

A Godsend from 1911

By Richard Rands

The 1920 Census Act for England and Wales mandated that from that time on, each national census enumeration would be closed to public access for 100 years. In 2006, when the release date for the 1911 Census was debated, the Information Commissioner's Office ruled that the 1911 Census was not within the purview of the 1920 law, but that in the spirit of the law, specific private information should be sealed for the full 100 years.

As you can imagine, this decision was hailed as a godsend by family history researchers around the world, and immediately the effort to digitize and index the records began. The items that were blocked until 2011 consist of details of illness or other health-related information, family relationships that might cause embarrassment, and details of children under age three who were born to women in prison.

This year brought the first phase of the 1911 Census release, with the sensitive portions of the digitized pages whitened out. The full images are scheduled to be released on 3 January 2012.

It is almost impossible to fathom the complexities involved in producing a searchable

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database with accompanying digital images of the records for more than 35 million people. The process is estimated to require more than 7 billion keystrokes. To achieve the level of accuracy goals (98.5 percent) set for the project, without the extra cost of double-keying every document, the process involved extensive batch sampling at multiple levels. Modern transcription techniques have shown that even double-keying will never eliminate all errors, and that the use of "wild-card" search characters in search engines makes it possible for researchers to overcome the effects of the few errors that exist. Furthermore, because end-user researchers are allowed to report transcription errors to the project administrators, over time the final result is a satisfying, cost-effective, and timely source of family history data.

The 1911 Census contains several questions that had not been included previously in a British census. For example, couples were asked how long they had been married, how many children had been born alive, and how many were still alive. These "fertility" questions were included because of a concern that the population trends of lower birth rates, poor health, and emigration would

adversely impact the ability to maintain a healthy workforce needed for an industrialized country. They are perfect questions for family historians to identify the existence of children who died between censuses, or who were out of the home during the census. Also, the transcribers worked from the original household sheets rather than from the customary enumerator's books, thus eliminating one source of possible error. The original sheets usually show the handwriting of someone in the family.

The census was taken on the evening of Sunday, 2 April 1911, and included all individual households, public institutions such as prisons and workhouses, naval vessels, and merchant vessels. Enumerators also approximated a count of homeless individuals. One interesting gap in the data should be recognized: A significant controversy in Great Britain at the time of the 1911 Census was the government's refusal to grant women the right to vote. Out of frustration, a large number of women organized a boycott of the census that resulted in two different types of missing data. Some women, or their sympathetic husbands, refused to fill in the census document for the entire family, or the women themselves evaded

the count by staying away from their home for the whole night. It is impossible to estimate the number of uncounted individuals, but some have suggested it is no more than about one or two hundred thousand.

At present, the Web site for the 1911 Census (www.1911census.co.uk) reports that the only sections not yet transcribed include counties in Wales, the Isle of Man, the Channel Islands, the Royal Navy ships at sea during the census, and overseas military bases. As usual, some documents are illegible because of age and water damage, poor handwriting, bad spelling, and missing pages. We have all come to accept such challenges, and have developed workarounds to fill in the gaps. Persistent searches of name variations, wild card characters, and browsing adjacent locations will often bring the results you are looking for.

As a means of recovering the cost of publishing the documents, the 1911census.co.uk site exacts a cost to view the transcripts and original pages. Payment is based on credits, which can be purchased online at the site once you have registered. Credits can be purchased as part of several package deals that range from 60 credits (12 pence each, \$0.19), 280 credits (9 pence each, \$0.14), to 600 cred-

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its (8 pence each, \$0.13). The results of the free search will give you a list of the hits on your search criteria with the following data items: the census schedule type, the surname, first names, sex, birth year, age in 1911, census district, and county. If you wish to view a copy of the transcript, you must pay 10 credits or the equivalent (at this writing) of \$1.90 at the higher purchase price of credits. A copy of the original census page will cost \$5.70. Viewing the transcript gives you the place of birth, and downloading the original image displays the entire census document. The transcript

page contains a link to the page where you can send corrections to the census administrators.

The 1911 census is truly a godsend for tracing descendents of English ancestors into the 19th century, and it also can be a vital link to locating living cousins who might be able to provide additional information for your family history. It is well worth the time spent at the Web site to become familiar with the snapshot of your family in England on 2 April 1911.

Research in the Fast Lane

By Allin Kingsbury

The Internet offers high speed access to an immense collection of genealogical data today. Much of the data has become available in the past few years as indexing projects have accelerated, more families have made their family history available online and new data has been made available by government projects, libraries, historical societies, and individuals. Though much data traditionally used by genealogists to build a "rock-solid" family history must yet be accessed in record repositories or by ordering and reading microfilmed copies, the Internet can be used to assemble a genealogy in a much shorter time and the results have a surprisingly high quality level.

It is true that the Internet is no substitute for traditional genealogical research. It is not a good source of probate records, nor does it have vital records of many states, and we could name a few of the other Internet shortcomings if given a moment to think. However the Internet does have a huge number of compiled genealogies. A recent project that I did was to trace descendents of some of my ancestors. It led to some surprising results. Most of the descendents of my ancestors were found in published family trees available on the Internet. The number is difficult to quantify, but I estimated that the percentage is between 80 and 90 percent. My ancestors have all been in the United States for at least 175 years and have intermarried with many families who have lived in the United States a long time. Though there is no single family tree where all their names can be found, these cousins are scattered across a large number of published family trees.

The others who are not to be found in family trees published on the Internet are usually found mentioned in other Internet sources such as old newspapers, obituaries, vital records, military records and other sources available on the Internet. A few are mentioned in unexpected sources on the Internet such as biographical sketches, resumes, personal Web pages such as on Facebook, genealogical queries, and many others.

Start with Compiled Research

Most genealogists turn up their nose at some of the compiled research found on sites like the Ancestral File (FamilySearch.org), World Family Tree (Ancestry.com), RootsWeb and many others. They often lack dates and places, complete names, all of the spouses, and all of the children. They are often equivalent to the notes of a "good" genealogist just getting started on a family history project. I have yet to find one of these Internet family trees that is filled with gross errors or fictitious individuals. I have been

working in the 19th and 20th centuries and have not looked at situations where someone has attempted links to royalty or other famous people. Almost of the connections I have found have been verified by additional sources that I have found. I have found a few errors in name spelling, but all the data from family trees so far has been innocent of falsification and relatively free of error. Much of it has been sketchy and incomplete. The reason for this is that many of the family trees are compiled from home sources where names are important but complete data is usually lacking. These family records are quite accurate because they come from people who knew their relatives. They may have a few transcription errors, and the birth order of children is usually wrong, but the data is correct.

The larger sites with public family trees have their own search engines. They can be searched by name, birth date and place. With a common surname like Smith, the advanced search feature allows additional search criteria such as spouse, parent name, and so forth. The results of the search often contain many instances of the same person. Each instance should be reviewed because the trees are likely to go in different directions and each one may have unique information that is needed. Look for differences in the data. One pedigree may have a middle name for an individual while another does not. If there is a discrepancy in the data, make a note of it with citations in case you want to come back later. Discrepancies need to be resolved or explained. This can be done by examining other sources of information.

When one source has additional spouses or children, include them in the family. It may turn out that they same person is duplicated with a variation in the name. For example, one name may be a nickname or a middle name by which the person was known. Other sources can usually verify the existence and identity of each child or spouse.

A problem with searching family trees is determining when to stop. A search for those on the edge of the family needs to be done to determine identity. Searching for the family of spouses to identify their immediate family will provide an exact identity of the spouse. Children with no spouses may have a spouse and children listed in another family tree. Couples with no children or who remain unmarried can be verified as such by finding sources such as census returns or probate which verify their marital and family status.

Going Beyond Family Trees

The next step is to fill in the missing information. The census

is the fastest source for this if the person appears in a census. The census will usually state the age which gives you an approximate date of birth, a middle name or initial, the state or country of birth, and the census verifies the relationships to others in the family starting with the 1880 census. If the date or place was missing in the family tree was missing, the additional information from the census supplies the additional information necessary to do additional Internet searches. The middle initial, year of birth, and state of birth are often sufficient to identify a person from among confusingly similar individuals found in an Internet search.

The census is also like a mini family tree. It can supply relationships where no family tree was available for a family. It can also be extended by additional census searches such as for the parent as a child in an earlier census, or a child as a parent in a later census. Be sure to look at each census record where a person appears. Different census reports have different information. For example, the Iowa State Census for 1925 has the full names of both parents for every individual listed. The 1920 U. S. Census has the date of entry and the date of naturalization for each immigrant. There are often some pleasant surprises in census data. A mother-in-law may come to live with a family, and you then may have the maiden name of the spouse. Or, a married daughter may return to live with the parents, which gives you her married name. Skipping a census can cost you valuable information.

Additional Sources to Fill In Blanks

Death dates can be obtained from the Social Security Death Index if the person had a Social Security Claim. This means the death had to be in the 1950s or later. Many states have an online death index, but you have to have an idea of where the person died. Ancestry.com will perform searches which will find a death when the state is not known. This will work for a person with a less-common surname and where the age can be compared between the death record and other sources can be compared. Where there are individuals with similar names and dates, a positive comparison is needed to identify the correct entry found in a search. Such a comparison could be the name of a spouse, date of birth, name of a parent, or maiden name of the mother.

Exact birth dates and places can be found in birth records if they are available on the Internet. They are also found in the Social Security Death index, some State Death Records, World War I draft cards, and a few other online sources. Marriage records sometimes list the ages of the bride and groom.

Marriage dates are usually the most difficult to find. Only a few states have marriage indices online. If an exact date cannot be found, a guess is an order. The United States Censuses for 1900, 1910, and 1930 each have information to calculate the year of marriage for a couple. If the year of marriage calculated from the age at marriage is different for the bride and for the groom, one of them may have an earlier marriage. Some divorce indices are online. The entries usually include the date of marriage. Where there are children, the best guess for a marriage date is a year before the first child was born, but in such a case where the date is a guess, the date should be prefaced with "abt" to indicate that it may be wrong. Another approximation practice is to preface a date with "bef" or "aft" and indicate the date of the last document (such as a census) which stated that the person is single or the first document to state that the person is married.

Obituaries are an excellent source of data. An obituary gives relationships of family members, locations, married names of daughters and occasionally grand-daughters. They often have personal information about the deceased. Obituary collections on the Internet are often new, going back only a few years to when the collection was started. Older obituaries can be found in historic newspapers which have become available online in large numbers the past few years. They are not found by Google and other search engines, only with search engines designed to search the newspaper collection. Some older obituaries are included with family trees, but not very many. The biggest problem with obituaries is that they require many independent searches, and most of the searches are destined to fail to produce information.

Documenting the Work

A good family history must be documented. All sources should be properly recorded even though they are being searched on the Internet in a high speed chase for information. Proper documentation can save you time and if published, it

will waste the reader's time by requiring unnecessary research to verify the accuracy of the data. Your time will be saved in several ways:

1. You will have a record of where data was found, which you will need if a discrepancy is found and is to be resolved.
2. It will help avoid looking at the same sources a second time because you cannot remember going there the first time.
3. You can determine which sources were not found, should you decide to return and look for them to obtain more information.

Good documentation helps a person to do better research. Poor documentation hinders research. This fact becomes critical in tracing descendants, because instead of blank names on a pedigree chart to indicate where more research is needed, one must depend on notes to tell where more research is needed and what research is already done.

Filling In the Details

A good family history needs detail about the life of a person. Names and dates are guaranteed to bore the reader if they are not accompanied with details about interests, education, career, military service, and the many other details needed to write a biographical sketch. Some of the information is buried in census returns and other source documents. The information includes occupation, military service, years of schooling and more. Once the full name and birth date are known, there are more possibilities for successful searches. One family in my family history moved to Idaho and founded a fence company. The company was successful and survived the transition as younger members of the family took over the management of the company. The company Web site had a short history of the company and a large picture of the current CEO who was the daughter-in-law of the founder. Another relative was the owner of an art gallery in California. A magazine article about the gallery was found with a Google search. Another search led to a photo gallery where the family had posted family pictures of the extended family covering four generations of a large family. Without a middle name or a birth date or birth place, the searches using Google would have produced a long unmanageable list of results that would frus-

trate the best of family historians, most of whom would have given up in despair. Each new piece of information found can be used in a new search. Not all searches will be productive. Some individuals leave little on the Internet, and others have many pages about their lives.

Avenues to New Information

Most of the information on the Internet has been placed there in the past few years. The authors of the information are likely to be alive. You often can get more information by contacting the author, particularly if the author wrote a genealogy query, or submitted a family tree. Some of the e-mail addresses are no longer valid, because their inboxes became clogged with junk mail and they changed accounts. To be successful, record names addresses and phone numbers of authors. You may find a current address or phone number somewhere else on the Internet. My experience has been that only half of my inquiries are answered, but those who respond are willing to share information. Most of those who do not respond are not reached due to an expired e-mail address.

The Internet is very helpful in locating living individuals. If they have moved, there are sites like PeopleSearch, PeopleFinders, Intellius, LycosPeopleSearch, Zaba Search and others. These sites charge for specific information, but give a free preview, which includes name, age, and residence location. Phone numbers can be found in online white pages if you know where a person resides. A few family historians have their own Web sites which can be found with an Internet search.

When Are You Done?

The short answer is "never." However you probably will reach a stopping point when all your searches seem futile. Dimin-

ish returns will determine when your time is not effectively spent. Families continue to grow as new children are added to families and new information sources are becoming available at an accelerating rate. Once you establish contact with distant family members. It is a wise policy to cultivate the contact and continue to exchange information.

As long as there are incomplete families on the fringe, there are searches to do. The fringe families are young widows or divorcees who could be remarried, unmarried children who may have married, and parents who may have had additional children after a move or after the end of available records. The decision as to whether you have exhausted all the places to search is akin to answering the question, "What do you not know?" But all genealogy is that way. You never know if information can be found until you search for it and find it.

Summary

The Internet is an excellent tool for family history research. For the older families in the United States, there is an extraordinary amount of family history available on the Web. Families of more recent immigration to the United States are much less likely to have useful information, such as families who have come here from Asia, Southern and Eastern Europe, and Africa because fewer of these families have had their family history published.

For quick success, one must first look for work that has been done, then fill in missing details from accurate genealogical sources until there is sufficient information to uniquely identify each individual.

Good Luck!

Software of Interest: **Backblaze, Backup Maker, Mailplane, Windows 7 Release Candidate, Second Site 3**

Backblaze

Backblaze is an online backup service. The service offers a offsite backup where you can retrieve data even if your office is destroyed by fire or flood. The service offers free backup for up to two gigabytes, and unlimited backup space for \$4.95 a month. The files are encrypted before being stored at the host site. The user selects the encryption key so that nobody can use the file unless they can get the key. Backblaze has more features than Mozy, another popular online backup service.

Backblaze can be set to automatically backup data several times a day. It does not backup all files, but only those that are new or changed. The first backup can take a long time, depending on the speed of the Internet connection and the number of files on the hard disk that need to be backed up. To back up 100 gigabytes of data may take a week to complete.

To use Backblaze, go to: www.backblaze.com

Backup Maker

Backup Maker is a Windows program developed to make backups easy. The program is built around a simple wizard that will perform backups to both local media and remote hosts. The media can be another disk, a jump drive, a CD, or a remote FTP site. The program will also restore the files from the backup media.

The wizard not only will do a backup on command, but it will develop and a schedule and execute backups according to the schedule.

Any USB storage device using a USB port can be used with Backup Maker. The process can be initiated by an interval setting timed from the previous backup, or at a scheduled time. Backup can also be initiated by computer events such as logging of Windows. The backup can include all files or only files changed since the last backup. The user can also specify whether a file is to be overwritten when a backup is done or whether a new file is to be created

Restoration from backup is managed by the program. The files can be selected for restoration with a point and click operation. The program will compress the data using a ZIP format, and it also can add encryption using AES with 256-bit encryption to make the data safe from hackers when using remote storage over the Internet. Restoration using Backup Maker handles the decryption and decompression automatically.

The BackUp Maker Standard Edition is free, but has the disadvantage of pop-up windows that advertise upgrades and products sold by the company. A Professional Edition, developed for commercial use, has a few more features than the standard version and sells for \$33.09. Backup Maker will operate with Windows 2000, XP,

Server 2003, Vista, Server 2008, or Windows 7. To get more information or download the software, go to: www.ascomp.de/index.php?php=prog&prog=backupmaker

Mailplane

Mailplane is a software package for Macintosh users who also use Google Mail (Gmail). The program replaces Web browser when using Gmail and makes the session more productive by saving time. Gmail is the free e-mail service from Google which has more than seven gigabytes of storage space for each user account. The storage space is large enough to file all the e-mail messages received. The service uses labels instead of folders and can store tens of thousands of messages. Google's search technology, built into Gmail, will quickly locate and retrieve old messages.

Gmail users can use their Web browser to access Gmail. However, by using Mailplane, the program offers IMAP, POP3, and SMTP options that make it compatible with any standard e-mail program, such as Apple's Mail program or Entourage. None of those programs were designed to use Gmail's advanced features, such as archiving messages, instantly searching all of the stored messages, or assigning labels. A standard e-mail program causes the loss of the features that make Gmail worth using.

Mailplane is a free-standing program which uses all of Gmail's features. Mailplane looks like a Web browser when in use. It uses Safari as the core of the program. When used for Gmail, a new line of options appears across the top of the screen and the Gmail-specific commands are in the pulldown menus at the top of the window. The following features are added to G-mail:

- Gmail shortcuts
- Click on a mail link in a Web browser to start Mailplane
- Drag and drop attachments
- Send screenshots
- Resize and optimize pictures to reduce the message size
- Send photographs directly from iPhoto
- Gmail Video Chat Support
- View attachments directly without an external program, including TIFF (FAX), jpg, and PowerPoint files
- Use multiple Gmail accounts
- Get new mail notifications
- Integration with OmniFocus
- Enable Google Talk Window
- Mac OS X Address book integration

Mailplane requires the user to be online when using the program. An offline version of the program is expected to be available as a beta version soon. Mailplane operates on both Intel Macs and PowerPC Macs with 10.4.11 Tiger or 10.5.5 Leopard. The program sells for \$24.95. A family version is available for \$15 per user. The company offers a free 30-day trial version with all the features which can be downloaded from the Web site: <http://mailplaneapp.com>

Windows 7 Release Candidate

The Windows 7 Beta Release Candidate (7 RC) is now available in Microsoft's Customer Preview Program. Windows 7 is the Micro-

soft replacement for Vista. the new operating system can be installed and used at no charge for the next year or more. The software is available for download through 30 June 2009 and possibly longer. There are no limits on the number of downloads or product keys available. Once installed, the Release Candidate be functional until June 1, 2010.

A Release Candidate is expected to be the final test version of a new software release. Microsoft offers this Release Candidate to users willing to experiment and test it. If any major last-minute bugs are found, the Release Candidate will be revised and reissued. Otherwise it is released as the "Gold Copy" that Microsoft will release as version 1.0 of the final product. The free Windows 7 Release Candidate can be downloaded at: www.microsoft.com/windows/windows-7/beta-download.aspx.

If you decide to test the software, you must realize that it is possible that there are bugs in the program which can destroy your programs and data. You must be sure to keep data and programs backed up.

Second Site 3

Second Site 3 is the newest version of the Web site builder for use with The Master Genealogist (TMG) from Wholly Genes Software. Version 3 includes a display for DNA test results and a DNA Overlay Chart that adds DNA information to a descendant chart. The DNA Overlay Chart was requested by professional genealogists and the design was based on comments from an advisory panel of DNA project managers. Other new features in Version 3 include:

- Combining of charts, commentary, pictures and other content on user-designed pages.
- A what-you-see-is-what you get (WYSIWYG) editor for HTML text.
- Addition of animated slideshows to user-designed pages.
- A one-step publishing command that works with the Family History Hosting service (www.familyhistoryhosting.com)

A demonstration site is available at:

<http://ss.johncardinal.com/demo> Go to: <http://ss.johncardinal.com> for ordering information and pricing. Second Site version 3 supports TMG Versions 4, 5, 6 and 7.

Quotable Quote

Everything that enlarges the sphere of human powers, that shows man that he can do what he thought he could not do, is valuable.

Samuel Johnson
1709-1784

English lexicographer, essayist, poet

Recently Published: Tracing Your Irish Family History, Tennessee DAR Bible Index

Tracing Your Irish Family History



Tracing Your Irish Family History by Anthony Adolph is a good book for a family historian going to Ireland to do research on family history. The author is a genealogist who has a solid knowledge of Irish history and Irish genealogy sources. His book has many tips on where to look for information about Irish families. He discusses county archives, tax rolls, censuses, religious and civil registers, and many other sources. Approximately 36 million Americans have Irish ancestry. Many of them visit Ireland to see where their ancestors originated and to find information about their fam-

ily in Ireland. The book also discusses the use of records in the U. S. and Canada. *Tracing Your Irish Family History* sells for \$29.95 and can be ordered online at Firefly Books:

www.irishcentral.com/ent/How-to-trace-your-Irish-roots-and-other-books-45699052.html

Tennessee DAR Bible Index

Family Bibles have been compiled into a resource guide by the Tennessee Society Daughters of the American Revolution and will be available as a book and CD. This Bible Index has 450,000 names and events (births, marriages and deaths) with dates from 1,228 Bibles from Tennessee. The project will preserve the data from the fragile heirloom Bibles for family historians who may find that the family Bible is the only source where an event was recorded. The pages recording the events were photographed and indexed. *Genealogy Bible Treasurers*, subtitled *A Digital Photo Preservation and Index of Pre-Depression Era Bible Records* is available from the Tennessee Society Daughters of the American Revolution and costs \$50 for the book containing the index and the CDs containing the images. The organization Web site is found at: www.tndar.org/

Of Interest NEHGS and TAG Partnership, Northumberland County, Pennsylvania Research Center, Everton's Genealogical Helper For Sale

NEHGS and TAG Partnership

The New England Historic Genealogical Society and *The American Genealogist* (TAG), have announced a partnership to digitize back issues of *The American Genealogist* and make them available on the NEHGS Web site. *The American Genealogist* a premier scholarly genealogical publication, and was founded in 1922 by Donald Lines Jacobus. It is edited by three NEHGS members, Dr. David L. Greene, FASG, past recipient of the NEHGS' Coddington Award of Merit; Robert Charles Anderson, FASG, the director of the NEHGS Great Migration Study Project; and Joseph C. Anderson II, FASG, editor of *The Maine Genealogist*.

The first eight volumes of TAG, published from 1923 through 1932, were published as *Families of Ancient New Haven*. These are available online at NewEnglandAncestors.org. Volumes 9–13, published from 1933 through 1937, are now available to NEHGS members online as a fully searchable database. The database can be searched by first and last name, article title, and keywords. There are 34,537 name records, 847 title/author records, and 1,508 page images in these five volumes. Additional volumes will be added as they are completed through Volume 82. To visit the NEHGS site, go to: NewEnglandAncestors.org

Northumberland County, Pennsylvania Research Center

Northumberland County, Pennsylvania would like to buy the Sunbury city hall building and convert it to a records and genealogy research center. The building is next to the county courthouse on Market Street, and is an excellent location to keep the real estate, marriage and other county records. Northumberland County is on of the older counties in Pennsylvania and records date back to 1772. The records are now stored in the courthouse basement, which is not a good environment for preserving the

records. The new facility would have an environmentally controlled area that would be easily accessible to the public. The City hall is 30- to 40 years and has 25,000 square feet of floor space for the nine employees working there. The research center is still a proposal at this time, but all parties seem to be in agreement on the need for the proposed center. Whether the city buys an existing building or builds a new government center, it will save the taxpayers money.

Everton's Genealogical Helper For Sale

Everton's Genealogical Helper has been a household item for genealogists in the past with its queries and research articles. The magazine and the Publication, *Handybook for Genealogists*, and other assets of the organization are said to be for sale. The employees have been laid off and the company is looking for a buyer. The situation is said to be the result of a loan being called by a bank which left Everton's without operating funds.



Spider Webs: Southern U. S. Records, New Google Search Options, St George Cathedral Records, South Africa, TimeGlider, New Zealand Blue Books

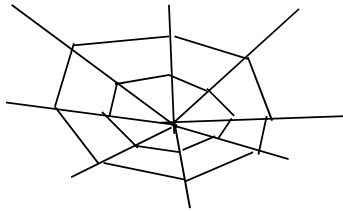
Southern U. S. Records

FamilySearch announced that it has added millions of records covering the South to its Web site. They include:

- Alabama Statewide Deaths 1908 to 1974 (Index)
- Arkansas County Marriages: 1837 to 1957
- Civil War Pension Index Cards (Digital Images)
- Florida Deaths 1877 to 1939 (Index)
- Florida State Censuses: 1855, 1935, 1945 (Digital Images)
- Freedman Bank Records: 1865 to 1874
- Freedman's Bureau Virginia Marriages 1855 to 1866
- Georgia Deaths 1914 to 1927
- Louisiana War of 1812 Pension Lists (Images)
- North Carolina Deaths 1906 to 1930
- North Carolina, Davidson County Marriages and Deaths, 1867–1984 (Digital Images)
- South Carolina Deaths 1915 to 1943
- South Carolina Deaths 1944 to 1955 (Index)
- Texas Death Index 1964 to 1998 (Index)
- Texas Deaths 1890 to 1976
- Virginia Fluvanna County Funeral Home Records 1929 to 1976 (Digital Images)
- West Virginia Births 1853 to 1990 (Index)
- West Virginia Marriages 1853 to 1970 (Index)
- West Virginia Deaths 1853 to 1970 (Index)

FamilySearch also has completed new indexes to the 1850, 1860, 1870, 1880, 1900, and 1920 (partial) U.S. Censuses. These censuses have been available on Ancestry.com, but there have been many indexing errors which made census searches frustrating. The census data are a source of major importance for those doing research in the South.

For those genealogically challenged by a lack of Southern States ancestors, FamilySearch has also completed the New York 1892 State Census and the Rhode



Island 1925 State Census. They are undergoing the final check and will soon be online.

Research in the Southern states has been difficult in the past because of the limited amount of records that are available. With these records available online in a searchable format, the research will be easier and faster. FamilySearch has two major Web sites where indexed records are found: www.familysearch.org and www.labs.familysearch.org

New Google Search Options

Google has added new search options to their popular search engine Web site. The new options are seen after a Google search when a new line appears below the search box called "Show options..." A mouse click on the line reveals the new options which include videos, forums, reviews, and more. The search can be narrowed by selecting a time option such as for "Recent results," "Past 24 hours," "Past week" or "Past year." For someone who has searched and spent time sifting out hundreds of false hits, a new search covering the "past week" will filter out the earlier hits and give the user only new Web pages that were not there for the previous search.

Google also has an option for Timelines which will find information about events that match the search criteria. For example, a timeline search for "California" will list information about historic events pertaining to the state of California. A search for timeline events for towns and counties sounds like a potentially useful tool for the family historian.

"Wonder Wheel" is another new search feature. The search keyword is used to create a list of similar search criteria which can be used to perform additional searches. By clicking on new keywords, the choices change and possible new searches evolve. Hopefully, the result will be a more effective search.

Google has announced that additional options will be added in the months to come. To try out the new options, go to: www.google.com

Saint George Cathedral Records, South Africa

The St. George Cathedral is the oldest Anglican Church in Capetown, South Africa, and also the oldest Anglican Church in all of South Africa. The earliest church records are from 1812. An agreement between the Anglican Church Archive at Witz University and Ancestry 24, a South African genealogy Web site will enable the records to be transcribed and made available on the Internet. The records include marriage and baptismal records. The completed records will be available on the Ancestry24 Web site at: www.ancestry24.co

TimeGlider

The TimeGlider Web site is a free online application program which can create a timeline for family history or any other application. Timelines created using TimeGlider can be viewed online and can be shared with others. Events in the time line have a time span so the overlap of events can be seen. The user can enter the title and description of an event and set the date and adjust the time span. The view of a timeline can be adjusted with a zoom control and the time can be moved forward and backward. Others can view the timeline if you make it public, but others cannot edit your timeline. You will have a special URL to send to others so they can find the timeline. The basic service is free and family historians are not likely to need the advanced features for which there is a charge. For more information, or to create a timeline, go to: www.TimeGlider.com

New Zealand Blue Books

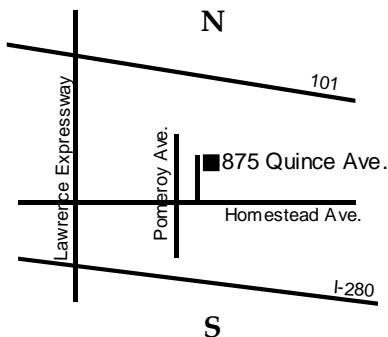
The Blue Books of New Zealand contain early colonial records of New Zealand. They contain information about population, revenue, trade, shipping, public works, legislation, land transactions, churches, schools and prisons. There are 24 books which contain records dating from 1840 to 1855. The Blue Books are made available online by the Archives New Zealand and are found at: www.archives.govt.nz



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Silicon Valley Computer Genealogy Group
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Silicon Valley Computer Genealogy Group

www.svcomputergenealogy.org

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Please send inquiries, address changes, new memberships, and membership renewals to:
SV-CGG, P.O. Box 23670, San Jose, CA 95153-3670 or leslyk@comcast.net

SV-CGG meets monthly, except December, on the second Saturday of the month from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints building, 875 Quince Avenue, Santa Clara, CA. We offer classes and sponsor guest speakers at meetings to help family historians with computer technology and research techniques. Membership dues are US\$15 per year (US\$20 for Canada and US\$25 for other international). Members are offered classes at meetings, mentor help, *Silicon Valley PastFinder* (a monthly newsletter published each month there is a meeting).

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The following can be ordered from www.FamilySearch.org or at 1-800-537 5950:

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| Personal Ancestral File 2.3.1 Macintosh (diskette or CD version) | US\$6 |
| Personal Ancestral File 4.04 | US\$6 |
| Personal Ancestral File 5.2.18 and 4 (Windows), PAF 3, and 2.31 (DOS), lessons and user guide, Personal Ancestral File Companion 5.2 Windows (2 CDs) | US\$8.25 |
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The following can be ordered from www.svcomputergenealogy.org or the group address (see above):

| | |
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| Newsletter back issues if available, per issue | US\$1 (order by mail or purchase at meetings) |
| Videos of classes; syllabus copies | See Web site for titles, prices |
| <i>Family History Documentation Guidelines</i> | Available at meetings and on Web site |
| Stuck-on Sources Post-It note pads | Available at meetings and on Web site |
| Flash Drives loaded with 11,000 Internet genealogy sites | Available at cost on Web site and at meetings |

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Articles contributed by readers are welcome. Articles may be submitted as a text file on PC-compatible disk, CD-ROM, or as an e-mail attachment. The editors reserve the right to accept, reject, and edit articles. Articles are not returned.

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Software Classes

- Getting Started on Reunion
- Reunion for the Mac
- PAF and PCs for Beginners

General Classes

- Doing Census Analysis
- Using the FHC Portal

For more details or changes, go to: www.svcomputergenealogy.org