**Software:** Remember The Milk

**Website:** [www.rememberthemilk.com](http://www.rememberthemilk.com)  
**Category:** Collaboration & Tasks  
**Thoughts:** With a great name and almost unanimous great reviews from users of all types, Remember The Milk is a great, free method to keep yourself or your group "on-task" with your genealogy research. Available on almost any platform, from desktop to mobile and the web, this service also brings integration of your tasks in a standalone interface or many of the more common software packages such as Microsoft Outlook, Gmail and more.

**Company:** Evernote  
**Software:** Evernote  
**Website:** [www.evernote.com](http://www.evernote.com)  
**Category:** Collaboration & Tasks  
**Thoughts:** With applications for almost every device, Evernote is the "all-in-one" service I've come to depend on for almost all my clipped web notes, personal thoughts and more. Easily arranged into different "notebooks" this free and paid version easily syncs up your data across many types of devices. Includes options for uploading pictures, audio and more.

**Company:** Spring Partners  
**Software:** Springpad  
**Website:** [www.springpadit.com](http://www.springpadit.com)  
**Category:** Collaboration & Tasks  
**Thoughts:** While similar in many respects to Evernote, Springpad is at once unique and different. Available on many platforms as well as Internet-based, you can arrange your notes, add a task and more. Includes a great "look-it-up" tool that takes your ideas and finds Internet-based options that might be helpful.

**Company:** Google  
**Software:** Google+  
**Website:** <http://plus.google.com>  
**Category:** Collaboration & Tasks, Social  
**Thoughts:** Google's newest entry into the world of online collaboration and sharing software, this service is still in beta, but promises a revolution in group collaboration! Similar in some ways to Facebook, but at once different, Google+ brings video conferenc-

ing, group messaging and more. Final features at this point are still to be determined.

**DOCUMENTS & MORE**

Online document sharing does contain elements of some of the things we have already mentioned, but also goes far beyond, with features such as co-editing of documents, multiple downloads and even synchronization with your local desktop. These are great sites to use while working remotely and then download the changed documents once you get back home!

Company: Google  
 Software: Google Docs  
 Website: <http://docs.google.com>  
 Category: Articles, Images & Documents

Thoughts: One of the original online document suites, Google Docs is a great place to store your notes, letters, PDF files and more. Real-time chat and document editing options makes this a natural option, especially if you utilize any of Google's other online products. Conversion options abound, but be careful when choosing this route, as the proprietary formatting can be tricky.

Company: Microsoft  
 Software: Office Web Apps  
 Website: <http://office.microsoft.com/en-us/web-apps/>  
 Category: Articles, Images & Documents

Thoughts: Enjoy using Microsoft Office? If so, this online set of tools should be instantly familiar! With online editing, document sharing and more this service is a great way to keep your notes, letters and more synchronized and up to date. Works well with the SkyDrive option mentioned above!

Company: Adobe  
 Software: Acrobat.com  
 Website: [www.adobe.com](http://www.adobe.com)  
 Category: Articles, Images & Documents  
 Thoughts: Although not commonly thought of as a place to go for document sharing, Acrobat.com does offer this service and a whole lot more! Group collaboration, desktop sharing and other options are



Above: One of the original online document suites, Google Docs is a great place to store your notes, letters, PDF files and more.

Below: With both free and paid versions, Picnik is a great place to do your online photo editing.



included as well as the ability to quickly put together a one-on-one webinar! Subscription offers do exist with multiple users and multiple groups-an option to consider if you are a library or genealogical organization.

**PHOTO EDITING?**

Although not as advanced as some of the other web-based services we've profiled so far, photo editing and web storage of those photos is a rapidly expanding. Online options abound with these sites and it's easy to learn how to use many of the toolsets that are included. In this section, I'll profile three of the biggest pieces of web-based software that you might run across and consider using in your next family research project:

Picnik, Aviary, and Picasa.

Company: Picnik  
 Software: Picnik  
 Website: [www.picnik.com](http://www.picnik.com)  
 Category: Photo editing & sharing  
 Thoughts: With both free and paid versions, Picnik is a great place to do your online photo editing. Online tools and a great interface make this a surprisingly easy option to consider. Purchased by Google, you can actually use this software within Google Docs to edit your photos.

Company: Aviary  
 Software: Aviary  
 Website: [www.aviary.com](http://www.aviary.com)  
 Category: Photo editing & sharing  
 Thoughts: Wow! More than just image editing, Aviary hosts a

## Web-based Software

whole smorgasbord of image options for you to consider. If you work with images of any type and need to update or change the photos in any way, try this whole range of online, Internet-based software. Free and includes group options as well!

Company: Google

Software: Picasa Web Albums

Website: <http://picasaweb.google.com>

Category: Photo editing & sharing, storage

Thoughts: Sporting easy integration with the rest of Google's online services, Picasa Web Albums is a great way to store and share your genealogy research photos online. With both basic and advanced controls for sharing, this is a great place to get started! Includes integration with the regular desktop Picasa software as well.

### NEED MORE?

With services and software rapidly expanding, I've only just begun to touch on the many Internet-based programs now becoming available. To help you begin sorting out the many services, what follows are some reviews and sites that I have used for my own research and review.

- Evernote vs. Springpad: [www.computerworld.com/s/article/9216401/Try\\_to\\_remember\\_Evernote\\_vs\\_Springpad](http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/9216401/Try_to_remember_Evernote_vs_Springpad)
- Microsoft Office Web Apps Review: <http://lifehacker.com/5737544/microsoft-office-web-apps-get-performance-upgrade-adds-30-languages>
- Online File Storage Review (Lifehacker): <http://lifehacker.com/5818908/drop-box-vs-the-alternatives-which-online-syncing-service-is-right-for-you>
- Remember The Milk Review: <http://freelanceswitch.com/product-reviews/review-remember-the-milk/>
- Springpad (WSJ) Review: <http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748703376504575491750741385596.html?KEYWORDS=Springpad>



It's a digital world now, changing how we shop, how we work and yes, how we do our genealogical research!

You can also try, as mentioned in the links above, Lifehacker, [www.lifehacker.com](http://www.lifehacker.com) and Read WriteWeb, [www.readwriteweb.com](http://www.readwriteweb.com), for other reviews and commentary to help you in your decision making process.

### YOUR NEEDS AND SOME CAUTION

On a final note — while these services and applications empower us with many new possibilities and improvements in how we conduct our family research, it's important to take a moment and examine how you work before employing them. Some might truly be helpful, while others could quite possibly cause you more work. Pick and choose—and see what works best for you! By approaching things from this angle, you are more likely to be successful and have a LOT less frustration.

Secondly, it's important to be cautious when investigating any online service offerings. While most of them are completely safe and truly good to use, there are other services that are not. Find online reviews of any service you are looking at utilizing. See what others have said. Investigate the

company fully, and then make an informed decision.

### FINAL THOUGHTS

It's a digital world now, changing how we shop, how we work and yes, how we do our genealogical research. With so many options to choose from, it can be confusing, but also empowering and can quite possibly bring your family together even closer. Good luck and see if this approach can work for you!



*Freelance writer, librarian and historian, Tony Bandy can be found researching forgotten topics in history at Adventures in History, <http://tinyurl.com/3pu9yp6>, or finding more library research topics and databases at Library Knowledge, [www.libraryknowledge.com](http://www.libraryknowledge.com).*



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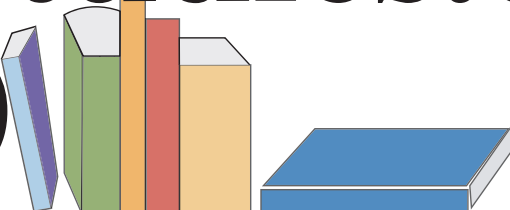
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# GENEALOGY SOFTWARE: Free, Paid and on the Web!

**Tony Bandy looks at the various genealogy software programs available and tells you where (and how) to get them!**

STILL LOOKING FOR that perfect genealogy program for your computer, but confused about all the types and versions available? Or maybe you've already found some new software you would like to try, but aren't sure if it is a good buy or not? If this describes you, then you are certainly not alone! Evaluating and buying genealogy and family research software in today's marketplace has become quite a challenge, leaving us puzzled, perplexed, and sometimes even angry; wondering if there is any good solution.

Maybe we can help! Since last year's examination of genealogy software in the August/September 2010 issue of *Internet Genealogy*, things have been changing rapidly, with many new programs becoming available, and old favorites being updated. If we add into this mix the rapid ascent of mobile technology, such as smartphones and tablets, along with "apps" and "app stores", the environment has almost completely been turned upside down!

So in the following pages, we will take a look at this crazy market and give you some insight into what to consider, what to buy, where to find reviews and lots more! Along the way, we'll talk about compatibility, hardware issues and even new ways of using your software, whether you are at home or the research library. Finally, we'll leave you with some specific websites and links, helping you to make a quality, informed decision. Let's jump right in and get going!

## HARDWARE?

It's almost ironic to be talking

Type	Costs?	Time Period Limited?	Notes
Freeware	None	No	Best choice for tight budgets!
Shareware	Sometimes	Sometimes	Good choice—check for orphans.
Trialware	None	Yes	Great way to try new software!
Webware	Sometimes	No	Often updated—best for new methods.
Commercial	Yes	No	Good for regular usage.

about hardware in an article on genealogy software, but it's necessary, especially considering the rapid changes that have occurred, almost overnight. It used to be, buying software was as easy as finding the right version for your computer, installing it and then diving right into your research. It's a changed world now, however, and many of us no longer spend hours in front of our big desktop computers inputting family information and dates.

We've gone portable, either via laptops, tablets or smartphones. Devices such as the iPad, with a host of genealogy applications, web-aware software, and connectivity, either via cellular or wireless, are more than adequate for taking along on our research trips. Smartphones, even with their smaller size, are making huge inroads in their capabilities and applications. Laptops, such as the MacBook Air, continue to grow smaller and lighter.

How does this affect us? It can determine what sort of software that you should buy. Plan out what sort of hardware you know that you will be using, and then purchase software based on this

approach. If you are using a combination of different types of hardware, find software that will work together with all of your devices, or use genealogy software that contains both a mobile and a regular client. If you can figure this out, you will have a lot less headaches down the road!

## TYPES OF SOFTWARE

Now we come to the software. With thousands of packages and types, you can literally spend hours, if not days, searching, evaluating and reading about all of the many programs that are available. It can be a daunting task. Your choice, ultimately, will depend on both personal and research needs, as well as your budget.

To help you start your trek, let's take a quick look at the different categories of software that exist in the market today. While you may have heard of shareware or freeware, there are actually many other types. For each category in the table above, I've outlined some general details that can help distinguish the differences. Keep these in mind as you do your own evaluation.

## Genealogy Software

### FREWARE

Who doesn't like free? In this category, you will find software that can be acquired and used for no charge. How can this be? Many times, freeware has been developed to "give-back" to the community or simply a personal interest in helping others. Other times, freeware can be an old version of regular software that, while still useful, is no longer updated. You can find some real gems in this category if you take your time and examine each. On the other hand, it's also possible to find some "half-baked" programs and orphans.

### SHAREWARE & TRIALWARE

Sometimes, software producers, both individual and companies, will release their programs on a "shareware" basis, meaning that you can install and use the full program for a limited time period, after which, you will be required to purchase it. Also known as "trialware", this is actually a great way to test out software and see if it works for you! If it doesn't, you're not out any money, but if you do like it, you can go ahead and purchase it for everyday use.

### WEBWARE

This term describes what I've been calling the "new wave" of software. This is software that you don't actually install on any of your devices, instead it's used via a website. Most often free, but there can be a subscription component to it. This software is updated often, because it's used via a website/browser and not an actual installation. With no discs or programs to distribute, the producer can make changes rather quickly. For genealogists, this is a super way to work, however, there is the potential for changes that might put your data at risk. Be cautious and investigate before jumping in.

### COMMERCIAL

I've labeled our last category "commercial", as it's the traditional paid method by which software has been distributed. Consisting of



a downloaded program or physical medium, such as CD, these programs can be costly, but usually include technical support and updates. Use this if you are comfortable with traditional methods of research and note taking. Best choice for stability and continuity.

### THE REVIEWS

As you can see, there are many types of genealogy software out there for you to consider! While a complete list is beyond the scope of this article, I've put together a few for you to consider — expanding our selection from last year and including both new programs and some old favorites to revisit as well.

In the next few pages, you will find the following divisions and information:

- **Software name:** The name the software is known by.
- **Cost:** If the software costs money or is shareware, trialware, etc.
- **Company:** Who produces the software.
- **Website:** Place where you can go online to use or download the software.
- **Category:** What type of software this is intended for, such as mobile, desktop, etc.
- **Thoughts:** My personal thoughts and observations on the software itself.

Use this as a guide in helping to decide what software to investigate further or see what might work best for you!

Software: Ahnenblatt

Cost: Free

Company: N/A

Website: [www.ahnenblatt.com](http://www.ahnenblatt.com)

Category: Computer

Thoughts: Free download for your Windows desktop; this software package might fit your needs! GEDCOM import and export support along with various tools and a great interface makes this software worth investigating. Installation went well on my Windows desktop.

Software: AncestorSync

Cost: \$\$\$-Free

Company: AncestorSync

Website: <http://ancestorsync.com>

Category: Web

Thoughts: Synchronization utility just now coming online. For more background information, try this PDF link, <http://ancestorsync.com/AncestorSync.pdf>. Promises the ability to sync your genealogical data between software programs and involves an online component. Interesting approach!

Software: cvbFT

Cost: Free

Company: N/A

Website: [www.bishops-online.net/Software/cvbFT/cvbFT\\_info.htm](http://www.bishops-online.net/Software/cvbFT/cvbFT_info.htm)

Category: Computer

Thoughts: An interesting application, cvbFT is not a genealogy program in the sense that we now think, but is still a possible solution for your research needs. Built on a Microsoft Excel foundation, the current version is at 4.x and is

Windows 7 compatible.

Software: Family Tree Maker & Ancestry (iPad, iPhone app)

Cost: \$\$\$

Company: Ancestry

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

Category: Computer-Mobile

Thoughts: With versions for mobile, Windows and even Mac, Ancestry offers a great software package no matter what type of hardware and software you work with. Updated version for Windows and Mac desktops is available, however the Mac version (at this time) is based on Family Tree Maker for 2010.

Software: Family Historian

Cost: \$\$\$

Company: Calico Pie

Website: [www.family-historian.co.uk](http://www.family-historian.co.uk)

Category: Computer

Thoughts: A program for the traditional desktop computer, Family Historian has gathered good reviews overall, and I found in my testing that the program was easy to use and learn. Import and export GEDCOM files, as well as different reports. Includes merge options and a highly customizable interface. Media imports are supported and entering data was easy. Reviews are generally good, so investigate this one!

Category: Mobile

Thoughts: Released for iOS devices such as the iPhone and iPad, this mobile application comes with GEDCOM support, onboard search functions, maps and more. The interface/interaction on my iPad was good, but work with your data so as to know all of the functions, etc.

Software: GenBox Family History

Cost: \$\$\$

Company: Thoughtful Creations

Website: [www.genbox.com](http://www.genbox.com)

Category: Computer

Thoughts: Rated very highly in reviews, this Windows-based genealogy software program might fit your needs. Complete toolset includes multimedia support, charting options, and GEDCOM support. Current version dates back to 2007 however, with no recent updates.

Software: GEDitCOM II

Cost: \$\$\$

Company: GEDitCOM

Website: [www.geditcom.com](http://www.geditcom.com)

Category: Computer

Thoughts: Installed easily on my iMac, GEDitCOM II worked well and, with a unique interface, there's a lot to like about this software! Comes with GEDCOM validation, multimedia support and more. If you have a Mac, don't overlook this package. Free download of the full version gives you a chance to try it out before purchasing.

Software: GRAMPS

Cost: Free

Company: GRAMPS

Website: <http://gramps-project.org/>

Category: Computer

Thoughts: Now available on a wide variety of platforms, GRAMPS is the open-source genealogy project to consider if you are running Linux. Version 3.x now available, certainly worth investigating to see if this will fit your research needs.

Software: MyBlood

Cost: \$\$\$

Company: Vertical Horizon

Website: <http://myblood-line.com>

Category: Computer



Rated very highly in reviews, GenBox Family History is a great Windows-based genealogy software program that might fit your needs.

Mobile version includes integration with online resources and worked well on my iPad.

Software: Family Bee

Cost: \$\$\$

Company: BeeKeeper Labs

Website: [www.beekeeperlabs.com](http://www.beekeeperlabs.com)

Category: Mobile

Thoughts: Genealogy for your Android-based device, this application comes with GEDCOM support, search functions and more. For more details try either the Android market, <https://market.android.com/?hl=en>, or the online documentation, which can be found at [http://beekeeperlabs.com/familybee/fb-doc-1\\_1.html](http://beekeeperlabs.com/familybee/fb-doc-1_1.html).

Software: Family Tree Builder

Cost: \$\$\$ and Free

Company: MyHeritage

Website: [www.myheritage.com](http://www.myheritage.com)

Category: Computer

Thoughts: Recently updated to version 5.1 and including the new ability to import data from other popular genealogy software programs, this desktop application is easy to use and might work for you. New features include project restoration, data file consistency checking and increased DNA support.

Software: GedView

Cost: \$\$\$

Company: David A. Knight

Website: [www.ritter.demon.co.uk/Projects/gedview.html](http://www.ritter.demon.co.uk/Projects/gedview.html)

## Genealogy Software

Thoughts: Available for both the Windows-based environment and the Apple Mac, this software installed easily with no problems. Available in trialware, a rather neat translation tool is included. Unique interface and search engine integration are included, launched into an external web browser. Comes with a sample DB and supports GEDCOM import and export.

Software: MyKinFolks

Cost: \$\$\$

Company: SeeJayTee, LLC

Website: [www.iprogenitor.com/mykinfolks](http://www.iprogenitor.com/mykinfolks)

Category: Mobile

Thoughts: Designed for iOS devices such as the iPad and the iPhone, this "app" is part of the new wave of software that works with the deluge of new form factor tablets and mobile devices. Includes GEDCOM import capabilities. List data by family or individual.

Software: RootsMagic-RootsMagic Essentials

Cost: \$\$\$-Free

Company: RootsMagic, Inc.

Website: [www.rootsmagic.com](http://www.rootsmagic.com)

Category: Computer

Thoughts: Consistently high ratings makes this genealogy software a continually popular package. Along with the free RootsMagic Essentials, includes a whole host of features such as reporting, wall charts, FamilySearch integration capabilities and GEDCOM support. Interface is easy to use and data entry contains many options.

Software: Simple Family Tree

Cost: Free

Company: JDMCox Software

Website: [www.jdmcox.com](http://www.jdmcox.com)

Category: Computer

Thoughts: Free, simple and basic, this program is a bare-bones approach to family genealogy. Includes GEDCOM support and more, with an exclusive focus on working with individual's information. This might just fit your needs, however, compared to more comprehensive programs, is lacking many program pieces and



Consistently high ratings for this online genealogy site might make this a great place to store your family tree information.

parts we've come to take for granted with today's software.

Software: SoundExR

Cost: Free

Company: N/A

Website: [www.genealogysearch.org/free/soundex.html](http://www.genealogysearch.org/free/soundex.html)

Category: Web

Thoughts: If you've ever had to search census records and use the Soundex index, then you will know that things can get tricky at times. This web-based software can quickly help you generate the needed codes to find what you need! Light, fast and easy — no download needed!

Software: Webtrees

Cost: Free

Company: Webtrees

Website: [www.webtrees.net](http://www.webtrees.net)

Category: Webserver-Computer

Thoughts: Unlike most genealogy software, this is a FREE server-based software that you connect to through your web browser. An update to and outgrowth of PhpGedView, install this on your personal or group site. Many customizations are available. Try this link for a demo, <http://webtrees.net/demo>.

Software: WikiTree

Cost: Free

Company: WikiTree

Website: [www.wikitree.com](http://www.wikitree.com)

Category: Web

Thoughts: Consistently high ratings for this online genealogy site might make this a great place to store your family tree information. Upload your tree to share with others. Includes privacy controls and more.

Software: Wolfram Genealogy & History Research Assistant

Cost: \$\$\$

Company: Wolfram Alpha LLC

Website: <http://products.wolframalpha.com/personalapps/genealogyhistory.html>

Category: Mobile

Thoughts: Although Wolfram Alpha is actually one of the new breeds of search engines now coming online to combat Google's hegemony. This particular software is for iOS devices, such as the iPad, iPhone and iPod touch. At a relatively low cost of around \$5, you can find out about family information, history and more. Reviews have been mixed, however, so check online to get current thoughts before purchasing.

### ALERT!

While perhaps not as dangerous as some places in our physical world, the online world can quite often be hazardous to your hardware and your personal data. Almost every day it seems we hear about new viruses or online scams that have infected thousands upon thousands of comput-

ers. Don't let this be you!

Defending yourself against this threat involves a few things to be aware of:

- Quality websites
- Up-to-date antivirus software
- Other reviews and comments

Although it can be tricky, before you download anything from any website, take a few moments to check it out. If security certificates are present (https notation), make sure they match the website name. Using your favorite search engine, double-check the site to see if anyone has posted online about it. If you have favorite genealogy forums that you regularly visit, post a message asking about the website or the software that it might be offering for download.

As we've mentioned in last year's story, keeping your antivirus software up-to-date if you are running a Windows-based computer is very important. If you need new antivirus software or an update to what you already have, there are many new choices, some of which are free. One that I use on my Windows machines is Microsoft Security Essentials. It's top-rated and is a great price: FREE! For more information, visit [www.microsoft.com/en-us/security\\_essentials/default.aspx](http://www.microsoft.com/en-us/security_essentials/default.aspx).

If you are a Linux or Mac fan, you have less to worry about, but still be cautious about unknown programs that might suddenly appear on your machine. If you are using a mobile device or tablet, such as an Android-based phone or iPad, check the reviews of any app you are considering. Double-check the permissions that are required. Some apps have been found to be rogue, sending back data and/or reading the contents of your device without your permission. Walt Mossberg, on the site All Things Digital, talks about this and gives some advice that might be helpful: <http://allthingsd.com/20110302/safe-apps-for-android-and-ipad-security>.

Finally, before installing anything, look for reviews and comments about the application. Try your favorite genealogy review sites, Facebook, Twitter or other

online sites that you visit frequently. Ask your offline friends and family. Although this may seem an obvious thing to do, sometimes it's the chance word-of-mouth that can save you from downloading or using a program that might end up being malware (bad software).

#### RESOURCES, LINKS & REVIEWS

Besides the programs we've had a chance to look through already, there are many more online for you to consider and evaluate. To help out, what follows are links to review sites, conversations, software and more. Is it complete? No, but it can go a long way in helping you to make an informed decision!

#### GENERAL GENEALOGY SOFTWARE QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS:

- Slashdot-Open Source Genealogy and More: <http://ask.slashdot.org/story/10/12/19/2236241/Best-Open-Source-Genealogy-Software>

- About.com (Genealogy Software List): [http://genealogy.about.com/od/family\\_tree\\_software/Genealogy\\_Software\\_Family\\_Tree\\_Programs.htm](http://genealogy.about.com/od/family_tree_software/Genealogy_Software_Family_Tree_Programs.htm)

Genealogy Review Sites:

- FindTheBest (Genealogy Software): <http://genealogy-software.findthebest.com>
- GenSoftReviews: [www.gensoftreviews.com](http://www.gensoftreviews.com)
- Gizmo's Freeware: [www.techsupportalert.com/best-free-genealogy-family-tree-software.htm](http://www.techsupportalert.com/best-free-genealogy-family-tree-software.htm)

#### GENEALOGY AND YOUR MAC:

- Apple Mac and Genealogy Software Questions: [www.familysearch.org/techtips/2011/05/yes-you-can-use-your-mac-to-do-your-genealogy](http://www.familysearch.org/techtips/2011/05/yes-you-can-use-your-mac-to-do-your-genealogy)
- MacGenealogy.org (Reviews and More): [www.macgenealogy.org](http://www.macgenealogy.org)
- MacGenealogist.com (Reviews, Thoughts, Personal Blog): <http://macgenealogist.com>

#### DOWNLOAD SITES, INDEXES AND DIRECTORIES:

- Cyndi's List (Genealogy Software & Computers):

[www.cyndislist.com/software](http://www.cyndislist.com/software)

- Open Directory Project (dmoz)-Genealogy Software List: [www.dmoz.org/Society/Genealogy/Software](http://www.dmoz.org/Society/Genealogy/Software)
- Download.com (CNET): [www.download.com](http://www.download.com)
- Wikipedia (Genealogy Software List): [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Category:Genealogy\\_software](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Category:Genealogy_software)

#### FINAL THOUGHTS

Today's genealogical world offers us more information than ever before. From digitized documents to the many databases now available via the Internet, we can access more data than we ever thought possible. However, because of this, our choice of software to use in our research is proving to be more crucial than ever. A hasty decision, and you might lose records, data or even years of research. Take a look at the links mentioned in this article, download some demo or trial versions of the software and spend some time with the reviews. Once fully informed, then you can be assured you've made the right choice for you! Good luck!

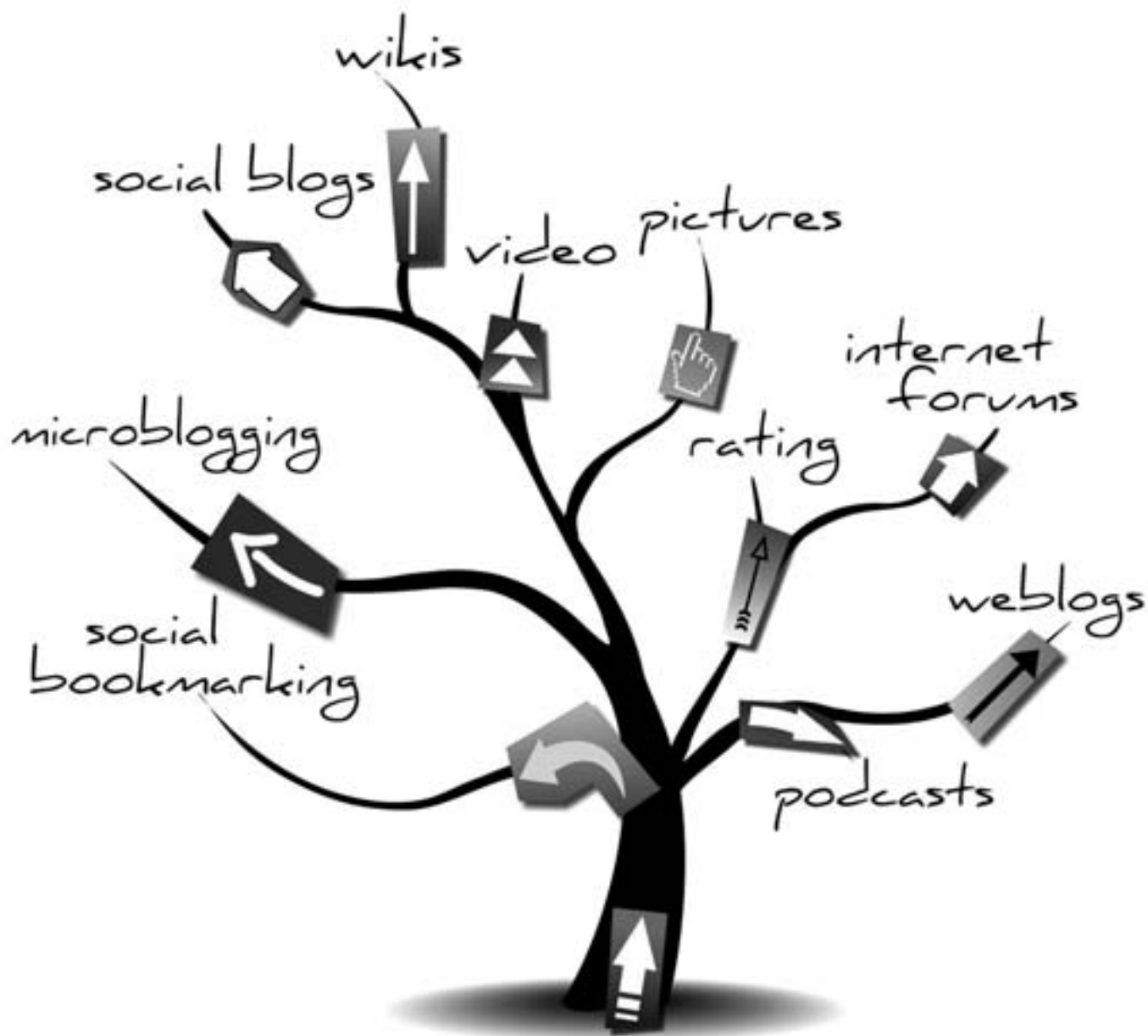
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Freelance writer, librarian and historian, Tony Bandy can be found researching forgotten topics in history at *Adventures in History*, <http://tinyurl.com/3pu9yp6>, or finding more library research topics and databases at *Library Knowledge*, [www.libraryknowledge.com](http://www.libraryknowledge.com).



Scan the QR Codes to visit Tony's blog above right, or library site at right.





# Become an Interactive Genealogist!

Lisa A. Alzo offers tips on how to make the Web work for you and your genealogy research!

## Become an Interactive Genealogist!

GENEALOGICAL RESEARCH in the 21st century is no longer just a solitary activity performed in the dark corner of a library or courthouse.

can sign up for a free account to create pages, but if you want to use any records from the site's premium content, you'll need to

### 2. Skype

Skype, [www.skype.com](http://www.skype.com), offers a great free way to keep in touch with family and friends. I also use it to interview family members, and then can use a third-party program of my choice to record the conversation. See, my "Skype Your Genealogy" in the April/May/June 2011 issue of *Internet Genealogy*.

### 3. Family Website

I've been involved with Myfamily.com, [www.myfamily.com](http://www.myfamily.com), websites since 1999. It is a great way for my family to share information in an invitation-only, password-protected environment for as little as \$29.95 per year. I also co-administer a village-based website for the area that includes the village in Slovakia, where my maternal grandmother was born.



The author has used Footnote's "Pages" and "Interactive Census" to make her ancestors more visible online with the hopes of making connections with others researching similar surnames or ancestral villages. Here is a page for the author's grandfather, and a 1930 census page for the Alzo family with annotations.

Technology and the Internet have opened up the world to family history sleuths. Major online databases have incorporated "interactive" features now, social media sites have catapulted the concept of networking, and internet giant Google can be utilized by genealogists for so much more than just vanity searches and quick information gathering. This article will discuss some of my favorite ways to make genealogical research more efficient and fun!

### 1. Creating Fold3 Memorial Pages

With Fold3 Memorial pages (formerly Footnote Pages), [www.fold3.com](http://www.fold3.com), you can create online tribute pages for your ancestors, using your own files or items you locate on the site. You

be a subscriber.

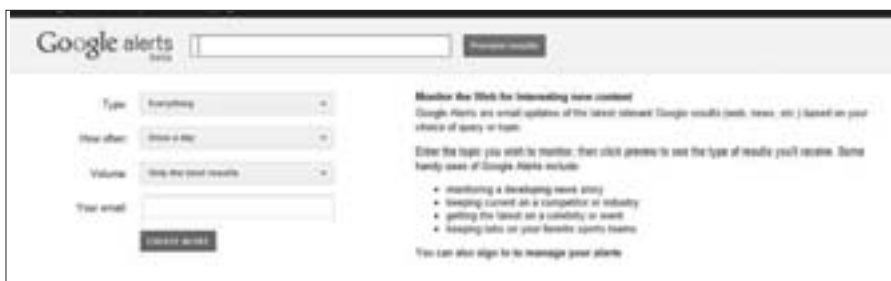
Fold3 also has an "Interactive 1930 Census", where you can annotate entries for your ancestors. Read more about Fold3 Pages (formerly Footnote Pages) in the June/July 2009 issue of *Internet Genealogy*.



### 4. Google Alerts

I use Google, [www.google.com](http://www.google.com), all the time for both genealogy and non-genealogy Internet searches. But because the web is dynamic and content is constantly being added or updated, I don't want to have to search for the same genealogy and family history top-

## Become an Interactive Genealogist!



Above: Set up Google Alerts, [www.google.com/alerts](http://www.google.com/alerts), to get up-to-date results on key genealogical terms/queries you define.

Below: WikiTree, [www.wikitree.com](http://www.wikitree.com), is one site where you can plant your family tree online.



ics every day. With my free Gmail account, I can set up Google Alerts, [www.google.com/alerts](http://www.google.com/alerts), to search for “Alzo Genealogy,” my blog, The Accidental Genealogist, [www.theaccidentalgenealogist.com](http://www.theaccidentalgenealogist.com), or any other keywords I request, and e-mail me with the best results. I can even tell Google how often I want to be alerted. I also use iGoogle, [www.google.com/ig](http://www.google.com/ig), which has features that make me feel like I have my own research assistant! For more information, read my article on “Getting More from Google,” *Internet Genealogy*, April/May 2010.

### 5. Genealogy Radio Shows

If you're not joining in on the free radio shows on Blog Talk Radio, [www.blogtalkradio.com](http://www.blogtalkradio.com), you're missing out on a great opportunity for learning and socializing with oth-

ers who share your interest and passion for family history. Both Geneablogger's Radio, [www.blogtalkradio.com/geneabloggers](http://www.blogtalkradio.com/geneabloggers), and The Federation of Genealogical Societies (FGS) “My Society” radio show, [www.fgs.org/fgsradio](http://www.fgs.org/fgsradio), are hosted by genealogist Thomas MacEntee of High-Definition Genealogy, <http://hidefgen.com>.

### 6. Webinars and Online Learning

Webinars (online seminars you can participate in at home in your jammies!) are one of the hottest trends in genealogy right now. These Webinars are being offered by genealogy companies, societies, and individual instructors on a variety of topics (some are free; others require a minimal registration fee). I've participated in webinars as both an attendee and an instructor. Get a complete list at

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

### 7. Online Family Trees

Putting your family tree online helps increase your chances of connecting with long lost kin and hopefully filling in any missing branches. I have online family trees on several different sites. Some of the more popular ones include Ancestry.com, <http://trees.ancestry.com>; Geni.com [www.geni.com](http://www.geni.com); MyHeritage.com's Family Tree Builder, [www.myheritage.com/family-tree-builder](http://www.myheritage.com/family-tree-builder); and WikiTree, [www.wikitree.com](http://www.wikitree.com). There are many others.

### 8. Find A Grave and DeadFred

At Find A Grave, [www.findagrave.com](http://www.findagrave.com), you can search 65 million grave records, add images and details about the graves of ancestors, create virtual memorials, add ‘virtual flowers’ and a note to a loved one's grave, and more. This is a great participation site. What genealogist doesn't have “mystery” or unidentified photographs? DeadFred, [www.deadfred.com](http://www.deadfred.com), is a free online genealogy photo archive with 105,000+ records, over 17,000 surnames, and 2,076 photo reunions. This is a fully interactive site where you can search the collection of posted photos as well as post your own.

### 9. Locality-Based Research Sites

For many years, I have written and lectured about “cluster genealogy” — the process of researching those in your ancestors' inner circles, for example, other relatives, friends, neighbors, or associates when you hit a brick-wall. This concept is also often referred to as “researching sideways”. It is rooted in the concept of “locality-based” research. Now, there are websites dedicated to the idea of mapping out your ancestors' lives based on where they lived or participated in significant events. Two such sites are Ancestral Atlas (\$), [www.ancestralatlas.com](http://www.ancestralatlas.com), (See the April/May 2010 issue of *Internet Genealogy*), and Ancestral Hunt (\$), [www.ancestralhunt.com](http://www.ancestralhunt.com). Both sites are great as “virtual pushpins” to map your family and find others who

may be researching families from the same locality. You can also use the free tool, Google Earth, <http://earth.google.com>, to pinpoint places where your ancestors resided and even create customized interactive virtual tours using maps, images, movies, and more.

### 10. Social Media

Looking for some virtual places to quickly network with, or even have some face time with, other genealogists? Social networking sites, such as Facebook, [www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com), GenealogyWise, [www.genealogywise.com](http://www.genealogywise.com), and Twitter, [www.twitter.com](http://www.twitter.com), are popular sites genealogists are using to locate or reconnect with family members or other researchers. Writing a family history blog is another great way to greatly increase your chances of family finding you. Post about your research finds, comment on other genealogists' posts and join groups for those who share your genealogical interests. Check out Geneabloggers, [www.geneabloggers.com](http://www.geneabloggers.com), with its listing of over 2,000 genealogy/family history blogs. The "New Kid on the Block":

Google Plus or G+ for short — where you add family, friends, associates, etc. to your "circles" — is the newest site to gain momentum. You can also create hangouts to spend time virtually with fellow genealogists. Another virtual place to meet is Second Life, [www.secondlife.com](http://www.secondlife.com), which has several regular genealogy meetings, including a virtual chapter of the Association of Professional Genealogists, [www.apgen.org](http://www.apgen.org).

#### SUMMARY

When I started my genealogy 22 years ago, the research process was pretty much a one-way street, and interaction was limited to asking librarians and records clerks for books, microfilm, or other information, posting queries in society newsletters, and trying to



Looking for some virtual places to quickly network with, or even have some face time with, other genealogists? Social networking sites, such as Facebook, GenealogyWise, and Twitter, are popular sites genealogists are using to locate or reconnect with family members or other researchers.

track down family using telephone directories and cold-calling, and/or "snail mail" correspondence. For today's family history sleuth, there are just so many ways to get involved. If you're stuck in the genealogy "dark ages," come explore the brave new world of 21st-century genealogy. If you're not already an "interactive genealogist," why not get started? You'll increase your chances of breaking down those research brickwalls, and perhaps even connect with a cousin, or two, or 20, and/or make many valuable connections and great friends along the way.

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*Author, lecturer, and instructor, Lisa A. Alzo has been tracking her East European ancestors for over 20 years. She is a frequent contributor to Family Chronicle and Internet Genealogy. Smartphone and tablet users can scan the QR code below to visit her website at [www.lisaalzo.com](http://www.lisaalzo.com).*



# British and Irish Parish History

IF YOU WANT TO know more about *how* your ancestors lived, rather than just having a list of names and dates, then you need to find out about the area where they lived. If they came over from England, Scotland, Ireland or Wales, then there's a lot of background information that's been published — which will sometimes even mention your ancestors.

## ENGLISH COUNTY HISTORIES

For England, various county histories have been published, in particular, the *Victoria County History of England (VCH)*, which covers the majority of English counties and includes the history of each parish (the area served by a church). In addition to those of the counties, there are often histories of much smaller areas.

Transcriptions of most of the already published VCH volumes are available free of charge at the British History Online (BHO) website, [www.british-history.ac.uk](http://www.british-history.ac.uk), set up by the University of London and the History of Parliament Trust.

The volumes of the online VCH that contain histories of parishes cover the pre-1974 English counties of Bedfordshire, Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, Cambridgeshire, Cheshire, County Durham, Essex, Gloucestershire, Hampshire, Hertfordshire, Huntingdonshire, Lancashire, Leicestershire, Middlesex, Northamptonshire, Oxfordshire, Rutland, Shropshire, Somerset, Staffordshire, Surrey, Sussex, Warwickshire, Wiltshire, Worcestershire and Yorkshire. The counties of Cumberland, Derbyshire, Dorset, Kent, Lincolnshire, London, Norfolk, Nottinghamshire and Suffolk are so far covered by only a single volume on the medieval religious



Above: St. Mary, Fairford, Gloucestershire, England.  
Below: The River Severn, seen here in Shrewsbury, Shropshire.



houses (monasteries, nunneries, etc.) of that particular county.

For each parish, the volumes of the VCH cover manors and other estates, economic history,

local government, churches, religious nonconformity, education and charities. You can search each volume for your ancestral surnames, so (for example) searching

for "Sandford" in Volume 10 of the Gloucestershire VCH brings 14 hits, one of which leads to Westbury-on-Severn: Westbury or Burghill Manor:

"William Stanford sold the site of the manor with 112 acres of land in 1636 to James Sandford (d. 1638). James Sandford was succeeded by his daughter Edith who married John Mitchell. In 1682, James Mitchell of Harescombe, probably the son of John and Edith, settled the estate on the marriage of his son James. On the death of the younger James Mitchell before 1711, the estate was divided between his daughters Mary who married George Small, Elizabeth who married Jacob Elton, and Bridget who married Samuel Clutterbuck... The site of Burghill manor appears to have been at Court Farm at the north end of Westbury village: the house bears the initials of John and Edith Mitchell and the date 1648."

The VCH began in 1899, but doesn't yet cover all the counties of England, nor are most counties complete. At its website, [www.victoriacountyhistory.ac.uk](http://www.victoriacountyhistory.ac.uk), you can find a map and list of the pre-1974 English counties. Clicking on a county brings up a page showing what has already been published, projects currently being worked on, news and events, and links to other online resources (including family and local history societies, museums and archives). You can also read the draft text of parish entries for as-yet unpublished VCH volumes. The website also lets you search for a specific parish.

Other county histories available at BHO are Francis Blomefield's *History of Norfolk*, Edward Hasted's *History of Kent*, Daniel Lysons' *Environs of London*, Walter Thornbury and Edward Walford's *Old and New London*, Daniel and Samuel Lysons' *Magna Britannia* (four volumes covering Cornwall, Cumberland, Derbyshire and Devon), Robert Thoroton's *History of Nottinghamshire*, Robert Surtees' *History and Antiquities of the County Palatine of Durham*, Eneas

Mackenzie's *Descriptive and Historical Account of the Town and County of Newcastle-upon-Tyne* and part of Alfred Suckling's *History and Antiquities of the County of Suffolk*.

You can also find digitized copies of county histories at the Internet Archive, [www.archive.org](http://www.archive.org), and Google Books, <http://books.google.com>. By searching the Internet Archive for "history Northumberland", for example, you'll find John Hodgson's *History of Northumberland* (a county not covered by the VCH) and a later

### STATISTICAL ACCOUNTS OF SCOTLAND

Scotland has no county history series that covers individual parishes, but in 1790, Sir John Sinclair, the MP (Member of Parliament) for Caithness, had persuaded the 938 ministers of the Church of Scotland to write what he termed 'statistical accounts' of their parishes.

Sir John's original intention had been simply to compile a general report about Scotland, without descriptions of the individual parishes. "But I found such merit

### WHAT IS A PARISH?

**The civil parish was created in 1889 as the lowest level of local government in Britain and Ireland and derives from the church parish from a thousand years ago and more. This was the area that was ministered to by a clergyman, and whose population supported him by paying tithes (a tenth of their produce, and later, income).**

**Parishes were subdivisions of a diocese (the area under a bishop) rather than of a county (the civil administrative area). As dioceses and counties didn't necessarily have the same boundaries, there were many instances of parishes straddling the boundaries of two counties (or in the case of Arngask in Scotland, three counties: Fife, Kinross-shire and Perthshire).**

**In addition, there were many detached parts of parishes, as well as entire parishes or groups of parishes that were detached from their counties (such as Welsh Bicknor, detached from the rest of Monmouthshire). Most of these anomalies were removed in the 19th century, although Flintshire in Wales and Dunbartonshire in Scotland continued to have detached areas until 1974 and 1975 respectively.**

continuation, as well as several other histories of the county.

For local histories, you may find that Googling the parish name plus "history" will lead you to a useful website, such as those for Walsham-le-Willows in Suffolk, [www.walsham-le-willows.org](http://www.walsham-le-willows.org) and; the Broseley (Shropshire) Local History Society, [www.broseley.org.uk](http://www.broseley.org.uk); or to a Wikipedia entry, such as those for Birstall in West Yorkshire, [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Birstall,\\_West\\_Yorkshire](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Birstall,_West_Yorkshire) and Lyme Regis, Dorset, [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lyme\\_Regis](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lyme_Regis).

and ability, and so many useful facts and important observations in the answers that were sent to me," he wrote later, "that I could not think of depriving the clergy of the credit."

These are not financial accounts, but descriptions of the landscape, the crops, and the fish in the rivers and the sea. The accounts also cover the price of food and clothing, how many people lived in the parish, their superstitions and whether they spoke Gaelic (a Celtic language quite unlike English) or broad Scots (more or less a dialect of English).

About 40 to 50 years later, a New Statistical Account was published, with contributions from



is cheap. The language of the common Roman Catholic peasantry is Irish; Protestants of the lower order speak both English and Irish; in town, English is frequently spoken by both.

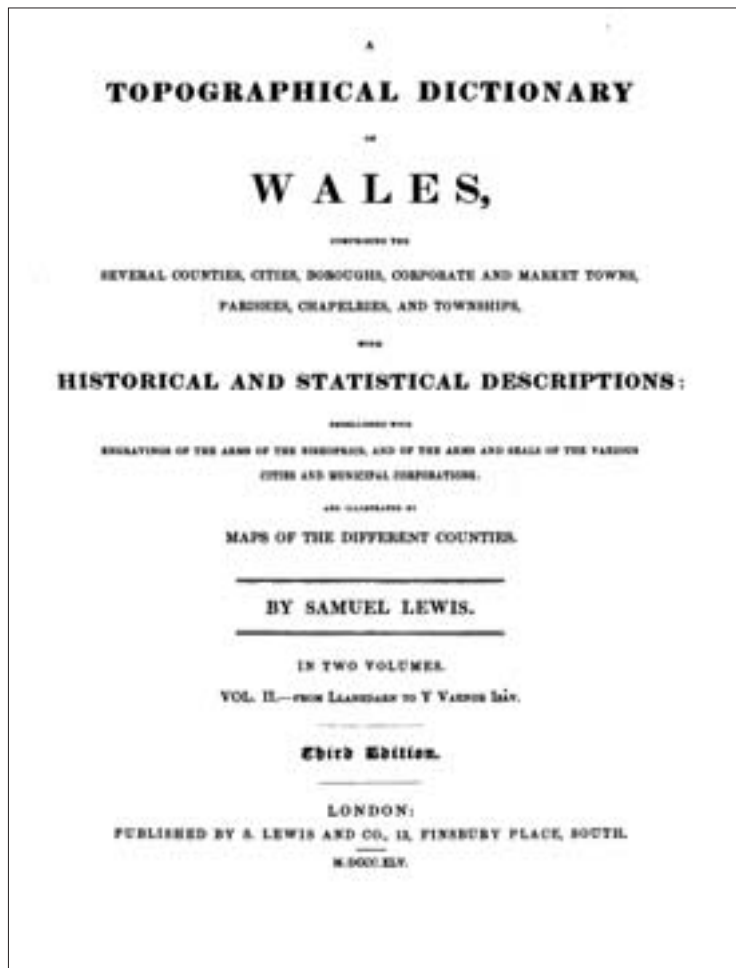
[In the Internet Archive, you'll also find similar accounts of parts of the eastern United States (particularly good are those for Croydon, NH in 1867, which contains biographies and illustrations of its leading citizens; and for Berks and Lebanon Counties, PA in 1844, which lists almost 5,000 settlers) and Canada (covering Ontario — as Upper Canada (1822), and Canada West (1851) — Nova Scotia (1829) and New Brunswick (1844).]

In the 1830s, the Ordnance Survey, which publishes maps and plans, compiled Irish parish-based accounts, known as Memoirs, to accompany them. Only the northern counties of Ireland were covered before the scheme was dropped and only one parish survey was published at the time. It was not until 1993 that the rest of the Ordnance Survey Memoirs were published by the Queen's University of Belfast, with Counties Antrim and Derry/Londonderry having the best coverage. You can buy the Memoirs at Amazon.

### Gazetteers and Directories

England, Scotland, Ireland and Wales also have gazetteers that describe localities, sometimes in great detail, particularly in the case of large towns and cities. The BHO website has a transcription of Samuel Lewis's *Topographical Dictionary of England*, published in 1848, as well as those for Scotland (1846) and Wales (1849), while that for Ireland (1837) is online at the

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



Title page from *A Topographical Dictionary of Wales*, volume II published 1845 by Samuel Lewis.

free Library Ireland site, [www.libraryireland.com/topog](http://www.libraryireland.com/topog).

In addition, a transcription of Francis Groome's Ordnance Gazetteer of Scotland (1885) is available online at the Gazetteer of Scotland site, [www.scottish-places.info](http://www.scottish-places.info).

Also good for parish descriptions and histories are directories, which list 'private citizens' (landowners, etc.) and tradesmen. You can find a large number of digitized directories for England and Wales from 1750-1919 at the University of Leicester's free Historical Directories site, [www.historicaldirectories.org/hd](http://www.historicaldirectories.org/hd).

In collaboration with the Internet Archive, the National Library of Scotland (NLS) has put online nearly 700 Post Office Directories of Scottish towns and counties from 1773-1911 at [www.nls.uk/family-history](http://www.nls.uk/family-history)

[/directories/post-office](http://directories/post-office).

Transcriptions of many Irish directories are online at Library Ireland. You can also search many 19th century directories covering what has since become Northern Ireland at the Public Record Office of Northern Ireland website, [www.proni.gov.uk/index/search\\_the\\_archives/street\\_directories.htm](http://www.proni.gov.uk/index/search_the_archives/street_directories.htm).

You'll also find many searchable digitized directories at Ancestry, [www.ancestry.com/ca](http://www.ancestry.com/ca). Many other digitized copies of directories are available at the Internet Archive and Google Books.

### MAPS

BHO has 19th century Ordnance Survey maps of Britain at [www.british-history.ac.uk/place.aspx?gid=64&region=8](http://www.british-history.ac.uk/place.aspx?gid=64&region=8). For Scotland, the NLS has made available county maps and town plans at <http://maps.nls.uk>. You can view historic 19th century Irish

Ordnance Survey maps showing the boundaries of parishes and townlands (parish sub-divisions) at <http://maps.osi.ie/publicviewer>.

IG

Alan Stewart has been tracing his ancestors for over 30 years, and is the author of *Grow Your Own Family Tree* (Penguin). You'll find Alan's blog of UK and Ireland family history news by scanning the QR code above or visiting <http://growyourownfamilytree.wordpress.com>.



# Net Notes

## HISTORICAL NEWSPAPERS ONLINE

<http://gethelp.library.upenn.edu/guides/hist/onlinenewspapers.html>

THIS HANDY LIST SUMMARIZES historical US newspa-

pers that are available online at no cost — some of these are available through big projects like Google News Historical Archives (which just halted its program in May 2011), Chronicling America (ongoing program of the Library of Congress) and NewspaperArchives.com, while others represent state, county or select newspaper digitization projects.



*Historical Newspapers Online features a list, by state, of the historical US newspapers that are available online.*

The list is by state and then alphabetical. With newspapers being such a key genealogical research tool and with more and more of them being digitized, it's nice to have one place to go where you can quickly get a handle on what historical newspapers are available on the World Wide Web.

Don't see a historical newspaper that you know has been digitized? Let the author know — we will all benefit!

— DIANE L. RICHARD

## BLOODY HISTORY OF THE 1641 REBELLION

[www.1641.tcd.ie/index.php](http://www.1641.tcd.ie/index.php)

THE BLOODY HISTORY OF the Catholic uprising of 1641 has been brought back to life on the Internet.

Testimonies from thousands of eyewitnesses to one of the most significant events in Irish history have been transcribed and made available for free online. The 1641 Depositions (Trinity College Dublin, MSS 809-841) are witness testimonies, mainly by Protestants, but also by some Catholics, from all social backgrounds, concerning their experiences of the 1641 Irish rebellion. The testimonies document the loss of goods, military activity, and the alleged crimes



*Testimonies from thousands of eyewitnesses to one of the most significant events in Irish history have been transcribed and made available on the Internet.*

committed by the Irish insurgents, including assault, stripping, imprisonment and murder.

The project involved transcribing all 19,000 pages of the original depositions, many of which are almost illegible.

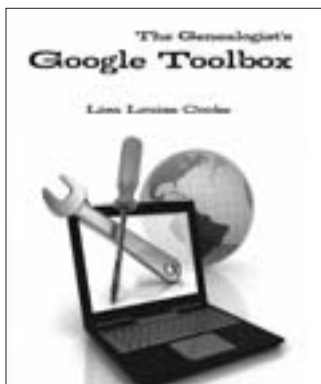
Besides the depositions, which are searchable by name, county or "free text", one can do more advanced searches, search by county, or browse the entire cata-

log. In addition to the depositions themselves, you will find extensive historical background about the Catholic uprising of 1641.

— DIANE L. RICHARD

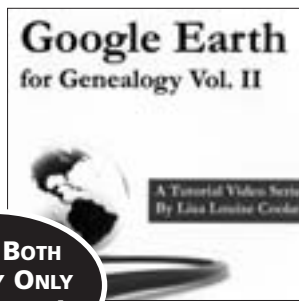
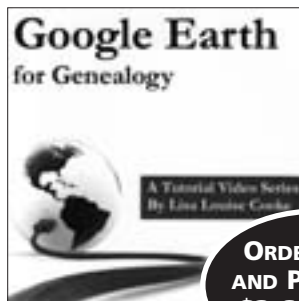
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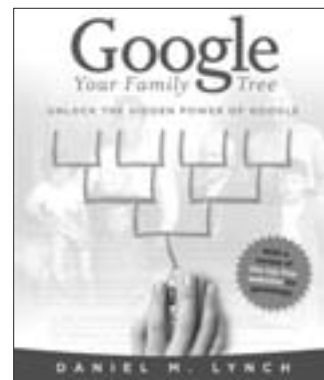
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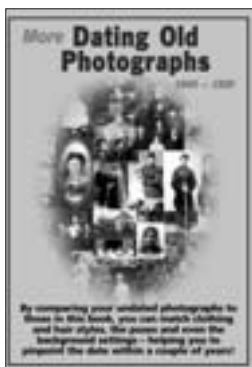
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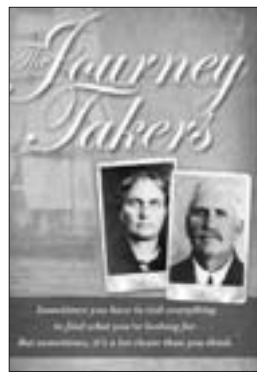


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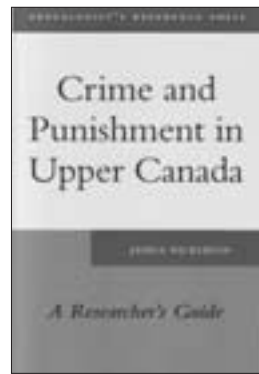
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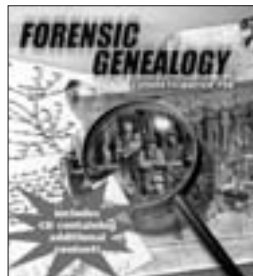
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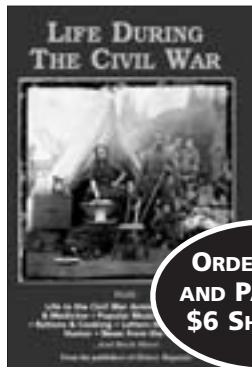
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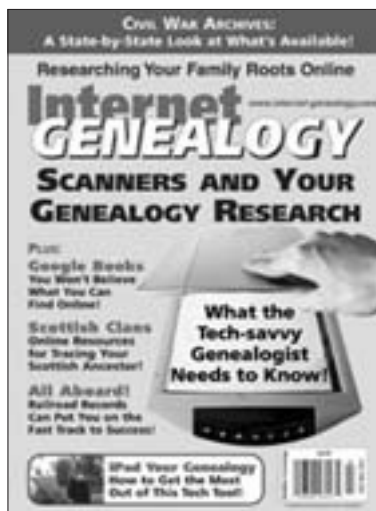
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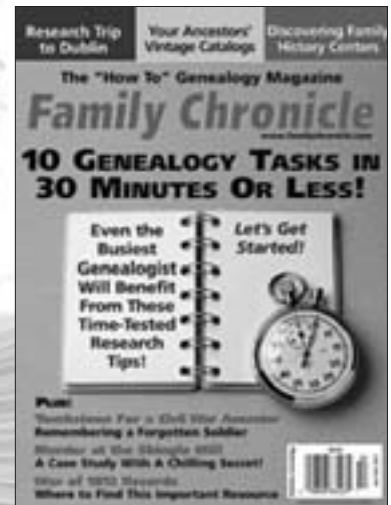
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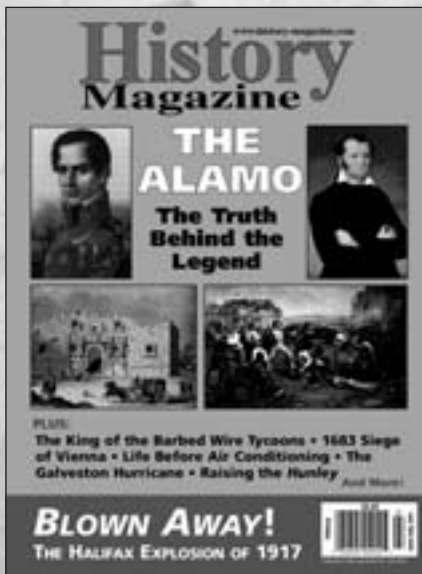
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# The National Institute for Genealogical Studies

MOST EVERYONE EXPERIENCES it. You get excited about genealogy and start tracing your family lines. Pretty soon, after you have exhausted government records, church records and popular genealogy websites, you hit the proverbial brick-wall. So, what's a family historian to do? While it's easy to get frustrated, genealogy is like most pursuits, it requires a commitment to continuing education. Luckily for us, the Internet provides opportunities we can take advantage of from the comfort of our own homes. The National Institute for Genealogical Studies (GenealogicalStudies.com) provides Internet-based education for genealogists and family historians to help break down the brick walls that hamper their research and broaden their research skills.

**A LEADER IN GENEALOGICAL EDUCATION FOR OVER 13 YEARS**  
The National Institute for Genealogical Studies, <http://www.genealogicalstudies.com>, in affiliation with the Continuing Education Unit of the University of St. Michael's College at the University of Toronto, has been providing courses for family historians and genealogists for over 13 years, first in-classroom, and online for the last 12 years.

Louise St Denis, Managing Director says "The National Institute for Genealogical Studies was established to assist all genealogists — from family historians to practicing professionals — by providing studies in a variety of genealogical topics. Education provides an important role in raising levels of personal and professional growth."

Louise continues, "With this in mind, a group of professional



The National Institute for Genealogical Studies has been providing family history courses for more than 13 years (online for the last 12!).

genealogists came together to create courses and programs conforming to recognized genealogical standards, with several objectives: to assist the family historian research and record information regarding their ancestors in a responsible and professional manner; to help the serious amateur genealogist gain the skills required to apply for certification or accreditation; and to help the professional genealogist develop a part-time or full-time career in our chosen field."

Currently, GenealogicalStudies.com offers over 200 courses in a wide variety of genealogical subjects, so there is literally something for every researcher. Students of the program can take any number of courses that interest them or those appropriate if working on a certificate in one of nine specific concentrations, including records from Australia, Canada, England, Ireland, Germany, Scotland and the United States, General Methodology and a Librarianship Certificate. Soon, the specifics of an Eastern European certificate program will also be announced.

Genealogist Sharon Murphy, Director of the Canadian Studies program, says, "I've been involved with The Institute from the beginning and have seen the program

evolve and continue to evolve as more courses are added. The National Institute provides comprehensive educational opportunities for genealogists and family historians alike. The Canadian Records program teaches not only what records have been created, when and why, but also provides the information all researchers need to know to determine if they have searched

"everywhere."

One set of courses that are unique to the National Institute is the Analysis and Skills Building Courses. Of these courses Sharon says, "The Analysis and Skills Program was created to allow the students to apply what they have learned, or already know. These courses are not the usual memorization of materials style, but are an example of how to think about the case in question and respond accordingly. They also provide the students with one-on-one instructor access to discuss the results of the course and answer any questions the students may have. This is the icing on the cake!"

GenealogicalStudies.com courses are designed for researchers of all skill levels, from those who are just getting started right up to the professional. In addition to pursuing one of the programs listed above, students can also take individual courses to enhance their knowledge or to meet their educational goals. Whether you are interested in United States military records, Canadian maps, developing a genealogical library collection, exploring the records of the poor in the United Kingdom, copyright, genetics, Australian convict records, Google or social media,

GenealogicalStudies.com has a course that will assist you in your research. Courses are done entirely online, allowing the student greater flexibility with their schedule. Course materials and readings are available online or as a paper copy mailed to the student.

Assignments, exercises, tests and exams are also done online. As part of some courses, students have the opportunity to consult with the instructor and receive feedback about assignments and exams. All students may take advantage of an instructor consultation to ask questions.

## MORE THAN JUST COURSES!

Students enrolled in courses with GenealogicalStudies

.com can take part in more than just the course itself. Live Meetings, held throughout the month, are online webinars that provide the student with the opportunity to ask questions and listen to presentations. Live Meeting discussions are led by instructors from various countries allowing students to ask questions of specialists relevant to wherever their brick walls occur. Students may participate in the Live Meeting discussion by using a webcam, headset or by typing in their questions and responses. The Live Meeting, held in a virtual meeting room, is free. Meetings are held around the clock to accommodate our diverse student population from Australia, Europe, North America and around the world.

"Live Meetings provide the student with the opportunity to learn and connect with others in an online classroom discussion environment. Whether you are just 'listening in' or you are an 'active participant', the student can gain knowledge on records research opportunities and methodology

## IRISH RECORDS COURSES

The following are courses from the Irish Records program. To view all of the courses available through the National Institute for Genealogical Studies see the website at [www.genealogicalstudies.com](http://www.genealogicalstudies.com)

### Basic Level

- Analysis and Skills Mentoring Program-Part 1
- Electronic Resources: Using The Internet
- Irish: Archival Repositories
- Irish: Census & Census Substitute Records
- Irish: Conformist & Non-Conformist Church Records
- Irish: Understanding Ireland, History & Source Records
- Methodology - Part 1: Getting Started
- Methodology - Part 2: Organizing and Skillbuilding
- Research from Family History Centers to New FamilySearch

### Intermediate Level

- Analysis and Skills Mentoring Program-Part 2
- Irish: Civil Registration in Ireland
- Irish: Land Administration Records
- Irish: Major Printed Sources
- Irish: Monumental (Gravestone) Inscriptions
- Irish: Testamentary Source Records
- Methodology - Part 3: More Strategies
- Methodology - Part 4: Effective Searching and Recording
- Methodology - Part 5: How To Prove It

### Advanced Level

- Analysis and Skills Mentoring Program-Part 3
- Genealogy and Copyright Guidelines
- Genetics and Genealogy
- Irish: Court Records, State Papers, Parliamentary Documents
- Irish: Electoral & Taxation Records
- Irish: Estate, Plantation & Settlement Records
- Irish: Immigration, Naturalization & Emigration Records
- Irish: Military, Naval & Pension Records
- Methodology - Part 6: Professional Preparation and Practice
- Palaeography: Reading & Understanding Historical Documents

from their fellow students and the moderator," says Beverly Rice, C.G., American Studies Director. Beverly adds, "It is an opportunity for learning that should not be overlooked, even if you are a little hesitant about the technology."

For a schedule of Live Meetings, see the Genealogical Studies.com website under the Information link.

## GENEALOGYWISE.COM, A SOCIAL MEDIA SITE

Students may also choose to take advantage of GenealogicalStudies.com groups on GenealogyWise.com, the genealogy social network owned by The National Institute for Genealogical Studies. GenealogyWise.com provides members multiple ways to connect and collaborate with others. Membership is free and new members can sign up at [www.genealogywise.com](http://www.genealogywise.com).

With an active community of nearly 27,000 members, GenealogyWise.com provides a place to network with other researchers, post questions and

comments and make discoveries about your family history.

## GenealogyWise

.com provides researchers various ways to learn more about your family history. You can join or create surname, locality, or topic groups. Some of the most active groups are the locality groups, including Australian Genealogists, Germany and German Ancestry and Ireland and Irish Ancestry. National Institute students can network with fellow students by joining groups specifically designed for the certificate programs. Groups include American, Canadian, Australian, Irish, Scottish, English and German records, General Methodology, Librarianship, First Timer FAQs, Courses and Alumni.

Members have access to the GenealogyWise.com Chat Room where they can, anytime of the day or night, ask a quick question about

research, chat with fellow genealogists, or attend a scheduled educational presentation.

## START YOUR GENEALOGICAL EDUCATION TODAY

Getting started with GenealogicalStudies.com is easy. Peruse the course calendar and certificate programs listed under the Courses tab on the website at [www.genealogicalstudies.com](http://www.genealogicalstudies.com). Courses are inexpensive, starting at only \$49.95 (US). Special package pricing is also available. "New courses are continuously being developed. We are always interested in hearing from either individuals with new course ideas or genealogists who can teach a topic we are not currently offering," adds Louise.

You can register online at [www.genealogicalstudies.com](http://www.genealogicalstudies.com) or for more information, e-mail [admin@genealogicalstudies.com](mailto:admin@genealogicalstudies.com).

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*Gena Philibert-Ortega is the Genealogical Services Director for the National Institute for Genealogical Studies.*

# 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.*

## OCTOBER 2011

The East Yorkshire Family History Society will be holding its first Hull Family History Fair on Saturday October 1st 2011 from 10 AM to 4 PM. The event will be held in the prestigious Costello Sports Stadium, on the junction of Boothferry and Anlaby Roads in the city of Hull. The event will be the biggest ever held in the East Riding and admission prices are being kept deliberately low (£1 for adults with accompanied under-16s admitted free) in this, its first year. Parking is free and the whole site is fully wheelchair friendly. Visit [www.eyffhs.org.uk](http://www.eyffhs.org.uk).

The Minnesota Genealogical Society presents the North Star Genealogy Conference, 7-8 October, Edina, Minnesota. Featuring George G. Morgan and breakout sessions on problem-solving, research tools, family history sources and technology; speaker include: Alice Eichholz, J. H. Fonkert, Harold E. Hinds and Tom Rice. Special seminar for genealogy society leaders. Registration information at [www.mnsgs.org](http://www.mnsgs.org).

Volunteers in period clothing will greet attendees at the 13th annual Family History Day at the California State Archives will be held 15 October 2011 in Sacramento, California. This free, public event will feature genealogy classes; Archives tours and classes in the Preservation Lab; Root Cellar Genealogical Library; and exhibitors. Co-sponsored by Root Cellar-Sacramento Genealogical Society. Information at <http://fhdnews.blogspot.com>, [www.rootcellar.org](http://www.rootcellar.org) or e-mail [fhdmailbox@gmail.com](mailto:fhdmailbox@gmail.com).

Central New York Genealogical Society (CNYGS) 50th Anniversary Conference Oct 14-15, 2011, Syracuse, New York. For information, visit [www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~cnycnygs](http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~cnycnygs) or e-mail [cnycnygs50th@yahoo.com](mailto:cnycnygs50th@yahoo.com).

Ontario Genealogical Society Ottawa Meeting, Ryan Taylor Memorial Lecture. Saturday, 15 October 2011, at 10 AM. Library and Archives Canada, 395 Wellington Street in the Auditorium. Topic: The Journey Takers by author Leslie Albrecht Huber. Visit Leslie's website at [www.understandingyourancestors.com](http://www.understandingyourancestors.com). For more information, visit <http://ogsottawa.on.ca>. Everyone welcome. Free refreshments. Free evening/weekend parking.

Heritage Hunters of Saratoga County, New York Annual Conference October 15, 2011, from 9 AM to 3:30 PM at the Town of Saratoga Town Hall, 10 Spring Street, Schuylerville, New York. Marian Pierre-Louis, principal researcher for Fieldstone Historic Research and a regular speaker at historical societies, will offer four workshops. E-mail [melfrejo@aol.com](mailto:melfrejo@aol.com).

Ontario Genealogical Society Region 1 Meeting — Sat. Oct. 15, 2011 9 AM to 4 PM at Lakeshore St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, 235 Amy Croft Dr., Tecumseh, On. Three guest speakers — "Local History as Context: Resources for Genealogists", "Crime and Punishment in Upper Canada", and "Impersonation of a War of 1812 Veteran". \$25 with box lunch. Go to [www.essex.ogs.on.ca](http://www.essex.ogs.on.ca) for registration form or further info, or call 519-736-7737.

Quinte Branch of the Ontario Genealogical Society meets the third Saturday of the month except July, August and December from 1 PM -3:45 PM in the Council Chambers at Quinte West City Hall Library, 7 Creswell Drive, Trenton, Ontario. Everyone Welcome. Free Admission, Refreshments - Phone: 613-394-3381 x3328 or visit [www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~canqbgos/](http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~canqbgos/)

Iowa Genealogical Society fall conference, Oct. 14 - 15, 2011 at Faith Lutheran Church, 10395 University Ave., Clive, Iowa. The speaker is Billie Stone Fogarty. Billie is discussing several topics including: proving Indian ancestry; Women in Colonial America; The Indian Archives; Sharing Your Research; Land Runs, Lotteries, and Homesteading; Organizaing Your Research; and more. Cost is \$70 for IGS members, \$75 for non-members. Registration at [www.iowagenealogy.org](http://www.iowagenealogy.org).

Central New York Genealogical Society's 50th Anniversary Celebration, 1961 – 2011, October 14 - 15, 2011. Location: Comfort Inn, 6701 Buckley Road, Syracuse, NY 13212. Banquet and conference featuring genealogical lecturer, Barry Ewell, Senior Marketing Manager at IBM, expert in Internet, field research, digital and software resources, from Salt Lake City. Other workshop presenters include: Suzanne Etherington, Edward L. Galvin, Holly Sammons, and Roger B. Williams. For additional information including registration details, visit [www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~nycnygs/50th\\_anniversary.htm](http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~nycnygs/50th_anniversary.htm). E-mail us at: [CNYGS50th@yahoo.com](mailto:CNYGS50th@yahoo.com)

The Genealogical Societies of Rogue Valley (Jackson County) and Grants Pass (Josephine County) in Southern Oregon will co-sponsor an October 21st & 22nd Genealogy Seminar and Workshop. Featured speaker will be computer professional, Dr. Stephen Morse, PH.D, creator of the One-Step Website and architect of the Intel 8086. Classes, in addition to the One-Step Website Genealogical Search Tools, will include the evening workshop topics of: DNA to Genetic Genealogy and Genealogy Beyond the Y Chromosome: Autosomes Exposed. For detailed information and registration visit [www.rvgsociety.org](http://www.rvgsociety.org) or [www.gpgenealogy.org](http://www.gpgenealogy.org). Events will be held at the Jackson County Public Library, Medford, Oregon.

**Clark County Nevada Genealogical Society Fall Family History Seminar; 22 October 2011.** Location: Stan Fulton Building, UNLV Campus, 801 E. Flamingo Rd. FREE PARKING; Registration – 8:30 AM, Seminar – 9 AM to 4 PM; \$40 (CCNGS Members received no later than 22 September 2011), \$50 (Non-CCNGS & CCNGS Members after 22 September 2011), Lunch is included; for more details e-mail [CCNGS@CLEAR.NET](mailto:CCNGS@CLEAR.NET) or visit [www.lvrj.com/communitylink/ccngs/](http://www.lvrj.com/communitylink/ccngs/) or [www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~nvccngs](http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~nvccngs)

**Czechoslovak Genealogical Society International, October 26-29, 2011 (Wed. – Sat.) , CGSI's 13th Genealogical/Cultural Conference, Sheraton Westport Chalet Hotel, St. Louis, MO .** The full three-day CGSI member or non-member fee entitles registrants to attend any of the 10 sessions on Thursday, the Regional Networking/Mixer Thursday night, any of the 12 sessions each day, Friday and Saturday, the Friday and Saturday lunches, and Friday evening's Grandma's Trunk and Parade of Kroje presentations. Registrants also will receive speaker handouts and a welcome packet. All registrants will be required to wear a CGSI badge which will hold their lunch tickets, and tickets purchased for optional evening meals. For more information visit the CGSI web page for this event: <http://tinyurl.com/428dobr>

**29 October 2011 Raleigh, NC: Researching Your Ancestors in Colonial Times** will be presented by the **North Carolina Genealogical Society** in conjunction with the NCGS Annual Meeting. The speaker will be Barbara Vines Little, CGSM, whose talks on Working with Colonial Records, Land and Inheritance, Backtracking Your Migrating Ancestor: A Methodology That Works, and Taxes: Milk Them for All They're Worth, will provide information to move your research to the next level. Information: [www.ncgenealogy.org](http://www.ncgenealogy.org).

#### NOVEMBER 2011

**Wednesday, November 9 2011, Ontario Genealogical Society York Region Branch located at the Richmond Hill Central Library. 1 Atkinson St. at Major Mackenzie Dr., Richmond Hill, ON.** Event: Annual General Meeting and show and tell. Bring some useful research tips and resources to share. For more information visit [www.rootsweb.com/~onyrbogs/](http://www.rootsweb.com/~onyrbogs/)

**Wednesday November. 9, 7:00 PM - Meeting of the Haliburton Highlands Genealogy Group, at the Minden Legion.** Celebrate Women's Contributions to the World Wars. Doors open 6pm; presentation 7. For more information contact: Gail Leach-Wunker 705-286-2225. Website: [www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~onlhgg/](http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~onlhgg/)

**The Florida State Genealogical Society** will hold its **2011 Annual Conference November 11 and 12** at the Sheraton Orlando North Hotel, Maitland, FL. The two-day conference will feature Keynote Speaker Lloyd Dewitt Bockstruck who will offer four fascinating new lectures. Additional presenters will address selected genealogical topics. Vendors will exhibit new products. For seminar registration and hotel information, visit our

website at [www.flsgs.org](http://www.flsgs.org). **Note: Visit Family Chronicle and Internet Genealogy in the vendor hall.**

**Fall Genealogy Seminar and Luncheon with Ancestry.com.** Saturday, November 12, 9 AM-3 PM, Crowne Plaza Hotel, San Diego. Jump Start Your Family History Project. Learn About Hidden and Underused Sources. Technological Advances in Genealogy Research. Get the Most Out of Ancestry.com. Info: San Diego Genealogical Society, 858-279-SDGS (7347), [casdgs.org](http://casdgs.org).

**Nashville, TN, Saturday, November 19, 2011, The Middle Tennessee Genealogical Society and Tennessee Historical Society sponsors its 25th Annual All-Day Genealogical Workshop, 9:15 AM - 4 PM,** Location: Brentwood Public Library, Brentwood, TN. Guest Speakers: Elizabeth Shown Mills, CG, CGL, FNGS, FASG and FUGA will speak on: "Problem Solving in the Problem-Riddled Carolina Backcountry". J. Mark Lowe, CG, FUGA, a professional genealogist, lecturer and author, Topic: "Inheritance Laws and Estate Settlements in the Carolinas". Charles A. Sherrill, M.A., M.L.S., State Librarian and Archivist of Tennessee, Topic: "Service Records/Civil War. For detailed information, registration, and payment, please visit our website, [www.mtgs.org](http://www.mtgs.org) for details.

**Ontario Genealogical Society Brant County Branch meeting. Location: Branch Library, 118 Powerline Rd., Brantford, ON., November 27, 2011, 2 PM** Speaker is Chad Martin of Brant Historical Society, and the topic is "Prisoners of War and 65th Anniversary of World War II". For more information visit <http://brantcountybranchogs.ca/Events.html> or e-mail [brantogs@bellnet.ca](mailto:brantogs@bellnet.ca).

#### Important 2012 Event Dates

**Rootstech 2012, 2 - 4 February 2012,** Salt Palace Convention Center, Salt lake city, Utah. For more information visit <http://rootstech.familysearch.org/>

**The NGS 2012 Family History Conference** will be held at the Duke Energy Convention Center in Cincinnati, Ohio. Mark your calendars for 9 – 12 May 2012. Visit [www.ngsgenealogy.org/cs/conference\\_info](http://www.ngsgenealogy.org/cs/conference_info).

**Borders and Bridges: 1812 to 2012, the 2012 Ontario Genealogical Society Conference,** will be held in Kingston ON, June 1 - 3, 2012. For more information visit <http://www.ogs.on.ca/seminar/conference2012.php>

**The FGS 2012 conference will be held Wednesday, 29 August through Saturday, 1 September 2012** at the Birmingham Convention Center, Birmingham, Alabama. Visit <http://www.fgs.org/conferences/index.php>.

#### 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 Feb/Mar issue must be in by December 1, Apr/May must be in by February 1, etc.

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

# The Promise of Google+

I HAVE NOTICED SOMETHING rather interesting about technology and the genealogy community over the last 20 years or so. It seems that perception and reality don't match. The perception I'm referring to is one of a small, quiet group of not-so-tech-savvy grandmothers writing letters and recording dates to help preserve their family story for another generation of grandchildren. As any reader of this magazine surely knows, the reality couldn't be further from that flawed perception.

Having spent my entire career in the technology sector, and also as a longtime family history enthusiast, I have been witness to the adoption of more than a few new technology offerings by early and enthusiastic genealogists. Yes, grandmothers are part of that group too, but most would be surprised to learn just how tech-savvy many in our community are. From ListSrvs and Forums, to scanners and digital photography, self-publishing and social media, many avid family historians have been early adopters - even mavens and entrepreneurs for technology solutions that could help with the task of unraveling, then recording and sharing their family story.

The new Google+ project is no exception. In early July, word began circulating around the Internet that Google's highly anticipated launch of Google+ (read as 'Google Plus') was near and invitations were being shared for a limited 'Field Trial'. It is believed that Google surpassed 10 million users in just 16 days, and then doubled that number in half as many days again. Whatever the exact numbers are, it's hard to say as Google has yet to officially

launch their new social media offering which some have compared to Facebook, Twitter, and LinkedIn, all rolled into one — and then some.

One thing is for certain, this time around there's no denying the fact that the genealogy community embraces new technology and, in this case, is helping to lead the worldwide charge by identifying applications for its use. Even Google seems surprised by some of these ideas and has taken notice.



In late July, just a few weeks after the limited field trial began, I presented a session on Google+ at the 2011 Family History and Genealogy Conference hosted by BYU (Provo, Utah). Not only did conference organizers squeeze the topic into an already jam-packed schedule, but a standing-room-only crowd of conference attendees, many of whom were skipping their only chance at lunch, joined to hear how Google's new offering could help them with their passion. The room was buzzing with excitement - before, during, and after.

Two weeks later, a similar thing occurred, but this time it

was on a much larger scale. I joined with two colleagues, Paul Allen (founder of *WorldVitalRecords.com* and co-founder of *Ancestry*) and Mark Olsen, to discuss Google+ as part of a webinar series hosted by Millennia Corp, publishers of the well-known *Legacy Family Tree* software. The 90-minute event drew an all-time record of nearly 4,000 registrants from 73 countries and was also shared via live video streaming using a combination of technologies being presented that day. The innovative use of the new Google+ even drew participation from members of the Google+ product team based in California. (Note: The webinar can be viewed online at: <http://goo.gl/K1ch6>.)

## GOOGLE ACCOUNT

To join and access Google+, you first need a Google Account. If you use Gmail, Google Alerts, Blogger, Picasa, iGoogle or any other Google services which require sign-in, then you already have a Google account.

The company has been carefully limiting access to their field trial, but if you aren't able to gain access on your own (visit <http://plus.google.com>), then ask one of your genealogy friends who may be using the service and they can likely send you an invitation from within their account. Google has yet to share an official launch date for the Google+ project, but with well over 20 million users, I think it's safe to say, "it's here."

## CIRCLES & STREAM

One of the first things you'll notice upon joining Google+ is the clean appearance, with most frequently used components just a single click from anywhere you

are. Central to the overall Google+ experience is also a concept they label *Circles*.

Circles are groups you can create for the different relationships you have with contacts in your life. As family historians, we certainly have our fair share of contacts. We can create different Circles for immediate and distant family members, in-laws, high school or college friends, our current or former co-workers, neighbors, genealogy friends, you decide how many and how detailed. Best of all, if you change your mind, you can edit your Circles any time you like



long posts, links to external sites, photos, video, and comment threads corresponding to each.

A list of your Circles appears as part of the left-side navigation, enabling you to quickly filter inbound content to just a particular group. This is a great way to stay focused on using the tool to help you save time, versus having it become a drain on your limited time as you waded through dozens of otherwise meaningless posts

I'm confident this will be refined in the weeks and months ahead.

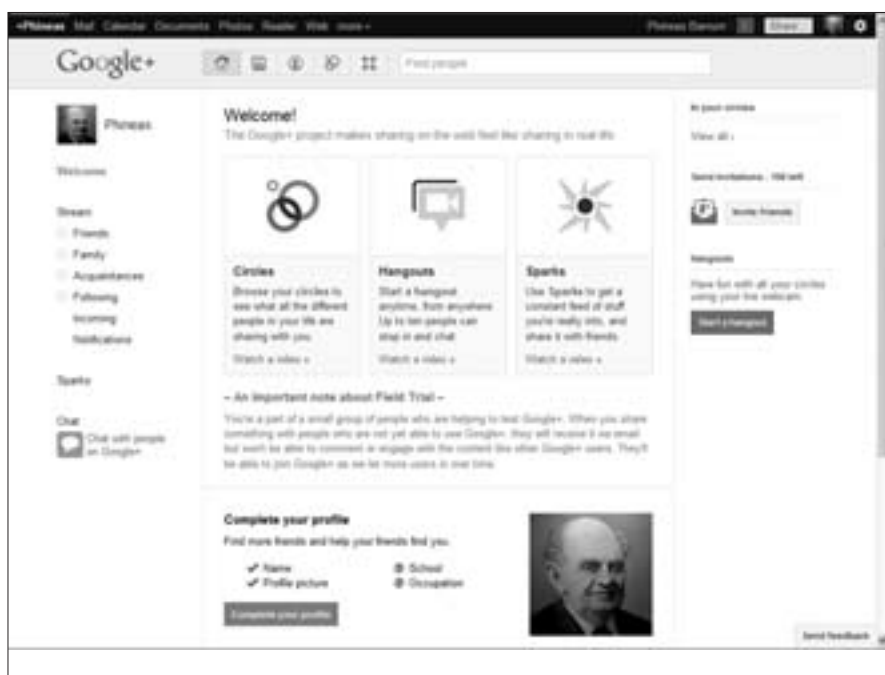
**HANGOUTS**

Nicely integrated into the overall Google+ service is a multi-party video chat function called Hangouts.

With just a few clicks, you can start a Hangout with nine others to discuss your brick walls, upcoming society event or any topic you like. If you're camera shy, you can always participate with audio only or text chat, but will still have the ability to view video of others. Clever integration with YouTube enables the group to view a common YouTube video as part of your Hangout.

I've already used Hangouts to give a tour of the 1766 Tashua Burial Ground located near my home in Connecticut. That idea was inspired by a tour I received earlier that same day of a beautiful and historic government building in Belfast, Northern Ireland. There are some exciting possibilities that await the genealogy community using Google+ and Hangouts.

Look for me on Google+ and I'll be happy to Hangout and hear what you think!



— even deleting those that are no longer needed.

As you find or invite others to join you on Google+, you can place them in one or more Circles. This enables you to easily and quickly filter what you share and who you are sharing it with. Another benefit to Circles is the tight integration that exists between your Circles and the content visible to you by those friends and family members who have posted something online for you to see. Google+ refers to your incoming content as the *Stream*. Somewhat akin to the *Wall* of a Facebook account, the Stream contains a range of text — short and

shared by well-intended friends and family members. Circles are easy to create and manage and very beneficial..

**SPARKS**

As you might expect from the worlds leading search provider, Google+ incorporates a query function called *Sparks*. Search for any topic that 'sparks' your interest and then view results in your Stream, but also have the ability to save the query for future one-click access from the left side navigation menu.

This feature is still fairly basic and it's not clear what content is being included in the results, but

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*A regular contributor to Internet Genealogy and Family Chronicle, Dan Lynch is a professional genealogist, marketing consultant, and author of the award-winning book, Google Your Family Tree. He has recently published, Exploring Google+, and more information for the book can be found online at [www.danlynch.net](http://www.danlynch.net) or by scanning the QR code below with your mobile device.*



# Finding Your Family's Places: Gazetteers

AS A GENEALOGIST, you've probably run across many place names that were once important to your family, but are forgotten by your relatives today. Some ancestors lived in very small towns, which were no more than "a wide place in the road". Over the centuries, names of provinces, counties, districts, towns, rivers, and mountains might have changed. So, gazetteers, or dictionaries of toponyms (place names), can be a great help to the genealogist. Besides the published gazetteers in your library, numerous gazetteers from the US and around the world are available online. Many of them are mainly intended for geographical, business, educational, or historical purposes, but some are tailored specifically with genealogists in mind.

Gazetteers sometimes accompany atlases, serving as detailed indexes for making efficient use of the maps. Other text-based gazetteers range from indexes with names only or brief, dictionary-like entries with limited information to works with extensive, almost encyclopedic articles. Of course, information in a gazetteer can go out of date, but editions from many years past serve as snapshots of the world as it was in, say, 1910 or 1870, and serve to show us what many aspects of life were like for our ancestors in past eras.

These days, online gazetteers make looking up a village, fort, church, creek, lake, mountain, or other place you run across in family history research much easier. Among their useful features are listings of alternate names for

places, including archaic names that fell out of use many years ago. Quite a few digital gazetteers also let you pinpoint the spot on a map, and often tie in opportunities for aerial or satellite views as well.

The Geographic Names Information System (GNIS) is, today, a most extensive and thorough US resource. Discussed more thoroughly in the article "So That's Where That Was!" (*Internet Genealogy*, December/January 2007), the GNIS is a service of the US Board of Geographic Names, which is under the US Geological Survey and the Department of the Interior. You can visit their search page at <http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gnispublic>. At the site, you can search among 2,189,804 place names, including "populated places", lakes, levees, towers, tun-

**A century-old view of the German village of Schluchsee. Many antique gazetteers have been reprinted or placed online, enabling you to see the location, nearby cities and rivers, population, major industries and other information about a place where your ancestors lived a century or two ago.** (Library of Congress.)





Wilbur Wright took this photo of the post office at Kitty Hawk, North Carolina, when he and his brother were experimenting with the pioneer airplane they flew in 1903. There were about 75,000 post offices in the US at that time; post office directories or guides available at Google Books, and elsewhere online, can help you find obscure rural post offices mentioned in your ancestors' records. (Library of Congress.)

nels, ridges, valleys, streams and more.

The Association of American Geographers' Historical GIS Clearinghouse and Forum at [www.aag.org/cs/projects\\_and\\_programs/historical\\_gis\\_clearinghouse/historical\\_gazetteers](http://www.aag.org/cs/projects_and_programs/historical_gis_clearinghouse/historical_gazetteers) has links to several historical gazetteers that are online. Besides the US, entries here cover places as far afield as India, Japan, and Australia.

At a more local level, there are many state gazetteers. And, a work such as Paul T. Hellmann's *Historical Gazetteer of the United States* serves as a gazetteer for all 50 states. It contains capsule histories of the states, counties, cities, and towns. Significant dates such as the establishment of counties or incorporation of towns; battles and disasters; the construction of local landmark buildings or bridges; and the births of celebrities and historical figures are included.

#### GAZETTEERS BEYOND THE UNITED STATES

Canadian place names are officially assigned by the Geographical

Names Board of Canada (GNBC). About 350,000 Canadian place names, including English, French, and Indian variants, can be searched in the Canadian Geographical Names Data Base (CGNDB) at [http://geonames.rncan.gc.ca/info/cgndb\\_e.php](http://geonames.rncan.gc.ca/info/cgndb_e.php).

The CGNDB site is worth browsing through for some interesting background information and trivia. A small section includes explanations of geographic names that may be unfamiliar to most Americans. "The Brandies" refers to underwater rocks or reefs. The word comes from "brandise", an Irish word for an iron tripod used for cooking. A "Blow Me Down" is a steep hill plunging down toward the water, where strong down-drafts form.

Great Britain's Ordnance Survey, an official mapmaking bureau dating back to 1791, offers an online gazetteer with a quarter of a million place names. This gazetteer's listings range from 60 UK cities to 237 Roman antiquities and 34,604 farms. You can find the search page for the Ordnance

Survey's 1:50,000 scale Gazetteer at [www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/oswebsite/products/50k-gazetteer/index.html](http://www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/oswebsite/products/50k-gazetteer/index.html). Successful searches bring you a detailed map showing the location of the place in question.

The Ordnance Survey's "Did You Know" section at <http://www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/oswebsite/freefun/didyouknow> has additional helpful sections.

"Origins of Place Names on Our Maps" leads to resources exploring English place names with closer looks at Scandinavian, Scots, Welsh, and Gaelic place names. For instance, we can see that "by" was a word for farm dating back to the Viking era. "Kirk" meant church and "dale" meant a valley to the Vikings; these and many more words were integrated into place names and later, surnames, that have come down to the present.

The Association of British Counties has 50,000 entries in their "Gazetteer of British Place Names" at [www.gazetteer.co.uk](http://www.gazetteer.co.uk). Information includes the historic county as well as modern administrative districts, enabling you to determine what



Online and published gazetteers can provide enlightening information about what otherwise would be only places on a map.

county each place was originally in, and where its records might be found today. Also on the site are useful tips for genealogists, and maps of Britain's historic counties and modern administrative regions.

Among GENUKI's numerous resources is a UK Gazetteer; its search page is at [www.genuki.org.uk/big/Gazetteer](http://www.genuki.org.uk/big/Gazetteer). A great bonus to genealogists with this gazetteer is that it offers links not only to maps, but often to online genealogical information, such as church or census records for that place.

GENUKI also has a "church gazetteer", or church database, at [www.genuki.org.uk/big/churchdb](http://www.genuki.org.uk/big/churchdb). Information, supplied by volunteers, varies greatly but may possibly include a photo of the church, historical information and graveyard listings. They also offer a gazetteer of places listed in the 1891 UK Census, at [www.genuki.org.uk/big/census\\_place.html](http://www.genuki.org.uk/big/census_place.html). Currently, this site includes England, Wales, and the Isle of Man. Like their main UK Gazetteer, successful searches give you hot-linked

entries of towns, parishes, and counties, which lead to much useful historical information on each place.

At the National Mapping Organisations Network, [www.nmonetwork.org/links](http://www.nmonetwork.org/links), you can find links to numerous mapping agencies around the world. Some national services have online gazetteers; others do not, but may offer downloadable maps or other useful material.

Wikipedia has a list of links to online gazetteers at <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gazetteer>.

Cyndi's List has links to numerous gazetteers and map resources on the "Maps, Gazetteers, and Geographical Information" page at [www.cyndislist.com/maps.htm](http://www.cyndislist.com/maps.htm).

The JRC Fuzzy Search Gazetteer, offered by the Joint Research Center of the European Commission, can be found at <http://dma.jrc.it/services/fuzzyg>. This search can check seven million place names, and it can take into account spelling variations, which can be helpful when tracing archaic or misspelled references.

Successful hits give you the latitude and longitude, and also offer options for locating the places on Google Maps.

In one of its many services to genealogists, Familysearch.org offers lists and links of the most useful gazetteers from numerous countries. Visit their "Browse by Country" page at [https://wiki.familysearch.org/en/Browse\\_by\\_Country](https://wiki.familysearch.org/en/Browse_by_Country) and select the country you're interested in from the list. Many countries will have a category for gazetteers, and with them, you'll find the best historic and modern published and online gazetteers for genealogists, and tips on how to find them and use them.

Among the countries represented at Familysearch.org with gazetteer information are Austria (including the old Austro-Hungarian Empire), Canada, the Czech Republic, Denmark, England, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, the Netherlands, Norway (in the form of online lists of clerical districts, parishes, and regions), Russia (click on "Finding Places in the Former Russian Empire" for a PDF document with

information on gazetteers), Scotland, Slovakia, Sweden, Switzerland, the United States, and Wales.

Generally, with these lists of gazetteers on the Familysearch.org site, you may find links to online gazetteers, as well as some volumes that are available on microfilm from the Family History Library. You can also make a note of the gazetteer titles, and check for them at Google Books, [www.books.google.com](http://www.books.google.com),

and the Internet Archive, [www.archive.org](http://www.archive.org). Some spot checking reveals a good many of the older works can be found and downloaded on these two internet library sites. Others may have been scanned and placed online by genealogists specializing in particular countries, so it's worth trying a Google search as well.

Many of the older gazetteers are not in English, but in German, Hungarian or other languages. Some of the country page entries at the Family History Library, as well as other specialized genealogy sites, offer tips on navigating these non-English gazetteers, explaining the essential vocabulary and abbreviations.

Online libraries, such as Google Books and the Internet Archive, have digital copies of many old published gazetteers. (A tip on searching these online libraries: sometimes, minor variations in spelling might keep you from finding an old gazetteer, so you might also try an advanced search using the author's name.)

One important English work is Stephen Whatley's 1751 three-volume *England's Gazetteer*; or, *An Accurate Description of All the Cities, Towns, and Villages of the Kingdom*. Whatley's book contains "near 30,000 names of places", according to its preface. The first two volumes give detailed information on Britain's cities, towns, and larger villages. Volume III lists smaller villages with brief notes on their locations; for example, we find Trenglos, a Cornwall village, is near "Half-drunken Downs". (Google Books has Volumes I and III available at the time of this writing.)

Ancestry.com offers a category called "Maps, Atlases, and Gazetteers". Among the resources in this collection is Germany's *Meyers Gazetteer of the German Empire* (in German, *Meyers Orts- und Verkehrs-Lexikon des Deutschen Reichs*) covers 210,000 place names, up to its publication date of 1912-1913. It's the most thorough historical work of its kind. However, this work is written in German, using the archaic fractur typestyle that resembles medieval script. Some reprints of the book contain introductions with tips on reading the fractur type, and a list of the common abbreviations in the work.

At Ancestry.com, you can search *Meyers Gazetteer* by keyword. The "Hits" page yields images rather than text, so it will take some work to decipher the results. At the beginning of the first volume, there is a list of abbreviations used in the work, so you can unlock the information you need about a German ancestor's town or village.

The 1883 *Atlas des Deutschen Reichs* by Ludwig Ravenstein, with a gazetteer that also serves as an index to the maps, has been digitized by the Memorial Library at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. The home page of the atlas is at [www.library.wisc.edu/etext/ravenstein/home.html](http://www.library.wisc.edu/etext/ravenstein/home.html). To use this resource, search the gazetteer for the town or village you're looking for. There will be a reference to a map section, which you can use to narrow your search down to a single section of the large, complex map.

Census pages, pension records, and other genealogical documents often mention the nearest post office. There were 76,945 American post offices in 1901. Many rural US post offices in the 19th and early 20th centuries were in the home or business of the postmaster. A lot of these small post offices have been long since forgotten, because they operated for only a few years and their locations moved as postmasters died or were replaced. Therefore, post office directories are a useful specialized type of gazetteer. Numerous such works

may be found at Google Books and the Internet Archive. Such works also exist for European countries; those for France and Belgium may be found by searching for "*Dictionnaire des Postes aux Lettres*".

The Clergy of the Church of England Database, at [www.theclergydatabase.org.uk/reference/index.html](http://www.theclergydatabase.org.uk/reference/index.html), includes present-day and historical parishes of England and Wales, with links to information on their early clergymen.

The JewishGen Communities Database, at [www.jewishgen.org/Communities/Search.asp](http://www.jewishgen.org/Communities/Search.asp), is a searchable gazetteer of 6,000 Jewish communities in Europe, the Middle East, and North Africa. Searches can be narrowed by modern, "inter-war", or Pre-World War I countries, certainly a helpful option given the numerous boundary changes and the fall of old countries and the rise of new ones caused by the World Wars. You can also search for places within a given number of miles from a national capital or other city. Successful hits lead you to the town's modern name and country, giving alternate names, and the location by town, country, district, and province in the inter-war years and before World War I. Click on the entries in the left column, under "Modern Town & Country", for further information. You may find alternate names, including the town names rendered in Yiddish, Russian, Ukrainian, and other languages, plus historical information and statistics of Jewish population in the 19th or early 20th centuries.

Henry Cotton's 1866 work, *A Typographical Gazetteer*, is an unusual work that identifies places associated with the history of printing. American genealogists may be interested in his more than 800 entries of US towns that had published newspapers by that time.

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*David A. Norris is the author of Tracing Your Civil War Ancestor, as well as a frequent contributor to Family Chronicle and Internet Genealogy.*

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# The Case of the Missing Stone

NOBODY KNOWS EXACTLY how, or when, the odyssey of Samuel Golder Dail's traveling tombstone began, but we know that it ended in the fall of 2010, when two strangers met at an old country cemetery in New Jersey and placed it in the ground near his mother's grave.

The series of strange events that brought together Ron Giordano, a New Jersey man who was determined to find the proper home for a tombstone he had found as a child, and me, a Florida woman tracing her NJ roots, was spawned by a message I posted on a genealogy forum in 2008. My intent was to obtain information on my 4th-grandfather, Samuel Golder.

Giordano, now a real estate executive in Stone Harbor, NJ, discovered the stone when he was about seven years old and digging underground forts with his older brother and some friends in a new housing development near Gloucester County. Eventually, he took the tombstone home and stored it in the basement of his family home.

Fast forward nearly 50 years. "My brother told me that my sister was cleaning out the family home and she wanted to know if I wanted my national geographic book collection I had saved from the early 50s," said Giordano, "and I said yes, and don't forget the gravestone, too. The very next day, my brother drove to my office at Atlantic Beach Realty and dropped off the stuff."

"From the moment it got there, I had a strange feeling about the stone leaving the area where I found it," he said. "It just didn't seem right."

In less than five minutes, Giordano launched into action. His assistant Googled "Samuel Golder", the name on the stone,

and my posting on GenForum was one of the first results to pop up. Finally, after trolling the Internet for about four hours, browsing an assortment of online databases, they acquired my ex-husband's phone number — no small feat since I posted the query under my maiden name — and latched on to my website address. I actually received the

*information on the stone, I think your ggg-grandmother had a brother who died at a very young age (five months)*



*Above: The finished result. Top Right: Ron Giordano installs baby Samuel's missing tombstone next to his sister.*

e-mail he sent to the website before he had a chance to call me. Here are excerpts from that e-mail:

*Hi Donna,  
My name is Ron Giordano. I found your post today on GenForum about your ggg-grandmother "Jenny Dail Shelley". I came across an old gravestone while digging forts as a child not far from Gloucester County. I decided to do some ancestry research, as I still have the stone in my possession and stumbled across your inquiry.*

*The stone reads ... In Loving Memory of Samuel Golder... Son of Jeremiah & Mary Dail  
Born on Sept 10, 1852 and Died on Feb 17, 1853.*

*Spooky you posted your message on GenForum on Feb 17, 2008 the day that Samuel Golder died in 1853. According to your posting and the*

*who would be your ggg-uncle.*

*I would be happy to show you where I found the stone. I hope you will find this as interesting as I did. If you like, you can call me at 609-XXX-XXXX.*

Naturally, I couldn't get to the phone fast enough. Giordano and I talked several times throughout the summer and agreed to meet on a certain Sunday in

October to reunite Samuel's tombstone with those of his family. Thanks to previous online help from volunteers in the Garden State, I knew exactly where Mary Golder Dail was buried. Her daughter, my ggg-grandmother, Jenny Dail Shelley, was laid to rest right beside her. We placed baby Samuel's tombstone next to his sister's.

"The feeling I got after returning the stone to its proper resting place with its family was awesome," said Giordano. "And unbelievable that it made its way back home after all these years. Makes me feel good to know that this child is back with its family, in spirit at least. I feel a little attached to the kid. After all, he lived in my heart for most of my life."

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# What Grandpa (and Grandma) Did in the War



CURRENT OPERATIONS IN Afghanistan and Iraq, Desert Storm, the Vietnam War, the Korean War, World War II, World War I are now part of the fabric of American history. In fact, these conflicts and time periods might also be central to your family's history. However, digging deep for information about service dates, times and stories can very often be quite difficult, either due to reluctance of our family members to bring up the past, missing documentation, or even because the relative in question has passed on.

Don't get frustrated! I would

like to share with you a great resource that can go a long way in helping to fill in gaps in your research. Known as the Veterans History Project, this on-site and online program offers veteran and civilian oral histories and information on America's conflicts of the 20th century. Let's take a closer look!

#### ABOUT THE VHP

Available online at [www.loc.gov/vets/vets-home.html](http://www.loc.gov/vets/vets-home.html), and offline at the Library of Congress in Washington, DC, the Veteran's History Project came about as the

result of legislation and the support of the United States Congress and the Library of Congress. Emphasizing both veteran and civilian experiences, this project includes contributed, firsthand accounts of America's involvements in conflicts and wars from people just like you and me. Not every conflict has representation, but the main scope and focus of this resource is on the following:

- World War I
- World War II
- Korean Conflict
- Vietnam War
- Persian Gulf

## What Grandpa (and Grandma) Did in the War

- Current operations in Afghanistan and Iraq

Not just historical, the project is ongoing, still actively seeking contributors, new stories, and more information. Anyone can help contribute, not just professional researchers or genealogists. In fact, with numerous guidelines, kits and instructions available for use, you can soon be recording your own family member's information to share with others! For more specific guidelines about contributions to the project, visit [www.loc.gov/vets/kit.html](http://www.loc.gov/vets/kit.html).

### FORMAT

With over 2,400 digitized collections in a wide-ranging variety of formats from audio to video and even personal documentation, the site promises to be helpful to almost any type of research. Pictures are arranged in a gallery-style layout and can easily be viewed within your web browser, in either a standard or enlarged format. Available audio and video interviews can be listened to in the same method or quite often are available to download for later use.

I did find that the audio and video resources were encoded in RealMedia format, <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/RealMedia>, which once was very common, but is not as popular today. If you find you are having trouble listening or watching these resources, you might consider visiting the RealPlayer page, [www.real.com/realplayer](http://www.real.com/realplayer), for additional instructions and help with this format.

I found that utilizing other resources, such as digitized documentation, diaries and other personal correspondence, to be simple and straightforward. Most of these were either in a standard image-based format or the now ubiquitous PDF format, <http://get.adobe.com/reader>. Finally, if you find you are still having trouble accessing these primary source materials, the site offers an online help page that might address any questions you might have. Find the page at <http://lcweb2.loc.gov/diglib/vhp/html/search/help-audiovideo.html>.

The Veterans History Project site features many methods of searching.

### CAUTION!

While there are many resources available for your use and research, it's important to note that not everything is currently online, and only about five percent of the materials have been digitized so far, according to the site information I have found. Given this, and the fact that the online search engine will give you both digitized and non-digitized results, you might consider other options in obtaining the information you have found. Besides traveling to the actual Library of Congress, [www.loc.gov/vets/research/info.html](http://www.loc.gov/vets/research/info.html), can provide alternative methods.

### SEARCHING ONLINE

The success of any online genealogy resource, in my opinion, is determined by how easy it is to search it. With this in mind, you will find the Veterans History Project easy to query and with lots of options! Available for use at <http://lcweb2.loc.gov/diglib/vhp/html/search/search.html>, you can do a quick search by name or just browse by the first letter of the person's surname if you have someone specific in mind.

Digging into things a bit deeper, it's possible to search for many categories at once, including keyword, time of service, gender, rank, conflict name and others. Please note that you can choose to only search for resources that have been digitized and are available online. While this does, by necessity,

limit the scope of your results, you will have immediate access to any results that you do find.

While I couldn't find any specific mention of this on the site, I was able to custom-build my own search strategies using standard Boolean logic and queries. If you are comfortable using this method, this can also help you accelerate your results and save time. If you've never used this method before, the following link can give you background information as well as tips and tricks to consider: [www.sc.edu/beaufort/library/pages/bones/lesson8.shtml](http://www.sc.edu/beaufort/library/pages/bones/lesson8.shtml). Finally, don't overlook the project help page located at <http://lcweb2.loc.gov/diglib/vhp/html/search/vets-help.html>. This is a good source that can help you to quickly get up to speed and find the results you need.

### VIEWING RESULTS

Results of your searches are returned in an ordered list, with individual names, types of service, rank, conflict and more. From here you can quickly scan the results over different pages or select an individual by clicking on their name. Once you've selected someone, you will be given more specific individual information that includes collection metadata such as subjects, biographical information, date of birth, and any digitized resources that might be available. Note that these digitized resources most often appear in a secondary window of your browser.

## What Grandpa (and Grandma) Did in the War

### LINKED RESOURCES

One of the best things about The Veterans History Project, besides the resources already profiled, is that it is a great starting point for searching many other governmental collections online that you may have never heard of. Some of the related sites I came across in my own research include:

- American Treasures of The Library of Congress:  
[www.loc.gov/exhibits/treasures/](http://www.loc.gov/exhibits/treasures/)  
Contains more links to information about America's wars, the home front, personal letters, correspondence and more.

- The Library of Congress Chronicling America Project:  
<http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/>  
Millions of digitized newspaper resources. The cut-off date is the middle of the 1920's, but an excellent place to pick up World War I-era information from local newspapers and more!

- PBS, The War Database:  
[www.pbs.org/thewar/story\\_share.htm](http://www.pbs.org/thewar/story_share.htm)  
Easily searched, this online database contains audio, video and text treasures of veteran's experiences during World War II.

- Other Online and Offline Military History Resources:  
[www.loc.gov/vets/relatedrepositories.html](http://www.loc.gov/vets/relatedrepositories.html)

This link contains LOTS of information about resources you can start searching from all branches of the service. Included in this list are other museums and related projects.

### MORE INFORMATION

So far I've only mentioned a small bit about the wealth of knowledge and information contained in this project. For more details and specifics, please try the following online links:

- The Veteran's History Project (Wikipedia):  
[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Veterans\\_History\\_Project\\_of\\_the\\_Library\\_of\\_Congress\\_American\\_Folklife\\_Center](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Veterans_History_Project_of_the_Library_of_Congress_American_Folklife_Center)

- Conducting Your Own Research



Above: American Treasures of The Library of Congress contains more links to information about America's wars, the home front, personal letters, correspondence and more.

Below: PBS's The War Database contains audio, video and text treasures of veteran's experiences during World War II.



(Field Kit, PDF format):  
[www.loc.gov/vets/pdf/fieldkit-2008.pdf](http://www.loc.gov/vets/pdf/fieldkit-2008.pdf)

- PBS, The War, and The Veteran's History Project:  
[www.pbs.org/thewar/vet\\_hist\\_project.htm](http://www.pbs.org/thewar/vet_hist_project.htm)

### FINAL THOUGHTS

Researching our family histories, especially those of veterans, can be frustrating, both in finding information about the length and time of service, but also hearing about the family member's own unique experiences. The Veteran's History Project can go a long way in helping us to find more information about their service, as well as helping us to participate in con-

tributing information for future generations. Take a look and see if this can help you out!



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

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# Cyndi's List Keeps on Ticking!

IT'S ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE to do a "search" on any genealogy topic or geographic locale and not find yourself landing on Cyndi's List, [www.cyndislist.com](http://www.cyndislist.com). This website has been a mainstay of online genealogical research since 1996. Cyndi Howells is the owner and webmaster of Cyndi's List of Genealogy Sites on the Internet. Howells has been a genealogist for more than 31 years, and is the author of three books for genealogical research on the Internet: *Netting Your Ancestors: Genealogical Research on the Internet* (1999), *Cyndi's List: a Comprehensive List of 40,000 Genealogy Sites on the Internet* (2000) and *Planting Your Family Tree Online: How to Create Your Own Family History Web Site* (2004).

For more than 15 years, Cyndi's List has helped hundreds of thousands of people trace their family history online. Each month, the Cyndi's List website gets approximately 250,000 unique visitors and 970,000 pages visited, with more than 31,760,000 successful page requests and, as of early August 2011, contains over 307,000 links!

Already familiar with Cyndi's List? Have you revisited it lately? If not, you will find that it was recently upgraded and has improved navigation, a custom database, and a custom administrative interface. The upgrade means that everything is quicker and easier for both visitors, as well as the site's owner and administrator.

So, what exactly is Cyndi's List?

- A categorized and cross-referenced index to genealogical resources on the Internet.
- A list of links that point you to genealogical research sites online.
- A free jumping-off point for you to use in your online research.
- A "card catalog" to the genealogical collection in the immense library that is the Internet.
- Your genealogical research portal onto the Internet.

As Cyndi has said "the Internet is like a huge library with all its book strewn on the floor ... she started to organize the genealogy section of this library in a helpful and unique manner" and we have definitely all benefited from that.

Besides being a wonderful resource for internet-based

because it wasn't "started as a business or marketing endeavor, but to help and that might be the key to its success."

Remember, this is a one-person operation. Because of that, Howells needs your help. You can help by informing her when links no longer work (follow the directions on the website), submit new links



Cyndi's List has been a mainstay of online genealogical research since 1996.

genealogical resources, Cyndi's List can also help you understand how to "research". Look at how the information is organized, the categories of records listed, the types of records found and this might "provoke certain thought processes and encourage further exploration" into record types not previously considered and possible genealogical gems.

What makes Cyndi's List so special? Cyndi herself — she is a real person who, as she says "is a genealogist first and then became a computer geek later." This means that she understands genealogy and genealogists. She understands genealogical research. She hand-links and categorizes each and every link. No bots, or spiders or other technology tools are being used to create Cyndi's List! This allows her to "dig-down into special collections and do deep linking and find the "hidden-web" and all the great websites" that help us better our research.

Howells says she has personally benefitted from, and really enjoyed, her interactions with people through the site, on Facebook, at conferences and simply by the fact that she's been able to help others with their research. As she says, she gets to "do what I love as a job." Howells thinks that Cyndi's List has really been successful

to be included, fill in details (e.g., provide better descriptions) for sites already listed, or by making a financial donation to help cover the costs of maintaining the site. Howells suggests that you visit her site each day to check out what's new, including the rolling genealogy news feed and a link to the Cyndi's List Daily, a daily dose of family history news as tagged in Twitter and Facebook. Don't forget the associated blog, <http://cyndislist.blogspot.com>, Facebook page, [www.facebook.com/CyndisList](http://www.facebook.com/CyndisList), or Twitter feed, <http://twitter.com/#!/CyndisList>.

And, if you are interested in learning more about Howells herself, the history of the list or any other interesting facts, do check out the FAQs page.

There is so much more that can be said about Cyndi's List and my suggestion is that you simply visit the site and let your fingers do the walking — once you get started, you will find it hard to stop!



*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).*

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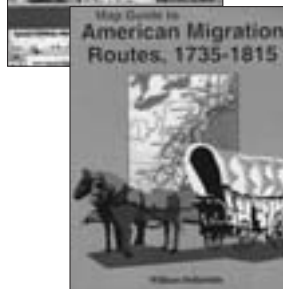


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***Genealogical Resources of the Civil War Era - Online and Published Military or Civilian Name Lists, 1861-1869 & Post-Civil War Veteran Lists***, by William Dollarhide; Item # FR0113; \$32.95; FRPC website price: \$32.29. Most genealogical records 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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# A BillionGraves on Your Smartphone!

AS MORE AND MORE individuals acquire iPhones, iPads, Android-based phones, tablets, etc., more and more genealogy apps are being created to run on these platforms. One of interest to genealogists is BillionGraves; an app that allows volunteers to quickly collect photos of all of the headstones or grave markers in a cemetery and share them with family historians and genealogy buffs via the web, by uploading them to the BillionGraves.com database. The images collected using smartphone technology include GPS data that maps the precise location of an ancestor's final resting place. Therefore, each image includes specific location data which shows where each grave is located.

Once the photos are published online, fellow family historians and genealogists can help transcribe the information from the headstones, making it easy to search. That easy search puts unique, previously undocumented headstone records mere mouse-clicks away from anyone looking for their ancestors. Because of the GPS data, it's ensured that searchers can see cemetery information, view the actual headstones, and know exactly where those headstones are.

All of the following furthers the the BillionGraves.com effort:

- Collect headstone photos in bulk, with the location of each marker accurately captured.
- Upload location-rich images to the BillionGraves.com database for all to share.
- Add new cemeteries to the BillionGraves.com registry.

Remember that individuals around the world have unique access to the graves in local cemeteries and by using this app, this information can be more readily shared with the world.

Rob Moncur, the head devel-

oper for the website, says that "When volunteers map their local cemeteries and post the photos to BillionGraves, anyone will be able to access complete headstone records and locate potential ancestors, whether they have the means to travel or not."

You can search the posted records for either a person (last name is required and then you can optionally enter first name, birth year and death year or as part of the advanced search feature, provide marriage year or keywords or phrases) or a particular cemetery (indicate what country and then for example, for the US, you can also identify which state and then county). Recognize that the inclusion of cemetery information does not mean that any headstone images have yet been uploaded.

The BillionGraves app is free for download in the Android Market and the Amazon Appstore for Android, as well as on Apple's iTunes App Store.

Registration on BillionGraves.com, which allows volunteers to upload photos, transcribe the photos, or do research is free.

Don't have the gadgets required to collect images for BillionGraves? You can still help build the database by transcribing the images so anyone, anywhere, can find ancestors' graves with just a few clicks of the mouse.

To learn more about the project, visit <http://BillionGraves.com> or the project's blog, <http://BillionGraves.blogspot.com>.

As genealogists, we know the invaluable information that can be found in cemeteries. We also appreciate that for many, a lot of cemeteries were located on a family farm, were

associated with no longer active churches where interment records are no longer extant, etc. So for a number of reasons, we can be greatly challenged in determining who is buried where. The more tombstone records that become readily and freely accessible online increases the likelihood that we'll all be able to determine where our ancestors are buried. And, remember, you can help by either downloading the new BillionGraves app or transcribing the uploaded images.



Scan the QR code at right to get more information on BillionGraves.com or to download the App.





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# Geneabloggers: More Than Just a Blog Site!

BLOGGING IS AN important resource for genealogists. The tagline for the website Geneabloggers, *www.geneabloggers.com*, is "the genealogy community's resource for genealogy blogs." Geneabloggers, authored by genealogist Thomas MacEntee, is a comprehensive resource for genealogy blog authors and readers.

With over 1,900 blogs at the time of this writing, and growing every week, you are bound to find a blog that covers your research interests. Geneabloggers allows you to search for blogs by perusing their blog roll (a list of blogs) by category type or via a search engine. Here you will find genealogy, history and family history blogs covering all kinds of research interests, including those that focus on a particular surname or locality, as well as those that document the individual blogger's research, gives advice and how-to's. While you would expect a listing of blogs from a site called Geneabloggers, Geneabloggers offers much more.

For the blogger, there are resources that can assist you as you blog, such as daily blogging prompts that can help with that creative spark. Stumped for what to post on your blog? Consider a writing prompt as a way to get your ideas started. 30 daily blogging themes include Military Monday, Tombstone Tuesday and Wedding Wednesday. The weekly blogging prompt written by blogger Amy Coffin of the We Tree blog, <http://wetreel.blogspot.com>, called "52 Weeks of Personal Genealogy and History", encourages bloggers to record incidents from their own lives for their

descendants. Each week, another idea is revealed that participants can write about and explore how the topic has affected their lives. Even non-bloggers can take part in this weekly exercise by recording their memories in a word processing program on their computer or writing in a journal.



*Geneabloggers is a great website for interacting with fellow genealogists!*

The great thing about Geneabloggers is that for bloggers it provides the technical assistance that most bloggers need from time to time. Whether you are a beginner or a seasoned blogger, consult the Blog Resources link where you can read tutorials on design, templates, editing photos and improving your blog. One of the most important sets of links in this section is the one entitled "Resources for Blog Copyright and Content Theft". Most bloggers know that it's just a matter of time before a "splogger" steals content from your blog. This set of links will help bloggers determine how to best handle this situation.

Are you interested in blogging? Blogging is a great way to connect with family members, distant cousins and other researchers with similar interests. Geneabloggers offers a blogging primer for the beginner at [www.geneabloggers.com/genealogy-blog-primer](http://www.geneabloggers.com/genealogy-blog-primer).

*.com/genealogy-blog-primer.*

Aside from blogging, you may be interested in getting started on other social networking websites. Geneablogger's Cheat Sheets and Quick Reference Cards have what you need to get started with Facebook, Google Docs, Word-Press, Blogger or e-mail signatures. Five PDF guides are available. Although they must be downloaded through the online self-publishing website Lulu, they are all free.

Geneabloggers newest addition is a weekly blog radio show on Friday nights. Weekly topics explore the world of genealogy, bringing together researchers, vendors and information. Miss an episode? Not a problem,

Geneabloggers Radio is available on demand at [www.blogtalkradio.com/geneabloggers](http://www.blogtalkradio.com/geneabloggers). The benefits of attending the radio show when it's live is that there is a chat room where listeners can type comments during the show and talk with other listeners. Sometimes prizes are also awarded to those who are listening live.

Whether you are a seasoned genealogy blogger, thinking about starting a blog or just interested in learning more about genealogy, Geneabloggers has something of interest for you!



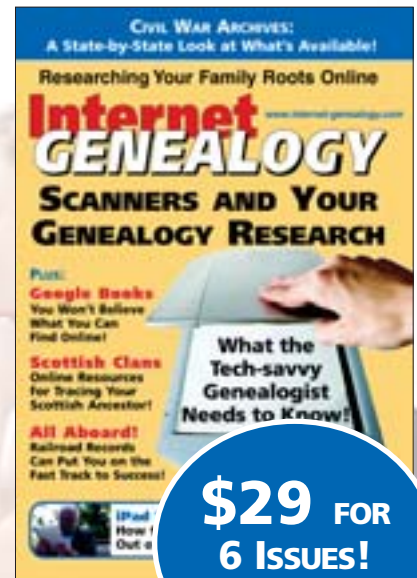
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