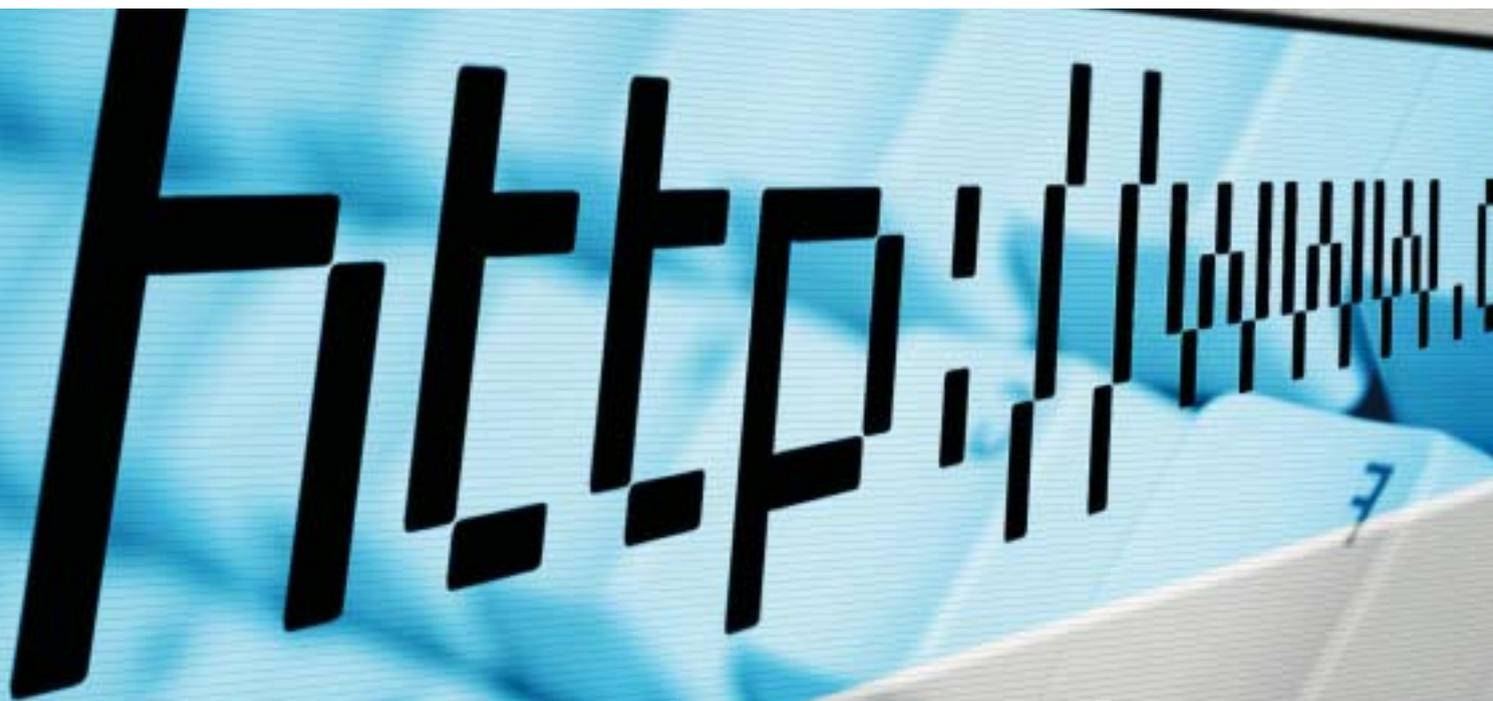


New! From the Publishers of Family Chronicle

Internet

Preview

GENEALOGY



Top Websites to Start Your Online Research

Scotland's People

A Great Subscription Website

Linkpendium

"The Definitive Genealogical Directory"

The Godfrey
Memorial Library

The Genealogist's Best Bargain on the 'net

www.internet-genealogy.com

**Case Study:
Harry Sinclair**

**First Issue
May 2006**

Internet GENEALOGY

WELCOME TO *INTERNET GENEALOGY*. As publisher of *Family Chronicle* and an active amateur genealogist, I have been seeing a gradual, but important change in our hobby.

There is a conundrum in the field of genealogy. Although the popular view is that genealogy is more popular than ever before, many of those in the business are experiencing a smaller and smaller market. Genealogy societies are suffering falling membership, book publishers are cutting back on their lists, family tree software publishers are seeing fewer sales and traditional genealogy magazines are finding it harder to win new subscribers. That is the negative side of the story.

But people I meet outside the traditional genealogy groups are more interested than ever — the popular view is correct — but those people are overwhelmingly doing their research using the Internet. Most of them limit their searches to Google because they don't know what else to do or they sign up with Ancestry.com; sometimes they find a family tree that includes their known ancestors and takes them back generations. There is nothing wrong with this but it is scratching the surface.

Many traditional genealogists have been disdainful about the 'net. They maintain that the information cannot be verified, that it is full of errors and that, in any case, only a fraction of the records are available. I admit that I held this view for some years.

But today, things have changed. The rate at which new databases are coming online is staggering. We reckon that we could pretty much fill a magazine every couple of months talking only about new databases (we are not going to limit ourselves to this, of course). Many of these new records are linked to the original

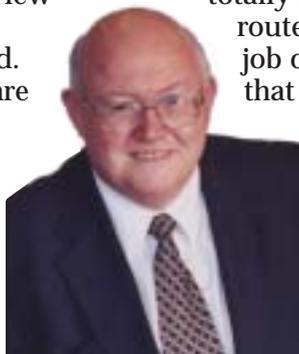
images, making them effectively original sources (we'll be discussing the differences between primary and secondary resources in *Internet Genealogy*). The recently announced plan of the Family History Library to put all their microfilm onto the Internet is very exciting — that may come to 20 BILLION names!

Some people believe that searching the Internet is easy — that Google indexes everything and that the biblical quote "seek and ye shall find" applies. Google is a fabulous tool, but it cannot, and does not pretend to, index databases. This needs some explanation, but in summary, Google may turn up less than one percent of the information on the web.

The Internet is not perfect and it is unlikely to answer all your genealogical queries but it has come a very long way and we have shown, through *Family Chronicle*, that you can conduct much of your search online. Even when a record is missing, it can often be ordered online or you can seek the help of others by placing queries online.

Internet Genealogy has been introduced to show people how to use the web and e-mail effectively for your genealogy research. We will be honest about the limitations when these are encountered and we will show you how to overcome them.

The future of genealogy has already been shown to us — the image is not totally clear, it is not complete, but that route needs a road map. We see the job of *Internet Genealogy* to act as that map.



Halvor Moorshead

Halvor Moorshead
Publisher and Editor
Internet Genealogy

Internet GENEALOGY



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This preview issue of *Internet Genealogy* has been prepared to give people an idea of the scope of the magazine. Most of the features in this edition have been specifically commissioned for *Internet Genealogy* and will appear in early issues of the magazine. Only the first few pages of the feature are included in some cases.

THIS PREVIEW ISSUE IS NOT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE FINAL CONTENT AND SIZE OF INTERNET GENEALOGY. THE REAL ISSUES WILL CONTAIN AT LEAST 56 PAGES.

INTERNET GENEALOGY MAGAZINE

PREVIEW ISSUE

PUBLISHER AND EDITOR:
Halvor Moorshead
publisher@moorshead.com

EDITORIAL ASSISTANTS:
Victoria King
victoria@moorshead.com
Marc Skulnick
marc@moorshead.com

SPECIAL PROJECTS:
Ed Zapletal
edward@moorshead.com

CIRCULATION MANAGER:
Rick Cree
rick@moorshead.com

ADVERTISING SERVICES:
Jeannette Cox
jeannette@moorshead.com

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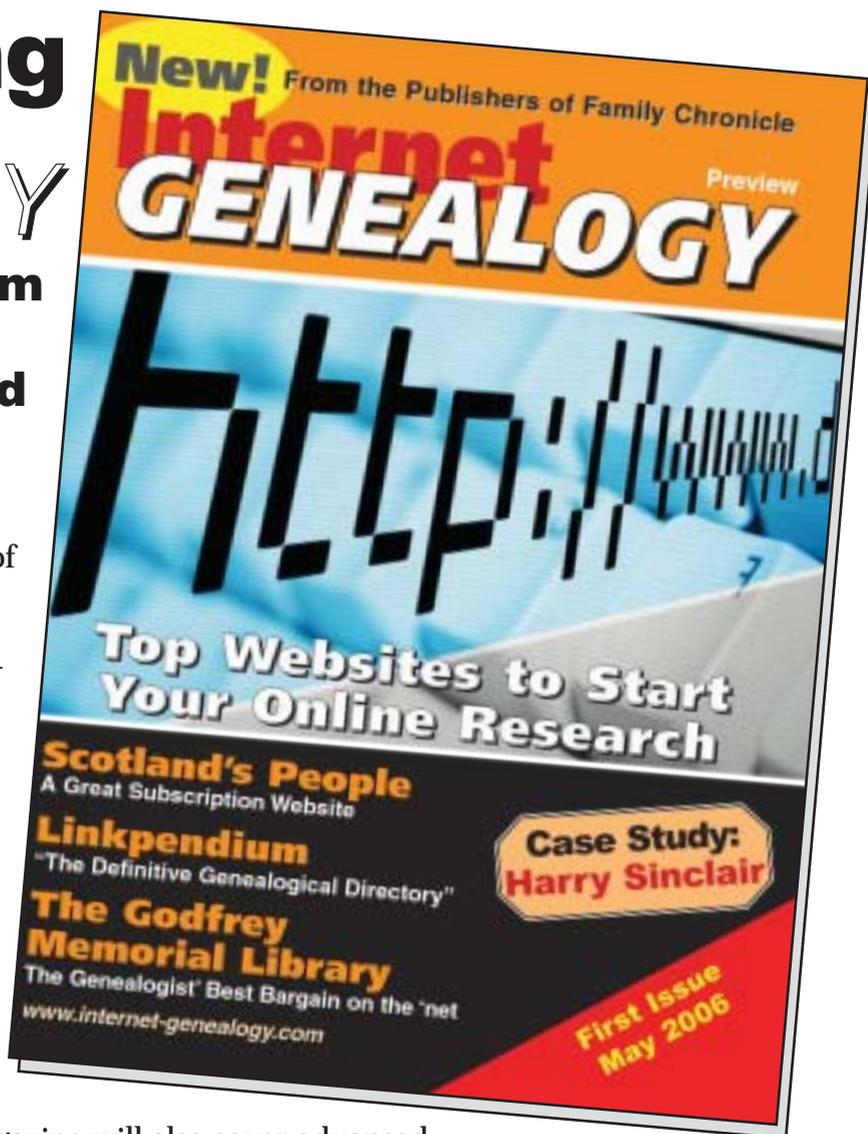
Announcing Internet GENEALOGY

A new magazine from the publishers of Family Chronicle and History Magazine.

The first issue will be on newsstands across North America at the end of February and will carry a cover date of April/May 2006. *Internet Genealogy* will be published six times a year and be available by subscription, on newsstands and as an online magazine on the web. The cover price will be \$5.95 (US) and the subscription rate of the printed magazine at \$28 (US). However there will be an introductory subscription rate for a limited time of \$20 (US).

Internet Genealogy will primarily deal with conducting your genealogy research using the Internet, but will also tell people what to do if they cannot find the records they need and how to confirm their findings. The magazine will also cover advanced genealogical methods such as DNA analysis, as well as software reviews, case studies, databases and other Internet-related topics.

Visit www.internet-genealogy.com to see sample articles



Internet GENEALOGY

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IG Preview

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Halvor Moorshead
Editor & Publisher

Net Notes

600,000 CANADIAN SOLDIERS OF WWI

www.collectionscanada.ca/archivianet/020106_e.html

IN APRIL 1914, just four months before the start of WWI, the Canadian standing army numbered just 3,110 men and 684 horses. There was little need for a larger regular army as there was no external threat and Canada had, for a hundred years, been a relatively peaceful place. There had been a couple of minor rebellions and a few thousand Canadians had served in the Boer War in South Africa, but these amounted to little compared to the wars fought by the Americans and the British during the same period.

Despite this peaceful history, when WWI broke out in August 1914 there was an outpouring of enthusiasm for war. In 1914, Canada's constitution allowed Britain to declare war on her behalf, the Canadians had no say but this does not seem to have bothered the people. The response for volunteers was extraordinary. From a nation of just eight million, 600,000 signed up — a truly staggering proportion representing one in seven of all males!

The Attestation forms of these volunteers can all be viewed, free of charge, on Library and Archives Canada website.

Two members of my distant family completed these forms. John Morshead, born in England and then 26 years old, signed up on 21 August 1914 in the first

flush of enthusiasm. Wilson Miles Morshead signed on in April 1918. Although he was born in Canada, he gives his



address as Malden, Massachusetts. I have no idea why he signed on with the Canadian army rather than the US forces.

These attestation papers can be of more use than their obvious one. The Canadian 1911 census is only partially indexed at this time although the images can be viewed. These Attestation papers represent someone from every two or three families and so can be used for finding where a family lived, making it possible to search the census for further information.

Unlike WWII, French Canadians were as enthusiastic about the Great War as the English Canadians so these documents are representative of the country as a whole.



Examples of the recruiting posters which resulted in 600,000 Canadians volunteering during WWI.



ATTESTATION PAPER		No. _____
1st Form to be filled in by the Soldier		Full name
CANADIAN OVER-SEAS EXPEDITIONARY FORCE		
QUESTIONS TO BE PUT BEFORE ATTESTATION (ANSWERS)		
1. What is your surname?	M O R S H E A D	
1a. What are your Christian names?	Wilson Miles	
1b. What is your present address?	49 Potter St., Malden, Mass., U.S.A.	
2. In what Town, Township or Parish, and in what Country were you born?	Lower Stewiacke, N. S. Canada	
3. What is the name of your next-of-kin?	Harmona Sellington Morshead	
4. What is the address of your next-of-kin?	49 Potter St., Malden, Mass., U.S.A.	
5a. What is the relationship of your next-of-kin?	Father	
5. What is the date of your birth?	June, 24th, 1895	
6. What is your Trade or Calling?	Druggist Employee	
7. Are you married?	Single	
8. Are you willing to be vaccinated or re-	vaccinated	

THE MAKING OF AMERICA

www.hti.umich.edu/m/moagrp/ and <http://moa.cit.cornell.edu/moa/>

MAKING OF AMERICA is a collaborative venture between the University of Michigan and Cornell University.

Starting in 1995, the project has digitized thousands of books and journals, primarily from 1850-1877. Every word is indexed and linked to the original image. Although this venture operates under a single name, each university has its own website. The University of Michigan's site is further divided into two sections, one each for books and journals. All three databases need to be searched separately.

The scale of this venture is impressive. UOM's book collection features 11,300 volumes containing 3.3 million pages. The journals section has nearly 2,500 issues with 277,000 pages. Cornell's contribution does not separate journals and books, but combined they total 907,000 pages. A rough calculation indicates that these pages may include over **10 million names**.

The collection is amazingly varied. We found a list of deserters from Wisconsin regiments during the

Civil War (there were an awful lot of them and it includes two collateral-line relatives). There are lengthy legal texts, books of letters, journals and so on. All the

images we found were of excellent quality, and this included a handful of illustrations from the original books.

The Michigan process focused on monographs in the subject areas of education, psychology, American history, sociology, science and technology, and religion while Cornell has focused on the major journal literature of the period, ranging from general interest publications to those with more targeted audiences (such as agriculture).

Searching is easy and fast. Within seconds you can be looking at the page with your search term. Finding your reference within that page depends on how fast you read. We found that we frequently had to back up several pages to understand the context of the listing. And you may have to look at the title page to find the date of publication.



BOSTON PASSENGER MANIFESTS

www.sec.state.ma.us/arc/arcsrch/PassengerManifestSearchContents.html

THE ELLIS ISLAND passenger arrivals records database at www.ellisland.org was one of the earliest major databases for genealogists to appear on the web. It features some 25 million passenger arrivals (not, as is often believed, only immigrants) and is a magnificent resource. But the earliest records are from 1892 and, although New York was the port of arrival for most immigrants, it was by no means the only one.

My great-grandfather became an American citizen in 1921, almost 50 years after arriving in the US. His application papers give his arrival as October 1872 at Boston, traveling from St. John, NB. On the application he says he has forgotten the name of the ship. I did spend several hours searching microfilm at the Family History Library in Salt Lake City for his arrival but without any luck, as a lot of the film was almost unreadable.

So, when it was announced recently that Massachusetts Archives had started to index these arrivals, I was quite excited.

Massachusetts started to record the names of immigrants who arrived by ship in January 1848 and contin-

ued until July 1891, when federal records-keeping programs superseded those of the state. Although immigrants arrived at numerous Massachusetts ports, the Archives only holds manifests for Boston. The Archives has an alphabetical card index covering the same years as the registers and providing the same information. This includes the name, age, sex and occupation of the immigrant; the country of birth, last residence and the passenger list number. Also included is the name of the ship and the date of its arrival in Boston. Over one million immigrants came through the Port of Boston during this time period.

Through the Archives Volunteer program, volunteers are now entering this information into a computerized database. Once a surname is entered into the database it goes through an editing process and when completed it will appear on this website. This database will be updated periodically.

Sadly, my great-grandfather's name does not yet appear in the database, but until it does I know that I can look him up manually on the card index if I am in Boston or can hire a researcher to do so.



Boston Harbor in 1876



Top Places to Start Your Research

I ORIGINALLY PLANNED to write an article about the top 10 places to start your genealogy on the Internet, but people's needs are so different, and there are so many wonderful websites out there, that I couldn't restrain myself, and the list grew. Several of the sites appear in more than one category.

GENERAL HOW-TO SITES

If you're a beginner in genealogy as well as the Internet, you'll want to start by visiting some general interest how-to sites. Here are five great places to start.

1. LDS FAMILY HISTORY LIBRARY WEBSITE

www.familysearch.org

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints' family history website is probably the most helpful all-around free website. On this site you will find links to their library catalogue, record indexes and research guides, all of which are essential starting points for genealogists researching almost anywhere in the world.

If you're new to genealogy, start by clicking on "Library", "Education" and then "Research Guidance". From there you can choose a place name (country, state, province, etc.) and be taken to a list of subjects that will get you started with virtually any type of record or subject.

2. ABOUT.COM'S GENEALOGY SITE

<http://genealogy.about.com/>

Another great place to start, with hundreds, maybe thousands, of helpful articles and tips, is the About.com genealogy site. Here you'll find advice on all kinds of genealogical topics including product reviews for books and software. Some links take you to articles written by the host of the site, others will take you off-site to other places on the Internet, but all are well-chosen and helpful.

3. ANCESTRY.COM

www.ancestry.com

Ancestry is best known as a database site, but it's also an online library. You can find thousands of articles and tips by choosing "Learning Center" from

the main page, and then mid-way down the Learning Center page you'll find a link for "Ancestry Library". This will take you to a list of topics: How-to, Preserving Family History, Record Sources, Home Sources, Family Origins, Religion, Technology, Genealogy Products, Organizations, Current Events, Geography and Historical Context. You can spend days working your way through these pages and learning about all the various facets of genealogy (although it is mostly North American focused).

4. GENEALOGY.COM

www.genealogy.com

Another great place to learn about genealogy and the Internet is Genealogy.com where you'll find free online genealogy classes including those tailored to beginners or advanced researchers, as well as a fascinating archive of Ask the Expert and Message Board Query Answers written by a professional genealogist answering a wide variety of genealogical questions.

5. FAMILY CHRONICLE'S ARTICLE ARCHIVE

www.familychronicle.com/researchideas.

Last, but certainly not least, you'll also find a wide variety of how-to articles on *Family Chronicle's* own website. Go to "How-to Archives" and read up on tips and tricks for everything from "First Steps" to "Leaving a Legacy".

NON-AMERICAN HOW-TO SITES

As most of the major all-around sites



The LDS Church family history website is probably the most helpful all-around free website.

Top Places to Start Your Research



are America-focused, a few good places to start your non-American family history seem in order.

6. CANADIAN GENEALOGY CENTRE www.genealogy.gc.ca

For Canada, a good place to start is the relatively new Canadian Genealogical Centre run by Library and Archives Canada. There you'll find a good summary of the major Canadian record sources, with descriptions, and links to relevant websites and databases and references to helpful publications. These are organized both by subject and by province. The site also includes several databases and digitized images including census, military and land records.



7. GENUKI www.genuki.org.uk

For the United Kingdom and Ireland, the best place to start is the GENUKI hierarchy of websites. This network of sites is organized geographically with descriptive information at every level from country to county to parish, and detailed references to source material, both online and off. This is one of the earliest genealogy information networks and it is well-developed and easy to follow.



8. PROGENEALOGISTS – RESOURCES www.progenealogists.com/resources.htm

On their website, ProGenealogists, a professional genealogical research company, offers helpful articles about a wide variety of topics, with especially good concentrations in European research, plus a great guide to source citations and a very useful list of links to online vital record databases for American states (both free and subscription based).



Cyndi's List is the most comprehensive list of links to genealogical websites in the world.

9. GERMAN ROOTS

<http://home.att.net/~wee-monster/>

If you're an American researching German ancestors, this site's for you. Here you'll find advice for finding clues in US sources, as well as how to search records in Germany, with many links to database sites.

BIG GENERAL LINKS SITES

If you're an experienced genealogist, but new to the Internet, you'll want to go directly to sites that can help you find out what's available online. Here are the two best ways to find a genealogical website (other than reading this magazine).

10. CYNDI'S LIST

www.cyndislist.com

This is the largest, most comprehensive list of links to genealogically related websites in the world. It is organized by both location (country, state, etc.) and subject and by scanning the list of available categories you can usually find exactly what you want, assuming it exists somewhere on the Internet.

11. THE WORLD GENWEB PROJECT

www.worldgenweb.org

This a world-wide volunteer effort (but best for North America and Western Europe) to coordinate information for genealogists. It is broken down by region, country, state, county, etc., with hosts for each jurisdiction. This is a good place to start to find out what is available, both online and off, for a particular area of the world, including databases created by volunteers, message boards and references to websites, publications and record repositories.

COMPREHENSIVE DATA SITES

Here are a few of the largest, best sites for finding indexes, databases, transcripts and digitized documents that might mention your ancestors.

12. LDS INTERNATIONAL GENEALOGICAL INDEX

www.familysearch.org

The oldest digital database of indexed original records was created by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and is available absolutely free online. The International Genealogical Index (IGI) is a database of indexed birth/baptism and marriage records, mostly found in original church records worldwide. To search the IGI, click on

“Search for Ancestors” and then pick “International Genealogical Index” from the menu at the left. Once you find an entry, you can check the source, and follow up by ordering a microfilm of the original record (this is important because there can be errors in any index, and because the original records often contain more information than can conveniently fit in a structured database).

However, you don’t have to limit your search to the IGI, as the default search engine will also search the Ancestral File and the Pedigree Resource File (two types of compiled databases of family-linked records submitted by church members from their own research), and the transcribed censuses for the United States (1880), the United Kingdom (1881) and Canada (1881). The census transcripts are very useful starting places (assuming you’ve already traced your family back to an ancestor living in the US, Canada or the UK in 1880/1881), but you should be particularly careful with the two compiled databases (AF and PRF), as these are user submitted and have not been verified for accuracy. Use them for clues only, and then try to track down records that can document the information contained in them.

Also, if you can’t find the records you want online anywhere, or you don’t want to pay exorbitant rates to gain access to them, you might want to try researching the old-fashioned way, by searching the records yourselves. The LDS library has a huge catalogue of records from around the world available on microfilm, that can be borrowed through your local Family History Center, for a minimal postal charge.

13. ROOTSWEB

www.rootsweb.com

Another large collection of free indexes, databases and transcripts is the RootsWeb network. This is not created by one agency, but is a volunteer-run network of sites, organized geographically, containing information submitted by users. Like the LDS’ Ancestral File and Pedigree Resource Files, this information is not verified for accuracy, so should be used with caution, but unlike those compiled databases, the RootsWeb databases are not collections of users family histories but transcripts or indexes of sets of original records such as vital registers, church registers, census-

es, gravestone inscriptions and the like and the sources of the original information are usually clearly identified, so that you can verify the accuracy of the information yourself. Also, most of these data sets are accompanied by introductory descriptions that can help you understand exactly what the records contain and how to use them.

14. ANCESTRY.COM

www.ancestry.com

Ancestry.com is the largest of the commercial (subscription-based) genealogy record sites, containing a wide range of record sets ranging from civil registration records and censuses to local histories and historical newspaper indexes. The US is very well-covered with indexes to nearly all the federal censuses and other records for every state. Its coverage of the United Kingdom is getting larger all the time, with the censuses for 1861-1901 complete for England, Wales, the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man, and civil registration indexes for 1837-2000. There are also a few miscellaneous records for Canada, (including many 1901 census portions) and a handful of record sets for other countries such as Germany, the Netherlands and Italy.

15. GENEALOGY.COM

www.genealogy.com

This subscription-based site is somewhat smaller than Ancestry.com, but it is also less expensive and more focused.



The IGI is a database of indexed birth/baptism and marriage records, mostly found in original church records worldwide.

This is the first three pages of an article. The full feature will appear in an early edition of *Internet Genealogy*.

Scotland's People



IF YOU HAVE SCOTTISH ANCESTORS, you've got a great advantage over most people when it comes to genealogy since so many of the Scottish records are accessible via the Internet. The Scotland's People website at www.scotlandsppeople.gov.uk provides online access to a large number of the major records you need to consult to create your family tree.

The site was created in 2002 as a partnership between the General Register Office for Scotland (GROS, www.gro-scotland.gov.uk) and the Internet company Scotland Online.

Through the Scotland's People website, you can search indexes and view and download digitized copies of birth, marriage and death records, census returns, and wills and inventories (previously on the Scottish Documents site, and added to Scotland's People in 2005). In addition, you can search indexes of the earlier church records of baptisms and marriages, although the records themselves aren't online yet.

Charging for searching the indexes and viewing the records is done on a pay-per-view basis. You pay £6 (about \$11US or \$13 CDN) for 30 "page credits", which are valid for seven consecutive days. It costs one credit to view a page of up to 25 search results, while viewing a digitized record costs five credits.

VITAL RECORDS (CIVIL REGISTRATION) — FROM 1855

The state took over official registration of births, marriages and deaths in Scotland on 1 January 1855. The Statutory Registers, as the collections of vital records are known, can be viewed on Scotland's People with cut-off points (to protect privacy) of 100 years for births, 75 for marriages and 50 for deaths. Every January, these points roll forward one year, which means that, at present, you can view births through 1905, marriages through 1930, and deaths through 1955.

Helpfully, a Scottish birth certificate gives you not only details of the newborn child, but also the date and place of the parents' marriage (except from 1856 through 1860). As well as information on the bride and groom, a marriage certificate tells you the names of the

parents of both parties (with the mothers' maiden surnames). A death certificate states the name of the deceased person's spouse (but usually not on records issued from 1856 through 1860), as well as the names of both parents (including the mother's maiden name).

In the first year of civil registration in Scotland, even more detail was provided (see sidebar). Unfortunately for us, it proved too difficult to keep up this quantity and quality of information. Much of the detail was dropped in 1856, but some information was restored in 1861.

CENSUSES — 1871-1901

Although an official census was taken in Scotland every 10 years beginning in

The Scotland's People website provides online access to a large number of the major records you need to consult to create your family tree.



1801, it wasn't for another 40 years that these were required to list every person (although in a few places, earlier lists of individuals were compiled and have survived). The 1841 census states sim-

The fishing village of Crail in the East Neuk of Fife, Scotland.

FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS

The remaining Scottish censuses for the years 1841-1861 are scheduled to be added to the Scotland's People site in the winter of 2005. These records are already overdue, however, and whether they will become available anytime soon remains to be seen.

Also overdue are the digitized images of the baptisms and marriages/proclamations of banns from the Old Parish Registers (OPRs). The GROS and Scotland Online found that it was much harder than they had expected to link the indexes to the records, so we're probably looking at later this year before the baptisms and marriages begin to go online. This is expected to happen county-by-county.

Parish records of burials are being indexed by the Scottish family history societies for the forthcoming Scottish National Burial Index CD. The Scottish Association of Family History Societies has been talking to the GROS about using an online version of the index to provide access to the OPR burials via Scotland's People.

Due to come online shortly is the Register of Corrected Entries (RCE), which lists corrections and additions to the statutory records of births, marriages and deaths. In the case of a sudden death, for example, the RCE entry might add that the cause of death was suicide. The record of a bigamous marriage might be cancelled in the RCE, or the names in a birth record might be altered.

In addition, you may be able to view digitized entries in the registers of Minor Records (of births, marriages and deaths of Scots outside Scotland) later this year. The Minor Records include Foreign and Service Returns of births, marriages and deaths, Marine Registers of births and deaths, and an Air Register of deaths.

The Court of the Lord Lyon King of Arms, which is responsible for regulating Scottish heraldry, has digitized its "Public Register of All Arms and Bearings" (known as the Lyon Register). This is expected to become available through Scotland's People by this year or next.

In 2006, the Kirk Session (parish council) minutes of the Church of Scotland and breakaway churches, held by the NAS, are expected to become available online. These are currently being digitized by volunteers from the Genealogical Society of Utah.

Aberdeenshire, Ayrshire, Dumfriesshire, Kirkcudbrightshire, Moray, Wigtownshire and the Scottish border counties have already been digitized, with Shetland and Orkney to follow shortly. In addition, the NAS intends to digitize the registers of sasines (land records), poor relief registers and taxation records.

ply whether a person was born in the census county or not, whereas from 1851 on, the county and parish of birth were given.

If the person had been born outside Scotland, normally only the country,

The screenshot shows the Scotland's People website interface. At the top, it says "Scotland's People Connecting Generations" and "The official government source of genealogical data for Scotland". There are navigation tabs for Home, Search Records, What's in the Database, Help & Other Resources, and Login. A search bar is present with fields for Location and Date. Below the search bar, there are sections for "NEW BIRTH REGISTER OPEN" and "LATEST BIRTHS & DEATHS". A table titled "AVAILABLE RECORDS ON THIS SITE" lists various record types with their respective date ranges:

Statutory Registers	Old Parish Registers	Census Records	Old & Testaments
• Births: 1855-1994 • Marriages: 1870-1979 • Deaths: 1855-1994	• Births & Deaths: 1552-1924 • Banns & Testaments: 1700-1924	• 1871 • 1881 • 1891 • 1901	• From Index Search 1552-1900

Below the table are four featured record sets with thumbnail images:

- GETTING SENSIBLE:** The story you have to tell your family tree.
- FAMILY DEEDS:** Find the secrets of the good and the great.
- WELSH WISDOM?:** The first steps to a better past are in Scotland.
- HANDWRITING GREEN:** A collection of family papers to help you.

Scotland's People website (www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk) provides online access to a large number of the major records you need to consult to create your family tree.

such as "England" or "Ireland", was stated, although you can be lucky and find the county and parish given as well.

Fully indexed digitized copies of the census returns for 1871, 1891 and 1901 are accessible via the Scotland's People site, where you can also view the 1881 census in the fully indexed transcription published by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (LDS). This is not accessible through the LDS FamilySearch website (www.familysearch.org).

OLD PARISH REGISTER INDEXES — 1553-1854

Before vital records were kept by the civil authorities, registers of baptisms, marriages or proclamations of banns (giving notice of the intention to marry) and burials had been kept by the approximately 900 parishes of the Church of Scotland. Unfortunately, the parish entries give a lot less information than those in the statutory registers.

Although registration was supposed to start in 1553, the records of only one parish (Errol in Perthshire) began that early. On the Isle of Skye, now joined to the mainland by bridge,

Other Free Websites With Scottish Primary Records or Indexes

Instead of paying to use the Scotland's People website, you may be lucky enough to find transcriptions of Scottish primary records, or at least indexes to them, on various other sites that you can use free of charge.

At the LDS FamilySearch website (www.familysearch.org), for instance, you'll find virtually all the OPRs indexed in the International Genealogical Index (IGI), and also civil registration births and marriages that took place between 1855 and 1875. Although the 1881 censuses for England, Wales, the Isle of Man and the Channel Islands are searchable free of charge at FamilySearch.org, you won't find the Scottish 1881 census there. For that, you have to use Scotland's People and pay for access.

Census and deaths/burial records for a few parishes in North Perthshire have been made available online by the North Perthshire Family History Group (www.npfhg.org). The local administration for Dumfries and Galloway has put a number a databases online, including the 1851 census records for Dumfriesshire, Kirkcudbrightshire and Wigtownshire. You can find them at www.dumgal.gov.uk/dumgal/MiniWeb.aspx?id=86&menuid=921&openid=921.

The Free Census project (freecen.rootsweb.com) aims to make transcriptions of the 1841-71 and 1891 censuses accessible online free of charge. So far,

parts of the 1841-61 Scottish censuses are available for various counties, and the 1861 and 71 censuses for Scottish Shipping.

You can also view parts of the 1841 census at the Relative Finder website (freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.com/~relys4u) set up by Terry Sheppard of the New Zealand Society of Genealogists. At the Ayrshire Ancestors site (www.ayrshireancestors.co.uk), you can search indexes to the 1851 and 61 censuses for the county. For the full census returns, however, you'll have to buy a CD for 1851 or 61 from the East Ayrshire Family History Society (www.eastayrshirefhs.org.uk).

At another Ayrshire site, Ayrshire Roots (fp.ayrshireroots.plus.com/Genealogy/Records/Census/1851/1851.htm), you can download the 1851 census in the form of transcriptions of every 50th enumeration book. These are available for 26 of the 33 historic Scottish counties (as well as 39 English and 12 Welsh counties, plus County Antrim in Ireland). The site tells you which parishes (or at least, parts of parishes) are included in those Scottish counties.

Walt Custer's Orkney Genealogy website (www.cursiter.com) contains indexes to baptisms and marriages in Caithness, Orkney and Shetland for a large number of surnames. ScotsFind (www.scotstofind.org) is another site with marriage registers and other databases.

SCOTTISH COUNTIES AND PARISHES

For administrative purposes, Scotland was divided into counties (or shires), which varied greatly in size, the largest being Inverness-shire (over 4,200 square miles, slightly smaller than Connecticut) and the smallest Clackmannanshire (just 55 square miles).

Each county was sub-divided into parishes, with Aberdeenshire containing almost 100 parishes, but Clackmannanshire only five (in 1901). A parish originated as the area under the jurisdiction of a church, with many parishes forming a diocese, the area ruled over by a bishop.

In 1975, the 33 Scottish counties were reorganized into 12 regions. Strathclyde, the largest of the regions, contained half the population of Scotland. A second reorganization took place in 1996, in which the regions were replaced by 32 unitary authorities.





registers were not kept until the early 19th century. By that time, many Scots were worshipping at churches that had broken away from the Church of Scotland, and their vital events were going unrecorded.

Once civil registration had started in 1855, the parish registers up to 1854 had to be handed in to the GROS. These are known as the Old Parish (or Parochial) Registers (OPRs). The indexes of baptisms and marriages/banns for the whole of Scotland have now been computerized, and you can search these at the Scotland's People website.

WILLS AND INVENTORIES — 1513-1901

You can also search the index of wills and inventories online at Scotland's People free of charge. The records indexed are actually testaments (entries written in ledgers by the clerks of the various courts) confirming or appointing executors, with the original documents held by the National Archives of Scotland (NAS) (www.nas.gov.uk).

Land and buildings were considered "heritable property", which was automatically inherited by the eldest son, and not mentioned in wills until the early 19th century. After the Heritable Jurisdictions Act was passed by the British Parliament in 1868, real estate was regularly included in wills.

A testament can either be a "testament testamentar" (recording a will) or a "testament dativ" (recording the administration of the deceased's estate, when he or she had not made a will). An inventory may be included with either type of testament. It costs £5 (about \$9 US or \$11 CDN) to downloading a document, regardless of its length. 

Alan Stewart is a member of the Scotland's People User Group, and the author of Gathering the Clans: Tracing Scottish Ancestry on the Internet (Phillimore), available in North America from the David Brown Book Company (www.oxbowbooks.com/bookinfo.cfm/ID/59223).

The first issue of *Internet Genealogy* is due to be mailed to subscribers in February 2006. Newsstand copies should be available by the end of February. For an up-to-date report on the status of *Internet Genealogy*, visit our website.

Tracing Your Ancestors Using Online Resources

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COMING SOON!

Internet Genealogy is a new magazine from the publishers of Family Chronicle and History Magazine. **Internet Genealogy** is a preview issue. [Subscribe Today and Save!](#)

The first issue will carry a cover date of April/May 2006 and will be on newsstands across North America at the end of February. A "preview issue", tentatively set at 34-pages, will be carried in the January/February 2006 issue of Family Chronicle. This preview issue will feature sample pages from the first issue of Internet Genealogy to give the reader and advertiser a good taste of the new magazine.

Internet Genealogy will be published six times a year and be available by subscription, on newsstands and as an online magazine on the web. The cover price is tentatively set at \$5.95 (US) and the subscription rate of the printed magazine at \$28 (US). However, there will be an introductory subscription rate for a limited time at \$20 (US).



www.internet-genealogy.com

Godfrey Memorial Library

I FIRST HEARD ABOUT the Godfrey Memorial Library in an article in *Family Chronicle* by Halvor Moorshead. Moorshead called the library's online resources "the best value in genealogy", as they are accessible with only a \$35 (US) annual membership. So when he asked me to do a feature article on the library's online collection, I was more than happy to give it a try. Was I ever in for a treat!

The Godfrey Memorial Library (GML), founded in 1947, has a mandate to collect and publish materials relating to American genealogy and biography. The collection, both onsite and online, continues to grow day by day, and membership in the GML gives you access to an impressive array of digital resources, including thousands of newspapers, obituary databases, census indexes and images, vital record indexes, military record indexes, local history publications and biographical databases. Few of these resources were created by the GML, but by various government agencies, historical and genealogical societies and private companies. However, the library has gathered them all together and paid for subscriptions in many cases (although some are freely available, if you know how to find them), so that library members can access them all from one central portal.

Each resource is listed both by topic/record type and by location (mostly American), and clicking on the name of the database takes you right to the search page on whatever website it resides.

Your biggest challenge will be choosing what to search and limiting the results, as they can be overwhelming if the name you're searching is common! Expect to find yourself glued to your computer for many, many hours as you wade your way through the resources offered. As one who knows from experience (I got a little carried away "researching" for this article), you might want to limit yourself to searching the records for one state at a time, and maybe set yourself a timer so you don't find yourself bleary-eyed with a stiff neck when you finally look up from your computer.

Rather than try to describe all the

resources available through the GML, which would make this a 50-page article, I will content myself with giving



The Godfrey Memorial Library based in Middlefield, Connecticut.

you my Top 10 Reasons to Join the Godfrey Memorial Library.

1: NEWSPAPERS

Newspapers are the best way to put "flesh" on the "bones" of your ancestors. They can give you all kinds of information that you won't find anywhere else. For example, using GML's access to the NewspaperArchive Elite collection, I found a report of a distant cousin being charged with murder when he attempted to defend himself from an intruder, an account of another cousin's custody dispute and a rather quaint narrative about a third cousin's wedding, including a detailed description of her wedding dress.

Newspapers are also valuable for their ability to reach into the present, where most "official" records are restricted by privacy laws. Thus, if you want to track down distant cousins and or identify all the descendants of a particular ancestor, newspapers will become your favorite tool, and the GML gives you access to a huge collection of newspapers, both past and present.

The Main Index page once you are signed in.



2: CENSUSES

HeritageQuest's cen-

renting their home, the value of the home or monthly rental amount, and whether or not they are an American war veteran. Whew! I'll bet you learn a few things about your grandparents that you didn't know before.

3: FALLEN SOLDIERS

If any of your American ancestors served in the military, you should be able to find out when and where they died and were buried, and perhaps, details of their service, using the resources provided by the GML. Here you'll find links to an index to Revolutionary War Pension Applications, the National Burial Index kept by the US Department of Veteran's Affairs, and databases of those who died in the American Civil War, WWI, WWII, the Korean War and the first Iraq War.

4: AFRICAN-AMERICAN HISTORY

The GML has a fantastic collection of resources for African-American research, including digital reproductions of six major 19th-century African-American newspapers and the African American Biographical Database which includes profiles and full-text sketches telling the story of both famous and not-so-famous Black Americans' lives.

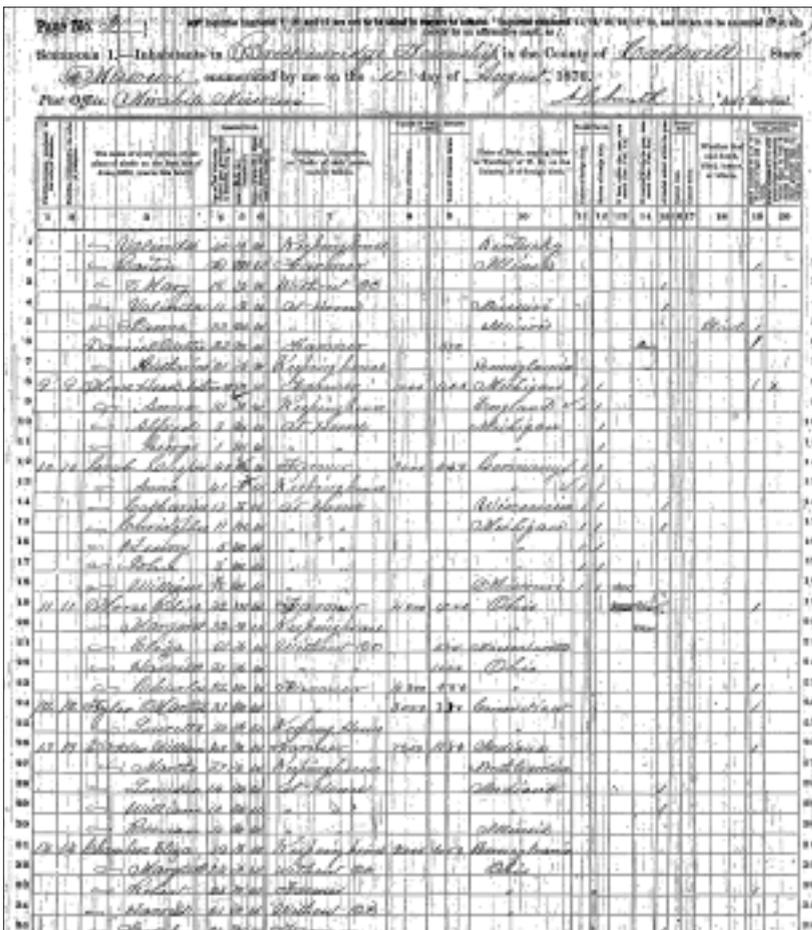
5: VITAL RECORDS

Many indexes to state and county birth, marriage and death records are available on the Internet, mostly free of charge, but do you know how to find them? Never fear, the GML provides a handy one-stop jumping off point for vital indexes in 20 states. And once you know there's an index, why not try checking it, even if you're not aware of any relatives living there? That's the kind of reasoning that led me to find a whole branch of my mostly Canadian family living in California!

While these are only indexes (you won't find the actual full records online, these must be ordered from the government, for a fee), you can learn a lot from an index, especially if a family lived in one location for while, by combining the results of searches of birth, marriage and death indexes, and adding up the ages (usually provided on death record indexes).

6: OBITUARIES

I love obituaries. I know that sounds morbid, but obituaries are nothing less



A page from the Heritage-Quest US federal census — in this case from 1870 Missouri. For most of the census, each name is indexed and linked to original images.

Membership of the Godfrey Memorial Library has been called “the best value in genealogy”.

sus indexes and images are available through the GML for a lot less than you'll pay elsewhere, and who doesn't need access to census records? One of the basic building blocks in American genealogy, census records allow you a one-stop “snapshot” of a family every 10 years from 1790 to 1930. From 1850 onward, these records show you the names, ages and occupations of every member of your ancestor's household (from 1790 to 1840 you only get the name of the head of the household, and the numbers of other males and females in various age groupings).

If you're just starting your research, the 1930 census is probably your best first step. As of writing this, Heritage-Quest had not yet loaded all of the 1930 census records, but by the time you read this, they likely will have. The 1930 census will give you your ancestor's address, name, age, sex, marital status, age at first marriage, level of education, relationship to the head of the household, occupation, place of birth (and that of both of his/her parents), mother tongue, year of immigration and naturalization (if not born in the US), whether they're owning or

Godfrey Memorial Library

than mini-biographies, covering an ancestor's entire life. True, they tend to be overly sympathetic, but where else are you going to find so much information about a single individual in a single record? If, like me, you're working on a family history book, and you want your book to be more than just a list of names and dates, you'll find obituaries to be wonderful additions.

The GML provides a handy access point to NewsBank's American Obituaries, a database of obituaries and death notices published in hundreds of American newspapers from the 1980s to the present. And, of course, you can also find obituaries in several collections of older digitized newspapers accessible through the GML.

7: CRIMINALS, SCALLYWAGS AND BANKRUPTS

If obituaries paint rosy pictures of our relatives' lives, other records reveal darker shadows. The GML gives you access to prisoners' databases for 10 states plus the federal inmate database. Some of these cover more than a 100 years' worth of convicts records. And if your relatives weren't criminals, but had brushes with the civil side of the law, you may find them listed in FindUSA's database of civil judgments, small claims judgments, tax liens and chapter 7 filings.

8: PERSI

Have you ever wished you could find an article about your ancestor's home town, an unusual record collection, or a famous ancestor, without having to read through years of genealogy and local history magazines from across the country? Your wish is the Allen County Public Library's command. They've indexed over 200 years worth of 6,500 genealogical and historical periodicals and the result is called PERSI, the Periodical Source Index.

PERSI is available through your GML membership from the folks at HeritageQuest Online. Once you find an article that interests you, you can use the citation provided to get a copy of the article, either through your own public library, or for a small fee from Allen County Public Library.

9: WHO'S WHO

So you've stumbled across a moderately famous or successful relative and you want to know more about his or her life

and career. Where can you look to find out more? You start with the GML's subscription to Marquis Who's Who on the Web, an online version of the famous biographical directories of Americans in history, science, law, medicine, business, politics, media, entertainment, education, religion and human services. In total, this database gives you biographies of over 1.2 million people, at least half of whom have to be your relatives, right?

10: BECAUSE IT'S THE BEST VALUE IN AMERICAN GENEALOGY!

You didn't really need me to remind you of the price, but just in case you missed it, all the resources I've mentioned above, and more, are available to you through the Godfrey Memorial Library for \$35 (US) per year. What a deal!

So, what's the downside? Well, other than the truly overwhelming quantity of resources, my only quibble with the GML's offerings is that it's sometimes difficult to know exactly what you're searching (who is the actual provider, what's in the database, etc.) because the GML's link takes you right to the search engine on whatever website the database resides. I'd appreciate it if the GML could provide a little background material on each database. But that's truly quibbling, because you can usually find a description of the resource if you look for it. To get a library card you can now join online using PayPal or a credit card, or phone the library at 860-346-4375, or mail your check to: Godfrey Memorial Library, 134 Newfield Street, Middletown, CT 06457-2534.



A page from the New York Times of 26 May 1912. Every word from millions of newspaper pages are indexed so it is easy to find references to people.

Janice Nickerson is a professional genealogist based in Toronto, Canada. Her website is www.uppercanadagenealogy.com



Linkpendium

WHEN YOU START SEARCHING for your ancestors, where do you begin?

If you asked this question 10 years ago, besides the obvious response of “at home”, many genealogists would have said “the courthouse”, or the “City or County Clerk’s Office”, or perhaps even the local Family History Center branch of the LDS Family History Library (FHL).

While these places are still important fixtures in the field of genealogy, more than likely most family history sleuths today would say they begin their search on the Internet. In fact, searching for ancestors on the web is becoming increasingly popular, says Nielsen/NetRatings, with eight percent of the total people online in the US logging on to research their family history in April 2005 (Statistics from Netratings.com www.netratings.com reported at: <http://blogs.zdnet.com/ITFacts/?p=1229>).

If indeed, you begin your search online, what sites do you visit first? Certainly, genealogists today are not short of options when surfing the web for clues to the past. But what if you could go to a site where you could start by looking at a particular surname or a locality in the US where your ancestors may have resided for a period or settled in permanently? A site that combines the functionality of relevant links à la Cyndi’s List (www.cyndislist.com), yet penetrates the layers of the Internet better than a Google search?

Well genealogists, there is some good news, a site called Linkpendium, www.linkpendium.com.

WHAT IS IT?

According to its website, Linkpendium is “The definitive directory to genealogical and other resources on the web.” The Linkpendium collection currently includes **2,809,296** links specialized to genealogical information.

Linkpendium is being developed by Karen Isaacson and Brian Leverich, founders of the extremely popular RootsWeb genealogical community site. At the time of its merger with Ancestry in June 2000, RootsWeb had about 600,000 registered users, was serving about 100,000,000 web page views

monthly, and was delivering about 160,000,000 pieces of email monthly to the subscribers of its 18,000 mailing lists.

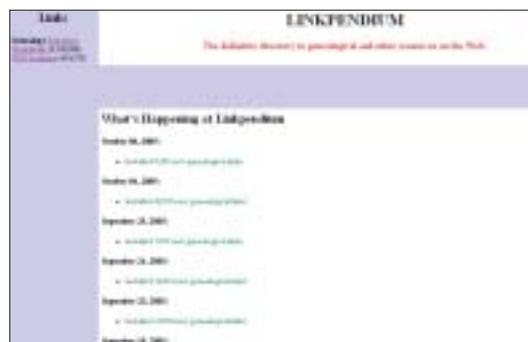
“Karen and I were both amazed by the huge volume of genealogically-relevant information that is freely available on the web. Volunteer groups, libraries and many other organizations are bringing amazing resources online,” says Leverich. Based on this information, they set out to build the comprehensive directory. He also notes that Linkpendium is unusual in that they operate Network Operations Center, a 1,000 square foot facility with a direct connection through Sprint to the Internet backbone. “We operate our own routers, switches, servers, uninterruptible power supplies, and generators, and we exclusively use Open Sources software.”

Updates to the website are made several times weekly, and take about three hours to run on a high-end server. The Linkpendium collection is huge, with a raw size more than 10 times larger than the next-most-comprehensive genealogical directory. But even at its size, it “barely scratches the surface”. As Leverich points out, “Even looking beyond genealogy, Linkpendium is one of the largest human-edited directories to resources on the web.” The Linkpendium collection includes over 2.8 million links specialized to genealogical information.

HOW TO USE IT

Accessing the site, you can choose to search on “Surname” or “Locality” (more categories are being planned). Once you select your desired surname or place, you will get a list of all the associated relevant genealogy links that have been identified by the webmasters or

According to its website, Linkpendium is “The definitive directory to genealogical and other resources on the web.”



As with many websites that concentrate on substance rather than glitter, Linkpendium is not pretty but it is crammed with useful information.

588 links are offered when Allegheny County, PA is selected.





An attractive feature of Linkpendium is the ability to enter your last name to see what links are available.

According to Leverich, when you do a Google search for surnames and places, often about 90 percent of the results are unrelated to genealogy — you get too much of the “wrong stuff”.

*Lisa A. Alzo, M.F.A. is the author of **Three Slovak Women, Baba's Kitchen: Slovak & Rusyn Family Recipes and Traditions and Finding Your Slovak Ancestors**. Lisa teaches online genealogy courses for **MyFamily.com, Inc.** and the **National Institute for Genealogical Studies**. She can be found online at www.lisaalzo.com.*



submitted by users and the total number of links found for the surname or place noted in parentheses. The list also includes the source (online databases, message boards and other key genealogical websites). Of course more common surnames, like “Smith” will have a large number of links

(currently 2,010 on Linkpendium). I decided to investigate the links available for my last name, Alzo. The name, with its Slovak origins, is unusual, so I did not anticipate finding many links. I clicked on “Surnames” and scrolled to “Surnames beginning with ‘A’” (89,054); then Surnames beginning with: Alz (86). When I get to “Alzo” there are three links listed under “General (not specific to a US location) Surname Information”: 1) Maps and Gazetteers: Where were Alzo families living in 1920? (Source: Ancestry.com 1920 family distribution maps); 2) Miscellaneous Data RootsWeb Site Search for Alzo (Source: RootsWeb) PA Allegheny; and 3) *Three Slovak Women* (my own book): Surnames included: Figlar (Figler, Figlyar); Straka; Alzo (Alsio); Fencak (Source: Genealogical Publishing Company and Clearfield Company). A dollar sign (\$) next to a link means that there is a fee associated with the source. The small number of results did not really surprise me and gives me a clue that I will need to also explore other, more traditional sources. Next, I tried the locality search. I used Pennsylvania (14,818); Allegheny County (588) For example, Cemeteries of Allegheny County (Interment.net) Mailing Lists and Message Boards (33), Societies (20), etc. There’s a lot of “meat” here — many new sources I’ve not consulted before that will hopefully provide new leads for my research.

WHY USE IT?

What is the advantage to using Linkpendium? Isn’t using a search engine such as Google just easier? According to Leverich, when you do a Google search for surnames and places, often about 90 percent of the results are unrelated to genealogy — you get too much of the “wrong stuff”. Even if you put in key words such as “genealogy”

or “family history”, while you knock off some of the unwanted results, you still don’t get in deep enough to the “good info”, including biographies, family genealogies, oral histories, diaries, memoirs and the like. Leverich noticed this while searching for his own ancestors, attempting to find the “meat behind the bones”. He also added that many genealogists (especially newbies) don’t know how to phrase an advanced Google query — they don’t know how to “drill through the chaff to get to the wheat.” With Linkpendium, there’s no need to worry about phrasing a query. The site is in Leverich’s words, “definitive”, in that it is “the best single place to go for links to locality and surname information.”

Another important facet is the process of link validation. According to Leverich, when you visit other sites that contain large number of links, often you find the link has moved or no longer exists and typically the broken links take a long time to fix (if they are ever fixed) because of a reliance on human intervention to detect and correct the problems. Linkpendium utilizes both manual checks and automated link validation to keep their links as up-to-date as possible. But, occasionally you will find broken links on the site if they are in a “waiting period”. Leverich says that the first step is that either their spider (computer program) or a human user tells them about a broken link. The second step to wait awhile, because sometimes things disappear and then reappear. (For example, with Hurricane, Katrina there’s Gulf Coast genealogy that’s disappeared, but which they hope will reappear as the area recovers). The third step is that they manually look for the resource. More often than not, a resource doesn’t permanently disappear, it just moves to a new URL. It often requires a human editor to uncover where the resource has moved.

COMPARING LINKPENDIUM WITH OTHER INDEXES

What about a comparison with Cyndi’s List www.cyndislist.com? For years, genealogists have used Cyndi’s List — a categorized and cross-referenced index to genealogical resources on the Internet — as a free jumping-off point in their online research. The site, started by Cyndi Howells, has been around since March 1996. This “list” began as a one-page set of bookmarks that Cyndi

shared with fellow genealogical society members — it now contains more than 248,000 links.

While citing the unique characteristics of Linkpendium, Leverich hopes that any good genealogist will utilize both Linkpendium and Cyndi's List to be sure that they are getting the full range of information that is out there on the Internet.

WHAT'S NEXT?

According to Leverich, Linkpendium is only in its first phase of development. "The second phase will be the implementation of an 'open-source text search engine' running on our own servers. Sort of like a 'Google specialized for genealogists' that will use the Linkpendium directory to identify pages to be included," he says. "We have, for example, the ability to determine that some words are surely (or, at least, probably) surnames. This lets us construct searches that are more likely to return results that are relevant to genealogists," he adds. They basically have prototypes in place, but aren't quite yet ready to open them to the public or set a firm date as to when this will occur. A third phase of Linkpendium's development is planned, but it's still far enough out that they aren't discussing it at this time. Leverich notes, "We do believe it will advance genealogical research at least as much as our creation of RootsWeb advanced the ability of genealogists to communicate with other genealogists."

For now an average of 100,000 links per month are added to the Linkpendium collection. Users can submit links for addition to the site; these submitted links usually appear on the website within a week or so. The process is simple. Click on the "Submit a link for inclusion on this page!" link. In the box that appears, type the URL, a brief description and your e-mail address (optional). For example, upon viewing the links to societies in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania (Allegheny County), I noticed that there wasn't a link for one of the societies to which I belong as both a member and a sponsor — The Homestead and Mifflin Township Historical Society at www.hmths.org. So, I completed the easy online submission form to add the link to the site.

After using Linkpendium myself, and speaking with Leverich, I am quite excited about all the new resources out there online that I can use in my own personal family history research. As more researchers learn about the potential of this comprehensive guide, and as the site moves into its second and third phases of development, the genealogical community can expect great things ahead in terms of new and different online resources for finding the "meat behind the bones" for their ancestors.



SOME OF THE FEATURES WE HAVE SCHEDULED OR ARE PLANNING FOR FUTURE ISSUES OF

Internet GENEALOGY

1837online.com • Virtual Cemeteries • Steve Morse's One-Step Web Pages • Online Telephone Directories (including international) • Land and Property Records Online • Hidden Gems/New Collections on Ancestry.com • Slavicizing Your Computer • Building an Online Genealogical Research Community • Five Most Effective Ways to Network Using the Internet • English and Welsh Vital Records • How to Use Online Library Catalogs • Finding Death Records/Dates Online • Top Places to Start your Genealogy on the Net • What You Should Know Before You Start • Using Libraries • FHL Catalog • Googling • Newspaper Research • Finding Births Online • Census Records Online • Best Family Websites • MyTrees • Family Trees Online • Newsletters • Genealogy Blogs • Godfrey Library • Genealogy Today • Genlines • Maps Online • History Online • E-Bay Gems • Dead Fred • Finding Photos Online • Online Genealogy Courses • Eneclann (Irish Online) • New Databases • War Graves • SSDI • City Directories • WWI Draft Cards • GEDCOM Files • Swapping Your Information • Canada 1901 Census Index • Ellis Island • Extra Info from the US Census • Original/Compiled Records • IGI/FamilySearch • Your Village/Town Online • GRL (Canadian subscription database)

The features mentioned here are planned for future issues. However, circumstances may affect the final content.

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- Free Surname Browse Database has more than 2 million unique names
- US and Canadian Extracted Birth, Death, and Marriage Records
- US, Canadian, and United Kingdom Partial Census Indexes
- Free Quarterly Genealogy How-To Newsletters
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Case Study: Harry Sinclair

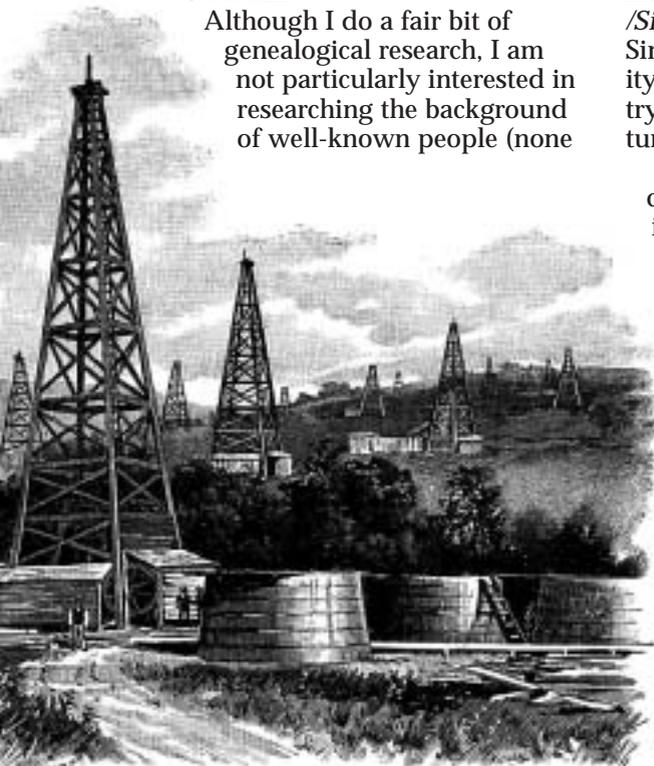
INTERNET GENEALOGY MAGAZINE will feature real case studies. These projects will conduct genealogical research on a real person using the resources of the Internet whenever possible.

A FEW MONTHS AGO, two distinguished gentlemen visited our sister magazine *Family Chronicle's* offices. The Earl of Caithness and Sinclair, Clan Chief Malcolm Sinclair and Clan Chief Lord Jamie Semphill came to promote a program of genealogical tourism to Scotland. During a pleasant lunch, Sinclair asked me how one could find out about one of the clan's most successful businessmen: Harold Sinclair of Sinclair Oil, "the one with the dinosaur in the company logo" as he put it. He knew nothing about this member of his clan but Sinclair thought that Harold Sinclair had died before 1940.

We selected Harold Sinclair as our first candidate for a case study in *Internet Genealogy*. Starting with limited information, we conducted some research, using only the resources of the Internet. What can be found out about this man and his ancestors?

GOOGLE

Although I do a fair bit of genealogical research, I am not particularly interested in researching the background of well-known people (none



of my ancestors qualify!) so this was a first for me. I thought that Google would be a sensible place to start. I got over one million hits by searching on "Harold Sinclair" but none of the first offerings seemed to be our candidate. So I tried "Harold Sinclair" together with "Sinclair Oil". The first few entries did not seem relevant, but the ninth was headed *Sinclair History and Genealogy: Guest book. Harry Sinclair (of the Sinclair Oil family and mixed up in the Teapot Dome ...*

This seemed promising. However, the page that Google indexed did not contain any reference to a Harry Sinclair. (To search for a word or phrase on a web page in Internet Explorer type Ctrl+F: Control and F, at the same time and type in what you are looking for.) This is not unusual; Google indexes are often out of date. The web page would have held the reference at some point but this entry was supplanted by later information. The website's main page, <http://kingcrest.com/Sinclair/>, deals with the Sinclair family. There is a facility to search the entire site but trying both Harold and Harry Sinclair turned up nothing that helped.

We did, however, have a clue — could our candidate have been Harry instead of Harold? Although Harry is usually a diminutive of Harold, it can be a name in its own right. Entering "Harry Sinclair" in Google worked. The first four listings were for someone else but the fifth was great, www.spartacus.schoolnet.co.uk/USASinclairHF.htm. It was headed "Harry F. Sinclair" and gave us a potted history:

Harry Ford Sinclair was born in Wheeling, West Virginia, on 6th July, 1876. Sinclair was initially a pharmacist but in 1901 he became involved in the oil industry. He started the White Oil Company with a partner, Edward White. In 1916 he established the Sinclair Oil and Refining Corporation and the Sinclair Gulf Corporation. He



Harry Ford Sinclair strikes a powerful pose in an undated photograph.

We were asked to find out about Harold Sinclair of Sinclair Oil "the one with the dinosaur in the company logo" as it was put. He knew nothing about this member of his clan but he thought that Harold Sinclair had died before 1940.

Case Study: Harry Sinclair

Harry Sinclair Dies; Teapot Dome Figure Headed Oil Concern

By The Associated Press.

PASADENA, Calif., Nov. 10
—Harry F. Sinclair, founder of
the Sinclair Oil Corporation,
died at his home today. He was
80 years old.

Mr. Sinclair, who was also
chairman of the board of the
Richfield Oil Corporation, retired
from active management in 1949
at the age of 72 and five years
later as a member of the board
of Sinclair. By that time the as-
sets of the concern he founded in
1916 had grown from \$51,000,000
to around \$1,200,000,000. Its
earnings topped \$68,000,000.

Surviving are his widow,
Elizabeth; a son, Harry F. Sin-
clair Jr. of Beverly Hills, and a
daughter, Mrs. David Mdivani
of Los Angeles.

Harry Sinclair's obituary as reported in the New York Times. Despite his successful career, which made him a millionaire before he was 35, Sinclair is remembered mainly for his involvement in the Teapot Dome scandal. Image from New York Times Historical Archives.

(Below) The Senate hearings into the Teapot Dome scandal.

www.senate.gov/artandhistory/history/resources/graphic/large/TeapotDome.jpg



Harry F. Sinclair House, 2 East Seventy-ninth Street, New York City. Photo from American Memory site of Library of Congress.

later combined these enterprises into the Sinclair Consolidated Oil Corporation.

What follows is a lot about the Teapot Dome Scandal. The brief bio ends with:

Harry Ford Sinclair died in Pasadena, California, on 10th November 1956.

This is a pretty good start. We have clearly found our candidate. Our starting information

had both a wrong name and death date. This is not unusual; verbal references of the kind we started with are frequently wrong.

The website with the mini-bio was Spartacus Educational, a British site. The design of the site gives one a degree of confidence in the information but to do a proper job we need confirmation.

OBITUARY

Now that we have a name, death date and location, we can look for an obituary. Harry Ford Sinclair seems to have been someone who might have a number of

newspaper obituaries.

We have access to both the *Los Angeles Times* and the *New York Times* archives through our membership of

the Godfrey Memorial Library (see elsewhere in this preview). Many local libraries, and almost all major ones, have access to these same newspaper archives.

Both papers carried fairly lengthy obituaries. These confirmed the death date as 10 November 1956. The *New York Times* gave his birth date as 6 July 1876, the same as the bio on the Internet.

TEAPOT DOME SCANDAL

Everything we have read about Harry Sinclair so far makes reference to this scandal. In 1929, Albert Hall, who had been Secretary of the Interior, was found guilty of accepting bribes totaling \$400,000 for leasing government land

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