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Researching Your Family Roots Online

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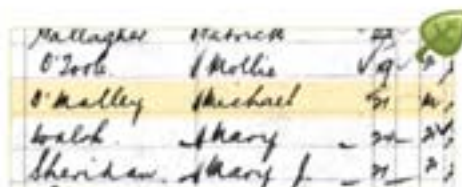


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# THE TRUE AMERICAN STORY OF MICHAEL O'MALLEY.

Three records can tell so much about one life.

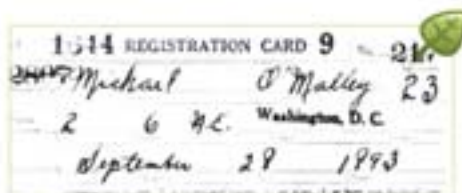
When he boarded the Franconia from Queenstown, Ireland on April 29, 1914, Michael O'Malley was probably as frightened as any 21-year-old about to start a new life.



Mallagher	Marion	21	21
O'Sullivan	Michael	21	21
O'Malley	Michael	21	21
Wald	Mary	21	21
Shirley	Mary J.	21	21

The Franconia's passenger list

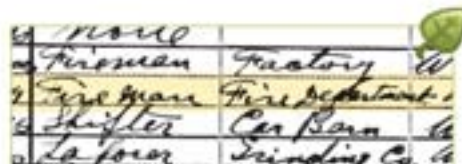
But when he reached his destination, America, he quickly adapted. In fact, he registered for the draft in his new country during World War I at the tender age of 23.



1-314 REGISTRATION CARD 9 - 211  
Michael O'Malley 23  
2 6 A.C. Washington, D.C.  
September 29 1917

Michael's 1917 draft card

By 1920, Michael had returned from the war and continued his heroic service — becoming a fireman and fighting fires in his adopted land.



1	Male	Fireman	Factory	W
2	Male	Fireman	Fire Department	W
3	Male	Shifter	Car Barn	W
4	Male	La. Labor	Grinding Co.	W

Michael in the 1920 U.S. Census

Ancestry.com has billions of records, waiting to tell your family's stories. You don't have to know what you're looking for. You just have to start looking.



Michael O'Malley  
1893-1957

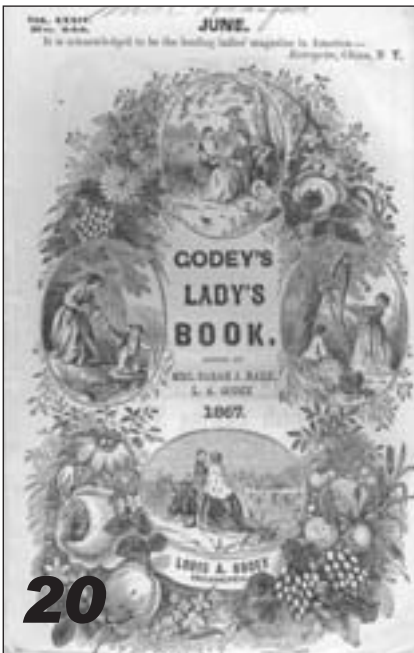


**John O'Malley**  
1861-1941



**Anne Grealis**  
1861-1937

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Questions or comments? Call 1-888-326-2476  
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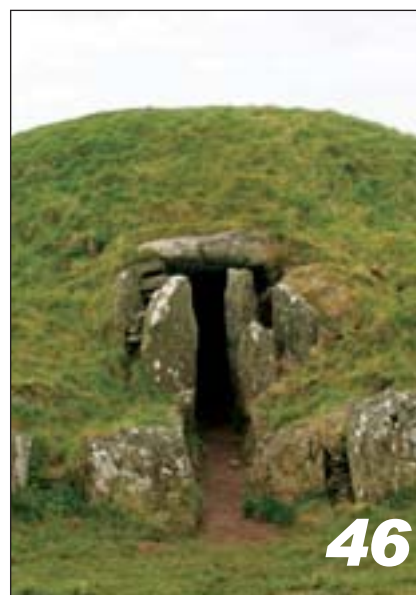
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**MURDEROUS ASSAULT.**  
**THE PRISONER ESCAPES FROM THE CONSTABLE.**

On Friday evening last a murderous attack was made on a man named David Karney by one Edward Falkingham, in the township of Glenselg. As far as we can learn, the particulars of the case are as follows:—Falkingham and Karney were neighbors, and the former was going to thresh, and had asked Karney over to help him. While engaged in setting the threshing machine an altercation arose between them, when Falkingham, who was driving stakes, raised the axe and struck Karney on the head, knocking him senseless to the ground; He then struck him another blow. The other men at work at the machine seized the would-be murderer, and took him before a magistrate, who committed him to jail to await the result of Karney's injuries. On Saturday a constable started a prisoner for Owen Sound jail, and with him

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## New Upgraded Cyndi's List Site

Cyndi's List is proud to announce a newly upgraded website. With improved navigation, a custom database, and a custom administrative interface, the upgrade means that everything will be quicker and easier for both visitors and for the site's owner and administrator, Cyndi Ingle Howells. The upgrade has been done by fusionSpan of Maryland. Their staff worked closely with Cyndi to make improvements and to implement new technology and new ideas designed specifically for Cyndi's List and for the genealogical community.

Part of the upgrade was made possible by donations from generous users of Cyndi's List. To date, 20 percent of what was accomplished in the project was thanks to them. Donors have been listed on the website.

Visit <http://CyndisList.com>.

## MyHeritage Acquires Polish Family History Site

MyHeritage.com has acquired Bliscy.pl from Poland's Internet publishing company, Wirtualna Polska, to solidify its position in the Polish family history market.

The acquisition translates to growth of MyHeritage's family network to 56 million registered users and roughly 760 million profiles. Over 2.6 million Polish users are now on MyHeritage.com. The family tree data includes more than 6.5 million family tree profiles created by more than half a million Bliscy.pl users and will be moved onto private family sites on MyHeritage.com in July 2011, subject to user approval. MyHeritage's Family Tree Builder Version 5.0 is reviewed on page 16 of this issue.

## FamilySearch's Todd Knowles Recognized for Contributions to Jewish Genealogy

Todd Knowles, a FamilySearch British reference consultant and Jewish genealogy specialist who works in the Family History Library in Salt Lake City, was recently added to the Jewish Genealogical Society of Great Britain's Roll of Honour at their annual meeting in London. Knowles was recognized for his distinguished service in the development and publication of resources relating to the Jews of the British Isles. His free online database (search the Knowles Collection at <http://histfam.familysearch.org>) contains linked and sourced entries for more than 100,000 Jews from the British Isles and over 100,000 Jews from other parts of the world. The online collection provides invaluable information for those researching their Jewish ancestors.

Knowles received the award from Mark Nicholls, chairman of the society. Knowles is the 15th recipient of the distinguished award in the 20-year history of the society. His name will be listed in the West London Synagogue on a wall plaque with previous recipients.

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PUBLISHER & EDITOR:

**Ed Zapletal**  
[edward@moorshead.com](mailto:edward@moorshead.com)

ASSOCIATE PUBLISHER:

**Rick Cree**  
[rick@moorshead.com](mailto:rick@moorshead.com)

ASSOCIATE EDITOR:

**Marc Skulnick**  
[marc@moorshead.com](mailto:marc@moorshead.com)

ADVERTISING SERVICES:

**Jeannette Cox**  
[jeannette@moorshead.com](mailto:jeannette@moorshead.com)

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# **MOBILE GENEALOGY:** **Family History Research on** **Your Phone, Tablet and** **More!**



**Tony Bandy**  
**examines the latest**  
**developments in the**  
**world of mobile**  
**genealogy!**

## Mobile Genealogy

SINCE OUR LAST INVESTIGATION on integrating mobile phone technology and software with your family research, in the April/May 2010 issue of *Internet Genealogy*, I've had a chance to revisit this topic — and what a difference a year can make! From a flood of new hardware types and technologies to a virtual cornucopia of applications and software, integrating mobility into your genealogy projects has never been easier! If you're ready for change, now's your opportunity — Take the plunge!

### WHAT'S CHANGED?

While to most of us, a year seems to be a long time period, in the software and technology world, it's really not. Some of the biggest changes have been seen in the hardware realm with the continued growth of the tablet and other new devices. Apple's iPad continues to dominate this niche, but other manufacturer's are bringing their own tablet interpretations to consumers, utilizing Google's Android software as the operating system.

Although displaced somewhat by the popularity of the iPad and other new devices, cell phones have been changing also, with innovations such as dual screens, folding keyboards and high-speed processors. Don't overlook the amazing growth of eReading devices such as Amazon's Kindle, Barnes & Noble's Nook and others. With the ability to carry thousands of digital eBooks and even audio and pictures, these devices are proving popular as well.

But it's more than just about the hardware, it's also the software, the applications that run on these magical devices. With new hardware capabilities, the software has become more powerful, sometimes even as capable as the genealogy software we might

install on our desktops and laptops.

But do these mobile changes and updates really affect how we go about our family research? Ultimately, I believe we're at the beginning of a fundamental shift in how we conduct our genealogy projects. Transformed from offline research via microfilm and paper-based documents to a personal

taken place in the smartphone field. But we can't overlook the newly emerged tablet market as well, since many of the newly made tablets also have roots in this same smartphone technology.

So what makes a smartphone smart? Beyond just phone calls, devices such as Apple's iPhone and others go a step beyond, enabling you to run "apps," or

**There has been tremendous growth in the realm of mobile devices. As a result, integrating mobility into your research projects has never been easier!**



digital electronic file located in many places at once, these mobile devices and applications will enable us to be constantly connected to friends and family online through social media sites, as well as more data-driven sites like Ancestry.com, FamilySearch.org and others.

The quantity, as well as the quality of the information will continue to grow as more data, formerly locked away in paper-based formats, becomes digitized and available for online use and download. While ultimately, we don't have a crystal ball and I do not claim to know the future, I feel we have a lot to look forward to!

### HARDWARE

Moving from theory to reality, let's take a closer look now at hardware. While cell phone technology has changed somewhat, the real revolution and evolution has

software programs that do a myriad amount of things, such as GPS, browsing the Internet, and even telling you how to cook dinner!

The same thing can be applied to tablets such as the iPad and others. Given the larger screens, improved controls and better connections, these larger devices bring even more powerful applications, integrated word processors and more. From the genealogy perspective, these applications can enable you to take your mobile device onsite and upload information to your family file, browse databases, and integrate pictures, all without bringing a big, heavy laptop.

Given this approach, how do you choose what device will work for you? It can be confusing and even expensive if you make the wrong choice, so evaluate your needs first. Plan on spending time at a local store such as Best Buy,

Target or your favorite retail outlet. Use the devices on display, try out the controls, get the specifications and see what works and what doesn't.

If you are thinking about making the unit a primary part of your genealogy tool kit, look for hardware reviews online. See what genealogy applications work with the device you are looking at. If you are part of a genealogical group or even just your circle of friends, get other's opinions, especially if they already own one of these devices.

To help get you started, I've outlined the three current form factors you might encounter. Use this as a springboard for more information.

**SMARTPHONES!**

Smart phones lie at the heart of this revolution and it seems a never-ending stream of new devices are becoming available everyday. While we may know of the highly popular Apple iPhone, don't overlook the relative newcomer, Google's Android-based phones. Also, Microsoft has very recently overhauled their older Windows Mobile operating system to Windows Phone 7, bringing about massive change and updates.

As far as specifics, double-check camera and memory options for any device you choose, as well as the ability to stay connected to the Internet and cellular network either via Wi-Fi or your cell phone provider's data plan.

Being connected at all times is a huge factor, and can increase your efficiency, whether you are interviewing someone at a family reunion, or at a small family cemetery doing research on a long lost relative.

Here are some manufacturer links to their available smart phone products. If you already have a cell phone, check your provider's online support pages as well for more information.

- Apple's iPhone: [www.apple.com/iphone](http://www.apple.com/iphone)
- Google's Android-based phones: [www.google.com/phone](http://www.google.com/phone)
- Windows 7 mobile phones: [www.microsoft.com/windowsphone/en-us/default.aspx](http://www.microsoft.com/windowsphone/en-us/default.aspx)
- Blackberry: <http://us.blackberry.com>

**TABLETS**

Given the astounding success of the Apple iPad, this category of devices continues to be popular in 2011, with 2012 being forecasted for even more growth. While we all may be aware of the iPad, there are many new devices to consider also. Have you heard about Google's Android-based tablets, such as the HTC Flyer and others? How about the Blackberry's Playbook or the Motorola Xoom?

These devices bring a whole new level to our family research! More "mini-laptop" than anything else, there are many genealogists that have given up their laptops for tablets such as these.

end of the article, where I've outlined additional sites that can give you more background and information.

- Blackberry Playbook: <http://us.blackberry.com/playbook-tablet>
- HTC Flyer (Android-based tablet): [www.htc.com/www/product/flyer/overviewb.html](http://www.htc.com/www/product/flyer/overviewb.html)
- Apple's iPad: [www.apple.com/ipad](http://www.apple.com/ipad)
- HP WebOS tablet: <http://h41112.www4.hp.com/promo/webos/us/en/tablets/touchpad.html>
- Walt Mossberg's Review of the Motorola Xoom: [http://media.marketwatch.com/video/20110223/022311mossbergxoom/022311mossbergxoom\\_1500k.mp4](http://media.marketwatch.com/video/20110223/022311mossbergxoom/022311mossbergxoom_1500k.mp4)

**OTHER DEVICES**

While probably not the first thing you would think of when doing your family research, eReaders such as the Amazon Kindle, Sony's Digital Reader and others are a great way to take your research with you on site!

Used primarily for reading, these devices are lightweight, 6-9 ounces, and are easily portable. Battery life is amazing and can last from a few days to even a month.

The screens are also nice, with many of them including the low power eInk

screens while others utilize the standard LCD format found on smartphones and tablets. Many models are available and contain both Wi-Fi and cellular options,

depending on your budget and needs.

The biggest advantage of these devices is the ability to read a myriad of eBooks and eBook formats, from your personal digital files to digitized genealogy and family history books from sites such as Google Books,



Lightweight, portable and easily fitting into a briefcase or purse, these devices also offer both Wi-Fi and cellular connections, helping you to stay connected at all times.

What follows are the major categories of tablets now available on the market. Don't overlook the

## Mobile Genealogy

<http://books.google.com/books> and the Open Library, [www.openlibrary.org](http://www.openlibrary.org), and others.

Here are some of the major companies offering eReading devices:

- Amazon Kindle:

[www.amazon.com/Kindle-Wireless-Reader-WifiGraphite/dp/B002Y27P3M](http://www.amazon.com/Kindle-Wireless-Reader-WifiGraphite/dp/B002Y27P3M)

- Barnes & Noble Nook:

[www.barnesandnoble.com/nook/index.asp](http://www.barnesandnoble.com/nook/index.asp)

- Kobo

[www.kobobooks.com/touch](http://www.kobobooks.com/touch)

### SOFTWARE & APPS

As much as hardware has changed, the real momentum over the last year can be seen in applications, the software programs installed either on your smartphone or tablet device. With the increased capability of the hardware, the software has been transformed as well, with the ability to do much more than was formerly capable or available.

What follows are some applications that I've installed and used for my own family research or have seen reviews for online. I've outlined what type of device they can be installed on, as well as a link for more information. This will help you to quickly scan the list and see what is applicable for the device you own or are thinking of purchasing.

#### APPLE (INCLUDES IPHONE AND IPAD APPLICATIONS)

- FamilyConnect (MyHeritage)

<http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/family-connect/id407881861?mt=8>

A new application from MyHeritage, [www.myheritage.com](http://www.myheritage.com), this software enables you to quickly share photos with family members who are also on MyHeritage. A great supplement if you are a member and regular user of the site.

- Ancestry (Ancestry.com)

<http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/ancestry/id349554263?mt=8>

Working on-site or away from your desk and need your family tree or other information? Are you

an Ancestry.com subscriber? If so, download this application to your iPad, iPhone or iPod touch, quickly getting the information you need.

- Billion Graves (AppTime)

<http://billiongraves.com>

Finding your ancestor's graves can be challenging! Compatible for most Apple products, this application allows you to upload and share your family graves with the Billion Graves website. Give it a try!

- *Internet Genealogy, Family Chronicle*, and *History Magazine*,



(*Moorshead*

*Magazines*)

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

From family research and genealogy topics to popular social history, you can now take your issues of *Internet Genealogy, Family Chronicle* and *History Magazine* with you wherever you go!

Available on iTunes for both the iPhone and iPad, these issues are easy to use and contain a variety of viewing options, as well as single-issue purchases or subscriptions. The app costs \$1.99 and includes one free single issue of your choice!

#### ANDROID

- GedStar Pro Genealogy Viewer

<http://ghcssoftware.com>

Used in tandem with an additional Windows desktop application, this mixed-use approach to genealogy research might be useful for you. Includes media and GEDCOM support.

- Find Grave (beta)

<https://sites.google.com/site/findgrave/home>

With the ability to search, create and maintain lists from the highly popular Find A Grave website, this application might just help speed your research. Proved useful on my Android device, but I did see just a bug or two. Give it a try!

- My Heritage

<https://market.android.com/details?id=net.piod.myHeritage>

Not to be confused with MyHeritage.com, this particular Android application was updated earlier in 2011 and holds promise for being useful for your research.

Mixed reviews on it for everyday use, but give it a try to see if it can work for you!

- SCGS 2011

<https://market.android.com/details?id=com.coreapps.android.followme.scgs2011>

Although not a genealogy application in the strictest sense, this Android application contains information and programming from the Southern California

Genealogy Jamboree and includes schedules, photos, downloads and more. Could this be the future of genealogy conferences or at least an alternative method of research? Easy to use app!

#### WINDOWS 7

Still a fairly new mobile phone and operating system from Microsoft, there are not too many packages available yet for this mobile device. There are several in development, however, as noted in Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter here:

[http://blog.eogn.com/eastmans\\_online\\_genealogy/2010/10/windows-phone-7-for-genealogists.html](http://blog.eogn.com/eastmans_online_genealogy/2010/10/windows-phone-7-for-genealogists.html)

#### GOING TO THE WEB!

While it's easy to focus on specific software applications, one of the biggest advantages of smartphones, tablets and other devices is the ability to access the Internet

in much the same method you do on your regular desktop or laptop computer.

What follows are both Internet sites dedicated to information about mobile devices, as well as online services that you can utilize in conjunction with your device. Examples of these online services include Dropbox, Evernote and even Google Docs. The fact is, with these devices, it's easy to stay connected and share your research!

- Mobilegenealogy.com  
[www.mobilegenealogy.com](http://www.mobilegenealogy.com)  
Full of reviews, information and more, this site should be on your list of sites to visit when investigating mobility and genealogy. Lots of links to other sites of interest.

- Evernote  
[www.evernote.com](http://www.evernote.com)  
Profiled in *Internet Genealogy* last year, the innovation from Evernote still continues. Available for most mobile devices, this application does a great job of allowing you to take notes, photographs and more with you wherever you go. Free, ad-supported application, it just works really well! Subscriptions are also available for purchase.

- Google Docs  
<http://docs.google.com>  
If you are committed to Google, then try Google Docs on your mobile device in combination with your family research. Easy to use, you will always have your notes with you! Formatting can be tricky, but it's nice having access anywhere!

**CAUTION AHEAD?**  
Even though these devices and software are amazing at times, helping us in ways we might not have thought of, there is a bit of caution to consider when using them. Much like regular computer hardware and software, companies go out of business and software does not get updated or is not supported. If you have ever owned a cellphone or smartphone, then you might be acutely aware of how annual model changes and

OS updates can leave you, the owner, with an orphan model phone.

Before you do invest in anything, do your research and see if the particular version of what you might buy will be supported in the future. Being able to successfully do this may save you time, money and a vast amount of frustration!

---

## In this same light, mobile technology, if it hasn't already, has the potential to completely revolutionize your family history research.

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### MORE INFORMATION?

Given the amount of new applications and hardware now becoming available on almost a daily basis, it's really a chore at times to keep abreast of all of the changes and updates. To help, I've outlined more sites and informative links to help you out with this. Use these to also get a sense of what might work for you in your genealogy project!

- About.com: "iPad Apps for Genealogy."  
[http://genealogy.about.com/od/family\\_tree\\_software/tp/lpad-Apps-For-Genealogy.htm](http://genealogy.about.com/od/family_tree_software/tp/lpad-Apps-For-Genealogy.htm)
- Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter: "Windows Phone 7 for Genealogists."  
[http://blog.eogn.com/eastmans\\_online\\_genealogy/2010/10/windows-phone-7-for-genealogists.html](http://blog.eogn.com/eastmans_online_genealogy/2010/10/windows-phone-7-for-genealogists.html)

- Engadget (Hardware Reviews for Smartphones and Tablets):  
[www.engadget.com/reviews/](http://www.engadget.com/reviews/)

- FamilySearch TechTips: "Mobile Devices."  
[www.familysearch.org/techtips/category/how-tos-and-tips/using-mobile-devices-for-genealogy](http://www.familysearch.org/techtips/category/how-tos-and-tips/using-mobile-devices-for-genealogy)

- FamilySearch TechTips: "Mobile Genealogy On Android Made Easy."  
[www.familysearch.org/techtips/2011/04/mobile-genealogy-on-android-made-easy.html](http://www.familysearch.org/techtips/2011/04/mobile-genealogy-on-android-made-easy.html)

- Find My Ancestor Blog: "Mobile Monday."  
[www.blog.findmyancestor.com/category/mobile-monday/](http://www.blog.findmyancestor.com/category/mobile-monday/)

- MobileGenealogy.com: "Windows Phone 7 and Genealogy."  
[www.mobilegenealogy.com/2010/10/11/windows-phone-7-and-genealogy-apps/](http://www.mobilegenealogy.com/2010/10/11/windows-phone-7-and-genealogy-apps/)

- Review: Mobile FamilyTree:  
[www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~utcfhc/Mobile\\_Tree.pdf](http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~utcfhc/Mobile_Tree.pdf)

### FINAL THOUGHTS

Mobile technology has changed how we live. From texting to smartphones and even tablets, our methods of communication are now faster, we can keep up to date better and we're in a way, closer to our families than ever before. In this same light, mobile technology, if it hasn't already, has the potential to completely revolutionize your family history research. Be it looking up simple dates and names to finding complete family stories, this technology can help you know more about your past! Give it a try for yourself — you'll be amazed!

IG

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

# We're Now Available On iTunes!

*Internet Genealogy, Family Chronicle* and *History Magazine* are now available for the iPhone, iPod Touch and iPad! The app is only \$1.99 (and you get one FREE issue of your choice!)

You can purchase the current issue, as well as recent back issues, or even subscribe!



## To Purchase:

- Family Chronicle: <http://tinyurl.com/6a2hkse>
- Internet Genealogy: <http://tinyurl.com/68dz3po>
- History Magazine: <http://tinyurl.com/3ragv64>

(The above URLs link to the Apple iTunes store, but have been shortened for your convenience)

# Researching in Pennsylvania

WHEN MY SON-IN-LAW challenged me to investigate his family history last year, I quickly became interested. The only information that he was able to supply was that his grandmother's maiden name was Mary FAGAN, that she was Irish, and that the family probably lived in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania. Previous searches showed Mary was living there as a married woman, Mary STOCKE, in 1920 and 1930. In the 1920 US census of Bethlehem City, Lehigh County, she gave her age as 30 [born 1890] and her place of birth as Pennsylvania, with her father born in Pennsylvania and her mother born in Ireland. In 1930,

still in the same location, she gave nearly the same information, except that her age was 45 [born 1885].

Since I live in New York, this was a completely new area of research for me. In order to locate the appropriate records, the first thing I had to do was to familiarize myself with the geographical boundaries. I learned that Northampton County was created in 1752, from parts of Bucks County. Northampton County was further divided to form Lehigh County in 1812. Within each county, there were further political subdivisions of cities, boroughs, and townships. Bethlehem lies partly

in Northampton County and partly in Lehigh County, so in order to find records, both jurisdictions had to be considered.

Moreover, the generic term for the whole area is the Lehigh Valley. Both Northampton and Lehigh counties are in Lehigh Valley, surrounded on the north by Blue Mountain and on the south by South Mountain, with the Lehigh River running through the middle of the valley.

I planned to do initial searches online to see how much information I could gather. I began with a review of the census. I gathered the US census records for all Fagan families living either in



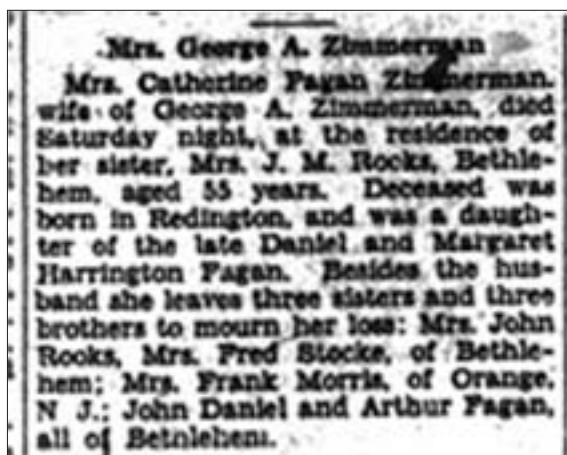
Lehigh River near Slatington, Lehigh County-Northampton County line.

## Researching in Pennsylvania

Northampton or Lehigh Counties from 1850-1920. In the 1900 Census, I found two likely Fagan families in Northampton County that had a daughter named Mary born 1880-1890. One was living in South Bethlehem, and one was living in Easton, about 15 miles away. I tracked both families in 1910, and found that the Mary living in Easton in 1900 was now married to William J. LANSCHÉ and living with her parents. I then turned back to 1900 to study the Mary in South Bethlehem, born 1882, with parents Daniel and Margaret FAGAN. The only discrepant information was that her father, Daniel, gave his place of birth as Ireland. When I followed her family to 1910, I found Mary listed as age 31 [born 1879], but her father was said to be born in Pennsylvania. In addition, a sister, Kate, was now married to George Zimmerman, and also living with the family. I then jumped back to 1880 to see this same family living in Lower Saucon Township, Northampton County. This was where the search became confusing. Although the structure of the family mirrored that of 1900, the father's name was "James," born Pennsylvania, which was most probably an error made by the census taker, as a James Fagan (possibly a relation) lived nearby in Lower Saucon. In 1880, Mary was age 1 [born 1879].

At this point, I decided to try to get additional supporting evidence. Through web searches, I found some helpful resources. The first was the Bethlehem Area Public Library Obituary/Biographical Article Indexes, a compilation of marriage, death and other biographical article extracts from the pages of the *Bethlehem Times*, *Bethlehem Globe*, *Bethlehem Globe-Times* and *Express-Times*, [www.bapl.org/lochist/news/lhnews1.htm](http://www.bapl.org/lochist/news/lhnews1.htm). It spans the time period 1867-2000, with many gaps. I searched the periods

1867-1890 and 1890-1917, and the next available, the 1950s. I sent for a few likely obituaries, and copied anything that was available as an



Above: Obituary for Catherine Fagan Zimmerman, published 22 June 1931.

Obtained from The Easton Area Public Library.  
Below: Obituary for John James Fagan, published 4 March 1953.

Obtained from The Bethlehem Area Public Library.



image or text to my holding file. Second, I discovered the Easton Area Public Library Obituary Indexes at [www.eastonpl.org/obituary\\_index.htm](http://www.eastonpl.org/obituary_index.htm) and their Church and Cemetery Indexes, which can be accessed from [www.eastonpl.org/MarxRoom.htm](http://www.eastonpl.org/MarxRoom.htm). I likewise identified Fagans of interest, and ordered obituaries. Lastly, I used the Allentown Public Library's offering, the Morning

Call Online Obituary Index, spreadsheet indexes to obituaries published in the Morning Call from 1895-1983, available at

[www.allentownpl.org/obits.htm](http://www.allentownpl.org/obits.htm).

Finally, I took a look at the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, Bureau of Archives and History, Pennsylvania State Archives, RG 14, Records of the Department of Internal Affairs, Record of Marriages 1885-1889, [www.phmc.state.pa.us/bah/dam/rg/di/r14-25RecordMarriages/r14-25MainInterface.htm](http://www.phmc.state.pa.us/bah/dam/rg/di/r14-25RecordMarriages/r14-25MainInterface.htm). There are separate indexes for grooms and brides.

Although I did not find any names pertinent to my search, I noticed that there were some scattered returns from Lehigh and Northampton counties for this time period.

In my research, I used the technique referred to as "cluster genealogy," which looks at all the members in an extended family, not only the single person of interest. One never knows what vital piece of information establishing a family connection may be found from investigating a collateral relative. As defined in Wikipedia, cluster genealogy is used "To break through a 'brick wall'. In genealogy, a brick wall is a question for which a genealogist has not been able to formulate a satisfactory answer based on the evidence thus far collected. Using cluster genealogy, additional evidence is sought in data gathered from the records left by persons in the ancestor's cluster...and... to build a genealogical proof.

When constructing a genealogical proof, it is not sufficient to simply accumulate an assortment of evidence that supports a conclusion. A genealogist must 'conduct a reasonably exhaustive search for all information that is or may be pertinent to the identity, relationship, event, or situation in question.'... It follows that a reasonably exhaustive search will often include a search of records created

by persons in the target ancestor's cluster." I identified the cluster as all the Fagan families living in or near Northampton and Lehigh Counties.

Here are the results of two obituaries requested from the sources given previously:

*"Mrs George A. Zimmerman Mrs. Catherine Fagan Zimmerman, wife of George A. Zimmerman, died Saturday night, at the residence of her sister, Mrs. J.M. Rooks, Bethlehem, aged 55 years. Deceased was born in Redington, and was a daughter of the late Daniel and Margaret Harrington Fagan. Besides the husband she leaves three sisters and three brothers to mourn her loss: Mrs. John Rooks, Mrs. Fred Stocke, of Bethlehem; Mrs. Frank Morris, of Orange, N.J.; John [sic, comma omitted here] Daniel and Arthur Fagan, all of Bethlehem."*  
Obtained from the Easton Area Public Library, Obituary Index, Easton Express, published 22 Jun 1931, p. 15.

*"John J. Fagan John James Fagan, 36 W. Third St., died suddenly at his home yesterday. A member of Holy Infancy Church, Mr. Fagan was the son of the late Daniel and Margaret Harrington Fagan. Survivors include two sisters, Mrs. Margaret Rooks, Bethlehem, and Mrs. Anna Morris, East Orange, N.J. Funeral will be held Friday at 9 a.m. from the John R. Shupp Funeral Home, 812 E. Fourth St. Requiem mass will be celebrated at Holy Infancy Church at 9:30 a.m. Burial will be in the family plot at St. Michael Cemetery."*  
Obtained from the Bethlehem Area Public Library Obituary Index, The Bethlehem Globe-Times, 4 Mar 1953, p. 32.

Because John James Fagan had a requiem mass at Holy Infancy Church, and was buried in St. Michael's Cemetery, it indicated that the family was Catholic. In addition to the sources mentioned above, I also did some background reading about Catholicism in the area. I recommend the "Guide to Catholic research in the Lehigh Valley" at <http://padutch>



St. Michael's R.C. Cemetery, S. Bethlehem, PA, April 2009.

Photo courtesy of Dana Grubb @ Concertpix Photography.

[ancestry.homestead.com/CatholicResearch.html](http://ancestry.homestead.com/CatholicResearch.html). Some cemetery transcriptions are available at Catholic Cemetery Tombstone Inscriptions of Northampton County, Pennsylvania, Holy Ghost and St. Michael's Cemeteries, <http://padutchancestry.homestead.com/CemeteryRecords.html>. In order to determine founding years of churches, Catholic Parish Information in Lehigh County can be found at [www.allentowndiocese.org/parish/lehigh.php3?county\\_id=3](http://www.allentowndiocese.org/parish/lehigh.php3?county_id=3), and Catholic Parish information in Northampton County is at [www.allentowndiocese.org/parish/northampton.php3?county\\_id=4](http://www.allentowndiocese.org/parish/northampton.php3?county_id=4).

To get a broad overview of the religious development occurring in the Lehigh Valley in the early years see the thesis *South Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, 1880-1920: Industrialization, Immigration and the Development of a Religious Landscape* by Woodward Christian Carson, [http://www.archive.org/stream/southbethlehempe00cars/southbethlehempe00cars\\_djvu.txt](http://www.archive.org/stream/southbethlehempe00cars/southbethlehempe00cars_djvu.txt).

The two obituaries mentioned previously definitely link the Mary Fagan in Lower Saucon in

1880, and in South Bethlehem in 1900 and 1910, to the Mary we are seeking. Since Mary was alive in 1931 (sister Catherine "Kate" Zimmerman's obituary) and deceased in 1953 (brother John James Fagan's obituary), we have focused in on a time period to search for Mary's death. In addition, the previously unknown mother's maiden name of HARRINGTON was revealed. Further research is ongoing.

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*Carol Gohari has been a family historian since 1967. She is a member of the New York Genealogical and Biographical Society, the National Genealogical Society and the German Genealogy Group. Carol is also an alumna of the National Institute on Genealogical Research. Her articles have appeared in various publications over the years.*

# Family Tree Builder 5.0: A Bit of the Old, A Lot of the New!

## Family Tree Builder 5.1 Update Now Available!

As we were about to go to press, we received word that MyHeritage has recently announced an update to version 5.1!

According to MyHeritage, this update includes all of the tools we've covered in this review, plus lots of other changes and updates. Additional features now also include the ability to directly import your family information and data from popular software programs such as Family Tree Maker, Personal Ancestral File and others. For more information, see the MyHeritage site at [www.myheritage.com/download-family-tree-builder](http://www.myheritage.com/download-family-tree-builder).

— Tony Bandy

WITH A BIT OF THE old and a lot of the new, 2011 has seen the release of Family Tree Builder 5.0. Produced by MyHeritage, this new version introduces updates, such as the family tree consistency checker, fields for recording DNA results and more. Testing it on my latest family research project, it proved to be very stable and quite usable. If you are new to family research or even an experienced pro, there's a lot to like with this latest iteration. Let's take a look at some details!

## About MyHeritage

For those of you who might be new to family research or just unaware of the program, Family Tree Builder is offered by MyHeritage, [www.myheritage.com](http://www.myheritage.com). Since its origins in 2003, MyHeritage has continued to grow and expand, recently acquiring several family networks and social media companies in Europe, as well as becoming a major online

genealogy destination and resource. With over 700 million user profiles and 55 million members, this is no small site!

Perhaps known best for their online facial recognition and

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**Testing it on my latest family research project, it proved to be very stable and quite usable.**

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celebrity matching service available at <http://celebrity.myheritage.com/face-recognition>, the Family Tree Builder software offered by MyHeritage bridges the gap between the local user and the web-based world that seems to be transforming our family research. For more details about the company and their approach to genealogy, try the following

online interview by TechCrunch at <http://techcrunch.com/2010/02/02/myheritage-buys-germanys-osn-now-540-million-profiles-strong>.

## Overview: What's New?

With any new edition of software comes both improvements and updates, and Family Tree Builder is no exception. Besides the previously mentioned family tree consistency checker, additional pieces include customized export reports, project restoration options, and "To-Do" lists, just to name a few. While I will talk about a few of these, a more detailed examination can be found online at: [http://blog.myheritage.com/wp-content/uploads/2010/11/Family\\_Tree\\_Builder\\_5-New\\_features.pdf](http://blog.myheritage.com/wp-content/uploads/2010/11/Family_Tree_Builder_5-New_features.pdf).

## Installation

Available as a free download from the MyHeritage website at [www.myheritage.com/family-tree-builder](http://www.myheritage.com/family-tree-builder), it's easy to acquire the program without purchasing any packaged software or CD installa-

Family Tree Builder is free and easy to use!

tion disks. At around 24mb, the installer isn't too large to carry on a USB flash drive or even download via dial-up if you are not on a broadband Internet connection.

For Windows computers only, the program includes two levels of installation: basic and premium. Essentially the same software, the advanced (or premium) version contains all of the features of the basic edition plus extra features, such as Smart Matching (mentioned later in this review), larger-sized online family website, and extra charting capabilities. These different options, as well as additional MyHeritage subscription information, can be found at [www.myheritage.com/subscription-plans](http://www.myheritage.com/subscription-plans).

Being a new Mac user, I looked for any hint of an OSX version of the program, but did not see one available. MyHeritage does, however, mention using the online portal as an available option. For more information, try this link, [www.myheritage.com/help/2009/01/do-you-have-a-mac-version/en](http://www.myheritage.com/help/2009/01/do-you-have-a-mac-version/en).

Downloading and installation of the software on my Windows 7 laptop and Windows Vista desktop was easy with few issues or problems, and seemed faster and more streamlined than in earlier editions. I did not see the MyHeritage toolbar or the MyHeritage homepage options that were present in 4.0.

After installation, I was asked to register to use the program and then chose my primary and secondary languages, a handy thing to have, especially if your ancestors may have come from another country. In fact, Family Tree Builder supports 37 different languages in the software (and online).

As a final step in the process, the Family Tree Builder software automatically offers to back up your family information to MyHeritage online. I chose not to only because I have local backup options, but if you are looking to keep your family information safe from disaster or other problems, this might be an avenue for investigation.

**Look-N-Feel**

Using Family Tree Builder 5.0 for the first time, I found the layout similar in nature to the preceding versions, with rows of program options at the top and work areas to the bottom of the application. Entering family data and media, I found the program options at the top time saving, as it gave me quick access to these highly used features.

The rest of the display is given over to the main working area where you will be adding data and working with your family tree. Here, customization is king

media?

I found Family Tree Builder makes getting started easy with options ranging from starting a new project to working with existing projects to import options from other programs.

While perhaps this is not unique, Family Tree Builder also includes a sample project as part of the installation. This is a great way to see family information in the tree, as well as helping to get a workflow going for your own project. Viewing it only takes a few moments and it even includes media files that you can modify



*Celebrity matching is a great way to introduce friends and family to genealogy.*

and you can adjust the area to best fit your research style with collapsible panes to the left and right and a toggle for full-screen, making maximum use of your monitor. If you have a wide-screen display or even multiple displays, this can quickly help you increase your efficiency and speed research along.

**Ready, Set, GO!**

If you are new to family history or genealogy software in general, starting a new research project can be intimidating! Who do you start with? How do you import old projects? How do you link your photos, movies and other forms of

and use.

**It's the DATA!**

If you've been working with your family history for a while, there's a good chance you have another genealogy program you have been using or at least a file or two that you will need to import to Family Tree Builder. This current version accepts files in the now standard GEDCOM format and lesser-used formats, such as Family Tree Legends and ZIP files.

Testing the import function, I successfully brought over my GEDCOM formatted file without too many problems. There are lots of customization options for

## Family Tree Builder 5.0

unknown GEDCOM tags, converting them to notes for later checking and viewing. You can save and view a log file of the imported information also — which can be a lifesaver if you encounter data problems or misplaced information.

Family Tree Builder also offers a merge function, which can be helpful in dealing with mixed data files in GEDCOM, or other formats the program supports. This can be of great utility if you have a group project with other family members and trade files back and forth. In my own testing, merging went well and I was able to use the reporting function to track down the few issues I did encounter.

As a final note, in talking with MyHeritage staff during the course of the review, I found out that an update to the software would soon be released that enables direct importation of files from other genealogy software. This will be released in an update format, but at this time, no dates for this have been announced.

### CRASH!

As great as computers and technology can be, the facts are that crashes and hardware failures are still a fact of life. If you've been doing family research for any length of time, then undoubtedly you may have experienced a hardware or software failure on your own computer. Backups of your family data files at regular intervals are your lifesaver. If you don't have a current good backup, then there's a chance you can lose your family research.

Given this risk, I tested out a new feature of Family Tree Builder known as Project Restoration. What this feature does is enable you to restore your family tree information from multiple sources in case your primary file is no longer available, missing or unusable. Starting restoration was easy

and presented me with two options to get started: restoration from an existing file on my hard drive (or backup drive) or restoration from an online MyHeritage site.

Testing an online restoration to see how things went, I was able to get the data file (and media) and download it into Family Tree Builder successfully. While this is a great option to have, I was somewhat disappointed about the lack of a log or some report as to restoration details. Having details at this point would prove useful in tracking down problems that might pop up later.



*Tree Consistency Checker can help spot problems in your family information.*

### Other Methods

Although never as fast as a GEDCOM or other automated import, sometimes getting started with your family information involves entering data by hand, piece by piece, person by person. Although this can be time-consuming, Family Tree Builder's layout makes this easy with various methods of entering the information on your ancestors. Right-clicking family names and/or choosing single persons to start with brings tabbed options for data input, as well as source citations, notes, facts, and even media imports.

### Private?

Another new feature I found included in this release is the ability to "privatize" certain data and information about your ancestors. While we all want to be open and share our family's information, there are more than likely some things we don't want to share with everyone. Given this fact, you can mark as private entire persons or just specific pieces of information that you do not want to share. This option extends as well to published family trees on the MyHeritage site, with any data you mark as private not being sent to the site.

### DNA!

One of the more popular topics in genealogy research today is the use of DNA to track down your family's ancestors. This version of Family Tree Builder allows you to directly input this data by selecting a person and then choosing the company that performed their DNA test. Once this initial step has been done, preformatted forms particular to each company allow you to input test results. MyHeritage has included preformatted forms from major DNA testing companies such as Ancestry.com,

DNA Consultants, Family Tree DNA, GeneTree and others. According to MyHeritage staff, Family Tree Builder is also the first software to store maternal DNA results (or MtDNA). On a final note, this DNA data is encrypted and according to my information, is not published to any family site on MyHeritage.

### Premium?

While the basic version of the Family Tree Builder software is a complete and useful program, the premium version that I tested does contain some extra features that really help speed your research. Known as Smart Matching and Smart Research, these two features directly inte-

grate online MyHeritage resources into the program.

Smart Matching directly takes the information from your family tree and tries to “match” other family trees at MyHeritage online that may contain potential ancestors or family members. You get the chance to review potential matches and there are program notifications letting you know if something has been found.

Smart Research on the other hand isn't a matching process as much as it's a way to consolidate and search many online resources at once from within Family Tree Builder. You can search your entire family tree, with the process taking place in the background (this option does take some time), or you can just search for a specific person. Testing this on my own family file, I found the results were effective.

### Charts

While I've personally never used charts too often for my own family research, I know that some genealogists do. This new version of Family Tree Builder has many options available in this area. Included was an extensive “chart-wizard”, as well as a host of chart options and templates to consider.

PDF export is also present, which makes publishing and sharing even easier in today's collaborative genealogy world. With multiple levels of configurable options, and even poster size charts available for purchase and delivery to your home or place of business, investigate this further if this is important to you.

### Maps

Who doesn't like a map? Family Tree Builder utilizes the previous edition's Google-provided maps to help you to see your family ancestor's travels and home locations. I found this easy to use and was able to “filter” results out by events, such as birth, death, marriage and more. Note however, that depending upon which version of the software you have, you might not have all of these features available for use. The basic version only includes a subset of

the capabilities available in the premium version.

### Larger World?

As mentioned previously, Family Tree Builder software is just one component of the MyHeritage approach to genealogy. The other piece to this puzzle is their online portable, available at [www.myheritage.com](http://www.myheritage.com). Used in conjunction with the local copy of the software, you can upload family trees and information, search for more of your ancestors and even maintain social media contacts with family members or distant relatives.

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## If you haven't had a chance to try it out, download it for free and see if it will work for you!

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### Need More?

If you are considering moving to Family Tree Builder for the first time or just want to know more about the software, what follows are some links and sites to get you quickly up to speed:

- MyHeritage Family Tree Builder Site: [www.myheritage.com/family-tree-builder](http://www.myheritage.com/family-tree-builder)
- MyHeritage Subscription levels: [www.myheritage.com/subscription-plans](http://www.myheritage.com/subscription-plans)
- MyHeritage Blog on Family Tree Builder's New Features: <http://blog.myheritage.com/2010/12/introducing-family-tree-builder-5-0>
- Comprehensive list of updates: [http://blog.myheritage.com/wp-content/uploads/2010/11/Family\\_Tree\\_Builder\\_5-New\\_features.pdf](http://blog.myheritage.com/wp-content/uploads/2010/11/Family_Tree_Builder_5-New_features.pdf)

### Criticisms?

While the program worked well for my needs, and quite possibly will for you, should you choose to install it, there are a few things to be aware of. While the toolbar and home page switching were not present in this version as they

were previously, I did notice that every time I started Family Tree Builder, my browser would go to the MyHeritage home page. I encountered this on two separate installations of the software on two separate machines. Granted, this is not a big deal, but having the option to disable this would be nice.

Along these same lines, when you install Family Tree Builder, an additional program does get installed called “Family Tree Publisher.” Starting up every time you run Family Tree Builder, this small piece of software enables you to publish your family tree online and checks for new versions of the software. Having the option to not start up this program would be nice, especially if your main computer is somewhat older and memory or processor speeds are limited.

### In Closing

After using the new Family Tree Builder 5.0 for a while, I encountered no major problems or issues. The new tools, such as error checking, DNA support, custom charts, and other export options, make this a worthy update to previous versions and a new option for those just starting out in genealogy and family research. While there are some minor criticisms as noted above, these are not significant nor did they take away from the program's usefulness in any way. If you haven't had a chance to try it out, download it for free and see if it will work for you!



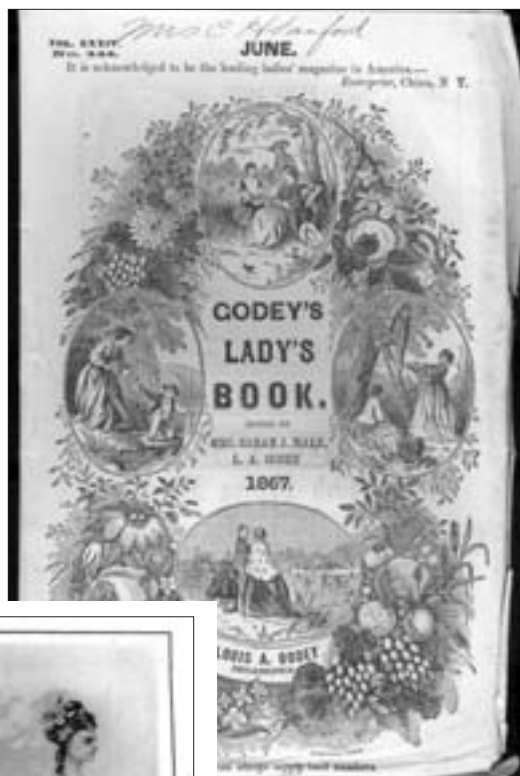
*Freelance writer, librarian and historian, Tony Bandy can be found researching forgotten topics in history at [Adventures in History](http://Adventures in History), <http://history.writingwithtony.com>, or finding more library research topics and databases at [Library Knowledge](http://Library Knowledge),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

# Leafing Through History: What Our Ancestors Read

FEW PEOPLE WOULD DISPUTE the fact that Americans today love magazines and periodicals. From the general to the most obscure topics, it seems there is a magazine for every taste and every interest under the sun. However, while most everyone would agree on the popularity of magazines in today's culture, many people might be surprised to learn that our American ancestors also loved them. In fact, magazines published in the 18th, 19th and early 20th centuries were much more influential in the lives of most Americans than they are today as they were one of the few ways to stay informed about the events of the day, both domestic and foreign. Genealogists and family historians seeking to learn more about their early American ancestors should consider adding magazines and periodicals of the past to the repertoire of resources they use to investigate the life and times of those who came before them. The American Periodical Series, an academic database that can be found in many university libraries throughout the country, is a great place to start as it contains digitized, full-text images from over 1,100 periodicals published in this country between 1740 and 1940.

The first periodicals published in this country in the decades immediately prior to and immediately following the Revolutionary War appealed strictly to the upper classes. They were written and published by and for the well-

educated and cultured Eastern elite, in other words, people with power and influence. If your ancestors were members of the upper crust in American society during this time, perhaps they enjoyed the magazine *Port Folio* which contained poetry and literary articles, as well as articles on travel, fashion and manners. Another periodical popular with the upper classes was *Polyanthos* which concentrated on theater reviews, historical sketches, collections of poetry and romances, book reviews and articles on classical mythology.



*Above and Left: Godey's Lady's Book was one of the most popular women's magazines in 19th century America, with a circulation of more than 150,000 subscribers. The cover shown above is from June 1867, while the illustration shown left is from an August 1874 issue.*

Often referred to as the "Golden Age of Magazines," the antebellum period in American history saw a tremendous growth in the number and type of periodicals coming on the market. The ever-increasing sectionalism of the country was reflected in the growth of regional literature, specifically for Northern or Southern audiences. Fiery abolitionist magazines, such as William Lloyd Garrison's *The Liberator* and

*The National Era*, stepped up the rhetoric on slavery and demanded the immediate emancipation of all slaves in the United States. Magazines with a Southern viewpoint that defended slavery, advocated states rights and pushed for secession included *DeBow's Review*, *The Southern Planter* and *The Southern Quarterly Review*.

Social reform was a prevalent theme in antebellum America. Social issues became a hot topic

## Leafing Through History: What Our Ancestors Read

for many magazines during this period. Periodicals such as *The Western Christian Advocate*, *The Evangelical Magazine and Gospel Advocate* and *The Journal of Prison Discipline and Philanthropy* frequently discussed topics like temperance, pauperism, juvenile delinquency, treatment of the mentally ill and the conditions of America's prisons.

The prototype for many women's magazines to come began publication in 1830. *Godey's Lady's Book*, a highly popular and influential magazine, was known first and foremost for its unique, hand-colored fashion illustrations, but also published recipes, book reviews, household hints and advice, articles on music, art, health and beauty and fiction stories and poems by women authors, all written in a friendly, readable manner. One observer noted that *Godey's Lady's Book* "helped define the standards of women in Victorian America." Other popular women's titles were *Ladies' Repository*, *Peterson's Magazine* and *Ladies' Wreath*.

During the Civil War, newspapers trumped magazines as they provided readers with daily, immediate coverage on various and sundry aspects of the war. However, numerous changes in the social, economic and political life of the country wrought by the Civil War were tailor-made for the resurgence of magazines which, after the war, began to publish increasingly specialized titles for an increasingly diverse population. As more Americans left the rural, agrarian life behind after the war and took up new occupations, trade and professional journals came into prominence. Titles such as *Railway Times*, *American Architect and Building News*, *The Albany Law Journal*, *The Philadelphia Medical Times* and *Aldine: The Journal of America*, which catered to printers and graphic artists, can be found in this database.

Around the turn of the 20th century, a new, radical type of

investigative journalism called muckraking arose and became an immediate hit with the masses. Muckraking was characterized by brutal, hard-hitting exposes on a variety of social problems, most of them arising from the growth and development of industrialization



*Jacob Riis, a noted photojournalist and muckraker, crusaded strongly against appalling living conditions in tenements.*

— problems such as political corruption, child labor, corporate greed, tenement housing, sweatshops and the spoils system in municipal government. Muckraking journals that can be found in this database include *McClure's Magazine*, the undisputed king of muckraking journals, as well as the *Arena*, *Forum*, *Cosmopolitan* and *The Independent*. Muckraking was at its peak between 1904 and 1908, proving itself to be a powerful tool in effecting much needed reforms of many of the problems which plagued late 19th and early 20th century America, problems which likely had a direct affect on the lives of many of our ancestors.

Lastly, a feature new to popular, mainstream magazines of the late 19th century not to be overlooked by genealogical researchers is the large section of advertisements, usually found in the back section of the magazines. When held up as a mirror to reflect society and its values, these ads show the growing trend toward national, rather than local or regional markets and, in addition, show a society moving toward greater affluence and increased consumption of a wide variety of consumer goods and services.

As an avid reader all of my life, I have been drawn to magazines every bit as much as to books. To me, one of the most appealing departments of a large bookstore is the magazine section with rack after rack of interesting and informative titles. For genealogists, using the American Periodical Series database is comparable to having access to rack after rack of magazines of the past — magazines that informed, entertained and stirred the imaginations of our early American ancestors.

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*Diane Dittgen has been in the field of genealogy, on a personal as well as a professional level, for the past 33 years. In that time, she has done extensive teaching and lecturing, given workshops, conducted genealogy tours and has written numerous articles on genealogical and historical topics. She received her Master's Degree in Library and Information Science in 1985 from Florida State University. She can be reached via e-mail at [dditt0287@comcast.net](mailto:dditt0287@comcast.net).*

# Net Notes

## DONAUSCHWABEN VILLAGES HELPING HANDS (DVHH)

[www.dvhh.org/contact/index.htm](http://www.dvhh.org/contact/index.htm)

THE MISSION OF THIS project is to collect and provide historical and genealogical information for the former Danube Swabian (DS) villages situated in the seven regions which were part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire until 1918: Banat, Batschka, Slavonia, Sylvania, Swabian Turkey, Hungarian Highlands and Sathmar.

If you are researching ancestors from Danube

Swabian, you will find the website chock full of information and data. It has an extensive history section and an overview for researching ancestors from this region. Additionally, each of the six regions listed has a dedicated page focusing on the history and resources for that specific region.

— DIANE L. RICHARD

## THE CANADIAN LETTERS & IMAGES PROJECT

[www.canadianletters.ca/index.php](http://www.canadianletters.ca/index.php)

THIS IS AN ONLINE archive of the Canadian war experience, from any war, as told through the letters and images of Canadians themselves. There is a short video about the project on YouTube, [www.youtube.com/CdnLetters](http://www.youtube.com/CdnLetters).

You can browse the collection based on time period or you can do a keyword search. The project

is always seeking financial and material contributions. For the latter, only previously unpublished correspondence, letters or postcards are accepted. The project holds no original materials and the full details on how you can contribute are available on the website.

— DIANE L. RICHARD

## DAYTON, OH RARE PHOTOS

[www.daytonhistory.org/archive-research.htm](http://www.daytonhistory.org/archive-research.htm)

12,000 PREVIOUSLY UNSEEN photographs from the NCR Archive (which features about 1.3 million images, including some 100,000 glass-plate negatives and 70,000 magic lantern slides) are available online at Dayton History. The photographs date from 1885 to the mid-1960s, and range in subject from the 1913 Dayton flood to baseball legend Babe Ruth at an NCR Corp. sales office in Tokyo.

As stated on the website, "John H. Patterson, who founded NCR in 1884, was a man who was interested in improving not only his company, but also his community and the world. Looking for an efficient way to communicate his ideas on business and social reform, Patterson quickly seized on pho-

tography as the most effective method of presenting his ideas. Using one of the earliest corporate photography departments in the country, Patterson documented all aspects of his company, including employees and the factory, sales conventions and other company events, and even the cash registers and their users. These photographs were used internally to educate the factory workers and sales agents about each other's work, and were used externally in the multitude of advertising publications designed to increase cash register sales."

Whether or not your ancestor worked for NCR, or lived in Dayton, this is a fun website to visit!

— DIANE L. RICHARD

## BRITISH WORKHOUSE RECORDS

[www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/documentsonlinel/workhouse.asp](http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/documentsonlinel/workhouse.asp)

THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES (UK) has made available a collection of 19th Century Poor Law Union and Workhouse Records. The Poor Law Amendment Act was introduced in 1834, centralizing the poor relief administrative system and grouping parishes into "unions". Previously, poor relief had largely been the responsibility of the parish. Expenditures rose during the Napoleonic Wars and local rate payers and authorities decided that looking after paupers was too costly.

You can search the available records by name, place name, occupation and keywords. The records for 23 Poor Law Unions are available via the website.

Be sure to check out the in-depth guides on the poor and related laws at [www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/records/research-guides/poor-laws.htm](http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/records/research-guides/poor-laws.htm) and [www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/records/research-guides/poor-law-records.htm](http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/records/research-guides/poor-law-records.htm).

— DIANE L. RICHARD

# My Grandfather's Secret

MY MOTHER'S FATHER, Jaroslav Zabransky, was born in 1904 in the small rural Moravian village of Krumvir, in what was then the Austro-Hungarian Empire. Shortly after WWI, and after completing his schooling and required military service, he entered an apprenticeship program to become a shoemaker, like his father Jan (pronounced *Yawn*) before him. He later became a manager with the famed Bata Shoe Company, headquartered in the city of Zlin in Moravia, in what was then Czechoslovakia. Jan Zabransky was born 8 February 1868, and Jaroslav's mother, Katerina Nemec, was born 30 April 1875. My grandfather had a total of seven siblings; all were born between 1898 and 1915.

Things were moving and changing quickly in German-occupied Czechoslovakia in the summer of 1939. With the ever-increasing specter of war, the Bata company executives had been planning for several months previous and acted quickly to move the headquarters and manufacturing operations to North America to preserve the viability of the company and the future of its employees. Suitable land was obtained from the Canadian government near Trenton, Ontario and construction for the new headquarters and factory was soon underway. The new village of Batawa, Ontario rose from the farmland north of what is now Highway 401, north of the air force town of Trenton, Ontario.

On 28 July 1939, my grandfather, my grandmother Anna (*nee* Hrabec), my mother, Marie (eight years old) and her sister, Vera (not quite 10 years old), along with several other Bata families and all their worldly possessions, boarded the Cunard White Star steamer *Antonia* at Liverpool and headed for their new home across the Atlantic. Many left family and friends behind to an uncertain fate, some never to be seen until after the War, and others never to be seen again. By late August 1939,

over 80 Bata families would arrive in their new homeland at the ports of Halifax or Quebec City, where they faced the challenges of starting their lives anew. Jan Zabransky stayed behind and passed away in 1944, before the family was able to return after the War. My mother's younger sister, Jarka (Ann), was born in December 1940. Sadly, my grandmother, Anna, passed away in 1948 from a cerebral hemorrhage at the young age of 43.



*An undated photograph of my great-grandfather, Jan Zabransky.*

## Who Was Jan Zabransky?

I was lucky to have known my grandfather. I had spent a great deal of my youth with him in his retirement years in Collingwood, Ontario where he operated a large apple orchard, but he never spoke of his own father or mother to me or my cousins. Sadly, upon reflection, I never asked. Even my mother remembers very little of her grandfather Jan, except that he was a shoemaker and how, on occasion, she disliked having to kiss him because of his "scratchy" moustache (see photo). I chuckle at the thought of her wriggling and squirming to avoid the discomfort. She was eight years old when she last saw him in 1939.

Before embarking on their new life in Canada, my grandfather did something for which I am forever

grateful: he collected certified copies of many important vital documents, including birth and marriage records, which would mostly likely have been required for entry into Canada. These were eventually passed on to me by my mother in 2006. The greater quantity of these documents relate to my grandmother Anna Hrabec's family, but what I found strange, and ultimately intriguing, was that the only official, certified birth information my grandfather had for either of his own parents was for his mother, Katerina Nemec, and for several of her ancestors. Many of these were for births and marriages dating as far back as the early 1800s. What a goldmine!

Among the official documents my grandfather passed on were two other very important pieces of paper: his mother Katerina's handwritten will (written in the Czech language), and a list of names and birth dates of his brothers and sisters, including a list of names and birth dates of the siblings of my grandmother Anna. The latter also noted only the birth date of his own father, Jan, as 8 February 1868, and a mention that Jan had a brother and two sisters (Josef, Marie, and Frantiska). There was no indication of the town or village where Jan was born. There was no mention of Jan's marriage to Katerina Nemec. There were no official documents relating to Jan Zabransky at all. A few years before that, my cousin, Gary Svoboda, also gave me his own handwritten list of the ancestors in our Zabransky line, which he had compiled earlier from some of the above mentioned materials. In that list was one notable reference to great-grandfather Jan's birth date as 8 February 1868 and the line: "no record for great grandfather". After sorting through all the documents, it was clear there was a large piece of the Zabransky family puzzle missing... and it was Jan! The gauntlet was thrown down in front of me.

## Czech Parish Books Online

### Where to Begin Looking for Jan?

I always thought that researching my family history would be difficult because all the information and resources that I would need would likely be found back in what is now the Czech Republic. My greatest hurdle is a lack of a practical working knowledge of the Czech language. Going back to the Czech Republic to do research would surely mean taking a Czech-speaking relative or friend with me, or hiring an interpreter. Sure, I was brought up in a household where Czech was often spoken, and I can understand quite a bit of it, but my Canadian public school education made English my primary language. I was convinced this was an insurmountable problem. Early attempts to locate Czech genealogy resources online never yielded anything concrete or easily accessible. There were lots of sites, including English-based sites for Czech genealogy, but most contained links back to websites in Europe, where I was faced with the same old language difficulties.

So, in 2010 while at the NGS

Conference in Salt Lake City, author and colleague Lisa Alzo, an expert herself in Eastern European and Slovak genealogy, arranged for me to meet Shon Edwards. Shon is a long-time LDS staff researcher who is considered to be an expert on Czech genealogy. In that one brief meeting, I learned everything I needed to know about how to access Czech Catholic parish records at the Czech Regional Archives, <http://www.actapublica.eu>, in Brno, Moravia. The best part... it was free! The downside is that for anyone who doesn't know the Czech language, it can be difficult signing up for, and then navigating, the site. (You can get around this by installing the Google Chrome browser with its great site translation capability.) With this new information in hand, I returned to Toronto and set out to find anything I could that was based on the information I had amassed to that point.

### Czech Parish Books Online

After setting up my account, navigating the online parish books

took a considerable amount of time to master: something I have not yet come close to doing. I soon discovered that, in addition to having a good working knowledge of the Czech language, it would also be necessary to be able to read German, and in some instances, mid-19th-century German script. Since the Czechs were part of the ever-evolving Austrian-Hungarian landscape, German was the official language of the church, so the books often featured German section headers and Czech writing, or even German writing, depending on the date.

To assist myself, I downloaded Czech and German genealogy reference guides from [FamilySearch.org](http://FamilySearch.org). These guides are available for many countries and offer a wealth of information, including glossaries of genealogy terms, alphabet primers and much more.

Throughout the early summer of 2010, I spent hours searching the available books for the town of Krumvir. Not all birth, marriage and death registers were available



Jan Zabransky's birth recorded on page three in the Krumvir register of births 1867 - 1902. To find his birth record online was a true "Aha!" moment. Finally, we had more information than we could possibly imagine. His proper first name was Johann. Jan is a Czech equivalent for "John". However, the quality of the image (as with many in some of the books) wasn't terrific, but we now knew the name of my great-great-grandfather, Franz Zabransky, and his father, Johann Zabransky. Jan's mother's name was not easily readable due to our lack of experience in reading 19th-century German script. A problem we slowly overcame as the weeks went by.

(Czech Regional Archives, Brno).

to view and there were often large gaps in the years of availability.

By July 2010, without knowing anything at all about Jan Zabransky except for his birth and death dates, I enlisted the help of my mother, then 79, and we finally started our search in earnest in the town where my grandfather was born, Krumvir, assuming the family had been living there all along. From the comfort of my mother's living room, high-speed Internet at hand, with her at my side as a translator and second set of eyes, we poured over the Krumvir books for hours until we could no longer focus. No birth. No marriage. No luck. After wracking our brains, my mother suggested that we look at the will of Katerina Nemeč, Jan's first wife, to see if it yielded any clues. She was from Krumvir and so were the generations before her, but was it possible he came from another nearby village? A "distant" suitor perhaps?

It wasn't common to travel long distances in the mid-1800s in the rural Czech lands. Even horses weren't the everyday mode of transport for people of the area, so most traveled by cow cart. We



*A Google Map representation of the towns of Divaky (pin A, left) and Krumvir (pin B, right). The distance between the two villages is five MILES.*

decided to look at an online map of the Krumvir area from the mid 19th century. It was not densely populated and we started looking at nearby villages within a three to five MILE radius. Each town would have to have online and viewable parish registers with births in 1868. We looked at Brumovice, Borkovany, Boleradice, Nenkovice and a few others, with no success, and then focused on the town of Divaky.

**Aha Moment #1**

Finally, on page 3 of parish book #2534 for the town of Divaky in the county of Breclav lay the answer that eluded us for so long: Johann (German for John) Zabransky born at house number 115 on 8 February 1868. Religion: Catholic. He would ultimately be known as Jan (the Czech equivalent for John). His father's name was listed as Franz (German for Frank), and Franz's father's name was listed as Johann. Jan's mother's name was not easily discernable due to the quality of the image. Much of the writing was difficult to decipher or we couldn't easily translate the German headers. We sat back in amazement at what we had finally discovered. Then we went searching for the marriage record of Jan and Katerina Nemeč. We assumed that since Katerina was from Krumvir, the marriage must have taken place there. This was one assumption that actually paid off.

After perusing enough parish books over the span of several weeks, patterns began to emerge. We had seen enough marriage records to be able to get a reason-



*Jan Zabransky and Katerina Nemeč marriage from 16-Feb-1897 as recorded in the Krumvir register of marriages 1850 - 1906, page 154. Note that the headers atop each column appear in German, while the actual entries are written in Czech. The left-most column represents the year (at the top) and each event is recorded with the month and day as well as the name of the officiating priest, Josef Beranek. (Czech Regional Archives, Brno).*

ably accurate average age for young couples. To help narrow things down, we looked at the birth date of the first of my grandfather's siblings, Antonin, born in 1898. I asked my mother if it was reasonable to assume that, if the first child were born in 1898, could the parents have been married in say, 1897? Newlyweds of the day often wasted no time in starting a family. Off we went to the Krumvir marriage register and, sure enough, the 1897 marriages were included. With no index for these particular records, we started advancing through the pages to find the start of the 1897 entries and located them on page 153. Someone was looking out for us, because with one last page turn, we found the marriage listed top-left on page 154, and very readable too.

### Aha Moments #2 and #3

I'm glad my mother was sitting down, because as we quietly read the entry together, she proclaimed, "He's illegitimate!" This was huge. There it was in plain Czech: "*nemanz. syn*" (short for illegitimate son) of Catholic father, Frantisek (Czech for Frank) Zabransky. We barely recovered from that and my mother kept reading and she exclaimed yet again, "Oh my, his mother was Jewish! She was a Jewish widow!" We both stared in amazement. We knew we were on the right page and had the right entry because we were reading Jan's family's history, and right next to that column was Katerina Nemeč's family spelled out. In short, the translated passage read: "*Zabransky, Jan, shoemaker's helper from the village of Hustopece, illegitimate son of Frantisek Zabransky, general laborer from Divaky, of a Jewish mother, Teresia, widow of Simonn Bondi (occupation unreadable) of Divaky, maiden name Adler.*"

### My Grandfather's Secret

The most incredible part of this story is that my grandfather never mentioned any of this to anyone in the family. At a Zabransky family gathering shortly after this discovery in July 2010, I made the announcement that we had not only found Jan Zabransky's father and mother, but that he was illegitimate, and that we had discovered our Jewish connection, all in one go. The collective gasp seemed to last forever. However, the mystery as to why my grandfather never brought the documents relating to his own father with him to Canada started to become frightfully clear. Had he brought those documents in late August of 1939, along with those now in my care, it is quite possible that the Canadian government would have rejected his application for entry at the port of Quebec, based on the fact that he, himself, was one quarter Jewish — the rumored cut-off point. It was government policy of the day that immigration by Jews from Eastern Europe to Canada was being restricted. He must have known this before the departure. Was he advised to refrain from bringing any documents that might jeopardize the trip? These were sad and difficult times, and I can only imagine that my grandfather compartmentalized the secret, never to be mentioned to anyone for fear that he, or his entire family, might be deported back to Czechoslovakia to face an uncertain fate.



# CLASSIFIEDS

**BREAK DOWN YOUR BRICK WALL. FREE** Consultations. Extensive USA collection at Clayton Genealogical Library, Houston, Texas, the 3rd largest research library in the Nation, plus many unique places on the 'net; will also type your data into charts and book form. **Diane Kropp**, 3003 Country Club Drive, Pearland, Texas 77581. E-mail: [rekropp@prodigy.net](mailto:rekropp@prodigy.net). Website: [www.affordablegenealogy.com](http://www.affordablegenealogy.com).

**TRANSLATOR.** German, Dutch, or French to English. Specializing in the old German handwriting (Schrift). For free estimate send photocopies and SASE to **Gordon Hartig**, PO Box 2744, Evansville, Indiana 47728. Tel: 812-303-4169; E-mail: [gordon\\_hartig@alumni.iu.edu](mailto:gordon_hartig@alumni.iu.edu). Website: [www.hartigtranslations.com](http://www.hartigtranslations.com).

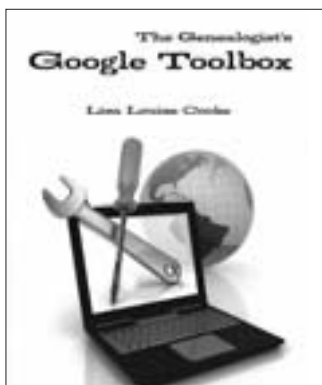
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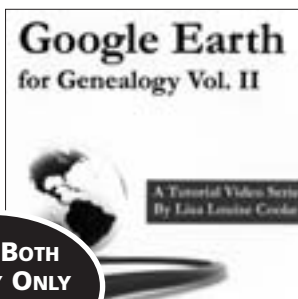
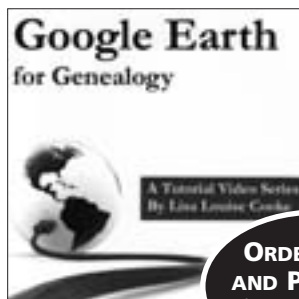


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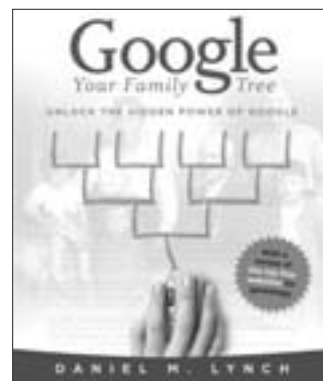
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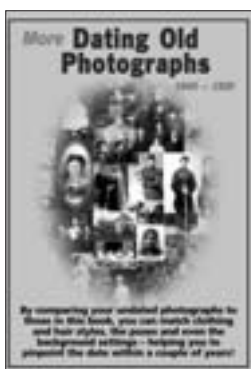
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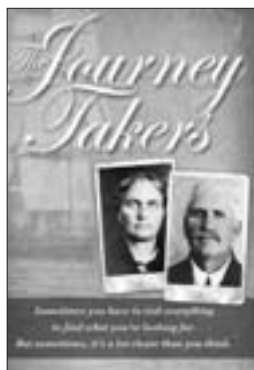
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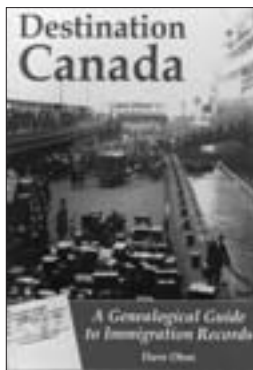
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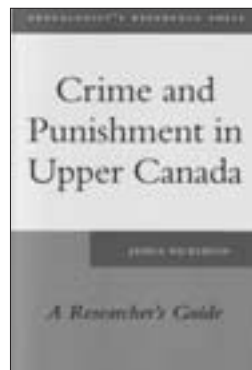
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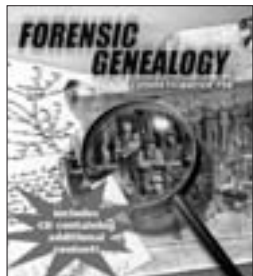
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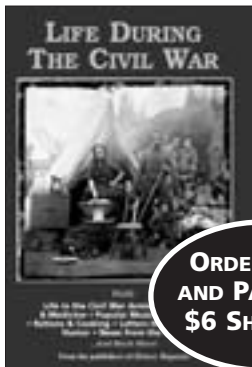
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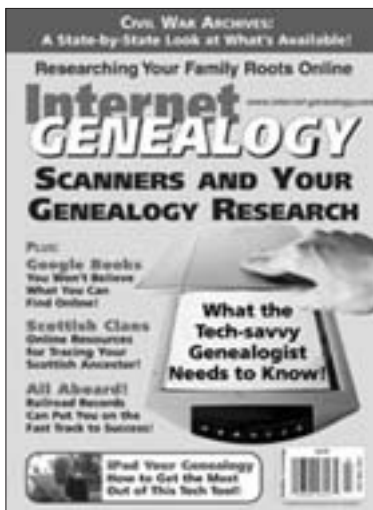


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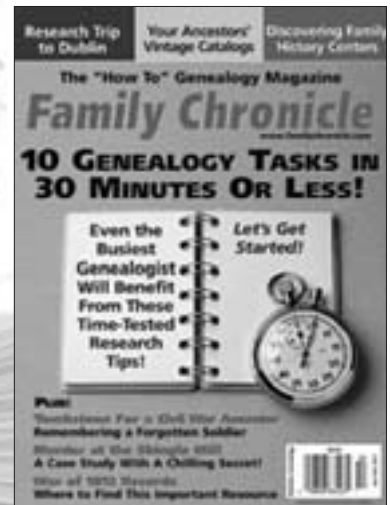
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# Need Help Researching Your French Roots?

FRENCH AMERICANS AND French Canadians (those of French descent) account for around 11.8 million United States residents and 8.5 million Canadian residents, so it should be no surprise that when researching your family history, you may need to research some French Ancestry.

In 1534, French explorer Jacques Cartier had planted a cross in the Gaspé Peninsula on the south shore of the Saint Lawrence River in Quebec, Canada and claimed the land in the name of King Francois I. It was the first province of New France. After 70 years of failed attempts to form settlements in North America (as a haven for French Protestants fleeing persecution), France established its first permanent colony in 1604, with the formation of Île Saint Croix on Baie Francois, now known locally as Dochet Island in Maine, New England. French domination spread to other nearby locations, such as Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Cape Breton and Prince Edward Island, collectively known as Acadia and in 1608, the formation of a second permanent settlement in Quebec, Canada. At its peak in 1712, New France extended from Newfoundland to the Rocky Mountains and from Hudson Bay to the Gulf of Mexico, with the territory divided into five colonies; Canada, Acadia, Hudson Bay, Newfoundland and Louisiana.

After the capture of Fort Beausejour in the Acadia region in 1755 by the British, the French settlers were disbursed to England, France and English Colonies in America. The "Great Upheaval" also saw many make the long trek to some of the 13 colonies in the south to begin a new life, and in 1785, Spain transported seven shiploads of Acadian exiles to Louisiana, where these Acadians

became known as Cajuns. Much of French culture still remains today in Louisiana and in 2000, the census reported that 15 percent of the population of Louisiana speak French at home. The French Colonial Empire in America ended in 1803, with the sale of Louisiana to the United States by Napoleon Bonaparte.



*Portrait of Jacques Cartier by Théophile Hamel, c. 1844.*

French emigration resumed in the 19th century. Political refugees fleeing the failed 1848 Revolution resulted in over 63,000 French immigrants arriving in North America between 1847 and 1851. The Franco-Prussian War also saw an increase in French immigration, with many immigrants preferring to settle in New York, Chicago and New Orleans, although a few settlements were established in the mid-west.

In the late 19th century, New England saw an increase in French

migrants from Quebec and New Brunswick to work in the sawmills and logging camps, whilst New York state offered opportunities for farming, blacksmiths and other trades.

After the Civil War, there was a large increase in French Canadians migrating to the US, settling in Massachusetts, Rhode Island and Vermont.

It is estimated that without this migration, there would be around four-to-five million more Francophones living in Canada today. Today, 75 percent of French Canadians reside in Quebec and make up around 23 percent of Canada's total population.

So to begin researching these ancestors, we first need to establish the city or town that your ancestor may have arrived from. First point of call would be to check with any older ancestors that you may still have contact with. If that is not possible, check the civil, church and census records in Canada for clues, or to help identify a time they may have arrived, or a town they settled in. You can then attempt to cross reference with known immigration patterns to try and identify a point of origin.

The port of Le Havre in France saw the departure of most French emigrants during the 1800s and the French Genealogical Society has discovered a card index of 75,000 passengers and sailors leaving France between 1780 and 1840. The French National Archives also holds records of Le Havre cargo vessel crews and passengers, along with a few records from Calais, Cherbourg, Brest, Lorient, La Rochelle and Dieppe.

There are several books and indexes focusing on persons emigrating through Alsace-Lorraine from 1817-66, a useful resource as

## Online Resources For French Ancestry

many French either lived in Alsace or passed through when emigrating. A list of these can be found at [www.cyndislist.com](http://www.cyndislist.com).

Perhaps the best way to trace the immigration is in the destination nation itself. There are no comprehensive lists of immigrants arriving in Canada before 1865. However, there are other references still in existence.

The Family History Library holds Catholic parish registers from Quebec between 1621 to 1900 and contain christening, burial and marriage records.

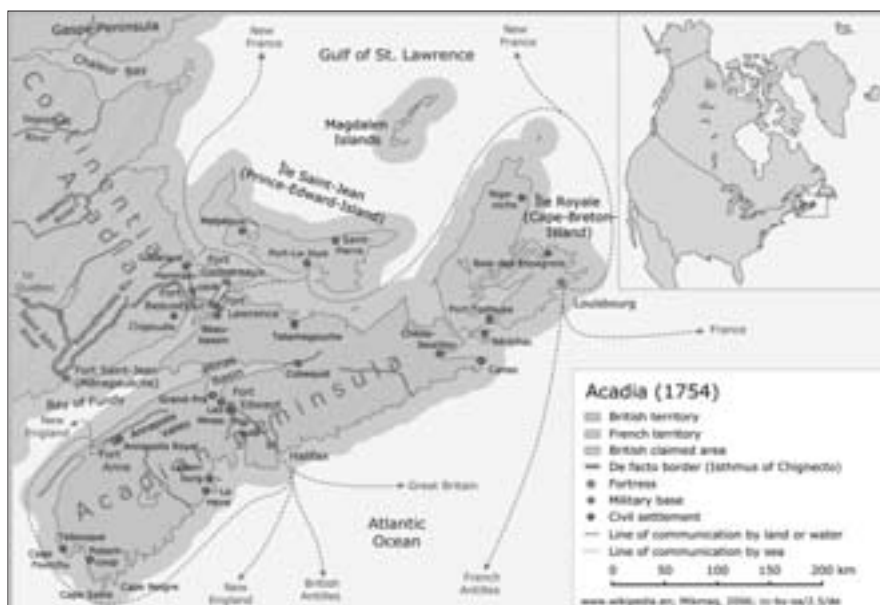
The Loiselle Marriage Index is also available at the Family History Library and Family History Centres in many Canadian

mainly records immigrants from the British Isles, but holds references to settlers in other provinces.

Many immigrants arrived in Canada extremely poor and relied on benevolent societies for assistance. In 1831, the



Above: Map of 'New France' 1750.  
Left: Map of Acadia 1754.



Libraries, this index includes marriages from 550 parishes in Quebec, indexed by bride and groom.

The majority of immigrants to Canada came as "Engages" and signed "engagements" (contracts) for a three-year period to work in New France through a religious community, merchant or recruitment agent. After this three-year period, many remained in New France and some reference to these can be found in the Colonial Archives database.

Library and Archives Canada holds a number of lists relating to immigration from the early 1820s. Formerly known as the Miscellaneous Immigration Index, it

Montreal Emigrant Society was established to transport immigrants arriving in Montreal and Quebec to settlements in different parts of Canada and North America. Certain records of these are held at the Library and Archives Canada.

If we can establish a town, we can switch our focus to French records. Prior to the French Revolution, France was divided into provinces, now known as regions. Then, in 1789, the new government reorganized France into Territorial Divisions (departements). There are 100 Departments in France, 96 within its borders and four overseas. Each department has its own archive and most

important genealogical records are kept at these departmental archives. Records are also kept at local town halls, so it is important to have a starting town or department.

The French census is taken every five years, beginning in 1836 (earlier in some communities) and contain the names of all members living in a household, dates and places of birth, nationality and occupation. However, these are not indexed and are rarely used in French genealogy, as locating names of households is notoriously difficult without a street address.

Birth, death and marriage records mainly date from 1792. Known in France as *Registres d'état-civil* (records of civil registration), they are held at the *Le Mairie* (town hall), where the event took place. The department archives hold duplicates of these after 100 years. The registers include wide margins, which often record extensive information on an individual. A birth record may hold margin notes such as marriage date, date of death and the location the event took place. Many of these are now online free of charge, along with other departmental archives and

Decennial Tables (a 10- year alphabetical index from 1793 of births, marriages and deaths registered by the Mairie), although many are images of the original books and are not searchable, (no more time consuming than searching microfilms and you can do it from home!) Copies of civil records can be ordered from the local Mairie. Any records less than 100 years old are not available to the public due to French privacy laws and you will need to contact the local Mairie to make any requests.

Outside of France, the best source of these civil records is the Family History Library in Salt Lake City, who have microfilmed civil records of about half of the Departments in France, up to 1870, and Decennial Indexes for nearly every town in France. You can search for which microfilms are held online in the Family History Catalog.

Prior to 1792, parish registers are the most valuable genealogy resources. In France, these date back to as early as 1334 and con-

NOM		PRENOM		AGE		PROFESSION		MARITAL		LIEU DE NAISSANCE		LIEU DE RESIDENCE	
11	Mme.	Marnat	Antoinette	50	veuf					Paris	Paris		
12	Mme.	Marnat	Mary	45	veuf					Paris	Paris		
13	Mme.	Marnat	Blanche	40	veuf					Paris	Paris		
14	Mme.	Marnat	Marie	35	veuf					Paris	Paris		

*French Census Report.*

tain as a minimum, the names of people involved, date of event and sometimes, parents' names, ages, occupations and witnesses. Parish registers prior to 1792 are held by the Archives Department, although some small parish churches still retain these old registers. Some parishes no longer exist and now belong to a neighboring town, so always check the neighboring parish if you cannot locate a record. Most departmental archives will not perform parish record research for you, but many of these records are now available online at the Family History Library and other sources.

Parish records after 1793 are held by the parish, so you will

need to contact the local Diocese, who is often happy to help for a small donation.

France also holds well-maintained cemeteries. Cemetery management in France is seen as a "public concern", so legible inscriptions survive from as early as the 18th century. Cemetery records again can be found at the local town hall.

French military records can be located at the Army and Naval Historical Services in Vincennes, France. Records survive from the 17th century and can include names of a serviceman's wife, children, marriage and names and addresses of next of kin. However, French privacy laws mean that these are not accessible to the public from 120 years of the soldier's birth, so these are rarely used in French genealogy.

### LIST OF ONLINE GENEALOGY RESOURCES:

- Canada Library & Archives:  
[www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/genealogy/index-e.html](http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/genealogy/index-e.html)
- inGeneas Database (Canadian Passengers/Immigration):  
<http://ingeneas.com/ingeneas/index.html>
- Family History Library Catalog (Passenger Lists and Immigration, Census records):  
[www.familysearch.org/eng/library/fhl/frameset\\_library.asp?PAGE=library\\_collection\\_US.asp](http://www.familysearch.org/eng/library/fhl/frameset_library.asp?PAGE=library_collection_US.asp)
- Geneanet.org (search birth, death, marriage by department)  
[www.geneanet.org/archives](http://www.geneanet.org/archives)
- French civil and Parish Records: [www.jeanlouis-garret.fr/actes](http://www.jeanlouis-garret.fr/actes)
- French National Archives: [www.archivesnationales.culture.gouv.fr](http://www.archivesnationales.culture.gouv.fr)
- Family History Library (Salt Lake City)  
[www.familysearch.org/Eng/Library/FHL/frameset\\_library.asp](http://www.familysearch.org/Eng/Library/FHL/frameset_library.asp)
- Map of French Departments:  
[www.lost-in-france.com/living-in-france/life/517-french-departments](http://www.lost-in-france.com/living-in-france/life/517-french-departments)
- The American-French Genealogical Society:  
[www.afgs.org](http://www.afgs.org)
- Cyndi's List:  
[www.cyndislist.com](http://www.cyndislist.com)

IG

*Nik Walker is a London based professional genealogist. As a member of the Association of Professional Genealogists, Nik has been specializing in British Ancestry and Military history for over five years. He also runs his UltraViolet Genealogy website and has recently created The Medal Reunited Project in the UK.*

# Military Burials: What You Need To Know!

THERE ARE MANY AMERICAN Military Records available online and the lists grow at a steady pace. The National Archives, [www.archives.gov](http://www.archives.gov), has records online for the Vietnam Conflict; Korean War; World War II; World War I; Spanish-American War; Civil War and American Revolutionary War. Using the Access to Archival Databases (AAD) System, you can access records such as Enlistment Records, Casualty Reports and Prisoner of War Data to name a few. There are sites that charge a fee and have some military records, but not all records are available on these sites, either. It is important to note that different types of military records are housed on different government websites. The burial records for US Veterans can be found under the National Gravesite Locator (NGL) at the Veterans Affairs website, [http://gravelocator.cem.va.gov/j2ee/servlet/NGL\\_v1](http://gravelocator.cem.va.gov/j2ee/servlet/NGL_v1).

The National Gravesite Locator has been online since April 2004, with constant improvements such as the ability to access the database using "smart phone" devices. The database continues to grow and the last number reported was in 2009 with 6.7 million Veterans in the database.

Searching for a US veteran buried in a "National Cemetery", state veterans cemeteries, and other military and private cemeteries is a simple process. The NGL contains information collected for the purpose of providing Government-furnished headstones and markers for Veterans and family members buried in national or state veterans' cemeteries. For Veterans buried in private cemeteries, headstone and marker records date back to January 1997.

It is advisable to read the

information below the search box (figure 1) for explanation of the records. The Nationwide Gravesite Locator includes burial records from many sources and the website clearly states that if erroneous information is found, to contact the cemetery, not the Veterans

form from a Veteran's next of kin, Veterans Affairs will create an NGL record for a Government headstone or marker prior to 1997. Veterans whose graves are not marked with a government marker or headstone cannot be added to the NGL. You can request a

Figure 1: National Gravesite Locator search screen.

Affairs office.

Users enter a name to search and click "Go" to find where the loved one is buried. You can narrow the search by including the specific cemetery, if known, and/or the date of birth and date of death, also if known. If you are not sure of the correct spelling of the name, you have the option of "begins with". The resulting information will include branch of service, rank, date of birth and date of death and buried location within the cemetery and a map. Information about the cemetery, address and phone number is also included.

## Do You Have a Veteran Buried in a Non-government Cemetery With a Government Marker/headstone?

If buried before January 1997, their name will not automatically appear in this database. But the good news is you can request the information be added to the database. Upon receipt of a request

marker and if approved, the marker will automatically be part of the growing database (you can learn more about this at [www.cem.va.gov/cem/hm/hmelig.asp](http://www.cem.va.gov/cem/hm/hmelig.asp)).

To request a Veteran be added, the next of kin must submit VA Form 40-1330, Application for Standard Government Headstone or Marker, and include a photograph of the existing Government marker. VA Form 40-1330 is available at [www.cem.va.gov/hm\\_hm.asp](http://www.cem.va.gov/hm_hm.asp).

Special instructions for using VA Form 40-1330 for this purpose:

- Note on the application in the "Remarks" section (Block 27) "To add to NGL Record - Veteran Already Has Government Marker".
- Leave block 19 (delivery address) blank.
- No need to obtain signatures in blocks 22 and 24.

This form can be filled in using your computer and printed out. Be sure to save a copy for your records as you cannot save the completed computer file. You can

also print out the blank form and complete it by hand.

The completed application and the photograph should be mailed to:

*Memorial Programs Service  
Department of Veterans Affairs  
Attn: Kimberley Bernard  
220 Athens Way, Suite 102  
Nashville, TN 37228*

**Is Your Veteran Buried Overseas?**

There is also a link on the NGL site for service members buried in overseas cemeteries. The American Battle Monuments Commission, [www.abmc.gov/search/index.php](http://www.abmc.gov/search/index.php), is responsible for these records. The searchable databases are based on World War I; World War II; Korean War; and Other Burial Listings. These databases are by no means complete; however, they are a good source of information to assist you with your research.

The World War I Listing has 33,717 records, even though there were 116,516 American casualties in World War I. This page includes a link to the World War I casualties by State and Cemetery.

The World War II Listing has 176,399 records even though there were 405,399 American casualties in World War II. This page includes links to sites with addi-

tional information from a specific Unit or by State and Cemetery. There is also a link to search by the country the person entered the service from.

According to the Department of Defense 54,246 American service men and women lost their lives during the Korean War worldwide. Due to a fire at the National Personnel Records Center in St. Louis, Missouri, many of the records were destroyed. To date, the database includes the names of 39,000 who died during the period June 27, 1950 to July 27, 1954. Because there was no peace treaty signed, Americans who lost their lives in the Demilitarized Zone in Korea are included in this database. Also included are the 8,196 Americans who were Missing in Action or lost/buried at sea.

There are additional links that allow searches from a specific Unit or State or by Country from which the person joined the service. The Korean War Honor Roll (See Figure 2 below) includes information such as photograph, place of enrollment, birth and death dates, rank and branch of service, service number, and information about the battles fought in, as well as medals awarded.

The Other Burial Listings pages include records from the



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Mexican War; Civil War; Spanish-American War; World War I; World War II; Korean War; Corozal American Cemetery; and Vietnam War Missing. These pages include a variety of information and some include the previously mentioned databases, while others have different information, all worth exploring if you have a family member that served in the military. The Vietnam War Missing includes a searchable database, while the Spanish-American War Veterans are actually listed below the photo of the Corozal Cemetery.

Some records, such as the World War II Draft Registration Cards and Civil War Widows Pension files are available on sites that charge for use of the databases. These free sources of information regarding military service men and women burials is a great way to save your genealogy dollars for other expenses.

**IG**

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



Figure 2: Sample of Korean War Honor Roll page.

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# 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.*

## SEPTEMBER 2011

**Federation of Genealogical Societies Conference, Pathways to the Heartland, September 7 – 10, 2011, at the Prairie Capital Convention Center, Springfield, Illinois.** With 160 educational lectures and other events, FGS 2011 is an ideal destination for every genealogist and family historian. Network with other genealogists, visit with societies, and explore the latest innovations from a wide variety of vendors in the exhibit hall. For more information, visit [www.fgs.org](http://www.fgs.org) or e-mail [2011conference@fgs.org](mailto:2011conference@fgs.org) to sign-up for e-Updates. **Note: Visit Family Chronicle and Internet Genealogy in the vendor hall.**

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

**British Isles Family History Society of Greater Ottawa, 17th Annual Conference, September 16-18, 2011, Library and Archives Canada, 395 Wellington St., Ottawa, ON.** Focus: England, Wales, London and Home Counties. International, national and local experts in family history and genealogy; pre-conference educational events; access to researchers, databases, and marketplace of related products and services. Program and Registration details: [www.bifhsgo.ca](http://www.bifhsgo.ca), 613-234-2520. **Note: Visit Family Chronicle and Internet Genealogy in the vendor hall.**

**Ontario Genealogical Society Ottawa Meeting, Tuesday, 20 September 2011 at 7:00 PM.** Library and Archives Canada, 395 Wellington Street, Room 156. Topic: The Eyes That Shone; From Ireland to Canada. Speaker: Author Phil Donnelly will speak about his book and a program titled Heritage Tier Worker which encourages and helps people write their stories. For more information visit <http://ogsottawa.on.ca>. Everyone welcome. Free refreshments. Free evening & weekend parking.

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

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).

**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 <http://www.understandingyourancestors.com>. For more information, visit <http://ogsottawa.on.ca>. Everyone welcome. Free refreshments. Free evening/weekend parking.

**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: <http://www.ncgenealogy.org>.

## NOVEMBER 2011

**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.**

### 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)

# Investigating a Murder in the Family

A LATE-NIGHT PHONE call started my investigation into the violent death of David Kerney. It proved to be a tough case and one that I haven't completely closed yet.

The call came from Elsie Kerney, a genealogist in Saskatchewan. Elsie is distantly related by marriage to my great-great-grandfather's brother, David Jordan, who had come to Canada from County Longford, Ireland in the 1840s.

She asked me "Do you know that there was a case of manslaughter in the family of David Jordan's son-in-law, John Kerney, in 1874?" No, I didn't. Please tell me more.

David and Elizabeth Jordan's daughter, Sarah, had married John James Kerney in 1877. John had been born in Clarke Township, a rural area east of Toronto, in 1852 and shortly thereafter, his father had died.

An uncle, David Kerney, stepped in to marry the widowed mother, Mary, and raised young John and his brother, Hamilton, as his own. In the mid-1860s, David and Mary Kerney and their children, now numbering six, relocated to Glenelg Township on the frontier north of Toronto.

Elsie told me that among the prominent families of Glenelg Township were the Falkinghams, four brothers who had come from Yorkshire, England and had prospered in Ontario as wheat farmers.

In October 1874, there had been a dispute between David Kerney and Henry Falkingham and the latter struck David on the head with the side of an axe and killed him. Henry Falkingham was arrested, but escaped before he reached jail and was never recaptured.

I was hooked by the story and took a quick look in the 1871 census while I waited for the newspa-

per clippings that Elsie had mailed. The two men were hardly kids. Henry Falkingham would have been 40 in 1874 and had a wife, Ann, and four children. David Kerney was 50 that year. They were both farming about 100

acres, but Henry Falkingham had 50 acres cleared, while David Kerney had only 10 acres in production. Elsie sent two clippings. One, reprinted in *A History of Glenelg Township*, edited by Mary Anne Neville, is presumed to have come from the *Mount Forest Confederate*. It told of the argument on Friday, October 23 1874: "Henry Falkingham had what is known as a threshing bee and one of those asked to assist was a near neigh-

bour named David Kerney. On Kerney's arriving at Falkingham's the latter, who was sharpening stakes with an axe to fasten the horsepower, accused him of dogging his pigs on the sideroad on the previous day. [An



The Falkingham family c. 1890: Seated left to right are John, Henry, Ann and standing left to right are Minnie, William and Sarah Ann, the great-grandmother of genealogist Sheila Johnson. The Falkinghams found life in Kansas difficult, but they look like a conventional and prosperous family. However, at the time this photo was taken, Canadian authorities wanted Henry Falkingham in the death of David Kerney.

(Photo courtesy of Sheila Johnson)

argument ensued and] Falkingham struck at him with the axe he had in his hand, missing him, but followed up a second time striking the unfortunate man on the side of the head with the side of the axe, felling him to the ground, to all appearance quite dead."

He didn't die immediately, however. A doctor was summoned and the stricken man was taken home and hovered between life and death for several days. David

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## Investigating a Murder in the Family

Kerney died on 4 November 1874.

Elsie's second clipping was from the *Owen Sound Advertiser*. It told the story of Henry Falkingham's arrest and escape, however the paper incorrectly identified him as "Edward" Falkingham: "The other men working at the machine seized the would-be murderer, and took him before a Magistrate, who committed him to jail to await the result of Kerney's injuries. On Saturday a Constable started with the prisoner for Owen Sound jail, and when near here ...the prisoner remarked to the constable that 'he thought that was the way they turned', pointing to a turn in the road, and upon the Constable looking around, Falkingham leaped from the buggy and ran for the bush, the Constable following him for some distance, but finally giving up the chase, he came to Owen Sound for assistance."

The next day search parties set off from the town and, in the words of the *Advertiser*, "scoured the countryside" without finding Henry Falkingham. Modern technology was even used: "On Monday morning telegraph dispatches were sent to different parts of the country". A report that he had been captured later turned out to be false. Falkingham was gone for good.

I had successfully investigated the violent death of another Jordan relative named Ben Farrow (see *Family Chronicle*, January / February, 2011), but unlike the Farrow case, all the documentation was missing. There was no death registration for David Kerney. No records remain from a coroner's inquest mentioned in the *Mount Forest Confederate*. There must have been other records too, from the magistrate, the police, the jail and from the futile search for Falkingham. I sent queries to both the Archives of Ontario, [www.archives.gov.on.ca](http://www.archives.gov.on.ca), and the local Grey Roots Museum and Archives, [www.greyroots.com](http://www.greyroots.com), and although the archivists there went beyond the call of duty to help, there were no official records to be found. There seemed to be no follow-up stories from the newspa-

pers either. Where could I even begin to investigate this tragic incident?

To better understand what happened that day, I started by researching some of the terminology from the newspapers. What was a "horsepower"? What did "dogging his pigs" mean and why would it drive Henry Falkingham to attack his neighbour with an axe?

For the second question, I consulted my cousin Doreen Rowbotham who grew up in the 1930s in the countryside not far from Glenelg Township. She told me that 'dogging' would have meant beating the pigs, leaving them looking as if dogs had been set on them. "But our dogs knew enough not to worry the livestock," Doreen said. Pigs are intelligent animals and often found a way to escape their



Mary Kerney (seated center) flanked by four of her children, Mary (standing left) whose daughter Ethel wrote a 1941 account of the violent death of David Kerney, Isabella (standing right), William Thomas (seated left) and David Kerney Jr. (seated right) who died after being admitted to the hospital with 'melancholia' years after his father's death.

(Photo courtesy of Elsie Kerney)

The Internet provided a description of a horse-powered threshing machine. It was constructed in two parts, the thresher and the horsepower which employed five teams of horses walking in circles around a central hub, their energy being transferred to the thresher by means of metal rods. In order to keep the horsepower securely in one place, it had to be firmly anchored by a number of long wooden stakes driven deeply into the ground. Making the stakes and pounding them in would be a job for someone who was very handy with an axe and very strong.

pens to ravage neighbouring gardens. To savagely beat them for what was a fairly common transgression certainly would have infuriated their owner.

Elsie Kerney then surprised me by sending more family information. The highlight was a copy of a typed statement signed by David Kerney's granddaughter, Ethel Black (1882-1962). Dated November 1941, it set out facts that differed significantly from the newspaper accounts. For example, she said that the pigs were owned by the Kerneys and that Falkingham fled on his way to the magistrate, not on his way to jail. Ethel also speculated that

## Investigating a Murder in the Family

Falkingham was allowed to escape through the influence of his family.

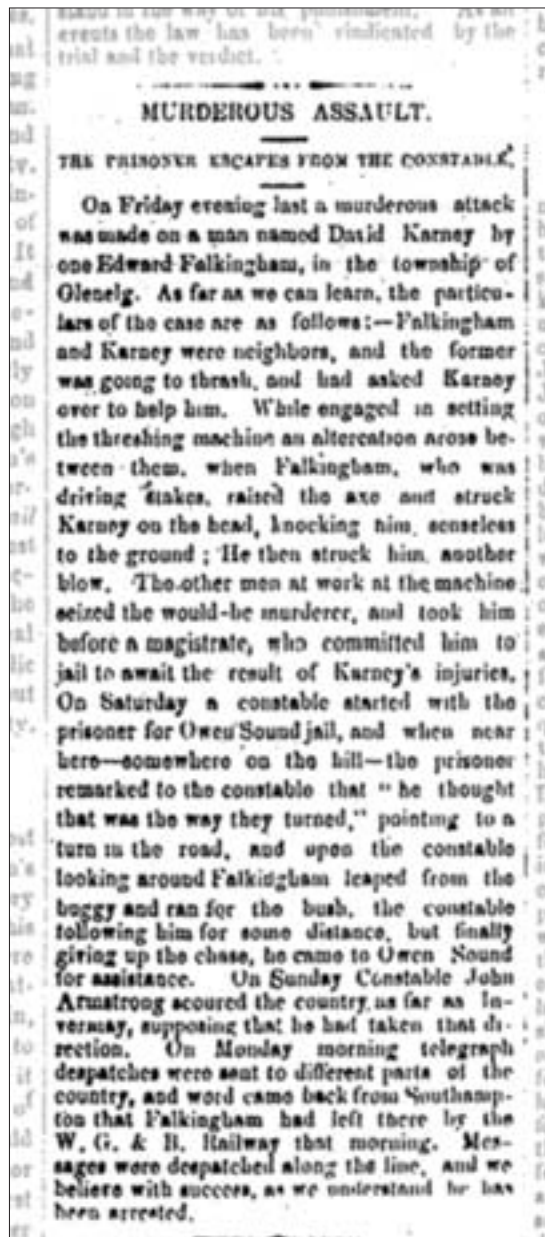
There were also some new details. Ethel says that David's replies to Falkingham were accompanied by "his peculiar cynical chuckle which could be very annoying". She says her uncle, Hamilton, thereafter slept with a loaded gun beside his bed, in case Falkingham returned. A separate document shows that her uncle David Kerney Jr., who was only 10 on that terrible day in 1874, was later admitted to the hospital after being diagnosed with 'melancholia' (severe depression) and died there in 1911, aged 46. The tragedy had deep and lasting consequences for the Kerney family.

Another clipping sent by Elsie told of an encounter between a neighbouring Glenelg farmer and a stranger in 1944, who stopped his car and asked where Henry Falkingham had lived. After the farmer recounted the tale of the killing, the stranger said "I know, he was my father."

I considered this new evidence and tried hard to verify Ethel Black's claims. Who actually owned the pigs? I checked the online 1871 Census of Glenelg Township, this time looking at Schedule 5 for live-stock and it revealed that both the Kerneys and the Falkinghams, along with most of their neighbours, owned pigs. When did Henry Falkingham actually escape? I had no official documents to confirm this either.

Ethel's statement says that her account was written with the help of an elderly local farmer whose brother was an eyewitness to the tragedy at the threshing bee. The events she was writing about after 67 years were heard second-hand. They may be completely true, but I cannot discount the original newspaper stories either. Although they had obvious flaws, they were written at the time of the events.

I turned my investigation in



**Owen Sound Advertiser Article: Local newspapers provide graphic accounts of tragic events, but don't always get their facts right. The "Edward" Falkingham in this article was actually Henry Falkingham.**

another direction. The Internet made it simple to do what the authorities in the 1870s were unable to — find Henry Falkingham. Henry had a unique name and he was easy to spot in US census data. In 1900, Henry with his wife and family, was living in Tisdale, Cowley County, Kansas, having resumed his career as a wheat farmer. In the census, Henry said that he had entered the United States in 1875, the year

after David Kerney's death, and his youngest daughter Minnie was born in July 1878 in Iowa. There was also information that Henry had died in Tisdale on 22 November 1901, aged 67.

It was easy to imagine what had happened in 1874. Henry, either alone or, more likely, with the assistance of his brothers, had hidden from the authorities and then crossed the border into the United States. His wife Ann, again with family help, had sold their possessions in Glenelg Township and taken the children to meet him there. They travelled west and again became wheat farmers on the frontier. They would have been aware of the prospects in Kansas because, according to local history, there was a migration of many Glenelg farmers there in the 1860s.

The Internet also provided old postings with the names of two Falkingham family genealogists in the United States. I wrote carefully-worded e-mails, asking if they were still interested in their family tree research and if they were aware that Henry Falkingham had been involved in a tragic incident in Glenelg Township in Ontario.

One e-mail came back as undeliverable, but with the other I began a rewarding correspondence with Sheila Johnson, the great-great-granddaughter of Henry Falkingham. Sheila is an avid genealogist who had actually gone to visit the Glenelg Township area in 2008, with no prior knowledge of the tragedy. She found the story of David Kerney's killing in local history books.

Was she horrified by her discovery? Sheila says "I wasn't horrified, but I was stunned. It did provide me with family information that, as far as I know, was not known beyond Henry's immediate family. This was an explanation as to why the family came to the United States."

She says, "If Henry and family had not left Canada, his daughter, Sarah, would not have met

## Tips on Investigating a Murder or Violent Crime in the Family

1) First, do all the normal research that you would do as a good genealogist. Look at birth, marriage and death records. Check the online census and make sure you understand all the information contained in it, for example, the enumeration dates, the existence of any additional schedules and so on. Look at directories, land records, immigration records and any other available information. Make sure you document all your sources.

2) For most cases, there will be extensive newspaper coverage and more and more newspapers are put online every year. Look at both local and national papers, but you must use your judgement. On one hand, you have to take the reporters' accounts with a grain of salt. Their goal was to gather news quickly and write it up in a sensational way that sold newspapers. There may be mistakes or exaggerations in their coverage. On the other hand, newspapers were published at the time the events happened and reporters gathered their accounts from people on the scene, so you can't completely dismiss them either.

3) Try to locate all the official records concerning the crime. Many archives list all their holdings online and others provide an e-mail address and will help you with your search. Remember that there may be different records generated by differ-

ent levels of government — for example, local court and coroner's records, provincial or state police records and federal prison or immigration records — and these records may now be in different archives.

4) The Internet and e-mail can be powerful tools to find and talk to other genealogists, however you must be very diplomatic in contacting the descendants of any tragic incident. Your correspondents may not know that their esteemed ancestor was the victim — or worse, the perpetrator — of a horrible crime.

5) Research the life and times of the people involved. It's called social history and it's interesting for its own sake, but it can also help you understand how those involved in the incident lived and what they thought. The Internet is a quick source of research on specific topics, but use the library too. A librarian can direct you to the appropriate books.

6) Finally, if you are able to do it, publicize your findings. Write the story and post it to your website or on someone else's site. You can tell it to a local reporter or write it up and give it away to a local newspaper, a museum or historical society newsletter. They will often be happy to publish an interesting story.

Leander Rorick in Kansas. I wouldn't exist, nor would my children. For what it's worth, I've learned that whatever the past was, that's what it is. I marvel that any of us exist."

Sheila looked for a trace of the story in genealogical material assembled about 1972 by her late mother with the assistance of a Falkingham cousin, but there was nothing there. She says a non-Falkingham relative, whose family had known the Falinghams back in the days of Henry and Sarah, had never heard of the tragic events either.

By all accounts, the move to Kansas brought much economic hardship, but Henry Falkingham led an exemplary life there. He was active in his local church and raised a fine family. No doubt the moment of rage that led to tragedy was never spoken about and was never repeated.

As for the stranger who

stopped his car to talk to the farmer at the site of the tragedy in 1944, Sheila says it couldn't have been Henry's son. The only son surviving then would have been over 80, probably too old to have made the long journey alone by car and, at any rate, in wartime, there would have been gasoline rationing. She speculates that the incident could have actually happened in the 1920s, however.

My next research task involved contacting the Library and Archives of Canada, [www.collectionscanada.gc.ca](http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca), to see if there was ever an attempt to extradite Henry Falkingham from Kansas to face trial in Ontario. The fact that other Glenelg farmers were in Kansas suggests that Falkingham's presence there was known back home. The Archives staff was helpful, but again, there were no records and it's impossible to tell if there ever were any.

And there my investigation

rests for the moment. If there was an extradition attempted by the Canadian government, there may be some documentation in the United States. Perhaps official records will surface in Ontario as well. I can only spread the story and hope that some day new information will turn up.

And what is Elsie Kerney's take on the tragedy? "What a shame. All of this happened in a moment of anger that could have passed."

IG

*Richard Jordan is a writer based in Mississauga, Ontario. A former local history columnist for the Toronto Star, his family history, Beyond the Great Pine Ridge, was published in 2004. He is currently working on a book about Irish Protestants in Canada.*

# What's in Your Google Toolbox??

*THE GENEALOGIST'S GOOGLE TOOLBOX* is the recently published book by Lisa Louise Cooke, producer and host of The Genealogy Gems podcast and Family History: Genealogy Made Easy podcast. In this book, Cooke demonstrates how genealogists can best make use of the currently available Google tools.

Given that Google and all its tools can be intimidating, this book gives you a friendly place to start by helping you to focus on the tools most useful for researching your genealogy.

The main topics covered include: general searching, site searching, image search, Google alerts, Gmail, iGoogle, Google Books, Google News Timeline, Google Translate, YouTube & Google Video and several chapters on using Google Earth and its features.

If you have spent any time on the Internet at all, you have used Google, or perhaps Yahoo or Dogpile, or any of the numerous other search engines that are out there. As genealogists, we often encounter way too many results, or too few results! The search tips provided in the first few chapters of this book will assist you when searching via Google, or any other Internet search engine, for that matter.

The book also discusses Gmail. Many of us have more than one e-mail account and/or use more than one service. For example, I have separate business and personal e-mail accounts and I also maintain a Gmail account. The greatest convenience for me of a Gmail account is the easy access to all of Google's various elements —

once I am signed in, I have ready access to all of Google. The book does talk about how Gmail is "Not Just Another E-mail Service".

## GOOGLE TOOLBOX

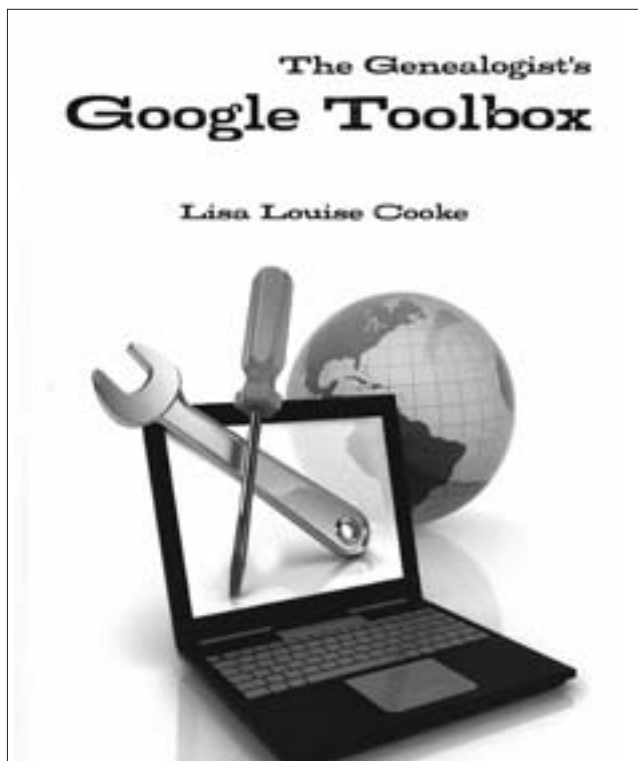
Let's look at a few of the other Google Toolbox elements which

the World Wide Web.

## iGoogle

Until I read this book, I had no idea that you could create a personal Google page. In hindsight, that shouldn't have surprised me, since Yahoo and other search engine interfaces offer similar services. Wow, now I

know what I've been missing! My "raw" and unaltered, by me, iGoogle page includes Google Translate (to be talked about), Google News, Gmail, Date/Time, Weather, Google Calendar (to be talked about) and more. Not only can you make this page into whatever you want (the book helps a lot with this), you can also add "gadgets", and there are over 60 genealogy-related ones, never mind history ones and resources, such as WorldCat, BLM-GLO Land Patent search and many more! I haven't yet explored the ability to create a Tab, which seems like an excellent way to separate my personal needs from my genealogy needs, or the needs of various branches of my family and their corresponding locales.



*Don't be intimidated by the world's most popular search engine — Lisa Louise Cooke's new book will help you to harness the power of Google!*

are a bit less obvious, but yet very useful.

## Google Alerts

With so much new information constantly being added to the Internet, it can be a daunting task trying to stay abreast of newly posted information, queries, resources, etc., that might have relevance to your genealogy research. With Google Alerts, you can let Google do the work of keeping you current on what's available on

## Google Books and Google News

Given the average genealogist's insatiable appetite for books and news sources about ancestors, be sure to check out the chapters on how to best utilize these resources.

## Google Translate

Since most of our ancestors are emigrants and/or have lived in or traveled to other than English-speaking countries, there can be a need to "translate" a website or

document written in another language. Or, maybe you want to write an e-mail or letter to an archive or library to ask for research assistance. I recently used this feature to contact authorities in Finland and France — both to write up my query, and to interpret the answer received.

**YouTube**

This online portal to videos has exploded in the volume of content it handles. In May 2010, it exceeded two billion views a day of its videos. There are many genealogical videos posted to the site, and the ability to create playlists allows you to organize all the videos, whether genealogical in nature or not, that might interest you.

**Google Earth**

Given the complexity and utility of this tool, the book devotes several chapters to it — Google Earth Overview, Google Earth — Ancestral Homes & Locations,

give Google Earth another try, as both a personal and professional genealogy tool.

A very nice feature of the book is all the visuals that are incorporated throughout. Just about every page has at least one image, and often times more, to illustrate the text. Sometimes it can be daunting to jump into a new website, or explore a new website feature — we often sort of stumble around. The visuals provided in the book will help you to quickly acclimate yourself and smooth the path for you to explore further on your own.

**GOOGLE UPDATE**

As the author claims, “The Google tools discussed in this book are a group of constantly evolving programs. It’s only natural that some of the websites and tools I refer to and points I mention in this book will change over time, which is out of my control.”

For example, in May, Google



Google Earth — Saving, Organizing and Sharing, Google Earth — Historic Images & Maps, Google Earth — Plotting Your Ancestor’s Homestead and Family History Tour Maps. Because of the sophistication of this tool, this is where the book really shines, in that it takes you, step-by-step, through “how” you might use the many facets as suggested by the chapter titles. There is so much that can be done with Google Earth and a comprehensive guide is very important to helping to ensure that you “enjoy” learning about this tool, without the frustration I experienced as a newbie trying to explore it on my own. In fact, the book has inspired me to

announced that it was no longer accepting, scanning or indexing microfilm and other archival material from newspapers; though you can still search the available digitized newspapers at the News Archives search page. And, prior to that, in April, Google announced that Google Video was being closed down; not surprising given that Google owns YouTube — a very popular video site!

**CONCLUSION**

Google, and all its elements, is a very important tool in any genealogist’s toolbox. With its easy-to-read format and numerous screen capture images, Cooke helps genealogists, unfamiliar with the

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various Google tools, to identify those that are initially most useful to your research. She creates a low stress way to explore several Google elements which are simple but can be very powerful genealogy research tools. Keep in mind, however, that this book is a stepping stone; be sure to explore all of Google — it has much more to offer than this book mentions.

Once you have gotten your feet wet with the forementioned tools and resources, I expect that you will be off and running as you use Google Documents to store and share select genealogy information, while setting up a Google Group for your family or like-minded genealogists, storing and sharing your photos on Picasa or entering upcoming genealogy meetings and events on your Google Calendar. Whew! Better get started!

IG

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

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# Tracing Your Welsh Roots



*Bryn Celli Ddu: a late Neolithic chambered tomb on Anglesey.*

IF YOU HAVE ANCESTORS who came to North America from Wales, a lot of your genealogy research will be the same as if they were English. Most of Wales had been conquered by England in the 13th century, and the two countries were officially 'united' in 1536. Because of this, Welsh parish registers began in 1538 (or at least they were supposed to) and civil registration in 1837, just as they did in England.

## VITAL RECORDS

You can search indexes of vital records of births, marriages and deaths for England and Wales from 1837-2005 at the subscription websites Ancestry.com (\$), [www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com), and Genes Reunited (\$), [www.genesreunited.co.uk](http://www.genesreunited.co.uk). At the subscription/pay-per-view site Find My Past (\$), [www.findmypast.co.uk](http://www.findmypast.co.uk), you'll also find fully-searchable indexes of births (1837-2006) and marriages (1837-2005), with a searchable

death index to come later in 2011.

At FreeBMD, [www.freebmd.org.uk](http://www.freebmd.org.uk), you can search in the site's volunteer-created vital record indexes from 1837-1952 (with some gaps, particularly in the later years).

Images of the actual English and Welsh vital records themselves are not yet available online, so to view the information they contain, you need to order birth, marriage or death certificates for postal delivery. You can do this at the website of the General Register Office (GRO) for England and Wales (\$), [www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/certificates/default.asp](http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/certificates/default.asp), for a charge of £9.25 (about \$15 USD) per certificate.

Alternatively, the North Wales BMD site (\$), [www.northwalesbmd.org.uk](http://www.northwalesbmd.org.uk), has locally-compiled vital record indexes covering the modern administrative areas of Anglesey, Conwy, Denbighshire, Flintshire, Gwynedd, Wrexham and the northern part of Powys. You can search the as-yet incom-

plete indexes free of charge and print out order forms to send to the appropriate register office. There is a charge of £9 (about \$14 USD) per certificate. (Please note that the reference numbers used in the local indexes are different than the national GRO index references, so you can't use a North Wales BMD reference to order on the GRO website.)

## CENSUS RETURNS

Fully-searchable records of the 1841-1901 censuses of England and Wales are available at Ancestry.com, Find My Past, Genes Reunited and the subscription site, The Genealogist, (\$) [www.thegenealogist.co.uk](http://www.thegenealogist.co.uk), while those for 1911 are available at only Find My Past and Genes Reunited so far. Ancestry.com and The Genealogist will be adding the 1911 census during 2011. (The 1891-1911 census returns will tell you whether your ancestors could speak Welsh, a Celtic language

that's very unlike English.)

At the volunteer transcription site FreeCEN, [www.freecen.org.uk](http://www.freecen.org.uk), you can search the incomplete census records of the Welsh counties of Anglesey (1871 census), Caernarvonshire (1871 and 1891), Carmarthenshire (1871), Denbighshire (1861, 1871 and 1891), Flintshire (1861, 1871 and 1891), Glamorgan (1871 and 1891), Merioneth (1871) and Monmouthshire (1871).

The pay-per-view site, CenQuest, (\$) [www.cenquest.co.uk](http://www.cenquest.co.uk) has transcriptions of the 1841, 1871 (plus images), 1881 and 1891 censuses for Pembrokeshire, as well as the 1670 Hearth Tax for the county.

The National Library of Wales (NLW) in Aberystwyth holds the St. Asaph 'Notitiae' (a mini-census of householders taken in the Diocese of St. Asaph in north-east Wales in the 1680s). You can view images of the householder lists at [www.llgc.org.uk/index.php?id=stasaphnotitiaesamisc1300-](http://www.llgc.org.uk/index.php?id=stasaphnotitiaesamisc1300-).

### PARISH REGISTERS

Over the next two years, Find My Past (in conjunction with the LDS Church's FamilySearch site, [www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org)), will be making available online fully-searchable indexes and images of eight million baptism, marriage and burial records from all the Welsh parishes of the Church of England (and now known as the Church in Wales).

You'll be able to search the indexes free of charge on FamilySearch, where you can already search nearly three-quarters of a million Welsh baptisms, almost 38,000 marriages and over a thousand burials. At the volunteer transcription site FreeREG, [www.freereg.org.uk](http://www.freereg.org.uk), you can also search some Welsh parish register entries.

The Monmouthshire Parish Registers site, <http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~monfamilies/monprts.htm>, set up by genealogist Mike John, has transcriptions of most of the registers for that county in south-east Wales.

The database of the Forest of

Dean Family History site, [www.forest-of-dean.net](http://www.forest-of-dean.net), (whose main area of coverage is the parishes in the Forest of Dean in Gloucestershire, England) includes baptisms, marriages and burials that took place in neighboring parishes in Monmouthshire (including Welsh Bicknor, now part of Herefordshire).

The NLW holds marriage bonds relating to people who preferred to marry by license, rather than having banns read in church on three successive Sundays. The Library has made available online an index of marriage bonds covering the period 1661-1837. You can search them at

that the above Mary would be indexed as Mary Richards up to the end of 1812, and as Mary Williams from the beginning of 1813. This applies even where the father's pre-1813 second name is quite clearly a surname (such as Cole or Wood) rather than a patronymic.

The above doesn't generally apply to Monmouthshire, which FamilySearch considers to be part of England.

### NON-CONFORMIST REGISTERS

In the mid-19th century, three-quarters of the Welsh population didn't worship in Anglican (Church of England) churches, but



Flag of Wales.

<http://isys.llgc.org.uk>. (Because some small areas of England were part of Welsh dioceses, you'll find marriage bonds for north-west Shropshire and south-west Herefordshire included in the index.)

### WELSH SURNAMES, PATRONYMICS AND FAMILYSEARCH

Until as late as the 19th century in some parts of Wales, patronymics were used instead of surnames. This meant that Mary, the daughter of Richard Williams, would have been known as Mary Richards, and not Mary Williams.

In FamilySearch's Welsh databases, 1812 has been taken as the cut-off point for patronymics, so

in Methodist, Baptist, Congregational and other non-conformist chapels. You can search an incomplete database of images of non-parochial baptisms, marriages and burials at the pay-per-view site BMD Registers (\$), [www.bmdregisters.co.uk](http://www.bmdregisters.co.uk), (which you can also use via a subscription to The Genealogist).

### WILLS AND ADMINISTRATIONS

The NLW holds wills and administrations (proved in church courts in Wales from 1556-1858), most of which are digitized and available online at [www.llgc.org.uk/index.php?id=487](http://www.llgc.org.uk/index.php?id=487). As with the marriage bonds, the probate records include north-west Shropshire and south-

## Tracing Your Welsh Roots

west Herefordshire. Records before 1660 for the Diocese of St. Asaph, the Archdeaconry of Brecon and the 'Peculiar' court of Hawarden are not yet available online.

The will of anyone in England and Wales leaving more than £5 in more than one diocese had to be proved in the Prerogative Court of Canterbury (PCC), which was actually located in London. Many other people also chose to prove wills at the PCC, whose records are held by the UK's National Archives (TNA) in London.

You can search the PCC wills proved between 1384 and 1858 at TNA's pay-per-view Documents Online site (\$), [www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/documentsonline/wills.asp?WT.hp=Wills](http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/documentsonline/wills.asp?WT.hp=Wills). The Genealogist also holds images of many wills proved at the PCC, particularly in the period 1673-1857.

From 1858 onwards, wills in England and Wales were proved in civil district registries. At Ancestry.com, you can search the National Probate Calendar for 1861-1941, which contains probate summaries.

### ARMED FORCES RECORDS

You can find records of Welshmen and -women in the United Kingdom armed forces at Ancestry.com (particularly British Army service records for the First World War years), Find My Past (including British Army service records for the period 1760-1913), Documents Online (including Royal Navy, Royal Air Force and Royal Marines records) and Military Genealogy (\$), [www.military-genealogy.com](http://www.military-genealogy.com).

### CRIMINAL RECORDS

The NWL holds the jail files of the Welsh Court of Great Sessions, which you can search online for the period 1730-1830 at the Library's Crime and Punishment site, [www.llgc.org.uk/sesiwn\\_fawr/index\\_s.htm](http://www.llgc.org.uk/sesiwn_fawr/index_s.htm). There are also criminal registers covering all of England and Wales from 1791-1892 at Ancestry.com.

The NLW also has the Cardiganshire Constabulary register of criminals 1897-1933, which

is online at [www.llgc.org.uk/index.php?id=criminals](http://www.llgc.org.uk/index.php?id=criminals). There are photographs of many of the criminals, an index of whom you can find at the GENUKI genealogy portal, [www.genuki.org.uk/big/wal/CGN/CGNCriminals.html](http://www.genuki.org.uk/big/wal/CGN/CGNCriminals.html). You'll see that a large number of the men and women in the register come from outside Wales: from places in England, Ireland, Scotland and the Channel Islands - as well as India and New Zealand!

### ARCHIVE CATALOGS

You can search the pre-1999 archives of the NLW at <http://isys.llgc.org.uk> and its more recent acquisitions at <http://cat.llgc.org.uk/cgi-bin/gw/chameleon?&skin=full&lng=en>. In addition, you can search across all the Library's catalogs using the beta version of its new Aquabrowser at <http://discover.llgc.org.uk>.

The website Archives Wales, [www.archiveswales.org.uk](http://www.archiveswales.org.uk), (previously known as Archives Network Wales) allows you to search the collections of 21 archives in Wales. Two of these archives also have their own online catalogs: Ceredigion Archives, <http://archifdy-ceredigion.org.uk/catalogue.php> and Gwynedd Council, [www.gwynedd.gov.uk/DATRhagorolNET/Default.aspx?iaith=en](http://www.gwynedd.gov.uk/DATRhagorolNET/Default.aspx?iaith=en).

### Other Welsh Websites

You'll find Samuel Lewis's *Topographical Dictionary of Wales*, published in 1849, at the British History Online (BHO) website, [www.british-history.ac.uk/source.aspx?pubid=371](http://www.british-history.ac.uk/source.aspx?pubid=371). Lewis's 1840 map of England and Wales is also online at the MAPCO site, <http://mapco.net/lewis/lewis.htm>. BHO also 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).

The Cambrian newspaper index, [www.swansea.gov.uk/index.cfm?articleid=5673](http://www.swansea.gov.uk/index.cfm?articleid=5673), covers items (including births, marriages and deaths) in the first newspaper published in Wales from its launch in 1804 until it merged with other newspapers in 1930 to become the Herald of Wales. The index also

includes births, marriages and deaths in The South Wales Daily Post from 1893, and some items from the Western Mail.

Three websites with databases containing information about Welsh merchant seamen are Welsh mariners, [www.welshmariners.org.uk](http://www.welshmariners.org.uk) (which covers the period 1800-1945, and also has a Royal Navy database covering 1795-1815), Cardiff mariners, [www.cardiffmariners.org.uk](http://www.cardiffmariners.org.uk), and Swansea mariners, [www.swanseamariners.org.uk](http://www.swanseamariners.org.uk).

Coal mining was one of the principal industries of Wales in the 19th century, and you can find out more about it at the Coalmining History Resource Centre, [www.cmhrc.co.uk/site/home/index.html](http://www.cmhrc.co.uk/site/home/index.html), (with a database of mining deaths since 1700), the South Wales Coalfield Collection, [www.swan.ac.uk/swcc](http://www.swan.ac.uk/swcc), Welsh Coal Mines, [www.welshcoalmines.co.uk](http://www.welshcoalmines.co.uk), and Coalfield Web Materials, [www.agor.org.uk/cwm](http://www.agor.org.uk/cwm).

The People's Collection Wales, <http://beta.peoplescollectionwales.co.uk>, is a new Welsh history site that you can contribute to yourself, while Gathering the Jewels, [www.gtj.org.uk/en](http://www.gtj.org.uk/en), holds over 30,000 images of objects, books, letters and aerial photos from Welsh museums, archives and libraries.

John Ball's Welsh Family History Archive, [www.jlb2005.plus.com/wales](http://www.jlb2005.plus.com/wales) includes many photographs, Welsh words and phrases on gravestones, and mid-19th century maps of the 13 historic counties of Wales and the four English border counties. Gareth's Help Page, <http://home.clara.net/tirbach/hicks.html>, contains a considerable amount of useful information about Welsh family history, and Data Wales, [www.data-wales.co.uk](http://www.data-wales.co.uk), is another site that contains much general information about the country.

The OGRE (Online Genealogical Research Engine), [www.cefpennar.com](http://www.cefpennar.com), includes the Return of Owners of Land 1873 for Wales, many photographs of monumental inscriptions in graveyards in Monmouthshire and Glamorgan, various Roman

Catholic registers, and a transcription of the parish register of Llanbadog, Monmouthshire from 1582-1709.

Powys History Online, [www.powys.gov.uk/index.php?id=644&L=0](http://www.powys.gov.uk/index.php?id=644&L=0), provides access to Victorian Powys for Schools (with information on 18 communities in the historic counties of Breconshire, Montgomeryshire and Radnorshire), Powys: A Day in the Life (comparing life in the area in 1891 and 2002), Powys Digital History Project (about six communities in the three counties) and Their Past, Your Future (a project to mark the 60th anniversary of the end of the Second World War).

Welsh Biography Online, <http://yba.llgc.org.uk/en/index.html>, has about 5,000 biographies of eminent Welshmen, and -women, who died before 1971.

The website of the Association of Family History Societies of Wales, [www.fhswales.org.uk](http://www.fhswales.org.uk),

includes Welsh to English translations (of forenames, surnames, relationships, occupations, place names, etc.) for Householders' Schedules in the 1911 census of Wales, as you may find these written in Welsh. The site also provides links to the eight genealogical societies that cover Wales.

For much of the 475 years since its union with England, the first language of Wales has been Welsh, which is very different to English (but closely related to Breton and Cornish, and more distantly to Irish, Scottish Gaelic and Manx).

The ancestor of the Welsh language was British, a Celtic language probably spoken over most of Britain when the Romans invaded the island about 2,000 years ago. Since the arrival of the Angles, Saxons and Jutes in the fourth and fifth centuries, the English language has become the first language of most of the popu-

lation of Britain, Ireland and the Isle of Man.

Finally, you can find links to yet more Welsh websites at the genealogy portals Relative Links, [www.riggs.org.uk/Links/index.htm](http://www.riggs.org.uk/Links/index.htm), GENUKI, [www.genuki.org.uk/big/wal](http://www.genuki.org.uk/big/wal), Wales GenWeb, [www.wales-genweb.com](http://www.wales-genweb.com), Census Finder, [www.censusfinder.com/wales.htm](http://www.censusfinder.com/wales.htm), Cyndi's List, [www.cyndislist.com/wales.htm](http://www.cyndislist.com/wales.htm), UKBMD, [www.ukbmd.org.uk](http://www.ukbmd.org.uk), UKGDL, [www.ukgdl.org.uk](http://www.ukgdl.org.uk), UKMFH, [www.ukmfh.org.uk](http://www.ukmfh.org.uk) and UKIsearch, [www.ukisearch.com/wales.html](http://www.ukisearch.com/wales.html).

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*Alan Stewart has been tracing his ancestors for more than 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 at <http://growyourownfamilytree.wordpress.com>.*

## Internet Genealogy Library



An astonishing 40 percent of Americans living today are related to immigrants who arrived at Ellis Island between 1892 and 1957. While the records they created are vast and complex, this "Genealogy a glance" outline by professional genealogist Sharon Carmack offers instant guidance through the millions of documents they left behind. During the peak years 1892 to 1924, over 22 million passengers entered New York through Ellis Island, leaving behind a body of records that are crucial in bridging the gap between the old country and the new. And these records are absolutely unique, providing information that can't be found anywhere else. Examples of this information include the passenger's last place of residence, final destination in the U.S., if going to join a relative, the relative's name and address, personal description, place of birth, and name and address of closest living relative in the native country. The records containing this information are available on National Archives microfilm and online in two principal databases, but the key to their location and use is right here in this "At a glance" publication. In just four pages--laminated for heavy use and convenience--Ellis Island records become intelligible and accessible, and along with a handy list of books for further reference and a list of online resources, research in this massive body of records can now be accomplished at a glance. ISBN: 9780806318844, Item #: GPC882, Price: \$7.95. Postage \$4.00 for the first item, and \$2.50 on each subsequent one in the same order.



The full story of Washington's Flying Camp is told for the first time in Richard Lee Baker's new book, *"Villainy and Maddness" Washington's Flying Camp*. Drawing on original sources, particularly the correspondence of the Continental Congress, state committees of safety, the George Washington papers, and more, Baker fills in the gaps in the history of the Flying Camp that have eluded historians until now. In his able hands, we trace the Flying Camp from its beginnings in Washington's imagination, to the dispatches of the new Congress enjoining the Middle States to commit specified numbers of militiamen to this important cause, to the logistical difficulties in achieving the objectives in General Washington's master plan, and to the actual service of Flying Camp militia in the campaigns of 1776. The author devotes a separate chapter to Delaware, Maryland, Pennsylvania, and New Jersey, delineating each state's response to the call for a Flying Camp contingent, difficulties in assembling the forces on a timely basis, and the unending problem of militiamen returning home to tend to their crops following their abbreviated terms of service. At the same time, however, Baker sheds light on the valuable service rendered by Flying Camp members on the battlefield as well as in their capacities as engineers, physicians, and artillerymen. Genealogists will appreciate the many references to actual members of the Flying Camp throughout the narrative, including General Hugh Mercer, one of Washington's best generals and a fatality at the Battle of Princeton. The work concludes with a list of Flying Camp commanders and officers, a comprehensive bibliography, and a full-name index. ISBN: 9780806355061, Item #: CF9062, Price: \$25.45 ppd.

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# SCGS 2011 Jamboree Wrap-Up

IF YOU'VE NEVER BEEN to the Southern California Genealogical Society Jamboree, you're missing a great event. As in recent years, the 42nd edition was recently held at the Los Angeles Marriott Burbank Airport Hotel from Friday June 10th until Sunday June 12th. The venue was conveniently located across the street from the Bob Hope International Airport in the shadow of the Hollywood Hills.

## Highlights

Over 1,500 attendees took in over 130 lectures at the conference. Organizers had 10 simultaneous tracks set up with lectures conducted by some of genealogy's best-known speakers. Included were many *Family Chronicle* and *Internet Genealogy* regular contributors including Lisa Alzo, Gena Ortega, Elyse Doerflinger, Maureen Taylor, Leland Meitzler and more. There were also many workshops conducted, including the pre-conference Thursday all-day writer's workshop with the opening talk given by well-known genealogist, speaker and author, John Philip Colletta, Ph.D. John is a popular figure in the world of genealogy and is a must-see if you ever get the chance. Another key attraction was the *Tech Zone*, a room of Internet-enabled computers giving attendees a chance to try out many of the popular online databases, including: Ancestry Library Edition, American

Ancestors.org, FindMyPast.co.uk, African American Biographical, MyHeritage, FamilySearch and many others.

Vendor hall traffic was steady and there was a lot for visitors to see and do. Notable on the technology front was an increasing number of tablet computing devices being carried by attendees. I saw many iPads, Samsung Galaxies, Acer Iconias and others.

It was also a fitting venue for the release of the *Internet Genealogy* iTunes app, which launched on the opening day of the conference. Now *Family Chronicle* and *Internet Genealogy* (as well as our *History Magazine*) are available on iTunes as apps for only \$1.99 ea. The initial app purchase entitles the buyer to one back issue of their choice from those listed, and you can also subscribe to one or two-year subscriptions through the app. Watch the magazine or our websites for information on future mobile platform releases.

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*Photos clockwise from directly below: Blogger and author Gena Ortega (left), and Louise St. Denis of The National Institute for Genealogical Studies; Our own Rick Cree (left) and MyHeritage's Chief Genealogist Daniel Horowitz at the FC/IG booth; The helpful staff of the US Dept. of the Interior - Bureau of Land Mgmt's General Land Office Records were busy fielding questions throughout the conference.*





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# Using Google Scholar For Genealogy!



AMONG THE VARIOUS professions our ancestors and relatives took, academic career is very difficult to track. Academic researchers do not promote themselves by newspaper ads nor are they listed in business directories. Furthermore, academia, mythed as an elitist ivory tower, is in some sense, out of reach for many non-native scholars. However, one of the most basic working tools for scholars might be of great help for genealogists tracing their relatives who took an academic career. It is academic publication. By their very nature, academic publications are mostly publicly available and inter-connected, which makes them a very powerful tool for genealogists.

In this article, we will introduce you to the basic concepts of academia and academic publishing, and then demonstrate how genealogists can use such a resource for their research. In particular, we will explain how to use Google Scholar for searching academic publications.

**ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS EXPLAINED** Universities, as well as other higher-education institutes, are often thought of as places where professors teach and students learn. However, this is only half true. Besides teaching and training generations of students, universities world-wide are research institutes and their professors are researchers.

An integral part of the research process is the reporting. This is usually done via all kinds of aca-

demical publications, the major of which are: journal articles, book chapters, conference proceedings and dissertations. The main purpose of these publications is to communicate research ideas and research results, thus enabling fruitful discussion within the relevant research community. And here is the best part: as research communities usually spread in different countries, most of the materials are in English.

Little is common to academic publications of different disciplines, and even within the same discipline, publications often do not share structure, format or length, not to mention research interests or methodologies. However, all of the academic publications share a similar pattern of identification, which most importantly (to our needs) includes the name(s) of the author(s) - usually appear in indexes by last name and initials of first/middle names; their affiliation; and the year the work was published.

## HOW CAN ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS PROMOTE YOUR RESEARCH?

If you have scholar ancestors or relatives, looking for their publications might tremendously help you in enriching your knowledge about them. In particular, you might be able to answer the following questions:

- **Where did they live?** An academic career is just like many other careers, and in particular, scholars have offices or labs at the affiliated institute. This means that

scholars usually live in the university vicinity (exceptions do exist, as for any other case). Placing a person in a certain area in a given period (based on the publishing year) might help in obtaining vital records, and generally will assist you by focusing the research locally. Having the affiliation information, you might contact that institute's archives, asking for documentation about the scholar career, awards, etc. If the person had moved to different locations over his professional career, you might find clues to that in articles from different periods.

- **What did they do?** Though academic publications are written in a formal and focused way (it's really not like the research news published in *Popular Science*), you might learn about the main research interests of your scholar relatives. If physicists, were they focusing on thermodynamics or quantum mechanics? If engineers, were they civil or electrical engineers? And if historians, had they studied military history or the history of modern America?

Combining this with the history of the relevant discipline, you will be able to better understand their career and life story.

- **Whom did they work with?** Academic research may be taken independently or jointly with peers. In the latter case, all the collaborators will appear on the publication title. Contacting them, you might get some more stories on your relative, even personal anecdotes.

*Continued on page 54*

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## Using Google Scholar For Genealogy

### • How can I find my lost family?

If you look for a long-lost family member who is an academic researcher, you might find their updated contacts within academic publications or by referring to the affiliated institute. Asking collaborators or colleagues about them might also help in locating them.

• **Is there an obituary?** In some academic publications, it is common to find obituaries of the relevant community member. These obituaries are searchable, just like the rest of that publication's content.

### USING GOOGLE SCHOLAR

Google Scholar, <http://scholar.google.com>, released in 2004, has become the most powerful tool for searching academic publications. It covers a range of academic disciplines from thousands of publishers of academic materials. For many researchers, it serves as the starting point for their academic literature searches.

Similar to its well-known ancestor, i.e., Google search, it offers simple search with special operators (basic Google operators like +, -, OR, "", (), etc. might be used as well) and advance search. The advance search enables you to limit search term to the author (equivalent to using the operator *author:*) or publication (also, you can use the operator *intitle:* to search only in publication titles), and to filter results by years of publication and subject areas. As usual with Google search engines, corrections to the search query might be suggested.

The search results are sorted by a secrecy ranking algorithm, however, it is known that besides text features (e.g., the frequency of the search term in the title or text), it takes into consideration the number of citations of the publications, a standard academic measure for the work's importance. Each section in the results summarizes the most important details of the relevant publication. For a better understanding of the search results, we will use the example shown in figure 1, which is a result of searching for Daniel Kahneman (2002 Economics Nobel Prize

Laureate) in Google Scholar.

On the first row, the linkable title of the publication appears ("Prospect theory: An analysis of decision under risk") with the file format (PDF). Then, on the second row, in a smaller green font, appears the name of the author (D Kahneman) — with ellipsis indicating that the article was written by co-authors, followed by the

written jointly with Amos Tversky, submitted in 1977 when the authors were affiliated to The University of British Columbia (Kahneman) and Stanford University (Tversky).

The content of the publication might be available in various formats, and often it is not fully digital (i.e., text search within the publication is not possible). However,



Figure 1. First result on a search for Daniel Kahneman.

publication title ("Econometrica: Journal of the Econometric..."), the publication year (1979) and the publisher ("JSTOR"). After that, a short section from the found text is presented, with the search term bolded.

The bottom row suggests further actions:

- **"Cited by..."** indicates the number of articles citing this one, and upon clicking it, all these articles will be presented as new query results — this is a great way to get to know colleagues and academic successors;
- **"Related articles"** will apply another secrecy algorithm by Google for finding related articles;
- **"FullTextFinder@<host>"** will be visible only in cases your computer is connected to a network in which a full text search is supported (usually, in big libraries);
- **"Library Search"** will lead you to search results of this title in WorldCat, [www.worldcat.org](http://www.worldcat.org), a union catalog of more than 70,000 libraries in more than a hundred countries (the catalogs cover the libraries' holdings, including offline collections);
- **"All <number> versions"** will present all the search results for that title only (from various sources);
- Sometimes, a **"Cached"** version will be linked in this bottom line too.

By getting the full version of that article, one learns that it was

in most cases, titles and authors are indexed and abstracts are searchable.

You might find that eventually the title of the publication leads you to an unauthorized webpage, as many publishers' databases are subscription-based. In this case, check the other versions of the paper, you might find an available copy of the specific publication, or check other publications by the same author. If you still need an unauthorized page, check your local public library or a nearby university/college library, you might be able to access it from there.

### SUMMARY

Finding academic publications of your scholar relatives is a great way to learn more about them. Searching Google Scholar, with its intuitive interface for Google users, is quick and easy, and you can find what you want even without being fluent in the academic language.

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*Arnon Hershkovitz, PhD., is a professional genealogist. He is the founder and the leader of an online Jewish genealogy organization (Israeli Family Roots Forum) and served as the Head Genealogy Consultant of the Israeli production of "Who Do You Think You Are?".*

# Spotlight on... birth, marriage and death records



Hello, my name's Amy and I work for findmypast.co.uk

Are you new to family history and unsure where to start? Maybe you already have a subscription and would like a few hints and tips? I'm here to help!

In each edition of 'Spotlight on...', I'll show you one of the record sets you'll find at findmypast.co.uk. First up, the birth, marriage and death records (BMDs).

Findmypast.co.uk has just completed a two-year project to make the BMDs incredibly easy to use.

When you search for an ancestor's death at findmypast.co.uk, you are now searching through the deaths registered in England and Wales and the records of British subjects who died abroad.

This is the only place you can search these records in one go (the same is true of the births and marriages), so if you've struggled to find your relatives elsewhere, try again using our powerful new search.

To search these records, click on the BMD tab at the top of the screen. Here, I'm looking for the death of Emmeline Pankhurst. You can search with as little as a surname, but can also add in extra details like a first name, date, place of death or year of birth. I know Emmeline was born in 1858 so I've entered this.

The search results are listed in order of relevance so you'll see exact matches at the top. Click the button on the right to view the death record you're interested in.

The record tells us that Emmeline's death was registered in Marylebone in April/May/June 1928 and that she was 69. You can order a copy of the death certificate by following the link in the 'what to do next' section. You'll need the volume and page numbers, so make a note of these.

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	COUNTY OF REGISTRATION	PLACE	REGISTERED DATE
Pankhurst	Emmeline	England	London, Marylebone	1928
Pankhurst	Stan E A	England	Cheshire, Macclesfield	1919
Pankhurst	Bertha E	England	York, Doncaster	1915
Pankhurst	John E	England	Sussex, Brighton	1912
Pankhurst	Heather E	England	York, Wetherby	1910
Pankhurst	Shirley E	England	Essex, West Ham	1910
Pankhurst	Leona E	England	York, Harrogate	1909

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