

INTERNET GENEALOGY LOOKS AT WEBSITES AND RELATED NEWS THAT ARE SURE TO BE OF INTEREST

Net Notes

1891 CANADIAN CENSUS

<http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/databases/census-1891/index-e.html>

THE 1891 CANADA census covers seven provinces — British Columbia, Manitoba, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Ontario, Prince Edward Island, Quebec and the Northwest Territories, which at the time was comprised of the districts of Alberta, Assiniboia East, Assiniboia West, Saskatchewan and Mackenzie River. The 1891 census was begun on 6 April 1891.

In my husband's paternal family tree is a man named Euclid Woulf. He is first found in the 1900 US census for Marinette County, Wisconsin. The census states that he emigrated in 1894 and that he was French-Canadian. Based on this, the 1891 census would be the first one where we should find him in Canada. And, though he was French-Canadian, the tradition for all the French-Canadian's in my husband's family was to migrate from Quebec to Ontario and then into Wisconsin. We found an entry that looked like a match — this is the only Euclid(e) Wo(u)lf found in all of Canada in the 1891 census.

We learned that his entire family was born in

Quebec, that they were farmers and that Euclid had a brother Marcelle — all consistent with what we know of the family. This is most probably the correct family and now opens the door to further research on them in Canadian records.

This census is also available to you through Ancestry.com, if you have a subscription, <http://content.ancestry.com/iexec/?htx=List&dbid=1274&offerid=0%3a7858%3a0>.

Other available Canadian censuses include: 1851, 1871 (Ontario), 1881, 1901, 1906 (Northwest Provinces) and 1911, <http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/census/index-e.html>.

The 1891 census is an invaluable resource for Canadian research — for those of us who have researched in the US census, where, by-and-large, the 1890 census has not survived, the jump from 1900 back to the 1880 census is often an insurmountable research hurdle — not quite as formidable when researching Canadian ancestors! — DIANE L. RICHARD

PLACE NAMES AND TERRASERVER

<http://www.placenames.com/search/>

ONE OF MY favorite websites, especially when researching a place that I know nothing about and have never visited, is Place Names. I use this website to look at topographic maps via the Terraserver website, though there are other web-based maps, such as Google Maps, which I also use.

Your basic search parameters are name, state and type of place — I entered Crabtree Creek, North Carolina, streams/rivers. It tells me that there are four places that match these criteria. I chose the one designated as "Wake County". I then see a results list showing local links, maps, photos and local weather.

I typically choose the Terraserver option, <http://terraserver-usa.com>. It opens up in an aerial view and I click on the tab labeled "Topo Map". Aerial views are great to look at, though no landmarks are identified — with the topographical option, you can get a sense of the lay of the land, and landmarks, such as waterways, cemeteries, roads and hospitals, are labeled.

Besides waterways, other types of landmarks that us genealogists like to search on are cemeteries and churches!

So, my next search was on Turner, North

Carolina, cemeteries — I happen to know that there is a Turner cemetery which is located in the middle of a traffic circle in a relatively new housing development. This time there were two entries found and I again chose the "Wake County" one. In this case, the Terraserver map was less than ideal as the map was zoomed too far out, yet the Google map clearly showed

the traffic circle of interest; choosing the satellite map option shows that the cemetery is located in the center of the traffic circle. In fact, you can zoom in and see the surviving monuments with some clarity.

Though I am often able to find what I want with Place Names.com, it doesn't include all landmarks. But, for those it does list, at least one of the several map options will give you the perspective you seek for your research! — DIANE L. RICHARD



PRAGUE RESIDENCE RECORDS

<http://digi.nacr.cz/prihlasky2/indexen.php>

THE PRAGUE NATIONAL Archive is in the process of indexing their conscription records collection (1850-1914). Conscription records are residence permits issued at the Prague police headquarters for the Prague region.

The Archive has indexed more than one million entries. The last status we have was that it is complete partially through the letter "L". The entries include the name of the head of household, followed by the name of wife, children and other relatives with whom the family shared the residence, date of registration with the police, number of the house and the job of the head of household. It may also include year and place of birth, religion and, in the case of a married woman, her maiden name. The sheet may also contain entries concerning marriages and deaths.

The interface for browsing through or searching in the records is in English, though all the records are

in Czech! You can browse the records or you can click the word "Search" to locate a particular name. You can search on combinations of surname, first name and year of birth.

I searched on the name Martinovic and the only hit was for a maiden name — Kristine (Martinovic) Himmel. It gives information on her husband and children, including birth years, birth places, dates at their address, etc.

In addition to seeing a digitized copy of the family's residence record, off to the right is a box which summarizes the names and birth dates of the family members

— with the name of the person you searched for bolded.

This is a gem of a resource from the Prague Archives. If you are researching Prague ancestors from the mid 19th century to the early 20th century, check out these records! — DIANE L. RICHARD



PUBLIC PROFILER

<http://www.publicprofiler.org/worldnames/Default.aspx>

DURING OUR RESEARCH, we often wonder where those with our surname are currently living. Public Profiler allows you to put in a surname or ethnicity to generate a map, or identify a locale of interest, and a top 10 list of surnames will be generated. However, it only holds data for select countries and represents approximately 300 million people in 26 countries of the world; about 1 billion people in those countries. There are 8 million unique surnames and 5 million unique first names.

The data is derived from publicly available telephone directories or national electoral registers, from the period 2000-2005; this means that, for the most part, women's and children's first names are undercounted. For ethnicity, the roots of the names are derived using the OnoMap classification of names, www.onomap.org, which classifies names into groups of common cultural, ethnic and linguistic origin using surnames and first names.

Having recently completed some Croatian research, I was curious to know where this ethnic group is concentrated. As one would expect, the highest concentrations are in or near Croatia, yet you can find Croatian names throughout the included regions of the world.

You can get greater detail for any of the maps.

Just click on the area where you would like more detail, or select a country from the "Top Countries" box on the right of the page. Either of these will bring you to a regional or continent view (depending on where you click) off the main map, or take you directly to the country chosen from the top countries list. You can then click on a specific area and get a very detailed view, often at the county/region level, of how the name or ethnicity is distributed throughout the area.

Instead of looking at surname or ethnicity frequencies, one can also choose a locale and learn what the most popular surnames are (and sometimes first names). When researching my Taylor ancestors in Oldham, Lancashire, England, I had the impression that this surname was fairly common. Is that true today? Doing an "Area Search" on United Kingdom, North West, Oldham, these are the top 10 surnames: Taylor, Smith, Begum, Jones, Bibi, Brown, Buckley, Ali, Wood and Shaw. I guess some things don't change!

This website gives you a fascinating glimpse of the big picture of migration based on surnames and ethnicities. You can get detailed information down to the county level and gain an appreciation for the settlement patterns of our ancestors! — DIANE L. RICHARD

