

First Things First...

Genealogy News You Can Use!

Database Updates!

- **WorldVitalRecords.com** has expanded its *Quintin Collection* by adding 140 titles. Many books in the collection are midwestern American records from Illinois, Indiana and Iowa, and updates for Connecticut, New York, New Jersey and British records from Yorkshire, York, Surrey and Yarmouth. And, the Queensland (Australia) Electoral Rolls for 1903, 1913 and 1922 are now online.

- **Genealogy Bank.com** now offers access to the Social Security Death Index (SSDI) for free!

- **Footnote.com** — Civil War Widows' Pensions and a new service called *Footnote Pages*, are now available. The latter are living memorial pages for deceased individuals — started with 80 million pages based on those listed in the SSDI. And, there is a partnership to digitize and make available records related to Nebraska and The Homestead Act of 1862. These records, most of which have never been microfilmed, contain the names of those who petitioned the US Government for land. Those from the Broken



Bow Land Office are available.

- **Ancestry** has been busy with a focus on passenger lists. Two new collections make searching on migrating ancestors that much easier — Canadian Passenger Lists, 1865-1935 (one in three Canadians descended from immigrants listed in this collection) and UK Incoming Passenger Lists from 1878-1960. Additionally, there are plans to launch, in early 2009, 500 Years of London History via 77

Million Names! These records will include Parish records — records from more than 10,000 Greater London parish registers, Poor Law documents and London school admissions — records from 843 individual London schools.

- **Familysearch** continues to digitize and index new databases — the 1870 and 1920 US census, FL 1945 census, 1930 Mexico Census, 1869 Buenos Aires Census, Nicaragua Civil Records, UK Cheshire Poor Law, Trento Italy Baptism Records, Vermont Probate Files, Quebec Parish Registers, as well as German, French and other records!

Disappearing Websites

WebCite, <http://www.webcitation.org/index>, is an on-demand archiving system for web references (cited web pages and websites, or other kinds of Internet-accessible digital objects), which can be used by researchers to ensure that cited web material will remain available to readers in the future.

When clicking on a web link, if you have ever gotten a "404 File Not Found" error, you will know that online material disappears all the time — here's a way for you to help future authors by archiving your web-based material.

Patents and Your Ancestors

If you had a creative ancestor, you might find them in this list of 19th Century Patents, <http://www.19thcenturypatents.com/home>. This site is an alphabetical index to inventors who obtained patents in the United States from 1790 to 1853. It includes all X patents (1790 to 1836) and the first 10,000 utility patents (1836-53). The index includes the following information: Name of Inventor, Residence Location of Inventor, and Patent Number.

Irish Research Updates

The website **Logainm.ie**, www.logainm.ie, provides the official translation, into English, of approximately 100,000 Irish place-names. Some names have sound files associated with them, which enable users to hear how the names are correctly pronounced — very useful for non-Irish speakers. Of particular

interest to historians and genealogists are some of the information notes relating to certain place-names. These include scanned images of some of the historical source material.

Another new online Irish resource is the Irish Mariners website, www.irishmariners.ie. This website

contains an index of Irish-born merchant seamen contained in the CR10 series of index cards in the Southampton Civic Archives, which contains 270,000 cards covering the multinational workforce of the British Merchant Marine during the period from late 1918 to the end of 1921.



Slave Voyages

The trans-Atlantic slave trade database, <http://www.slavevoyages.org/tast/index.faces>, has information on almost 35,000 slaving voyages that forcibly embarked more than 10 million Africans for transport to the Americas between the 16th and 19th centuries. It offers a chance to rediscover the reality of one of the largest forced movements of peoples in world history.

Wondering Where Your Surname Can Be Found?

If you have ever wondered where those with your surname live, check out the Worldnames website, <http://www.publicprofiler.org/worldnames>. Using publicly available databases of name records from across the globe, you can see a map illustrating the distribution of a surname. You can also search on a community to learn what are the most common forenames and surnames in your town, or look into where certain ethnic groups most often live.

Oh Canada!

Ancestry.ca recently launched the fully indexed Canada City and Area Directories, 1819-99, which feature the names and addresses of more than 5.2 million people who lived in Canada during the greater part of the 19th century. A total of 19,764 directory pages are available!

WorldVitalRecords.com has added more than 60 Canadian newspapers representing every province and territory except Newfoundland and Labrador, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut.

Don't Speak Cesky Yet Researching in South Bohemia?

Check out the South Bohemia State Archives Trebon, <http://www.ceskearchivy.cz>. You can get information about this State Regional Archive and seven State District Archives. You can also search online databases of primary source material from Bohemian churches and get contact information — all in English,

Spanish and German! The records are indexed and cross-indexed by village names. It is rare to find an archives interface in other than the native language, though it should be noted that the included records are in the original languages. Many Midwesterners trace their heritage to this part of the world.

"Previously Lost" 1851 UK Census Returns

Family historians with ancestors in mid-19th century Manchester faced a problem: Many of the 1851 census enumeration books were so badly damaged that they weren't microfilmed and were deemed too fragile for public access. A project started in 1991 by the Manchester & Lancashire Family History Society to transcribe as much information as might still be legible has concluded, and they recovered records for about 175,000 people. You can access the name and street index at <http://www.1851-unfilmed.org.uk/>.

More Death Records Online

Tennessee death records for 1908-1912 are at <http://www.tennessee.gov/tsla/history/vital/death2.htm>. Note that death records were not recorded in 1913 and those from 1914-26 are available at <http://www.tennessee.gov/tsla/history/vital/tndeath.htm>. Eventually, the latter will include Tennessee death records for the years 1914 on.

The state of Louisiana, <http://www.sos.louisiana.gov/tabid/640/Default.aspx>, now has an online death index that covers the years 1911-56. You can order copies of the death certificates by mail for a nominal fee. The database also includes a few entries prior to 1911.

Two Notable Genealogy Resources

Scottish Highlanders on the Eve of the Great Migration, 1725-1775: The People of the Grampian Highlands

If you have done any research into Scottish emigrants, you have come across the books of David Dobson! The newest is now available and is an exhaustive, though not comprehensive, directory of all of the Grampian Highlanders (this region included Aberdeenshire, Angus, Banffshire, Kincardineshire and Morayshire) and features references on 1,500 18th-century inhabitants from that region. The information provided includes each Highlander's name, locality within the Grampian Highlands, a date and the source. In some cases, we also learn the identities of relatives, the individual's employment, vessel traveled on and so forth. It can be purchased from www.genealogical.com as can his other compilations.

NARA Publishes World War II: Guide to Records Relating to US Military Participation

Published in two volumes, this guide represents the most comprehensive and detailed finding aid to WWII source materials in the custody of NARA (National Archives and Records Administration). Descriptions of records extend to the series level, with examples given of specific documents. Although these materials focus on the period December 1941 through September 1945, extensive documentation of the inter-war and pre-Pearl Harbor period is also included. The guide also identifies, where available, pertinent Federal records still in agency custody, and locations of other closely related materials — for example, personal papers of key figures. The set is available from the National Archives e-store, <http://estore.archives.gov/>.

This Just In...

- 1911census.co.uk will launch starting next year (a few years in advance of the typical 100-year moratorium). The launch will be staggered and include images and transcription data, but with sensitive data held back until 3 January 2012, when the public will have full access to the entire 1911 census.
- Familyrelatives.com is a new family history resource with more than 600 million records online that include the official General Register Office (GRO) births, marriage and death indexes for England and Wales. UK Census transcripts, WWI and WWII military records, parish registers, as well as US records (SSDI, vital records, military records, etc). These are available for free, pay-per-view or by subscription. Genealogy records are either fully transcribed or browseable



by name or image.

- Family Tree Maker 2009 released — <http://www.familytreemaker.com>
- The Steamship Historical Society of America (SSHSA), <http://www.ssha.org>, project "Image Porthole" documents the history of over 40,000 lost and forgotten steamship navigation images, 1850s - 1980s. The project includes two collections: 2,000 large format glass plate images and 38,000 color slide photos depicting ships, ports, steam trains and people taken by the late Edward O. Clark.
- Elon University has posted two record books from the O'Kelly Chapel in Chatham County, NC — record books 1857-1901, 1901-24 and 1941-53, <http://www.elon.edu/e-web/library/libraryinfo/okellyrecordbooks.xhtml>.

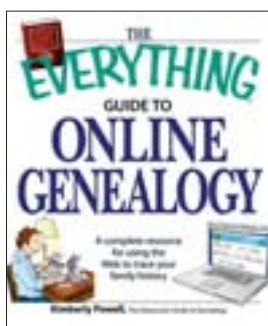
Two New Genealogical Books!

Two new books have come out that will be of general interest to genealogists who use the internet extensively. First, Dan Lynch with *Google Your Family Tree: Unlock the Hidden Power of Google*. This is the first book on Google that specifically targets using the search engine as a genealogy research tool.

Second, Kimberly Powell (of About.com fame) has published *The Everything Guide*



to Online Genealogy: A Complete Resource to Using the Web to Trace Your Family History. Learn how to create an online search strategy, use search engines and



Soundex to find kin, reach out to others with peer-to-peer record swapping, discover useful records from around the world and much more!

Southern Jewish Communities

The Institute for Southern Jewish Life has undertaken a project to compile an online history of every congregation and significant

Jewish community in the South. This digital archive project is accessible at <http://www.isjl.org>.

Click on the "New Digital

History Archive". Currently, 83 communities in Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi and Tennessee are completed.



Virtual Reference Service — "Real-time Chat!"

Quite a few libraries are now offering "Virtual Reference Services" where you can real-time "chat" with a librarian. The following libraries offer this service:

- Florida, <http://www.askalibrarian.org/aal.asp>
- Library of Congress, <http://www.loc.gov/rr/askalib/>
- Houston Library, <http://www.hpl.lib.tx.us/services/askalibrarian.html>
- Library of Virginia, <http://www.lva.lib.va.us/chat/index.htm>
- Colorado, <http://www.askcolorado.org/>
- University of Wisconsin, <http://www.library.wisc.edu/ask/>
- Greene County (OH) Public Library, <http://www.greene.library.info/Find-Answers/Ask-a-Librarian.html>

Maybe your community library or a library in an area of interest to you has the same service?

Do You Have Early Kiwi Ancestry?

If you do, there is a new project underway to digitize and post documents relating to the first four emigrant ship voyages to the Canterbury Settlement in 1850-51. To check out these and other items from the Christchurch repository of Archives New Zealand, visit <http://gallery.archives.govt.nz/v/christchurch/>

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