

Researching Your Family Roots Online

Internet www.internet-genealogy.com GENEALOGY

GET CONNECTED!

From online to handheld, we look at
the latest hi-tech research tools!

Portraits From the Past

Where to Find Your Old
Family Photos

California Dreamin'

Resources For Uncovering
Your West Coast Roots

Obituaries Online

Where to Find Notices of
Your Ancestors' Death on
the 'Net

Firefighters in the Family!

Where There's Smoke, There's
Usually Fire!



PLUS!

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From**

Google



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Do you use Google to research your family history?



If your answer is **YES**, then you're in great company with nearly two-thirds of all Internet searches processed each day being handled by **Google**. So, whether you're searching for **ancestors** or aardvarks, pictures of your **grandpa** or the grand canyon -- **Google is the best FREE tool available worldwide for your online research!**

FINALLY there is a book to help you master the techniques of using Google specifically for family history research!

"Easily the most important technology book for genealogists written in more than a decade. This is a must read for anyone using the Internet — for family history or any other reason" — Dan Taggart, Co-founder, Ancestry.com, Inc.

"I think that this particular book, Google Your Family Tree, is going to be a genealogists bible for understanding how to use Google, this very powerful search engine!" — Pat Richley, Host of DearMYRTLE's Family History Hour

Literary Award Winner - Named Best Genealogy Reference for 2009 by the Connecticut Society of Genealogists!



Title: Google Your Family Tree
Author: Daniel M. Lynch
Publisher: FamilyLink.com, Inc. (Provo, Utah)
Pages: 352 (Illustrated, Index)
ISBN: 978-0-9820737-1-1
Price: \$34.95 USD | \$42.95 CDN
Order: www.GoogleYourFamilyTree.com

GoogleYourFamilyTree.com

NGIS AND GENCLASS MERGE TO OFFER MORE COURSES

The National Institute of Genealogical Studies recently announced the merging of 24 GenClass *Intensive Short Term* courses with the NGIS's comprehensive program of online genealogy instructional offerings. Key features of the new courses include:

- Intensive — packed with lots of very helpful information, research techniques & tips;
- Short Term — most will be four (4) weeks in length;
- Instructors — experts in their field of genealogical research;
- Live Meetings (optional) — four (4) optional 'real-time' online meetings with your Instructor and fellow coursemates;
- Direct Communication — consult directly with your instructor via e-mail;
- Feedback — discuss specific topics through various online or offline threads;
- Assignments (optional) — although there may be some personal assignments to enhance a technique, submitting them is completely optional;
- Exam (none) — no final exam to be completed;
- Inexpensive — under \$50;
- One-on-One Advice — Book an appointment with your instructor to discuss in-depth individual research problems (additional fee).

The above may vary by course; check course description for details.

GenClass was formed in 2007, by a group of instructors who formerly taught courses for MyFamily.com. They quickly earned a reputation for offering affordable intensive courses with lots of valuable information covering a variety of general and specialized topics. Students enjoyed the instructor involvement throughout the process. Ten instructors, with a total of 24 courses, have recently moved their courses to the Institute's training platform.

The National Institute for Genealogical Studies, in affiliation with the Continuing Education unit of the University of St. Michael's College at the University of Toronto, offer Certificate Programs in Genealogical Studies in the records of Canada, England, Ireland, Germany, United States and a Librarianship Program. The Institute celebrated its 10th anniversary of Genealogical Education during 2009.

For more information, visit the National Institute of Genealogical Studies website at <http://www.genealogicalstudies.com>.

GOT AN IDEA? WANT TO WRITE FOR *INTERNET GENEALOGY*? WE'D LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU!

If you have an idea for an article that you would like to propose to us, whether you are an experienced genealogist or a relative newcomer to the hobby, e-mail the editor at edward@moorshead.com outlining your thoughts. We may not always be able to accept your proposal, but we will consider it and give you an answer, usually within a few days. We always encourage prospective authors to visit our website and explore the Authors' Notes page. Most of what you need to know about writing for *Internet Genealogy* is there, and you can always e-mail us if you have further questions.

Internet **GENEALOGY**

APRIL/MAY 2010

VOLUME 5, NUMBER 1

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Published by Moorshead Magazines Ltd.
505 Consumers Road, Suite 312,
Toronto, ON, M2J 4V8 Canada
(416) 491-3699 Fax (416) 491-3996

Moorshead Magazines also publishes
Family Chronicle, *Discovering Family History*
and *History Magazine*.

POSTAL INFORMATION — CANADA

Publications Mail Agreement No. 40062922
Return undeliverable Canadian addresses to:

Internet Genealogy, Circulation Dept.,
505 Consumers Road, Suite 312,
Toronto, Ontario, M2J 4V8 Canada.
E-mail: general@internet-genealogy.com

POSTAL INFORMATION — UNITED STATES

Postmaster send address corrections to:
Internet Genealogy, PO Box 194,
Niagara Falls, NY 14304.

E-mail: general@internet-genealogy.com

ISSN 1718-0414

© 2010 Moorshead Magazines Ltd.

Published six times per year: Feb/Mar, Apr/May,
June/July, Aug/Sept, Oct/Nov, & Dec/Jan

Subscription rate for USA & Canada

1 year (six issues) \$32.95

2 years (twelve issues) \$55.95

(US orders in US funds; Cdn orders in Cdn funds)

Please add GST/HST as applicable.
Quebec residents add 7.5% QST
GST # 139340186 RT

We welcome the submission of articles for publication.

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edward@moorshead.com. We will always contact people who
submit articles but the review process may take several
weeks. Authors' notes are available at
www.internet-genealogy.com/author_notes.htm

Toll-Free Subscription Line:

1-888-326-2476

Printed in Canada

www.internet-genealogy.com

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Questions or comments? Call 1-888-326-2476
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Net Notes

DAR PATRIOT ONLINE DATABASE

http://dar.org/natsociety/pi_lookup.cfm

THE DAUGHTERS OF the American Revolution (DAR) National Society now has its Genealogical Research System online and freely available. This is a great replacement for the Patriot Index lookup service (where someone at DAR headquarters had to manually correspond with you about identified patriots). Now, you can immediately know if your ancestor is classified as a proven patriot. Whether your goal is DAR membership or not, it's an excellent way to find out if your ancestors served the Revolutionary War effort in some capacity.

You will get a summary of documented service that will tell you if supporting documentation or information on descendants is available.

Some name variants are identified, for example, if I searched on McAlister it directed me to McAllister.

Some names will have this warning in red — "Notice: FUTURE APPLICANTS MUST PROVE

CORRECT SERVICE". This means that the proof of service used to establish this person as a patriot is no longer valid. Subsequent evaluation of the proof of service may have determined that the proof is not acceptable under today's standards (examples are tombstone, obituary, undocumented genealogy or county history, family tradition). The service record may belong to another person of the same name. The residence of the individual during the Revolution is inconsistent with the service, or multiple people have claimed the same service. Pay close attention to this warning, regardless of whether you are seeking DAR membership or just information on an ancestor.

Each line's most recent three generations are blocked on this public site. In order to see the most recent three generations, you need to contact a DAR member or chapter leader. — DIANE L. RICHARD

JOTT

<http://jott.com>

I HAVE SOME of my best thoughts when I am not able to write (e.g., driving, shopping, etc.). In the past, many of those thoughts were lost to me until they resurfaced again. However, I have used Jott for a couple of years and I love it. I have the service's phone number (toll-free in the US) programmed into my phone. When I have a brainstorm, I hit the auto dial number I set and leave myself a message. This message is then e-mailed to me. I can also set reminders. I frequently use it for genealogical notes about clients, research I've recently done, brain-

storms about what to do next, a detail that I didn't write down and want to remember, etc. Obviously, it is also a great utility for general everyday reminders.

Another nice feature is that you are not limited to sending Jott notes to yourself. I can Jott my husband, daughter or son and remind them of things. Just like when I use it for myself, they will get a message to their phone and their e-mail. Archives of all your activity are maintained at the website for your account. — DIANE L. RICHARD

EMILE — EARLY MIGRANT LETTER STORIES

www.emigrantletters.com

EMILE IS A PROJECT focused on emigrant letters, written to people left behind in the old countries. These letters are considered a vital part of Europe's common history and can shed light on an era of great impact on both Europe and America. The five participating countries were the Czech Republic, Ireland, Italy, Poland and Sweden.

Besides the letters, there is also an overview of the European emigration to the United States and a brief introduction about the importance of the letters.

The letters are organized by participating country. The interface is available in English or the language of that country. When you click on a country, the left-side navigation will include these (and more) options: Irish emigration, Letters in Ireland, Life stories, Causes of emigration, Crossing the Atlantic, Settlement in America, Work in America, Family, Photos and movies, and Letter samples. What is included for each country does vary. — DIANE L. RICHARD

TRANSCRIPT

www.jacobboerema.nl/en/Freeware.htm

WHETHER YOU ARE transcribing for a publication or your own personal use, it can sometimes be frustrating to have a file open in one window and another window open where you are transcribing the contents.

If you have done any abstracting for a large project, such as Familysearch, Ancestry or World Archives, you have probably worked with their interfaces, which eliminate the issue of having separate windows open as you transcribe a document.

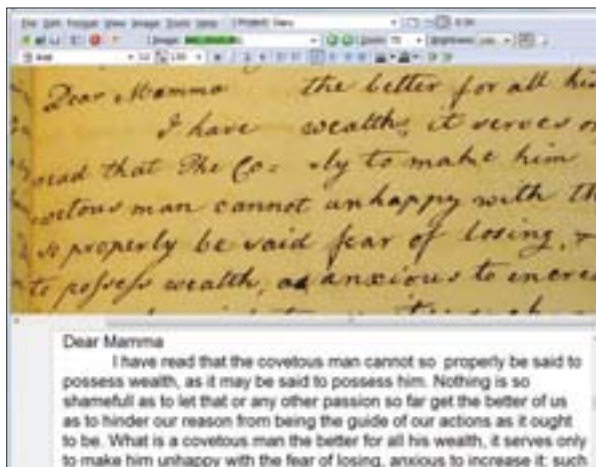
Now, you can recreate a similar experience on your own home computer.

Transcript is a free tool (though a paid version is available) that an individual can use to transcribe a document. As the author states, "The basic idea is very simple. Divide the screen in two parts. In the upper

half, the image is shown and in the lower half, you can edit the text. (As this is not an OCR program, the program does not convert the text. You have to do the transcription yourself.) [...] From within the editor, you can move the visible part of the image in many ways using shortcuts. You can also use keys to move to the previous or next image in the same directory ... [and] use most of the common editor functions also found in other editors."

I have used this to transcribe digital documents for the local genealogy society journal. It made the work go so much faster and it was less prone to errors than when I had to switch

between my image viewer and my document editor.
— DIANE L. RICHARD



An example of transcribing using Transcript.

FORCES GENEALOGY — MILITARY HISTORY IN THE MAKING

www.military-genealogy.org.uk/default.asp

THIS SITE CONTAINS military records of more than one million British Armed Forces personnel and more than 4,000 regiments, bases and ships of the British Armed Forces going back to before 1630. This website is a part of Forces Reunited, www.forcesreunited.org.uk.

The site is a mix of free and pay material.

You can search on a name or a history topic for free. To see any information, or to read the associated magazine, *Genes*, www.military-genealogy.org.uk/magazine/, you have to be a subscribing member. You should consider membership if you believe your UK ancestor served in the military. — DIANE L. RICHARD

SANBORN MAPS ONLINE CHECKLIST

www.loc.gov/today/pr/2009/09-210.html

THIS IS A GREAT tool on the Library of Congress (LOC) website. Whether you have or have not consulted Sanborn Maps (fire insurance maps published by the Sanborn Map Company), at the LOC or elsewhere, this tool will keep you current on the maps in the LOC collection. This is also a way to find out whether relevant maps exist for the locales where your ancestors lived.

Besides telling you about which maps are available, it also contains an introduction to the collection, provides detailed information on how to interpret the maps, shows some samples and illustrates how you can use the maps to understand

differences over time for a particular location.

The LOC, from 1955 to 1978, withdrew duplicates from its collection, which are now distributed to the collections listed on this page, www.loc.gov/rr/geogmap/sanborn/san3.html. You can also check out this link, www.lib.berkeley.edu/EART/sanbul.html, which is based on the Union List of Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps Held by Institutions in the United States and Canada. These maps can give you excellent information about an urban ancestor or business. — DIANE L. RICHARD

LOOKING FOR YOUR ROOTS?

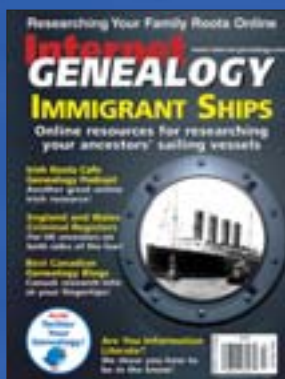


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www.familychronicle.com

Family Chronicle is the "How-To" magazine for researching your roots using a mix of traditional methods, as well as the Internet.

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Copyright and Your Family Tree

YOU HAVE SPENT hours meticulously accumulating dates and events surrounding your parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles and then placed that data on your family tree. It can be in the form of a pedigree chart, an ancestral file or just a listing of individual names, their relationship to yourself along with their vital statistics. The question then arises, since it was your research and gathering of data, is it solely your effort and no one can copy your hard work? Is your family tree protected by copyright laws in the United States and Canada?

In fact, an ancestor's life (such as name, birth date, birth location, marriage date and place, and death date and location) are not afforded US or Canadian copyright protection. All public vital records, court documents and even headstones are classified as factual information and not copyrighted. Additional sources of research, such as records recovered from microfilm, a courthouse, a commercial data disc, census, military records and Internet databases (Rootswebs, GenWeb, World Family Tree Project) are not copyrightable. Besides facts and data, news events, laws of nature, discoveries and concepts can not be copyrighted.

The basic specifics of a person's life may be freely copied and used by anyone as they are considered in the public domain, as if it was public property, available for anyone to use at anytime. Since genealogy is centered around the assembly of facts, this openness is essential for all researchers.

The term 'copyright' means the right to make copies of some product, but only by the author or owner and no one else without permission granted by the author. Facts and ideas can not be copy-

righted, but their expression and structure can be protected.

Copyright laws have two basic purposes; one for the protection of the author's right to obtain commercial benefit from their work and more recently, the pro-

tection of the author's general right to control how a work is used. Other researchers, it now becomes part of public domain. This is especially true when your research is submitted to: Ancestral File, GEDCOM, GENSOURCE, the World Family Tree Project, WorldConnect, Family Tree Maker or a GenWeb site where you agree to allow your information to be published with no copyright protection.

What if you find some interesting data about some shared ancestors on someone's else Internet website, can you, in turn, use it? Remembering that facts are part of public domain, you would be able to use the facts, but always recheck that information. Not all family researchers credit their sources or accurately post their information. Errors do happen.

There are many family or surname web pages completed by individuals and these are creative



While putting together your

Other researchers, it now becomes part of public domain. This is especially true when your research is submitted to: Ancestral File, GEDCOM, GENSOURCE, the World Family Tree Project, WorldConnect, Family Tree Maker or a GenWeb site where you agree to allow your information to be published with no copyright protection. What if you find some interesting data about some shared ancestors on someone's else Internet website, can you, in turn, use it? Remembering that facts are part of public domain, you would be able to use the facts, but always recheck that information. Not all family researchers credit their sources or accurately post their information. Errors do happen. There are many family or surname web pages completed by individuals and these are creative

Copyright and Your Family Tree

works along with photos and thus are copyrightable. If you find something of special interest on a family history website, first take the time to e-mail the site creator and ask permission to use a portion of their work or a graphic design. Piracy of copyrighted material has become quite common on the Internet. Most researchers grant permission and only ask that their name be written so giving them credit. Anything placed on an Internet website is not automatically in the public domain. Genealogists like to share, so be sure to request permission.

The same is true of information located in books written on related family members, family surnames or ancestral homes, especially those compiled and published by genealogical societies or individuals. Always contact the author or publishing company for permission to use any portion or photos you wish to include with your family tree.

For those generating their family history and placing it on the Internet, your creative writing is copyrighted. Include a disclaimer using the mark or symbol (copyright), your name and date of creation as notice of copyright. Also the abbreviation "Copr" or "Copyright" with the author's name and date can be used at the end of the site.

You can also make it available for all to use by stating all your material, photos, graphics, etc are being placed in the public domain. If you have an enormous collection with your own creative stories you want protected, you can register it with the US Copyright Office, part of the Library of Congress, and provide two copies of your work to be kept permanently on file.

With the United States "fair use" exemption to the copyright law, some works can be used in a commentary, parody, news report, research and education without the permission of the author. The fair use is generally a short excerpt and always credited to the author.

For the United States Copyright Laws, any creative work published:

Before 1 January 1923 is in the public domain. No copyright on a published work exists any longer. However, if not published, it may still be protected by copyright.

If published between 1923 and 1963, the work is protected for 28 years, then renewed for 47, then renewed for another 20 years. If not renewed, it becomes part of the public domain.

If published between 1964 and 1977, it is protected for 28 years, and then extended for 67 years.

Any work after 1 January 1978 has a copyright good for the life of the author, plus 70 years.

With the Berne Copyright Convention, any innovative, original work published after 1 April 1989 is copyright protected, even if a copyright notice is never placed on it.

For Canadian Copyright Laws: Canadian creative works are copyright protected just like in the United States. What is not offered protection are titles, names and short word combinations. Also not protected are methods of instruction, names and slogans, along with factual information. They are considered part of the Canadian public domain. When anyone uses your original work, without your permission, it is infringement and so violates your rights.

Fair dealing (fair use) is also allowed, such as quoting a few lines of the article, but also giving credit to the actual author. Any works produced by the Crown and Canadian government are in the public domain.

Any new creative work in Canada, the person has copyright protection if they are a Canadian citizen and / or resident. Protected is also afforded through the international treaties — the Berne Convention or the Universal Copyright Convention. The creator owns the copyright. If the work was commissioned and paid for by another, then the copyright belongs to the purchaser.

The Canadian Copyright Law states:
Anything created after 25 July

1997, that published copyright lasts for the life of the author, the remainder of the calendar year in which the author dies, and for 50 years following the end of the calendar year, December 31. Then the work becomes part of the public domain and anyone can use it. If the work is totally unpublished, the copyright lasts forever or until it is published and the 50 year extension.

If a work was created before 25 July 1997, then the author dies, the copyright lasts for the remainder of the calendar year in which the work was first published and for the following 50 years.

If the author dies during the 50 years immediately before 25 July 1997, and the work has not been published by 25 July 1997, the copyright lasts for 50 years.

An author who died more than 50 years immediately before 25 July 1997, and the work has not been published by 25 July 1997, the copyright lasts for five years following the end of the 1997 calendar year.

Discovery and sharing are the two most important and interesting aspects of genealogy. In researching, continue to cite your sources, give credit to those segments you use in 'fair use/dealing' and ask permission for photos or stories you wish to incorporate into your family tree. Realize that facts and data gathered about your ancestors is available for all to share, but any creative drawings, family photos or writings are protected unless you select to freely make them available to the public.

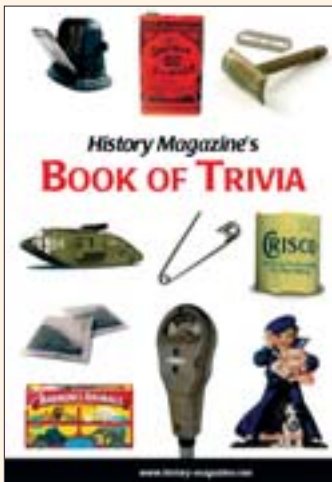
ADDITIONAL INTERNET SOURCES:

- US Copyright Office (Library of Congress)
www.copyright.gov
- Canadian Intellectual Property Office
www.cipo.ic.gc.ca



Alice L. Luckhardt is a regular contributor to Internet Genealogy magazine.

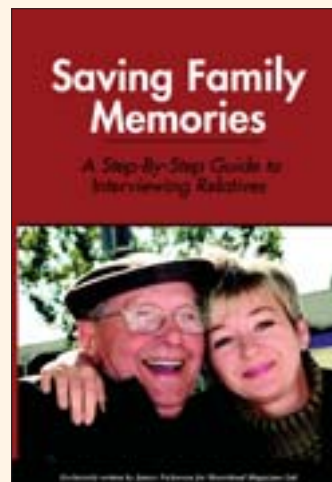
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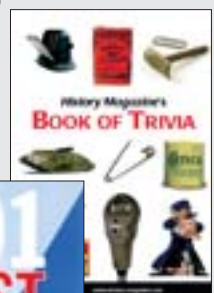
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African American Funeral Programs Online

FOR MOST OF US, funerals are a time of many emotions as well as a remembrance of things past, of relationships as well as people. For genealogists, this can also be a time of connections, of learning about stories and long lost family members. One way this can be done is by examining the funeral guide or "program" that's usually made available during memorial services. It can be a source of births, deaths and other valuable genealogical information. With this in mind, I want to share with you a great online resource that might help you with your own family research project: The African American Funeral Programs from the East Central Georgia Regional Library.

SOME BACKGROUND

Working together in a collaborative partnership with the Digital Library of Georgia and the Eula M. Ramsey Johnson Memorial Funeral Program collection itself, there are over 1,000 funeral programs available for online viewing and research at <http://funeral.galileo.usg.edu/funeral/>. Digitized to either PDF or picture format, this collection's time period ranges from the mid-1930s up through the current decade, and both basic and advanced searching tools are available for use. While the collection is extensive and many states are represented, it is not nationwide. Most of the programs are, "... from churches in Augusta, Georgia, and the surrounding area, with a few outliers in other states such as New York and Florida", according to information contained on the website.

CAN YOU FIND IT?

Finding resources in the collection is as simple as putting in your search terms and pressing go. Using this basic method first, all of the words in your query will be used and the results returned, if any. If you are not sure of the name, but have other information

list that contains basic elements of the funeral program, including name, title of the program, year of death and additional funeral information. Selecting the title of a program will then bring up an actual copy of the program for you to examine. From here, you can see each page and even download a



Home page for the African American Funeral Programs project.

about the deceased, then you can also browse by name, year of passing, city and even place of the funeral. Browsing by city or funeral site will bring you a list of expandable states and cities. Browsing by year of death will also show an expanded list of dates, helping you to zero in on a particular year. From either of these, you can jump directly to a list of results and start viewing them.

ADVANCED SEARCH?

Choosing to do an advanced search? There are a host of additional tools for you to use. Ranging from proximity operators, exclusion tools, and even year limits, this can speed up your research and enable you to fine tune your strategy. If you know more personal information about the individual you are looking up, then other options to search by include maiden name and year of birth.

VIEWING RESULTS

Results are returned in a sortable

PDF version of the program if it is offered. If your results were too many or too little, you can then refine your initial search at the top of the results page or just begin a new search.

FINAL THOUGHTS/ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

For those of us looking for long lost family members or ancestors, any source of information can prove to be helpful. With this collection now online and easily usable and searchable, it should be a great additional resource for you to add to your genealogy list.

If you need more information, the following links should be able to help.

- About the collections:
<http://funeral.galileo.usg.edu/funeral/about/index.html>
- Searching Tips and Citing Resources:
<http://funeral.galileo.usg.edu/funeral/help/index.html>
- Digital Library of Georgia:
<http://dlg.galileo.usg.edu/>

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www.jonathansheppardbooks.com

CHECK BACK OFTEN!

Instant Gratification and Finding Obits Online

GENEALOGISTS IN 2010 are into instant gratification. Historically, we wrote a small check, mailed off a request for a document, waited (not necessarily with any patience) for its arrival, and were satisfied when the item arrived a month or two later. Not in 2010. We now expect to get a large percentage of our documents with a few clicks of a mouse, and a reasonable payment — or maybe no cost at all — taking anywhere from about five to 20 minutes to accomplish.

Obituaries have long been a staple of genealogical research. A good obituary can often give genealogical clues that might not be found elsewhere; most importantly, the names and residence cities of the descendants and close relatives of the deceased.

Accessing obits has always been a bit of a pain though, as they were widely scattered, and microfilm of newspapers was never considered “genealogically dense” enough for collection by the Family History Library in Salt Lake City.

Newspapers have traditionally been available with the publisher as paper archives, as well as microfilm of the papers, typically found at state libraries, historical societies, university libraries and at the local library in the city of interest.

Over the years, funding for the microfilming of newspapers have come from many sources. The United States Newspaper Program, supported by funds from the National Endowment for

the Humanities (NEH) helped to fund the microfilming of newspapers nationwide. Catalog records were then entered into a national database maintained by the Online Computer Library Center

online in March 2007. According to their website, “The National Digital Newspaper Program (NDNP) is a partnership between the NEH, the Library of Congress (LOC), and state projects to provide enhanced access to United States newspapers published between 1836 and 1922. NEH awards support state projects to select and digitize historically significant titles that are aggregated and permanently maintained by the Library of Congress.”

Currently, only newspapers from 1880 to 1922 for 15 states and the District of Columbia are available at this site, those states being Arizona, California, Florida, Hawaii, Kentucky, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, New

York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Texas, Utah, Virginia and Washington. See <http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov>. Although the digital newspapers themselves are only currently available for a limited number of states, I’ve found this site extremely useful for its extensive listing of historic newspapers, complete with the names and contact information for libraries who hold the microfilm of the papers, dating from 1690 through 2009. See <http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/search/titles/>.

Another important site for locating information on microfilmed newspapers is the online



Screenshot of the “Libraries That Have It” page for the *Seattle Daily News*, found at the *Chronicling America* website.

(OCLC) and accessible through more than 53,500 dedicated computer terminals worldwide. These microfilm copies of newspapers are generally available to researchers anywhere in the country through interlibrary loan. Even today, genealogists use the microfilmed newspaper for the vast majority of obituary and death notice research.

Building on the United States Newspaper Program, the National Newspaper Digital Program was begun and a prototype of this digital resource, “Chronicling America: Historic American Newspapers”, was launched

PDF of the book, *Newspapers in Microform*, published by the Library of Congress in 1984. It is in three files. One covering the US Newspapers A-O; another covering US Newspapers P-Z and a title index; and a third covering foreign countries. See www.loc.gov/rr/news/news_research_tools/newspapersinmf.html.

But, as I stated in my introduction to this article, genealogists are into instant gratification today. We no longer want to wait for the microfilm to arrive by interlibrary loan. So we turn to the Internet for much of our obituary research. Obituaries and death notices, as well as the newspapers that carried them, come in basically three categories, all of which overlap somewhat — Historic, Computer-era and Current. Those are my terms and not necessarily used by anyone else.

HISTORIC OBITUARIES

Historic newspapers and the data found within them are those published from the early 18th century down into the 1980s. Although obituaries as such didn't become common until the 1860s and 1870s, prominent folks often got a mention upon death in early newspapers. Many of these papers have been microfilmed over the years and we are seeing many today as digital images on the Internet. Searches for obituaries and death notices within these papers are usually available with reasonable success for the researcher. In most cases, searches are available by keyword and/or name. The indexes that allow these searches are typically created by scanning and subsequent optical character recognition (OCR). This leaves the indexing of most newspapers far from perfect. However, hand-created indexes for all these millions of papers isn't possible, so we accept the obvious error-rate created by the OCR processes. If you don't find your ancestor by using the index, I advise searching the paper manually (using browse) if you have an approximate date of death.

COMPUTER-ERA OBITUARIES

Although the Internet (and with it, online newspapers) didn't go public until the early 1990s, computer databases became common in the 1960s (example: the Social Security Death Index), with those for obituaries and death notices common in the 1980s. Ancestry.com was one of the first major Internet genealogy sites to post a large database of obituaries, which I believe was created by Bell & Howell as ProQuest ended up with ownership of the database (see more on this in the ProQuest Obituaries details). You may note that some of the data available on various nationwide obituary databases is pre-Internet, although not going back further than the mid-1970s. For this we can thank the advent of computers (mainframes and minis) that were used for obituary data compilation in a pre-Internet or even personal computer era.

CURRENT OBITUARIES

Most newspapers today have their own websites where they publish obituaries, typically available free-of-charge for a few days — and later available for a fee from a commercial obituary service (example: archived notices at www.Legacy.com).

ACCESSING ONLINE OBITUARIES

Many obituaries can now be found online, some for a one-time fee, others by purchasing a subscription, and others are no cost at all. The sites listed are all recommended for accessing obituaries. I've listed three broad categories with selected websites that I believe are of help to researchers.

WHAT TO DO WHEN YOUR ANCESTOR'S OBITUARY ISN'T ONLINE

Although millions of newspapers have now been digitized, it will take many more years before we can say that most are online. In the meantime, what should you do if you can't find your ancestor's obituary online?

First: You can use online resources to access the obituaries which may only be available in microform or

paper format. Most genealogical societies have look-up services. Find their website online and contact them for obituary lookups in local papers. Or use services like "Random Acts of Genealogical Kindness." See www.raogk.org.

Second: Continue to use Interlibrary loan to bring newspaper microfilm to your library.

Third: Call the library reference desk in the locality where your ancestor may have passed away, and ask if someone can check for an obituary for you.

NATIONWIDE OBITUARY DATABASES

• NewspaperARCHIVE.com — Old Obituaries

www.newspaperarchive.com (subscription site, free searches) NewspaperARCHIVE.com is one of the largest historical newspaper archives available online. As it turns out, this site may have the largest number of newspaper obituaries online — simply because there may be more newspaper pages imaged here than anywhere else. Obituaries are not separated into a searchable database — you find obituaries by using creative keywords in your basic search for surnames for all newspaper pages.

• Genealogybank.com — America's Obituaries 1977 to Current

www.genealogybank.com/gbnk/obituaries.html (subscription site, free searches) Over 27 million obituaries make this the most complete collection on the Internet to date, and includes obituaries from 3,400 US newspapers. The America's Obituaries 1977 to Current database here has the text of each obituary, the original data fed from the newspaper publisher, not the actual newspaper images as in the Historical Newspapers 1690-1977 database at GenealogyBank, which contains over 4,200 newspaper titles. Millions more obituaries are found in the Historical Newspapers 1690-1977, and it's anyone's guess as to how many may be buried there — and they're all searchable.

Finding Obits Online

- **ObitsArchive.com** — from NewsBank

www.obitsarchive.com

(subscription or pay-per-view site, free searches)

Before there was a GenealogyBank.com, there was an ObitsArchive.com, both systems now part of NewsBank, the leading news service to libraries in the US. A search in the database reveals an identical list of obituaries found at GenealogyBank.com, but there is one important difference — at this site, one can access a single obituary on a pay-per-view basis.

- **Legacy.com** — Recent Obituaries

<http://legacy.com/Obituaries.asp>

(pay-per-view site, free searches)

Over seven million full-text obituaries from 750 US newspapers are accessible from this site.

- **Obituaries.com** — Powered by Legacy.com

www.obituaries.com/Obits.asp

(free site)

Links to current obituaries at hundreds of newspapers.

- **United States Obituary Collection at Ancestry.com**

www.ancestry.com/search/obit/?us&bid=7545

(subscription site, free searches).

This database currently contains 20,404,558 records.

- **Obituary Central**

www.obitcentral.com

(free site)

Obituary Central is a free cross-referenced index to obituaries and obituary related resources on the Internet, a listing of hyperlinks pointing to online obituary research sites, and an obituary and genealogical research portal for the Internet.

- **Obituary Daily Times** — a RootsWeb Project

www.rootsweb.com/~obituary

(free site)

Obituary Daily Times (formerly GEN-OBIT) is a daily index of published obituaries. It is distributed freely, often twice a day by e-mail, and usually has over 2,500 entries a day. You can search the



The Obituary Search Page at the GenealogyBank.com website.

database anytime with the search engine linked at the page.

- **New York Times Obituaries Online**

www.nytimes.com/pages/obituaries/
(free site)

As a national newspaper, this is where you'll find obituaries for the rich, famous, and influential. Current obituary links are on the home page, along with some older obituaries.

- **ProQuest Obituaries**

www.proquest.com/products_pq/descriptions/obits.shtml

(library subscription site)

According to the ProQuest website, these obituaries are from newspapers in major centers of immigration spanning all geographic regions of the country. They include obituaries from *The New York Times* (from 1851), *Los Angeles Times* (from 1881), *Chicago Tribune* (from 1849), *Boston Globe* (1872-1923), *Washington Post* (from 1877), *Atlanta Constitution* (1868-1922), and the *Chicago Defender* (1909-1975). Check with your local library to find out if they have a subscription. I'm quite sure that this collection includes thousands of obituaries that we once found at Ancestry.com. When I was working for ProQuest a few years ago, I was told that ProQuest had decided to not renew their agreement with Ancestry.com, in order to

allow the posting of this data themselves.

- **Nationwide Obituary Portals Cyndi's List** — Obituaries

www.cyndislist.com/obits.htm
(free site)

As with most other genealogy categories, the Obituary category at Cyndi's List is the largest list of websites available on the Internet. There are direct links to hundreds of sites here. This category is organized under 1: General Resource Sites, 2: Locality Specific, 3: Mailing Lists, Newsgroups & Chat and 4: Online Memorials.

- **Ancestor Hunt** — Obituary Search Engines and Indexes at Libraries, Universities and Societies

www.ancestorhunt.com/obituary_search.htm

(free site)

This site lists hundreds of obituary search engines and indexes, most of which are located on a local level. Ancestor Hunt organizes the website titles alphabetically by state.

- **Obituary Links Page** — A State-by-State Directory

www.obitlinkspage.com

(free site)

This site is affiliated with Obituary Central. The first webpage is a state directory as well as obituary resources list used to go to a par-

ticular state or resource. At each state page, there are links to obituaries, death notices, mortality schedules, cemetery inscriptions, and other genealogical data, arranged by county.

• **Newspaper Obituaries on the Web — from The Genealogy Register**

www.newspaperobituaries.net
(free site)

The Genealogy Register is a portal to genealogical websites. The various categories are handled on separate web pages. The stated aim of this site is to provide access to the many databases of archived obituaries available on the Internet. Currently, this site gives access to six million free obituaries on the web. The site is divided up by state, and is a collection of free newspaper obituaries and death notices in the United States. When you click on one of the states listed on this page, you will see that each is organized with 1) Large Obituary Databases, 2) State Obituaries, and 3) Other (state) Genealogy Resources. There are a lot of repeats state to state, but the unique titles within each state group are very useful.

• **Obituaries 101 — Portal to Current Online Newspaper Obituary Pages**

www.big101.com/OBITUARIES101.htm
(free site)

The Obituaries 101 site provides links to obituary web pages at newspaper sites. The extensive list of newspaper sites are organized by state, plus the list may include extra links to a particular newspaper's death notices or searchable archives.

SELECTED STATE & LOCAL OBITUARY DATABASES

(Also see "Ancestor Hunt" above)

• **California**

Los Angeles Times Obituary Index
www.scgsgenealogy.com/obit-search.htm
(free site)

• **Florida**

Florida Today Obituaries
www.flatoday.net/obits/search.htm
(free site)

www.internet-genealogy.com



The Obituaries 101 website provides links to obituary web pages at newspaper sites.

• **Indiana**

Wells County, Indiana Obituary Index
<http://genealogy.wellscolibrary.org/obits/>
(free site)

• **New York**

Rochester (New York) Public Library Life Records Database
<http://www2.libraryweb.org/index.asp?orgid=438&storyTypeID=&sid=&>
(free site)

• **Michigan**

Public Libraries of Saginaw Obituary Index
<http://obits.netsource-one.net/>
(free site)
Southwest Michigan Obituary Index
www.rootsweb.com/~mivanbur/SWMIObitIndex/SWMIObit.htm
(free site)

• **Ohio**

Ohio Obituary Index — at the Rutherford B. Hayes Presidential Center
<http://index.rbhayes.org/hayes/index/>
(free site)

• **South Carolina**

South Carolina Obituary Resources
www.statelibrary.sc.gov/south-carolina-obituary-resources
(free site).

IN CONCLUSION

More newspapers and the obituaries found within them are available online today than ever before.

Thanks to the Internet, a few aggressive commercial firms and dozens, if not hundreds of volunteers, genealogists can locate obituaries and death notices at the click of a button.

What's tomorrow to bring?!

IG

Leland K. Meitzler founded Heritage Quest in 1985, and has worked as Managing Editor of both Heritage Quest Magazine and The Genealogical Helper. He currently operates Family Roots Publishing Company (www.FamilyRootsPublishing.com), writes daily at Genealogyblog.com, conducts the annual Salt Lake Christmas Tour and speaks nationally, having given over 2,000 lectures since 1983. He may be contacted at Lmeitzler@gmail.com.

Getting More From Google™

MOST GENEALOGISTS ARE likely familiar with the popular search engine Google. At one time or another, we've all probably plugged our names, or those of our ancestors, into the search box to see what turns up. Perhaps you've even used Google Maps to print off directions to a cemetery or courthouse during a research trip to your ancestor's hometown. But there is so much more to using this Internet powerhouse than just vanity searches and maps. This article will discuss ten ways to utilize Google for genealogy and much, much more!

GETTING STARTED

If you don't already have a free Google account, you'll need to set one up to be able to use many of the features beyond "search". First, go to www.google.com. Click "sign in" in the upper right corner of the Google page. In the box on the right, under the sign in fields, you will see "Don't Have a Google Account?" Click the "Create an Account Now" link. Enter your desired e-mail address and a password. Enter Word Verification.

Read the Terms of Service, and if you accept them, click the "Accept" button. Click the "Show Me My Account" link. If you already have a Google account, you may skip this step and log in as usual. You may also want to consider setting up a separate Google account to use primarily for genealogy-related tasks and correspondence.

GOING GA-GA FOR GOOGLE

Once you're signed in, you're ready to unleash the power of Google. For a glance at all that Google has to offer, go to the main page and click the "more" link, and then the "even more" link. You can also go directly to www.google.com/intl/en/options/.

1. HOME BASE

Perhaps you already have Google set as your "home page", but you can also make it your "home base". Google Chrome is Google's very own web browser and it is much faster than Internet Explorer. With it, you can search and navigate to web pages from the same box, quickly and easily arrange and organize tabs however you wish and get to your favorite websites in a click in the thumbnails of your most visited

your life in and out of the genealogical world. Go to www.google.com. Click on the iGoogle hyperlink in the upper right corner of the page. Click "Sign in", and enter your e-mail address and password. To fully utilize iGoogle as an organizing tool, I suggest that you make your iGoogle page your "Browser Homepage". If you're using Google Chrome, click the tool icon, then select Options from the menu. Under the Basics tab, go to



Go to www.google.com/intl/en/options/ for an overview of Google products.

sites on the New Tab page. To get Chrome, go to www.google.com/chrome and click "Download Google Chrome" — it installs in minutes if you are running Windows Vista, XP, or 7 (Mac users, you are out of luck — no version is available yet). Chrome is still in Beta, so you can report bugs and make suggestions for improvement.

2. DAILY ORGANIZER

You may already use Google Calendar and Mail. But you'll want to get iGoogle to organize

the Home page section: Select "Open this page" and type "www.google.com/ig" in the text box, then close. Microsoft Internet Explorer users: Start from your iGoogle homepage, and locate the "Home" button in your browser bar (the icon that looks like a little house). Click the drop down menu. Select Add or Change Home page. Select the "Use this Webpage as Your Only Homepage" button. Click "Yes" to set iGoogle as your home page in Firefox, click and drag the link "Make iGoogle my homepage" to

the "Home" icon on your browser. If you are using the Safari browser for Apple Macintosh computers, navigate to the "Safari" in the top menu. "Select Preferences" from the menu, and set the following fields under the General tab: In the Home page field, type "www.google.com/ig". For New windows opens with, select: Home Page; For New tabs opens with, select: Home Page.

Go-Go Gadgets: iGoogle comes with these cool tools, which are referred to as "Gadgets". Gadgets are special boxes that you can add or subtract from your iGoogle page. Each gadget performs one specific task. To add gadgets, make sure you are in your iGoogle homepage and click the "Add Stuff" link in the upper right corner. There are several useful Google Tool Gadgets. Locate the "Search for Gadgets" box and search for the word "Google" to bring up all the Google gadgets. You can also click on the Tools category found in the left-hand column. A few of the gadgets I find useful include: Bookmarks, To-Do List and Sticky Notes. Click the "Add it Now" button for the gadget you want. For genealogists, there are a number of Genealogy Google Gadgets. To find them, go back to your iGoogle page, click on "add stuff" and in the "Search for Gadgets" search box type "Genealogy" and click the "Search" button. You'll see several pages of results, including a few different search box modules for Ancestry.com, FamilySearch and the American Memory Search for the Library of Congress' American Memory collections, as well as gadgets for some of the popular genealogy blogs, such as DearMyrtle, Eastman's Online Genealogical Newsletter, and the GenealogyGuys and Genealogy Gems podcasts. Simply click the "Add it Now" button for each gadget that you want. When you return to your iGoogle page, you'll see the gadgets you added. You can then rearrange where gadgets are placed. I like to group my gadgets into columns based on their functions. For example, I put

all of my "routine task" gadgets in the left-hand column (mail, calendar, to-do list, sticky notes, etc.). In the center column, I put all of my "genealogy gadgets" (family search, ancestry, blogs, podcasts, etc.). On the right-hand side, I put my "miscellaneous" or "just for fun" gadgets (tip of the day, newsreader, weather, daily horoscope, Youtube, etc.). Gadgets behave similar to the windows you're

and change to reflect the time of day.

3. NEWS SOURCE

Use Google's Newsreader, <http://news.google.com>, to keep up with daily news stories. Add the Newsreader as a gadget in iGoogle. But you can also use Google to investigate historical newspaper archives for information about your ancestors. Go to



The author's personalized iGoogle page with gadgets "geared for genealogy".

used to seeing on your computer, so you can move them around, minimize or maximize them, and delete them as desired. To move a gadget to another location on the page, click on the bar at the top of the box and drag the gadget to its new location. To minimize a gadget, click the down arrow button and choose "minimize this gadget". To maximize a gadget, click the click the down arrow button and choose "expand this gadget". To delete a gadget, click the down arrow button and choose "delete this gadget". I prefer to minimize those gadgets I use only occasionally. This cuts down on the clutter on my screen. Once you get the hang of iGoogle, you can customize it by adding a theme. In the upper right corner, click the "Select Theme" link. Select a theme (there are many options). Click the theme once and it will be applied to iGoogle. If you want to try a different theme, just click on a new one and it will change. You'll be prompted to enter your ZIP Code. Your new theme will detect the time on your computer

www.google.com/archivesearch to perform searches on family surnames or businesses, vital records, schools your ancestors attended, employers they worked for, clubs and activities they may have participated in, and community or world events during their lifetime. News Archive includes three different types of content: 1) Partner content, where Google works with publishers and repositories to make their newspaper holdings available within the News Archive search; 2) Online archival materials where Google constantly scans, or "crawls", the Internet to catalog content, including online archival materials from a variety of sources that Google has indexed; and 3) Pay-per-view, which requires a fee to access. You can find a more detailed explanation of each type of content at <http://news.google.com/archivesearch/about.html>.

Google News Archive also offers a handy interactive timeline feature, which delivers relevant articles to you, organized by date. The flexible browsing options enable you to see a historical

Getting More From Google!

overview of the search results, or you can choose to view timelines showing a century worth of articles down to a month's worth of articles, organized in date order. For example, my grandfather was a steelworker and if I want to learn more about the steelmaking process, I can search for "Bessemer converter" — and by using the timeline, I can search within a specific date range, for example, 1894-1911, by plugging those dates into "search other dates".

To maximize your results, you'll want to experiment with the various search options, use operators to broaden or narrow your searches and you can even customize how results are displayed.

4. OFFICE ASSISTANT

Can you use Google as a word processor? Absolutely! With Google Docs you can create text documents, spreadsheets and presentations that you can save and collaborate on with others. If you want to type genealogical correspondence, you can then save it in Google, or you can download a copy to your hard drive as a Word file, or other popular formats, by going to "File", then "Download as" and selecting your desired format. There are even pre-formatted templates for resumes, letters, reports and invoices. I find Google Docs helpful when I'm working on my notebook computer, which runs an older version of Microsoft Office (2003) and someone sends me a Word file created in a newer version of office and hasn't saved it down. I use Google Docs to convert the file so I can open and view it. There are some size limitations (for example, each document you upload and convert can be up to 500K, plus up to 2MB per embedded image). To learn more, go to <http://docs.google.com/support/?hl=en>. There are other useful features too, such as a calculator, unit measure converter and a dictionary. View them at www.google.com/intl/en/options/ and www.google.com/intl/en/help/features.html.

5. TRAVEL AGENT

Use Google to check flight status

times, weather, currency conversion and more. You can find these under www.google.com/intl/en/options/ — click Web search features. Of course, Google Maps is a great tool for determining the locations of addresses in your family history. Use it to check if an ancestor's house is still standing or if it has been replaced by a shopping center or highway. When you input addresses in Google Maps, don't forget to use the Satellite

gy terms, such as archive, baptism, marriage, cemetery, church, etc., into the native language of your ancestor to gather results posted online from other countries.

7. PHOTO KEEPER

Download Google's photo organizing software Picasa and — Voila! — you have a ready-made digital photo album/scrapbook. As soon as you install Picasa, it will start searching your hard drive for



Google's Picasa provides a free tool for organizing, labeling and sharing your photographs.

View and Street View options for perspectives that put you right where your ancestors once stood. Tap into the power of Google Earth, <http://earth.google.com> to catch glimpses of your ancestral village and other historical imagery from around the globe.

6. TRANSLATOR

You can use Google to translate words, phrases and documents, <http://translate.google.com>. This online translator is handy for words or phrases. Enter a search phrase in your own language to find information in other languages. A number of languages (from Afrikaans to Hungarian to Yiddish and more) are available for translation. If you have a webpage, click on the Tools and Resources link to see how to use website translator to make your webpage instantly available in other languages. Consider using the Google Language Tools to translate commonly used genealo-

images. In minutes, you'll see thumbnail displays of your entire photo library. Once the search is complete, you can sort photos into appropriate albums. You can then use your Picasa program to add labels to digital images, type in captions or other identifying information. Keyword your photos to make searching for them easier. Picasa also has a few editing tools, such as a one-click photo enhancer and a red-eye remover. If you want to share an album with a family member or friend, you can tell Picasa to share it by simply going to the album, then click on "share", type in the person's e-mail address, include an optional message, and click "send e-mail". You can also e-mail individual images. You get up to 1024 MB of free storage, but can purchase additional storage starting from 20 GB (\$5 USD per year) up to 1 TB (\$256 USD per year)! I found Picasa especially useful when I was working on the local

Pittsburgh history books I have published with Arcadia Publishing, www.arcadiapublishing.com. I could organize my chapters into albums and easily share images with my co-authors.

8. LIBRARIAN

If you're not tapping the mega power that is Google Books, <http://books.google.com>, you should be! It has over 100,000 genealogies and local histories, so you'll want to search on your ancestor's surname, ancestral town, religion, affiliations, etc. In addition, the "My Library" feature allows you to take books you've located on Google Books and save them on a page for future viewing whenever and wherever you like, and even allows you to sort them into categories. To learn more, go to <http://books.google.com/support/bin/answer.py?answer=75375&topic=9259&hl=en>.

In addition to Google Books, you may want to check out Google Scholar, <http://scholar.google.com>, to search across many disciplines and sources: articles, theses, books, abstracts and court opinions, from academic publishers, professional societies, online repositories, universities and other websites. Was your ancestor an inventor? Use Google Patent Search, www.google.com/patents?hl=en, to search over seven million Patents from the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO). With so much information available with a click of your mouse, Google is like having your own personal virtual librarian. Be sure to use the Images and Videos tabs to search specifically in these areas, too.

9. COMMUNICATIONS CENTER

Go to www.google.com/talk/ to download features, such as the Video and Voice plug-in, to Chat within Gmail, iGoogle, and Orkut (online community) — available for PC and Mac or Google Talk software to chat from your desktop (PC only with Windows XP or later). In addition, Google's "Grand Central", www.grandcentral.com, offers a free way to have a phone number dedicated to genealogy contacts — for example,

newly found relatives or fellow researchers — while still allowing you to retain your privacy and security. You set up an account, choose a Grand Central phone number and manage your voice-mails online. You can have several phones forwarded to your Grand Central number, and there's also the ability to download voicemails as MP3 files.

10. PERSONAL RESEARCH ASSISTANT

Google has several great features to help streamline your research tasks. The Google Toolbar includes a Google search box for searching, no matter where you are on the web. To add the Google Toolbar to your Internet Browser, go to <http://toolbar.google.com>. Click the blue button that says "Install Google Toolbar". Click "Agree" and "Download". The toolbar includes a useful highlighting search button, a bookmarking feature and a wide variety of buttons you can add to customize your toolbar. Click the button that looks like three building blocks to go to the Google toolbar button gallery.

To take your research up a notch, consider enabling the Google Sidewiki — a browser sidebar that enables you to contribute and read helpful information alongside any web page. It's available as a feature in Google Toolbar. Simple download the latest version of Google Toolbar and enable the Sidewiki button in the Toolbar Options menu. Once the button is displayed on the Toolbar, click it to open the sidebar, where you'll be able to see Sidewiki entries that other people have written for the page that you're on. For example, if you go to FamilySearch, www.familysearch.org, you can view others' comments. If there are no entries, you can be the first to write one.

Finally, setting up a Google Alert is a way to tell Google to keep searching on your behalf when you are not actively doing so yourself (while you are at work, asleep or on the road). Go to www.google.com/alerts. Enter the keyword(s) that you want searched (e.g., your surname + genealogy, your hometown, etc.).

Using the drop down menus, select: What parts of the Internet you want searched and how often you would like to be alerted (once a day, once a week, as it happens), and how many you want to receive (up to 20, up to 50), and the e-mail address that you want the alerts to be sent to. You can have up to 1,000 alerts, and edit or delete your existing alerts at any time by clicking the link on the left side of the alerts page that says "Click Here to Manage Your Google Alerts."

Obviously, the 10 suggestions above barely scratch the surface of the power of Google for your genealogical research. For a more comprehensive review of what Google can do for you as a researcher, I highly recommend the book, *Google Your Family Tree* by Daniel M. Lynch (FamilyLink.com, Inc. 2008).

WHAT'S NEXT?

By the time this article appears in print, it's likely Google will already have other features and communication tools that genealogists can use to search further, smarter and faster. For example, Google Wave (an online tool for real-time communication and collaboration) and Google Buzz (a new way to share updates, photos, videos and more, and start conversation topics) are in preview, and Google has even released an Android (smart) phone. I'm always curious to see what's next. I don't know about you, but when it comes to tracking down my elusive ancestors, I'll take all the help I can get!



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

Save Your Memories:



ARCALIFE.COM, <http://www.arcalife.com>, is a fun place to store and share all your important life information for free. They also offer fee-based services with additional features. Most of us agree that documenting and sharing our family stories is important; it's just translating that great idea into reality where we have trouble. With services such as one hour family history interview, photograph scanning service, media conversion service, family tree print and family album, Arcalife has made it easier.

The creator of Arcalife, Paul Taylor, says, "From the time of early cave paintings, we have always striven to document and record our lives in a safe place where they will remain forever, and not be washed away or overwritten. After having my first child, shared family experiences and the memories of my parents and grandparents took on a new significance. Suddenly, every moment, story, photograph and smile became important." He goes on to talk about how, often, only a few people know the family stories, which risk being lost when they are gone.

This resonates with me as my mother died relatively young, at age 52. Unfortunately, I didn't really get to know my mother until I researched her life after her death. I learned so much about her that I did not know — she played the piano and earned awards, she starred in local theater projects. Even as I work on researching my ancestry and the ancestry of my clients, I am increasingly aware that I have a desire, and an obligation, to learn more about those who are still

alive, such as my father, and to capture his memories and experiences, to share them with my children and their cousins and descendants.

Arcalife has created a web-based environment where this is possible. It has options for you to build a family tree, add in "life archives" information for other family members, create photo albums, share your tree with others and much more. Two features that really caught my eye were My Memories and My Experience. If you are like me, you are often so focused on ancestors that you forget about documenting your own life for your descendants. I have learned that some of the most fascinating information about people can be found in the details of their lives, rather than the major events. This is a good way to preserve the small moments and milestones in your life.

The My Memories feature is broken down into the following chapters: My Birth, My Beginnings and Infancy, My Toddler Time, My Younger Years, My Teens, Relationships: Close Family, Relationships: Other Family, Adult Life, Love and Work, Pregnancy, Giving Birth and the Infant, Parenting and Younger Years, Parenting: Looking Back, Mid Life: Empty Nest and The Golden Years. For each chapter, you can do as little or as much as you like and skip those that may not yet apply. This made me realize that I know very little about my early life — only bits and pieces until high school and beyond. I think it might be time to quiz my dad about me! I did have fun answering some of the questions in the

"My Younger Years Section". There is a 1,024 character limit for what you write as an answer to each question — I learned that limit the hard way! However, when talking with Kia Rahmani, Arcalife director of business strategy and partnerships, I learned that "[they] will be adjusting this rule shortly to allow users to make extended contributions to this field".

The My Experience feature is broken down into Major Events, Education and Occupation, Fun and Leisure, Personal Self and Serious Side of Life. For example, under Fun and Leisure, select subtopics are Bucket List, Holidays and Travel, Cool Things I've Done, Food and Drinks, Hobbies and Interests, and under Personal Self there are categories like Pearls of Wisdom and Rules We Live By. It was a lot of fun to travel down memory lane and record some of this information. However, it does take time. As you get started, you realize how much you have done and experienced in your life. Though most of us might not have led glamorous and exciting lives, we have been busy living them!

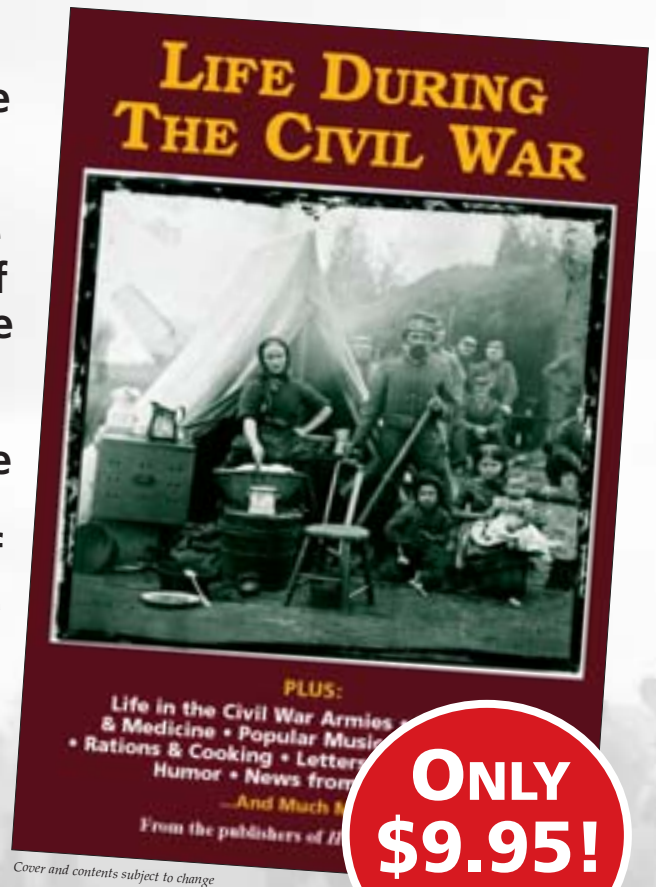
Arcalife presents us with another option for how we might create and document a lasting tribute to our families. I like it's very straightforward interface, and how it allows you to create a complete picture of yourself, your family and your ancestors by making it easy to incorporate facts, media (photos or video), thoughts and more. Maybe documenting my own life for my descendants won't be so hard after all.



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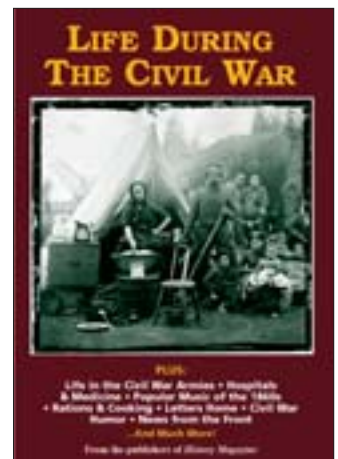
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Upcoming Genealogical Society Events

Editor's note: We received many more responses to our request than we anticipated for this listing of society events. In future, we will set aside more pages to accommodate the entries, but we ask that entries not exceed 60 words in length. 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.

APRIL 2010

April 10, 2010, Omaha, Nebraska. The Greater Omaha Genealogy Society will be hosting their annual Spring genealogy workshop. The speaker will be Dr. Gerald Haslam from the Brigham Young University. Dr. Haslam will be giving lectures on Danish, Norwegian, English and Germany topics of interest. For more information contact Karen at gogsworkshop@radiks.net
Website: www.gogsmembers.wordpress.com

10 April 2010 North Wilkesboro, NC – “Farm House, Meeting House, Court House: Breathing Life into Your Family’s Story” presentation by J.Mark Lowe, CGsm. The sessions cover early census records, shaping a profile for your rural ancestor, religious ancestors on the frontier, and follow a court case. Information and registration: <http://www.ncgenealogy.org>. Sponsored by North Carolina Genealogical Society and Wilkes County Genealogical Society.

The Central Florida Genealogical Society presents an all-day genealogy seminar on Sat., April 10 starting at 8:30 a.m. Speaker is professional genealogist Donna Moughty. Seminar at St. Margaret Mary Church, 526 North Park Ave., Winter Park. Cost is \$40 per person, \$35 for members, \$55 per couple, and includes lunch. More info at www.cfgs.org or call Elaine at 407-484-4843.

The Wisconsin State Genealogical Society 2010 Gene-A-Rama. April 16 & 17 at the Holiday Inn in Manitowoc, WI. The program is entitled “Finding Your Ancestors in Wisconsin’s Ethnic Melting Pot”. Main speaker is Stephen S Barthel and eight other speakers. The brief registration form for attendees is online at www.wsgs.org. E-mail wsgs@tds.net or call 262-569-2709.

Anchorage Genealogical Society presents: “DearMYRTLE” aka Pat Richley at our 24th Annual Spring Seminar on April 17, 2010. 9 AM to 4 PM. Topics presented: *7 Habits of Highly Effective Genealogists, A Tale of two Cities: Immigration and*

Naturalization, Major Migration Patterns of Germans to America, and The Time Machine: Offbeat Resources for Family Historians. Snacks and door-prizes. Great information! Website: www.anchoragegenealogy.org. E-mail: AGS@ak.net.

April 20, 2010 at 7.30 PM. Ottawa Branch OGS. Library & Archives Canada, 395 Wellington Street, Room 156. Ottawa, ON. Topic: Early 20th Century British Immigrant Ancestry Research with John Reid, an Ottawa-area family historian with an interest in his British roots and advances in technology. He writes the Anglo Celtic Connections blog. Using case studies, and focusing on 20th century English and Welsh immigrants pre-WW1, the period of greatest emigration, this presentation shows how to use Canadian and British records together to track down that elusive ancestral family. Contact Norine Wolfe at Tel: 613-523-8399 or e-mail: tinneytree@rogers.com. Visit <http://www.ogsottawa.on.ca/>

The annual Ohio Genealogical Society Conference, Guiding Your Way Through the Past, will be held 22 to 24 April 2010 at the SeaGate Convention Centre in Toledo, Ohio. The event will feature national, state, and local speakers, workshops and exhibits. For additional details, conference updates and registration, visit the OGS website: www.ogs.org ; e-mail: conference2010@ogs.org or ogs@ogs.org; or phone (419) 756-7294.

The Topeka Genealogical Society presents its 38th Annual Conference on April 24, 2010, from 8 A.M. to 4 P.M. co-hosted by the Kansas State Historical Society and held at the Kansas Museum of History, 6425 SW 6th Avenue, Topeka, KS. Featured speaker is Michael John Neill. Mr. Neill has been actively involved in genealogical research for over 25 years, researching his children’s ancestry in many states and six European countries. For further information, please contact by e-mail: npatontaylor@topekachamber.org or president1@tgstopeka.org.

Genealogical Society Events ...Continued

OGS Region V (Halton-Peel, Simcoe County, Toronto and York Region). Notice of Annual General Meeting, Sunday, 25 April, 2010 at 2 PM Oakville Public Library, 120 Navy St., Oakville, Ontario. No registration required. The Region V meeting will be part of the regular April meeting of Halton-Peel Branch. Come early to get a seat. For further details and directions please visit: www.halinet.on.ca/sigs/ogshp/meetings.htm

The 2010 NGS Family History Conference will be held at the Salt Palace Convention Center, Salt Lake City, Utah., 28 April to 1 May 2010. Whether your family helped settle the nation, migrated across the country, stayed in the same place, or recently arrived in America, this conference has much to offer. The family history resources in Salt Lake City, Utah, will provide a depth and breadth to your research. The Family History Library has an extensive collection of international records. A major focus of the conference will be increasing research skills in foreign countries. Contact the NGS Conference Manager at conference@ngsgenealogy.org.

MAY 2010

May 6-8, 2010, "Lancaster Roots 300 Celebration: 1710 - 2010", The Lancaster, PA Mennonite Historical Society is sponsoring the 31st annual educational event for genealogists and family historians on May 6-8, 2010. Registration deadline for all activities is April 11, 2010. Members of the Lancaster, PA Mennonite Historical Society receive the member rate. Visit www.lmhs.org to become a member. For a brochure or more information on the scheduled events, contact Peggy Erb at 717-393-9745 or visit www.lmhs.org and click on the "annual Lancaster genealogy conference" link.

Ontario Genealogical Society Conference 2010.

May 14-16, 2010. To be held at the Doubletree Hilton, 655 Dixon Road, Toronto, ON. Great programming is scheduled with speakers to include: Marian Press, Janice Nickerson, John Philip Colletta, Maureen Taylor, Rick Crume, Lesley Anderson, Susanna de Groot and many more. Full details at www.torontofamilyhistory.org/2010.

Middle Tennessee Genealogical Society presents its 4th Annual Awards Program May 15, 2010 at Nashville, TN, 1 PM, 174 Rains Ave., (Near the State Fairgrounds). Featuring Bill Puryear, who will judge the 4th Annual Writer's Award. Jack Masters and Doug Drake will then give a presentation on their SECOND VOLUME of "Pioneer Land Grants,

Traces, Roads and Pioneer Stations in the Central Valley of the Cumberland River." Refreshments served. Visit: www.mtgs.org

Seattle Genealogical Society 2010 Spring Seminar 9 AM to 4 PM Saturday, May 22, 2010 at Swedish Cultural Center, 1920 Dexter Ave. N., Seattle. for family historians featuring nationally known expert Elissa Scalise Powell. Program topics include finding women ancestors in government records, organizing information, and Pennsylvania migration routes. Details and registration forms at Seattle Genealogical Society website; or call: 206-522-8658 or e-mail sgsseminar@gmail.com.

Nipissing Branch of the Ontario Genealogical Society, Region IX's AGM, May 29th, 9 AM to 3:30 PM, Nipissing University, North Bay. Our speaker is Gary Schroder, a much sought after expert on Researching in Quebec. His topics will include Quebec Church, Civil, Census, Probate and Land Records. The cost is only \$35 and includes lunch. Contact Helen Vaillancourt at lucy@efni.com for information.

JUNE 2010

Wed. June 9, 7 PM — Meeting of the Haliburton Highlands Genealogy Group, at the Minden Hills Cultural Centre, 176 Bobcaygeon Rd., Minden, Ontario. "Scrapbook Your Ancestors". Wendy Ladurantaye shows how to enhance family history with scrapbooking techniques. She will demonstrate both digital and traditional scrapbooking. Also, digitally improving old photographs. More information: Gail 705-286-2225. Website: www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~onhhgg/

Sat. June 12, 1-4 PM – 20th Anniversary of the Haliburton Highlands Genealogy Group at the Minden Hills Community Centre, 55 Parkside Ave., Minden, Ontario. Cake & refreshments. Displays by other Genealogical & Historical Societies and Haliburton County Museums. Key Note Speaker. Door prizes. Displays of books and HHGG resources. Family Trees. More information: Gail 705-286-2225. Website: www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~onhhgg/

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

Living Genealogy: A New Kind of Website

TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY genealogists have an abundance of tools at their disposal. This includes any number of free websites for building and sharing one's family tree. One such site is LivingGenealogy, www.livinggenealogy.com.

This free site, launched in 2007, but still in beta, lets your family create web pages on ancestors and ancestral hometowns. The website is touted as "a new kind of genealogy website for a new kind of Internet" and has four key features:

Ancestor Pages — A simple template enables you to create a page for an ancestor. Each page may include text, photos, journal entries and memories. They provide spaces for a person's name and dates and places of birth and death. There is also a page to include a text-based personal history. Unfortunately, GEDCOM upload or download is not supported.

Place Pages — Users can create pages that are dedicated to geographic locales, such as ancestral hometowns or countries. You can tell others where to find records, offer local history and research advice, or travel tips, and add maps and photographs.

User Groups — User Groups can be private, meaning open only to people you specify (e.g., your immediate family) or public such as everyone researching ancestors in the same place (e.g., everybody with ancestors from Dublin). These groups offer a convenient way to connect with others for collaborative research and share ideas, information, resources and tips.

Blogs — The built-in Blog enables you to share discoveries and other details. Contributions are stamped with the submitter's user name. If you're logged in, click "Contact" to e-mail the author of a page. You can share family histories through the "Email this page" link that's at the bottom of every page.

click "Create New Account." When successful, you'll be taken to a screen to start creating your first page. Before you create your own page, you can view a sample ancestor page and a sample place page by clicking on the appropriate link on the left-hand side. To get started, first use the search tool



LivingGenealogy main page, www.livinggenealogy.com.

For more details about each part of the site, read "The Future of Free Online Genealogy... An Introduction to LivingGenealogy" post on the first page.

CREATING A PAGE

To set up your free account, click the "Create an Account" link on the left-hand side. Choose a Username (e.g., JohnSmith) and type in a valid e-mail address (it's not made public, but all e-mails from the system will be sent to this address, including instructions on obtaining a new password and other news/notifications). You can also subscribe to a list of groups, or you can skip this step and go back to it later. Then

on the site to check if there's already a page for your ancestor (there is also an option to browse ancestors alphabetically). If not, then, once you're logged in, simply click on "Create: Ancestor Page". You can preview the page before you save it and edit the page at any time. I was able to set up my free account in a matter of minutes. I created a page for my grandfather, Janos/Jan (John) Alzo, entering the dates and places of his birth and death and uploading several images and a personal history.

PROS AND CONS

As with any site in beta, there are always bugs to work out. On the

positive side, I found the account creation process was quick and easy — I had mine up and running in a matter of minutes. The site is also intuitive when it comes to creating your ancestor or place page and it's easy to add images. The integrated blog feature is handy, but my favorite feature is the section to add a personal history for each ancestor — this takes the sharing beyond just the names, dates, and places, typical of such family tree building and sharing sites. However, there are some negatives, which hopefully the site's creators can easily address. First and foremost, you can't upload or download a GEDCOM file. Having this facility would validate the genealogical component of the site. Another small glitch I ran into, was with entering the dates. Even though I saved my entry, the site switched the birth month and day from 01/01, which I entered, back to 12/31 and the year from 1894 (my entry) back to 1893. I went back in and typed the month and day without the zero in front, and re-saved. This seemed to work. There was also a problem with my account. When I tried to log in the next day, the site rejected my user name and password, indicating that my account didn't exist. I tried to request a new password, but received a warning that the e-mail address I entered was not found in the system, but yet the ancestor page I set up was there and listed as created by "Anonymous". So I had to create my account again and delete the page by "Anonymous" and then create a new page.

Furthermore, while I like the idea of greater collaboration, as well the ability to contribute research, memories and photos to pages created by other users who may have already created a page for someone I'm connected to, I'm not sure I like the ease by which others can change or delete information at will. I'd prefer some sort of way for users to notify each other and have the permission to update or delete data limited to the person who created the page or to others he or she designates. There also seems to be a heavy



Author's ancestor page for John Alzo, top and bottom.



emphasis on Swedish genealogy — this is not a "con" or criticism, just an observation — so I'd like to see more countries/ethnicities represented.

To keep up with additions, improvements, and updates, read the blog at: www.livinggenealogy.com/blog/32. LivingGenealogy is also on Twitter. You can follow site developments at <https://twitter.com/LivingGenealogy>.

LivingGenealogy.com is an interesting site trying to further the collaborating, creating and connecting aspects of genealogical research on the "New Internet". I hope they will add GEDCOM support, and work out some of the other glitches, but this site is one

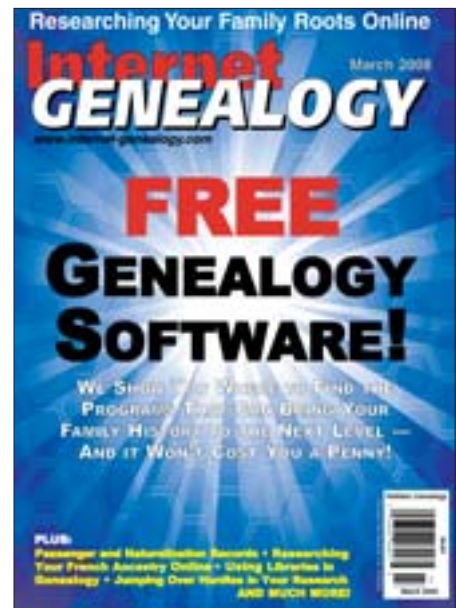
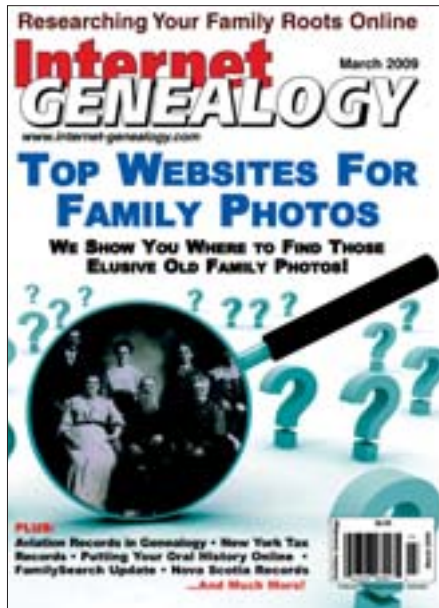
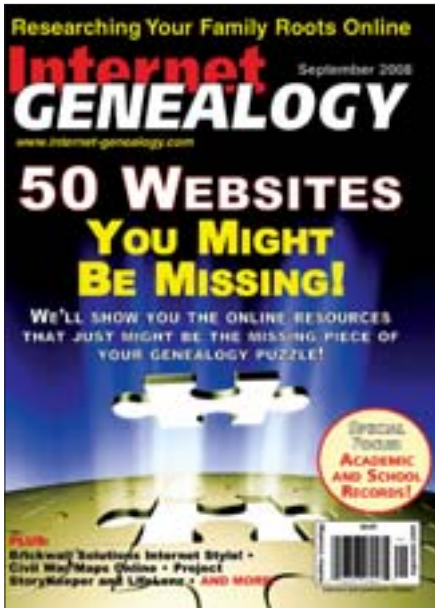
I'll be watching as it emerges from beta, and obtains more users.



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

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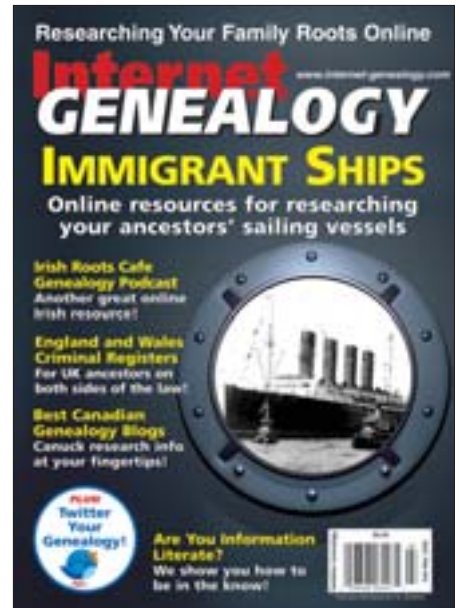
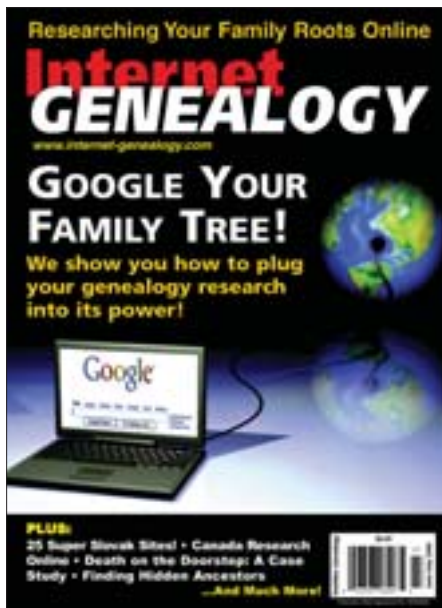


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California Dreamin': Researching the Golden State

CALIFORNIA'S HISTORY IS THE story of people looking for a better way of life. Whether your ancestor was here prior to statehood or came on the promise of gold or even later as the dust bowl caused the migration of families fleeing poverty, there are resources throughout the state and on the Internet that will help you learn more about your Californian ancestor.

As you begin your research, make sure to include genealogical and historical societies in the city/county you are researching. These societies often have their own library collections which may or may not be cataloged on the Internet. Collections may include histories of the locality and cemetery transcriptions. Members might also be able to suggest additional places nearby with research collections. To find societies in California, consult the California State Genealogical Alliance at www.csga.com.

Information about some of the earliest Californians can be found in two collections housed at the Huntington Library in San Marino and the Claremont Colleges. The Huntington Library's Early California Population Project, www.huntington.org/Information/ECPPmain.htm) is an online database of records from the Mission period. The website contains mission records, including baptisms, marriages and burials, covering the years 1769-1850. This database is an important resource since it includes records from 21 of California's missions, many of which are too brittle to handle or are stored away in archives.

The website's links to Search Tips and Users Guide will provide you with ideas for how to conduct your search and what is available in the database. Reading the records digitized in this collection is no easy task. Remember that the records are written in Spanish and that 18th and 19th century writing can be difficult to read. The website states that the database contains over 100,000 baptisms, 27,000 marriages and 71,000 burials. Though this is a free database, you will need to register to search it.

www.internet-genealogy.com

Another resource for early California records is the Claremont Colleges Digital Library's Matrimonial Investigation Records of the San Gabriel Mission at <http://ccdlibraries.claremont.edu/collection.php?alias=/mir>. These interviews with couples eager to marry cover the period from 1788 to 1861 and include other missions as well. 165 investigations are part of this special collection and provide the genealogical researcher with information about the couple and their

[/cbhtml/cbhome.html](http://cbhtml/cbhome.html). 190 eyewitness accounts tell the story of California's early history. These narratives can help you to flesh out the story of your ancestor and their experiences. If your early California ancestor was Chinese, then make sure to check out American Memory's The Chinese in California, 1850-1925 at <http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/award99/cubhtml/cichome.html>. This collection includes 8,000 images and pages of primary source material. Both collections can be searched or



China Town Law Enforcement Squad in 1898. One of 8,000 images and material available online at the Library of Congress' Chinese in California, 1850-1925 collection.

family. Matrimonial investigations were done by a Catholic priest to make sure that the couple was eligible to be married. Questions were meant to verify current marital status and any familial relationship between the couple.

When you do not have access to the details of your ancestor's life as penned by them, it can be helpful to check out what their contemporaries had to say about life, their community and current events. The Library of Congress has great online genealogical resources and one of those is the American Memory Project. Within that project is California As I Saw It: First Person Narratives of California's Early Years, 1849-1900, <http://memory.loc.gov/ammem>

browsed by keyword, subject and title.

California has both a state archive and a state library that houses historical and genealogical primary and secondary sources. The California State Library, www.library.ca.gov, has a link on their homepage for genealogy. Clicking on that link will take you to a page spotlighting their history and genealogy collection, research guides, and services. This library has a rich collection of resources that include city directories, telephone books, county histories, photographs and California history books. Newspapers on microfilm at the Library can be borrowed through interlibrary loan. Their manuscript collection, which

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can only be accessed onsite, contains everything from correspondence, diaries, court papers, scrapbooks and more.

Searching the Library's catalog at www.lib.state.ca.us not only retrieves results for the California State Library, but also the Sutro Library, a genealogy library located in San Francisco. Sutro has one of the largest genealogy collections in the West aside from the Family History Library in Salt Lake City.

The California State Archives, <http://www.sos.ca.gov/archives>, is the repository for state government records and documents pertaining to state history. To get an idea of what the Archives house, click on the Collections link on the left side of the homepage. The Collections link explains some of their holdings, which include Spanish and Mexican Land Grants and Family Histories. By scrolling all the way down that page, you can also see what has recently been added to the Archive's holdings. To search all of the Archive's materials, use Minerva, <http://minerva.sos.ca.gov>, the Archive's catalog, which lists more than 232 million documents. California includes many archives and libraries that house special collections and documents that relate to family history. One resource for checking out archives in California and what their holdings consist of can be found through searching Online Archive of California (OAC), www.oac.cdlib.org. 150 institutions and their collections are featured in this catalog. You can search by subject or keyword and your results will provide information about the collection, the institution that houses it and how to access the materials. In the case where the collection is digitized and online, you will be provided a link.

When I was researching my book, *Cemeteries of the Eastern Sierra*, I used OAC and was able to find digitized newspapers, photos and manuscript collection descriptions in one easy to search site. When you search OAC, make sure that you search on more than your ancestor's name because archives do not catalog collections based on all of the names located within a

collection. Use keywords that describe the place they lived, their occupation, their religion, groups they belonged to and events they were part of. WorldCat is a resource that helps you locate books housed in the world's libraries. CalCat is a website for searching California libraries, public and private, for books, audio recordings, journals, photographs and archival collections. Calcat, <http://calcat.org/>, is the card catalog for California's libraries. Once you arrive at the website, you will need to choose whether to search all California libraries; this includes academic, government, public, special and school



Above: The California State Archives, www.sos.ca.gov/archives, is the repository for state government records and documents pertaining to state history.

Below: The Online Archive of California site, www.oac.cdlib.org, features 150 institutions and their collections.



libraries, or just public libraries. I would suggest that you click on All California Libraries; regardless of where a source is housed, you can look into accessing the resource through interlibrary loan. You will be asked to sign into the website by entering your mailing address.

Once you are inside the website, you will have the opportunity to fill out a search form. You can search by keyword, title, author, ISBN# or year. Remember to use keywords that reflect your ancestor's life. From this search engine, you can choose to search CalCat or WorldCat. Results you will receive in CalCat will provide you

not only with the California libraries that own a resource, but also the libraries worldwide. You can also click on the link Cite This Item and you will be shown the ways to cite that resource. You can then copy and paste it into your database program or document.

Several genealogy societies in California have collections that will be of interest to the family historian. The Southern California Genealogical Society and Family History Research Library, www.scgsgenealogy.com, has a large library that contains books for researching ancestors throughout the United States. The homepage for the library catalog displays a map of the United States, www.scgsgenealogy.com/catalogMain.htm. Click on the state you are interested in and you will see a list of books that the Library has for that state. Titles are listed in alphabetical order. For Southern California, the Library has among its collection the Los Angeles City Historical Society Collection and the Los Angeles County City Filings 1979-1988. Volunteers at the Library will also conduct research and lookups for a fee.

For those with Northern California ancestors, consider contacting the California Genealogical Society at www.calgensoc.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=frontpage&Itemid=54. Organized in 1898 in San Francisco, the California Genealogical Society and Library houses over 38,000 materials pertaining not only to California, but the United States and the World. Aside from books, the Library houses a manuscript collection containing loose papers, research and family histories donated to the Library.

The Library has a handful of online databases, a few of which are available to non-members. A California Names Index has 83,233 names, including pre-1905 deaths in San Francisco. This Index is a boon to researchers, considering that the 1906 San Francisco earthquake destroyed many records. To learn more about the other online databases, see www.calgensoc.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=48&Itemid=56.

www.internet-genealogy.com



The 1906 San Francisco earthquake destroyed many records that would've been helpful to genealogy research.

Membership in the Society not only allows you access to member only databases, but also the archive of CGS periodicals. The Society will do research and lookups for a fee. Consult their website for forms and fees.

Although this is just a small sampling of what is available for researching your California ancestor, each of these resources promises to provide you with the information you need to learn more about their lives.

RESOURCES FOR CALIFORNIA RESEARCH

- California State Library www.library.ca.gov
- California State Archives www.sos.ca.gov/archives/archives.htm
- California Libraries Catalog (CalCat) www.calcat.org
- California Historical Society www.californiahistoricalsociety.org
- California Newspaper Project <http://cnp.ucr.edu/>

- California USGenweb site <http://cagenweb.com>
- Online Archive of California <http://www.oac.cdlib.org>
- Sutro Library www.onelibrary.com/Library/calcsut.htm
- University of California Libraries Catalog at http://meloyl.cdlib.org/F/?func=file&file_name=find-b&maleph=yes
- Sons of the Revolution Library www.srcaifornia.com/library.htm
- Los Angeles Public Central Library, History and Genealogy Department www.lapl.org/central/history.html

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*Gená Philibert Ortega is a genealogist and the author of the book **Cemeteries of the Eastern Sierra**. You can visit her at www.yourfamilyhistoryresearch.com.*

Dial it Up! Genealogy on Your Smart Phone

TONY BANDY SHOWS YOU HOW YOUR MOBILE PHONE CAN BOOST YOUR RESEARCH CAPABILITIES!

STUCK TO YOUR DESK, working on your family genealogy? Visiting a library, but forgot to bring your notes from home? Don't get frustrated, use your phone! With the rising popularity of the "smart phone", the device you carry every day can be the link to your family research and better use of your time. More than just for making and taking calls, these devices are really small, portable computers and can do far more than the average phone. Let's take a closer look and examine how you can integrate these devices into your current family research work.

In many ways, the smart phone is the same as any other cellular phone and can be used for calling, texting and simply keeping in touch with others. What separates them from other models in the group are the extra capabilities built into the hardware and operating system of the phone. These include installing and using mobile software, connecting to wireless networks, accessing the Internet, and even synchronizing with software on your desktop computer. These are just some of the everyday tasks for the average smart phone user. With many models and manufacturers ranging from Apple's iPhone to the Blackberry, Windows Mobile platform, and even Palm, these devices will radically change your concept of what a cell phone can accomplish! For myself, ever since



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acquiring my smart phone, I've been able to get more research done on my family than ever before, while saving time in the process!

Sometimes it's all about the software. From Microsoft Office to specialized applications and even portable versions of many popular genealogy programs, the ability of smart phones to run locally installed software can be one of the most powerful features in your research toolkit. Taking your family history research with you to the genealogy or library site and adding and subtracting notes allows you to become much more productive than others still using desktop computers or ordinary journals. Very often, this same software will also allow you to synchronize your newly acquired data over the Internet, allowing you or others shared access to it from a regular desktop computer anywhere in the world.

In the following paragraphs, I've outlined some brief descriptions of different types of software that is available, indicated what type of phone they can be used on, and just what the software package does. These are just a small sample of what is available.

My Roots

www.tapperware.com/MyRoots/index.html

In this great application, you can import GEDCOM files, add to them and export GEDCOM files back out. You can also create new databases. Since most genealogy programs will import and export this type of format, this is added flexibility to have available. Other tools include Soundex calculations and source editing and creation.

Pocket Genealogist

<http://northernhillssoftware.com>

In this award winning software for Windows Mobile phones, multimedia and LDS support come built-in to this expansive program. Direct database import support for many genealogy programs, and different versions of this software to suit your needs. Supports many screen resolutions on different phones.

www.internet-genealogy.com

Cemetery, Gen2Do, GenRes

<http://keifferusa.com>

This small trio of three Palm applications for your Palm-based smart phone is a great way to get started on your family research while away from your desktop. Updated and color-capable, these allow you to keep track of new resources, keep lists of research to do, remember resources, and even help you remember cemetery information you may have found on long-lost relatives and family members.

FamViewer

www.astersoftware.biz

Built for the ever-popular iPhone and iPod touch hardware, this unique genealogy application allows you to import GEDCOM files and view them while away from your desktop.

Shrubs

<http://software.benoitbousquet.com/view.php?app=shrubs>

Another iPhone application, Shrubs enables you to take your family database on your iPhone. GEDCOM compatible format for easy

importing to your device!

Beyond specialized genealogy software, there exists a vast catalog of regular software available for your smart phone as well. In these samples below, you will find programs that allow you to take notes, update family information, and even synchronize over the Internet — sometimes even allowing group collaboration in real-time on a certain project.

EverNote

www.evernote.com

With versions for just about every device, EverNote is a great way to help you with any sort of genealogy task you might have. Consisting of both a free and paid version, use it for note taking, writing in your own handwriting and any other type of data you need to save. Once on your phone, you can then connect to the Internet and upload a copy of your data to the EverNote website. Great software and easy to use, I highly recommend this one.

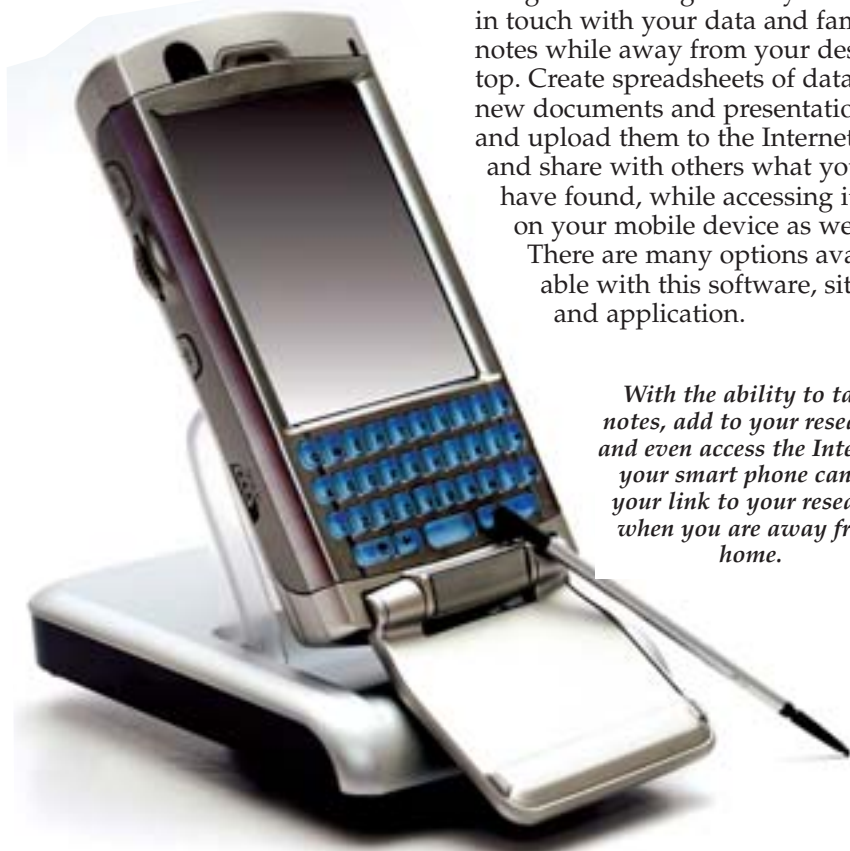
Google Docs

<http://docs.google.com>

Google Docs is a great way to keep in touch with your data and family notes while away from your desktop. Create spreadsheets of data or new documents and presentations and upload them to the Internet and share with others what you have found, while accessing it on your mobile device as well.

There are many options available with this software, site, and application.

With the ability to take notes, add to your research, and even access the Internet, your smart phone can be your link to your research when you are away from home.



Dial It Up! Genealogy on Your Smart Phone

Microsoft Office Mobile

www.microsoft.com/windowsmobile/microsoftprograms/mobileoffice.msp

While most people know about Microsoft Office on the desktop computer, you might not be aware of the smaller version of the popular software available on many Windows Mobile smart phone platforms. From Word to PowerPoint and even Excel and OneNote, these smaller versions are, in many ways, very complete and offer many options for the family researcher. Find a cemetery while you're driving? Take pictures with your smart phone in OneNote and make a voice recording reminding you of where you found them. Examining a local city directory while visiting a genealogical society? Make a spreadsheet in Excel, and merge it to your desktop when you get back home. These are just a sample of some of the capabilities that are available.

Beyond software, smart phones also have the capability of accessing wireless networks as well as the Internet. Using specialized web browsers and hardware, it's even possible to conduct family research from your phone while at lunch or just walking through the park! This ability to stay connected with your phone can sometimes include certain restrictions and additional costs. These can include:

What data/Internet access plan you have with your cell phone provider. The data plan you have purchased with your phone service sometimes includes Internet access and sometimes it doesn't. It is worth checking before you decide to access the Internet on your phone, as charges can add up rapidly if you are not sure.

Screen size of your device.

The screen size of your mobile phone can sometimes be a stumbling block. Websites designed to look great on desktop computers are often inaccessible on devices with screens ranging from two to three inches at the most. If a mobile version of the site is avail-

able as a backup, then this viewing issue can be overcome.

Software on the phone

Every smart phone does not contain the same programs and operating systems. Often dependant on what the manufacturer makes available for use and installation, the version and type of software can be a tremendous problem. Software on phones can become outdated rapidly as system requirements and hardware changes very fast.

Website technologies

Website technologies can be problematic as well for smart phones, especially with sites which utilize special "plug-ins", such as Flash, Java and others, to enhance usability. Many mobile phones today are not capable of running special software, either due to hardware or licensing restrictions — leaving the mobile user with no access to the information.

It's not all negative however, as many sites are becoming more aware of mobile users and creating special pages which allow users access. Along this same line, there are specialized genealogy sites geared specifically to the mobile user. What follows are a few examples to get you started on your own exploration.

Illya D'Addezio's Mobile Genealogy site

www.daddezio.com/mobile/home.html

With extensive work in genealogy and related websites, this a great site to start your mobile genealogy research.

GenealogyWise Mobile

www.genealogywise.com/m

As genealogists, we all know the growing importance of Facebook and other social networking tools in our research. This site is the mobile version of the Genealogy Wise social network. Worth a look!

MobileGenealogy.com

www.mobilegenealogy.com

Primarily specializing in software reviews for mobile users of all types of phones, this is a great site

if you are looking for software for your mobile device. With links to developers as well as forums for discussion and reviews, this is a must-see site!

GenPalm

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/genpalm>

With over 200 members, this Yahoo group/ mailing list should be of interest to anyone doing genealogy on a mobile phone or Palm-based device.

Palm-Gen

<http://lists.rootsweb.ancestry.com/index/other/Technical/PALM-GEN.html>

While not strictly a website, this mailing list addresses the needs and information for those mobile users who carry Palm devices in many shapes and forms.

While I've been able to touch on some software available for smart phone users, as well as a few sites that will help you get started, there is more information available. What follows are some more links/information to help you with your smart phone and genealogy project:

- **Genealogical Journeys In Time**
www.genealogicaljourneys.com/hressoft.htm
- **GenSoftReviews**
www.gensoftreviews.com/index.php
- **Genealogical software for handhelds**

http://genealogy.about.com/od/software_handhelds/Genealogy_Software_Handheld_Computers.htm

With the ability to take notes, add to your research, utilize specialized genealogy programs and even access the Internet, your "smart phone" can be your link to your family research when you are away from home, at work or if you just run into a resource while on the go. Take advantage of this fabulous device to make you more efficient as you learn more about your ancestors.



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MARIAN PRESS LOOKS AT A NEW PROGRAM IN ONTARIO TO HELP PRESERVE HISTORIC DOCUMENTS

OGS Scanning Project

ONE OF THE problems facing small genealogical and historical societies is the cost and the difficulty of gaining access to modern scanning technology to preserve their unique records. And, scanning is just the beginning of the process of digitization, as the electronic records must then be stored and made accessible to those who wish to use them. Heritage organizations have often depended on the sale of their records in paper format in order to finance their ongoing activities, which include the generation of even more useful records. Therefore, an income of some kind must be maintained with digital records. In Ontario, a major initiative by the Ontario Genealogical Society (OGS), funded in its initial stages by the Ontario Trillium Foundation, will assist Ontario heritage organizations with every step of the record digitization process.

Through the OGS scanning project, organizations that work to preserve Ontario's heritage will be able to: digitize one-of-a-kind records; make more people aware of the documents and each organization's work; increase public access to records significant to Ontario's heritage; increase the long-term security of the documents through electronic storage; develop an income through pay-per-view fees, if the organization so chooses.

The scanning equipment — including high-speed book and sheet feed scanners, flatbed scanners, microfilm and microfiche scanners — and the trained technicians to operate it, is able to be transported to remote locations. OGS is explicitly interested in "working with small organizations and organizations in isolated parts of Ontario".

One of the advantages organizations may see in this project is the opportunity to house this digitized material on a Canadian not-for-profit portal. The OGS website, www.ogs.on.ca, is already the hub

for a significant amount of Ontario genealogical material, such as the free Ontario Genealogical Society Provincial Index (OGSPI), a "hypertext library" of genealogical information on Ontario families and the members-only section that includes the Independent Order of Oddfellows Insurance papers database and the back issues of Families. The website will expand with a pay-per-view section to house the newly-digitized material, for those organizations that so choose. However, a society may decide to make the material available on its own website, or, if the material is non-genealogical in nature, there are organizations that

scanning any records over 100 years old that are significant to a community, such as school records, scrapbooks of local history, one-of-a-kind journal or newspaper publications — the list is virtually endless.

Organizations that are interested in discussing help with their data digitization should contact the Ontario Genealogical Society at provoffice@ogs.on.ca (begin the subject line with "PPV"). Genealogists who wish to monitor the new content as it comes online should visit the OGS website.

Also going live in the fall of 2009 is the OGS's e-Library, a digitization project financed by the



The Ontario Genealogical Society website.

may be able to help, such as Knowledge Ontario, www.knowledgeontario.ca.

The pay-per-view section of the OGS website is expected to go live in the fall of 2009. The project is already well underway in the OGS offices with two full-time staff, an image technician and a library technician, along with four summer students. Among the materials currently being digitized are a set of 1840s records from a small local post office where the postmaster has kept track of his customers, the weather and all the small-town gossip; assessment rolls; municipal records; and obituaries collected from early newspapers. The project is interested in

Society's endowment funds that will begin by scanning books and family histories in the OGS Library for which the OGS owns the copyright or which are out of copyright. The paper copies will be preserved and the electronic copies will circulate, first to OGS members only on a trial basis, and then to non-members as well. A small fee will be charged (less for members) to make the project self-supporting.

These two projects by the Ontario Genealogical Society will contribute to the important task of preserving Ontario's heritage and making it accessible to everyone, in the province and beyond.

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TONY BANDY LOOKS AT THE NEWEST VERSION OF THE GENEALOGY SOFTWARE

Kith and Kin: An Old Favorite Returns

HAVING A BACKGROUND in computers as well as history and genealogy, I've always been intrigued by genealogy software. Anything that can speed up the process of working with my family tree data is a good thing! With this in mind, I was anxious to try out the newest release of Kith and Kin.

Used all over the world by thousands of researchers, this program offers a great visual approach to working with your family tree. This version has been completely updated both inside and out, and added new features, such as PDF and web page export, data file import and much more. After testing it on my own machine, I've found that there's something here for everyone, from the beginning family researcher to the more experienced genealogist.

VERSIONS AND MORE

For this review, I tested an updated package of version 3 released earlier in the year. Several fixes and additions are included in this update and the program works with all versions of Windows, from Windows 98 through Vista and even the new Windows 7. You can download the trial version from SpanSoft, <http://spansoft.org>, and give it a try. If you don't have access to the Internet, or want a physical copy, you can also purchase a CD.

The trial version can be used for up to 30 days before you must purchase a license key or uninstall it.

A VISUAL APPROACH

If you have never had the opportunity to work with Kith and Kin, it's important to note the distinct approach it takes to working with your genealogical data. Instead of a cluttered layout of dialog boxes, data entry points and taskbars, the

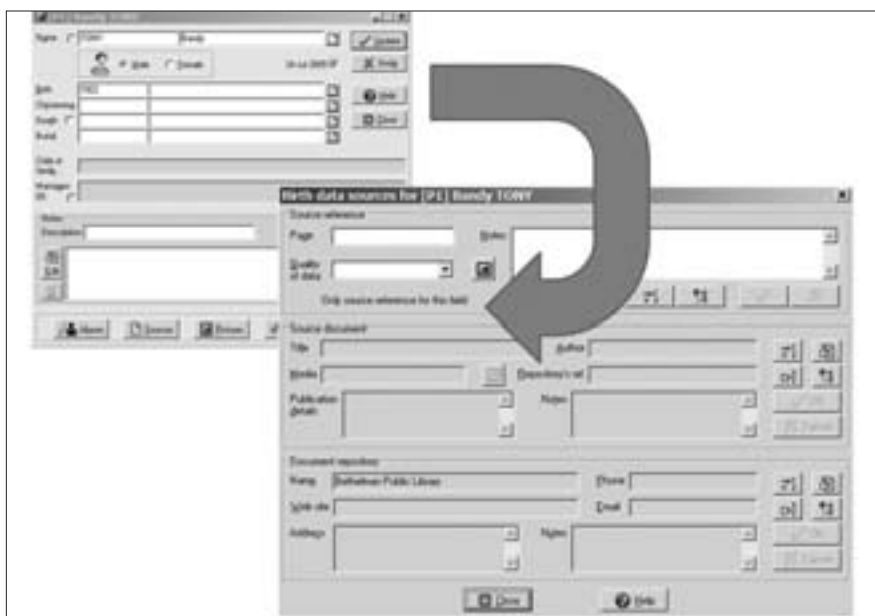
program gives you a single, wide workspace in which you can graphically add, remove and adjust portions of your family tree. Each family on the tree is represented by a single rectangle with connection lines, or "branches", to the other family members. This methodology is highly effective and can help you see important relationships that might otherwise go unnoticed, especially for those researchers with large or complex trees.

This release also adds support for the "layers" function. While

merging layers as needed.

You can also alter almost every visual aspect of the program that you see on the screen to suit your needs. From the color of the connecting family lines to the individual boxes themselves, the ability to customize what you see and work with is very good. Families can be moved around the tree with just your mouse, moving them closer or farther apart, depending upon the relationship and how you want the tree to appear.

Viewing your work is customizable via a unique view con-



You can easily add personal data and sources in Kith and Kin.

many other programs will force you to work with the whole tree at once, Kith and Kin enables you to create different layers of your family tree and assign families to a particular layer. Working in these separate spaces, you have the same full functionality of adding, subtracting and working with the families you have chosen. Other options include removing and

control function and different selection modes. The selection modes can easily be accessed via right click on the workspace, and gives you options to choose families, ancestors, descendants and even direct lineage.

DATA IN AND OUT

Your data is stored in Kith and Kin by a completely new database

Kith and Kin: An Old Favorite Returns

engine which can store millions of records and sources, giving you space for all of your family information. With each record having a unique entry in the database, the record structure itself offers you the capacity to store multiple fields, notes and even data resources.

If you have existing family trees from earlier versions of Kith and Kin, importing them into the new release of Kith and Kin is supported. According to the documentation, your early database files will be retained even after the import. If you are still using an early version of Kith and Kin with TRE files, there is a conversion service offered by SpanSoft. However, the service costs extra and is not included in this particular release.

If you use a different genealogy program, then the well-known GEDCOM format (Genealogical Data Communication) is fully supported, helping you to bring your data over. At the point of import, you can specify additional guidelines, as well as receive information on the import process, including statistics of import, Source Additions (specify at point of import), duplicate tag options and specifying data errors.

Multiple databases are available for each family tree and the merging of different databases is supported also.

In everyday use, adding data to my family tree was quite easy and the ability to have extensive note fields in the records helped to document some of the more obscure resources that I have found during my research. Importing my existing GEDCOM files went well, both for my existing files and also some new ones that I found online.

As an aside, it's always important from a technical perspective to keep your database files clean and in good order. I'm happy to say that in this program, there are many tools to help you accomplish this. These include repair, backup and, one of my personal favorites, duplicate detection. Especially in the case of large trees, cleaning up this data will save time and pre-

vent errors going forward. Finally, you can also view statistics about your information, as well as pull any "orphan" data records that might be floating around your database.

If you need to get your data out of Kith and Kin, either for reporting or transferring data online or to a different program, the process is equally as easy. A number of options exist, including PDF, web pages and GEDCOM files. With each type, you have complete control over how the export is printed or formatted, depending on your needs. You can choose fields and remove fields to be exported, and specify which you want to keep private.

I tested the web page export and it was nice, linking all of the pages together and even giving me the option to include my photographs. This is a good option, especially if you plan on posting any portions of your family tree online.

THERE'S MORE!

Besides just the basics of Kith and Kin, there are a host of other features and additions which should be mentioned. While these may not be as important as database engines and bigger program functions, these small pieces help to add to the usefulness of the program.

The timeline option helps you to place your ancestor's information in proper perspective. The Soundex and Metaphone support helps with family names. Finally, there are different "calculators" to help you with name encoding and age ranges.

Kith and Kin will also import any photos you might have for your family tree and it even includes support for scanners.

THINGS TO NOTE

In working with Kith and Kin, I did find some things that were distracting. While the visual style of the program is great, it had the appearance of an older Windows program in certain aspects, especially with the dialog boxes and fonts used. I also kept trying to right-click to bring up program

features, which is common in some Windows programs today, but did not have an effect with Kith and Kin.

Other confusing issues were the multiple levels of dialog boxes and labels for each of them. While these certainly do not detract from the usefulness of the program, they can be frustrating at times. I also encountered several glitches in working with my data entry because the options were a bit unclear on how to add the data. Choosing the wrong option in working with my data also sometimes left me in a "loop" and I could not escape the dialog box.

MORE INFORMATION

With this review, I've only had a chance to tell you a fraction of how the program works and some of the new features. For more information, here are some links with more details to help get you started in working with Kith and Kin:

- SpanSoft Homepage: <http://kithkinpro.spansoft.org/index.php>
- Sample Output Web Pages: http://kithkinpro.spansoft.org/sample_html/genstart.htm
- Sample screenshots: <http://kithkinpro.spansoft.org/screen.php>

FINAL THOUGHTS...

With great visuals and a powerful database engine, Kith and Kin is a great software tool to help you start or improve your family genealogical research. Good importing and export options, as well as the many tools available, will help you be more efficient and save precious research time. Minor issues aside, this is one program definitely worth considering.

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

GAIL BLANKENAU SHOWS YOU WHERE TO FIND OLD FAMILY PHOTOS ONLINE

Portraits From the Past: Finding Ancestral Images

SOME FAMILIES SEEM TO inherit drawers and boxes full of fascinating old photographs from years gone by. Others seem hard put to go beyond their grandparents' 40th anniversary photograph. Still more have images from one side and very few from another. Fortunately, the skills genealogists use to find our elusive ancestors translate well to finding old portraits and photographs. Undertaking a comprehensive search for ancestral images requires perseverance, patience, and even luck. While there's no guarantee you'll find what you're looking for, the results can be surprisingly fruitful.

LIVING DESCENDANTS

The best way to start is to contact both close and distant cousins. I collected many photographs of my great-grandparents and 2nd great-grandparents this way. One of my third cousins was able to borrow an old album, complete with labels, from a cousin of hers — who never would have lent it to me as a "stranger" — then she scanned the contents and sent them.

Another very distant cousin found me by asking the Michigan Historical Society if anyone else had inquired about the same family. They gave her my name and she was excited to find that I had a labeled family photograph album full of 19th-century photographs that she used in her Tillotson family genealogy. Sometimes, finding cousins entails "reverse lineage research". By finding other descendants of a common ancestor through the census, obituaries, county histories and search engines, I have found many distant relatives. For instance, I found a man in the 1930 census with my ancestor's identical name — this man was

too young to be my ancestor, but the unusual name caught my eye. I found someone still living in that small town with the same surname and wrote a letter. Sure

in their collections. Familiarize yourself with all the places your ancestors resided. It's always worth finding out what those local organizations might have.



This photo of the Blankenaufulland family in Germany was identified by a German cousin online.

enough, he was a grandson of the man listed in 1930, who had inherited most of the family lore, complete with photos.

Communicating with these relatives can help in other ways. You will become known as the family historian. It may take a few years, but someone else might contact one of your relatives and they'll forward that person's letter or e-mail on to you. Sometimes they happen upon photographs or letters they weren't aware of at the time you contacted them and again, your name will come to mind when they wonder what to do with it all.

LOCAL REPOSITORIES

Local libraries and historical societies have many little-known gems

A few years ago, I walked into the Henry Whitfield Museum in Guilford, Connecticut, with no thought of finding anything on my family. I mentioned my connection to the Hart family of Guilford and the guide took me into a back room and showed me a large portrait of my direct ancestor, Thomas Hart. The museum provided me with a slide and print of the portrait and a copy now hangs in my hall.

I had another great find when I signed in at the Northwest Missouri Genealogical Society library in St. Joseph, Missouri. The woman at the desk asked me whom I was researching. When I answered, she laughed and said my grandmother was her husband's cousin. She had an album

Portraits From the Past: Finding Ancestral Images

with photographs of my second great-grandparents. I had no photographs from that side of my family. She photocopied them for me right then and there.

Thus, it's good to contact all the historical societies and museums in your region of interest. I found out that one museum used to be the house of my ancestor's brother. My inquiry about any items they had on my side of the family produced three photographs of my direct ancestors in addition to photocopies of letters they wrote to their brother in the 1870s.

Some libraries are beginning to post their photograph collections online. Just two examples I have found are the Willard Library of Battle Creek, Michigan at <http://www.willard.lib.mi.us> and the Burlington Public Library in Burlington, Wisconsin at www.burlington.lib.wi.us. In many cases, these institutions have a reference librarian that will help you to find even more. I also offer to scan and send my photographs to these institutions for inclusion on their websites. Larger institutions, such as the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, often have extensive portrait card catalogs at their disposal. The Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art in Hartford, Connecticut also sent me a photocopy of another Hart portrait from their extensive collection. Thus, you need to cast your net to as many repositories as possible — large and small.

COUNTY HISTORIES AND OTHER PUBLICATIONS

Some county histories contain biographical sketches, complete with engraved photographs. Just one example is W. R. Brink's *History of Madison County, Illinois*. Don't forget your ancestor's occupation. Local business histories, or histories of a particular industry, can also yield new images.

Church histories can also be great sources. For instance, the *History of the First Presbyterian church of Ithaca, New York during one hundred years* (First Presbyterian Church, Ithaca 1904)

www.internet-genealogy.com

contained an early photograph of my third great-grandfather that I had never seen. This book is a treasure, with many early 19th-century photographs of members with a strong collection of women's images.

If your ancestor was a veteran, there might be a reunion photo in an old newspaper. I have found



This image of Caswell Goodman is from a cousin's album.

some images this way by tracking GAR reunions for my ancestors' particular regiments.

SURNAME FORUMS

No search for ancestral images is complete without posting to the surname forums. Surname forums may not only uncover distant cousins, but other researchers and historians that may have information and images for your family. You need to be specific in your posting, that you are looking for

photographs and for whom. One of my most important finds was from a query I placed on the Blakeman surname forum in 1999, inquiring about a portrait of Captain Curtiss Blakeman of Bridgeport, Connecticut and Madison County, Illinois. Family members claimed their parents and grandparents had seen this portrait in Illinois, but no one knew where it was. In 2007, the curator of an Illinois museum answered my years-old question. The painting was on loan from a private collection to her museum. I finally know what the adventurous sea captain looked like.

LOCALITY FORMS

Be sure to go beyond the surname and post queries on forums for the localities in which your ancestor lived. I struck pay dirt when I posted a general query with a list of surnames I was searching on a forum for Westphalia, Germany. A distant cousin of my father-in-law's found my posting. His father, now in his eighties, has shared stories and photographs from the old country. He was even able to help identify photographs of "unknowns" that my husband's family possessed.

DATABASES AND WEBSITES

There are numerous sources for both photographs and portraits. The National Gallery of Art has a search engine for their collection. I was quite pleased to find a portrait of my ancestor, Reverend Samuel Eells of Connecticut, on this site (www.nga.gov). A general search did not turn this up — I had to click on "collections" and then search Eells in the title. Another resource is the Catalog of American Portraits, known as CAP at <http://npgportraits.si.edu/MuseumNPG/code/emuseum.asp>. This website states that they "maintain records of historically significant American portraits," etc. The drawback to this database is that it does not cover photographic images.

The Library of Congress also has a large collection of photographic images that you can

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explore at www.loc.gov/rr/print/catalog.html. Unfortunately, not all their photographs are identified, but it's worth a search. Instead of an ancestor's likeness, I found photographs of an ancestor's house when I typed in the surname Hayt.

If one of your ancestors was famous or even a bit well-to-do, you may want to use the pre-1877 Art Exhibition Catalog through the SIRIS search system on the Smithsonian Art Institute website at <http://siris-artexhibition.si.edu>. The site does not usually display actual images, but you can find out what works exist by typing in your surname of interest in the "subject" line. You can then inquire about the exhibition catalog to find out more. I typed in the surname Mead and found a portrait of Sarah (Lyman) Mead, wife of Dr. Elijah Mead. I then used a regular search engine for her name and found the actual image on Google books in the book, *Perfect Likeness: European and American Portrait Miniatures by the Cincinnati Art Museum*. Another good site to search is through the Frick Museum's art reference library catalog, called FRESCO, at <http://arcade.nyarc.org>.

There are also numerous Internet websites that gather old photographs and reunite them with their families. A few of the better-known sites are "Dead Fred", "Ancient Faces", and "Family Old Photos". Some of these sites scan old yearbooks, which is where I found an image of one of my great-uncles. I have also found some photographs (among other treasures) by typing in my desired surname on eBay.

Megan Smolenyak Smolenyak's website has an excellent list of hotlinks to a variety of "lost photographs" websites at www.honoringourancestors.com/orphanphotos.html.

Finding ancestor photographs and portraits is another rewarding and integral part of your family research. In addition to seeing what family members looked like and imagining their lives, photographs can hold answers to your family lineage. In one cousin's

REFERENCE BOOKS AND INDEXES

There are several books and indexes you should check to make a thorough search for old portraits:

- *American Portraits, 1645-1850, Found in Maine*, (Boston, Historical Records Survey, Works Progress Administration (WPA), 1941).
- *American Portraits, 1645-1850, Found in Massachusetts*, (Boston, Historical Records Survey, Works Progress Administration (WPA), 1939).
- *Ancestral Records and Portraits: a Compilation from the Archives of Chapter I, The Colonial Dames of America, 2 vols.*, (New York Grafton Press, 1910).
- *Catalogue of American Portraits in the New York Historical Society* (New York, The New York Historical Society, 1941.) This catalog is also represented in the SIRIUS search engine discussed above.
- Lane, William Coolidge and Nina E. Browne, *American Library Association Portrait Index: Index to Portraits Contained in Printed Books and Periodicals* (Government Printing Office, Washington, DC, 1906. Note: "In general, genealogical works and local histories have not been indexed.")
- Lee, Cuthbert, *Portrait Register* (n.p. Biltmore Press, 1968).



The Frick Museum's art reference library catalog, called FRESCO, at <http://arcade.nyarc.org>, is a great online resource.

album, I spied a "Cousin Rachel Heimbach" which helped to prove that our ancestor Elizabeth Geiger Crites was the sister of Eva Geiger Heimbach.

Thus, target the "holes" in your family photograph collection and start your quest with all the tools at your disposal. Surname and locality forums, local repositories and a letter-writing campaign can often lead to gratifying and pleasing additions to your family history photo collection.

IG

Gail Blankenau is an experienced genealogist, author and lecturer who shares her research and advice in such well-known periodicals as the *New England Historical and Genealogical Register* and *Everton's Genealogical Helper*. She is frequent contributor to *Family Chronicle* and *Discovering Family History*.

LISA A. ALZO LOOKS AT A NEW WAY TO KEEP TRACK OF WHERE YOUR ANCESTORS LIVED

Mapping Genealogy: Ancestral Atlas



LOCATION. LOCATION. LOCATION. How many times have you heard this mantra from real estate agents trying to close a sale on a property? But, location is also a critical component in genealogy. When tracking our ancestors, we learn to ask where things happened in order to get a sense of place, to assist us in finding the key records we need, and to make sure we are tracing the right family (especially when searching for a common surname).

There's a new tool available to help genealogists with this task. Ancestral Atlas, www.ancestralatlas.com, is an online community environment that allows people to create and share ancestry-based maps. It's useful for displaying locations of births, marriages and burials of your

ancestors, as well as the locations of other important places in their lives, such as the location of a family farm or business, or the locations of a military battle in which your ancestor was a partic-



The historical map option uses the Ordnance Survey Revised New Edition maps for England and Wales, first published between 1893 and 1903.

ipant. It has been dubbed "The social networking site for dead people". Ancestral Atlas supports locations anywhere in the world.

The basic Ancestral Atlas service is available free of charge although some of the more advanced features are fee-based. You'll need to register with a username and password (you do not need to provide credit card information to register).

A subscription costs only £15 (a handy link to other currencies is provided on the main page so you can see how much it will cost you) and offers benefits such as: unlimited access, saved searches, social networking, secure messaging, access to licensed data (such as access to historical maps of England and Wales) and the

opportunity to even generate an income if you have entered information that is of value to others. When I joined, it cost me \$24.76

Mapping Genealogy: Ancestral Atlas

US, which included a special offer to receive a lifetime of subscription benefits at that price.

WHY ANCESTRAL ATLAS?

According to their website, the company behind the idea deals with historical maps of Ireland and, at various conferences, its representatives were asked by customers for historical maps of the same location in Ireland. The mapping specialists set out to create a “dynamic” map to aid family historians in sharing information globally in real time, as well as collaborate through a secure messaging system. They could add family history data as well as contextual data, such as a map of a military battle or a history of a particular coal mine. Think wiki meets a map-based social network that’s specifically designed for family historians.

The creators also note that an added benefit of using location is that it “dramatically refines the search”. They use the example of trying to find Smiths born between 1890 and 1900 in England — practically impossible because of the sheer number of results. But, imagine searching for Smiths born between 1890 and 1900 in the small village of Chalfont St. Peter in England — a bit more manageable. The boundaries may be altered and place names may have changed, but the actual location of where something happened remains constant.

HOW TO MAP

To simplify the mapping process, the site has a GEDCOM upload facility. You can first use your favorite genealogy program to export your database in GEDCOM format. Then, go to www.ancestralatlas.com and upload your GEDCOM data, confirm your locations. Do not post details on living individuals. You may need to create and save a sanitized version of your GEDCOM (I began with my grandparents because they are all deceased) and upload that version to the site. Currently, the site only allows one GEDCOM file

per user to be imported at a time. You can replace your existing file, but uploading a new GEDCOM file will remove all previously imported data. Once you’ve hit the upload button, there is a short waiting period for the data to be added to the site. You’ll receive an e-mail notification from Ancestral Atlas once your GEDCOM has been successfully imported. Then you can begin

GEDCOM “place” as other events you’ve uploaded, the site offers the option to add them all to the same pin. For example, if you have 20 recorded events that took place at the same location (and you’ve given each event the same place name), locating just one of these events will enable you to find them all at the same time.

If you already have a number



Above: Registration for the basic service is free. Additional benefits are available via paid subscription. Below: Mapped locations for the author’s ancestral villages of Kucin and Posa.



your mapping. When adding data to Ancestral Atlas, you can choose whether to allow all or part of the data to be viewed by any other user.

If you’ve uploaded a large number of events from your GEDCOM file, you can now save time when placing them on the map. When you add a new location to an event that has the same

of events on the same map pin, moving one allows you to move them all in one go! This is very useful if you eventually discover that the location of a pin is wrong (and all the events you had at that map pin need to move, too).

Mapping Genealogy: Ancestral Atlas

PLANNED FEATURES AND ENHANCEMENTS

The Ancestral Atlas team has a number of features in the works. These include:

- **Life Maps** — The ability to plot all the locations of the events associated with a selected individual. These events will be linked together to show that individual's journey through life. You will also be able to show the descendants or ancestors of a selected individual — each descendant/ancestor will be linked by a line to their children/parents.
- **GEDCOM Import** — A feature for uploading multiple GEDCOM files that will allow you to append them to files you previously uploaded.
- **Locate Events** — Automatically locate where uploaded events took place. If there is a unique place name specified, it will place a pin at that location. If a given place name is ambiguous, it will place a pin at the most likely location and notify you that you

should confirm the information. If a matching location cannot be found, you will need to locate it manually.

- **Default Map View** — A feature that will allow you to choose a personalized default map.

To learn more about Ancestral Atlas, watch Dick Eastman's interview with Nick Francis for RootsTelevision at www.rootstelevision.com/players/player_conferences3.php?bctid=17062983001&bclid=14621417001.

LOCATION MAPPING AND "CLUSTER" GENEALOGY

A popular technique for breaking down brickwalls during family history research is to employ the concept of "cluster genealogy" — here you go beyond your direct ancestors to research siblings, aunts, uncles, cousins, relatives, friends and neighbors for additional clues. Using online dynamic mapping can assist with identifying "cluster" communities and networking with others

who may be researching the same location — whether a coal mining community in the US or a tiny village in Europe. As the trend in genealogy continues to move toward global collaboration and data sharing, Ancestral Atlas is another tool which can help us pinpoint the path to our roots and hopefully offer a better understanding of the environment our ancestors lived in.



Author, lecturer and instructor, Lisa A. Alzo, is a frequent contributor to Internet Genealogy, Family Chronicle and Discovering Family History. She can be reached via her website, www.lisaalzo.com, but regrets she is unable to assist with personal research requests.

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CEMETERY RESEARCH. Will search Madison County, Illinois, cemeteries for requested surnames. Reasonable rates - fast response. Send name and mailing address for details. **Penko Research**, PO Box 606, Hamel, IL 62046 (or) penko46@empowering.com.

UNITED STATES RESEARCH — We can help by consulting with you as you do your own research, doing some research for you, or offering suggestions for brick wall situations. Free initial consultation. **Anne J. Miller, Ph.D.** www.AJMresearch.com or DMEAJM@verizon.net.

LISA A. ALZO DISCUSSES 10 WAYS TO BUILD YOUR GENEALOGY CLOUD

Cloudy With a Chance of...Genealogy!



LATELY, MY HEAD HAS been in the clouds. No, I haven't been consumed with impractical or unrealistic ideas. Rather, I'm taking to the virtual skies when it comes to my family history — experimenting with the latest phenomenon sweeping the genealogical community — a concept called “cloud computing”.

Just as with any other of the popular “buzz words” in technology today, there are any number of definitions for “cloud computing”, but in very basic terms, it consists of using applications hosted on the Internet as opposed to those downloaded or installed on your computer, and/or storing your data with an online service, either

for free, or for access prices based on a fee. (For a more technical explanation, see www.infoworld.com/d/cloud-computing/what-cloud-computing-really-means-031.)

Genealogists can utilize cloud computing in many different ways, from creating and hosting their family tree online, to keeping virtual photo albums or scrapbooks, to building a personal digital library, among others. It used to be that genealogy was a static activity: You'd type in a few search terms and wait for results to turn up. Now, with Web 2.0, the emphasis is on collaboration, sharing and interaction. For an excellent overview of the move from traditional genealogy to web-based

genealogy, you may want to view the slideshow by Thomas Jay Kemp, available for free on Scribd, www.scribd.com/doc/21125904/Genealogy-Cloud-Computing.

I'll admit that at first, I was a bit skeptical about this new approach to family history. When it comes to my personal data and writings, I prefer to be able to quickly find information when needed and am a bit obsessive over making sure I have back-up copies of pretty much everything “just in case.” The idea of putting things “out there” in cyberspace made me a bit nervous, but as I learned more about the benefits of doing so, I thought I'd give it a try, especially because I travel a great

Cloudy With a Chance of... Genealogy!

deal for conferences and to do research, and I want to be able to access my data and files when on the road. I also use several different computers and sometimes it's inconvenient to take along an external hard drive or to keep saving files to a USB drive that I must remember to bring with me. If you're thinking of moving to an online protocol for your family history, this article will show you 10 ways I've utilized "cloud computing" for my own genealogy. Of course, this is just a sampling — there are many other possibilities. For a good overview of available web-based applications, consult the Learning In Hand website. <http://learninginhand.com/blog/labels/webapps.html> and the list of Top 100 Web-based applications for 2009 from CNET, http://news.cnet.com/8300-13546_10929.html?tag=bc.

ing searches (as long as you have a valid account). While I always save images or information to my computer, I also like knowing that I can go back to these sites when I need to and quickly find the person or record I last looked at.

quently include: Dropbox, www.dropbox.com, which backs up your files and also copies them to other computers (a free account gives you two GBs of storage; and GoToMyPC, www.gotomypc.com (\$19.95/mo. or \$179.40 per year for



Above: Geni.com lets you build and share your family tree online.

Below: Registered users of the Ellis Island database, www.ellisland.org, can save searches to their "Ellis Island" file.

1. Family Tree Building and Sharing Sites

I've tried several services which permit the building and sharing of family trees online, including Ancestry.com Member Trees, www.ancestry.com; Geni, www.geni.com and ourFamilyology, <http://www.family-genealogy.com>. I've also created pages for ancestors (for free) at Footnote, www.footnote.com, and Living Genealogy, www.livinggenealogy.com. There are a host of other sites available. See past issues of *Internet Genealogy* for some reviews.

2. "Saved Searches" in Online Databases

Just like any genealogist, I utilize as many online databases as possible to search for my ancestors. My new favorite is FamilySearch Record Search, <http://pilot.familysearch.org>. However, I don't always have long periods of time to spend with these databases and often find myself doing searches on the fly. I'm glad that most of the major collections like Ancestry.com, Footnote.com, Ellis Island, www.ellisland.org, (and others) have some sort of facility for sav-

www.internet-genealogy.com

YOUR ELLIS ISLAND FILE

Hi, Lisa Ann! You can use Your Ellis Island File to store passenger records, ship manifests, and ship images you find during passenger searches. You can also resume a search that you started earlier.

To review any item, click its title. You can also [remove items](#) from Your Ellis Island File.

(showing 1-25 of 82 total) next 25 ▶

Type	Title	Associated Passenger
Passenger Record	Mihaly Alazo	Mihaly Alazo
Passenger Record	Maria Alzo Kovaly	Maria Alzo Kovaly
Passenger Record	Rosalie Polecak	Rosalie Polecak
Passenger Record	Anna Fenyesak	Anna Fenyesak
Passenger Record	Erzsabet Fencsak	Erzsabet Fencsak
Passenger Record	Anna Bavolar	Anna Bavolar
Passenger Record	MIHALY SZTRAKA	MIHALY SZTRAKA
Passenger Record	Janos Straka	Janos Straka
Passenger Record	Mihaly Fluytsak	Mihaly Fluytsak
Passenger Record	Janos Kavulites	Janos Kavulites
Passenger Record	Janos Bodnar	Janos Bodnar
Passenger Record	Miklosne Matejesik	Miklosne Matejesik
Passenger Record	Jan Ragan	Jan Ragan
Passenger Record	Michal Ragan	Michal Ragan

3. Online Data Storage and Synchronization Programs

File storage/retrieval is probably one of my main uses of the "cloud concept". I find Mozy, www.mozy.com, handy for back-up purposes (The "MozyHome Free" account offers registered users two GB of 100 percent free backup space; more space can be purchased for a fee). Two other programs I use fre-

one PC), so that I can access files on my home computer while on the road.

4. Document Creation Tools

Gone are the days when you must purchase pricey software for creating text documents, spreadsheets, presentations, etc. The use of open source documents, such as those you can create using GoogleDocs,

Cloudy With a Chance of... Genealogy!

<http://docs.google.com> (a free Google account is all that is required), or Zoho, www.zoho.com, is becoming popular.

5. Photo Editing and Sharing

If you have family photographs you want to edit, store and share, it's much easier to do using tools found online. For example, Flickr, www.flickr.com and Snapfish, www.snapfish.com, are common sites used to upload images. I've often used Picnik, www.picnik.com, to edit photos on the fly and Google's Picasa, www.picasa.google.com to multitask (store, edit, share). For additional free photo editing sites, see the October/November 2009 issue of *Internet Genealogy*.

6. Networking

I've been using Facebook, www.facebook.com, and Twitter, www.twitter.com, to connect with family and genealogy buddies all over the world. From sharing surnames or research tips to keeping up with the latest Gen-news, and following the happenings at genealogy meetings and conferences, these social media tools are where it's at in genealogy today.

7. Mapping Tools

I like to use Google Earth, <http://earth.google.com> to help narrow in on the locations where my ancestors walked. I also like the locality-based research tools for mapping ancestors offered at Ancestral Atlas, www.ancestralatlas.com (see the article on Ancestral Atlas in this issue) and Ancestral Hunt, www.ancestralhunt.com.

8. Online Organizing and Notifications

I couldn't live without iGoogle, www.google.com (it's free and all you need is a Gmail account). It helps me organize my life (both my genealogy life and my everyday life)! I set up my various gadgets, such as To-do lists, sticky notes, apps for searching Ancestry or FamilySearch, and for my favorite genealogy blogs and podcasts, as well as more generic gadgets to keep up with the latest news, weather, etc. In addition, I

don't want to miss any of the news on my favorite Blogs or Podcasts so I subscribe to them via RSS feed. I use GoogleReader, www.google.com/reader. There are many others, including: NetNews wire, www.newsgator.com/individuals/netnewswire, and FeedDemon, www.newsgator.com/individuals/feeddemon/default.aspx.

9. Library/Note-taking

I'm hooked on Google Books, <http://books.google.com> (it has over 100,000 genealogies and local histories). I also utilize Internet Archive, www.archive.org (150 billion web pages on Wayback Machine and 1,873,933 texts you can browse or search by keyword; 50,000 genealogies and local histories). Evernote, www.evernote.com is a great free note-taking program (for Windows, Macintosh, iPhone, and more), which has now replaced the piles of paper post-it notes that used to clutter my desk. The program lets you manually enter notes or copy-and-paste from other applications, and it has search capabilities. I like being able to install Evernote on multiple computers and handheld devices and the concept that any notes you enter on one machine or device are automatically copied to the others, and there is an encryption feature for sensitive data.

10. Publishing

Since I'm always writing, I often look for new ways to record and share family stories. One way is through private Blogs I've created using www.blogger.com. I also like Scribd, www.scribd.com and Slideshare, www.slideshare.net.

ADVANTAGES AND DISADVANTAGES TO "CLOUD COMPUTING"

There are a number of advantages to storing information and data virtually. First of all, your data, photographs, and family tree are accessible from wherever you are (you don't have to be at your home computer or carry around an external hard drive or USB drive). Secondly, this option can be more economical — no expensive software to purchase or upgrade. However, there can be some disad-

vantages as well. Many individuals have concerns about data security and/or accessibility. There are still places where Internet access is hard to find, or if available, it's not free (for example, the exorbitant charges some hotel chains charge and airports where there's no free Wi-Fi). Security is an issue that is being debated. While some will argue that data is encrypted on most services (and the larger ones typically have safeguards for backing up data), and that it's less risky than storing it on your computer's hard drive or other media where it can be lost as a result of theft, fire, natural disasters and drive failure. But there are others who are wary of putting data "out there." Cost could also be a concern if you have a lot of data to store and if you want to sign up for several premium versions of popular data, photo or family tree sites. For an interesting discussion thread about genealogy and cloud computing, see Dick Eastman's posts at: http://blog.eogn.com/eastmans_online_genealogy/2009/03/computing-in-the-clouds.html and http://blog.eogn.com/eastmans_online_genealogy/2009/07/why-cloud-computing-makes-sense-for-genealogy.html.

SUMMARY

Just as with any new development in the field of genealogy (such as DNA testing, social media, etc.), it may take some time for researchers to get used to the idea of storing family tree details, digital images, written family history or correspondence and other materials in cyberspace. But, as technology evolves, it seems inevitable that the way we research, document, store and share our family history information will as well.

For more on what may be in store for genealogists in the next 10 years, consult the article, "The Future of Genealogy" in the May/June 2009 issue of *Family Chronicle*.



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



Researching Firefighters in the Family

**DAVID A. NORRIS LOOKS AT RESOURCES AVAILABLE IF YOUR ANCESTOR
FOUGHT FIRES**

CATASTROPHIC FIRES SWEEPED many towns and cities before the advent of modern fire departments. With open fires used for lighting, heating and cooking in crowded towns packed full of wooden buildings with wooden-shingled or thatched roofs, it's little wonder that fires were a common occurrence.

Many fires were caused by negligence. The US Patent Office was destroyed by fire in 1836. Too lazy to take fireplace ashes outside, some of the patent clerks caused the blaze by dumping the ashes in metal buckets in the hallways or the basement. An 1831 fire destroyed the North Carolina state capitol in Raleigh. That fire was attributed to a careless workman — who was installing a new fire-

proof zinc roof!

But, fires were also quite often related to natural events. Consider a 23 July 1810 fire in Wilmington, North Carolina. During a thunderstorm, lightning “descended the chimneys” of two stores near the waterfront. The lightning exploded “two puncheons of rum” and touched off a fire that destroyed five buildings in the commercial district, and was checked only by a “lofty and solid wall” of brick in an adjoining store.

On 8 October 1871, the same night as the Chicago Fire, the Great Peshtigo Fire swept through as much as 1.5 million acres of forests in Wisconsin and Michigan. The Chicago Fire killed around 300 people, compared to the 1,200-

2,500 who died in the Peshtigo Fire, which was one of the deadliest disasters in US history.

Historic newspapers and local histories are good places to search for information on early fires in cities and towns. Many a town's historic district has been shaped by fires touched off by lightning or from human causes, accidental or deliberate. Blazes also plagued farms, destroying homes, barns, and other farm buildings. Fires were all-too-common in the 17th-19th century US. With or without evidence, newspapers often blamed them on arsonists, whom they often referred to as incendiaries. For that reason, “incendiary” and its plural are good keywords to keep in mind for digital searches.

Researching Firefighters in the Family

EARLY FIRE DEPARTMENTS

In ancient Rome, Marcus Licinius Crassus became the greatest landowner in the city by means of a private fire department staffed with slaves. When a fire broke out, Crassus would find the building's owner and offer to buy it — at considerably less than its value. If the owner refused to sell, Crassus let the fire burn. If the building was sold, the fire was doused and the building repaired for its new owner.

Augustus Caesar organized a public force called the *Vigiles Urbani*. The *vigiles* served as night watchmen and firefighters. They fought fires with water buckets, but they also used a sort of fire engine, which was a portable water tank with a pump that was operated by hand. Also among the *vigiles'* equipment were thick mattresses, which served as cushions for people jumping out of upper floors, or as shields against the flames if firefighters entered a building.

The first fire departments in the US were volunteer companies. Firefighting in New York City goes back to the days when the city was part of the Dutch colony of New Amsterdam. In 1648, the city appointed eight fire wardens, and required all male citizens to take turns on fire watch. The town purchased 250 leather buckets, made by shoemakers, in 1658. It was not until 1731 that New York City had its first pair of fire engines, which were imported from London.

When fire engines weren't available, fires were fought by forming a bucket brigade. A double line led from the nearest water source to the fire, usually with men passing full buckets, pails, and other containers of water to be splashed on the flames. A parallel line, often of women and children, returned the empty buckets for refilling.

Boston had a fire company as early as 1678. Town ordinances forbade thatched roofs or storing more than 20 pounds of gunpowder in private buildings; mandated periodic chimney inspections; and required each household to have a long ladder. Another ordinance

addressed the problems caused by people carrying "fire from one house to another without a safe vessel to secure it from the wind", and made it illegal to carry fire "in open fire pans or brands ends".

Despite the town regulations, several large fires broke out in colonial Boston. In blazes in 1676 and 1702, the flames were stopped by blowing up several buildings with gunpowder to create a fire-

and for providing coffee and food during and after a fire. Members of these volunteer companies were usually not regularly paid, but there were some financial benefits to the job. In Mobile, Alabama in the 1850s, for instance, members of the fire companies were exempt from the annual poll tax. In Charleston around that same time, the first engine company to spray water on a fire was given \$25.

San Francisco's fire department



Catastrophic blazes, such as the 1871 Chicago Fire, led to demands for tighter fire regulations and fireproofing of buildings.

(Library of Congress)

break. Property owners could be compensated for the sacrifice of their homes or shops if they were destroyed to fight a fire. Because the home of a widow named Kemble was destroyed in this way during the 1676 fire, the town of Boston paid her £60.

Other colonial towns started volunteer fire departments. Benjamin Franklin was a guiding force behind Philadelphia's fire department. The Friendship Fire Company, founded in Alexandria, Virginia in 1774, included George Washington among its members. America added more volunteer fire companies as towns and cities grew in the early 1800s.

Companies decided on their own by-laws and uniforms. Fire companies often had a steward, who was responsible for helping maintain and clean equipment,

dates back to a volunteer force started after a devastating fire swept the city in 1849, during the Gold Rush. They made do with hand-pumped fire engines until steam models arrived in the city. Early fire hoses were often made of leather, but the hoses used by the early San Francisco firefighters were made of buffalo hides that were held together by rivets.

Fighting fires was dangerous work. Leaving aside the flames, smoke, and collapsing of fire-ravaged walls, many firefighters were injured by falling from ladders, or falling from or being run over by fire engines. The introduction of steam fire engines in the mid-1800s brought the new hazard of boiler explosions.

Until the early 1800s, fire engines were still essentially wheeled water tanks or tubs that

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were fitted with hand pumps, and were not too far advanced from those of ancient Rome. Fire crews operated hand pumps to get enough pressure to send a stream of water into burning buildings. Often, the engines were pulled by human power, rather than horses. Volunteer fire companies might have several dozen men, or even 100 or more. A large number of hands were needed to take turns at the exhausting labor of working the pump handles.

In the early decades of the 19th century, social changes meant that members of big city fire departments were increasingly from poor, working-class, or immigrant backgrounds. They gained a reputation for rowdiness, brawling, and poor discipline, and the efficiency of the departments declined.

In 1853, Cincinnati became the first American city to switch to a fully professional, paid fire department. At the same time, the city obtained the Uncle Joe Ross, the first successful steam fire engine in the US. Other US cities soon followed the example of Cincinnati and professionalized their own fire departments. Volunteer fire departments still fought fires in small towns and rural areas, a tradition that continues to the present day.

Steam-powered fire engines appeared in England in the 1820s. Even the earliest steam fire engines could spray as much water as half a dozen hand pumpers, and it required only three hands to operate a steam engine. The new steam fire engines were much heavier than the old ones with hand pumps, so horses



Above: One of the many horse-drawn fire engines that fought the fires started by the 1906 San Francisco earthquake is seen here. (Library of Congress)

Below: New York City firemen pose on a firetruck in the early 1900s. By the early 1920s, nearly all fire departments had dropped horse-drawn vehicles for gasoline-powered fire trucks. (Library of Congress)



pulled them instead of men. Boston's first steam fire engine, the Miles Greenwood, weighed over seven tons. Besides the new engine's great weight, its machinery sometimes broke down, and it was taken for repairs to the shop of Hinckley & Drury, manufacturers of steam locomotives.

Besides the engines, fire departments used other horse-drawn vehicles to carry hoses, ladders, and other equipment. Even after gasoline-powered cars and trucks began to crowd city streets in the early 1900s, fire horses remained in use until after World War I. The last run made by fire horses in New York City was to a Brooklyn fire in 1922.

Other 19th century advances also made firefighters more effective. Water was provided from cisterns, and later, municipal piped water systems. Hoses made of rubber, covered with heavy cotton cloth, replaced leather hoses around the 1870s. New hoses could be made longer, enabling firefighters to bring water up more flights of stairs or further into burning buildings.

Fire alarms had been given by ringing a town bell in a market house or other public building. In the 1850s, cities began using electric alarm box systems, which sent messages by Morse code to fire stations. Soon after Alexander Graham Bell patented his telephone in 1876, the new invention was adapted for fire department alarms.

FIRE INSURANCE MAPS

Fire insurance companies started in London after the Great Fire of 1666, and such insurance was available in some colo-

onial towns. These businesses eventually led to one of the most useful map resources used by genealogists, the Sanborn Fire Insurance Map collection. Other companies also created fire insurance maps in the 19th and 20th centuries.

Early fire insurance maps tend to concentrate on commercial dis-

Researching Firefighters in the Family

tracts, sometimes with inset maps of outlying mills, factories, colleges, and other large institutions, with residential areas being added later. These maps outline each building on a block, and include information such as fire hazards (storage of hay, paint, kerosene, or other flammables); the number of stories; construction materials; locations of windows, doors, and even fire hydrants; and often the type of building (store, warehouse, saloon, dwelling, and so on). Local historians and genealogists can trace dates of construction and additions to buildings through these maps, and locate information about structures that have vanished. If you know of a particular fire that an ancestor had a hand in putting out, a fire insurance map might be very useful.

A nearby library may have fire insurance maps of your town or state. A list of links to some digital fire insurance maps can be found at Cyndi's List at www.cyndislist.com/maps.htm#Fire. Free Genealogy Tools has links to some online Sanborn maps from various states at www.freegenealogytools.com/2009/09/free-sanborn-fire-insurance-maps-good.html.

FINDING NAMES OF FIREFIGHTERS

It takes a little creative thinking to research firefighters of the past. Genealogical and historical information is easier to find for fire departments from big cities and large towns than the smaller, but much more numerous, volunteer fire departments. By checking online for the website of a fire department that your ancestor or relative worked for, you might find links to the department's history and other information.

Another idea is to search the library catalog of a town or city you're interested in. There may be

a history of the local fire department. It's also likely that local history books will mention the town's early fire departments, name some of the early members, and give details of the major fires in the town's history. The Family History Library also has quite a few related books in its catalog.

Census records are useful for finding members of old fire companies and departments, as are town and city directories.

To research the history of a town's fire department, it is worth

America. An extensive directory lists fire museums by state or Canadian province, and even links to a few in Australia and Europe. The site is geared more to history than genealogy, but exploring the links may lead to material on an old-time fire department that an ancestor belonged to.

Among eBay's categories of historical memorabilia is one for "Firefighting & Rescue". Books, old photographs, cloth patches, and other items dealing with individual fire departments can be found there.

The National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Park is located on the campus of the National Fire Academy in Emmetsburg, Maryland. A memorial in the park has the names of 3,259 firefighters who have died in the line of duty since 1981. A memorial database can be searched at <http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/applications/ffmem/index.jsp>.

The National Fallen Firefighters Foundation is also putting together a Roll of Honor. At the Project Roll Call page at <http://www.firehero.org/rollcall>, you can find instructions for submitting names of and information about firefighters who were lost in the line of duty before 1981.

Google Books is a good potential source for information. There are published histories here on a number of city fire departments. In addition, municipal and state governments often published detailed annual

reports on fire departments. Packed into the 1870 Documents of the Assembly of the State of New York, Volume 2 is the annual report of the Metropolitan Fire Department. In the report, each New York City fire company is listed with its address, the names of the members, and dates that their engines were built. Statistics



These three men belonged to volunteer firefighting companies in Charleston, South Carolina in the 1850s. They display the type of uniforms worn by firefighters of that era, and the speaking trumpets used to relay orders over the din of a raging fire.

(Library of Congress.)

checking to see if local history museums have an old fire engine, uniforms, or firefighting equipment on display. There also may be photos and information on major fires in the town's history. The Fire Museum Network, at <http://www.firemuseumnetwork.org>, brings together information on over 300 fire museums in North



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show 850 fires in the city that year. In 554 cases, the department was alerted by telegraph. There were also 100 false alarms sent by telegraph.

Among the general resources available is Cyndi's List, which has firefighter resources under the "Public Servants" category: www.cyndislist.com/publicservants.htm#Locality-Fire.

The National Fire Prevention Association has a Key Dates in Fire History page at www.nfpa.org/itemDetail.asp?categoryID=1352&itemID=30955&cookie%5Ftest=1. It lists the dates of major fires, as well as advances in firefighting, since the colonial period.

Family Old Photos: Faces and Places of the Past, at www.familyoldphotos.com/firedept/index.html, has a growing section of reader-submitted photos of firefighters, fire engines, and other equipment. The Family Tree Connection has lists of firefighters from various cities at www.familytreeconnection.com/groups/fire_departments.html. One may search the lists, but you will need a subscription to see the results.

The Library of Congress' Prints and Photographs Online Catalog at <http://lcweb2.loc.gov/pp/pphome.html> offers access to hundreds of historic photos of fire engines and companies from many different towns. There are many images of horse-drawn engines in action, as well as photographs of some of the earliest fire trucks.

The San Francisco Fire Museum has a list of firefighters who lost their lives in service at <http://guardiansofthecity.org/sffd/lineofduty/index.html>. The names go back to one James S. Welsh, who died in a Gold Rush-era fire in 1851. The list includes the engine company of the deceased, and the cause of death. In an unusual incident in 1931, a fire captain was killed by "firearms in a burning automobile".

Another feature of the San Francisco site is a list of the city's engine companies, giving the date of founding and the changes in location of each one. Extensive historical resources include infor-

www.internet-genealogy.com



Above: Philadelphia firemen pull a fire engine in 1857. Firemen usually pulled the lighter fire engines that were operated with hand pumps before the invention of heavier steam-powered fire engines, which required strong draft horses to pull them. (Library of Congress)

Below: Members of the fire department of Mullan, Idaho pose in this 1912 picture. (Library of Congress)



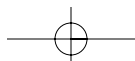
mation on city fireboats, and a tribute to the city's fire horses called *Farewell, Good And Faithful Servants!*, written by Battalion Chief Frederick J. Bowlen in 1938.

Bowlen mentions how at least some firefighting information has been lost to genealogists. A fire horse slipped out of its stall one night and walked into the engine company's office. While the night watchman was performing his

duties, the horse ate the station's record book!

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Freelance writer David A. Norris is a regular contributor to Internet Genealogy.



LISA A. ALZO LOOKS AT A FREE ONLINE ORGANIZER FOR FAMILIES

Cozi Up To Your Genealogy!

SOCIAL NETWORKING IS THE new “darling” of the genealogical community. Genealogists have flocked to Facebook, www.facebook.com, Twitter, www.twitter.com, and have an endless number of family tree building and sharing websites available for connecting with relatives and other researchers. While these sites are all useful for keeping in touch with others on a broad scale, they may be a bit overwhelming if you're just looking for a way to touch base with family members or those in your immediate household. Enter Cozi, www.cozi.com, a free online organizer for families.

Cozi helps busy families keep up with appointments and lists, coordinate home and work schedules, and share favorite memories and photos. The site's main features include:

- Family calendar — Keeps everyone's activities listed together. You can color-code it by family member, view individual schedules or the whole family at once. You can also set it up for desktop access with the family calendar “Gadget.” You can select which appointments you want to share with the family calendar.
- Customizable lists (for groceries or other tasks) — Eliminate the sticky notes and scraps of paper. There's a handy auto-complete feature to making typing your list nearly effortless. You can text the list to any cell phone.
- Reminders and messages — Use this feature to send appointment reminders, schedule changes or notes to anyone in your family by either text or e-mail right from your Cozi homepage.
- Family Journal — A virtual notepad for you to jot down notes about your day, family activities, vacations, etc., and even add pictures. There's also an interface that allows you to share your family journal with your friends and relatives on Facebook, or turn your journal into your very own family web page.

- Photo collage screensaver (Windows only) — This feature takes the digital images on your computer and turns them into collages. The images change automatically, like watching a slideshow, and are organized by family event, holiday or trip.

users can set it up to sync with that application. This eliminates the need for managing multiple calendars or entering appointments in multiple places. You can even see your family appointments on your PDA, cell phone or any device that syncs with Outlook. There is also a Blog and a “Live



QUICK AND EASY ACCOUNT SET UP

It's pretty simple to set up an account. Click the “Sign Up” tab and follow the steps on the screen. Cozi's designed to be managed by either one or two adults running a household. You'll enter the name, e-mail address and mobile phone number for each adult, and choose a family name (e.g., “Thomas Family”). You can then add information on any children or other household members. You can set your account up for mobile phone access, which will allow you to utilize the “customizable lists” and “reminders and messages” features. The first time you enter your mobile number, Cozi sends you a text message with instructions on how to complete the set up. You can sign in to Cozi from your iPhone or Windows smartphone web browser by going to <http://m.cozi.com>, or by calling Cozi toll-free from any mobile phone (to have your schedule or grocery list read to you or sent via text).

In addition, Microsoft Outlook

Simply” feature with helpful tips on organizing, saving money and more.

I don't have children, but it appears to be a “family-friendly” site. The appointment reminders, built-in onscreen clock and being able to text my lists to my phone are nice touches.

There are a few “cons” to the site. For example, since it's free, you'll need to put up with advertisements. Also, the collage screensaver can only be downloaded for use with Windows — so if you're on a Mac, you can't utilize this feature. In addition, “hard core” genealogists may not like that there is no facility for uploading a family tree.

Genealogists spend most of their time trying to connect dead ancestors and using applications that facilitate the process. But, if you're looking for something on a smaller scale to connect the living members of your individual branch of the family tree, this site may just do the trick.



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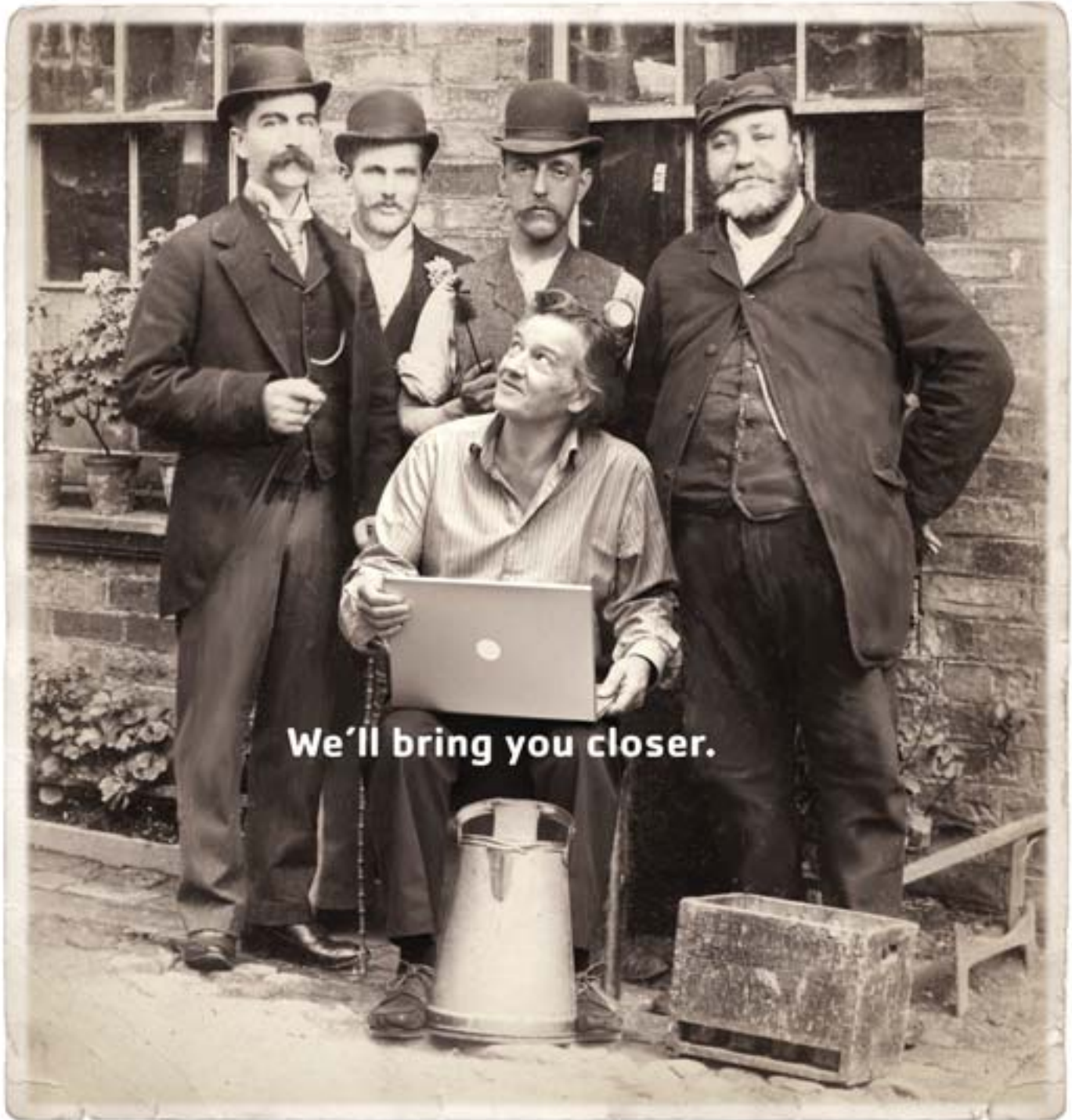
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