

Net Notes

FAMILYRELATIVES *www.familyrelatives.com*

FAMILYRELATIVES has expanded its offerings! Previously, I have always known this website as a source for UK records, but it now has US records, the ability for you to create an online family tree, a social networking component and so much more!

Let's start with the UK records. Though you have some search capabilities when not a member, to fully access these records, you have the option of a membership (\$75 US) or pay per view (ranging from \$9.75 to \$23.50 US). I recommend the latter if your needs are specific and limited.

- Official GRO Birth, Death, Marriage Indexes, 1837-2005
- Overseas Birth, Death, Marriage Indexes, 1761-1994 (these can be browsed and viewed for free)
- WWI — Army, Royal Navy, 1914-1918
- Soldiers who died in the Great War, 1914-1921
- WWII — Army, Royal Navy, Royal Air Force, 1939-1948
- Parish records, more than 1,500 parishes 1538-1837

Note that you can always quickly tell whether you are accessing the available record or one that is part of the subscription/pay per view services. For the latter, if you are not authorized to access the information, your search results will typically list relevant names and no further details and you won't be able to "view" the associated image.

For the Official GRO indices, a nice feature is the inclusion of fully transcribed records for 1866-1920 and 1984-2005 and the ability to fully search the indices. Historically, the GRO indices only allowed

you to search on the first three letters of a surname, necessitating finding your person manually in the indices to then identify the specific birth/marriage/death record needed. Additionally, the search function includes features like "Marriage Match", "Maiden Name" and "Age at Death" to help more quickly and accurately narrow your search.

Recent additions include 1830s Pigot's Historical Occupational Trade Directories for 27 Counties and coming soon are census records for England and Wales, and school registers.

You also have access to select US records for free. Note that these records are available elsewhere on the Internet though, in various locations.

- Irish Immigration records, 1846-1850
- Social Security Death Index
- California Births (1905-1995) and Deaths
- Texas Marriages and Divorces
- Maine Marriages and Deaths
- WWII — Enlistment and Prisoners of War records
- Korean War — Prisoners of War and Casualties

And don't forget to try out the ability to create (and share) an online family tree, as well as the various social networking options now available. Related to these two newer options are features where you can add a comment to any transcribed record and become part of history. You can also explore an Age Distribution map for England and Wales. You select a period, type in your surname and find out in which county your ancestors lived the longest. It appears that for the surname Richard, I could live to 103 in West Sussex! — DIANE L. RICHARD

BLOODLINES OF SALEM *www.bloodlinesofsalem.org/*

THE SALEM WITCH Trials have always been fascinating to me. My first exposure to them was the play "The Crucible", as one of those required high school reading assignments! Then, as I pursued my genealogy, another link was made when I learned that my father was born in Salem, Massachusetts, (though more than 200 years after the witch trials occurred).

Now, the website Bloodlines of Salem has come online as a place where visitors can share ideas and information about the Salem Witch Trials of 1692, its participants and their families.

Although the trials unfolded more than three centuries ago, they continue to feature in the studies of history, law and religion.



Many have researched and proved descents from one or more of the participants. The purpose is not only to share lineages and to celebrate their memories, but to examine the mysteries that continue to fascinate new generations of their families and the public.

The history page, www.bloodlinesofsalem.org/HISTORY.HTM, is the one most directly applicable to genealogists — in addition to a timeline and an overview of daily life, there is also a list of participants, such as officials, plaintiffs and defendants.

Whether you have an ancestral connection to this period in Salem's history or a fascination with it, this website informs and reminds us of this controversial historical period. — DIANE L. RICHARD