

First Things First...

Genealogy News You Can Use!

Worth a Closer Look!

- *Family Tree Magazine* produces an annual list of the 101 Best Websites — it is always worth checking out, <http://www.familytreemagazine.com/101bestwebsites08/>. You may find that in the past year, a new website was revealed, an existing website greatly improved or be reminded that an old favorite needs to be revisited!

• Greene County OH has indexed and digitized four volumes of birth records kept by the local probate court from 1869 to 1909, <http://www.greenelibrary.info/Collections-and-Resources/Birth-Records-1869-1909.html>. You can first search for a particular name and then view digitized images of the found entries.

• Trails of Hope: Overland Diaries and Letters, 1846-69, <http://overlandtrails.lib.byu.edu/>, is a collection of the original writings of 49 voyagers on the Mormon, California, Oregon and Montana trails who wrote while traveling on the trail. Accompanying the original diary images and their searchable transcripts are 43 contemporary

maps, seven trail guides, four essays on the Mormon and California trails, maps and trail guides, etc.

- Yad Vashem (located in Jerusalem, a Jewish memorial to those who did not survive the Holocaust) has placed photo archives online. This searchable



photo archive includes some 130,000 images and can be viewed at www6.yad.vashem.org/wps/portal/photo?lang=en&homepage=true

- The Beverley Davis Burial Data website, (known as the BD_BD), <http://www.bd-bd.info>, is the online resource for information about Jewish burials at all cemeteries within Australasia and Oceania, plus Australian War graves. This online resource builds on the extraordinary efforts of Mrs. Beverley Davis, who, over 28 years, visited hundreds of cemeteries. With the support of Australian Jewish Historical Society members, Davis transcribed headstones, including the Hebrew (Ivrit) inscriptions, to collect more than 48,000 entries, all of which are now available.

The Desperate Genealogist's Idea Book

This 150 page e-book, available for purchase on the Dead Fred website, <http://www.deadfred.com/ideabook/>, is packed with articles and case studies that reveal invaluable tips, shortcuts, resources and even step-by-step instructions on how to use overlooked research tools, conduct specialized searches and tackle brickwalls with sheer ingenuity.

If you are feeling "desperate", this may be the book for you!

Australian Newspapers Coming Online!

A beta version of the Australian Newspapers service, <http://ndpbeta.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/home>, recently launched with 70,000 pages, including these titles: *The Argus*, *The Brisbane Courier*, *The Canberra Times*, *The Courier-Mail*, *The Mercury*, *The Perth Gazette* and *Western Australian Journal* and *The Sydney Gazette*, among others! Eventually, this free service will enable full-text searching of newspapers from each state and territory from the 1800s to the mid-1950s.

Exciting Online Map Projects

The Historical Maps Online project is electronically publishing the images of maps charting the last 400 years of historical development in Illinois and the Northwest Territory. You can search on the maps or browse them topically. Check out this neat collection of maps at [http://images.library.uiuc.edu/](http://images.library.uiuc.edu/projects/maps/index.html)

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The New York Public Library (NYPL), http://digitalgallery.nypl.org/nypldigital/explore/dgexplore.cfm?topic=history&col_id=149, has an online digital gallery, "Charting North America: Maps from the Lawrence H. Slaughter Collection and Others" which contains more than 1,000 digitized

maps of North America from the earliest printed portrayals to the close of the 19th century; multiple versions and editions allow for historical comparisons. This collection is complemented by NYPL's collection of digitized atlases, whose content is listed at <http://drupal02.nypl.org/blogs/2008/01/17/state-county-city-atlases>.



FTM 2009 Available!
If you are using Family Tree Maker 2008 and have been frustrated, relief has arrived! Ancestry has released FTM 2009. All those who registered their copy of FTM 2008 will receive FTM 2009 for free! And, if you have been waiting to purchase FTM, now is the time. Based on their experience with FTM 2008, more than 300 beta testers were used to ensure that FTM 2009 works at top efficiency.

1916 Census of Canadian Provinces Released

The 1916 Census of the Western Provinces (Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta) is now available at Library and Archives Canada. The self-serve microfilm reels (reels T-21925 to T-21956) are in the Microfilm Consultation room. Copies are also available for interlibrary loan; note that these records are NOT available via the internet. Only the named provinces participated in the census. More about Canada and its censuses can be found at <http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/genealogy/022-911-e.html>.

5,000 Historic Photos of China, Digitized and Online

From 1908 to 1932, Sidney Gamble visited China four times, traveling throughout the country to collect data for social-economic surveys and to photograph urban and rural life, public events, architecture, religious statuary and the countryside. These photos are now available for online viewing at <http://library.duke.edu/digitalcollections/gamble/>.

Want to Help Ensure Record Preservation and Access?

The Records Preservation and Access Committee (RPAC) is a joint committee sponsored by NGS (National Genealogical Society) and FGS (Federation of Genealogical Societies), which monitors state, federal and international regulations that affect preservation and access to public records. The RPAC committee includes representatives from the major national

genealogical groups. RPAC has published a trifold brochure to present the size of the genealogical community to legislators, address some of the myths about identity theft and present the key position points on open records.

A copy of the brochure can be downloaded and printed at <http://www.ngsgenealogy.org/RPACbrochure.pdf>.

Missing Relatives and Lost Friends?

This new book by Robert W. Barnes contains advertisements for missing relatives and lost friends from newspapers published in Maryland, Pennsylvania, Delaware and Virginia, as well as a few from New York and the District of Columbia. The newspaper issues begin in 1719 and run into the early 1800s. The bibliography lists all the newspapers and other sources examined in preparing the book. The volume references 1,325 notices that chronicle the appearance or disappearance of 1,566 persons. It can be purchased from www.genealogical.com.

World Digital Library (WDL)

The National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) has become a founding partner in the World Digital Library (WDL). NARA will contribute digital versions of documents from its collections to the WDL, which will be launched for the international public in early 2009. In addition to NARA and the Library of Congress, the WDL project partners include cultural institutions from Brazil, China, Egypt, Israel, Russia, Saudi Arabia and other countries. Information about the WDL can be found at www.worlddigitallibrary.org.

FamilySearch Establishes Two New Collaborations

1. With Ancestry.com to Enhance the Online US Federal Census Collection (1790-1930) Record Images and Indexes.
FamilySearch is digitally converting master microfilm copies of the original US Federal Censuses from 1790 through 1930 and, under this agreement, will give these improved images to Ancestry.com. Ancestry.com, which currently offers indexes and images for the entire publicly available US Federal Census Collection, will give FamilySearch copies of its existing census indexes. FamilySearch, which is already indexing select censuses, will merge the Ancestry.com indexes with its own indexes to create enhanced census indexes, which will be added to both sites. All census images and indexes will be available on Ancestry.com for

subscribers and for free in NARA reading rooms and at FamilySearch's 4,500 Family History Centers (FHCs).

2. With findmypast.com, Origins Network and The Federation of Family History Societies (FFHS) to broaden access to all the censuses (1841-1901) for England and Wales. FamilySearch, in conjunction with The Origins Network, will provide digital images for the 1851, 1871 and 1881 censuses. It will also extend the 1871 census index. Findmypast.com will provide FamilySearch copies of its English and Welsh Census indexes from 1841 to 1901. FFHS will help complete the index for the 1851 census. Users will be able to search the full indexes and view original images for free at an FHC or for a nominal fee at findmypast.com.

This Just In...

- If you are researching in Connacht Province, Ireland, check out the Connacht Landed Estates Project — an online database of the landed estates and gentry houses of Connacht, c.1700-91, <http://www.landedestates.ie/LandedEstates/jsp/index.jsp>.

- A Fond du Lac (WI) database indexes citations of many of the obituaries, funeral notices, marriages and milestone anniversaries published in area newspapers between 1846 and 1994, and June 2005 to recent issues. These can be accessed at <http://www.fdlpl.org/vital.html>.

- The 1881 Canadian Census is now available online at Library and Archives Canada, <http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/data/bases/census-1881/index-e.html>.

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- Ancestry now has a Chinese website at <http://www.jiapu.cn/>. *Jiapu* doesn't mean Ancestry, but is actually the Chinese word for genealogy, although family history is an acceptable translation as well.

- Ancestry and JewishGen formed a partnership designed to provide easier online access to millions of important Jewish historical documents.

JewishGen's collection of databases will be integrated and made available for free on Ancestry.com, making historical Jewish records more accessible.



A Plethora of Death Certificates Now Available Online!

Recent months have seen an explosion in the states for which digitized death certificates are now available online! It started with The Missouri State Archives, <http://www.sos.mo.gov/archives/resources/deathcertificates>, posting searchable images of digitized Missouri death certificates from 1910-57. The index can be searched by first name and last name,

county, and by year and month. Once a name is selected, a digitized image of the original certificate can be retrieved.

This was quickly followed by FamilySearch Labs making digitized images of Death Certificates for Georgia, Ohio, Philadelphia, Texas and Washington available with indices for Salt Lake City, Utah and West

Virginia, and death registers for Michigan. Additionally, Ancestry.com has posted death certificates for North Carolina (1909-75) and Kentucky (1911-53). The Arizona Department of Health Services has posted Arizona Death Certificates (1844-1957) while the Utah State Archives has posted its state death certificates from 1905 to 1956.

Luck O' the Irish!

Anyone who has done mid 19th century Irish research is aware of Griffith's Valuation; an invaluable resource given that census and other Irish records do not survive for this period.

A new website, http://lgriffiths.as.kaboutireland.ie/gv4/gv_family_search_form.php, goes a step further, providing surname and place name searches of Griffith's Valuation.

It features townland maps with the tenement numbers and lot boundaries overlaid. Better yet, the townland maps are linked to satellite images and modern highway map overlays!



Civil War Veterans 1885 Census, South Dakota State Archives <http://www.sdhhistory.org/arc/civilwar/1885.htm>. After the Civil War, some veterans of both the Union and Confederate armies moved to Dakota Territory. This index consists of census record sheets for a special census of Civil War veterans living in Dakota Territory (South Dakota) in 1885. Select other online databases of interest when researching SD ancestry are: Naturalization Records Index, Cemetery Records Index and the Biographical Index of South Dakotans (published biographies on prominent South Dakotans from roughly 1897 to 1930).

Database Updates

- Findmypast.com — Added the parish records from over 1,000 parishes across Britain, providing access to baptism, marriage and burial records dating as far back as 1538. When combined with the available divorce records, 1858 - 1903, you can now more easily recreate your British family tree!
- FamilySearch Labs — Continues to add records from around the world, including Lima Peru Civil Registration 1874 to 1930, Spanish Parish Records — Ciudad Rodrigo Diocese, US & UK Census Records, Florida and South Dakota State Census Records and much more every week!

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