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- Two Mobile Apps Reviewed!
- Discovering PeoplePlotr

and more!





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Growing Need for International Indexers

FamilySearch is continually looking for volunteers for their indexing projects. More than 120 projects are currently available from countries outside the U.S., representing 16 languages. Since the first of the year, new projects have been launched from Bolivia, Paraguay, Switzerland, and the Philippines. Later this year, FamilySearch indexing plans to release projects for Armenia, Costa Rica, Denmark, Ecuador, Micronesia, Panama, Slovakia, and Sri Lanka. More indexers with non-English language expertise are needed to help make these records searchable online. If you have the language skills in a particular area, and you'd like to help out, you can view a list of currently available indexing projects, along with their record language and completion percentage, at the FamilySearch indexing updates page, www.familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/FamilySearch_Indexing_Updates. To learn more about individual projects, view the FamilySearch projects page at https://indexing.familysearch.org/projtab/current_projects.jsf.

Big Fan of QuickOffice HD for the iPad

I've had my iPad for about a year now, and one of the few app purchases I've made in that time is one that I can't live without: Quickoffice Pro HD suite, from Quickoffice Inc. The suite contains MS compatible applications (MS Office 2010) for creating and editing documents, spreadsheets, and presentations. The app integrates with the native e-mail client on the iPad, and is configurable with many cloud services, including Dropbox, Evernote, Catch and many others. The latter makes it an ideal solution for anyone who edits documents on the go, or needs to access backups of their documents, spreadsheets or presentation files while traveling. The app price is \$19.99, but it is worth the investment. If you are looking for a good office suite for your iPad, it's definitely worth a look. Visit the iTunes store at <http://itunes.apple.com/app/quickoffice-pro-hd-edit-office/id376212724?mt=8>.

— Ed Zapletal

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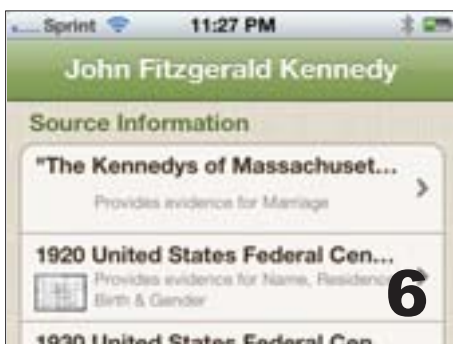
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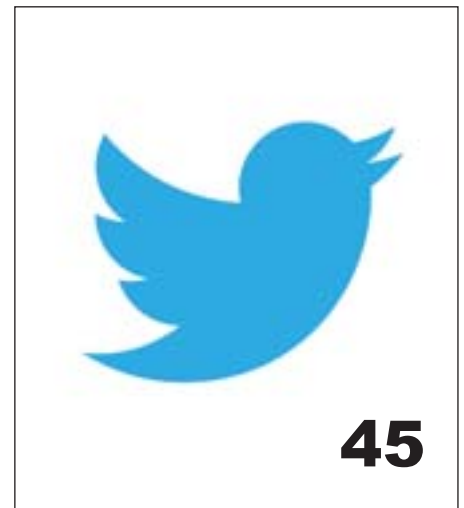
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On the Move With MyHeritage Mobile

WITH ALMOST A BILLION PROFILES, 22 million family trees and still growing, MyHeritage, www.myheritage.com, continues to impact the genealogy and family research world. Building on this momentum, in the last six months, the company has released updated versions of their portable genealogy application, MyHeritage. Having had a chance to work with this software on various devices, I've come to use it frequently, finding it a great way to view my family tree on the go, as well as share pictures and research with others.

While it can't replace my regular desktop genealogy software just yet, it works well and is continually being updated by MyHeritage. Let's take a closer look at the specific details and see what this software can do.

WHAT IT IS

While you may have used MyHeritage's website, or their desktop software, at some point in the past, this mobile application from MyHeritage is available in iPhone, iPad and Android-based versions, and includes support for 28 different languages.

Trying it out for myself on my iPhone and iPad, as well as several Android devices, installation was quick and easy with no errors or problems. The current software can be downloaded through a variety of places including Apple iTunes,

<http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/myheritage/id477971748?mt=8>, or the Android Market (Google Play), <https://play.google.com/store/apps/developer?id=MyHeritage.com>. For more information on the current application, version information,



The MyHeritage app allows you to work on your family tree on the go, share your research and family photos.

installation help and other questions, you can go to MyHeritage at <http://www.myheritage.com/mobile>.

As you download and install the software, it's important to realize that these "apps", or applications, unlike traditional

desktop genealogy programs, do get updated quite frequently. Be sure to visit the MyHeritage website for current application version information and updates. If you have already installed the application on your mobile device, update the software if you have not yet had the opportunity. On most devices, this can be done quite easily through the built-in system software.

GETTING STARTED

The MyHeritage application focuses on four main aspects of your genealogy and family research: your family tree, photo sharing, records research and a "fun" application called MyCeleb, which seems to be similar to the celebrity photo match part of their website, <http://celebrity.myheritage.com/FP/Company/try-face-recognition.php>.

Working with your family tree on a small iPhone or Android-sized screen can be somewhat of a chore, but the application allows you to use the multi-touch feature, as well as the ability to zoom in and out of the tree and even select individuals for more information. There is a search function built into the software that worked well and even helped me to locate some family members that had fallen farther down my tree.

Using this portion of the application on my iPad was much easier because of the larg-

On the Move With MyHeritage Mobile

er screen size offered by this device and the multi-touch features available for use. Having the ability to view and use information down to a detailed level worked well also.

I found the photo stream portion of the application somewhat limited, as compared to other mobile applications and software I've used in the past. However, for streaming and quickly uploading photos to share and use on the MyHeritage website, the software worked very well. The application allows you to share photos with others via a "quick list" of favorites or all portions of your family tree. Doing so also brought instant email notifications and updates of the photos once shared.

One of the newest parts of the MyHeritage app is the research function and it's quite

extensive. With options to search by name, year of birth, place and other keywords, the research portion searches the available records on MyHeritage within the application itself, or you can transfer the search to the web browser of the device you are using.

Research results are taken from a mixture of both free and fee-based information resources, such as MyHeritage family trees, birth and death records, newspapers, census information and more. Testing the results of my own family tree in the census portion, it was easy to use and quite simple. Included in this portion of the app is the option to search the recently released 1940 census records. Included with these 1940 census records are 3.8 million images of the census records.

While not directly related to

the family research portion of your genealogy, the MyCeleb portion of the application is a great way to just have fun with pictures that might be already located in your MyHeritage library, or images that you have just added to your mobile device. This particular part of the application replaces an earlier app from MyHeritage that was also called "MyCeleb", which you might have heard about or used.

You also have the option to "share" your celebrity match with others via social media websites, such as Facebook and Twitter, or email. Although not seriously related to genealogy, this might have limited application to your own research, especially if any relatives (or you) have experience working in Hollywood or other glamor industries.

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On the Move With MyHeritage Mobile

MY THOUGHTS

Having had a chance to use the current version on the iPhone and iPad as well as my Android phone, I found the application very useful for my needs. The searching options within my family tree and the millions of records available on MyHeritage gave me the ability to search when I was actively involved with my genealogy or was just on a lunch break. If you regularly use MyHeritage as your desktop and/or online destination for your family's history, I would recommend you try this application.

Future changes look interesting and could be a great addition to your mobile genealogy software toolkit.

OTHER REVIEWS

While I've had a chance to use the software on my own devices and share with you what I have found, it's always important to try to find out as much information as possible. In light of this, use the following websites and reviews as starting points for your own investigation.

- (Past version) The Ginger Jewish Genealogist review, <http://idogenealogy.com/blog/2011/12/15/review-my-heritage-app/>



The MyHeritage app is available on Apple products, such as the iPad, and on Android devices. It's simple to install and use on various devices and platforms, but devices with larger screens offer the greatest ease of use.

many opportunities to have access no matter where we may be. From a quick study session on our lunch hour to a meeting with family and friends, our family information can be with us

and perhaps even help us to learn more about them. With this in mind, maybe the MyHeritage mobile application will work for you. Give it a try and see if it can help!



- MyHeritage Mobile, <http://www.myheritage.com/myceleb?mode=site>
- Genea-Musings "Using the MyHeritage App", <http://www.geneamusings.com/2012/04/using-myheritage-mobile-app.html>

WRAP-UP

Mobile genealogy applications continue to change and offer us

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

Ancestry on the Go: Ancestry.com Mobile

NEED YOUR GENEALOGY on the go? If you are an Ancestry.com subscriber, or thinking of purchasing a subscription, then you already have the answer: the Ancestry.com mobile app. Available for the popular Apple iPad and iPhone series, as well as Google-based Android devices, such as the Kindle Fire, most Android smartphones and even the Barnes & Noble Nook tablets, you can download this free application and take your family information with you. I've tried the software on a variety of devices and it proved very helpful.

A FAMILY OF APPLICATIONS

Unlike traditional desktop-based genealogy software, with

its limitations, system requirements and costs, Ancestry.com has come up with a single software application, or "app", that works for most mobile hardware. For this review, I've tried and used the software on the following devices: Apple iPhone, Apple iPad, Nook Color, Kindle Fire and Android-based mobile phone.

As noted on the Ancestry.com website, this particular application has proved extremely popular, with two million downloads and counting. The popularity of this application has even been noted by Dick Eastman in his Online Genealogy Newsletter, http://blog.eogn.com/eastmans_online_genealogy/2012/02/rootstech-wrap-up.html.

I found that, regardless of the device I used the software with, from the smaller mobile screens of the iPhone and Android-based phones to the Kindle Fire and the iPad, the interface was consistent and easy to use. While there were some minor differences between the iOS and Android application, for the most part, it was very similar. Given the chaotic, mind-numbing types of devices now available, this consistency is refreshing.

HOW TO DOWNLOAD

For general background, as well as specific information, go to the app's page at Ancestry.com, www.ancestry.com/ancestry-app. To actually download and use the soft-



Above: Source materials, such as passenger lists, can be viewed within the application. Right: Ancestry.com's mobile app includes easy to access resources.

Ancestry on the Go: Ancestry.com Mobile

ware, you will need to visit your mobile device's software downloads center.

If you're using an Apple device, such as the iPad or iPhone, the app is easy to find and download via iTunes, <http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/ancestry/id349554263?mt=8>. If you are using an Android-based device, then locations will vary, depending upon your device. The Google Play store, <http://play.google.com/store>, is one place to start. For the Kindle Fire, you can find the application through your device or at the Amazon App store, <http://www.amazon.com/Ancestry-com-Ancestry/dp/B006IXO1G2>. If you are using a Barnes & Noble device, then the same methods apply, either through the device or online at <http://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/ancestry-ancestrycom/1108148820?ean=2940043876430>.

Regardless of how you find the application, the download and installation is free. I tested it on a variety of devices and found the process was quick and without errors.

GETTING STARTED

Your device does need an active network connection, either via a cellular service or via Wi-Fi, when you start the application for the first time. You will then be asked to either login to your Ancestry.com account or sign up for the service.

Although there are free options to consider with this application, I logged into my regular Ancestry.com account and was taken directly to my list of family trees. From here, I could choose which one I wanted to work with or create

a new one. If you are just getting started and do not have a family tree, you have the option to create one.

Once your tree is created, or used, you have the option to make your tree public or private and it will be synced with Ancestry.com online.

Once you've chosen a family tree to get started with, the app downloads your information from Ancestry.com and you can begin your research. Depending upon what sort of device you are using to view the information, you can zoom in or out via multi-touch or use the embedded screen controls on the left portion of the viewing area. Selecting individuals to view, or add more information to, will bring a sliding panel to the screen where you can add family events or persons to your tree. This is useful for adding information quickly while you are on the go or at a research site.

SEARCHING ONLINE

It's important to note that from this portion of the software, you also have the option to search Ancestry.com directly, bringing information into your tree. Doing so will launch the web browser on your device and take you to Ancestry.com to search the online databases. If you find something during this portion of your search, you have the option to download it to your device or add to your information online. Depending on your device, being able to directly view resources, such as newspapers, illustrations and census information, through the application, is a nice touch.

"SHAKY LEAF"

As you add information to your tree, the software will automatically search Ancestry.com in the background, adding "hints" to individuals that you can accept for input into the tree. Known as a "shaky leaf", this can help speed up research. Since these are just hints, you are given the option to review this information before rejecting it or adding it to your store of information. This can speed up your research, but always review to make sure these hints are on track. This option is currently only available for iOS devices, but will soon be available for Android-based devices.

MY THOUGHTS

Using the application on various devices, from an iPhone to iPad to a Kindle Fire and Nook Color, I found it easy to get started with and a great addition to my research when not at my desktop or laptop computers. The ability to view my tree and work with my family's facts no matter where I may be is pretty impressive.

However, will this application completely replace my desktop and laptop versions of my genealogy software? No, not in the current form. But, given the speed at which mobile applications get updated, as well as the increasing power of mobile devices in general, my thoughts are that it will not be too long before more capabilities will be available.

I found working with family tree elements easy to handle, especially with multi-touch hardware. The interface worked well, although sometimes it can

be easy to “get lost” and I had to think for a moment about how to get back to where I needed to be. This lack of visual “direction” cues isn’t a big deal, but until you are used to the software, it can be disconcerting.

My only other issue is that when searching your family tree from within the application, you are directed to search Ancestry.com via your mobile device’s browser. Once there, you are viewing and using the full Ancestry.com site, which can be challenging on a device with a smaller screen. Having the option to search a mobile version of the site would be easier in the long run.

Finally, and perhaps not too much of a surprise, I found using the application on larger devices, like a Kindle Fire, iPad and Nook, to be easier than on

smaller devices, like my mobile phone. This is something to consider, especially if you sometimes have trouble viewing items on smaller devices.

OTHER REVIEWS

While I’ve had a chance to give you some basic information on how this application works, what follows are some links to other reviews of the software and general information about it. Use these as a starting point for your own research and investigation: Mobile Genealogy, www.mobilegenealogy.com/2012/03/07/ancestry-3-1-ios-app-reviewed-genealogy-tools/; About.com Genealogy, http://genealogy.about.com/od/family_tree_software/tp/Ipad-Apps-For-Genealogy.htm; GenSoftReviews,

www.gensoftreviews.com/?p=1315#reviews.

WRAP-UP

Given the incredible development of both mobile hardware and software, accessing your genealogy on the go is getting easier and easier. The Ancestry.com mobile application can prove to be quite helpful. It’s available in many different formats and platforms, and free to use and try out. Install it today and see if it will work for you!



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

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Net Notes

WORLD MEMORY PROJECT (ANCESTRY.COM) INCLUDES HOLOCAUST RECORDS www.worldmemoryproject.org/

THE UNITED STATES Holocaust Memorial Museum and Ancestry.com have teamed up to engage the public's help in creating the largest free online resource of information on victims of the Holocaust and Nazi persecution during World War II. Through the World Memory Project, you can help make information from museum records searchable online. Anyone, anywhere, can contribute to the project, and even a few minutes can create family connections that transcend war and time. You can join the project at <http://ancestry.com/wmp>.

Currently included in the database are these records, with more collections being worked on all the time.

- USHMM: Ain, France, Selected Holocaust Records, 1940-1944
- USHMM: Czechoslovakia, Jewish Applications for Social Welfare After WWII
- USHMM: Czechoslovakia, Jews Deported to Terezin and Poland, 1943-1945
- USHMM: Munich, Germany, Displaced



- Jewish Children at the Ulm Children's Home, 1945-1948
- USHMM: Poland, Selected Records of Jews in the Radom District, 1939-1945
- USHMM: Soviet Union, Records from Soviet Commission to Investigate Nazi Crimes, 1940-1945

— DIANE L. RICHARD

HISTORIC PATHWAYS (BY ELIZABETH SHOWN MILLS) <http://historicpathways.com/>



IF YOU DON'T know, or haven't heard, of Elizabeth Shown Mills, here is her bio, taken from her new website:

"Elizabeth Shown Mills is a historical writer who has spent her life studying Southern culture and the relationships between people — emotional as well as genetic. Published widely by academic and popular presses, she edited a national-level scholarly journal for 16 years,

taught for 13 years at a National Archives-based institute on archival records and, for 25 years, has headed a university-based program in advanced research methodology.

"A popular lecturer, and past president of both the American Society of Genealogists and the Board for Certification of Genealogists, Elizabeth is the author, editor and translator of 13 books and over 500 articles in the fields of genealogy, history, literature and sociology."

Given all that she knows and has done, do make sure that you check out the collection of articles posted on this page, <http://historicpathways.com/articles.html>, so that you can "remotely" pick her brain! They are organized by topic, and you will find a lot of invaluable research advice and guidance.

— DIANE L. RICHARD

50+ Websites for Genealogy Research

WHILE TRADITIONAL PAPER-BASED records, oral histories and statistics all are essential to our genealogical research, today's Internet-based resources have become more and more vital to locating family information. However, finding and tracking down links and sites can be chaotic, even with Google, Bing and other search engines now available.

Sometimes, the best sites can be found or recommended by our friends, family and even magazines such as this one. In light of this, we've put together a list of sites that might prove useful for you as you do your research. Arranged by category, each listing below has the name, location, type of site, and a short description of what the site is all about.

By no means a complete list, consider this a beginning research tool to help arrange your own compendium of favorites. Besides these, you can use genealogical

portals such as Cyndi's List, www.cyndislist.com, or even social media sites such as Facebook to help as well. Have fun!

Museums-Digital Archives

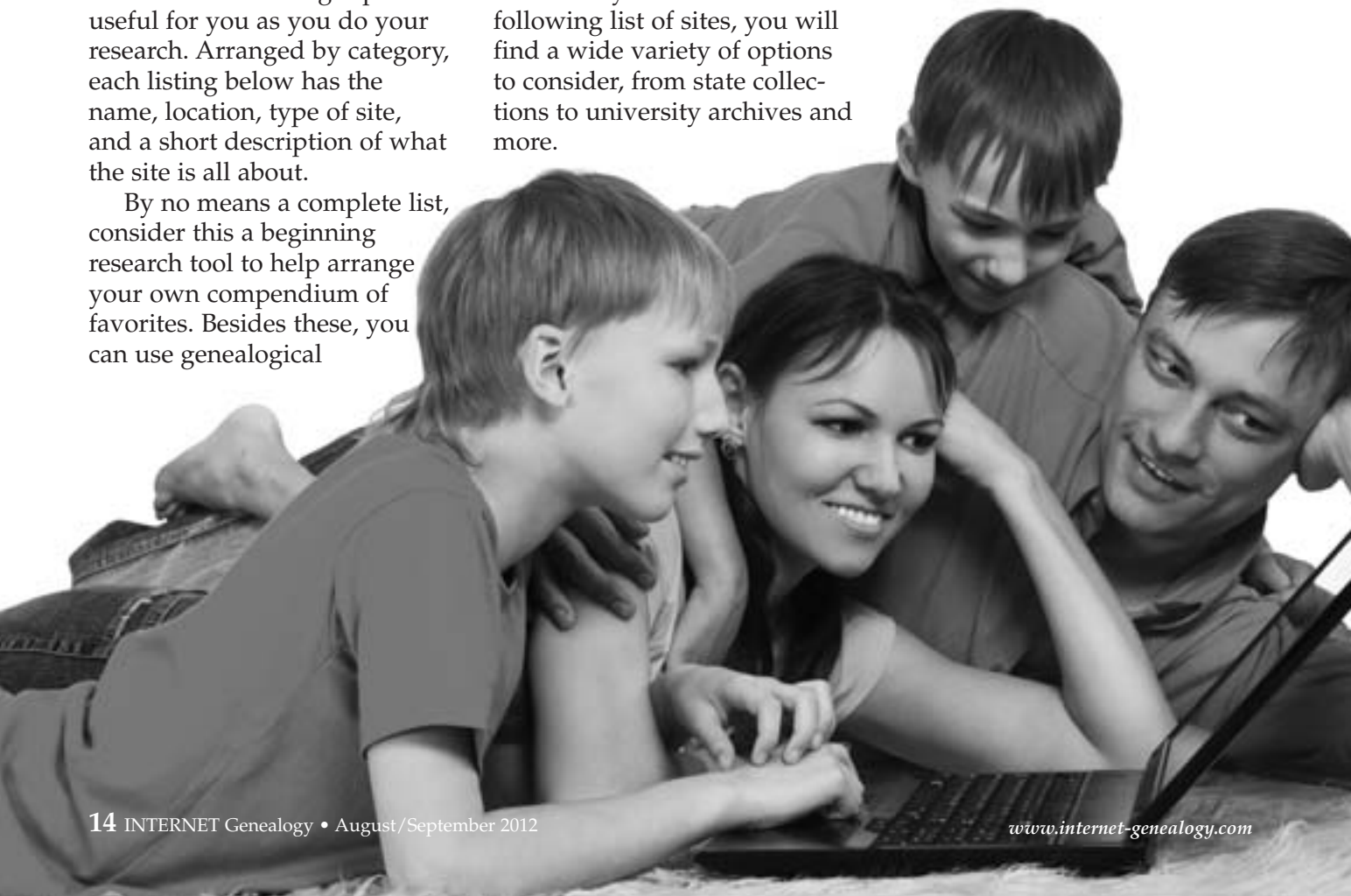
While it's easy to think of museums and other archives as only having static displays, quite often, there are many more types of materials available for your family research. From personal recollections, images, and objects to the more traditional printed family genealogies, you can very often find what you need. From the following list of sites, you will find a wide variety of options to consider, from state collections to university archives and more.

Name: Delaware Heritage Collection

Location: <http://cdm16397.contentdm.oclc.org/cdm/>

Type: Museum-Digital Archives

Details: Consisting of a smorgasbord of digital information and downloads, this amazing collection contains records from both public archives of the state of Delaware, as well as public libraries and universities.



Top 50+ Sites for Genealogy Research

Name: Europeana 1914-1918
Location: www.europeana1914-1918.eu/en

Type: Museum-Digital Archives

Details: From diaries to post-cards and first-person recollections, this particular site can help you find your family's history from World War I from the European perspective.

Name: Old Maps Online

Location: www.oldmapsonline.org

Type: Museum-Digital Archives

Details: Who doesn't love a map? With a unique and innovative search interface, you can quickly zoom in and view map resources from all over the world. Includes links to original sites, resources and more.

Name: JewishGen

Location: www.jewishgen.org

Type: Museum-Digital Archives

Details: From resources such as the JewishGen Communities Database to online and easily accessed digital titles, group discussion lists and more, JewishGen is a first-rate site for those of us looking to find out about our Jewish ancestors and family members. Including free tools such as Soundex calculators and calendar conversions, you will find this a great site to get started with!

Name: University of Vermont Center for Digital Initiatives

Location: <http://cdi.uvm.edu/collections/index.xql>

Type: Museum-Digital Archives

Details: From yearbooks to photographs and more, if your family research leads you to the Vermont area, this online

digital site may contain just the information you are looking for! Easy to search and use.

Name: Commonwealth War Graves Commission

Location: www.cwgc.org

Type: Museum-Digital Archives

Details: World War I and II were devastating and finding information about your ancestors who may have fought and died in these conflicts can be challenging. However, this site may help. Search by surname, service, and conflict or by cemetery.

Library Collections

As genealogists and family researchers of all types, libraries and their collections are where we spend a majority of our time, looking up microfilm, local records, oral histories, and even printed family genealogies. Yet, the Internet has enabled us to vastly expand our reach, searching and utilizing libraries across our town, state, country and even the world. Libraries realize this and continue to expand their digital offerings. With this in mind, what follows are a collection of library sites that you can use in your everyday research.

Name: Allen County Public Library/Genealogy Center

Location: www.genealogycenter.org

Type: Library Collections

Details: Well known to many in the genealogy world, the Allen County Public Library Genealogy Center continues to grow and expand. From online databases, tutorials and out-bound links to on-site programs, catalogs and other

resources for family researchers, this is one location and site you really need to include in your research! Site is easy to learn and use, with multiple free-search databases in partnerships with the Internet Archive and others.

Name: Center for Jewish History

Location: www.cjh.org

Type: Library Collections

Details: With over 500,000 titles and 100 million documents, this research center might just hold the clue to your family's history. Don't miss this site!

Name: Columbus Memory

Location: www.columbusmemory.org

Type: Library Collections

Details: A partnership between the Columbus Historical Society and the Columbus Metropolitan Library brings together, online, all sorts of information about Columbus Ohio, including primary resources, images and other documents. Includes both basic and advanced search options.

Name: Denver Public Library Digital Collections

Location: <http://digital.denverlibrary.org/cdm>

Type: Library Collections

Details: From family histories to photographs and more, the massive Denver Public Library Digital Collections online should be your first stop for researching your family's history from the Western perspective. Includes cemetery records, census indexes, and many ways to search!

Name: Direct Me NYC 1940

Location: <http://directme.nycl.org>

Top 50+ Sites for Genealogy Research

Type: Library Collections

Details: A great site that takes New York City phone directories and combines them with the recently released 1940 census records. What a great way to track down family members!

Name: Midwest Genealogy Center

Location:

www.mymcpl.org/genealogy

Type: Library Collections

Details: One of the more famous and well-known genealogy collections (and buildings), the MGC offers a huge variety of genealogy resources to help you get started with your research. With links to digital books, indexes, and guides, this is a great place to visit both online and in-person.

Name: Milwaukee Neighborhoods

Location: www4.uwm.edu/libraries/digilib/Milwaukee/index.cfm

Type: Library Collections

Details: How well do you know your neighborhood? If you have family history in Milwaukee, this is the place to start.

Name: Pittsburgh Iron & Steel Heritage Collection

Location: www.carnegielibrary.org/eCLP/ironsteel

Type: Library Collections

Details: Does steelmaking run in your family? Originally from the Pittsburgh area? If so, then this online digital collection of over 500,000 pages might be the key to learning more about your ancestors who lived there.

Name: HathiTrust

Location: www.hathitrust.org

Type: Library Collections

Details: Although not as well-known as Google Books or other online digital e-book sites, HathiTrust continues to grow. Millions of titles and volumes, full-text search and public collections makes this a website to visit for your family research needs. Many scanned family genealogies can be found here, as well as general histories and backgrounds.

Name: Internet Archive

Location: www.archive.org

Type: Library Collections

Details: Perhaps more known for the "Wayback Machine", the Internet Archive continues

to add eBooks and other digital resources to its online library. Not the easiest to search, don't overlook the many family histories that can be found on this site. Lots of different formats make things easy to download.

Name: FamilySearch

Location: www.familysearch.org

Type: Library Collections

Details: Well known to many genealogists and family researchers. Millions of records, photos, books and more are free to search and use for your investigation. With both basic and advanced search, it's easy to find something!

Name: FamilySearch — Family History Books

Location: <http://books.familysearch.org>

Type: Library Collections

Details: Part of the regular FamilySearch collection, yet separate, this particular site includes digital content from many providers such as FamilySearch itself, the Houston Public Library, Allen County Public Library and others. Over 40,000 publications!

Name: Fox Movietone News: The War Years

Location: <http://library.sc.edu/digital/collections/mvotnwarfilmsabout.html>

Type: Library Collections

Details: World War II brought a massive shift in our country and even our families. Use this site to gain more information and insight on how this change came about. With original newsreels available for viewing, you can instantly be transported back in time.



Internet Archive found at www.archive.org continues to add eBooks and other digital resources to its online library.

Top 50+ Sites for Genealogy Research

Name: Library and Archives Canada

Location: www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/genealogy/index-e.html

Type: Library Collections

Details: Are you Canadian or have family from Canada? If so, make sure to stop by the online archives and use this tremendous resource. Birth and death records as well as databases and other information.

Name: Milwaukee County Marriage Certificates

Location: <http://content.mpl.org/cdm4/browse.php?CISOROOT=/MCMC>

Type: Library Collections

Details: Part of the digital collection available online from the Milwaukee Public Library, this contains searchable marriage certificates from the years 1822 through 1876. Indexed and linked, this is a great place to start your research. If you have time, try some of the other digital collections the library has available online as well.

Name: Northern New York Historical Newspapers

Location: <http://news.nnyln.net>

Type: Library Collections

Details: With records provided by the Northern New York Library Network, don't overlook this tightly focused, yet easily-searched, online newspaper collection for the New York area. Consisting of both historical as well as relatively present-day newspapers, this would be a great resource for obituaries, family records and more.

Name: National Library of Israel

Location: <http://web.nli.org.il/sites/NLI/English/Pages/default.aspx>

www.internet-genealogy.com



Not just for Canadians! Genealogists all over the world will benefit from a visit to Library and Archives Canada located at www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/genealogy/index-e.html.

Type: Library Collections

Details: With over 5 million volumes available online, as well as maps, audio, photographs and more, this site is an essential to learning more about your family's history. Easy to use and search, give this a try today.

Name: San Francisco Public Library Historical Photograph Collection

Location: <http://sfpl.org/index.php?pg=0200000301>

Type: Library Collections

Details: Looking for information about historical San Francisco? Don't overlook this online photographic resource. Advanced search, MARC information and other options are available.

Name: University of Iowa Yearbooks

Location: <http://digital.lib.uiowa.edu/yearbooks>

Type: Library Collections

Details: Yearbooks can be wonderful sources of information for your family history. Captured in time, this resource

available from the University of Iowa is easy to search and includes the years from 1892 up through 1992.

Name: World Digital Library

Location: www.wdl.org/en

Type: Library Collections

Details: Worldwide digital resources make this site a great place to start looking for your family history and background. Although not as extensive as others, don't overlook this resource either!

Name: Texas State Library and Archives

Location: www.tsl.state.tx.us/arc/genfirst.html

Type: Library Collections

Details: Is Texas part of your family's history? If so, plan on stopping at this online site to get started learning more about your story. Many links to other informative sites.

Governmental Collections

Often overlooked, governmental collections have been growing and are being used by all types of genealogists and fami-

Top 50+ Sites for Genealogy Research



Images, personal recollections and documentation of veterans brings a unique perspective to family research can be found at the Veteran's History Project at www.loc.gov/vets.

ly researchers. Try the following sites to see where they lead you!

Name: American Memory
Location: <http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/index.html>

Type: Governmental Collections

Details: For American history (and your ancestors), there's no better place to start than here. From audio to video, personal recollections and digital resources, use the American Memory project to quickly fill in gaps in your family's history!

Name: National Jukebox
Location: www.loc.gov/jukebox
Type: Governmental Collections

Details: Music brings back memories and this particular site can quickly help you bring back details that might help you in your family research. Unique!

Name: Chronicling America: Historic American Newspapers

Location: <http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov>

Type: Governmental Collections

Details: With millions upon millions of digitized newspapers to search and use freely, this site is a one-stop shop for your family historical needs. Basic and advanced search options, as well as the ability to download page images, can quickly help you zero in on needed information. Don't overlook this one!

Name: Philadelphia City Archives

Location: www.phillyhistory.org/PhotoArchive

Type: Governmental Collections

Details: Includes over 100,000 historical photos, the Philadelphia City Archive is a great place to learn more about the city and any of your family's ancestors who might have once lived here. Includes options for viewing on your mobile devices!

Name: USDA National Agricultural Library
Location: www.nal.usda.gov
Type: Governmental Collections

Details: We all have to eat and so did your ancestors. For background information on foodstuffs, as well as American history, try this site and see how your ancestors fared!

Name: Veteran's History Project

Location: www.loc.gov/vets

Type: Governmental Collections

Details: Images, personal recollections and documentation of veterans brings a unique perspective to family research. Containing all that and much more, the Veteran's History Project is a great site.

Commercial Sites

Forming the backbone of the Internet, commercial sites are the "go-to" option for genealogists and family researchers. While it's easy to only think of the big sites, such as Ancestry.com and others, very often the smaller commercial sites contain the content and information we are all looking for. What follows is a unique mix of sites that might help you speed up your family research!

Name: Ancestors at Rest
Location: www.ancestorsatrest.com

Type: Commercial Site
Details: From coffin plates to death records and more, this particular site is a great place to get started on your family research. Lots of outbound links makes it particularly rich in information.

Top 50+ Sites for Genealogy Research

Name: British Newspaper Archive

Location: www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk

Type: Commercial Site

Details: If you are looking for newspaper resources from Britain, this is the place to start. Free to search, but does cost for continued access to source materials.

Name: MyHeritage

Location: www.myheritage.com

Type: Commercial Site

Details: Currently one of the premier genealogy resources available on the Internet, MyHeritage offers excellent resources, family connections, and genealogy software for all types of researchers and genealogists. With currently over a billion profiles and over 22 million family trees, you are almost guaranteed to find the information you are looking for. You can even host portions of your family research online!

Name: FamilyOldPhotos

Location: www3.familyoldphotos.com

Type: Commercial site

Details: With over 26,000 images to search, scan and possibly use, this is the site to find images for your family research. Includes the option to upload your own photos as well.

Name: FindTheBest — Genealogy

Location: <http://genealogy-software.findthebest.com/>

Type: Commercial Site

Details: A unique data-analysis of all types of genealogy software, sites and services, this site can help you make the best choices when you're looking to evaluate or purchase family

research services.

Name: Genealoger

Location: www.genealoger.com

Type: Commercial Site

Details: An extensive list of links, resources and information about genealogy makes this site a great place to go for the basics of getting started in your family's genealogy.

Name: GenSoftReviews

Location: www.gensoftreviews.com

Type: Commercial Site

Details: While not strictly related to genealogy resources, GenSoftReviews can quickly help you find information on the many software programs used in family research. End-user reviews and more make this an essential resource before purchasing your next program.

Name: Google Books Project

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

Type: Commercial Site

Details: Well known by many genealogists, don't overlook the continued addition of books, magazines and more. Includes the new Google + updates, which makes sharing materials with your friends and family even easier.

Name: Cemetery Registry

Location: www.cemeteryregistry.us

Type: Commercial Site

Details: With over 140,000 listings, this site can quickly help you locate cemeteries almost anywhere in the United States. View individual listings or search by name.

Name: TreasureNet

Location: www.treasurenet.com/images

Type: Commercial Site

Details: While treasure hunting is not often thought of in the same way as genealogy and family research, don't overlook the possibilities of finding out more about your family by using this site. If you have treasure hunters in your past, then this site might prove particularly valuable.

Name: Ancestry.com

Location: www.ancestry.com

Type: Commercial site

Details: While known by many, this site and company keeps growing and adding valuable materials for family researchers of all types. Some free materials, but most is by subscription only.

Personal Site/Blog

Often unique and quite informative, personal sites and blogs are a family researcher's best friend. Use these sites to gain personal insight, clues, and information that is very often not found anywhere else.

Name: Casefile Clues

Location: <http://blog.casefileclues.com>

Type: Personal Site/Blog

Details: Lots of genealogy information and articles for researching your family. Don't overlook this valuable resource!

Name: Circus Historical Society

Location: www.circushistory.org

Type: Personal Site/Blog

Details: Who doesn't like the circus? If your family history includes any carnival or circus involvement, then you will definitely want to include this site in your research. A cornucopia of digital articles, links and information is included.

Top 50+ Sites for Genealogy Research

Name: FreeBMD

Location: www.freebmd.org.uk

Type: Personal Site/Blog

Details: Family ancestors in England and Wales? If so, don't overlook the FreeBMD. A great index of births, marriages and deaths. Great searching options abound!

Name: Genealogy Resources on the Internet — Mailing Lists

Location: www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~jfuller/gen_mail.html

Type: Personal Site/Blog

Details: Often overlooked, but most always essential to connecting with others, genealogy mailing lists can be a great source of information. This particular site lists many genealogy mailing lists to get started with. Includes surname and country listings.

Name: Genealogy Canada

Location: www.genealogycanada.blogspot.com.br/

Type: Personal Site/Blog

Details: Looking for genealogy resources and links for Canadian ancestors? If so, don't overlook this often updated site/blog. Lots of good information and out-bound links.

Name: Historical Directories

Location: www.historicaldirectories.org/hd

Type: Personal Site/Blog

Details: Originated and maintained by the University of Leicester, this site contains many historical directories for

England and Wales from the years 1750-1919. Search by year or keyword. Great site!

Name: Past Voices: Letters Home

Location: www.pastvoices.com

Type: Personal Site/Blog

Details: In this digital age, letters almost seem a quaint relic of days gone by. However, written letters are very often a treasure, rich in family history. In this guide, find out all about this type of research.

Name: Oral History Primer

Location: <http://library.ucsc.edu/reg-hist/oral-history-primer>

Type: Personal Site/Blog

Details: Oral history is essential to learning more about our family's past and can often reveal details and other information not written down. In this guide, find out more about getting started with your own oral history project.

Name: The Overland Trail

Location: www.over-land.com

Type: Personal Site/Blog

Details: The American West was vital to many of our families. This is a great site for background information and links on the West as well as the many trails and byways that existed for our ancestors.

Name: The Russian Genealogist

Location: <http://russianmemory.org>

Type: Personal Site/Blog

Details: If you're looking for

your Russian family ancestors, this is a great site to start. While primarily a blog, this site contains much information and links to other Russian genealogy sites and information.

Final Thoughts

Given the vast amounts of information now available for our family research and investigation, it's easy to get overwhelmed. Search engines can help, but often specialized lists and subject guides can help to cut through the clutter. While this list is just a start, perhaps it can help you the next time you hit a genealogy brick wall.

IG

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



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Upcoming Genealogical Society Events

Editor's note: Please see the end of these listings for updated deadlines and the e-mail address for upcoming events. Please allow at least 12 full weeks advance notice of your event to ensure inclusion in the listings. Due to space limitations, we cannot guarantee that listings submitted will be included in a given issue.

AUGUST 2012

Saturday August 4, 2012. 10 AM to 4 PM. St. Paul's Anglican Church, 19 Invergordon Ave, Minden, Ont K0M 2K0. There are many ways to look at family history. Genealogy is more than names & dates on paper or a computer program. Haliburton Highlands Genealogy Group invites you to *Inherited Treasures*. Come see our display of jewelry, furniture, quilts, tablecloths & other trinkets. Enjoy the stories of how these items were cherished for generations. \$3 per person. For more information: 705-286-3588 evenings or simmons03@gmail.com.

The Federation of Genealogical Societies 2012 Conference will be held from August 29 to September 1, 2012 at the Birmingham Jefferson Convention Complex. The event will feature over 175 educational presentations with well-known speakers. Lectures appealing to beginning, intermediate, and experienced genealogists and topics covering almost every aspect of genealogy will be offered. Learn about the latest technology in the genealogy industry. Attend sessions to help your genealogical society grow, prosper and educate. Daily meal functions with exciting speakers and time for networking. Visit the large exhibit hall with exhibitors, vendors and door prizes galore! Check out the registration information at www.fgs.org/2012conference.

SEPTEMBER 2012

WA State Genealogical Society Annual Conference will be held on September 7-8, 2012. The conference will be hosted by the Clallam County Gen. Society at the Elks Naval Lodge in Port Angeles, Washington. The focus is "Armchair Genealogy in the Pacific NW" with Keynote Speaker Brian W. Hutchinson, author, heraldist, forensic genealogist and President/Chairman of Gen-Find Research Assoc. of Nanaimo, BC, Canada. For more information, go to the WA State Gen. Society website, www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~wasgs/ and follow the conference links.

Celebrate Your Anglo-Celtic Roots at the 18th Annual Conference of the British Isles Family History Society of Greater Ottawa (BIFHSGO), 14-16 September, in Canada's beautiful capital. Scotland is featured this year, but there is something for everyone. Hear lectures by international/national/local experts, including Tony Bandy, regular contributor to *Internet Genealogy* and *Family Chronicle*, and Ed Zapletal, publisher of *Internet Genealogy*, *Family Chronicle* and *History Magazine*. Attend pre-conference workshops, access a research room of genealogy databases, and browse a marketplace of related products and services. Program and registration details at: www.bifhsgo.ca.

Learn 365 ways to Discover Your Family History at the San Diego Genealogical Society Annual Seminar and Luncheon, Sat. Sept. 8 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM, Handlery Hotel, San Diego. Learn about Eastern European research, immigrant cluster communities, and writing your family history with Lisa Ann Alzo; \$45 (includes lunch). Please join us! Info/Registration: 1-858-279-SDGS (7347), or visit www.casdgs.org.

Sat. Sept. 15, 2012, Middle Tennessee Genealogical Society, FiftyForward Knowles Center, 174 Rains Avenue, (across from the State Fairgrounds), Nashville, TN, 1:00 PM. Program: "Tennesseans and the War of 1812". Guest Speaker: Tom Kanon, holds a doctoral degree in Public History and is archivist at the Tennessee State Library and Archives. Mr. Kanon is a respected authority on the War of 1812, speaking and writing extensively about the conflict on the southern frontier. With the bicentennial of the War of 1812 upon us, there is renewed focus on this "forgotten conflict". Come and learn about the War from the perspective of Tennesseans. No Charge for this meeting. We invite you to join the Middle Tennessee Genealogical Society. Refreshments will be served. For more information, view our website: www.mtgs.org.

Finding Your German Ancestors, presented by the Western Reserve Historical Society, Cleveland, Ohio. Presenter: John T. Humphrey. Saturday, September 29th, 2012, 8:30 AM-3:15 PM. COST: \$40. Registration and info: www.urhs.org/calendar/Finding_German_Ancestors?A= Contact: Chris Staats, chris@staatsofohio.com

OCTOBER 2012

Genealogy by Computer Society, Toledo, Ohio, Saturday, October 13, 2012, 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM, Grace Lutheran Church, 4441 Monroe St, Toledo, Ohio. Event: Genealogy Today & Tomorrow. Derek Davey will be presenting four programs: Oh Grandma, Where Art Thou?; Land of the Free [Websites]; Are You Getting Your Money's Worth? and All Walls Are Not Made of Bricks. Additional information on www.gcstoledo.org.

E-mail event information to: announcements@familychronicle.com Please allow at least 12 weeks advance notice of events to be eligible for inclusion in the calendar.

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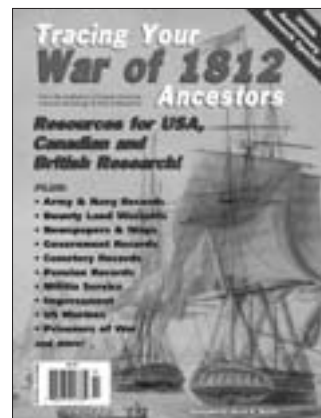
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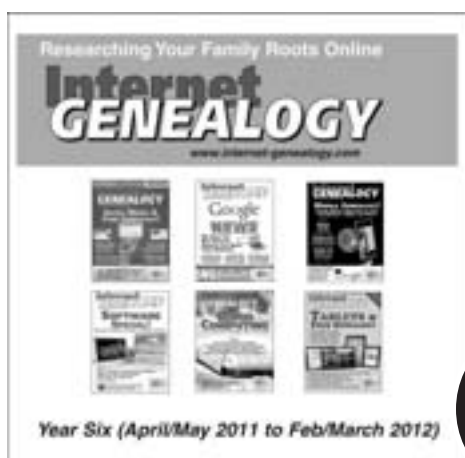


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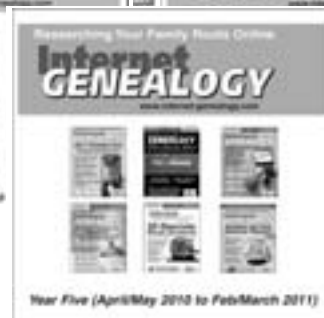
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Hidden Database Gems: Slavery, Abolition, and Social Justice & Virginia Company Archives



I FIRST LEARNED ABOUT this valuable resource when, after giving a talk at the North Carolina Archives, the NC State Archivist, Jesse R. Lankford, Jr., came up to me and mentioned that the slave records for NC had been digitized by the Adam Matthew Group. That was very exciting news to hear. Then, of course, I had to learn more!

The first thing I learned was that I needed to access this database from a library — university, college or public — that subscribes to it. Once you either find a library that carries

the subscription or you get your local library to carry it, you are on your way to finding so much more.

Slavery, Abolition and Social Justice

www.amedu.com/Collections/Slavery-Abolition-and-Social-Justice-1490-2007.aspx

As stated on the database website, the objective is “Bringing together primary source documents from archives and libraries across the Atlantic world ... to explore and compare unique material relating to the complex sub-

jects of slavery, abolition and social justice. In addition to the primary source documents there is a wealth of useful secondary sources for research and teaching; including an interactive map, scholarly essays, tutorials, a visual sources gallery, chronology and bibliography...”

The participating libraries include Anti-Slavery International, Bank of England, Special Collections & Archives Berea College, British Library, Duke University Libraries, Earl K Long Library – The University of New Orleans, the archives of Georgia and North Carolina, The National Archives (UK), Library and Archives Canada, and several other libraries and archives.

I quickly figured out that the main NC records I sought are part of the “Court Records” collection, which focuses on four states: North Carolina, Georgia, Louisiana and Missouri, located at www.slavery.amdigital.co.uk/Introduction/CourtRecords.aspx. The NC records include comprehensive coverage of appeal cases on questions of slavery in the Supreme Court, along with county-level court records for the select counties of Bertie and New Hanover (Superior Court Minute Books, 1806-1876), along with material from the counties of Brunswick, Columbus, Beaufort, Hyde, Gates, Halifax,



Slavery, Abolition & Social Justice

Introduction Documents Essays Maps Further Resources Help/Teaching

View By: All Themes Regions Document Type: Litigation Date

Page 1 of 1 View as grid North Carolina State Archives

Export	Title	Date
<input type="checkbox"/>	North Carolina Slave Records, CR 210 226.8 North Carolina State Archives	1769-1840
<input type="checkbox"/>	North Carolina Slave Records, CR 210 226.8 North Carolina State Archives	1744-1810
<input type="checkbox"/>	North Carolina Slave Records, CR 210 226.7 North Carolina State Archives	1810-1840
<input type="checkbox"/>	North Carolina Slave Records, CR 210 226.8 North Carolina State Archives	1841-1850
<input type="checkbox"/>	New Hanover County, Superior Court Minutes, Volume 5, 1808-1820 C.R. 210.211.1 North Carolina State Archives	1808-1820

Search Results: 1 - 7 of 7 for "Bertie County" Turner

Filter results: Full Listing Sort results: Default

Title	Date
Court Record	
North Carolina, Supreme Court, Records, State v. Johnson, June 1840 4722	1840
North Carolina, Supreme Court, Records, Jacobs Administrator of Estate, Deceased v. Bidder et al December 1841 5832	1841
North Carolina, Supreme Court, Records, Rowland v. White et al December 1840 4407	1840
North Carolina, Supreme Court, Records, Administrator of Estate v. Lucas, December 1822 1812	1822
Printed Material	
Send annual report on schools for Freedmen, 7th Report, January 1860, E-481 408 v.20 no.3, Historical Society of Pennsylvania	1860
American Negro Slavery, A Series of the Causes, Employment and Control of Negro Labor as Determined by the Pleasures of the 8107 120, British Library	1810

Top: Example of the listing for a "chosen" Library/Archive, in this case the North Carolina State Archives.

Bottom: Example of a search on "Bertie County" Turner.

Catawba, Caldwell and Rockingham. Similar coverage is found for records from Georgia (Supreme Court and lower court records), Louisiana (1,200 cases that went on appeal to the LA Supreme Court) and Missouri (printed reports for the Supreme Court, 1805-1876).

As far as accessing the included documents you can search, select a theme, choose a region, identify a document type, limit by date range or select the "source" archive. Since my initial interest was in North Carolina, I selected "North Carolina State Archives" (although I did take a peak to see what was included from Duke University

Libraries, which includes a lot of printed material). You are then presented with a list of those documents digitized from the NC Archives.

Having done research into slave owners in Bertie County, I also used the search feature for — "Bertie County" Turner — which yielded seven results, split amongst Court Records, Printed Material and Essays. None of these directly involved the Turner family of my interest, but the search feature is easy to use and the quality of the digital images found is excellent.

Do check out the tutorials which are also available, www.slavery.amdigital.co.uk/FurtherResources/Tutorials/tutorials.aspx.

Fortunately, those for North Carolina are all currently available (while those for the other states are "coming soon") and provide a detailed perspective on the courts of North Carolina:

- North Carolina - Introduction & History of the Supreme Court
- North Carolina - The lower courts
- Tutorial - North Carolina (includes discussion of various case studies based on particular suits identified)

And do recognize that I have only discussed the "Court Records" element of the database, and there is much more to it!

As you can imagine, once I learned about the above database, I also checked out The Adam Matthew Group to see what else might have interest to genealogists, and I discovered the *Virginia Company Archives*, www.amedu.com/Collections/Virginia-Company-Archives.aspx, which caught my eye, since so many that ended up in North Carolina (and the colonies as a whole) often arrived in VA or with connections to The Virginia Company of London.

Virginia Company Archives
www.amedu.com/Collections/Virginia-Company-Archives.aspx.

This project includes the *Ferrar Papers* which are in Magdalene College, Cambridge, transcripts of those documents that throw light on the Virginia Company of London, and the four volumes of *The Records of the Virginia Company of London* (Washington, D.C., 1906-35), edited by Susan Myra



Top: Virginia Company Archives home page.

Bottom: Population list for Virginia as found in The Virginia Company Archives.

Kingsbury. The Ferrar collection began as a business archive, consisting of papers of Nicholas Ferrar (d.1620) and those of the Virginia Company of London and its subordinate, the Somer Islands Company. From 1619 until the company's dissolution in 1624, two of old Nicholas's sons – John (1619-22) and Nicholas (1622-24) – held in succession, the office of Deputy, and conducted the company's daily business from the family's home on St. Sithes Lane in the City of London.

The contents are divided into Manuscripts, Printed Material and Gallery. The

Manuscripts collection is listed chronologically. I did a search on "James City" and there were 48 hits. The first was a 1619 population list for Virginia, broken down by location and listing men, women and young persons.

Not having done as much early VA research as others, I dabbled enough to learn what a neat collection this is, and those genealogists researching early VA residents will want to check this out.

Learn more about The Virginia Company of London via these resources:

- nps.gov, Historic


Jamestowne, The Virginia Company of London, www.nps.gov/jame/historyculture/the-virginia-company-of-london.htm

- e-book, *The Virginia Company of London, 1606-1624* by Wesley Frank Craven, www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/28555
- e-book, *The Three Charters of the Virginia Company of London*, www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/36181
- *The Thomas Jefferson Papers*, The Library of Congress, http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/collections/jefferson_papers/mtjser8.html — The Virginia Records volumes were part of Jefferson's personal library.

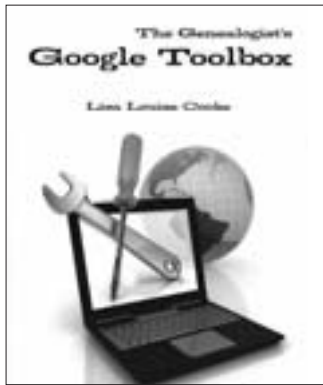
These are just two of the very interesting databases available for purchase from The Adam Matthew Group, www.amedu.com, by University/College and Public Libraries. Unfortunately, these are not available as subscriptions for individuals, though many genealogists do have affiliations with universities and libraries which may have a subscription. Check and see if your local university, college or public library has a subscription! If not, you might want to suggest that they check out subscribing. Please address any queries about these or other Adam Matthew Group products to: info@amedu.com.

IG

Diane L. Richard has been doing genealogy research for over 25 years. Maps have always been a tool in her genealogy research arsenal. She is currently a professional genealogist and can be found online at www.mosaicrpm.com. (Or scan the QR code above with your mobile phone or table device.)

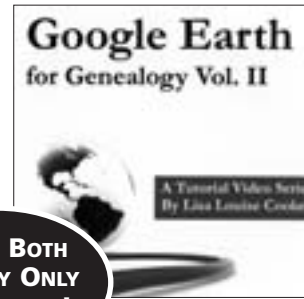
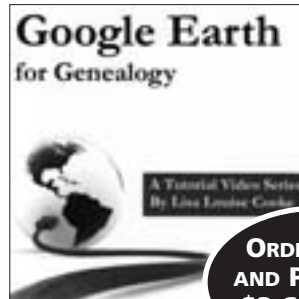


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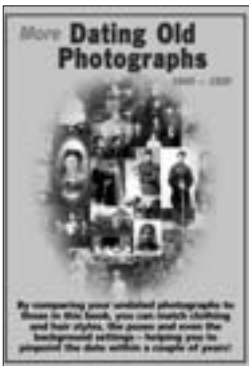
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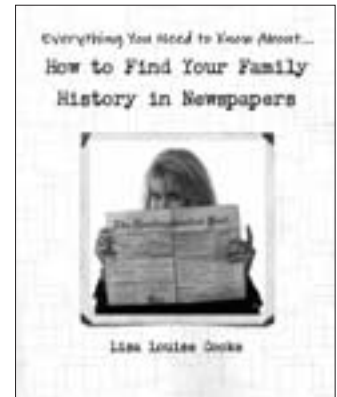
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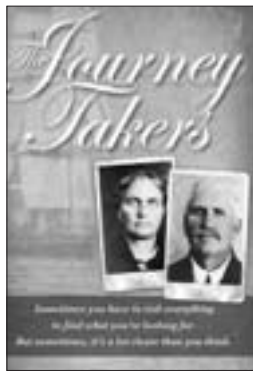
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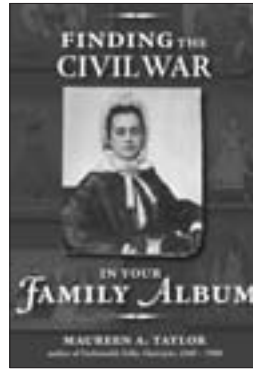
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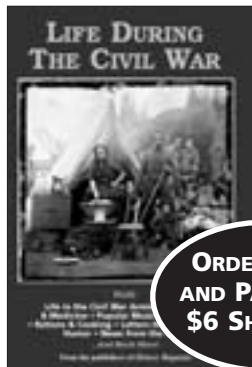
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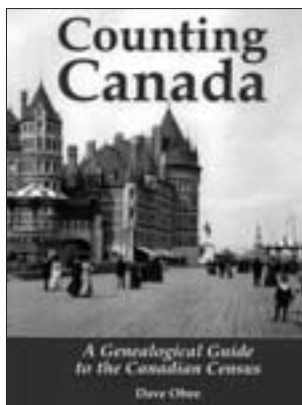
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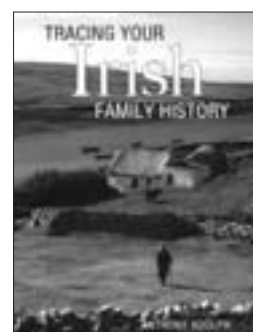
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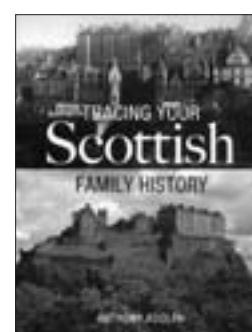
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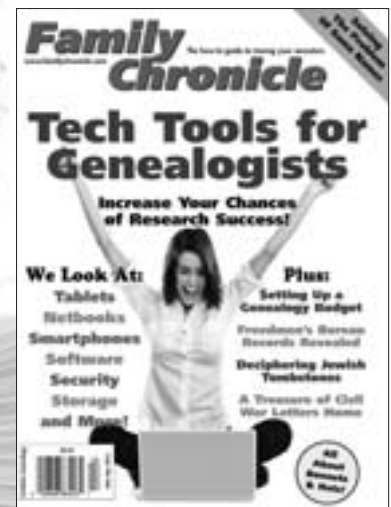
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1st Lt. Arthur Toepel: Defender of Liberty

AN EIGHT-FOOT, CAST BRONZE replica of the Statue of Liberty stands in Washington Park, Dubuque, Iowa. A slight smile on Liberty's verdigris lips, a divergence from the serious visage of Frederic Bartholdi's original work in New York Harbor, beckons passersby to come closer and examine the inscriptions on the plaques attached to her concrete base.

The inscriptions tell us that William V. Toepel purchased the statue in 1950 and presented it to the Northeast Iowa Council Boy Scouts of America, as part of their 40th Anniversary Crusade to "strengthen the arm of liberty." Toepel made the donation to honor the memory of his son, 1st Lt. Arthur C. Toepel, "a Scout who gave his life June 29, 1944, in helping to preserve our liberty."

Who was Arthur Toepel? Where did he come from? And what terrible event a year before the end of World War II took his life?

To find the answers to the first two questions, we will use the standard online tools: census enumerations; birth, marriage, and death records; obituaries; land records; old newspaper accounts; and county histories. To discover what befell 1st Lt. Arthur C. Toepel on 29 June 1944, we will have to explore WWII military records and related resources, including two amazing eyewitness accounts which have been posted on the

Internet. One comes from a WWII airman who was with Toepel at the time of his death, and the other from a German flak gunner who tells the story from a different point of view.



Statue of Liberty erected by Arthur Toepel's father in Washington Park, Dubuque, Iowa, as a memorial to his son.

(Photo by Constance Cherba)

Census reports (found at such sites as www.HeritageQuestOnline.com, <http://FamilySearch.org>, and <http://Ancestry.com>) allow us to track the Toepel family and explore their progression through the decades to the 1940 census when Arthur was 22 years old. A compilation of census data, enhanced with records from U.S. & International Marriage Records 1560 -1900, The Minnesota Marriages Index 1849-1950, U.S. Indexed County Land Ownership Maps 1860-1918, and World War I Draft Registration Cards 1917-18 allow us to piece together the Toepel family story.

August Toepel and his wife Rosine Zoerner Toepel, Arthur's great-grandparents, arrived in Manitowoc, Wisconsin, from their birthplace in Saxony (Germany), along with their four children, in time for the August 1850 census. By 1870, their twenty-eight year-old son Edward had moved across the Mississippi River to St. Paul, Minnesota, where he married Margaret Singer, an Illinois native.

Edward and Margaret, Arthur's grandparents, relocated to Galena, Illinois, in the early 1870s. Edward worked as a carpenter to support his large family. Their fourth son, William, was born in January 1884.

In 1907, William married Verena W. Traut, a native of Iowa. After several years in

Arthur Toepel's Story

Illinois, William and Verena crossed the Mississippi to take up residence in Verena's hometown of Dubuque, Iowa. They had three sons. Paul and Carl were born in Illinois, and Arthur was born in Iowa the summer of 1917.

William, a foundry manager, registered for the World War I Draft in the fall of 1918. The registration form tells us that he was a tall man of medium build with grey eyes and brown hair.

Arthur's mother, the former Verena Traut, also descended from German ancestors. Joseph Traut, Verena's grandfather, arrived in Dubuque in 1846, the year Iowa became the 29th state in the Union. He married Annie Hilkin two years later. They produced a large family, which Joseph supported with his boot and shoe business. In 1873, their son, Paul, married Louisa Jaeger, a Dubuque native. Verena was the sixth of seven children born to Paul and Louisa Traut.

Now that we know Arthur's background, we can explore his life. Using his 4 August 1944 obituary in the Dubuque

Telegraph Herald and other bits of information we can glean from digitized newspapers at Google News Archive, we can construct a fairly detailed biography.

Arthur was born in Dubuque on 7 July 1917. He received his early education in the Catholic school system. At the age of twelve, in a foreshadowing event, he played the part of a soldier in a school play called "Christmas with the Old Woman Who Lived in a Shoe."

Arthur graduated from Loras Academy (Dubuque) with the class of 1935 and worked for a year at the Dubuque Foundry Corporation. He was then employed at General Dry Batteries, Inc., where he advanced to the position of inspector in the superintendent's office.

His employment is confirmed by the recently released 1940 census. The enumerator recorded information supplied by Arthur's mother, Verena. She reported that all three Toepel sons were living at home on Loras Boulevard, and that twenty-two-year-old

Arthur worked as a clerk at a dry batteries company.

According to Arthur's obituary, he was drafted into the Army on 1 August 1941. A newspaper story tells us he joined eight other selectees at the Old Post Office Building in downtown Dubuque, filling the first of the Dubuque County Draft Board's August quotas. He traveled by bus to Fort Des Moines, Iowa, to undergo final examinations for enlistment in the Army infantry as a gunner.

After six months basic training at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, Toepel applied for, and received, a transfer to the United States Army Air Forces and began instruction as an aviation cadet in February 1942. He trained in Mississippi, Florida, California, and Alabama before being commissioned a second lieutenant. Toepel received his bombardier's wings at Deming Army Air Field, New Mexico, in August 1943.

Toepel received additional training in Arizona, Oklahoma, and Kansas before he flew overseas with a B-24 crew in

NAME	SEX	AGE	RACE	MARITAL STATUS
William Toepel	Male	42	White	Married
Verena Toepel	Female	38	White	Married
Paul Toepel	Male	27	White	Married
Carl Toepel	Male	25	White	Married
Arthur Toepel	Male	22	White	Single

1940 US Census for Dubuque, Iowa, showing 22-year-old Arthur Toepel living with his parents William and Verena, and older brothers Paul and Carl.

March 1944 to be stationed with a heavy bomber group "somewhere in England." Soon, he was promoted to first lieutenant.

In a letter postmarked the day of his death, he told his parents he had been awarded the Air Medal "for exceptionally meritorious achievement while participating in aerial flight." Sometime after the arrival of Toepel's last letter, his parents received a wire informing them of a report the International Red Cross had received from the German government. It read, "Your son, First Lieutenant Arthur C. Toepel, who was previously reported missing in action, was killed in action on 29 June over Germany."

Photocopies of the official U.S. War Department's Missing Air Crew Report (MACR) can be found online at <http://Fold3.com> among their historical military records. The MACR was dated 1 July 1944 and was once labeled "Confidential." The document provides statistics ranging from the serial numbers of the four Pratt & Whitney engines mounted on the wings of Lt. Toepel's B-24 Liberator to the fates of the nine men aboard. The MACR also includes German reports of the incident.

According to the MACR, the June 29th bombardment mission for the 506th Squadron of the 44th Bomber Group attached to the 8th Air Force departed from AAF 115 (Shipdham, England) on a day described as "clear with haze." The destination was Magdeburg, Germany, and Lt. Toepel's plane was flying in the 4th position. At 0952 hours, the

B-24 "was hit by the right wing of [another bomber] as it left formation and exploded when struck." The aircraft was believed to have "exploded immediately" and, according to a German report, was 96% damaged.

Two witnesses from a third plane in the formation were quoted in the MACR. One saw the crash and counted eleven parachutes in the vicinity at the time of collision. However, only Radio Operator Fred A. DuBose, Tail Gunner Joseph I. Morris, and Left Waist Gunner Walter V. Lawrence were reported to have survived from Lt. Toepel's aircraft.

All the officers — Pilot Gerald S. Westcott, Co-Pilot Robert H. Reeves, Navigator Thomas L. Hine and Bombardier Arthur C. Toepel — and two enlisted men — Engineer Edward J. Thompson and Right Waist Gunner Frank Artym, Jr. — were listed as dead. S/Sgt. Joe Gorski did not fly with the crew on their final mission as he was on assignment taping a radio broadcast in London.

The information in the MACR allows us to locate an extraordinary website dedicated to the 44th Bomb Group (BG). Here, we find the group's history and accomplishments, photos, video clips, copies of *8 Ball Tails* (a publication that chronicles the history, legacy, and stories of the 44th BG during WWII), and a searchable database listing missions flown, flight crews, aircraft information, biographies, and legacy pages.

A search of the 44th BG database provides us with a listing and description of Lt.

Toepel's 24 missions — from his first on 22 April 1944 to bomb the Marshalling Yards in Hamm, Germany, to his final mission to Magdeburg, targeting the Krupp Aircraft Factory. Lt. Toepel flew most of his missions on a B-24 Liberator named *My Everlovin' Gal*, a plane which flew 28 missions before it exploded.

Unfortunately, there is very little information for Lt. Toepel on the biography and legacy pages. However, survivors from the 29 June 1944 mission have submitted detailed information on themselves, their crew mates, and their final mission. S/Sgt. Walter V. Lawrence, the left waist gunner, provided an account of the events leading up to the final mission and a gripping narrative of what happened to the crew of *My Everlovin' Gal* over Magdeburg.

Lawrence wrote, "The crew was brought together in September of 1943 at Davis Monthan Army Air Base, Tucson, Arizona. Upon completing our first phase of training, we were sent to the 34th Combat Training Squadron at Blythe Army Air Base, California, the 31st of October." From California, the crew was sent to Oklahoma on a troop train and later on to Topeka Army Air Base at the end of January 1944.

In Kansas, the crew received more training and a new B-24 bomber. Lawrence wrote, "We agreed to name the bomber 'LYNDY' after our pilot's wife." In February 1944, the crew flew the *LYNDY* overseas via the southern route through South America, Africa, and on to England, where they were

Arthur Toepel's Story



Crew of the B-24 LYNDY: Back row, left to right — Tom Hine, Navigator; Art Toepel, Bombardier; Gerald Westcott, Crew Captain and Pilot; Bob Reeves, Co-Pilot. Front row — left to right — Fred DuBose, Radio Operator; Joe Gorski, Armorer, Tail Gunner; Ed Thompson, 1st Engineer, Gunner; Frank Artym, Armorer, Right Waist Gunner; Joe Morris, Armorer, Ball Turret Gunner; Walter "Bud" Lawrence, Asst. Engineer, Left Waist Gunner. (Photo Courtesy of Walter Lawrence)

replacements in the 506th Bomb Squadron of the 44th Bomb Group. Here, much to the crew's dismay, the *LYNDY* was taken out of their care, to be modified for combat. The majority of their missions would be flown on *My Everlovin' Gal*.

Lawrence described preparations for their final mission. "As usual, we were rudely awakened early in the morning. We dressed, headed for the trucks waiting for us to go to breakfast. After breakfast, we went to briefing. The briefing room commanded its own veil of mystery, anxiety, fear, and respect. It was here the mission for the day was revealed. At the front [of the room] was a large map that could not be viewed until the briefing officer pulled the curtain to reveal the mission for the day. There

would be a red ribbon showing the route we would fly to the target and back. Today, when the curtain was pulled, it stretched quite a ways, as Magdeburg is located just southwest of Berlin. It was not a pleasing sight.

"I do not recall any fighter attack on the way to the target. The flak was light until we were on the IP (Initial Point for the bomb run), when it was very evident they had our range. We were hit just before and over the target. We were all flying in close formation over the bomb run. Lt. Toepel had just dropped the bombs and we were hit again, this time in the bomb bay area.

"Lt. Westcott [pilot] called me on the intercom at my position in the waist to see if I could check the damage in the bomb bay. I opened the door

into the bomb bay compartment and noted that the hydraulic reservoir had been hit and fluid was leaking so bad I could not see to get into the bomb bay with the wind coming in through the open doors. I reported to our pilot that as soon as the doors were closed, I would try to get in there to do what I could. That is the last thing I heard, as Lt. Landahl's ship [in formation next to *My Everlovin' Gal*] was now out of control and his right wing tip hit our ship about at the top gun turret and crashed on top of us, causing the *Gal* to explode and disintegrate. I was thrown out. My first thought was to pull the ripcord and somehow the chute did not catch fire or hit any debris."

Three airmen from *My Everlovin' Gal* — Walter Lawrence, Fred DuBose, and Joseph Morris — parachuted out of the flaming plane at 21,000 feet and were captured by the Germans and taken to a POW camp. Today, 88-year-old Walter Lawrence lives in Arkansas City, Kansas, where I visited him in January 2012.

Mr. Lawrence told me the compelling story of the final mission flown by the crew of *My Everlovin' Gal* and also provided a different perspective of the crash based on his correspondence with Friedrich J. Kowalke, who was a German schoolboy living in Magdeburg during WWII.

When air raid sirens sounded, Kowalke recalled, he ran from school to help elderly WWI veterans man the flak guns. Kowalke remembered the bombing of Magdeburg on 29 June 1944 and the collision of the two B-24 Liberators. He

said the bomb run that day took the "Terrorflieger" (terror fliers) right over "flak-avenue", so the formation would "take AA-fire of all the flak batteries from south to north." Since the 44th BG was the lead group, they took most of the flak.

When I asked Mr. Lawrence what he thought happened to Lt. Arthur Toepel, he handed me pages from the MACR. He and DuBose completed "Individual Casualty Questionnaires" for the report sometime after the war. Apparently, the last contact anyone had with Lt. Toepel was his "Bombs Away" announcement. DuBose wrote, "I was told by a German interrogator that the body of Lt. Toepel had been identified in the wreckage of the plane."

Mr. Lawrence reflected that Lt. Toepel would not have been wearing a parachute when the *Gal* exploded because space in the nose turret was too limited. It was his opinion that Lt. Toepel died in the bombardier's seat.

It is hard to imagine Lt. Toepel's final minutes trapped in the nose of the flaming bomber. A 12 second video on YouTube called "B-24 Bombardier's View In Flight" allows us to experience a fleeting moment of what it was like to fly in the bombardier's position — to hear the roar of the engines, feel the confinement of the small space behind the bombsight, and visualize the ground far below.

Finally, we turn to two searchable online databases — U.S. Rosters of WWII Dead, 1939 -1945 and WWII & Korean Conflict Veterans Interred Overseas. Although the MACR indicates the Germans buried



Walter "Bud" Lawrence at his home in Arkansas City, Kansas, with a painting of *My Everlovin' Gal* in the background.

(Photo by Constance Cherba)

the deceased *Gal* crew members on 1 July 1944 in the Prisoner Cemetery at Gerwisch near Magdeburg, these websites tell us that the final resting place of 1st Lt. Arthur C. Toepel was Lorraine American Cemetery and Memorial in St. Avold, France.

Returning to his obituary, we discover that a memorial mass was said for Lt. Toepel on 4 August 1944 in Dubuque. His cousin, the Rev. Paul Traut, said the mass in Toepel's home parish, the Church of the Nativity.

A few months after the memorial mass, Lt. Toepel's parents received The Purple Heart, awarded posthumously to their son. Lt. Toepel also received The European-African-Middle Eastern Theater Medal, The Air Medal with 3 Oak Leaf Clusters, The WWII Victory Medal, and The Good Conduct Medal.

That's the story behind the Statue of Liberty memorial in Washington Park — 1st Lt. Arthur C. Toepel's story. But in

the end, it's not just Lt. Toepel's story. It's the story of the entire crew of *My Everlovin' Gal*. It's the story of Joe Gorski, who missed the *Gal*'s final flight and continued to serve, flying 31 missions before the end of the war. It's the story of Bud Lawrence, Joe Morris, and Fred DuBose, who survived the explosion and crash and spent the rest of the war in German POW camps. And it's also the story of Jerry Wescott, Bob Reeves, Tommy Hine, Ed Thompson, and Frank Artym, who, along with Art Toepel, gave their all for their country and died in a blaze of glory over the German city of Magdeburg on a fine June morning in 1944.

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Sharing The War Years of a Prairie Man

I DIDN'T SET OUT TO CREATE A photo book. But, my research on my father's wartime experiences with the Canadian Army overseas lent itself perfectly to the project. The end result, a 20-page hardcover book, brought tears and joy at the same time to one family member.

Like most war veterans, my father, Len Lobb, kept many of the details of his overseas war experiences to himself. Years later, some of his war mementos were passed on to me: his Pay and Service book, an autograph book that he carried around in Europe and his Discharge Certificate. My mother had also preserved one newspaper clipping about Dad's activities in Italy, a postcard from the Canadian Army,

one telegram from Dad and a small number of photos. Only a few years ago, Dad's sister sent me one letter that Dad had written to her in June 1945 from Holland which she had kept for decades.

From the stories Dad told when I was young, I knew that he had trained overseas in Scotland with the Royal Canadian Engineers (RCE), and had then participated with the RCE in the Invasion of Sicily in July 1943, continuing to serve in Europe until June 1945. However, Dad's Pay and Service book indicates that he enlisted in the Royal Canadian Artillery (RCA) at Vancouver, BC in November 1940. There is no mention of the Royal Canadian Engineers!

The Pay and Service book

also shows that he completed driver's and small arms training in 1942, was taken on strength by the Canadian Army in the Mediterranean in June 1943, disembarked on 10 July 1943, was promoted to Lance Corporal in October 1944 and then Acting Corporal in March 1945. His autograph book includes only a small number of poignant entries from his RCE pals dated late 1943 and early 1944 in Italy. The undated newspaper clipping covers his participation in the attack on the Hitler Line in May 1944. The letter he wrote to his sister came from Holland in June 1945. His discharge certificate shows he was demobilized in the rank of Corporal on 20 October 1945 in Toronto. All together, these details didn't



Above: A 1945 telegram from Len Lobb, the author's father, telling his wife that he would be arriving home soon. Right: Len Lobb at Camp Petawawa where he trained with the RCE in late 1941 and early 1942.



begin to fill almost five years of military service here in Canada and overseas. I wanted to discover more.

My cousin had obtained her father's military service record, so I began by visiting Library and Archives Canada's website, www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/genealogy/022-909.007-e.html. Records for Second World War personnel are not available online, and access is restricted with respect to the records for Canadian personnel who survived the war. The following access restrictions apply:

- Access to personal information relating to an individual who is still living requires that person's signed consent.
- If the individual has been deceased for less than 20 years, limited information may be released to immediate family, i.e., a parent, spouse, child, sibling or grandchild of the individual. Proof of death and proof of relationship must also accompany your request.
- There are no restrictions on access to information relating to an individual who has been deceased for more than 20 years.

Proof of death is required.

From the website, I downloaded an Application for Military Service Information form in pdf format to request Dad's military service record. There is no fee levied by Library and Archives Canada for providing military service records. However, I knew from my cousin's experience that it can take several months to process a request.

There is one learning experience I gained from this process. At the time I completed the application for my father's military record, he had been deceased for almost, but not quite, 20 years. My assumption was that by the time my request was processed, the 20 year deadline would have passed. However, my request was processed more quickly than I anticipated, before the 20 year deadline had passed, so

Card (which is actually an 11 x 17 document)

- Service and Casualty Form
- Record of Service
- Discharge documentation

It was worth the wait — these documents contained a lot of information that was new to me. From his Attestation Paper, I learned Dad's Vancouver address at the time of enlistment, and the fact that he had a brief period of militia service in D Company, Prince Albert and Battleford Volunteers prior to enlisting with the RCA. The Occupational History Form provided the name and location of his employer immediately prior to enlistment, Cady Lumber & Pole Co. in Nelson, BC. Further occupational history, such as the names of other employers and medical history details, including some childhood injuries, were contained in the Soldiers Qualification Card.

The discharge documentation provided a more complete timeline of his occupational history, including former employers' names, covering the period from 1932 to 1940. It also included the army's recommendations for his post-military career upon discharge, and their basis for making those recommendations. Finally, it contained a nice little bonus — the name of the high school he attended in Biggar, Saskatchewan. I was able to locate a photo of the school building online at the Biggar Encyclopedia wiki, <http://biggarencyclopaedia.wetpaint.com>.

These were details I previously did not have about Dad's life. But, it was the Service and



A scan of Len Lobb's attestation paper included in the package from Library and Archives Canada.

some of the forms I received were redacted. I waited until the 20-year deadline was past, and requested clean copies of the two redacted forms. This additional request took a few weeks to process.

The package I received from Library and Archives Canada included:

- Attestation Paper
- Occupational History Form
- Soldiers Qualification

The War Years of a Prairie Man

Casualty Form and the Record of Service that eventually helped me fill in the years of his active service in Sicily, Italy, France and Holland. These turned out to be multi-page forms containing typed and hand-written records of key events in the soldier's military service. Each entry on these forms captures transfers, promotions, admission to and discharge from hospital, embarkation/disembarkation from a theater of war, furlough, pay raises and forfeiture of pay. And, each entry includes the date of the event. Dad had transferred from the RCA in British Columbia to the RCE in Ontario in December 1941.

I found that there was some duplication of information between the Service and Casualty Form and the Record of Service. But, each form also contained entries that the other didn't. What frustrated me about these two forms was that neither had been maintained in date order; the jumbled entries didn't give me a clean timeline. I quickly transcribed them into Excel, then added information

from the mementos passed down to me, and sorted the records by date. Voila! — a detailed timeline of Gunner (later Sapper) Lobb's military career from October 1940 to September 1945.

Because the letter he wrote to his sister provided his return address — 4 Field Coy RCE CAO — I knew he had served with the 4th Field Company of the Corps of Royal Canadian Engineers. Current books which chronicle the Canadian Army's World War II experience, such as Mark Zuelkhe's *Ortona* (Douglas & McIntyre, 1999), *Operation Husky* (Douglas & McIntyre, 2008) and *On to Victory* (Douglas & McIntyre, 2010), make brief references specific to the 4th Field Company. While this was interesting, my aim was to discover much more.

I did an online search hoping to find excerpts of war diaries of the RCE, or the Unit History. My search included websites for used books. From AbeBooks, a website for new, used, rare, and out-of-print books, www.abebooks.com/, I

bought a used copy of *The History of The Corps of Royal Canadian Engineers, Volume 2* (The Military Engineers Association of Canada, 1966). This 713-page volume covers 1936 to 1946 in extreme detail, and includes maps and photos. There were more than 50 separate entries in the book detailing activities of the 4th Field Company during the war. With this book, I could look at my Excel file/timeline and find an entry specific to Dad and then refer to the *History* to see what was happening with the RCE around that time. One record in the Excel file/timeline ominously reports that on Friday, 2 July 1943, Dad's next of kin was verified. Eight days later, on 10 July 1943, the 4th Field Company took part in Operation Husky, the Invasion of Sicily. The *History* provides further details: "Due to weather conditions, part of the 4th (Field Company) did not land at all, but was taken back to Malta to return the following day. Quite a number of sappers were put ashore at wrong places, but all managed to

Date	Unit	Record	Place	Date of record	Rank as of (at)	Notes
Saturday, January 06, 1940					Gunner	
Saturday, November 09, 1940 #12 Sub-Depot		Attended and TDG #12 Sub-Depot C&SF Vancouver	Vancouver		Gunner	
Saturday, November 09, 1940 #12 Sub-Depot		SDR #12 District Sub-Depot C&SF Posted to 170 Searchlight RCA CASP	Vancouver		Gunner	
Sunday, November 10, 1940 170 S. Bty		170 170 Searchlight Battery on posting from Sub-Depot #12 (Vanc)	Neary Hill		Gunner	
Saturday, March 02, 1941 170 S. Bty		Admitted E. M. Hoop. [Link]	Neary Hill		Gunner	
Friday, March 01, 1941 170 S. Bty		Discharged E. M. Hoop.	Neary Hill		Gunner	
Saturday, April 13, 1941 170 S. Bty		Granted 14-day furlough with pay (2-4-41 to 26-4-41)	Andal Hill		Gunner	
Sunday, July 13, 1941 170 S. Bty		Drunkennes (First Offense) Admonished	Andal Hill		Gunner	
Monday, July 29, 1941 170 S. Bty		170 170 S. Bty on reporting to for 3 District Depot, 104, Toronto	Andal Hill		Gunner	
Monday, July 29, 1941 #12 SD		170 on trans from 170 Searchlight Bty, RCA	Toronto		Gunner	
Monday, November 11, 1941 #12 SD		Granted special furlough 28-11-41 to 28-12-41	Toronto		Gunner	
Monday, December 01, 1941 #12 SD		On Command Special Engineering Equipment operators trade tests at Camp Borden	Toronto		Gunner	
Saturday, December 20, 1941 #12 SD		Trans from RCA to RCE	Toronto		Sapper	
Monday, December 23, 1941 #12 SD		170 on attachment to RCE TC Pelawase	Toronto		Sapper	
Tuesday, December 23, 1941 ETC		170 RCE TC AS, for all purposes	Pelawase		Sapper	
Saturday, February 23, 1942 ETC		Having been granted permission to marry (2/2/42), was married, with Pearl Foreman as witness	Pelawase		Sapper	
Monday, April 06, 1942 ETC		170 on proceeding overseas	Pelawase		Sapper	
Thursday, April 09, 1942		170 CA (Canada) Embarkation at Halifax			Sapper	
Friday, April 10, 1942		170 CA (Overseas) on transfer on 10-4-42 and disembarked at Soudouk on 10-4-42			Sapper	
Sunday, April 13, 1942 870		170 overseas 4/10/1942 and disembarked at Soudouk		April 13, 1942	Sapper	
Monday, April 20, 1942 870		170 #1 870	Neary Hill		Sapper	
Saturday, April 25, 1942		170 Post Completed			Sapper	

A sampling of some of the information from the Service and Casualty Form, and the Record of Service, recompiled into an Excel spreadsheet.

locate their proper areas.”

The RCE *History* also confirmed some information about the drive against the Hitler Line on 23 May 1944.

According to the *History*, at the 11th hour, it was decided that the number of casualties could be reduced by having the engineers clear the mines first. A party of the 4th Field Company began lifting mines on the route into Pontecorvo before the Germans had evacuated it. The sappers worked in darkness with a small infantry covering party. The sappers were lucky but the covering party was “wiped out to a man” before they withdrew. The newspaper clipping about Dad’s participation in the attack on the Hitler Line quoted part of a letter Dad wrote to Mom. “Hundreds of Italian box mines... were seized by the Canadian sappers ‘who risked their lives again in a hurry-up job to let the infantry through. I am still able to duck and I have to do plenty of it lately.’ ”

Dad’s letter to his sister mentioned that they were stationed “between The Hague and Rotterdam, about 10 miles from each, and we have Jerry soldiers lifting their own mine fields and our boys are guarding them”. The RCE *History* contains a photograph of German engineers lifting their own mines.

I also took advantage of the *Toronto Star*’s Pages of the Past, <http://pagesofthepast.ca>, offer of a free trial which gives access to archives for the year 1945. My mother had saved the postcard sent to her by the Army, post-marked 7 September 1945, telling her of Dad’s anticipated arrival back in Canada on the *Empress of Scotland*. She also

kept the telegraph Dad sent to her on 9 September 1945 from Quebec City saying, “Arrived safely. Expect to be home soon.” A search of the Pages of the Past archives for 1945 turned up information on the troop trains that carried returning military personnel from the ports of Quebec City and Halifax to Toronto. The 10 September 1945 issue reported that Troop Train 197, carrying returned army personnel from the *Empress of Scotland*, was due to arrive in Toronto, where my mother was living with her parents, at 6:30 p.m. that evening. Pages of the Past offers several options for paid subscriptions (one hour, 24 hours, 72 hours, seven days, one month or one full year), with access to digitized issues of the *Toronto Star* from 1894 to 2009.

Having collected all this information, I created an 11-page document that chronicled Dad’s military activities with 4th Field Company RCE, and shared it with my family. My father’s sister was so impressed she sent a copy to Dad’s youngest brother, Brian, a career Canadian military man. Being 21 years younger than Dad, he never got to know his older brother well. My research was an opportunity for Brian to learn about his older brother’s war experiences.

At that point, I thought I was done with this research project. But then, while listening to a podcast about creating your own photo books, I realized that I could use some of my research to complement the old photos and create a hard cover photo book. I first scanned the old photos of Dad from the war as jpegs. I went to the Kodak

Gallery website, a print-on-demand service, www.kodakgallery.ca/Welcome.jsp, where I was able to choose the type of book I wanted to create (hard cover or softcover), the number of pages in my book, select a different layout for each page, upload the images and ultimately produce a 20-page hard cover book. I titled my book *The War Years of a Prairie Man*, because Dad had been born in Biggar, Saskatchewan.

After proofreading carefully, I ordered one copy to preview. Unfortunately, due to a quick cut and paste edit that I did at the last minute, there was one spelling error. I was able to go back into my project on the Kodak Gallery site, fix the error and then order additional copies to send to family members. The Kodak Gallery site allowed me to store my project for a year, access it to make any updates, and order additional copies.

I sent one copy to my father’s sister as a thank you gift for her help over the years on other family history research, but more specifically, for giving me the letter Dad wrote to her. She emailed, “This morning the postman brought a lovely gift, your book about my brother and your Dad, Pat. You have done wonderful work to have such a good family remembrance of my brother and your dad... you know that joy and some tears were on my face at the same time. Thank you, Pat... he was such a wonderful brother...”

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Pat Javor is a freelance writer living in Mississauga, Ontario. Her recent article, on the death of her great-great-uncle, Alexander Lunan, appeared in the March/April 2012 issue of Family Chronicle.

PeoplePlotr Review

A New Look at Your Genealogy

EASILY SHARING YOUR FAMILY genealogy with others, particularly large family trees and other information, has always been somewhat of a challenge. You can always email friends or relatives and maybe even upload portions to your favorite online genealogy site, but more often than is said, this can turn into quite a job. With this in mind, I've had a chance to work with a new online genealogy service known as PeoplePlotr. With a unique approach to sharing your family's information, this site might just fit your needs. Let me show you what I found out.

About PeoplePlotr

Found online at *www.PeoplePlotr.com*, this web-based genealogy service offers the family researcher a graphical method of easily sharing family trees as well as dates, facts, names and other types of history. Designed and produced by Webalon, *www.webalon.com*, a UK based, bleeding-edge web design firm led by Alex Kearns, PeoplePlotr utilizes some of the newest Internet technologies as



the basis for the site/service, including HTML 5 and JavaScript. With no special plug-ins or software needed to download, I was using the service within minutes.

Costs & Options

Using PeoplePlotr only requires a web browser and the account you create online. The service includes different levels of options, ranging from free to educational and even business. The table at the bottom of this page summarizes some of the choices available to you when signing up for your account.

For updates on each of these

service levels, as well as more information about PeoplePlotr itself, the following page can get you quickly up to speed: www.PeoplePlotr.com/faq.

It's Elemental!

The heart of the PeoplePlotr website, and what makes it different than most web-based genealogy applications and/or services, is the unique method in which your family information is shown. It's not about just sharing your family's history with online notes or preformatted family trees, but PeoplePlotr gives you a virtual "blank canvas" and the graphi-

Types of PeoplePlotr Accounts Available

Account Type	Cost(s) (Per-Month)	Plots	Notes
Basic (Free)	Free!	1	Includes ads
Bronze	\$7.50	5	New features
Silver	\$20.00	25	Unlimited persons
Education	N/A	*	No ads

* The educational account is still in development, but includes a Silver level account for teachers and 50 Bronze accounts for students.

cal tools to enable you to create your family tree and related information in any way you want. Better known as a “plot”, the embedded tools and design elements, such as lines, boxes and grid elements, make creating a custom approach/diagram for your ancestors easy to do. You can also include a customized background image and even a timeline and other various search options.

As you begin to put together your plot or tree, it’s also possible to link to/insert media such as images, videos, and audio. For each person that you include in your tree, or plot, you have the option to include basic background information such as date of birth, date of death or any custom notes that you might want to include. A legend option is available as well, which gives you and your visitors more background information about the overall plot/tree.

Other options I found that might be useful to you are the ability to export any created plot and “embed” it within your own personal or organizational website, print out the plot in a non-graphical format and even view the technical “JSON” formatting behind what you have assembled. While it may seem cryptic at first glance, the JSON option enables you to quickly back-up your plot/tree or just export the data, according to information provided by PeoplePlotr.

My Thoughts

With a blank canvas, design tools and unique methods of displaying my family’s information, I was able to quickly upload and design a basic family tree/plot with information

about my relatives and some other historical facts. For the most part, I found the site very easy to use and the extensive help system and auto save options were quite handy. Filling out the custom note fields for members of my family was no problem and, overall, I found no big glitches or problems as I used the basic service for this review.

However, there are some things to be aware of as you use PeoplePlotr. Uploading of personal photos is limited to the Bronze and Silver account options and the personal information fields available for your ancestors are somewhat limited in scope, especially if you are used to the detailed options available within most genealogy software. Finally, while the site is easy to use, there is a bit of a learning curve at first, given the open-ended nature of the design process.

Overall, however, I came away impressed with the site and the options it does offer. It’s a great new method of thinking about your family’s information and sharing it with others. Will PeoplePlotr completely replace your current genealogy software or other web-based service that you might already be using? No, not really, but as a supplemental option to consider for quickly sharing genealogy information, I like the approach.

Need More?

Besides just using any piece of genealogy software or service offering, it’s always helpful to scour other sources for information and reviews. Knowing this, I’ve collated some resources that can help you find out more information on PeoplePlotr. Use

these as a starting point for your own investigation into this new method of looking at your family tree.

Apps:

<http://thenextweb.com/apps/2012/04/06/PeoplePlotr-a-web-app-for-plotting-people-and-building-interactive-family-trees>

MakeUseOf:

www.makeuseof.com/dir/PeoplePlotr-plot-a-family-tree

Upfront With NGS (Review):

<http://upfront.ngsgenealogy.org/search?q=PeoplePlotr>

Thoughts and Wrap-up!

In today’s genealogy and family research environment, many companies are racing to put their products on the Internet, quite often without due diligence on updating and creating new software to make this easy to do. PeoplePlotr is a great new alternative for you to consider when looking to upload and make your family information available to others. It’s easy to use and can help you to quickly share information with your family, group of friends or even your organization. Give it a try today and see if it will work for you!

Unlocking Vital Records of the Keystone State

IN FEBRUARY 2012, GENEALOGISTS tracing their roots in Pennsylvania received a huge boost when that state's Division of Vital Records opened death records older than 50 years and birth records older than 105 years for public access, www.portal.health.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/public_records/20686. The certificates are maintained by the State Archives in Harrisburg, and viewable on-site during public research hours, or copies can be requested by mail. There is an index available online at www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/genealogy/

3183/vital_statistics/387291.

This new access was a result of Pennsylvania Vital Records Bill SB-361 that was signed into law as Act 110 of 2011 on 15 December 2011, and is great news for Keystone State researchers. To read the original text of Senate Bill 361, go to www.legis.state.pa.us and type in "S361" as the Bill # in the search box.

HISTORY OF PENNSYLVANIA VITAL RECORDS

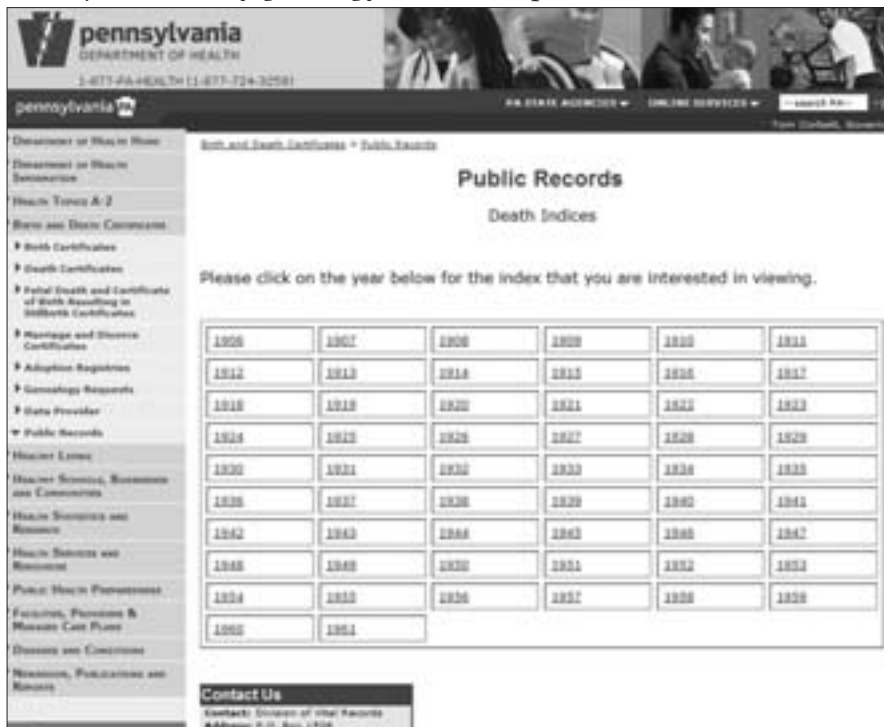
Vital records laws in Pennsylvania were pretty much ignored before the mid-1800s. Compliance remained low, even

after the state required counties to record births, marriages, and deaths, in the 1850s. While some larger cities, such as Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Reading, Scranton, and others, had already started keeping vital records in the late 1860s and 1870s, all Pennsylvania counties began recording marriage licenses in 1885. From 1893 to 1905, the state tried registration of births and deaths at the county level. Statewide registration of births and deaths began in 1906.

In order to locate records, researchers would have to look in different places, including city archives, health departments, county courthouses or state archives, depending on the location. In addition, FamilySearch, www.familysearch.org, has some microfilmed holdings, and some available digitized indexes/images (for example, you'll find a name index and images of Pennsylvania County Marriages, 1885-1950, and for Pittsburgh City Deaths, 1870-1905 among others). You should check the FamilySearch site periodically for any newly added or updated records.

USING THE ONLINE BIRTH AND DEATH INDICES

The new system is a much improved way to track down many birth and death records. However, there are still some limitations. The free birth index, www.health.state.pa.us/indices/



This screen capture shows the online Pennsylvania Death Indices 1900-1961. Click on the year for the index you are interested in viewing, then on the link that contains the first letter of the last name and scroll down until you find the name you are looking for.

1906%20Birth.htm, only covers the year 1906, as births from 1907 to the present are still restricted under privacy laws, and pre-1906 birth records are still held by the counties. This index currently appears to be searchable (use ctrl + F on a PC, command [butterfly] key + F on a Mac), but it's possible your initial search won't necessarily pick up all of the names, so you should scroll down through the list to make sure you are not missing any entries. The free death index, www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt?open=514&objID=1085804&mode=2, covers the years 1906-1961.

Several years of indices (1920-1924 deaths and 1930-1951 deaths) are listed according to the Russell Soundex method of indexing. The Russell system uses a phonetic algorithm for indexing names by the way they sound instead of the way they are spelled (read more at http://genealogy.about.com/od/census/a/russell_index.htm). Note, however, that these new indices, although digitized, are in non-searchable pdf format (organized by year and first letter of the surname) and are a bit cumbersome to search.

Even so, I was able to successfully use the death index to find several of my ancestors — including my grandfather who died in 1961, and one of his children, who died in infancy from pneumonia in 1916. I do not have any ancestors who were born in Pennsylvania in 1906, so I will have to wait until later years are added to the birth index.

Once you locate the name of your ancestor, you can order copies of the 1906 birth records and 1906-1961 death records by mail from the Pennsylvania State Archives, www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/genealogy/3183/vital_statistics/, for a fee of \$15.00 per record. Uncertified copies can also be obtained through the Pennsylvania Division of Vital Records for a fee of \$3 per record. Download the forms at www.portal.health.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/public_records/20686.

Be aware that to apply for a non-certified copy, you must first search the Pennsylvania birth indices, or death indices, to obtain a Pennsylvania State File number, and include that number on Part 2 of the application form. The site specifically notes that applications received without a State File number will not be processed and will be returned to the applicant. At the time of this writing, the current expected wait time is estimated at 16-18 weeks, so you'll want to avoid any unnecessary additional delays.

Altman, Samuel C.; 56435; Allegheny Co.; May 7.
 Altman, Setta E.; 41230; Greensburg; Apr. 11.
 Altmeier, Joseph; 34983; Pittsburgh; Mar. 12.
 Altmeyer, Joseph; 47304; Phila.; Apr. 3.
 Altmeyer, Lawrence; 127233; Allegheny Co.; Dec. 15.
 Altmiller, Christina; 62716; Hazleton; June 9.
 Alto, Charles; 50533; Allegheny Co.; May 25.
 Altocavitch, Pauline; 50447; Somerset Co.; May 31.
 Altomos, Eugene I.; 92826; E. Stroudsburg; Sept. 16.
 Alten, ———; 10222; Pittsburgh; Jan. 7.
 Alton, Gale A.; 108828; Pittsburgh; Oct. 26.
 Alton, George; 114270; Allegheny Co.; Nov. 27.
 Alton, Isabelle; 30647; Fayette Co.; Mar. 8.
 Alton, John; 124595; Gilberton; Dec. 17.
 Alton, William G.; 85993; St. Clair; Aug. 15.
 Altopiesli, Maria D.; 131159; Phila.; Dec. 24.
 Altshuler, Jacob A.; 46644; Pittsburgh; Apr. 10.
 Altzman, George L.; 192981; Beaver Falls; Oct. 23.
 Altwood, John; 11223; Phila.; Jan. 22.
 Aluska, Adam; 126548; Mt. Carmel; Dec. 16.
 Alvertl, Paul; 98959; Pittsburgh; Sept. 20.
 Alvey, Clarinda; 87027; Washington Co.; Aug. 29.
 Alvino (stillborn); 129317; Vintondale; Dec. 14.
 Alvino, ———; 45621; Vintondale; Apr. 2.
 Alvino, Davis (stillborn); 38; Allegheny Co.; Jan. 8.
 Alvino, Jennie; 45623; Vintondale; Apr. 8.
 Alvord, Samuel; 52921; Dauphin Co.; May 4.
 Alwine, Hattie E.; 19795; Beaver Co.; Feb. 21.
 Alwine, Phillip; 29072; Harrisburg; Mar. 31.
 Alwine, Sarah; 103772; Ferndale; Oct. 28.
 Alwood, Alice R.; 52570; Hanover; May 26.
 Alzeroska, Helen; 108839; Pittsburgh; Oct. 13.
 Alzn, Mary; 113317; Duquesne; Nov. 7.
 Amacher, Ellen A.; 32397; Ridgway; Mar. 8.
 Amacher, Fredrick; 20418; Ridgway; Feb. 25.
 Amacuteci, ———; 28136; Erie; Mar. 1.
 Amalfatina, Victoria; 79318; Altoona; Aug. 8.
 Amalong, Effie J.; 75521; Wilkingsburg; July 28.
 Amalong, Hannah B.; 6395; Westmoreland Co.; Jan. 28.
 Aman, Dorris; 109655; Phila.; Oct. 30.
 Amand, John S.; 3611; Indiana Co.; Jan. 18.
 Amando, Pasqualina; 64006; New Castle; June 23.
 Amanto, Dominick; 92895; Johnstown; Sept. 21.
 Amati, Andy; 80172; Westmoreland Co.; Aug. 6.

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Death index entry for Mary "Alzn" (should be "Alzo"). A copy of the death certificate can be ordered by using the information found, in particular, the State File number.

CONCLUSION

If the Keystone State is central to your family history, and you've yet to track down vital records information on one or more of your ancestors, then you'll want to dive in and take advantage of these new free online indices.

IG

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

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20 Groups You Should Follow on Twitter!



ARE YOU USING TWITTER? The social media website Twitter is a great tool for genealogists. Microblogging provides a forum for researchers to spread the word about ancestors they are researching, read what other individuals and organizations are doing as well as attend conferences and society meetings virtually. Not sure who to follow on Twitter? Here's a list of 20 groups genealogists should look into as they build their list of accounts to follow.

LIBRARIES

Newberry Library

@NewberryLibrary. According to their website, The Newberry Library, www.newberry.org, located in Chicago, has actively collected research and reference materials since their founding in 1887. Their Genealogy Collections, www.newberry.org/genealogy-and-local-history,

www.internet-genealogy.com

includes genealogies, local histories, source material, military records, electronic records and periodicals. Following libraries with large genealogy collections, like the Newberry, can be advantageous to your research.

The Library of Congress

@librarycongress. Probably one of those libraries that isn't explored enough by genealogists, the Library of Congress www.loc.gov/index.html has all kinds of resources to help you with your research. Along with tweeting what's new at the Library, there are also tweets involving historical events. As you research don't forget the multitude of resources the Library provides, including the books, maps and images found in their American Memory website, <http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/index.html>.

New York Public Library

@NYPL. I know, I know, you're thinking why should I follow the New York Public Library, www.nypl.org, I don't have New York research? Well, neither do I, but libraries and archives collect items that far outreach the scope of their local area. The New York Public Library has great digitized collections, www.nypl.org/online_projects, that can help with your ancestor's social history. The New York Public Library makes it easy to ask them a reference question, their phone number for phone calls or texts is part of their Twitter profile description. Better yet, ask your question in a tweet to them.

ARCHIVES

The National Archives (USA)

@USNatArchives. One of my goals as a researcher is to get to know the collections of the National Archives, www.archives.gov, beyond the ones most used by family historians. By following the National Archives on Twitter, you learn more about history and the documents that tell the history of America and, ultimately, your ancestor. Learn more about documents, exhibits, events, documents and articles in the National Archives' excellent magazine *Prologue*.

National Archives UK

@UKNatArchives. It makes sense that if you are research-

20 Twitter Groups You Should Follow

ing an ancestor in a different country, you should become knowledgeable of the sources and repositories in that country. For those with English roots, the UK National Archives, www.nationalarchives.gov.uk, is a must. With documents that cover 1,000 years of history, it can seem like a daunting task to learn about their collections. That's why following them on Twitter can help even the most advanced researcher.

WEBSITES

Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter

@dickeastman. As a recent member of a conference panel discussing blogs, we were asked what blog did we first start reading. Without hesitation, half of the panel replied Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter. There's no doubt that most genealogists are familiar with Dick Eastman's Newsletter. EOGN has been the stable of genealogist's everyday reading since 1996. Breaking stories about the industry, websites, technology and more can be found each and every day on the EOGN blog, http://blog.eogn.com/eastmans_online_genealogy. Can't wait for your daily dose of EOGN? Follow Dick Eastman on Twitter for notice of stories as they are added to the blog.

History Pin

@Historypin. History Pin, www.historypin.com, is one of my favorite new websites. Its initial premise, "pinning" photos to a map, is not that unique. But this is a researcher's spin on pinning photos to a map by including historical photos,

and many repositories are joining in including Archives New Zealand, City of Vancouver Archives, National Archives UK, the National Archives (US), Kansas City Public

In-Depth Genealogy

@indepthgen. In-Depth Genealogy, www.theindepthgenealogist.com, is a new online newsletter featuring genealogists writing on a variety of



Library and many more. Check them out on Twitter to learn about pinned photos. If you love vintage images, this is a great way to find them based on location.

GenealogyIndexer

@gindexer. According to their website, GenealogyIndexer, <http://genealogyindexer.org>, is in beta and provides full-text and soundex searching on important genealogy resources. They provide search capabilities on 250,000 pages of historical European directories. This search also includes "28,000 pages of 64 yizkor books (memorials to Jewish communities destroyed during the Holocaust)" and Polish records including "11,000 pages of lists of Polish military officers, 32,000 pages of community and personal histories", as well as "12,000 pages of Polish secondary school annual reports." Tweets alert users to new searchable data.

topics, including maps, kids and genealogy, heritage travel, and other genealogical specific topics. The brainchild of genealogists Stephanie Pitcher Fishman, Terri O'Connell and Jennifer Holik, In-Depth "strives to provide useful and interesting information for genealogists of all levels." I love how this group brings together a variety of writers and allows their readers to learn based on a broad spectrum of experience. Tweets provide updates on new articles and when the monthly newsletter is available.

Newspaper Abstracts

@NewsAbs. Newspaper Abstracts, www.newspaperabstracts.com, is a volunteer-driven website where genealogists share transcriptions of newspaper articles. The website states that it grows by over 1,000 articles each month and currently has close to 95,000 pages of content. Newspaper

20 Twitter Groups You Should Follow

articles are from the United States, Canada, Ireland, Scotland, Australia, England, Norway and Wales. Tweets provide a look at articles on the website.

Click Americana

@[click_americana](#). Click Americana, <http://clickamericana.com>, is another of my favorite new websites. It gives you a glimpse of social history through “culling old records, revisiting old news stories, discovering long-lost recipes, and dusting off photographs and drawings from the past.” This website is browseable by era, holidays and seasons, recipes, and topics. I love the old recipes, the information about women’s fashions and hair-styles is equally interesting and will help those interested in dat-

blogspot.com. While their blog has some great history stories, their tweets contain links to history postings all over the web. And let me tell you, this isn’t your father’s history, this is the everyday life of your everyday ancestors. They have tweeted about everything from British coal mining women of the 19th century (who says that coal miners were only men?) to Victorian fashion to the history of the broom. No doubt, they are a must follow for every genealogist.

Retronaut

@[theretronaut](#). Retronaut, www.retronaut.co, is a great website for vintage images. Search by time period, starting with the 1800s. These images are everything from actual photos to other types of image media.

2011/07/suffragette-surveillance-1913. The tagline for this website is “the past is a foreign country, this is your passport.” These images can remind you what the “good old days” were really like.

SUBSCRIPTION SERVICES

One of the ways subscribers and even non-subscribers can get the latest information about a genealogy website is by following them on social media sites. Utilize Twitter to hear the latest from subscription websites, ask questions and even participate in educational chats.

Ancestry.com

@[Ancestrydotcom](#). There’s a lot to like about Ancestry.com on Twitter. Not only will you hear the latest about the website, but you can ask questions and take part in Twitter chats. Look for the hashtag #acomchat used during Twitter chats. Chats are announced via tweets.

Fold3

@[fold3](#). Fold3, www.fold3.com, formerly known as Footnote, the website bills itself as the “web’s premier collection of original US military records.” With records from the Revolutionary War to the Vietnam War, it’s easy to understand why this should be one of your first stops in checking for an ancestor’s military records. Their Twitter feed is an excellent place to learn more about records just added and facts about various wars. Updated regularly, tweets will help you get to know more about the records available on Fold3.



ing 19th century photographs. Follow them on Twitter to learn what has just been added to this wonderful collection.

Two Nerdy History Girls

@[2NerdyHistGirls](#). Writers Loretta Chase and Susan Holloway Scott are the Two Nerdy History Girls, <http://twonerdyhistorygirls>.

Some of my favorite collections include New Orleans Business Directory, 1889, www.retronaut.co/2012/03/new-orleans-business-directory-1889, the Invisible Mother (Cabinet Cards where moms are hidden behind rugs and blankets), www.retronaut.co/2011/10/the-invisible-mother, and Suffragette Surveillance 1913 www.retronaut.co/

20 Twitter Groups You Should Follow

My Heritage

@MyHeritage. What started as a website to upload and share family trees has grown to include the acquisition of genealogy subscription website WorldVitalRecords. Check out the Twitter page for My Heritage, www.myheritage.com, to learn the latest with the company, including announcements about webinars.

GenealogyBank

@GenealogyBank.

Subscription website GenealogyBank, www.genealogybank.com/gbnk/, touts over 1 billion historical records online, including newspapers from 1690 to present day. As with any vendor, follow the GenealogyBank Twitter account for the latest information about new content and website improvements.



Accessible Archives

@accessarchives. Accessible Archives, www.accessible-archives.com is not as well-known as other subscription websites, but that doesn't mean that they lack content that can help with your research. Their database includes African American newspapers, Godey's Lady's Book, County Histories, and Civil War publications. Tweets include links to content available from the website.



British Newspaper Archive

@BNArchive. A partnership between brightsolid (the company behind FindMyPast) and the British Library, British Newspaper Archive, www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk, is working on digitizing 40 million newspaper pages. Their website lists all newspaper titles and years available to search.



WikiTree

@Wikitreeonline.

Collaborative family tree website WikiTree, www.wikitree.com, has 3.6 million profiles and more than 48,000 users. WikiTree Evangelist Elyse Doerflinger says that WikiTree

uses its Twitter account to “post general research tips & tricks about using WikiTree, as well as success stories from our users.” “We also ask our users for suggestions or critiques on the site and take those very seriously — doing our best to add features users want and improving the site.”

WHAT ELSE?

Looking for even more Twitter accounts to follow? Make sure to check out who your friends are following, as well as suggestions that Twitter makes about accounts to follow. Hashtags such as #genealogy or #familyhistory may also provide useful information. Don't forget to look for the Twitter icon or social media buttons the next time you are on a favorite website or blog.



Gena Philibert-Ortega is the author of From the Family Kitchen: Discover Your Food Heritage and Preserve Favorite Recipes, visit <http://foodfamilyphemera.blogspot.com>.

Rooting Out Scots Ancestors Online

FOR CENTURIES, SCOTLAND HAS been an exporter of people. The number of Scots who emigrated to Sweden, Poland, North America, the Caribbean, India, Australia and all points in between is incalculable. For the period 1825 to 1938 alone, over 2.3 million Scots emigrated. Although approximately one-third of these emigrants returned home, two-thirds remained abroad. Due to this extensive diaspora, it is estimated that between 20 and 40 million people worldwide claim Scottish Ancestry. Consequently, at least 20 to 40 million individuals may be looking for their Scottish roots.

There are several internet sites that are excellent sources for finding Scottish roots: Ancestry (www.ancestry.com), Family Search ([\[search.org\]\(http://search.org\)\), Find My Past \(\[www.findmypast.com\]\(http://www.findmypast.com\)\), and ScotlandsPeople \(\[www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk\]\(http://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk\)\). There are many good resources that explain how to use these sites. But what if you don't understand what you find? Some words you know, because they are clearly written in English; but others look slightly odd, and their meaning is unclear. Other documents, particularly those written before 1750, might appear illegible. Or the source in hand mentions a place that seems so odd you're not even sure it is on planet Earth, let alone in Scotland. Perhaps the document mentions an historical event that you're not familiar with, or you've simply become curious about what it was like to be a woman living in Scotland in](http://www.family</p></div><div data-bbox=)

the nineteenth century. The internet sites outlined in this article will help answer these questions.

Language

The first problem you will likely face is interpreting the letters on the page in front of you. Even if you put the letters together into a word, like wean, it still won't make sense if you don't know what a "wean" is. Generally, the unfamiliar terms will be legal, archaic, or Scots. A related difficulty is not even being able to decipher the letters, let alone turn them into a word. It may seem like half the letters look Greek. Luckily, there are several online sources to assist with language issues.

ScotlandsPeople has three excellent glossaries to help you



Monumental inscriptions, like these in the kirkyard at Moy Parish church, are not the only way to track down your Scottish ancestors. (Courtesy of author)

Rooting Out Scots Ancestors Online

figure out words and phrases. Click on Research Tools on the Help & Resources tab and on the right hand side, in a green column, you will find a Glossary heading. Here, there are links to Medical Terms (actually at the Hall Genealogy Page, <http://rmhh.co.uk/medical.html>), Unusual Words (including abbreviations and legal phrases), and Occupations. While these glossaries were developed in conjunction with their Wills and Testaments Collection, they are applicable to other documents. From these lists, you can learn that wean means a small child. Another, more extensive, glossary of terms is available at the Scottish Archive Network (www.scan.org.uk/researchrtools/glossary.htm).

If these glossaries do not provide an answer, or you simply want to learn more about a Scots word, you can search the Dictionary of the Scots Language (www.dsl.ac.uk), an electronic edition of the Dictionary of the Older Scottish Tongue and Scottish National Dictionary. I searched for loch, slekit, muckle and quhat (lake, sleek, large, and what). Simply type in your search, and hit enter. The program will return the word, variations of the word, or suggestions if it didn't recognize what you searched for. Each entry includes word origins and examples of its use across the centuries.

If handwriting is the problem, ScotlandsPeople offers Handwriting Help, which can be found just under the Glossary section under Research Tools. Handwriting Help has information on reading letters, words, weights & measures, produce, and money.

For additional help they recommend Scottish Handwriting (www.scottishhandwriting.com). This site, a project of the National Records of Scotland (formerly the National Archives of Scotland), provides online tutorials in reading Scottish Handwriting, primarily for the period 1500 to 1750. Start with the "Basic Tutorial" an introduction to Secretary Hand used in administrative and business documents across Western Europe. This tutorial will tell you that what looks like the Greek letter theta, θ , is really the letter e.

Places

Now that you have words, legal terms and occupations sorted, it's time to figure out the words you think refer to places. Locations may include counties, parishes, towns, cities, farms and natural features. Two sites that can help with this aspect of your research, The Gazetteer of Scotland and ScotlandsPlaces, will only return results for the

correct modern spelling of a place name. Deciphering the names of counties, parishes and cities will likely pose no problem. Lists of both are readily available and you can easily match up what is in your document with likely candidates from a modern list. Farm names will be trickier for three reasons: first, many no longer exist; second, Gaelic farm names have been inexpertly rendered into English; third, many farm names are common and found in more than one parish. The Gazetteer of Scotland has lists of features for each parish. If you can identify the parish that the farm is in, your mystery farm name might be similar to one on the list.

The Gazetteer for Scotland (www.scottish-places.info) is a geographical dictionary that can help you find locations in Scotland. You can search by map, timeline, or words. A map search will allow you to search by historic county, which will then display the sites for that



The Gazetteer of Scotland has lists of features for each parish. If you can identify the parish that the farm is in, your mystery farm name might be similar to one on the list.

Rooting Out Scots Ancestors Online



The National Library of Scotland's history education pages include several units specific to Scottish history, including Women's Suffrage, The Enlightenment, and Emigration.

is based around *Scotland's History*, the recent book and documentary series by Neil Oliver. Unfortunately, the video links to this series are not available to view in the United States, but at the bottom of the webpage are links to their history learning sites for students, including one on the Clearances.

An examination of these history websites will reveal that the parish records of Moy and Dalarossie Parish stopped being kept during the Jacobite Rising of 1745. September 15, 1745 was about two months after Bonnie Prince Charlie landed in Scotland and six days before the Battle of Prestonpans.

The Statistical Accounts of Scotland (<http://edina.ac.uk/stat-acc-scot>) are a great contemporary resource for learning about an ancestor's parish of origin. The first statistical account was the brainchild of Sir John Sinclair of Ulbster, who sent out questionnaires to every parish minister in Scotland and

then cajoled them into returning the responses. The first series of Accounts were published between 1791 and 1799. A second series was compiled between 1834 and 1845. These reports, which vary in depth and detail, offer a snapshot of Scotland during their respective time periods and offer insight into a variety of topics, including housing, agriculture, religion and local customs.

It is possible to subscribe to the Statistical Accounts for as little as £10 for two months, which will allow you to search the Accounts as well as copy and paste from the documents. But since you probably already know which parish you want to read about, simply browsing the scanned images for free is a good option. From the logon page, scroll down to the box labeled "non-subscribers" and click on "Browse scanned images". From this search page, you may search by parish or see all the parishes in a particular county and then choose from the list. A search for

Riccarton revealed a report from each of the Statistical Accounts. From the 19th century account, I learned that the oldest kirk session and registers of births and marriages were preserved solely due to the efforts of the "present session-clerk, Mr. W. Hood."

If you are one of the 20 to 40 million people in the world searching the internet for your Scottish roots, you likely face hurdles, not because you can't find an ancestor, but because you can't read or understand a document. These internet sites will provide tools to help you decipher hard to read handwriting, understand unfamiliar words, find strange-sounding places, and identify historical events relevant to an ancestor's experience.



Amanda Epperson holds a PhD in history and an MA in art history. In addition to writing, she maintains The Scottish Emigration Blog. She is currently adapting her dissertation on Scotch Settlement for publication.

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Genealogy at a Glance: U.S. Federal Census Records

Federal censuses have been taken every ten years since 1790. They are the best known and most commonly used of all genealogical records and have the unique ability to identify virtually anyone born in the last 250 years. Because they are so extensive, the careful researcher should be able to find almost every individual and family being sought.



But where are these records located? How do you access them and how do you use them? Moreover, with such a wealth of information as name, age, sex, birthplace, and family relationships, what are their limitations? These questions and more are answered by professional genealogist Kory Meyerink.

Today, most census research is conducted online, with census images and indexes available from both subscription-based and non-subscription-based websites. Not all websites have a complete collection of census records, of course, and Meyerink identifies the censuses that are available from each website and the nature of the indexes, which are usually linked to the online image of the census page where the individual appears. (All censuses older than 72 years have been indexed, and the recently released 1940 census is in process of being indexed.) This four-page laminated folder also provides 1) tips for research, 2) a list of the best books for further reference, 3) instructions for online research, 4) a bulleted list of census search strategies, and 5) a description of the major online resources for census research. ISBN: 9780806319605. Item #: GPC3874. Price: \$12.95 ppd. Available from **Genealogical Publishing Company**, 3600 Clipper Mill Road, Ste 260, Baltimore, Maryland 21211. Toll free: 1-800-296-6687, website: www.genealogical.com.

CLASSIFIEDS

IRELAND - Genealogist based in Dublin, Ireland, provides family research. Also searches for documents for **Irish Citizenship/Passport**. Online ordering. Contact Hilda McGauley, M.Sc., M.A.P.G.I., of Records Ireland. E-mail: roots@recordsireland.ie. Website: www.recordsireland.ie.

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It's Your Library: Use It, Or Lose It!



IT'S ODD, IN A WAY. AT A TIME when governments around the world seem committed to cutting funding for libraries and archives, family historians are using the resources from those government-funded institutions more than ever. There's a catch, though. We are using material that has been collected and preserved by these institutions — which were funded using money from taxpayers — without leaving our homes.

That's one of the benefits of the Internet age, this chance to update our family trees while wearing slippers, listening to music and quenching our thirst. And we can do this whenever we want; our work is not confined to the opening hours of the libraries and archives the way it once was.

Who needs the hassle of leaving the house, dealing with traffic and finding parking? We can find what we want on the web, on sites run by government agencies or by commercial interests. We are living in a digital wonderland, and our family trees have never been easier to expand.

But there is a downside to this, and it's a big one. We are sending the message that these venerable institutions, the sources of so much information for us, are no longer needed.

Check the reading rooms, and you'll see what I mean. Not that long ago, it was next to impossible to find a spot to sit,

and we had to reserve time on the microfilm machines. Now, the crowds are gone, and the machines are gathering dust. Even the greatest family history library of them all — you know, the one across from Temple Square in Salt Lake City — has seen a significant drop in traffic, and has cut its hours. We're finding so much online, it seems, we don't see the need to head to Utah.



Many libraries and archives have cut hours and reduced service. And if the politicians have their way, there will be even more cutting — and that will translate into reduced access to not only the records these institutions hold, but also the trained professionals who know how to use them properly. But no government has an unlimited pool of money, and there are hundreds of competing demands from taxpayers. What's easier to cut than services that seem to be fading anyway?

The irony is that the material we use online would not be available if not for the efforts of dedicated librarians and archivists. They fuelled that wave of Internet resources, that wave that is looking more and more like a tsunami aiming straight for the very same libraries and archives.

Keep in mind that much, much more could be in digital form — but money is needed to make it happen.

What can we do?

Let's start with a commitment to devote some research time to the physical resources, even if it means taking time from the virtual ones. Let's go back to some of the libraries we used to haunt, and make more visits to the archives and their rich storehouses of documents.

This will show that we care, but it might also help our research as well. As much as we'd like to think it's all on the Internet, it's not. We still have a lot to gain by showing our faces in libraries and archives.

We need to make it hard for anyone to justify cuts to libraries and archives. So let's get back in the habit of using these places from time to time.



*Dave Obee is the author of several genealogical guides, as well as **The Library Book: A History of Service to British Columbia.***

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