

First Things First...

Genealogy News You Can Use!

W-W-Worth a Look!

• **British Library — Crace Collection of Maps of London**, <http://www.bl.uk/onlinegallery/onlineex/crace/>. It contains over 1200

printed and hand-drawn maps that document the development of London and the surrounding area from 1570-1860.

• **World War I: Centre for First World War Studies: Lions Led By Donkeys (England)**, <http://www.first-worldwar.bham.ac.uk/biogs.htm> — This website is devoted to presenting a weekly portrait of one of Britain's Western Front generals, of whom there were (at the last count) 1,257.

• **Contagion: Historical Views of Disease and Epidemic**, <http://ocp.hul.harvard.edu/contagion/> This is a digital library collection from Harvard University that brings together the Great Plague of London in 1665, Philadelphia's yellow fever epidemic and more epidemics from world history.

• **Early Advertising of the West, 1867-1918**, <http://content.lib.washington.edu/advertweb/index.html> — An incredible collection that includes more than 450 print ads from local magazines, city directories and theater

pamphlets from 1867 to 1918. Many of the advertisements shed light on the history and social conditions of the Pacific Northwest.



• **Kenosha County History: Images and Texts, 1830s-1940s**, <http://digicoll.library.wisc.edu/WW/subcollections/KenoshaLocHistAbout.html> —

Kenosha County Wisconsin has been transformed from an outpost of the Michigan Territory to an urbanized area that stretches south to Gary, Indiana. More than 100 years of images and texts can now be viewed for free online.

• **University of Wyoming Digital Collections**, <http://digital.uwyo.edu/> — The University of Wyoming has been working to digitize its vast collections. This great website provides one-stop access to all of the digital collections.

• **Spanish Script Tutorial from Brigham Young University**, <http://script.byu.edu/spanish/en/welcome.aspx> — This informative and easy-to-follow online tutorial will guide you in reading Latin American christening and marriage records written in Spanish.

National Archives to Open Personnel Files of OSS

The National Archives opened more than 35,000 personnel files of men and women who served in the Office of Strategic Services (OSS), which was the US wartime intelligence agency during WWII. The files cover civilian and military personnel who served and were later transferred, discharged, reassigned or died while in service prior to 1947. These records are available for research in the textual research room at the National Archives facility in College Park, <http://www.archives.gov/dc-metro/college-park/>.

Missouri Genealogy and Local History Index

The index provides access to the genealogy and local history holdings at the Missouri History Museum Library and Research Center, more than 225 sources. The index contains references to personal and corporate names (primarily St. Louisans and St. Louis businesses) that appear in selected libraries, archives and photograph collections. If you find a reference in the index, you may request a photocopy of the item. <http://www.mohistory.org/genealogy>.

Database Updates!

• **Genline**, www.genline.com, vital records 1898-1920 have now been added for the following counties: Gävleborg, Jönköping, Kalmar, Malmöhus, Södermanland, Västmanland, Örebro, Östergötland

• **FamilySearch**, <http://pilot.familysearch.org/recordsearch/start.html#>, has added WV, MI & IL vital records, SD state censuses for 1915 & 1925, Hungary Funeral Notices, 1840-1990 (mainly

Budapest), vital records for the Netherlands, Civil Registration Indexes for Ireland (1845-1958) and Germany baptisms, with many other projects completed and awaiting a final vetting.

• **Family Relatives**, www.familyrelatives.com, has added a collection of professional member lists, including the Engineers Who's Who and the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England & Wales 1923.

New Zealand Vital Records Online

An index to New Zealand birth, marriage and death historical records are now online at <http://bdmhistoricalrecords.identityservices.govt.nz/Home/>. Highlights include:

- Births that occurred at least 100 years ago.
- Stillbirths that occurred at least 50 years ago.
- Marriages and eventually, civil unions that occurred 80 years ago.

FamilySearch + Geographic Tools

In order to provide greater visual access to information in the Family History Library Catalog, geographically driven tools have been created to "plug" into the Google Earth, Google Maps and ArcReader applications. These plug-ins allow you to navigate by clicking through maps or searching based on approximate

addresses to view all the information the Family History Library Catalog has in its records regarding a specific county location. You can read all applicable instructions, and download these plug-ins by clicking on the "Resources" tab on the Standard Finder tool in FamilySearch Labs, <http://labs.familysearch.org/>.

San Francisco Mortuary Records Now Online!

SFGenealogy is in the process of indexing the Halsted Mortuary Records 1923-1960, <http://www.sfgenealogy.net/php/halstedsearch/halstedindex.php>. The database includes digitized images of 45,000-plus mortuary records along with an index. You can search on name and date of death. For the surname, you can choose from search options including Soundex, Metaphone, Double Metaphone and NYSIS. Note that the earlier 1835-1931 records are available via FamilySearch, <http://pilot.familysearch.org/recordsearch/start.html1385518;p=collectionDetails;t=searchable>.

Forgotten Patriots Book

This new and revised printing of *Forgotten Patriots: African American and American Indian Patriots in the Revolutionary War*, by the Daughters of the American Revolution, fills a large hole in African-American and Native American research. Each entry includes the name, race and place of residence for each known combatant. Entries are alphabetized by state. Each state entry begins with a short history of the Revolutionary War and its relation to African-American and Native American inhabitants of the area. Visit <http://www.dar.org/omni/shopping/shopping.html>.

Videos About Genetic Genealogy

A series of videos about genetic genealogy by Alastair Greenshields, founder of DNA Heritage are now available online at <http://www.videojug.com/tag/genealogy-tracing-your-dna>. The main page contains six videos that are broken down into two to eight chapters, which makes it easy to skip to the topics that are the most relevant to you. The titles are: Genetic Genealogy Terminology, Genetic Genealogy Defined, Tracing My Genetic Heritage, My Past, Giving DNA and Genetic Genealogy Results.

International Vital Records Handbook

We often need copies of birth, marriage or death certificates, but it gets confusing when the requirements and fees needed to obtain copies of vital records vary from state to state and from country to country. This book puts an end to all that, as it offers complete, up-to-date information on how and where to request vital records. It also includes copies of the application forms. This book can be purchased from Genealogical.com, www.genealogical.com, for \$49.95 US (plus S&H).

1911 UK Census Launched Online!

The 1911 census for England and Wales was taken on the night of 2 April 1911. The count included all individual households, plus institutions, such as prisons, workhouses, naval vessels and merchant vessels, and it also attempted to make an approximate count of the homeless. In common with the censuses that preceded it, it recorded the following information: where an individual lived, their age at the time of the census, who (what relatives) they were living with, their place of birth and occupation. Additionally, a unique feature of this census is that prior to 1911, the household schedules were destroyed once the details had been transferred into the enumerators' summary books. But for the 1911 census, both sets of records have been preserved, which means

you can see the census documents filled out in your ancestor's own hand (complete with mistakes and additional comments), in addition to the edited version in the enumerators' summary. Do note that women, frustrated with the government's refusal to grant women the vote, boycotted the 1911 census by refusing to be counted. There were two forms of protest. In the first, the women (or their husband) refused to fill in the form, often recording their protest to the enumerator. In the second, women evaded the census by staying away from their home for the whole night. In both cases, any details relating to individual women in the households will be missing from the census. The census is now online at <http://www.1911census.co.uk/>.

Google Adds More Digitized Newspapers!

PaperofRecord.com, <http://www.paperofrecord.com>, sold a 20 million newspaper page archive to Google, <http://news.google.com/archivesearch>, which includes a robust set of Canadian newspaper content, such as the *Quebec Chronicle-Telegraph* — the oldest newspaper in North America — as well as a number of interesting US newspapers.

First Things First is compiled by Diane L. Richard. E-mail Diane at dianerichard@mosaicrpm.com if there's a genealogy resource you'd like included!

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