

Net Notes

VOICI MA FAMILLE/THAT'S MY FAMILY

www.voicimafamille.info www.thatismyfamily.info

THIS SEARCH TOOL, free of charge and available in French and in English, links to genealogy and family history databases hosted by Canadian federal, provincial or territorial archives centers and libraries, or by other partners. It was launched and is maintained by *Bibliothèque et Archives nationales du Québec* (BANQ), and is managed by Library and Archives Canada (LAC).

When searching, you can choose to search one database (e.g., Federal sources, Quebec, etc), or you can search as you want (e.g., Federal sources AND Quebec AND Nova Scotia) by checking all those of interest. Previously you had to visit each of these websites separately.

Once you have identified which sources are of interest, enter a surname. If your query is more complex, (e.g., a name and a specific town), there is also an advanced search option.

The results will include an overview of all matches sorted by topic (e.g. name), along with a comprehensive list of matches that tells you what title/name was found, gives you an overview of the record and tells you the "score" that the record

achieved as an indication of how good a match it may be for your criteria. Additionally, an overview of the collections where results were not found is given.

You are not given only exact matches for the name you entered, (e.g., Sivunen). Results for relevant name variants, (e.g., Sivonen, Siven, Stefanson), are also given.



If you see an entry in either the sorted list or the linear list that interests you, click on the entry and you will be taken to the appropriate source database where you can view the entire entry. Otherwise, for each entry in the overview, you can click on "snapshot", which takes you to a more detailed description of the data as well as the URL of the source information. Most Quebec

archival material is summarized in French, though much of the Anglican material is in English.

With this search interface, "fishing" for ancestors in Canada has just gotten easier. — DIANE L. RICHARD

NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND RECORDS ADMINISTRATION

www.archives.gov/

THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES and Records Administration (NARA) will be partnering with subscription services to digitize the records. These records are currently available for free in NARA research rooms, and will eventually be made accessible free of charge on the NARA website. However, there are some NARA documents already available online for free!

Digital Vaults, <http://www.digitalvaults.org/#>, is a collection of documents and images of historical significance. Each one is "tagged" so that you can search a tag or use keywords to find items. When I chose the "North Carolina" tag, I found a document labeled "Report of Plantations Leased ...". The full title is actually "Report of Plantations Leased by D. Heaton, Sup'v of Special Agent Ora O. Kelsia, Ass't Special Agent in the Counties of New Hanover and

Brunswick, State of North Carolina, at Wilmington, NC from March 8th 1865 to July 21st 1865", which was a report of abandoned and confiscated land leased by the Freedman's Bureau.

Access to Archival Databases — Genealogy/Personal History, <http://aad.archives.gov/aad/series-list.jsp?cat=GP21,22,23,24,44>, currently lists 21 separate document collections.

Online Exhibits, <http://www.archives.gov/exhibits/>, is a great place to gain some perspective on some key events or time periods.

There are also interesting NARA videos that are available via Google, <http://video.google.com/nara.html>.

So, don't wait to start searching those NARA records! — DIANE L. RICHARD

ANCESTRYBANK

www.ancestrybank.com/index.php

OFTEN, RESEARCH RELIES on obscure and hard to find original documents, usually held by descendants. Serendipity, along with exhaustive research, is needed to locate these key original documents and get access to them. AncestryBank is attempting to help with this through its large web-based archive of manuscript images and transcripts from private sources. The "one of a kind" documents range from personal letters to deeds to anything handwritten before 1885.

The purpose of the website is to make available any document owned by an individual that has genealogical information. These documents are scanned and transcribed so that researchers can find information about an ancestor that would have been missing if it didn't exist in government archives. The images on this site are not located anywhere else on the web.

Research can sometimes be stymied by "hearing" that a family bible or series of letters exist and yet not being able to figure who actually has these in their possession, never mind gaining access to the contents. The information in personal documents such as these can be invaluable!

Archiving documents takes time and effort, and it's often hard to know how to get started. AncestryBank provides people who own original manuscripts (e.g., letters, deeds, debt issuances, etc.) an opportunity to earn money from those documents. By uploading a high resolution (i.e., readable) image

of a document, as well as an optional transcript of what is written on it, a person can earn money every time an image of their document is purchased.

If you have struggled with how to make information available to other researchers, and don't want to manage a website or send out such information via the mail, AncestryBank now provides you with a simple means of making documents available to other researchers while you receive some remuneration for doing so.

Have a large collection of pre-1886 handwritten documents that you would like to make available, but don't have the time to deal with them? AncestryBank can help people with large collections get their documents archived. If you have such a collection and are interested in making these documents available, get in touch with them about help to scan/archive what you have.

People can also offer rewards to encourage help in solving their genealogy brickwalls! This was the original UnsolvedAncestry website. This feature allows people to pay exactly how much they want to pay for definitive answers to any questions they might have about their family history.

Whether you have documents that will help solve the brickwalls of others or need one of your own brickwall issues solved, AncestryBank is the website for you. — DIANE L. RICHARD

ANTIETAM NATIONAL CEMETERY PAYROLL, 1866-67

www.whilbr.org/AntietamCemeteryPayroll/index.aspx

THE ANTIETAM NATIONAL Cemetery was established to contain the remains of Union soldiers from the nearby Battle of Antietam in Sharpsburg, Washington County, Maryland.

Note that not all the names associated with the cemetery are those buried there. Now online is the Antietam National Cemetery Payroll, 1866-1867, which contains scanned images and transcriptions of the financial accounts of the cemetery during the period when the wall around the cemetery was being constructed. These names appear to be those of the cemetery laborers, stone cutters and coping workers.

The information provided includes date, name, rate, wages and who received the payment and encom-



passes both skilled and unskilled labor.

There is no identification in the book, but since the handwriting is identical to that used in Dr. Biggs' Day Books and office ledgers, it is believed that he was the keeper of these records. Dr. Augustin A. Biggs was a Sharpsburg physician and the first President and Superintendent of the Antietam National Cemetery.

If your ancestor was a laborer in the Sharpsburg area during this time period, you may find that he helped construct the wall surrounding the Antietam National Cemetery.

— DIANE L. RICHARD