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Publication Mail Agreement No. 40062922

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.

| | | | |
|------------|---------|----|----|
| McCarthy | Marvina | 22 | 21 |
| Kallagher | Patrick | 22 | 21 |
| O'Sullivan | Mollie | 22 | 21 |
| O'Malley | Michael | 21 | 21 |
| Walsh | Mary | 22 | 21 |
| Sheridan | 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.

1917 REGISTRATION CARD 9 - 21

Michael O'Malley 23

2 6 H.C. Washington, D.C.

September 29 1913

decendant

Wilmington Ireland

Michael's 1917 draft card

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

| | | | | |
|---|------|---------|-----------------|----|
| 1 | Male | Fireman | Factory | 23 |
| 2 | Male | Fireman | Fire Department | 24 |
| 3 | Male | Shifter | Car Barn | 25 |
| 4 | Male | Laborer | Scinding Co. | 26 |

Michael in the 1920 U.S. Census

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IMPRESSIVE TURNOUT FOR FGS IN KNOXVILLE!

Where has the summer gone? It was definitely in beautiful Knoxville, Tennessee in mid-August where daytime temperatures were in the 90s and the scissor-grinder cicadas seemed to serenade well into the evening. Thankfully, we spent our days in the airconditioned comfort of the Knoxville Convention Center for the FGS's 2010 Conference. It was nice to meet and chat with so many of our southern friends and subscribers, as well as other vendors and key genealogy people from all over North America and beyond. The turnout was impressive, given the population of Knoxville and its surroundings, and the event was one of the better organized that I have attended in the last few years. Congratulations to the organizers for a great event! And thank you to the folks of Knoxville for their generous hospitality. We look forward to 2011 when we'll meet again in Springfield Illinois, September 7 to 10.



Clockwise from top-left: Sue de Groot and Ruth Blair of the National Institute for Genealogical Studies with FGS Onsite Exhibit Hall Coordinator Gordon Erickson; Genealogist and regular conference attendee Bob McLaren dressed in his usual Scottish attire; Researcher, editor, educator and FGS speaker Tom Jones with Sue Kaufman and Loretto Szucs at the FGS booth; Martha Mercer and customers at her Maia's Books booth.

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Net Notes

ATLANTA HISTORIC NEWSPAPER ARCHIVE

<http://dlg.galileo.usg.edu/atlnewspapers>

THIS DATABASE CONSISTS OF more than 67,000 newspaper pages, spanning the years 1857-1922 and provides historical images that are both full-text searchable and can be browsed by date.

The archive includes the following Atlanta newspaper titles: *Atlanta Daily Herald*

(1873-1876), *Atlanta Georgian* (1906-1911), *Atlanta Intelligencer* (1851, 1854-1871), *Atlantian* (1911-1922), *Daily/Georgia Weekly Opinion* (1867-1868), *Georgia*



Literary and Temperance Crusader (1860-1861), *New Era* (1869-1872), *Southern Confederacy* (1861-1864), *Southern World* (1882-1885), *Sunny South* (1875-1907), *Weekly Constitution* (1869-1882) and more.

Another great newspaper resource for both those with ancestors from Atlanta and students of mid-to-late 19th century and early 20th century American history.

— DIANE L. RICHARD

OLD FULTON NEW YORK POSTCARDS

<http://FultonHistory.com>

DON'T LET THE NAME of this website fool you ...it actually provides searchable access to a collection of over 13,501,000 Old New York State Historical Newspaper Pages.

To learn what pages and coverage are included, check out http://fultonhistory.com/my_photo_albums/All_Newspapers/index.html. From here you can browse the available issues or if you prefer, there is an excel spreadsheet available at http://fultonhistory.com/my_photo_albums/All_Newspapers/PostCard_NewspaperIndex.xls which also allows you to browse a particular newspaper of interest.

Or, there is a search engine on the main page that

allows you to search on terms of interest. When you find an entry of interest, just click on it and a PDF version of the identified article becomes available; you can then zoom in/out, print, save or perform other actions on the found article.

I'll tell you that it's a website that is somewhat different from what you are used to. Though, if it has coverage of the newspapers for a community that interests you for a particular time period, you won't care that it's an older-style website that can be a little awkward to use.

— DIANE L. RICHARD

DIGITIZED NEW JERSEY SANBORN MAPS

<http://library.princeton.edu/libraries/firestone/rbcs/aids/sanborn/sanborn-web.xls>.

THE PRINCETON UNIVERSITY Library has completed a multi-year project of digitizing a collection of 19th- and 20th-century maps that illustrate the history and development of communities around New Jersey.

The Department of Rare Books and Special Collections has cataloged and scanned some 16,000 lithograph sheets of 21 by 25 inch Sanborn Co. fire insurance maps that have been in the library's Historic Maps Collection since the 1970s.

Fire insurance maps, pioneered in the United States by the Sanborn Co. in the mid 19th century, enabled insurance companies to determine the risk and liability of a property based on data, such as the size, shape and function of buildings or the materials used to build particular structures.

There is an online catalog of the Sanborn records available in this collection, <http://library.princeton.edu/libraries/firestone/rbcs/aids/sanborn/> (note that this is the most basic of interfaces). Viewers can access the online maps, organized by county and town, from an Excel spreadsheet, <http://library.princeton.edu/libraries/firestone/rbcs/aids/sanborn/sanborn-web.xls>.

Only maps published up to 1922 are available for viewing on the website, and they are not downloadable.

— DIANE L. RICHARD

OHIO OBITUARY INDEX

www.rbhayes.org/hayes/index/

AN INDEX TO OVER 1,600,000 obituaries, death and marriage notices and other sources from Ohio from the 1810s to the present day is available on the website for the Rutherford B. Hayes Presidential Center. This index only includes obituaries for select counties, shown on this map, <http://index.rbhayes.org/hayes/index/display.asp?id=934&subj=index> and the referenced newspapers with information on years indexed can be found at <http://www.rbhayes.org/hayes/index/list.asp>. Besides



obituaries, other sources have been included and a list of these is found at <http://www.rbhayes.org/hayes/index/OtherSources.asp>.

Copies of any obituaries found in the index can be obtained for a nominal charge from the center and details are provided on how to do this.

If you have Ohio ancestors, check the index for them. Even if they didn't live in the counties identified on the map, it doesn't mean that their death was not reported elsewhere. Obituaries can be such a great source of information about an ancestor.

— DIANE L. RICHARD

SWISS REFUGEES DATABASE

http://etat.geneve.ch/dt/archives/a_votre_service-liste_refugies-1700.html

THIS IS A DATABASE of more than 25,000 persons who fled to neutral Switzerland during World War II. The complete list is presented alphabetically, either as one list or as a series of lists, one for each letter of the alphabet.

Information about each individual includes name (first and last), date of birth and nationality. The site is in French.

Much of the content in the database is under-

standable on inspection and for any unfamiliar text, use an online translator (this is highly suggested for the introductory material given, which explains the context of the entries and any peculiarities that you might come across).

Note that the dates are given as day.month.year, which is the European convention.

— DIANE L. RICHARD

LONDON LIVES

www.londonlives.org

A FULLY SEARCHABLE database of 240,000 manuscripts from eight archives and fifteen datasets, giving access to 3.35 million names from 18th century London. This collection focuses on plebeian Londoners and as such includes the records created by the criminal justice system as well as by poor relief institutions, those that provided medical treatment, etc.

We genealogists know that documenting non-landed individuals can be a challenge in the 18th century and this website opens the door to those researching such for London. The database is searchable and contains fully digitized images of included documents.

Even if you are not researching 18th century London ancestors, you'll find that the website provides a fascinating window into the life of London's poor.

— DIANE L. RICHARD



Chelsea and Greenwich Pension Records

UNTIL THE LATE-17th century, there was little care for elderly or incapacitated soldiers and sailors. In England, some scraped by on parish poor relief from religious orders, however, many had no help at all. The problem became worse as England moved towards keeping a permanent standing army after the Restoration of Charles II to the throne in 1660. At this time, there were the old veterans of the Royalist forces in the English Civil War to consider.

In the early years of the reign of King Charles II, officers bent the rules to keep soldiers on regimental payrolls long after they were able to perform duty. This provided enough care for old soldiers to live, but at a great cost to the army and to a regiment's efficiency. A royal decree of 1681 authorized the building of a hospital in London for needy veterans and this was the beginning of the Royal Hospital Chelsea. The site of an unfinished college on the Thames in the London borough of Chelsea was chosen for the hospital. Sir Christopher Wren designed the hospital's magnificent buildings, which he arranged around large courtyards.

Charles II saw some of the work completed before his death in 1685. An old legend has it that the king was persuaded to start the hospital by his lovely mistress, Nell Gwynn.

Construction at Chelsea dragged on for so long that it was 1692 before the first residents moved into the hospital. During that time, another hospital for army veterans, the Royal Kilmainham Hospital, opened in Dublin in 1684 (until 1800, the British Army had separate establishments for Ireland and Britain). This hospital remained open for



In-pensioners attend a church service in the Royal Hospital Chelsea chapel. The chapel was designed by Sir Christopher Wren.

veterans until 1929, when the remaining residents were transferred to Chelsea. The Kilmainham Hospital buildings today house the Irish Museum of Modern Art. Some microfilmed records of the Kilmainham Hospital and its in-pensioners can be found at the Family History Library.

Like Kilmainham, Chelsea Hospital was part hospital and part what we might today call an assisted living facility. The "in-pensioners" lived on the premises and took their meals in the Great Hall. Far more veterans were "out-pensioners", who lived in their own homes and received a stipend from the Crown. These out pensions were administered by the hospital, which also even-

tually took over the out pension payments for Kilmainham. Pensioners could potentially be young men, because they were eligible for a pension after only 12 years of service.

Chelsea in-pensioners wore distinctive military-style uniforms with scarlet jackets. At one time, it was a capital crime to impersonate a Chelsea pensioner.

Major funding for the hospital originally came from a tax of one shilling per pound on the purchase of officers' commissions and the donation of one day's pay per year by all officers and enlisted men.

In 1888, there were 540 in-pensioners and a staggering 60,000 out-pensioners. The latter received anywhere from one and a quarter pence to three shillings 10 pence a day.

The famous Chelsea Flower Show has been held on the hospital grounds since 1913. History was made again in 1949, when the first televised church service in Great Britain was broadcast from Wren Chapel at the hospital.

The Royal Hospital Chelsea remains open today for care for British veterans. Upgrades to the facilities balance the needs and comforts of the residents with the desire to preserve the beauty of Wren's historic architecture and the hospital grounds. Their website at, <http://www.chelsea-pensioners.co.uk/home>, has some interesting historical and architectural pages.

Records of Chelsea Pensioners
Records of Chelsea pensioners are abundant and offer a source of tracing the story of an ancestor who served in the ranks of the British Army. The pension information is especially useful in earlier times, when most records relat-

ed to officers rather than enlisted men.

Findmypast.co.uk launched a collection called *Chelsea Pensioners British Army Service Records 1760-1913*. Scheduled for completion in September 2011, the collection is growing in installments. At the moment, they have over three million images from the years 1855-1900. Eventually, the finished collection will have nine million images from the National Archives, covering the eras from the Seven Years' War (a.k.a., the French and Indian War) and the American Revolution to the Boer War and later. Included are records of some soldiers from Ireland and the British colonies. Individual files usually run from four to six pages and sometimes more. Information for each soldier includes a history of their service, medical information, his place of birth, next of kin, their profession before enlistment and a physical description. The pensioners also added their signatures to the documents.

Before the popularity of photography in the 1840s, detailed descriptive files were necessary for armies to identify soldiers if they deserted and to catch fraudulent pension applicants. Each British regiment maintained "description books" (in the US, Civil War regiments had similar "descriptive books"). Descriptive information, such as scars, tattoos, chest size and color of eyes and hair, are recorded in the Chelsea pension files.

To search the files, visit Find My Past's military records page at <http://www.findmypast.co.uk/MilitaryChooseSearchType.jsp>, and select British Army Service Records 1760-1913. A link to the Chelsea Pensioners section is on the right-hand side of the page. If the years you are searching for aren't online yet, you can also sign up for a newsletter, which will keep you informed when new files are added to the pension collection.

Naval Pensioners of the Royal Greenwich Hospital

In 1694, the Royal Greenwich Hospital, the seafaring equivalent

of the Royal Chelsea Hospital, opened in Greenwich, London. Also designed by Sir Christopher Wren, this institution took in sailors and marines. Like Chelsea Hospital, the out-pensioners far outnumbered in-pensioners. The hospital also administered pensions for naval widows and children and ran a school for the children of sailors. The Chatham Chest, a naval veterans' charity dating back to 1590, was brought under the administration of the Royal Greenwich Hospital.

Greenwich out-pensioners could still take other employment. Either class of pensioner could rejoin the Royal Navy, but their pensions would stop until they left active service.

Greenwich remains as a charitable institution, but the old naval hospital closed in 1869. The Royal Naval College operated there until 1998. Today, the Greenwich Foundation protects the site, leasing buildings to Greenwich University and the Trinity College of Music.

Pension records of the Royal Greenwich Hospital are particularly useful for the pre-1853 era because, until that year, the Royal Navy did not keep files on individual "ratings", or enlisted men. Army and naval officers are not included in the records of these royal hospitals, as they received half-pay upon retirement and they were assumed to come from financially comfortable families.

The Asplin Military History Resources site at www.britishmedals.us/kevin/greenwich.html, has lists of Greenwich in-pensioners for the years 1824-1853, compiled by Kevin Asplin and Ted Beard from National Archives records. Among the sailors are numerous men who were born in the US and elsewhere around the world. The National Archives at Kew has relevant records for the pensioners of Chelsea, Greenwich and Kilmainham Hospitals. You can check their helpful online research guides index at <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/catalogue/researchguidesindex.asp>. Most in-depth work requires a visit to the archives or hiring a researcher, but

the resources at Find My Past and the Family History Library have made at least some of these records more accessible.

The catalog of the Family History Library lists numerous works concerning the pensioners of the Chelsea, Greenwich and Kilmainham Hospitals. Visit <http://www.familysearch.org/eng/default.asp>, and under the "Search Records" tab, select "Library Catalog".

Microfilms can be borrowed through your local Family History Center. Notable among the Family History Library's resources is the 31-reel set *Regimental Registers of Pensioners*, arranged by regiments in which they last served.

As more pension records are put online, these old documents will be helpful to many families with links to Britain's army and navy in past centuries.

IG

David A. Norris' interest in history led him to notice how heavily historic events affected his own family history, to the point of affecting what kinds of records were written down and which of them survived or were destroyed over the years.

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- Monthly Program Meetings with Speakers
- Educational Workshops
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Tracing Your Norwegian Ancestry

NORWAY IS A COUNTRY of great distances, with mountains and fjords preventing easy communication as in the prairie lands of Minnesota or Saskatchewan. In the 1800s, many Norwegians moved from their isolated valleys to the towns seeking work, while others emigrated. In the peak year of 1882, more than 28,800 Norwegians sailed to North America.

Emigration from Norway is a vast topic and the genealogical sources available in Norway are many. This article will give you the basics to enable you to start searching for your Norwegian ancestors, as well as some background information.

Norwegian Naming Customs

In 1923, a law was passed stating that each person should have at least one Christian name and one surname. Before that, it was usual in Norway to have both a Christian name and a patronymic (derived from the father's

Christian name). A farm or place name was often appended, to distinguish one Peder Olsen from another. He might be called Peder Olsen Oppigård, being christened Peder, the son of Ole who resided at Oppigård. If he later moved to the farm Berg, he might be called Peder Olsen Berg. His sister would have the patronymic Olsdatter, daughter of Ole. The higher classes usually had inherited surnames, but towards the end of the 19th century, these became common in all levels of society. Some took their farm name as a surname, (e.g., Berg) and others inherited their father's patronymic as a surname, (e.g., Andersen).

However, many Christian names and surnames were changed or anglicized upon emigration to North America.

Restricted Access

Many countries have legislations governing access to genealogical records. The laws protecting per-

sonal data are comparatively strict in Norway and result in restricted access to certain types of information. Church records are 60 to 80 years old before they are released to the public, while national censuses have to be more than 100 years old. Nevertheless, one may access documents pertaining to one's own person, while parish clerks may permit access to church records of one's own immediate family.

What Records Can You Find At Home?

Start the search for your ancestors by looking through your attic or by visiting elderly relatives with information about the family. Many immigrants brought a family Bible and may have written names and dates in the flyleaf. Many had a christening or vaccination certificate from their local parish priest which would confirm their ID. Letters, postcards and photos may also give you useful



The Lie family from Nittedal emigrated to the US. The photo was taken in Minnesota c. 1910.

information about immigrants. If you need help translating Norwegian documents, you could contact the author or translator of this article.

SOURCES IN THE US AND CANADA

In addition to those listed below, you may find many more sources on www.cyndislist.com.

• Censuses

The decennial censuses are an important source of information.

United States

Federal censuses up to 1930 are available online on several sites, e.g. ancestry.com. From 1850 onward, a person's age and place of birth were recorded and from 1880 their parents' countries of birth were included. The month and year of birth were recorded in the 1900 census and, from 1900 onward, the year of immigration was included, as well as how long they had lived in the US and their citizenship.

Canada

Censuses were taken every decade after 1851. Up to 1891, you will find a person's name, age, sex, place of birth, occupation and marital status. From 1901, the date of birth, year of immigration and address was also recorded.

• Passenger Lists

Ship manifests may tell us an immigrant's origins and his intended destination. When you have found a person in immigration records, the Norwegian emigrant records may give you additional information about his hometown.

US

A federal law of 1820 required passengers entering the US to be recorded by name, age, sex, occupation and nationality, with the name of the ship, the captain, the port where they embarked and the date and port of entry. From 1893, ship manifest forms were standardized and the column "Last place of residence" may help you identify the passenger. From 1906, the forms included "Place of

birth" and from 1907, the name and address of a relative or contact in their home country.

Canada

The Norway Heritage database has lists of passengers from Norway to Canada from as early as 1850. The Quebec microfilm register is the first systematic collection of passenger lists from 1865. Later lists can be found on, www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/databases/passenger/001045-100.01-e.php, and on www.ancestry.com. They may contain name, age, country of origin, occupation and destination.

Norwegians disembarked at several immigrant ports in North America, many via New York and Quebec. Before 1865, the majority sailed directly from Norway to their destinations, while later emigrants often transmigrated via another European country, such as England. You can find passenger and crew lists on www.ancestry.com, www.stevenmorse.org, www.ellis-island.org and www.castlegarden.org. The Immigrant Transcribers Guild, www.immigrantships.net, and the Gjenvick-Gjønvik Archives, www.gjenvick.com, are useful sources. The Norwegian site, www.norwayheritage.com, has some passenger lists prior to 1875 and information about ships, shipping lines and sailing dates.

Border Crossings Between Canada And The US

In the latter half of the 19th century, many Norwegian immigrants crossed from Canada to the US. The US has some of these records on microfilm. The Canadian "St. Albans lists" can be found at www.ancestry.com.

Other Sources

There are many more sources in Canada and the US where you may find information about immigrants, e.g., Naturalization Records, Military Records (e.g., World War I Draft Registration Cards) and Vital Records.

Another useful source is parish records from Lutheran congregations, but ease of access depends on the individual church. Their membership records may include

the place a person came from in Norway. Earlier parish records were written in Norwegian or Swedish, later ones in English. Some were microfilmed by the Genealogical Society of Utah, www.familysearch.org, and The Norwegian American Genealogical Center and Naeseth Library, www.nagcnl.org, has a considerable collection of digital records, microfilms and other resources that may help you with your research.

The Evangelical Lutheran Church of America, www.elca.org, and the Norwegian-American Historical Association, www.naha.stolaf.edu, also have material about Norwegians. The Norwegian Seamen's Mission, founded in 1864, recorded christenings, confirmations, marriages and burials in many ports and some of these records are available at www.digitalarkivet.no or on microfilm from LDS Family History Centers. The Norwegian Digital Archives also have digital books on emigrants and some heritage publishers in the US have books about Norwegian immigrants. Once you have all the information you can learn about your Norwegian ancestor, as documented in the US and Canadian records, it's time to look into Norway's records.

Sources in Norway

Norway has a Lutheran state church and parish records have, therefore, been the most important genealogical source until Norwegian civilian authorities started keeping vital records in 1942. The following Norwegian websites all have some English language pages.

The Digital Archives

This website, www.digitalarkivet.no, is a free source of data from the Norwegian National Archives, as well as from private individuals and genealogical societies that have contributed records. It has message boards where you can publish queries. Most of the material in the Digital Archives is transcribed and must, therefore, be regarded as a secondary source,

Tracing Your Norwegian Ancestry

but parish records, probate registers and land records are scanned from original documents.

Norway's largest genealogical society, DIS-Norge, www.disnorge.com, and Norway Heritage, www.norwayheritage.no, also have message boards where queries can be posted.

Emigrant Registers

Persons who emigrated from Norway were recorded on passport registers and in ships' passenger lists. The Digital Archive (mentioned above) has transcribed databases of many of these records. Each port has a separate register and Oslo has two (Kristiania and Oslo), but it is possible to do a comprehensive site-wide search. These records give us an emigrant's place of birth or last residence, age and destination. Sometimes whole families travelled together. Around 1870, it was common for one family member to emigrate first (usually the father), find a job and a place to live, then send pre-paid tickets for his family. The Norwegian Emigration Center, www.utvandrercenteret.no, in Stavanger also has copies of emigrant registers. The microfilms contain 100 percent of the emigrants while the online databases are not yet complete.

Censuses

They give detailed accounts of each household with means of livelihood, etc. Norway has censuses for 1801, 1865, 1875, 1885 (towns only), 1891 and 1900 (see www.digitalarkivet.no and www.rhd.uit.no). The 1801, 1865 and 1900 censuses are available online, as well as parts of the 1875 census, which will soon be completed. The 1910 census is to be released on 1 December 2010.

The censuses are divided into districts, townships and farms in county districts. There may be several smaller farm units and households grouped under a larger farm. If you're lucky, you may find several generations of a fami-

Top: The manifest of the SS Hellig Olav, which sailed from Kristiania to New York, dated 26 March 1903.



Left: Certificate of vaccination (dated 27 July 1876) for Caroline Amalie, that she brought with her to Luverne, MN. (From www.ancestry.com)

ly living together. Municipal censuses are released after 60 years, but not all are available online. Remember that place names, as well as parish and district boundaries, may have changed over the decades, so try searching in neighboring towns if you can't find your ancestors.

Church Records

Lutheran records were kept by the parish priest as a register of ecclesiastical events, such as christenings, confirmations, marriages and burials. The earliest registers were chronological, but later there were separate sections for christenings, confirmations, marriages and burials. From 1812, the parish clerks kept a duplicate record (klokkerbok) which may vary slightly from the main parish record (ministerialbok), so it pays to compare entries. You'll find all accessible church records on www.arkivverket.no/URN:kb_read, as scanned images. The records (which are mostly written in Gothic script) are indexed by parish, type of record and year. Parish names may differ from town names and larger towns may

have several parishes.

Moving To and From the Parish

From 1812, the priests were obliged to keep a record of persons moving to and from the parish, but unfortunately, these records are often incomplete. Later entries may show individuals and families who emigrated.

Transcribed Church Records

There are many collections of Norwegian church records, in the Norwegian Digital Archives, in various FamilySearch databases and on Ancestry.com.

IG

- Liv Marit Haakenstad was born in Norway. She has a degree in teaching and has written three books about family history research in Norway. She has given lectures in both Norway and the US. Homepage, www.genfind.org.
- Translator Margaret H. Strand was born in Scotland, but has lived in Norway for more than 40 years. She is an experienced family history researcher and has contributed to two of the author's books. Visit www.northseagenealogy.no for more information.

A Farm By Any Other Name...

"WHAT'S IN A NAME?", Juliet asked in Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*. Well, of course, there's quite a lot in a name when we're talking about genealogy. Surnames give clues to ethnic origins and forenames reveal cultural clues and, at times, the whimsy of the parents. Even a piece of land, whether an estate, a farm, or simply a field can have its own name. Not only do farm and field names offer occasional entertainment for the researcher, they can also serve as unique identifiers for parcels of land over many years and, thereby, offer genealogical information.

Centuries ago in Europe, when literacy and maps were rare, distinctive field names helped keep land ownership, leases and feudal obligations clear. Names might be descriptive of the land's characteristics, the shape of the parcel, the name of the owner or some incident that happened on the land. The practice of naming fields continued in Britain's American colonies, although quaint and colorful names, such as Nether Dale were replaced by more prosaic titles like Jones' Field. British surveyors in India noted local field names when compiling colonial tax rolls.

Once attached to a piece of land, a field or farm name can survive for centuries. England's field names are thoroughly documented in local and county history sources, but the practice of naming fields and farms went on in Scandinavia, Germany, Italy and many other regions around Europe and throughout the world. Some field names in England echo Viking words; a Gill Field or Breck Close may be based on the Viking

"gil" for "ravine" or "breck" for "slope".

Scandinavian farm names are significant because surnames were not in universal use until the early 1900s. Many people used patronyms, which changed with every generation; Jon Anderssen's children would become Nils Jonsen and Anne Jonsdotter, for example. Often, people added the



For centuries, every field around an English village usually had its own name. Tracing the names of fields and farms can sometimes provide genealogical clues.

name of their farm to their personal name, to help identify them.

Many families in Norway, for example, chose to use their farm name as a permanent last name, as a new law required every family to adopt a permanent surname in 1923. Farm names appear on some early census records of Norway and Denmark. An impressive database of Norwegian farm names can be found at

www.dokpro.uio.no/rygh_ng/rygh_info.html. Based on research by 19th-century historian, Oluf Rygh, the original work has 45,000 farms that were in use before 1886. Rygh traced the etymology of the farm names and their changes through several centuries using various historical sources.

There are staggering numbers of recorded field names. An 1897 essay, "The Field Names of the Parish of Kirkoswald" in *The Transactions of the Cumberland and Westmoreland Antiquarian and Archaeological Society*, stated that the 8,320 acres of "enclosed improved land" in that one parish in Cumberland, England, were divided into 1,243 parcels; practically every one of which had its own name. The volume is available at Google Book Search.

A selection of English field names, such as Pear Tree Meadow, Lower Halfpenny Hay, Further Hiscups, Middle Copse, Far Meadow, Cow Croft, Honeythorn Field and Milk Meadow, conveys a nostalgic sense of a bygone agrarian world. Common words found in field names include croft, garth, paddock (a small parcel), dale, and close (an enclosed or fenced piece of land).

The past often lingers in a field name, perhaps commemorating former owners in names such as Dyer's Close or Monk's Meadow. Long-gone structures or events of the past survive in places such as Saw Pit Meadow, Brick Kiln Orchard and Kill Dane Field.

When fields were divided, they might have tagged new modifiers on the old name. A Holt Field, for instance, might be split into Upper

Numerous local studies have been made for English parishes, counties and other regions. Some studies for counties and parishes have been published and a few useful county and parish field name directories are online.

An online search for “field names” turns up a lot of hits related to computer searches, as a field name is the name for a particular field or category of computer data. Adding other keywords, such as “acres” or the name of a county, helps eliminate some of the irrelevant hits.

In the US, farms and plantations had their own names, as far back as the colonial days. Maryland’s colonial records are quite well-documented at the Archives of Maryland Online, www.aomol.net/html/index.html. Wills, estate records, and other documents often mention the colorful, individualistic and even eccentric names of early plantations and farms.

A 17th-century Maryland ancestor of mine named Thomas Thurston had several parcels of land, including one intriguingly called “Come By Chance”. After running into other surprising finds, I started wandering through the records looking for curious or amusing farm names. In a 1760 will in Somerset County, Maryland, Teague Mathews left a bequest to his grandson, Benjamin Halland Mathews, 100 acres, in a parcel named “Worthless”.

Another Maryland landowner named Isaac Handy, in that same year, left his son Henry a piece of land known as “The Surveyor’s Mistake”. In 1763, John Brooke of Charles County, Maryland, left his son-in-law, Samuel Howeston, “the 12a of ‘The End of the Scuffle’ he lives on”.

In 1760, one John Harris of Queen Anne’s County, Maryland left tracts including Harris’ Rambles, Harris’ Hazard and Harris’ Plains. Other Maryland plantations or tracts from that time were called Hobson’s Choice, “a dwelling plantation” called “All Three of Us” and “Dillion’s Disappointment”, “Rousby’s Recovery”, “Shinton’s Neglect”,

“Wolfholme” and Hog’s Den”.

A helpful thing about farm and field names is that they are often handed down for generations. The pieces of land can be traced through local maps, as well as wills and estate papers and may show family relationships.

One way of finding a woman’s maiden name might be tracing a piece of land given as a dowry, or through a will, and thereby finding the name of her father. Land may have come into the family from other relatives or in-laws, possibly yielding genealogical clues. Families living next to each other frequently intermarried, in one generation or the next, so note the names of your ancestors’ neighbors as well.

My ancestor Thomas Thurston was born in Gloucestershire, England, around 1622 or 1623. When his will was proved in Maryland in 1692, the document mentioned a brother named Samuel who lived in Thornbury, a town in Gloucestershire.

Among Thomas’ parcels of land in Maryland was one called Thornbury. Two other tracts that he had owned were called Elberton and Littleton. They were Gloucestershire parishes that were very close to Thornbury. A little snooping around in some will abstracts, which I found online, showed several Thurstons who were mentioned in 17th-century wills from those English parishes.

Later land transactions reveal that Thurston’s son, also named Thomas, conveyed “half of Elberton” to one James Empson in 1703, and the other “half of Elberton” (each were 500-acre tracts) to Laurence Draper in 1710. Following Elberton down the years, Draper conveyed Elberton in halves to Ephraim Gover and Samuel Gover in 1717. Ephraim conveyed parts of Elberton in transactions in 1724 and 1754.

“Quarters” or “Qtrs.” on an old Southern map usually refers to slave quarters. Planters often owned more than one plantation and they did not necessarily have a residence on each one. There would be a small cluster of slave quarters around the overseer’s

house.

Until well into the 19th-century, American farmers often wore out a piece of land and either cleared more woodland or picked up and moved to a new farm. Pieces of worn-out land were called “old fields”. Such plots were sometimes distinguished by name, as in “Johnson’s Old Field”. Sometimes, landowners donated such plots for building a church or an “old-field school”. Occasionally, a place was called “Old Fields” because the earliest settlers found that the land had been cleared by the Indians for farming.

However, not all farm names harken back to antiquity. In the early 1900s, agricultural publications and state farm bureaus recommended that American farmers give their holdings distinct new names, like brand names. After all, eggs or fresh butter from “Sunny Meadow Farm” sound more inviting than the same just coming from “Bill Jones’ Farm”.

Most farm and field names require searching at local levels, such as by county, parish or township. When you find them, they can offer an interesting glimpse of the rural world of your ancestors.

Suggested Reading:

- *English Field-Names: A Dictionary and Discovering Place-Names: A Pocket Guide to Over 1500 Place-Names in England*, both by John Field.

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David A. Norris is a frequent contributor to Internet Genealogy and Family Chronicle. He finds that amusing, intriguing, or whimsical oddities of the past, such as unusual field names, keep him fascinated with genealogy and history.

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Maps: From the British Isles to North America

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If you're following your ancestors from the British Isles on their trek across the Atlantic, you'll find many of the maps below useful for your research!

Maps for England, Wales, Scotland and Ireland

[MF 25] **A Compleat Map of the British Isles - 1772.** Shows counties, major towns and principal roads as they were in England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales just prior to the American Revolution. **\$7.95**

[XF 1] **Ireland/Britain (2 maps) - 1797, 1844.** The 1844 map shows counties, towns, roads and villages, as well as canals and railroads, as they were at the time of the Great Famine. The 1797 map *The Invasions of England and Ireland* identifies 62 major battle sites in England and Wales and 14 in Ireland. **The set: \$12.95**

[XF 9] **Ireland Circa 1820 (2 sheets).** This map shows many small place names not found on either [XF 1] above or [XF 6] below. Can be dissected and mounted to make a large 2' x 3' map. **The set: \$12.95**

[XF 6] **Ireland Circa 1875 (2 sheets).** Great detail, with many villages, some large estates, railways, canals and common roads. Can be dissected and mounted to make a large 2' x 3' map. **The set: \$12.95**

[XF 7] **England Circa 1875 (2 sheets).** Counties, villages, towns, railways and roads are identified in both England and Wales. Can be dissected and mounted to make a large 2' x 3' map. **The set: \$12.95**

[XF 2] **Scotland (4 maps) - 1834, 1805.** The 1834 maps, printed on three large sheets, show Scotland in the early 19th century and include a table of place name changes. Towns, villages, shires and roads are clearly shown. We have also included a small 1805 map of Scotland in each set. **The set of 4 maps: \$14.95**

[RF 1] **North Wales - 1869.** Encompassing the shires of Anglesea, Flint, Caernarvon, Denbigh, Merioneth, and Montgomery, this detailed map shows rail, cross, and coach roads, as well as towns and villages. **\$7.95**

[RF 24] **South Wales - 1869.** Similar in size and style to our map of North Wales [RF 1] above, this map includes the counties of Pembroke, Cardigan, Radnor, Brecknock, Glamorgan and Caermarthen. **\$7.95**

North American Destinations

[BF 13] **West Indies - 1740s.** Shows the West Indies, Central America and parts of New Spain, the Gulf Coast region, and the British possessions as far north as the Chesapeake Bay. Forts, settlements and Indian villages along the Mississippi River are also identified. Plots the Spanish Gold Fleet route and the route of passage from London to the West Indies to the British colonies in North America. **\$7.95**

[BF 22] **British North America - 1777.** Shows the continent from present-day Canada to Florida and west to Texas and the Plains States and locates Indian nations, British colonies, early settlements and natural features. The province of Quebec extends well into the upper Mississippi Valley. **\$7.95**

[BF 23] **New England Circa 1775.** Shows county and township divisions in each of the New England colonies and locates rivers, roads and villages. **\$7.95**

[BF 25] **Narragansett Bay (Rhode Island) - 1777.** This Revolutionary war era British military map identifies settlements on Bay

islands and on the adjacent mainland. Roads, some large farms, and American military installations are also identified. **\$7.95**

[BF 26] **The Hudson River Valley - 1776.** This British military map, drawn in 3 panels, shows the Hudson River and adjacent shore areas from Raritan Bay north to Lake George. The map continues north along Lake George and Lake Champlain as far as Fort Chambly on the Chambly River in Quebec. Other rivers and creeks flowing into the Hudson are identified, as are nearby roads, forts, settlements and portages. **\$7.95**

[SF 55] **The Province of New Jersey - 1777.** Using information taken largely from the 1769 New York - New Jersey Boundary Survey, this map shows counties, cities, villages and settlements, as well as roads, rivers, creeks and mountainous areas. **\$7.95**

[SF 56] **Southeastern Pennsylvania - 1775.** Shows forts, creeks and rivers, wagon roads, trails, the location of religious meetings and many mills, stretching from modern Fulton County in the southwest north to Wyoming County. **\$7.95**

[BF 27] **The Chesapeake Bay Region - 1778.** Stretches from Cape Henry north to Baltimore and Alexandria and details creeks, soundings and plantations along the Bay and along the Potomac, James, York and other rivers in the area. **\$7.95**

[SF 57] **The Eastern Carolinas - 1775 (2 sheets).** Depicts the populous eastern and coastal areas of the Carolinas, showing roads, rivers, creeks, ferries, courthouses, settlements, precincts and townships, and some large landholders. Includes an inset of Port Royal Harbor (Hilton Head). These two sheets cover the most thickly settled areas of the Carolinas at the time of the Revolution. **The set: \$12.95**

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Top 30 Websites For Family Research



AS YOU MAY KNOW from the article "130 Best Genealogy Websites!", which appeared in the June/July issue of *Internet Genealogy*, or from just browsing around the Internet, there are a lot of great genealogy and family history related websites. Since it has been a few years since I've created my own list of favorites, it seemed like a good time to do so!

Given that many of the larger websites (e.g., Ancestry, FamilySearch, HeritageQuest, etc.) always show up on "best of" lists, I've decided not to include them in this one. My list includes everything from other large commercial websites to free personally created websites.

To make sure that my list didn't get too long (which would have been very easy to do), I limited myself to just a few categories of record types or research focus topics that are important, either to

the research I do or they are websites that I find are often overlooked by genealogy researchers. You will also find that some categories, like State or County Records and Vital Records, just introduce you to a couple of examples of the types of these websites that exist, so do check to see if whatever locale you are researching has it's own website with this type of information.

Don't see some websites you were expecting? I'm not surprised. Just remember that I've just listed a few of my favorite websites.

Regardless of whether you are a novice or a professional genealogist, it never hurts to review another researchers' list of favorite online resources. Hopefully, you might find I've listed a new site that you weren't aware of, or reminded you of one you haven't visited lately.

DIGITIZED NEWSPAPERS

GenealogyBank

www.genealogybank.com

This subscription-based website has digitized images from over 4,300 newspapers and will eventually include a collection of 280 African-American newspapers, 1827-1999. The newspaper collection is divided between historical newspapers (1690-1980) and obituaries (1977-current). Additionally, there are historical books and document collections and the Social Security Death Index. Whether you are looking for family "color" or to confirm details, newspapers are a wonderful resource.

Chronicling America (Library of Congress)

www.loc.gov/chroniclingamerica/

Free access to digitized US newspapers. This site allows you to search and view newspaper pages from 1880-1922 and find information about American newspapers

Top 30 Websites for Family Research

published between 1690-present. Eventually, the project will include historically significant newspapers from all the states and US territories published between 1836 and 1922.

Google News

<http://news.google.com>

Google News is a computer-generated news site that aggregates headlines from news sources worldwide. It searches across a large collection of historical archives, including major newspapers, magazines, news archives and legal archives. Search results include both content that is accessible to all users (e.g., BBC News, *Time Magazine* and the *Guardian*) and content that requires a fee (e.g., *Washington Post Archives*, *Newspaper Archive*, and *New York Times Archives*). In addition to searching for content online, there is digitized material in the News Archive Partner Program.

British Newspapers, 1800-1900

<http://newspapers.bl.uk/blcs/>

If you are searching UK ancestors, this is a newspaper site for you! Explore two million pages of 19th century newspapers from over 49 local and national titles.

AFRICAN-AMERICAN Afrigenes

www.afrigenes.com

The word AfriGeneas is derived from African-American Genealogy Buddies and the site is devoted to African-American genealogy, from researching African ancestry in the Americas to genealogical research and resources, in general. It is also an African Ancestry research community featuring a mail list, message boards and daily and weekly genealogy chats.

Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade Database

www.slavevoyages.org/tast/index.faces

This database includes information on almost 35,000 slaving voyages that forcibly embarked more than 10 million Africans for transport to the Americas between 1514 and 1866. Records of the voyages have been found in archives and libraries throughout the Atlantic. They provide information about vessels, enslaved peoples, slave

traders, owners and trading routes.

Digital Library of American Slavery

<http://library.uncg.edu/slavery/>

A searchable database of detailed personal information about slaves, slaveholders and free people of color, drawn from petitions to southern legislatures and country courts filed between 1775 and 1867 in the 15 slaveholding states in the US and the District of Columbia.

MAPS

David Rumsey

www.davidrumsey.com/

This free site keeps improving. High quality digital images and sophisticated viewing options make it the go-to place for maps. The historical map collection contains over 22,000 maps and images. The collection focuses on rare 18th- and 19th-century North American and South American maps, with historic maps of Europe, Asia and Africa also represented. The collection also includes atlases, wall maps, globes, school geographies, pocket maps, etc.

MSR Maps (which used to be TerraServer-USA)

MSR Maps (which used to be TerraServer-USA)

<http://msrmaps.com/>

It has a great collection of freely available US topographic (topo) and aerial maps. These maps are a great way to get a sense of the "lay of the land" or geography for a locale you are researching. Being able to see features, both on a topo map and an aerial map, can really help your research.

CENSUSES

AccessGenealogy

www.accessgenealogy.com/

This site is particularly good for letting you know what census records are available online. For census records, you can choose a state, pick which census year is of interest and then be presented with a breakdown of what online census resources exist. It's also a great resource for Native American research. Access is provided to Native American Records, Native American Rolls, Indian Tribal Histories and much more!

DIGITIZED FAMILY HISTORY, ET AL AND BOOKS

Google Books

<http://books.google.com/>

Although it's not a genealogy-specific collection, it contains either the full contents (for books in the public domain), snippet views or



The homepage for David Rumsey's website, (www.davidrumsey.com/)

sometimes just the title and author. When you can find a full digitized book online, it can be invaluable. For example, one can get a full view of several editions of "Reports of Cases in Equity Argued and Determined in the Supreme Court of North Carolina" from the 1800s!

Family Histories Archive

www.lib.byu.edu/fhc/

This site encompasses local, county and family histories. Currently, there are over 61,000 items in the collection, including books from not only BYU and the Family History Library from the Allen County Public Library, Clayton

Library Center for Genealogical Research and the Mid-Continent Public Library. You can search on surname, author, title or search on a term. For the latter, put in your county or community name and see what “pops up”. You will likely be pleasantly surprised!

BOOK IDENTIFICATION AND LOCATION

WorldCat

www.worldcat.org

Want to know if certain records have been abstracted or transcribed or are available on microfilm? Looking to see if a particular book can be found close to you? Need to place an Interlibrary Loan (ILL) with your local library? Go to this website. It's a catalog of over 1.5 billion items available through libraries, including books, DVDs, CDs and articles. It has truly brought a worldwide collection of libraries to our fingertips!

GENERAL RECORDS AVAILABILITY

Linkpendium

www.linkpendium.com

There isn't a project that I start where I don't first consult this resource. With new materials constantly available online and in print, it's hard to keep up. This site, organized by state and then county, lists out what records and resources are available online for different record categories. Resources listed have free access unless you see (\$). It is now expanding to encompass the UK and Ireland and surnames worldwide.

DIRECTORIES

Historical Directories (UK)

www.historicaldirectories.org/hd/

Is a digital library of local and trade directories for England and Wales, from 1750 to 1919.

Directories are such a great way to get a snapshot of our ancestors, their neighbors and the community. The historical context they provide is invaluable. For example, “The period 1760 to 1850 was one of sustained, if rather erratic, growth for directories. This was driven by increased trade, urbanization and transport improvements”. You can find directories

by location (county) or by decade or do a keyword search.

Distant Cousin

<http://distantcousin.com/Directories/>

The availability of US directories is not as consolidated as those for the UK. This website has a nice collection of online directories (and other records) which have frequently helped track a family through the years in between the decennial census records. If you don't find the records for your city of interest online, check out City Directories of the US, www.uscitydirectories.com/, which encompasses print, microfilm and online directories.

STATE OR COUNTY ARCHIVES

STATE ARCHIVES

Library of Virginia (LVA)

www.lva.virginia.gov/

A must-see for anyone researching their Virginian ancestry! Start with searching the LVA Catalog, as many entries are for individual's named in select documents. Can't find who you seek? Check out the associated Virginia Memory digital collection, www.virginiamemory.com/collections/. If you still have not found them, then scroll through the Guides and Indexes, http://www.lva.virginia.gov/public/using_collections.asp#_guides-NewspapersandMagazines and you will find collections of many more records than can be listed here including newspaper, military, land patents, etc.

Illinois State Archives
www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/archives/databases.html

This is one of the first state digital archives available to researchers. It has continued to be a great resource when researching in Illinois. Its included records are public domain land tract sales, servitude and emancipation records, veteran's records, pre-1900 marriage index and pre-1950 death indexes. It also includes



Above: Homepage for the UK Historical Directories, (www.historicaldirectories.org/hd/)

Below: The homepage for Virginia Memory Digital Collection, (<http://www.virginiamemory.com/collections/>)



links to record groups digitized and available at the local regional archive depositories (IRAD).

COUNTY ARCHIVES

Delaware County PA

www.co.delaware.pa.us/depts/archives.html

This recently discovered archive is a great example of what a local community has made available. You will find vital records, estate administrations, criminal case records, insolvent debtors and liquor licenses lists, along with naturalization records and orphan court records, wills and much more!

Top 30 Websites for Family Research

Craven County NC

<http://newbern.cpplib.org/research/resources.html>

Many hours have been spent going through the records covering New Bern and Craven County. The records range from 1715 tax lists to an obituary index with death notices covering 1751-1903 and 1968-2010, with coverage of some other years. With the port city of New Bern, Craven County saw the makings of much of North Carolina's history.

LINEAGE

Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR)

www.dar.org/library/online_research.cfm

The online Genealogical Research System is a must-see for anyone considering NSDAR membership or trying to ascertain if a family member was a Revolutionary War veteran. The database contains the names of Revolutionary War Patriots whose service and identity have been established by the NSDAR. Included is information on the dates and places of birth and death, names of spouses, residence during the Revolution, rank and type of service, and the state where the patriot served.

EMIGRATION/NATURALIZATION

Ellis Island

www.ellisland.org/

From 1892 to 1954, more than 12 million immigrants entered the US through the portal of Ellis Island, a small island in New York Harbor. Many Americans have emigrants who started their lives in the US after entering the country through this port. If your ancestor emigrated during this period from the UK, Europe, Scandinavia etc., there is a good chance that they came through this port (although, if your family is like many, some came through NY, some through Philadelphia, some through Boston, etc!)

Castle Garden

www.castlegarden.org

This free site offers access to an extraordinary database of information on 11 million immigrants from 1820 through 1892, the year Ellis Island opened. Over 100 million

Americans can trace their ancestors to this early immigration period.

Joe Beine's websites

If you are doing emigration/naturalization and not checking out the websites created by Joe Beine, you are probably missing something! Quickly go to "What Passenger Lists are Online?", www.germanroots.com/onlinelists.html, and "Online Searchable Naturalization Indexes & Records", www.germanroots.com/naturalization.html, to see what is available online and what is not.

ISTG (Immigrant Ships Transcribers Guild)

www.immigrantships.net/

Volunteers have transcribed over 11,000 Passenger Manifests. You can search what ISTG has transcribed or you can browse each volume (there are 12 as of this article going to print) where the ships are listed by date, name, port of departure, port of arrival and surname (especially helpful with those spelling variant issues).

This site is great if you are seeking passengers who arrived in the 17th- and 18th-centuries and it has pretty extensive holdings for the 19th century and later.

NYC Naturalization Database - Volunteer Efforts By The Italian Genealogical Group

www.italiangen.org/databaselist.stm

This website has put a great collection of naturalization record indexes for Naturalizations recorded in the Eastern District (consisting of Kings, Richmond, Queens, Nassau and Suffolk Counties), Southern District (consisting of Manhattan, Bronx and Westchester Counties), as well as the Nassau and Suffolk county and Bronx and Queen Borough Supreme Courts. The col-

lection is expanding to include other New York state naturalization records.

VITAL RECORDS

Joe Beine's websites (individual effort)

Before you embark on your vital records research, check out Joe Beine's "Online Searchable Death Indexes and Records", www.deathindexes.com/ and his "Online Birth and Marriage Records Indexes for the USA", <http://www.germanroots.com/vitalrecords.html>. These two websites are an updated list of what vital records are currently available



The homepage for NYC Vital Records by the Italian Genealogical Group.

(<http://www.italiangen.org/VRECLIST.stm>)

online and save you the headache of wondering whether what you need can be accessed online.

Cook County Vital Records (community)

www.cookcountygenealogy.com

This site contains birth certificates that are 75 years or older, marriage certificates that are 50 years or older and death certificates that are 20 years or older. Also note that the Chicago Fire of 8 October 1871 destroyed all Cook County vital records prior to that date. Record keeping resumed in 1872. A great example of a how one big city is making its records available.

Missouri Digital Heritage Collection (state)

www.sos.mo.gov/mdh/

This website has a great collection

of pre-1910 birth and death records and death certificates for records created after 1910 and over 50 years old. Once you find those vital records, check out the collection of naturalization records (1816-1955), service cards of over 576,000 Missourians who served in 12 wars and military engagements, and more.

NYC Vital Records (community) Volunteer efforts by the Italian Genealogical Group

www.italiangen.org/VRECLIST.stm

This site has put a great collection of marriage and death indexes online covering the boroughs of New York City, as well as marriage indexes for the counties of Nassau and Suffolk. If you are researching individuals who lived in these communities in the 1864-1948 time period, you'll want to visit this site.

FINNISH ANCESTRY

Finnish Genealogical Society

www.genealogia.fi/indexe.htm

A free extensive collection of transcribed and searchable collection of church records (Hiski: christening, marriage, burial, movement, communion, etc), Finnish cemetery records, biographical indexes, records of Finnish communities in the US, etc. Good English interface.

Emigrant Register

www.migrationinstitute.fi/sinst/emigrantregister.php

Another invaluable Finnish research tool. A computerized database containing over 550,000 entries, including passport records (1890-1950), passenger records of the Finnish Steamship Company (1892-1910), passport records and more. In 2010, it will be adding more databases such as the records of tens of thousands of Finnish emigrants through the port of Gothenburg. Good English interface. You can search for free and full access requires payment and registration.

Finland's Family History Association

www.digiarkisto.org/sshy/index_eng.htm

Images of original church (e.g.,

communion books) and census records. This project was started in 2004 and they have put a tremendous amount of



Above: Finland's Family History Association homepage.

(www.digiarkisto.org/sshy/index_eng.htm)



Left: Search for long-lost British ancestors at British Origins.

(www.britishorigins.com/)

material online since that time. They have the records for my ancestral parish (Ylistaro) and farm (Lammi) now up! There is an English interface, though think of it more as online digitized microfilm. You need to use the menu to find the community and records you seek and then manually scroll through them as you would a microfilm. They are well worth the effort!

Finnish Historical Newspaper Library

<http://digi.lib.helsinki.fi/sanomalehti/secure/main.html>

Helsinki University Library is digitizing all newspapers published in Finland 1771-1890. This website is only for the bravest since the newspapers are entirely in Finnish or Swedish without any English translation! Though, you can search on place/family names and look for connections.

UK RECORDS (ENGLAND, WALES, SCOTLAND, IRELAND)

FindMyPast

www.findmypast.co.uk

If you want to see some great digitized images of the 1911 census and UK passenger lists (long-haul voyages leaving the UK between 1890 and 1960) in color, check out this site, which also includes the complete 1841-1911 census collection,

parish records for baptisms, marriages and burials dating from 1538, an extensive military records collection, and

more.

British Origins

www.britishorigins.com/ Whether searching British or Irish roots, this collection of pre-1837 marriage registers, indexes and abstracts of wills, court, poor law and apprentice records, census records, Griffith Valuation and Survey Maps will certainly help. You will also find Directories, electoral registers, apprentice and other record types. Another great tool in the arsenal of anyone researching British ancestry.

Irish Family History Foundation

www.irish-roots.ie/

This site has exploded onto the scene and it provides access to an unparalleled collection of Irish records. It is the coordinating body for a network of Irish county-based genealogical research centers which have computerized millions of Irish genealogical records, including church records, census returns and gravestone inscriptions. Start your research into the records of Ireland here!

IG

Diane L. Richard has been doing genealogy research for more than 23 years. She currently does professional research in North Carolina, and can be found online at www.mosaicrpm.com/Genealogy.

Want to Record/Write Your Family History? Start Here!

GENEALOGY INVOLVES MUCH more than just gathering names, dates and places. You may have years of research data stored in binders, photo albums and in your genealogical software program, but what good is it if it stays hidden? Here are 15 websites to inspire and instruct you on how to preserve, record and write your family history. (\$) = subscription, or fee may be required.

1. American Life Histories, Manuscripts from the Federal Writers' Project, 1936-1940 Library of Congress, American Memory

<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/wpaintro/wpahome.html>

This site features more than 2,900 life histories, both in transcribed and image form, collected from 1936-40. The documents represent the work of more than 300 writers from the Federal Writers' Project of the US Work Projects Administration. The histories appear as drafts and revisions, in various formats, from narrative to dialogue, report to case history. Topics include the informant's family, education, income, occupation, political views, religion and mores, medical needs and diet, as well as observations on society and culture. Interviewers often substituted pseudonyms for names of individuals and places.

2. Ancestry.com's Audio Storytelling Service (\$)

www.ancestry.com

Ancestry's audio storytelling service allows members to share stories in their own words and voice to allow these to be preserved for future generations. These can be saved and shared, so that others who might benefit from a story will have access to it.

This service is free for any registered user of Ancestry who has created a Family Tree. You can add as many stories as desired to your



Family Tree, but each story has a recording time limit of approximately 12 minutes.

3. DoHistory Step-by-Step Guide to Oral History

http://dohistory.org/on_your_own/toolkit/oralHistory.html

Judith Moyer's comprehensive step-by-step guide to oral history (published 1993, revised 1999). Plenty of links and tips here to get you going. Her advice: Just Do It!

4. Family History Research: Steps to a Successful Interview

<http://life.familyeducation.com/family/genetics/29663.html>

This site, in association with the Ellis Island Foundation, www.ellisland.org, notes 13 easy steps for a successful interview.

5. Family Oral History Digital Tools

www.familyoralhistory.us

This site explores how to use digital tools and media to record and preserve spoken memories of family members. The site has blog postings and podcasts in addition to various articles addressing interviewing trends, equipment and techniques and many real-life examples.

6. Footnote Pages (\$)

www.footnote.com/pages

This popular feature on Footnote.com, that's been dubbed "Facebook for the deceased", lets users create profiles of deceased individuals, based on the 80 million names from the Social Security Death Index or from WWII enlistment records, or from scratch. You must register to create your free page, but if you want to link images found on the site, such as census or military records or other premium content, you'll need to purchase a subscription (\$11.95 US per month, \$69.95 US per year). A free seven-day trial is available.

7. GeneaBloggers

www.geneabloggers.com

One of the best motivations for writing is to start a blog! Once you've got some posts, consider registering your blog with GeneaBloggers — The genealogy community's resource for blogging. With a current blogroll of over 1,200 genealogy and family history-related blogs, you're also sure to find many related to recording and writing your family history, as well as fun weekly blogging prompts, blog carnivals and other great blog resources!

8. GenealogyGems Podcast (\$)

<http://genealogygems.tv>

Hosted by Lisa Louise Cooke, it's a

free online family history radio show about all things genealogy. Also, be sure to listen to Cooke's new podcast, "Family History: Genealogy Made Easy", <http://personallifemedia.com/podcasts/415-family-history>, with entertaining 30-minute shows to guide you through the research process.

9. GenWriters

www.genwriters.com

GenWriters is your online source to add life to your family history. GenWriters points you to resources that will add variety and substance to your research. Look for links to general history resources, diaries and narratives, migration patterns and trails, timelines and chronologies, wars and the military, and other helpful tools to help you bust through your writer's block!

10. History Matters: The US Survey Course on the Web

<http://historymatters.gmu.edu/mse/oral>
Published online February 2002.

Linda Shopes, a historian at the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, "Making Sense of Oral History" presents an overview of oral history and ways historians use it, tips on what questions to ask when reading or listening to oral history interviews, a sample interpretation of an interview, an annotated bibliography and a guide to finding and using oral history online.

11. Living Genealogy

www.livinggenealogy.com

This free site lets your family create webpages on ancestors and ancestral hometowns. Use the Ancestor Pages to include text and photos. Although you can't upload or download a GEDCOM file, there are spaces to record names, dates, and places of birth and death. There are also Place Pages dedicated to geographic locales and you can offer tips on where to locate records, add maps or photos, and share local history and advice. There's an option to make User Groups private (open only to family members) or public (e.g., everyone researching ancestors in the same place) and a blog feature for sharing.

12. National Library of Australia — Oral History & Folklore

<http://www.nla.gov.au/oh/index.html>

Expand your Australian family history with this collection of over 58,000 oral history interviews and folk recordings, an electronic guide to Australian oral history collections and free how-to info for conducting your own oral history.

13. StoryCorps (\$)

www.storycorps.net

StoryCorps is a nonprofit project whose mission is to honor and celebrate one another's lives through listening. Since 2003, tens of thousands of everyday people have interviewed family and friends through StoryCorps. Each conversation is recorded on a free CD to take home and is archived for generations to come at the Library of Congress. Learn how to book a StoryCorps appointment at a mobile booth near you and listen to sample interviews online.

14. TapeScribe (\$)

www.oralhistory.uconn.edu/tapescribe.html

If you have taped interviews and are unable to transcribe them

yourself, you can hire their staff to produce transcripts from audio tapes, CDs, video tapes and digital audio/video in the format you choose, for a fee.

15. VoiceQuilt (\$)

www.voicequilt.com

With VoiceQuilt, you gather audio memories together to create a collage of voices into a special keepsake that can be played back and remembered long after an event is over. The cost depends on what keepsake you choose and on the number of days you purchase to invite friends and family to call in an unlimited number of toasts, tributes and greetings. CDs start at \$16.95 USD or an heirloom quality keepsake box (\$59 USD and up), and e-mail or download it (as an MP3) for free. You can try before you buy by signing up for one day of unlimited toll-free voice messages for free. The site has an idea center and you can listen to samples.

IG

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

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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 10 full weeks advance notice of your event to ensure inclusion in the listings.

OCTOBER 2010

Sat. Oct. 2, 9 AM – 4:30 PM — Grande Prairie & District Branch, Alberta Genealogical Society presents Dave Obee, speaker at their Fall Workshop. Four sessions given: Seven Habits of Highly Successful Genealogists, More Than Just Dates and Names, Newspapers in Family History Research, and Destination Canada. Interlink Books will have genealogical books for sale. Visit our website, gp.abgensoc.ca, or phone Maxine (780) 766-2920.

October 4 to 8, 2010. Salt Lake City, Utah. The International Society for British Genealogy and Family History (ISBGFH) announces its 2010 British Institute. Instructors will be Barbara Baker who will teach "Pre-1800 Scottish Records; David Rencher, who will teach "Making the Transition from Irish Church Records to Irish Land Records" and Darris Williams, will teach "Strategies for Discovering Welsh Ancestors." Check the society's website for details, www.isbgfh.org or send an e-mail to admin@isbgfh.org.

October 9, 2010, 8:30 AM to 4 PM. Family History Day at the California State Archives, 1020 "O" Street, Sacramento, California. This free, public event will feature 20+ classes; Preservation Lab; Root Cellar Library; Archive tours; exhibitors; vendors. For more information: <http://fhd2010.blogspot.com> or e-mail at familyhistoryday2010@gmail.com. Sponsors: California State Archives; Root Cellar-Sacramento Genealogical Society; Genealogical and Historical Council of Sacramento Valley.

October 15 & 16, 2010, Albuquerque, New Mexico, New Mexico Genealogical Society invites everyone to join them in celebrating their 50th Anniversary Conference. Attendees will enjoy a variety of speakers and feature Bennett Greenspan from FamilyTreeDNA. \$55 non-members, \$35 members + banquet \$35. Marriott Pyramid, Albuquerque, NM. www.nmgs.org.

Saturday October 16, 2010, Jackson County, Oregon. The Rogue Valley Genealogical Society & Library will sponsor a Seminar featuring Karen Clifford: "A Tool Chest for Tracing 18th & 19th Immigrants;" "Understanding Research Methodology" and "2010 FamilySearch". Seminar location: Jackson County Public Library, Medford, Oregon. For registration details, go to www.rovgslibrary.org.

Saturday, October 16, 2010, 8:30 AM. to 4:00 PM., Louisville Genealogical Society Family History Seminar & Book Fair. Bearbrass Christian Church, 4100 Shelbyville Road, Louisville, KY 40207. Main speaker is Megan Smolenyak Smolenyak. Seven One Hour Free Classes will be available also. Check their website for directions & further details. www.rootsweb.com/~kylgs

October 16, 2010 — Calgary, AB. The Alberta Family Histories Society, Calgary, announces a One Day FamilyRoots Seminar featuring three outstanding speakers: Dick Eastman, Thomas MacEntee, and Lyn Meehan. Dick Eastman will speak on: "The Organized Genealogist" and "Conservation: Keeping up with Technology"; Thomas MacEntee speaks on: "Social Networking" and "Becoming a Genealogy Blogger"; and Lyn Meehan speaks on: "Records Interrogation 101". In addition to above, sessions a sixth session by Dick Eastman, "Putting the Genes in Genealogy" will be the highlight of the evening dinner. For additional information, and to register, please visit <http://afhs.ab.ca/familyroots/>

Seattle Genealogical Society's Fall 2010 Seminar. Saturday, 23 October 2010, 9 AM to 4 PM. Nordic Heritage Museum, Seattle, WA. Topic: On the Move... Roads, Rails, Ships and Wagons: How our Ancestors came West. This full day seminar will cover western migration patterns in history. Select four of the 10 presentations that will be available. Learn more at: www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~waseags
For more information contact: Seattle Genealogical Society at 206-522-8658 or sgsseminar@gmail.com

October 16, 2010. The Alberta Family Histories Society, Calgary, announces a One-Day FamilyRoots Seminar featuring three outstanding speakers: Dick Eastman on "The Organized Genealogist" and "Conservation: Keeping up With Technology"; Thomas MacEntee on "Social Networking" "Becoming a Genealogy Blogger"; and Lyn Meehan on "Records Interrogation 101". In addition to the five topics, a sixth session by Dick Eastman, "Putting the Genes in Genealogy" will be the highlight of the evening dinner. For additional information, and to register, please see <http://afhs.ab.ca/familyroots/>

The Illinois State Genealogical Society 2010 Fall Conference will be held in Peoria Illinois on Saturday October 23, 2010 from 8:30 AM to 4 PM. Lunch is included in the price of the conference. A Youth Workshop will be held in the afternoon of the conference geared towards 12-15 year olds to learn the forensics of family history. More information and entry forms for both the conference and the youth workshop can be obtained from the ISGS website at <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~ilsgs/> or the Peoria County Genealogical Society at <http://www.usgenet.org/usa/il/county/peoria1/>

October 23, 2010. Lee County Genealogical Society is partnering with the Estero Island Chapter NSDAR in presenting Debbie Duay, Ph.D., Lineage Research Chairman for the Florida State Society DAR in a FREE genealogy workshop titled "Researching Your

Genealogical Society Events ...Continued

Revolutionary War Patriot Ancestor". This workshop will provide you with steps to begin or continue your ancestor search for your early colonial ancestors. The workshop will be held on Saturday, October 23, 2010 from 10:30 AM to 12:30 PM at the Lakes Regional Public Library in Fort Myers, FL. Pre-registration is required. To register, contact Marlene Long via e-mail at melongdar@comcast.net.

NEHGS and Ancestry.com invite you to join us for our second Family History Day on Saturday, October 16th, 2010 at Seaport Hotel and World Trade Center Boston. Come and explore the world of genealogy, listen to engaging lectures, meet with expert staff, digitize your important family documents, and learn more about how the incredible resources at NEHGS and Ancestry.com can help you find your family. Whether you're new to family history or have been researching for many years, this one of a kind event promises to deliver an experience for every genealogist. Make plans to join us for an incredible day of family history fun. Our first "Family History Day" sold out quickly. SPACE IS LIMITED, so we encourage you to register early to guarantee your spot. To register or learn more visit www.familyhistoryday.com Questions? E-mail: info@familyhistoryday.com

October 30, 2010 — Omaha, Nebraska. The Greater Omaha Genealogy Society will be holding their Fall workshop. For more information you can contact: gogsworkshop@radiks.net or www.gogsmembers.wordpress.com

October 30, 2010 — Danish Heritage Workshop. at the Brookings Area Genealogical Society Danish Workshop October 30, at Ascension Lutheran, Church, 2030 Third St., Brookings, SD. Michele McNabb is featured speaker. Michelle is the librarian at the Family and Genealogy Center of the Danish Immigrant Museum in Elkhorn, Iowa. Workshop 9 AM - 4:30 PM. Preregistration \$35 non-members, \$25 BAGS members; lunch is \$8.50. Info at www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~sdbags/

October 31, 2010 — November 7, 2010. Join NEHGS for our thirty-second annual research tour to the Family History Library in Salt Lake City, Utah. You are invited to take part in an intensive week of guided research where you will be aided by the expert staff of NEHGS. Daily programming includes computer tutorials for accessing the library card catalog, research tips and techniques lectures, personalized consultations and group dining events. Phone: 617-226-1226. E-mail: education@NEHGS.org

NOVEMBER 2010

Wednesday November 10, 7 PM - Meeting of the Haliburton Highlands Genealogy Group, at the Minden Hills Cultural Centre, 176 Bobcaygeon Rd., Minden, Ontario. Meeting features Members' Night — Bring a Military Ancestor — Five min. max. presentations. More information: Gail 705-286-2225. Website: www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~onhhgg/

November 12 and 13, 2010 — The Florida State Genealogical Society will hold its 34th Annual Conference at the Hyatt Regency in charming Sarasota. The 2010 agenda features Keynote Speaker Maureen Taylor, the Photo Detective. Well-known lecturers will offer thought-provoking seminars for genealogists of all interests and experience levels. Loads of vendor space is available! Visit www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~flsgs/ for more details.

Friday and Saturday, 12-13 November, 2010, Raleigh, NC. The North Carolina Genealogical Society Fall Workshop & Annual Meeting will feature PAUL MILNER. Mr. Milner will present seven lectures on Finding British Isles Ancestors. Topics include techniques and resources important to British, Scottish and Welsh researchers of all levels. Lecture descriptions, registration form, and location information are at www.ncgenealogy.org.

November 20, 2010, Nashville, TN, Annual All-Day Seminar, featuring guest speaker, Elizabeth Shown Mills, a well-known genealogist and author of the historical novel, *Isle of Canes*, based on her study of a Creole family. Don't miss this important meeting. Cost for the day: \$40. for members, \$45. non-members. Fee includes lunch. For more details on our speaker, registration and venue check our website, www.mtgs.org. Join us for this special day.

DECEMBER 2010

Bouse Genealogical Society Genealogy Technology Conference. December 10, 2010. To be held at the Blue Water Casino, 11222 Resort Dr., Parker, Arizona. Featuring nationally known speaker Geoff Rasmussen. Topics are: Research Guidance: GenSmarts, Family Search and Legacy; Mapping Your Ancestors Electronically; Insider's Guide to Legacy Family Tree; and 12 Step Checklist to using your Genealogy Computer Program. Cost is \$25/members and \$30/non-members. Additional information and registration forms are available online at <http://bousegenies.weebly.com>. Click on 2010 Genealogy Conference or contact us via e-mail at bousegenies@gmail.com.

Genealogical Society Announcements

Send us a short description (60 words max.) of your event, the date, time and location and any contact numbers or e-mail addresses. Please use the following deadlines as a guide to make sure your announcement arrives in time for publication in a particular issue (earlier is better): A full 10 weeks is the minimum required for lead time.

June/July in by April 1 • **Aug/Sept.** in by June 1
Oct/Nov in by Aug 1 • **Dec./Jan.** in by Oct. 1
Feb./Mar. in by Dec. 1 • **Apr/May** in by Feb. 1

E-mail your genealogical society event announcements to: announcements@internet-genealogy.com.

Five Ways To Connect With Your Living Kin

GENEALOGY IS ALL about making connections. Most of the time we're trying to link one ancestor to another through the names, dates and places we uncover during our research. But just as important are the connections we make with living relatives or other researchers who may be on the hunt for the same data we're trying to track down. But you can't do this with your head buried in a database or hiding behind a microfilm reader. If you want to find, and be found by, living kin, here are five steps to follow to increase your chances.

1. WEAVE A WEB PRESENCE

Set up your own personal or family website. Check with your Internet Service Provider (ISP), or take advantage of free space available on Google, www.google.com (account required), RootsWeb, <http://accounts.rootsweb.ancestry.com>, or consider setting up a collaborative workspace on Microsoft Office Live Workspace, www.officelive.com (for details on how to do this, consult the August/September 2010 issue of *Internet Genealogy*). Sharing your family history or research adventures on a blog is another surefire way to find kin. The Geneabloggers website, www.geneabloggers.com, lists more than 1,200 blogs about family history and genealogy and offers tips for how to get started and how to keep going. Check out the Blog Resources section, www.geneabloggers.com/blog-resources, and be sure to view the Genealogy Blog Primer prepared by webmaster, Thomas MacEntee, www.geneabloggers.com/genealogy-blog-primer. Popular blogging themes, such as "Surname Saturday" and "Tombstone Tuesday" offer weekly chances for you to actively use the web to help others find you.

If you prefer a more visual approach, use YouTube for video tributes to your family, or as a way to share some aspect of your genealogy search. Not only could it go viral and make you an overnight Internet sensation, but it may be viewed by that long-lost cousin in Ireland you never knew about.

www.genealogywise.com, and Twitter, www.twitter.com, to search for relatives, advertise their surname searches and share family history or genealogy gems. Family tree building and sharing websites let you combine the tasks of uploading a family tree and networking in one place. Ancestry.com, <http://trees.ancestry.com>.



Members of the Alzo family at a luncheon in Vranov, Slovakia, June 2010. Standing: Ján and Emilia Alzo, Robert and Renata Calfa. Sitting: Helena Alzo Bidlen.

I've had several such experiences of having others find me thanks to my website, www.lisaalzo.com, or blog, www.theaccidentalgenealogist.com, including a recent connection with a third cousin whom I met for the first time this summer during a trip to Slovakia.

2. BE A SOCIAL BUTTERFLY

With social networking all the rage, many genealogists have turned to sites such as Facebook, www.facebook.com, GenealogyWise,

www.geni.com, and MyHeritage.com's Family Tree Builder, www.myheritage.com/family-tree-builder, are popular programs, however, there are many other resources. See the June/July 2010 issue of *Internet Genealogy* for a review of Family Tree Builder 4.0 and other family tree building sites included in the "130 Best Genealogy Websites" article.

3. SHARE WHAT YOU KNOW

With Web 2.0, the Internet is no longer a static place where geneal-

ogists just retrieve information. Rather, there are plenty of opportunities to contribute pages of your ancestors, such as with Footnote Pages, www.footnote.com/pages (which is often referred to as the “Facebook for the Deceased”), or Living Genealogy, www.livinggenealogy.com. Even templates to set up Facebook Pages for your ancestors are available at www.stumbleupon.com/su/3239G0/www.geneabloggers.com/facebook-page-ancestor/r/f. Footnote has also launched an Interactive 1930 census, www.footnote.com/1930census, where users can go beyond viewing, downloading and printing images from the census to add images and comments, spotlight interesting finds, create pages for ancestors, and more. Still, other sites are enabling users to add comments and other content.

In addition, many genealogy wikis exist, encouraging user-contributed material. Two such wikis that are popular include WeRelate, www.werelate.org/wiki, and the FamilySearch Wiki, <https://wiki.familysearch.org/en> and the Ancestry.com Family History Wiki, www.ancestry.com/wiki/index.php?title=Main_Page.

Participating in DNA testing is another way to expand your search for blood relatives. There are a number of testing services, including Family Tree DNA, www.familytreedna.com, and 23andMe, www.23andme.com, and plenty of surname projects as well. Search for them on Ancestry.com DNA Groups, <http://dna.ancestry.com/dnaGroups.aspx>, Cyndi’s List Surname DNA Studies and Projects, www.cyndislist.com/surn-dna.htm, DNA Heritage Surname Projects, www.dnaheritage.com, Family Tree DNA Surname Projects, www.familytreedna.com/projects.aspx, and WorldFamilies.net Surname Projects, www.worldfamilies.net/surnames. Such opportunities for sharing literally opens up the world to genealogists, providing endless possibilities to connect with kin and collaborate with fellow researchers.

Publishing a book is yet another

way to increase the chances of finding or reconnecting with family members. It has certainly worked for me, as I have had numerous cousins get in touch after they picked up copies of my books, *Three Slovak Women* and *Slovak Pittsburgh* (see my article “Want to Find Long Lost Relatives? Write a Book!” in the July/August 2009 issue of *Family Chronicle*).



The author's article "Getting to Know Pap", in the June 2008 issue of Discovering Family History, was the catalyst for contact with an Alzo cousin whom she had no knowledge of prior to their first e-mail correspondence in late 2008.

4. VOLUNTEER

By volunteering at your local historical society, or Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Family History Center (FHC), you can help other researchers and perhaps meet someone who is tracking the same family line or ancestral village. You can also offer your time for local or national conferences or workshops. Find conference announcements on Eastman’s Online Genealogy Newsletter, <http://blog.eogn.com>, or check the list of “Upcoming Genealogical Society Events” featured in each issue of *Internet Genealogy*. If you prefer a more low-key way to help other genealogists, why not volunteer to do searches for websites, such as

Random Acts of Genealogical Kindness, www.raogk.org, or offer your services for one of many USGenWeb, <http://usgenweb.org>, or WorldGenWeb, www.worldgenweb.org, projects asking for coordinators.

5. LEAVE “ONLINE BREADCRUMBS”

Once you establish a virtual presence, make it easier for people to find you from your everyday online activities. Include names or places you’re researching in your email signature. Comment on blogs, read message boards, such as those posted to RootsWeb <http://boards.rootsweb.com>, GenForum, <http://genforum.genealogy.com>, or Yahoo! http://messages.yahoo.com/yahoo/Family_%26_Home/Genealogy/index.html. Use Google “My Maps” to create, personalize and share your own maps at <http://maps.google.com/help/maps/mymaps/create.html> (you can make it public), or use a family history mapping tool, such as Ancestral Atlas, www.ancestralatlas.com, to leave “virtual pushpins” marking those locations where your ancestors were born, married, lived, worked and died.

The process of connecting with fellow family history enthusiasts has certainly come a long way from the days of one person doing years of research, then publishing a massive tome of all the discovered names, or placing an ad in the local newspaper, in hopes of tracking down long-lost relatives. With all of the 21st century tools available, it’s easier than ever to find and be found. However, you have to be willing to take a chance. I recently opened a fortune cookie and the little slip of paper said: “Life is about making some things happen, not waiting for something to happen”. Apply this philosophy to genealogy and you could be pleasantly surprised by the results.

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Author, instructor and lecturer, Lisa A. Alzo is a regular contributor to Internet Genealogy and Family Chronicle, and leaves her virtual trail at www.theaccidentalgenealogist.com.

What's New at FamilySearch.org

WITH MORE THAN 10 million hits a day on their website, FamilySearch is one of the most popular destinations for genealogy researchers. But, if you look beyond the numbers, you will find that a significant amount of change has been going on.

In fact, 2010 has seen FamilySearch embark on a number of new projects and upgrades, ranging from millions of newly digitized records to scores of new indexes, methods of searching and more. With their goal of making more free records available, these changes can accelerate your family history project. Let's dig in and see what's new!

ABOUT FAMILYSEARCH

Before we get started, let's talk about FamilySearch. If you are just beginning your genealogical journey, you may not be aware of the site or the organization. Part of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, FamilySearch can be found at <http://www.familysearch.org>. Supporting the church's emphasis on family genealogy and history, the organization offers vast quantities of research collections for use in a wide variety of formats, ranging from microfilm to paper and even digital records.

The scope of their collections is immense. In fact, according to the website, they are "the largest genealogy organization in the world", with literally billions of records available from more than 100 countries, 4,600 local family history centers and other libraries and similar facilities.

These collections are not limited to just members and are available for everyone to use, free of charge.

RECENT CHANGES

Up until now, many of their resources have only been available in analog format, locked into collections of paper and/or microfilm. Because of this limited access, researchers have often needed to travel to individual locations to complete their research. However, with the rise of easy digitization and increased Internet access, particularly broadband, many of these collections are now available online; opening



FamilySearch browse collections.

doors and helping to alleviate information "brickwalls" faced by many of us in researching our family's history.

Other influences are forcing this change, as well. In talking with FamilySearch executives David Rencher, Chief Genealogical Officer, and Paul Nauta, FamilySearch Manager of Public Affairs, earlier this year at the Conference on Computerized Family History & Genealogy, they emphasized that a variety of factors were involved, ranging from a growing interest in genealogy by the younger generations, increasing use of digital archives and the changes in research brought about by social media, such as Facebook.

DATA!

For genealogical researchers, utilizing data is of the utmost importance, but accessing that data can be a real challenge sometimes. Helping to address this issue, FamilySearch has stepped up the progress of their digitization projects, resulting in a flood of new searchable indexes and online collections. For example, here's a quick snapshot of some of the data that has been released and made available this year (with more on the way):

- Three million, plus index records, from the 1910 US Census (50+ million names).
- Various names and information collections for states, such as Alabama, Colorado, Illinois and others.
- 60,000 images from the Czech Republic.
- International collections from Costa Rica, France, Hungary and Spain.
- 12 million digital images converted from microfilm in July alone.

Note that these are actual records that you can search for and use in your own personal family story. You'll also notice that the data is not strictly focused on the US, nor is it just censuses or other civil records data. There's worldwide information from a wide variety of countries being integrated into what is available and the data types include options, such as property information, church books and even funeral home records, just to name a few.

But, as much as these collections are beneficial, facts can only give us so much. History, and in particular family histories, also helps in bringing our ancestors to life, making them real and not just a name on a computer screen. In this light, FamilySearch is also

digitizing and making available historical collections for use. These include draft registration information, miscellaneous civil documents, maps and collections, such as the Freedmen's Bureau records.

SEARCHING, SEARCHING!

Even if we had all the data in the world, knowing how to search successfully is the key. Understanding that this is true and needing to accommodate all of the increased records and digital images now coming online, FamilySearch is currently implementing a beta search engine that will eventually replace the current version. Available at <http://beta.familysearch.org>, you can use it today for your research needs, but note that in the future, this address may change.

With a multiplicity of searching options, ranging from name to collection and other advanced options, the number of search features and additions that FamilySearch has implemented in this beta makes searching and refining your results quite easy. Search by name, year or location in the basic search or flip to the advanced search, which includes places of residency and even year of marriage. You can also specify what data set you would like to begin with, ranging from historical records or family trees to sources located in the library catalog.

Links to digital versions of books and digital resources, such as images, are included in this beta, along with the ability to refine your search strategy by place, availability and a host of other categories. In doing some sample searches for my family members, being able to limit to specific categories saved me time and effort, narrowing down a huge list of results to one that became manageable.

Going beyond the mechanics of searching, FamilySearch integrates an innovative way of viewing the increased numbers of digital images now becoming available.

Using the built-in image controls, I was able to zoom in and out, rotate, save and even print images right from my search results. Further testing of these options with some records of my family ancestors, I was impressed with how smoothly everything worked, even with different browser software. You should be aware, though, that some images, while showing up in the search results, are only available through collaborative partners, such as Footnote and others, and may end up cost-

approach family history".

There are lots of examples and pages on the site to help you get up to speed on your particular project. Testing out the indexing portion with a sample record and using FamilySearch's web-based indexing applications, I found it quite easy to quickly interpret information and data from the image posted on the page. This same approach is used for other types of historical documents as well, including building collaborative projects with local community



FamilySearch homepage.

ing a fee for use from their respective organization.

GIVING BACK!

I also found out that FamilySearch is emphasizing the theme of "community" and is giving volunteers like us the opportunity to help out with these digital projects in a wide variety of ways. No longer is it just FamilySearch staff helping out, it's individual volunteers helping to index records, answer family history questions in the community forums and even work with the FamilySearch Wiki, available at https://wiki.familysearch.org/en/Main_Page. According to David Rencher, the user is part of the answer and along with the rise of sites, such as Facebook, Twitter and others, it's "changing how we

organizations on the Community Trees project. FamilySearch states that, "most of the genealogies are joint projects between FamilySearch and others who live locally or have expertise in the area or records used to create the genealogies.

Each Community Tree is a searchable database with views of individuals, families, ancestors and descendants, as well as printing options."

For more information, try the following link: <http://histfam.familysearch.org/learnmore.php>.

FamilySearch is also partnering with many other organizations to help, as well. These collaborations are worldwide and include both non-profit organizations, such as the Ohio Genealogical Society and

What's New At FamilySearch.org

the Universidad Federal de Minas Gerais in Brazil, and commercial organizations such as Ancestry.Com, Footnote and even the national archives from many different countries. For more examples and updated information, visit http://indexing.familysearch.org/projects/current_partner_projects.jsf.

The end result for all of these efforts is that contributing to these projects enables FamilySearch to quickly bring more indexes and images online and available for use. With over 100 specific different projects to help out on, there are lots of opportunities now available, for both individuals and organizations.

FamilySearch has also extended this same approach to the technology community and, in particular, to developers of apps and other mobile software. Because genealogy, along with its researchers, is going mobile in many various ways, from cell phones to tablet computing devices, such as the iPad and other innovative software and hardware, the opportunities are growing.

In talking with FamilySearch officials, they are actively reaching out and working with them on various levels of applications, helping to improve access to records.

eBooks!

Tapping into the surging popularity of eBooks in genealogical research, I found FamilySearch is also working on a project to "create the largest single searchable collection online of local, county, and state histories". The Family History Archives, available at <http://www.lib.byu.edu/fhc/index.php>, is just a singular part of the larger digital collections available for use and contains over 17,000 unique digital items.

Encompassing a whole range of materials, from magazines and printed family histories to oral histories and even maps, both basic and advanced searching capabilities are available for use. Sortable results include descriptions, sources and even subjects. Selecting an individual title brings

up options to view the entire title or sections that are appropriate to your research needs. Library partners in the project include the Allen County Public Library, the Houston Public library and others.

...with plans to add millions more records per year...FamilySearch gives us the opportunity to know more than ever about our ancestors ...

LINKS, LINKS, LINKS

While I've mentioned a few of the changes at FamilySearch, there are many more projects and links to explore. What follows are a select few that I found useful in preparing this article. Take a look and see if these can help you in your research:

- FamilySearch Background: http://www.familysearch.org/eng/default.asp?page=eng/Policy/about_us.asp
- Help Pages: http://www.familysearch.org/eng/search/RG/frameset_rhhelps.asp
- Background on Indexing: http://www.familysearch.org/eng/indexing/frameset_indexing.asp
- FamilySearch New Combined Site Information: http://blog.fsbeta.familysearch.org/whats_new
- Links to More Websites: http://www.familysearch.org/eng/search/WebSites/frameset_websites.asp
- FamilySearch Labs: <http://labs.familysearch.org/>

WHAT'S IN STORE FOR THE FUTURE?

While I've had a chance to share with you some of the new and exciting changes that I found going on at FamilySearch this year, the future, according to company officials, will offer more digital projects and more data becoming available online.

From indexes to family histories and more, FamilySearch is planning on "digitizing and pub-

lishing online the bulk of ...2.4 millions rolls of microfilm-representing 132 countries ... (and) ...capturing millions of new images each year digitally from 185 field camera teams worldwide".

Besides just data and records, FamilySearch will be expanding "community tools" and volunteering opportunities, including expanding the forums, wikis and more. Look for releases and updates, as well as mobile applications and close collaboration with technology developers.

FINAL THOUGHTS

Is there a downside to this? The biggest issue I feel that may be faced by researchers is figuring out the best way to search and sift through the tremendous amount of data now available. Even with improved search and image capabilities, the sheer amount of information can be overwhelming at times.

Is it perfect? No, but new methods are being used and implemented. For genealogists, the changes at FamilySearch this year have opened up the floodgates of available data. With plans to add millions more records per year, as well as new methods of accessing them, FamilySearch gives us all the opportunity to know more than ever about our ancestors.

My recommendations are that you go online and give it a try. Explore, search and see what you can find about your ancestors. Give the indexing a try, give back to the community. Subscribe to the various FamilySearch blogs and RSS feeds available. You'll be glad you did!

IG

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

In Motion: The African-American Migration Experience

In Motion: The African-American Migration Experience, www.inmotionaame.org/home.cfm, was created by The Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, www.nypl.org/locations/schomburg, which is a research unit of The New York Public Library. The web-site presents more than 16,500 pages of texts, 8,300 illustrations and more than 60 maps, and is organized around 13 defining migrations that have formed and transformed African America and the nation.

Each migration is presented using five focal points: 1. Narrative, 2. Illustrations, each with caption, and bibliographical, indexing, and ordering information, 3. Research resources consisting of essays, books, book chapters, articles, and manuscripts, 4. Maps, and 5. Lesson plans for teachers. In addition, each migration has a bibliography (references) and a gateway of related websites.

I discovered this website as I was researching an African-American family which, at some point, migrated from North Carolina to Arkansas — we find them in Ashley County, Arkansas in 1880 and the father is clearly and consistently identified as born in NC. With no clues from the AR records as to where the father could have been born in NC (either about the family, possible extended family or NC born neighbors), I was interested in trying to learn more about what route this family might have traveled and/or an historical connection to where they “landed” in Arkansas to see if this would help in the research objective.

What I learned from this website was that Arkansas is kind of an in-between state — part of the south and yet not what was the plantation south, yet a slave-holding state though not part of what was considered the western migra-

tion destination of free black and ex-slave populations from the south. So, not a migration route studied or researched as much as is true for other locales.

As far as how to best use this

view the original version of it. As mentioned with regard to browsing, besides looking at the wealth of information via the thirteen defining migrations, there is also a timeline feature,

The In Motion website features more than 16,500 pages of texts, 8,300 illustrations and more than 60 maps and is a virtual treasure trove of information.

website, Migrations can be reached through “Browse by” Migrations, Geography or Timeline or via the “Search” function found at the top of the page and accessible from all pages. Once a migration has been selected, users can either read the narrative and look at the images, or focus on images only by clicking on “View Image Gallery.” From the drop-down menu, they can elect to see all the images, or only those associated with a particular part of the narrative. In the narrative, highlighted words take users to a glossary definition. The glossary can also be accessed through the Glossary box on the lower bar of each page.

When using the “search” feature, recognize that it enables users to search through texts, illustrations, maps, lesson plans and glossaries for a particular keyword or sentence. All books, book chapters, essays, articles, and manuscripts are presented in their original form as well as in a searchable version. So, once the search engine identifies what you consider a relevant document, map, etc., you can then

view the original version of it. As mentioned with regard to browsing, besides looking at the wealth of information via the thirteen defining migrations, there is also a timeline feature, www.inmotionaame.org/timeline.cfm, where you can look at historical context and then, at the bottom, click on the relevant Migration topic.

There are also lesson plans under “Educational Materials”. I looked at Geography since that is how I was first introduced to the site, and some of the lesson plans listed include: Mapping the Black Atlantic Lesson Plan, Geography and Runaway Journeys Lesson Plan: The Great Dismal Swamp, Mapping the Many Underground Railroads Lesson Plan, In Our Backyards Lesson Plan: Slave Trading and Small Towns, The Land Promised Lesson Plan: African-American Homesteaders and several others.

I have just scratched the surface of the extensive information found on this site. Whether you are researching an African-American family or wanting to understand better the impact of African-Americans and their forced or chosen migrations upon the US landscape, you will want to explore this fantastic resource!

EXTRA! EXTRA!

Don't Underestimate the Potential of Newspapers

Shannon Gillette gets the scoop on an often underutilized genealogical resource

NEWSPAPERS CAN BE goldmines for genealogists, but are often underutilized. They are frequently searched for marriage, death and birth records, but they offer so much more. Don't overlook newspapers as a source, thinking that your ancestor was not newsworthy enough to make the paper. Older newspapers reported on the daily happenings of the surrounding communities, giving the family historian a wonderful opportunity to flesh out their kinfolks with a more rounded idea of their everyday life. Columns are often found dedicated to court dockets, military activity, social and church events, club functions, fraternal organizations and surrounding community news, each involving residents of the area. The multitude of online newspaper databases makes researching these treasure troves easier than ever before.

COURT DOCKETS

Before each session of district court proceedings, the papers ran lists of the cases scheduled to appear. These would include both civil and criminal. While criminals lurking in our family tree are fascinating and fun to research, information on law abiding citizens can be found in these articles as well. The information listed can include jury members, witnesses and divorce and probate cases. On several occasions, the attorneys and law firms would be listed. In newspapers from the late 1800s through the 1920s, you will see many suits instigated by rural residents for property damage brought against

the railroads. The outcome of all the cases would be reported at the end of the court session. It is here that you will find information on any cases dismissed or continued, convictions and exonerations, and any fines levied.

MILITARY ACTIVITY

During times of war, the papers usually listed the men from the community who had enlisted or been drafted into service. When any information was received about local servicemen, it usually appeared in the newspaper. This type of information might include any commendations, injuries or deaths. In peace time, military articles can still be a good source of information. Reunions of service regiments were often reported on in great detail. Civil War unit reunions were very common. Articles detailing these events would name those in attendance, many times indicating the soldier's rank. One of the most important pieces of information that can be obtained in reunion write-ups is the list of those members that have passed away since the last reunion, giving the family historian a time frame when looking for death dates. The criteria to receive a Civil War pension changed several times but, in 1904, President Roosevelt declared old age as a disability widening the range of those eligible to receive payment. Veterans and dependents applying for pension privileges were commonly listed in the newspaper.

SOCIAL AND CHURCH EVENTS

Church picnics, county fairs, barn dances and cemetery workings are some of the topics that will be found in columns about social and church events. The event will usually be recounted in detail, sometimes even to the extent of what the participants were wearing and what food they brought.

Information on revival attendance was sometimes reported. These types of articles are great sources for establishing the little details that bring our ancestors to life.

CLUB FUNCTIONS AND FRATERNAL ORGANIZATIONS

An abundance of information on club functions can be found in older newspapers. There was a club for just about every subject matter. Women's clubs, such as gardening, quilting and benevolence, were popular. The times and places for club meetings were announced a week or so before, and a detailed write up about the meeting could usually be found the week after.

Fraternal organizations like the Masons, Odd Fellows and Woodsmen of the World articles were a staple in most newspapers. These articles listed new members, elections of officers, and where and when the group met.

COMMUNITY NEWS

In many cases, there might be only one or two papers published within a county. Articles were submitted by members of surrounding communities detailing the happen-

ings in their area. These articles were packed with information on an array of subjects. If a community member was ill, it was reported in these articles. Extremely contagious diseases, such as small pox, were a constant threat, especially during the late 1800s. If any home was under quarantine, it was announced, as well as any travel bans or restrictions put in place due to the threat of the spread of infection. Other types of information useful to genealogists included upcoming birthday parties, weddings and school events. If members of a community traveled, had visitors or suffered some type of loss, it was broadcast in this section of the newspaper. The condition of crops was a common topic and included whose crops were fairing better or worse than the neighbors.

It is the details found in all of these types of articles that make newspapers a wonderful source for genealogists. By combining the small nuggets found in newspapers with other sources, you are able to weave together the life story of your ancestors, filling in aspects of their daily lives that bring the past generations into focus, creating a family legacy instead of just lists of names and dates.

ABOUT ONLINE NEWSPAPER DATABASES

The number of online newspaper databases grows each day. With digitizing technology, not only are there more newspapers available, but searching them is easier than ever before. In the past, you had to read each and every page of each and every newspaper to find what you were seeking. Today, the online databases have powerful search capabilities making that tedious research method a thing of the past.

The online newspapers sources fall into two major categories, those that are free and those that are subscription based. Check with your local libraries regarding the subscription bases sites; many of them offer access to these sites to their patrons. If you are near a college or university,

investigate their options too. No single database will cover every newspaper. Analyze each database to find which ones maintain the geographic area most helpful for your research project.

POPULAR ONLINE NEWSPAPER DATABASES

Google News Archives Search, <http://news.google.com/archivesearch>, while not technically a database, is great place to start your newspaper search. Type in your ancestors' name or a location or any key word and this site will provide a list of any article in which your search term appears. Accessing the article will depend on the original paper. Sometimes only an abstract is available, other times the full article is available. In many instances, the abstract is available with the option to purchase the

It is the details found in all of these types of articles that make newspapers a wonderful source for genealogists.

full article.

NewspaperArchives.com is the largest online newspaper database. It offers a selection of newspapers dating from 1759 to the present, with more than 51 million pages contained in the database. It can be searched by date or keyword. This is a subscription based site, but can be accessed through several libraries including Godfrey Memorial Library.

ProQuest.com offers 36 different newspapers, dating from 1764-2008, containing over 25 million pages. The majority of the newspapers found in this database are large city newspapers, such as New York, Los Angeles and Chicago. The site also offers three international newspapers. The latest additions to this site include the Black Newspaper Collection and the Civil War Era Collection. The Black Newspaper Collection is

made up of nine newspapers, including the *Chicago Defender* and the *Baltimore Afro-American*. The Civil War Era Collection contains newspapers and pamphlets regarding slavery and the anti-slavery movement from the 1840s to the conclusion of the Civil War.

Ancestry.com, probably the most used online source for genealogists, has a varied newspaper selection. They offer 16 million pages from over 1,000 different newspapers. They have newspapers from the US, the UK and Canada. They also have an extensive US obituary collection with over nine million obituaries.

News Bank, provided by Genealogybank.com, contains over 1,000 small town and large city newspapers. The date range is from 1690-1980. They cover primarily United States newspapers.

Footnote.com has a total of 47 newspapers in their database, one of which is the *London Times*. The remaining 46 are newspapers from the United States. Many of the newspapers on this site are from small communities.

When looking for an online newspaper database to fit your needs, check the websites of state archives and libraries. They often provide information about databases relating to that particular state. Ask your local librarian which databases they subscribe to and if they offer remote access through their website.

Don't underestimate the value and potential of newspaper research. There are vast amounts of useful information just waiting to be discovered. With the availability of numerous online newspaper databases, finding these treasures is an extremely manageable endeavor.

IG

Shannon Gillette is a regular contributor to both Internet Genealogy and Family Chronicle.

15 Fantastic Sites For Tracing Female Ancestors

Lisa A. Alzo looks at the top websites for researching the women in your family tree



TRACING THE FEMALES in your family tree can be a daunting task. But there are plenty of online resources to help you track them down. Here's a list of 15 fabulous websites for finding female ancestors (listed in alphabetical order). We've omitted listing the major players (subscription databases) already known to most genealogists to focus on those with more female-friendly information.

1. American Women's History: A Research Guide

<http://frank.mtsu.edu/~kmiddlet/history/women.html>

American Women's History provides citations to print and Internet reference sources, as well as to selected large primary source collections of more 2,100+ citations to print and Internet sources, 1,200+ links to Internet sources, and 500+ links to Digital Collections of Primary Sources.

2. BehindtheName

www.behindthename.com

Want to learn the meaning of your female ancestor's first name, or its origin and variations? Try this free site dedicated to the etymology

and history of first names. Use the search box, or search by ethnic group. You can also learn about Name Days and use fun tools like the Name Translator or the Random Renamer.

3. BellaOnline: The Voice of Women Genealogy Site

www.bellaonline.com/site/Genealogy

Genealogy Editor, Tina Sansone writes informative articles on a variety of genealogy topics from Book and Product Reviews to Beginners Genealogy, Ethnic Links to Online Databases.

4. Cyndi's List: Female Ancestors

www.cyndislist.com/female.htm

Cyndi's List has been around since 1996, and currently contains more than 282,000 links for family history, with more than 170 links for female ancestors. The site has a main index, as well as a topical, alphabetical, and "no frills" and "text-only" indexes, or type a topic in the search box.

5. Discovering Women's History Online

<http://library.mtsu.edu/digital/projects/womenshistory.php>

This database provides access to digital collections of primary sources (photos, letters, diaries, artifacts, etc.) that document the history of women in the United States. Browse by: Subjects, States, Time Periods, or Primary Source Types, or use the Search box to type in a topic. One of the more interesting collections is Katrina Thomas Ethnic Wedding Photograph Collection (Bryn Mawr College) that includes more than 800 photographs of ethnic weddings in the US (1960s-90s). More than 70 ethnic and religious groups are represented. The "Photographer's notes" section of each record provides contextual information about individual photographs.

6. Distinguished Women of the Past and Present

www.distinguishedwomen.com

This site created by Danuta Bois, and featuring 5,282 links to 1875 women keeps growing. You'll find biographies on writers, educators, scientists, heads of state, politicians, civil rights crusaders, artists, entertainers and others, and plenty of women not in the history books.

15 Fantastic Sites for Tracing Female Ancestors

Browse by subject or search by name. Be sure to check out the other useful resources and Danuta's Blog at <http://danutabois.tumblr.com>.

7. Fearless Females: 31 Blogging Prompts to Celebrate Women's History Month

www.theaccidentalgenealogist.com/2010/02/fearless-females-31-blogging-prompts-to.html

Okay, this is a bit of self-promotion, but many readers of my Blog enjoyed participating in this daily blogging event to celebrate Women's History Month in March. Each day was a different prompt to honor a female ancestor.

8. MaidenName.net

www.maidenname.net

If you're looking for a woman from your past, you might hit it lucky searching this database. The database is free, but you must register to search it and/or its MS.ing Persons Bulletin Board. The site is strictly voluntary. Each member's information has been entered by that member. The site does not obtain any data from any outside source. The site has been featured in *Parade Magazine* and *USA Today*.

9. National Women's History Museum

www.nwhm.org

The official website of the National Women's History Museum located in Alexandria, Virginia. Watch a video clip of actress Meryl Streep introducing the museum, or take a virtual tour via the museum's CyberExhibits covering a wide range of topics from Women in Industry to Rights for Women to Women of Jamestown. You'll also find educational resources, such as self-guided tours, biographies, and lesson plans and quizzes (for teachers).

10. Notable Women Ancestors

www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~nwa

A free website by genealogist Susanne "Sam" Behling, hosted on RootsWeb offers an interesting

database of female ancestors organized alphabetically or by categories. There are links to other websites and recommended books to aid with your research.

11. Oral History in the Perry Library (Women's History and Issues)

www.lib.odu.edu/special/oralhistory/womenhistory

This site offers an alphabetical listing of oral histories in the Perry Library collection that pertain in whole or part to women's history and issues. Brief descriptions for each interview are listed. To listen to the audio, you must have RealPlayer and the appropriate



plug-in installed. A free download can be found at www.real.com/realplayer.

12. Prologue: Women & Naturalization Records

www.archives.gov/publications/prologue/1998/summer/women-and-naturalization-1.html

"Any woman who is now or may hereafter be married..." Women and Naturalization, c. 1802-1940, by Marian L. Smith for *Prologue: Quarterly of the National Archives and Records Administration Summer 1998, vol. 30, no. 2*. This article examines why women are not represented in early US naturalization records.

13. The Library of Congress American Memory Project

<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/browse/ListSome.php?category=Women's History>

The American Memory collection provides free and open access to

historic documents, maps, photos, audio and video. The site has seven collections dedicated to Women's History.

14. Top 10 Places to Find Maiden Names

http://genealogy.about.com/od/surnames/tp/maiden_names.htm
Genealogist Kimberly Powell's detailed article on ten record/resources to consult to track down a female ancestor's maiden name.

15. Women's Rights National Historic Park and Museum

www.nps.gov/wori/index.htm

In 1848, Elizabeth Cady Stanton and four other women invited the public to the First Women's Rights Convention to discuss expanding the role of women in America. At the end of the two days, 100 people made a public commitment to work together to improve women's quality of life. This official website of the Women's Rights National Historic Park and Museum located in Seneca Falls, New York, has stories, photographs and history detailing the participants of the First Women's Rights Convention, plus information on planning a trip/visit to the museum, special events and much more.

IG

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

Uncovering the Past: The Sisters Next Door

WHILE DIGGING THROUGH a box of old photographs, I came across pictures of strangers. I looked for identification and then realized that they were given to me several years ago by my, now-deceased, mother-in-law. At the time, I was doing presentations on old photography, identification and analysis and she thought they might be of interest to me.

My first thought was that they should be returned, but to whom? I packed up the photographs, my laptop, luggage and took off to visit my sister-in-law. Maybe she would have some idea as to what we should do with the photographs, especially since she does photo restoration.

We quickly identified the small collection of photographs as originally belonging to Mrs. Anderson and Mrs. White. They were two elderly sisters, who were neighbors to my in-laws in Alliance, Nebraska. My mother-in-law befriended them and saw to their needs, which was important since they had no other family. They lived together in a two-storey house full of treasures, such as

paintings, china, crystal, furniture and books. They were also known to all of us as simply Ethel and Alva. The sisters were the daughters of Mr. and Mrs. Alvin Mitchell.

Each year, my sister-in-law visits their graves, along with those of their spouses and parents, in the Alliance Cemetery.

Token remembrances run in both my family and the family of my sister-in-law. I have some of their china and depression glass and now she has the photographs.

On the back of a large torn and faded cabinet card was written, "Miss Alva Viets ...Room No. 3 ...Sixth Avenue School ...Pine Bluff, Arkansas". My sister-in-law stated that this must be a girl named after "our" Miss Alva. We were told she was Miss Alva Mitchell before she married Mr. Anderson. I did a Google search for "Sixth Avenue School Pine Bluff Arkansas". The first item to come up was Postcards of Pine Bluff, Arkansas at www.pinebluffpostcards.com/page4.htm. There was a postcard of the Sixth Avenue School. We knew that the

two ladies had ties to Pine Bluff, so perhaps the Viets were relatives.

The next revealing information was from the 1900 US Census of Jefferson County, Arkansas, Pine Bluff City. Two families, the Viets and Mitchells, were living at 712 South Main Street.

- Mary J. Viets, wife, born January 1855, 45, married 26 years, b. IL, father b. Germany, mother b. IN
- Elwood Viets, head, born July 1849, 50, b. MI, father b. NJ, mother b. MA painter and decorator, rents
- Melnotte Viets, son, born December 1881, 18, b. Missouri
- Alva Viets, daughter, b. May 1890, 10, b. Arkansas
- Elizabeth Rodgers, mother, b. October 1824, 75, widow, four children, two living, b. IN, both parents b. KY
- Christian Mitchell, b. Feb 1875, 75, widowed, six children, six living, born France, both parents b. France, came 1847, resident here 53 years, naturalized, barber, rents
- Alvin Mitchell, son, b. Nov. 1861, 38, single, b. MO, father b. France, mother b. Germany,



*Left: An undated photograph of the Mitchell sisters, Ethel and Alva.
Right: Ethel White and Alva Anderson lived next door to the author's in-laws in Alliance, Nebraska.*

Uncovering the Past: The Sisters Next Door

confectioner

• Mary Lawrence, servant, b. April 1864, 36, single, b. AR, father b. MS, mother b. SC

Knowing that Ethel and Alva were daughters of Alvin and Mary Mitchell, we assumed that we had found their parents and that Alvin Mitchell had wed Mary Lawrence, the servant. However, the dates did not fit. We knew that the sisters were born before 1900. The date of birth for Alva Viets matched what we knew for Alva Mitchell. Were they, perhaps, the same person?

This is what we knew about the sisters: Ethel married Albert W. White. According to her tombstone, she was born 23 August 1878 and died 4 February 1969. Albert White was born 29 June 1879 and died 2 September 1951.

Alva married Benjamin C. Anderson. She was born 12 May 1892 and died 17 September 1962. He was born 20 October 1885 and died 13 February 1951. Between these graves are the sisters' parents, Mary Jane Mitchell born 20 January 1860, died 17 October 1929, and Alvin John Mitchell born 23 November 1861, died 20 May 1930.

Obviously, I needed to track these people backward and forward from the 1900 US Census of Jefferson Co., Arkansas. Because Mary J. Viets is shown in 1900 as having been born in Illinois, I decided to check the online Illinois Statewide Marriage Index provided by the Illinois State Archives, www.ilsos.net/departments/archives/databases.html. Elwood C. Veits was married to Mary J. Cantner in Douglas Co., Illinois on 17 September 1872, Volume 1, page 454, license 1512. From this point on, I was aware that the surname was spelled as both Viets and Veits.

Using the federal censuses online, I was able to find these families within a matter of minutes. On the 1880 US Census, Elwood Veits and family were living in Randolph Co., Missouri, Moberly, Second Ward. He was listed as age 30, artist, born in Michigan. His wife is shown as Jennie, which is a common nick-

name for Jane, age 26, born in Illinois. Their children were Beatrice, age 5, born in Missouri and Ethel, 3, also born in Missouri. There was Ethel, but who was Beatrice?

On the 1910 US Census, Jennie Viets, a 53-year-old widow, is found in Jefferson Co., Arkansas, Pine Bluff Ward 1, living at 705 State Street. She reportedly had four children, with three of them still living. What appears to have been a given-name of Barbara was crossed through and replaced with

The person I contacted was able to locate E.C. Viets' obituary in the Pine Bluff Daily, 28 July 1907, page 2. Listed as survivors were Mrs. J.A. Paulette and Melnotte Viets of Galveston, Texas, and Mrs. Ethel McCaa and Miss Alva Viets of Pine Bluff. Looking again at the 1910 US Census (three years after his death), I realized that Ethel was shown as a Viets, single, in her widowed mother's household.

My research turned, once again, to the 1900 US Census to see if I could locate Ethel as a



Beatrice Viets Paulette in an undated photograph. She was the sister of Ethel and Alva.

what looks like Ethel Viets, age 26, single, born in Missouri, working as a seamstress. Also in the household was Alva Viets, age 19, single, born in Arkansas, working as a meloner [sic].

There were also boarders in the household, probably providing Jennie with income. We eventually learned that, in 1910, Jennie's four children were all living. The enumeration proved to be sloppy in many ways. Sometime between 1900 and 1910, Elwood Viets died, leaving Jennie with two daughters; the sisters we knew as Ethel and Alva.

I decided to ask Random Acts of Genealogical Kindness (RAOGK), www.raogk.org, to help me in Jefferson Co., Arkansas.

McCaa instead of a Viets. She was in Pine Bluff, Jefferson Co., Arkansas, Ward 3, 511 S. Oak. Her husband was James McCaa, born November 1875, age 24, married four years, a city fireman and renting. She is shown as his wife, born August 1877, 22, no children, born in Missouri. It appears they were married around 1896 and either James McCaa passed away between 1907 and 1910 or they divorced. If he died during that time period, she would likely have been shown as Ethel McCaa and not Ethel Viets on the 1900 US Census.

Using LDS microfilm of Jefferson Co., Arkansas marriages, I discovered that Ethel Viets had married J.W. McCaa of Clio,

Uncovering the Past: The Sisters Next Door

Cleveland Co., Arkansas on 12 April 1896. Also married in Pine Bluff, Arkansas was a Miss Beatrice J. Viets, 21, of Pine Bluff to Joseph Paulette of the same city on 28 September 1896 at the age of 35. I also discovered that "Miss" Ethel Muriel Viets, 33, married Albert Walter White, 34, both of Pine Bluff on 17 March 1913.

It certainly appeared that Ethel had divorced James McCaa, but this is still an unsolved mystery. I have read all of the microfilm for Jefferson Co., Arkansas divorces from 1900 to 1915. There appears to be a glitch in the records, so there may have been something that was not in the record book or missed by the microfilmer. Another possibility is that they divorced in a different county.

My sister-in-law vaguely remembers the mention of a brother who would have been the Melnotte Viets shown on the census. He is shown as Melnotte Elwood Viets on his World War I Draft Registration card, 1621 N. Galveston, Texas. He was born 12 December 1881, working as an engineer for the Santa Fe Railroad. He had a wife, Catherine, and the draft card was filed on 9 September 1918.

On the 1930 US census, Melnotte and his wife were living in Galveston, Texas, and he was still working as a railroad engineer. Catherine was 42, married to him since age 20, born in Texas. His mother-in-law and his wife's niece were also in the household. It appears that Melnotte had no children.

Once again, the person contacted at Random Acts of Genealogical Kindness (RAOGK) helped by sending me a copy of Melnotte Viet's obituary from the *Pine Bluff Graphic*, 27 June 1939. He left Pine Bluff in about 1908. His wife, the former Miss Kitty Livingston, survived as well as sisters, Mrs. Ben Anderson of Alliance, Nebraska and Mrs. A.W. White of Kingsport, Oklahoma.

What happened to their mother, Mary Jane Viets, and her daughter, Beatrice? Luckily, I found a death certificate for Beatrice Jane Paulette on the

FamilySearch labs, <http://labs.familysearch.org>. She died 20 November 1927 at Black Point, Dade Co., Florida, born 21 December 1874 in Moberly, Missouri and wife of J.A. Paulette. This indicates she was the daughter of E.C. Viets and Jena Contsan.

On the 1900 US census, Joseph and Beatrice Paulette were living in Pine Bluff, Arkansas where he is listed as a machinist. Beatrice is recorded as being a bookkeeper with no children. The 1910 US census shows the Paulette's in Silsbee Junction, Hardin Co., Texas where he was a general foreman in the railway shop. Beatrice was 34 years old and still had no children. In 1920, they were living in Galveston Co., Texas where Joseph Paulette owned his own mechanical shop. Between 1920-27, they moved to Florida. Joseph is shown as a 66-year-old widower on the 1930 US Census in Jacksonville, Duval Co., Florida, and was engineering in a ship factory.

I was hoping the information in the sisters' obituaries, or those of their husbands, would provide more information about their mother. The obituary for Alva Anderson indicates that she married Benjamin C. Anderson in 1917 in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. They lived in Gordon and Bridgeport, Nebraska before moving to Alliance, Nebraska where he was a druggist. My attention was now turned to the state of Oklahoma. LDS microfilm of Oklahoma County dates their marriage on 5 February 1917. Checking the index, it also shows that Alva and Ethel's mother, Mary Jane Viets, married Alvin J. Mitchell on 31 December 1917 in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

Did Mary Jane Viets, as a widow, stay in touch with the Mitchells who were living within her household in 1900? Why did she go to Oklahoma? All these questions will probably remain unanswered. According to Alvin Mitchell's obituary, he was born in Palmyra, Missouri and moved to Moberly, Missouri where he entered the Conservatory of Music. Ironically, the Viet's daughter, Beatrice, was born in Moberly,

Missouri in 1874. Did the Viets and Mitchells know each other in Moberly?

My sister-in-law discovered a box in storage which had belonged to her late mother. The contents originally belonged to the sisters. In it we found a business card for Mitchell & Stephens of Palmyra, Montana fine wines, liquors and cigars. There was also letterhead dated 1895 for Viets & Senyard who were house, sign and carriage painters in Pine Bluff, Arkansas. She also discovered a large Knights of Pythias pen engraved E.C. Viets.

In the box was a yellowed page of *The Daily Oklahoman*, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, Wednesday, 7 February 1917, announcing the marriage of Miss Alva Clara Viets, daughter of Mrs. M.J. Viets of 922 West Main Street to Mr. Benjamin C. Anderson of Alliance, Nebraska. They were attended by Mr. and Mrs. A.W. White. The Andersons left on a honeymoon to Galveston and Houston, undoubtedly to visit her siblings. They were going to make their home in Alliance, which would eventually attract all of the family, except Melnotte and Beatrice. There were numerous unidentified photographs in the box, but one that was identified was of the sister Beatrice, shown as Bea.

With problems solved and a few that will probably forever remain a mystery, we now know that the sisters next door were not daughters of Alvin Mitchell, but rather of Elwood C. Viets. We know they had a sister, Beatrice, and a brother, Melnotte. There were no descendants to share their lives and to receive their cherished photographs, letters and clippings. Why they never talked about their father, Elwood Viets, Ethel's first marriage or their siblings, is unanswered. Perhaps nobody asked.

IG

Ruby Coleman has been doing her own genealogy for over 40 years and professionally for more than 25 years. She specializes in research in Nebraska and is also a writer and lecturer.

EasyNetSites: Great News For Societies!

LIKE MANY GREAT things, it began in a very small way. This past December, I was in Salt Lake City on the annual Salt Lake Christmas Tour and was visiting with a friend, Joanne Ryder. As she lives in Florida, and I in Washington, a yearly rendezvous in Salt Lake is a perfect time to catch up.

"Our genealogical society has gone with a fabulous new website development," she told me, and then went on and on about the wonders of this new software to make their wonderful new website. And all the while I was thinking, "Yah, sure, my local genealogical society's website needs a make-over, but we can do it ourselves."

"Come take a look!" Joanne enticed Cecily (a fellow society member) and I. So we did. And we were sold. We quickly presented this great new opportunity to our Board. With their approval, our local genealogical society has engaged Tom Ryder, creator of EasyNetSites, to build a new website for us.

Click to www.easynetsites.com, and then select "Portfolio", and then click on the demo link for our website, the Eastern Washington Genealogical Society. Check out our awesome website for yourself!

Knowing this was something that all of you would like to know more about, I e-mailed Ryder a list of questions and his answers formed the basis for this article.

Ryder explained that in June of 2009, he was asked to assist the Charlotte County Genealogical Society (Florida) in the development of a new website. They had not been successful in doing their own site, primarily because of the lack of availability and the overall cost of someone to do the necessary HTML programming. As he began working with them to develop their site, Ryder began to realize that some of the elements

they wanted on their site could be automated, which would allow the society to maintain and update the site themselves, thereby reducing the overhead cost of someone doing it for them. As the development continued, Ryder was struck with the thought that other genealogical societies might have the same issues. Thus, the idea was born and, by the end of July 2009, the creation of EasyNetSites software became his major focus.

Ryder next worked with the

One big draw was Ryder's insistence that the tool software be easy to use by the society webmaster and ultimately allow for input from members, too.

folks of the Lee County Genealogical Society (Florida) and this group confirmed his idea that a web-based product to help societies with their websites would be well received. Working with, and between, those two societies, the base product for EasyNetSites began to take form in Ryder's mind, with the dominant operating principle being that the software should be easy to use and relatively inexpensive.

EasyNetSites is a web-based tool containing all the features that a genealogical society would want or need in their website. There is a homepage, a links page, a calendar of events page, a surname file section, a members-only section and much more. There is a section to post the membership list, the monthly newsletter or the quarterly bulletin or journal. There is a "Blast E-Mail" section where messages can be "blasted" to all members. There can be a PayPal link for paying dues and registering for conferences. There is a place for

societies to post their local databases or the catalog list of their genealogical library. And the really good news is that if there is something that your society wants that isn't already in the package, Ryder will design it for you.

One big draw was Ryder's insistence that the tool software be easy to use by the society webmaster and ultimately allow for input from members, too. The requirement of anyone tasked with maintaining the system was the ability to fill out a form and use a word processing program ...nothing more. This feature alone was most attractive.

Ryder first released his EasyNetSites to the public at the Florida State Genealogical Society Conference in November 2009. Rave reviews followed, word of mouth spread and soon other societies were clamoring for the help of EasyNetSites in updating or developing their websites.

Ryder is most proud that the greatest benefit of EasyNetSites software is its ease-of-use and relatively inexpensive cost. He says that program updates for a better tool and added features will be based on suggestions from societies who are using the program.

I really liked what Ryder told me at the end of our e-mail interview. "We're taking software back to being useful for a given purpose, not software for every purpose. We believe in making things easy, affordable and we have a firm commitment to working closely with our clients to meet their needs with the least amount of effort on their part."

A great thing developed out of a friendly lunch conversation. Our genealogical society is now part of the EasyNetSites family! Thanks, Joanne for speaking up.

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Get in Touch With Your Ancestors: Common-Place

IF YOU'RE DOING family research on 18th and 19th century American ancestors, it's can be easy to find resources for names, dates and places.

What's not so easy is placing your ancestors in the larger context of national history. How did they react to the events of the times? What were their lives like? What things interested them? Often, cultural information such as this was never written down to begin with or has since become lost.

To help you understand your family history better, take a look at the online magazine and website Common-Place, www.common-place.org. Common-Place is filled with stories, commentaries and information about America in the years before 1900. Your ancestor's can be brought back to life

Sponsored by distinguished institutions and organizations such as the American Antiquarian Society, the Florida State University Department of History, the University of Oklahoma and others, the focus of the site is on discovering and learning about everyday life in early America.

I've found that this site is a great way to help me understand my early ancestors, adding depth and character to the numbers and dry facts I have found so far. It's also a great site if you're a fan of American history in general. They have won several major awards for their content, including for being one of the top ten sites for history teachers, as well as a Yahoo "Pick of the Week".

Each issue of the online maga-

zine is presented as the front page of the site when it is published, and includes stories, links, reviews and other content. To give you some idea of the type of material published, a quick glance at the list of back issues includes titles such as "Genealogy and American History", <http://common-place.org/vol-02/no-03/ohare/>; "Soldiers' Tales", <http://common-place.org/>

are published. Scanning the back issues, located at www.common-place.org/previous.shtml, might help if you are looking for general topics, but for detailed queries you should try the custom Google search box located on the bottom right hand corner of the home page. Because it is Google, you can also use advanced searching skills, such as phrase searching, wild-carding terms and searching within results, to narrow down the number of articles.

Other interesting parts of Common-Place include the "Common-place Web Library", at www.common-place.org/web-library/, a list of links on American history. I discovered some great sites about subjects such as a virtual Jamestown and the history of pets in America.

If you want to receive site updates and information about upcoming issues, you might also be interested in their mailing list, <http://www.common-place.org/mailling-list/>. If you are a book collector, like me, Common-Place also contains a book review index of titles, past and present. Found at www.common-place.org/reviews.shtml, this list includes titles from all aspects of early American history.

If you are intrigued by history, then Common-Place is definitely a must see for finding out more about your early American ancestors. With previous issues online, a great way to search and lots of stories to tell, it's worth stopping by.



Common-Place homepage.

[vol-04/no-03/tucher/](http://common-place.org/vol-04/no-03/tucher/); and "Insurance in Colonial America", <http://common-place.org/vol-07/no-01/wertheimer/>. These articles are written by all types of people interested in American history, not just scholars and professors.

It's published on a quarterly basis. Older issues remain available for browsing and use on the site, even after the new editions

The Genealogical Research Library

EVEN THOUGH TECHNOLOGY is changing their approach, libraries (and librarians) still help genealogists and family researchers find the information they are looking for, be it a book, website, index or some other source. In much the same way, the Genealogical Research Library, with their tagline of "The World At Your Fingertips", is a new genealogy web resource that is a great place to help you get going on your latest family project. After reviewing the site and looking at some of the resources that are available on it, I've found that the Genealogical Research Library is a resource to consider if you're looking to expand your list of sites to examine.

ABOUT

Still a work in progress, the often-updated Genealogical Research Library (GRL) is located at <http://www.grl.com>. A subscription-based site with prices ranging from \$20 (US) per month to \$90 (US) per year, GRL gives the family researcher immediate access to genealogical information across a wide range of formats and resources, ranging from digitized, highly-detailed maps to eBook links, extensive genealogical links and more. Moreover, GRL brings a unique search perspective to finding facts and information about your family.

SEARCHING!

Many of today's current genealogical websites barrage the family researcher with technical or hard to understand methods of finding the information they need. Every site is different and successfully "building" your search strategy can be confusing, especially if genealogy sites change their method of searching from time to time. What worked a few months

ago, may not work now. This can result in frustration and anger on the part of the researcher.

GRL puts an entirely new spin on these traditional searching methods by employing what the site calls the "Listing Selection". Instead of a search box, the genealogist is presented with an index, similar to one in a book, with topics arranged alphabetical-

clear sentences that describe in advance what you will find. This way, whether you want to visit a free source of information, or read a book containing information you seek, you will have a brief summary just by looking at the "Descriptor".

These are quite helpful and can give insight as to whether or not the resource in question has any



The Genealogical Research Library has extensive digitized maps for use in your research.

ly by country, religion and fraternal groupings, as well as other entry points, such as maps. After choosing a "listing" to get started, the researcher is then taken to another detailed index page of information resources related to the chosen topic. From here, the researcher has jumping off points to all types of resources related to the subject, including websites, maps, eBooks and other forms of information.

GRL refers to these details as "descriptors" and points out the fact that: "...our library uses 'Descriptors', which are short,

potential information.

Here's an example I used when I searched the site. Knowing that my family has ancestors in Tennessee, I first started by logging in and looking at the entire index, finding as a starting point: "United States of America, Tennessee". Clicking on the link brought me to the listings page for the entire state. Websites were listed as potential starting points as well as eBooks and databases. Resources ranged from census results, city directories, eBook links and more. I selected the following three to get started:

The Genealogical Research Library

- Link to the 1820 Census (index and images) held on Archive.org
- Link to “Old Times in West Tennessee” (eBook)
- Many index entry points to burials in public and private Tennessee cemeteries

With these resources, all listed in advance, I was able to save time and use this single site instead of many separate ones.

RESOURCE RATINGS ABBREVIATIONS

GRL also employs a “star” rating system similar to what other genealogy websites and search engines use. Ranging from one to five stars, this relevance rating can quickly help the researcher determine whether the resource listed is one that would be the most beneficial. This attention to detail can also be noticed via the use of specific abbreviations for certain sources. These include (among others):

- CO (County)
- BMD (Births, Marriages and Deaths)
- INCL (Included)
- The \$ symbol, which indicates a resource that costs an additional fee to either use or access.

MAPS AND MORE!

As mentioned above, one of the real strengths of the Genealogical Research Library is the digitized maps available for use and examination. Available from the main listings page under their own heading and scanned in high resolution and detail, these can be key in discerning older towns and settlements mentioned in ancient family histories or notes and letters.

Alphabetically listed and with coverage from ancient to modern times, from Tennessee in 1814 to Vietnam in 1974, the spectrum of what is available is very good. Beyond just family history, these maps are excellent resources of general historical information as well!

EBOOKS

The explosion of eBooks on the genealogy scene is presenting family researchers with many resources not seen in years. Out of

print, out of sight and tucked away in libraries across the land, these treasures hold lots of clues and facts about past family life in America. GRL links to these extensive holdings on many websites, including the Internet Archive, <http://www.archive.org/>, among oth-

Genealogical Research Library at <http://www.grl.com/about-us> and Searching Methods for the GRL at <http://www.grl.com/how-to-search>.

FINAL THOUGHTS

With its unique approach to searching, digitized map resources



Scanned in high resolution, GRL digital mapping resources can help fill in missing geographical details.

ers. As you study the topics in question, you’ll find these links appearing on the general list of resources.

FOUND IT!

Looking for other resources beside maps and books? GRL also makes available to researchers modern day links to other important information resources. Ranging from phone directories to historical societies and sites, this secondary layer expands your options (and chances) of finding that needed piece of information.

As an example, doing further searching for my family ancestors in Tennessee, I hit the link for the Lawrence County Archives located in Leoma Tennessee. From there, I was able to branch off on another set of leads that ultimately proved fruitful.

NEED MORE?

With this review, I’ve been able to share a portion of what I’ve used and seen on the site. Try the following links for more background information and clues on the best way to search it: About the

and extensive listings, the Genealogical Research Library brings a new approach to finding our ancestor’s information.

For a beginner, who may have only bits and pieces of information to start with, this website offers an opportunity to quickly gather together a range of resources from which to begin extracting family information. On the other hand, for researchers looking for very specific information on an individual family or person, the lack of a basic or advanced search box can present some problems.

Overall, the site was easy to use and, although I found several dead links and lack of content on some pages, the tremendous amount of website links, eBook information and updated resources make this site worthy of consideration.

IG

Tony Bandy is a frequent contributor to Internet Genealogy and Family Chronicle.

West Virginia Vital Records Online!

KNOWN OFFICIALLY AS the West Virginia Vital Research Records Project, you will enjoy using this online resource for learning more about your West Virginia family ancestors. Using this free website to search for vital records about my own family, I found it easy to use and packed with impressive technical features as well. Let's take a look at some specifics.

ORIGINS AND RECORDS

Working together with the Genealogical Society of Utah, the West Virginia State Archives created the database based on three types of records: birth, death certificates and marriage certificates.

Utilizing the site for the first time, I found that years of coverage varied, depending upon the types of records being searched. Birth records are available from around 1790 through to the mid-1930s, while death records are available for the mid-1800s up through 1970. Marriage records range from 1780 and upwards to 1971.

According to the documentation I discovered, there are some restrictions on current vital information but, going forward, more data will be added on a yearly basis. For detailed information on the database and record availability, try the following PDF link: www.wvculture.org/history/vitalrecordsarticle.pdf

SEARCHING!

To get started, visit www.wvculture.org/vrr/va_select.aspx and select the record type you want to look for. Making your choice, you'll find many limiting options ranging from first and last name, to county, gender and even years of birth. The options will vary, depending upon the type of record you are looking for. Specific additional features that you might

find useful include the ability to either "pattern-match", do a search on specific words, or do a "similarity" search, using words that are close to what you are actually looking for.

Other advanced options will let you include wildcard characters in your query, with asterisks replacing single or multiple characters and the underscore replacing single characters. You are also able to search both by maiden name and married name by including the asterisk. Lastly, you have the option to limit the number of returned records.

After you perform your initial search, the database engine will also let you refine your initial search, start a new one or even change the record type you are looking for.

VIEWING AND SAVING

Performing a successful search, the database will return a chart of numbered possible "hits". While the column headings are not sortable, they do include important data such as name, county, date and more. If you find a name or record that you want more information on, selection is easy, with names hotlinked to more details, giving you complete information on the person in question. You can also bypass this information and go straight to the primary resource from where the data was indexed. This can save you research time, especially if you are sure about the personal information returned from the search.

The real highlight of this database, and one I found extremely useful, is the ability to view, print or save the original source image that the records were indexed from. Having this option makes a wonderful addition to your research, especially if you use any of the common genealogy pro-

grams which enable you to import images.

While there is no online viewer, this did not take away from my searching in any way, and offers a measure of simplicity not often found in other genealogy databases.

WRAP-UP!

After using the site and database for my family research, I found it quite helpful in tracking down some important facts about my ancestors that I was unaware existed. While experiences may vary, the database is easy to use and quite extensive, both in searching and viewing results.

If you haven't had a chance yet to give this database a try, plan on stopping by to see what you can find. With free access and images of the primary source material, it's hard to go wrong.

If you want more details about the database or the extensive genealogical material located in other parts of the site, try the following link at Genealogy Corner, www.wvculture.org/history/genealog.html.

If you want more information about the site, visit West Virginia Division of Culture and History at www.wvculture.org/history/archivesindex.aspx. Good luck!

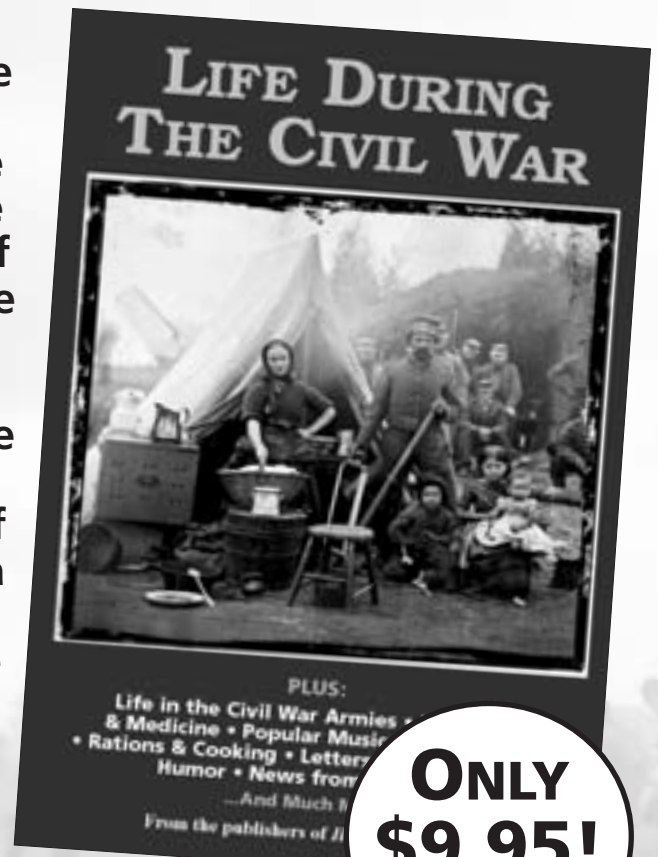
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Freelance writer, librarian and historian, Tony Bandy can be found researching forgotten topics in history at Adventures in History, <http://history.writingwithtony.com>, or finding more library research topics and databases at Library Knowledge, www.libraryknowledge.com.

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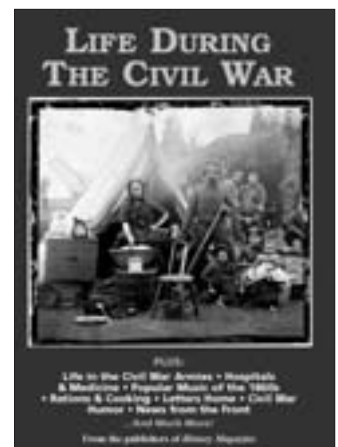
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Going Online With Genoom!

RESEARCHING YOUR FAMILY genealogy online? How about uploading your family tree to share with others? Have you logged on to Twitter or Facebook recently to find out more about your relatives? If you've done any of this lately, then you'll understand the future of genealogical research. Sure, the regular methods of research still apply, but these new technological tools can very often make the difference, giving you much more information than you ever thought possible! Poised to take advantage of this is the fast-growing online genealogy site known as Genoom. But what does Genoom offer that's unique? Is it the service for you? Let's investigate!

WHAT'S DIFFERENT?

While most online genealogy sites offer social networking as well as opportunities to upload and share family trees, GEDCOM files and other information, Genoom is unique in that the primary focus is on the "social" aspect of family research, building networks and gathering information from relatives, friends and others. Says CrunchBase, www.crunchbase.com/company/genoom, on Genoom: "...users can create their own family network and genealogical family tree to connect with relatives from around the world. From centralizing current family connections to discovering and sharing ancestral information, Genoom offers users a secure, private, and interactive family networking environment on the Web."

Offered in both free and premium versions, Genoom has its origins in Spain in 2007, and can be found online at www.genoom.com. Continually growing, the site just this year passed the one million user mark.

CONTENTS

So what is it really like to use the service? After creating an account and logging in, you will see your home screen. Cleanly designed, the layout is separated in either two or three sections, depending on what you choose to do. The section on the left functions as a sort of control panel, with options to change your profile, upload

choose to share these via the family network as well. Finally, you can choose to edit your online family tree, with many options to view and print the results.

While Genoom offers the option to upload your family tree in GEDCOM format, it's important to note that this must be done FIRST, before anything else. If you've already been using



Easy to use, easy to learn, Genoom might be your next genealogical tool.

photos and documents, or perform technical aspects dealing with account settings. Whichever you decide to use first, the remainder of the screen becomes the main work area. For some actions, such as adding to your family tree or using the maps, the screen expands to a single space, enabling you to utilize the entire page for your work area. Once logged on, you can choose to network with friends and relatives via messaging and e-mail, or communicate via your own customized family forum. Uploading information in the form of documents, photos or videos, you can

Genoom for your family tree, then it is not possible to add a GEDCOM file. According to Genoom Help, www.genoom.com/en/help/Can+I+import+a+GEDCOM+file-61-1: "Importing this file can only be done in the beginning, before you register. If you have already begun your tree and you prefer to use a GEDCOM file, you must cancel your account and start from the beginning."

Finally, Genoom also offers printing of charts, downloading of your current family information in GEDCOM format and more. Some of these services are only available in the paid version, "Pro Service",

however, so investigate these options thoroughly before making your choice.

MORE INFORMATION?

If you are thinking that Genoom might be the perfect tool for you, then take a look at some of the following links to get more information about the company and the service it provides.

- TechCrunch:

<http://techcrunch.com/2010/03/19/genoom/>

- Genoom/Facebook Integration:

<http://blog.genoom.com/2008/12/02/the-genoom-facebook-application/>

- Official Genoom blog:

<http://blog.genoom.com>

- Company Information &

Background: www.prweb.com/releases/2010/03/prweb3803404.htm

- Genealogy Software Reviews,

Genoom: www.gensoftreviews.com/?p=534

PARTING THOUGHTS

With increased networking and information sharing opportunities, Genoom offers some appealing options for the family researcher looking for an online genealogy



Visit the official Genoom blog to keep up-to-date with the latest changes and additions.

service to begin with. Not as complex as other sites, this might be a great place to connect long lost family members and friends, especially if you are new to genealogy and family research. However, before making a decision, investigate your options to make sure the service will work for you — Happy Researching!

IG

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

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It's All Relative: Ulster Historical Foundation

THE ULSTER HISTORICAL Foundation, www.ancestryireland.com, is an Irish research and publishing firm based in Ireland. Services include online databases of over two million records, genealogy and history books, as well as personal ancestral research.

Besides offering research services to clients, the website also contains some guides that you can use as you do research into your Irish ancestors. These free PDF booklets cover researching your Belfast and Sperrin ancestors and some information on the 6th Connaught Rangers.

You will find that the images, for the most part, will be illegible due to their low quality and this does allow people to easily download these helpful guides because the file size will be smaller. These guides are supplemented by a collection of Irish Parish Civil Maps (for Ulster), a listing of townlands for each county in Ulster and two timelines — history and genealogy.

Let's now explore its database offerings. Regarding the over two million searchable family records available, some are freely accessible, some are member-only access and others are pay-per-view.

- Databases which are free to any visitor to the website. This currently includes a list of surnames in Ireland created in 1890.
- Pay-per-view databases for which individuals buy credits to access the data (about \$6 US for full details of these records for the general public and half that price for Guild members). Indexes for birth, marriage and death/burial records for County Antrim and County Down are currently included.
- Member-only databases, which are only available to members of the Ulster Genealogical and

Historical Guild (membership rates start at about \$45 US). These include collections, such as Directories (1807-1900), Occupations, Census, Education, Emigration, Wills and Testamentary Papers, Election Records, Estates Papers, 17th- and 18th-Century Records and Parliamentary Papers, among others.

titles currently available. Some of the titles include:

- *Researching Scots-Irish Ancestors*. The essential genealogical guide to early modern Ulster, between 1600-1800.
- *The Plantation of Ulster: British Settlement in an Irish Landscape, 1600-1670*.
- *Ulster Emigration to Colonial America, 1718-1775*.



The homepage for the Ulster Historical Foundation.

Some of the gems in this collection include: Indexes to 1796 Flaxgrowers Bounty List, Dissenters in the Parish of Ahoghill, County Antrim in 1766, Scottish Settlers in Ulster, Subscribers to Samuel Lewis' Topographical Dictionary in 1837, Illiterate Voters in Irish Boroughs in 1837, several early 18th-century rent rolls and tenants lists, 17th- and 18th-century freeholder lists, several will calendars, Teachers and Schools (1826-1827), 1803 Agricultural Census of Antrim, Apothecaries: Apprentices and Licensed (1791-1829).

Additionally, the Ulster Historical Foundation is a leading publisher of Irish history and genealogy books, with over 200

- *Scottish Irish Merchants in Colonial America*.
- It also includes several guides for researching in particular areas and many other helpful books.

In your quest to research your Irish ancestors, consider both the free and subscription-based content available on this website. It just might provide the clues regarding those elusive Irish ancestors.

IG

Diane L. Richard has been doing genealogy research for more than 23 years. She can be found at www.mosaicrpm.com/IGenealogy.

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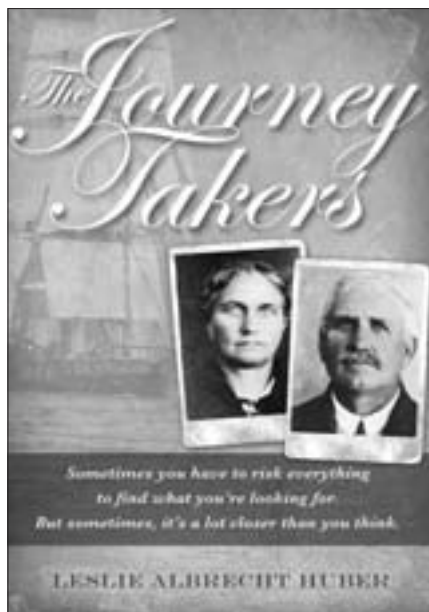
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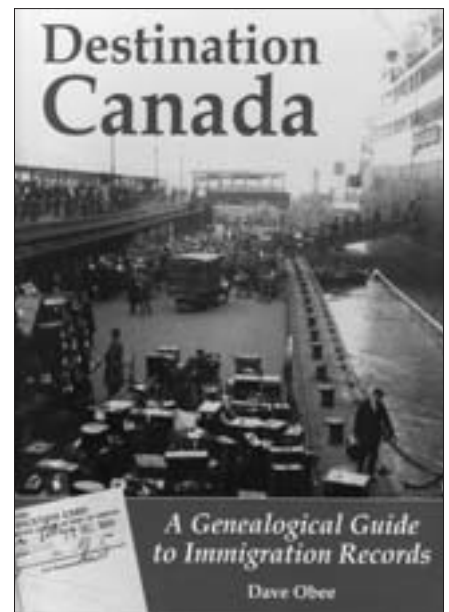
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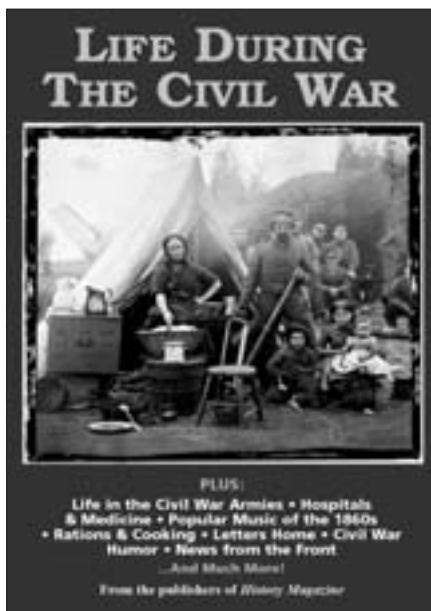
Using the clues in this new book by Maureen A. Taylor, you can learn a surprising amount about your ancestors by studying their portraits. How they wore their locks for the photographer — whether straight or curled, clean shaven or fringed, oiled or bewigged — will tell you a lot about them. Hairstyles can even tell us a great deal about their personalities: Were they conservative or up on the latest trends? Who were their heroes and role models? 125 Pages, soft cover. **\$19.95 + \$4.50 S/H**



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ShipIndex.org

"MY GRANDPARENTS CAME to America about 1920 ...On a ship with a "fish" name ...Oh, yeah, it was the *Leviathan!*" The lady chatting with Peter McCracken at the 2010 National Genealogical Society Conference was eager to give him a chance to demo his new resource. "No problem, let's look," said McCracken.

Clicking to his website, www.ShipIndex.org, McCracken typed *Leviathan* into the search box and up popped a list showing that a ship named *Leviathan* arrived into New York harbor in the years between 1918 and 1924. "What year shall we try?" McCracken asked her. "Let's start with 1920!" she answered.

Well, it turns out her ancestor arrived in 1921 on the ship *Leviathan* into the Ellis Island Immigration Station. Clicking on the year 1921 took them to a link to the Ellis Island Ships Database, which led to a passenger list for 1921, which led to a happy outburst when the lady spotted her ancestor's name on that list. She walked away ecstatic and Peter McCracken was proudly happy to have helped another eager genealogist find answers on his terrific new website.

McCracken told me his story of how this unique database came to be. "While I was in library school, I spent a summer working in a maritime museum library", he explained. "I discovered that the only way to do effective research on a vessel was to go from book index to book index to book index. While working on a master's in Maritime History several years later, I was reminded again about how difficult it was to do this research. Last year, my brother Mike and I decided to create a company that would dramatically speed up this process. That's what ShipIndex.org does."

In case you're wondering, apparently there is a big market for maritime history. Model ship-builders use ShipIndex to find accurate technical information

about the ships they're modeling. Art historians use ShipIndex to learn more about ships and boats in artwork. Political historians use ShipIndex to discover more about the movement of ships, the individuals on board, and the impact they have on the world. Maritime historians use ShipIndex to locate



ShipIndex.org's Homepage.

crucial and otherwise hidden information on the vessels they're researching. Treasure hunters are always seeking sunken gold and silver. And, of course, genealogists use ShipIndex to locate ship manifests, passenger lists, vessel histories, and more, for vessels on which their ancestors traveled, worked or served.

Newspaper writer Marty McOmber, in *Three Sheets Northwest*, interviewed brothers Mike and Peter McCracken and began his story with this intriguing bit: "Imagine trying to find out more about the ship your grandparents boarded to immigrate to America. Or the navy vessel your dad served on in World War II. Or that wreck you're planning to dive on next week. Where in the world do you start?"

My mind was whirling. My ancestors came over in 1620 on the *Mayflower*. I've always been fascinated by the *Titanic*. My husband served during the 1960s on the nuclear submarine, USS *Alexander Hamilton*, SSBN-617. Our family vacationed in Maui and the kids

scuba dived down to the wreck of the *Carthaginian*. And now there is a website to help me and anybody else find out more information on the ship of their interest!

What's inside this terrific new website? The McCracken brothers have created a seven-page list of references, (which you can print

out, and in some cases, order the book from AbeBooks.com, www.abebooks.com, which I'm sure will expand as time passes.) These references are from well over 170 different sources (May 2010) boasting 1.3 million citations.

McCracken explained, "ShipIndex is a unique website that helps people do research on specific ships. The site compiled indexes from about 170 resources and puts them all into a single database. By searching this database, a researcher can locate mentions of ships in

many different books, magazines, CDs, databases, websites and more, very efficiently. When resources are available online, the site links directly to those resources. When they're in a book or a magazine, the site helps the searcher find which libraries near them hold that book or magazine."

"There is a free part of the collection, which allows one to search through over 140,000 citations, including the indexes to several magazines, and a number of important volumes in maritime history. The premium database contains 1.3 million records and continues to grow."

Premium access to ShipIndex is only \$9.95 USD per month and you may cancel at any time. McCracken is pleased to offer a special discount to the readers of *Internet Genealogy*. (Enter coupon code IG2010 and receive a \$3/month discount off the regular subscription rate. This offer is good until October 31, 2010, but you will continue to receive the discount for as long as you subscribe to ShipIndex.

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Facebook Your Society!

WHEN MOST PEOPLE think of social networking sites like Facebook, it's in terms of personal use. However, these sites are also a great way for your genealogical society to connect with members and non-members, and keep them informed of resources, activities or events.

Not sure how your organization might use social networking? One example of the use of social networking to promote a historical collection came in April of this year; the US National Archives hosted an online scavenger hunt that was conducted through their Facebook page. This event was a great way to showcase the different types of resources and items available from the Archives. Social networking sites like Facebook, MySpace and Orkut are free, easy to set up and maintain and provide an additional medium to promote your organization in the community. Ready to give it a try?

Facebook is currently the leading social networking site, but your organization could get similar results from one of the many others that are available. Spend an hour or two looking them over and see which works best for you. To get started building your organization's Facebook site, go to

www.facebook.com, then click on Create a Page for a celebrity, band or business. You will have the option to create a Community Page or an Official Page; we will be setting up an Official Page. From the three options listed, select Band, product or organization; and from the drop-down list select Non-profit. In the text box provided, give your page a name and check the box acknowledging you are an official representative of your organization, or have permission to create a page on their behalf. Click the Create Official Page button to go to the next step.

If you already have a Facebook account, you can simply login and continue, if not, you will need to create an account. Once you click the Signup button, you will receive a confirmation e-mail; click on the link contained in the e-mail and you will be taken to your organization's new Facebook page.

Now that your page is set up, it's time to customize it and start posting information. Facebook lists the steps you may want to take to get your site up and running, so let's go by the numbers. The first thing you may want to do is add your organization's logo; click the Upload an image link then browse

to the picture on your computer. Once the image is uploaded you will see it in the upper-left corner of the page. Next up you can add information about your organization, add a link to the official website, and input additional information. Once you've added the info you want, click the Save Changes button.

Now you're ready to start adding information to your wall; the wall is the place in Facebook where you post information about your organization. Use your imagination and take advantage of this tool to promote your organization. To get started, click on the Wall tab on your page; you will see a box that asks "What's on your mind?"; all you have to do is enter the text and click Share. Along with the text box, you will notice icons on the lower-left corner of the box; these give you the option to attach a link to a website, photos, event notifications and even videos. Be creative! In a world of shrinking budgets, this a free medium that can be an effective way to promote your organization. Use this tool to reach out not only to your members, but to genealogists worldwide.



*How many of your great-grandparents can you name? If you begin your family history research with this question, you can start getting answers today with this bestselling book **Unpuzzling Your Past**. In her acclaimed guide to family history research, Emily Croom provides all the tools you need to begin your family research. From a step-by-step discussion of the records used in*

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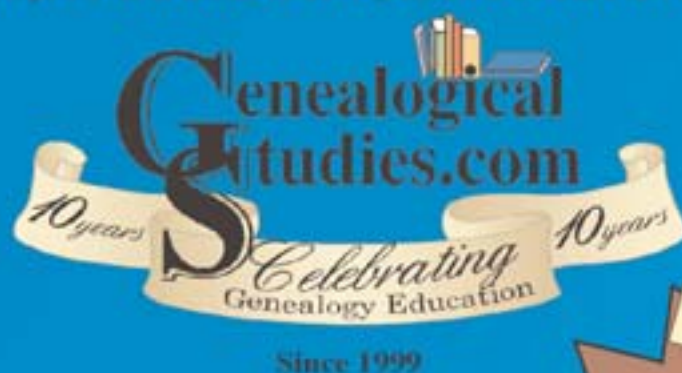


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vides rules and models for citing the myriad databases and images you use on Ancestry.com. With this new **QuickSheet**, you'll know instantly how to cite databases that include census records, vital records, passenger lists, city directories, and family trees; and how to cite images that include manuscripts, maps, newspapers, and online books and articles. Convenient for desktop use at home or in the library, the new **QuickSheet** is a heavily laminated sheet, folded to form a standard 8½" x 11" folder, and is designed for constant use. ISBN: 9780806318677, Item #: GPC3859, \$13.45 ppd. from Genealogical Publishing Company, 3600 Clipper Mill Rd, Ste 260, Baltimore, MD 21211. Tel: 1-800-296-6687, web: www.genealogical.com.

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Caroline Tilbury
Chambon sur Voueize, France

I am just writing to say a huge thank you to all the staff who worked on this mammoth project.

It's certainly a job well done and has been a real help to my research. It's made life much easier.

Do keep up the good work and look forward to Marriages and Deaths in the future being indexed the same way. Genealogy has been crying out for this type of search to be available on these indexes.

THANK YOU SO MUCH :-)
a very happy researcher!

Jane Snell
Lancashire



Congratulations on the new indexed birth records!

I discovered them by accident today, and am very impressed indeed! I can hardly wait to see the Marriage and Death indexed records too - they will make life so much easier for us all.

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Best wishes

Helen Gilmartin
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