

# TODAY'S GENEALOGY RESOURCE MEDIA MAKE DIGGING ROOTS THAT EASY!

## PRINTED BOOKS, ONLINE AND OFFLINE GENEALOGY RESOURCES: A PRELIMINARY REPORT

Presented by Arlene H. Eakle

The Genealogical Institute, Inc.  
PO Box 129, Tremonton, UT 84337-0129  
<http://www.arleneeakle.com>

### Books – Printed Sources, Research Guides, Genealogy Aids

Library Access: Check “close to home” first, then libraries elsewhere.

- <http://publiclibraries.com> – Includes links and directory listings.
- Interlibrary Loan – Genealogy Circulating Collection (AFRA-MOSGA Collection), Mid-Continent Public Library, North Independence Branch, 15616 E 24 Highway, Independence MO 64050. <http://www.mcpl.lib.mo.us/genlh/>.
- <http://www.ocl.org/worldcat/genealogy> – This Library of Congress site identifies your nearest library with the book you need.

Purchase: <http://www.amazon.com>, <http://www.bn.com>, and individual genealogy publishers.

Consult *Everton's Genealogical Helper*; and Linda E. Brinkerhoff and Arlene H. Eakle, *Armchair Genealogy* (with “Million-Dollar Genealogy Rolodex”) available from The Genealogical Institute, and book review sections in genealogy periodicals.

Access on your own computer:

- Archive CD books, Trinity College Ireland <http://www.eneclann.ie>
- <http://www.stemmonspublishing.com> – 705 genealogy reference books (230,642 pages) on 10 CDs to be loaded on your own computer for \$99.00.

Online Access:

- <http://www.books.google.com/advancedbooksearch> (Google Book Search.) Google wants to provide online access to every book ever printed—those with expired copyrights or no copyright, those being published currently, and those still covered by copyright. For genealogy purposes, many of the old printed volumes of record source extracts, local society proceedings, family histories, collections and anthologies of useful information, government published indexes and documents, etc. are already available. Read the introduction and description of the service. Then give it a try. Especially valuable for pre-1600 research. <http://www.medievalgenealogy.org.uk/google.shtml> has “Some Notes on Medieval English Genealogy: Google Book Search—Hints and Tips.”
- <http://www.questia.com> – Online library of 70,000 books and over 2 million other printed media—journal articles, newspaper articles, magazine articles. Fee site with free trial, free access to some 5,000 classic books (mostly fiction), print copyrighted pages for 10 cents (includes copyright clearance), some pages print free. Special features: Research Wizard—Who else is researching what you are right now? Filing cabinet with folders where you can store your research notes and conclusions. Create instant bibliographies and

footnotes in 1 of 7 different scholarly formats. 6,000+ research topics linked directly to resources including 30,930 genealogy items.

- <http://www.lib.byu.edu/fhc/> Over 20,000 (in progress) family histories are fully digitized and indexed on this site. Through partnerings with the Allen County Public Library in Fort Wayne, IN, and other genealogy library collections, this site is expected to grow rapidly. Family histories and genealogies include family Bible entries and vital records recorded by genealogists from a variety of sources.
- Library of Congress, *American Imprints* (in progress)
- HeritageQuest Online – fee site, available through public libraries from ProQuest, 20,000 digitized books with an every-word index.
- <http://www.jonathansheppard.com> Book search service, out-of-print books.
- <http://www.amazon.com> Book search service for new and used books.

## Periodicals – Journals, Quarterlies, Newsletters, Magazines, Series

- Family History Library in Salt Lake City has the largest collection of German Periodicals in the United States with complete runs of many of them.
- PERSI – list and index to genealogy periodicals, available HeritageQuest Online, and Ancestry.com
- Everton’s *Genealogical Helper*, PO Box 368, Logan UT 84323-0368. 800-443-6325.  
<http://www.everton.com> NEW: online access to the *Helper* with *hot links* to reviewed and recommended Web sites. Each issue features “Net Family History” written by William Dollarhide and Jeffrey Brockman focused on specific categories of genealogy records. See “Best Rated Newspaper Sites,” *Everton’s Genealogical Helper*, Jan-Feb 2008, Mar-Apr 2008, May-June 2008.
- *Family Tree Magazine*, 4700 E Galbraith Road, Cincinnati OH 45236. 888-403-9002.  
<http://www.familytreemagazine.com>  
<http://www.familytreemagazine.com/articles/nov07/1107alternatives.pdf> – This link connects you to a chart showing specific vital records databases on FEE Web sites with FREE alternatives on other sites. Please note that the free sites may be updated and corrected less often than the fee sites, and the total amount of data may be limited.
- *Family Chronicle Magazine* and *Internet Genealogy Magazine*, PO Box 194, Niagara Falls, NY 14304. 888-326-2476. <http://familychronicle.com> and <http://internet-genealogy.com>.

## Directories

- Resources
- People
- Address Books – Libraries, Genealogy and History Societies
- Genealogists – Amateurs, Professionals
- *Family History Phonebook*. Online genealogy directory with both free and fee listings. Sponsored by <http://www.familyhistoryexpos.com> (formerly myancestorsfound.com).
- See also “City Directories and Phone Books,” *Everton’s Genealogical Helper* (Sep-Oct 2007): 77-97.

## Manuscript Collections

— <http://www.loc.gov/coll/nucmc/nucmc.html> National Union Catalog of Manuscript Collections – description with index of specific manuscript collections in U.S. libraries and archives.

— <http://www.genealogylibrarycenter.com> Genealogy manuscripts and books that would otherwise be lost or destroyed:

- 6 ½ ton **British Isles** professional *family and locality files* (Sherwood Collection). 3,000,000-entry slip index by Sherwood for **British Court Documents**.
- 50,000-entry card index to **German Churchbooks** and **European and British Isles map and atlas** collection (Conley Smith Collection).
- 32 file drawers of mostly **Irish and American** research files, including Hollywood celebrities (Harry Hollingsworth Collection).
- 5 **Virginia** databases – Northern Neck rent rolls, family notebooks, marriage records, land ownership maps (every-name index being compiled), "minutemen" (1774-1776) for Culpeper and Amherst counties.
- **Chamberlain** Families of America Collection – family notebooks, correspondence files, U.S. Census entries and spreadsheets, family group records and pedigrees for five different Chamberlain lineages.
- 53 family research notebooks for major **Virginia** families, well documented (Brian Young Collection).
- **British Isles** research files from professional genealogists, David E. Gardner and Phillip Dunn.
- Richard Price Associates Collection – 5 legal-size drawers **family groups**.
- Ron Bremer Collection of **archive and library finding aids**, with digital index; personal and family research files.
- M. Virginia Mills Collection – ca. 150 folders with accompanying family histories, **Long Island, NY, VA, New England** families.
- Jeremiah Smith Foundation Collection – **Smiths in New York**, family groups, copies of original documents, research files (being transferred in segments).
- Wilburta Moore Collection – **Hollingshead** Family records.
- Anita Mott Collection – **Mosser/Musser** Family.
- Afton E. Reintjes Collection – Native American files, U.S. Maps, **Southern U.S.** research files (being transferred in segments).
- Thelma Cagle Collection – **Moore** Family Files.
- Carolyn Ackley Collection – professional research files.
- **Woods Cross, UT**, Collection – Large collection of documents, photographs, interview notes, genealogy charts used in the *Bicentennial History of Woods Cross, Utah*, 1976.
- Jean Call Collection – Historical publications for Southern Davis County, UT, and Central **Pennsylvania**.
- **German** Research Card File of Frederick Walter Hilbig, 43 file drawers of reference cards – you can answer hundreds and hundreds of genealogy research questions with these cards.
- Horst Reschke Collection – **German** reference works, periodicals, European histories.

- Blazzard Collection – Genealogy reference books and periodicals.
- Mrs. Helene B. Ault Collection – Research on the Spedden Family (NEW).
- Wilma Adkins Collection – **Census indexes**, research notebooks, book collection of Rowene T. Obert, family histories.
- Carolyn Rowley Collection (being processed).
- Specific family collections – **Butler** (NY, AL) , **Davis** (NY, New England), **Brown** (NC, TX,), **Roberts** (NY, TN), **Hoffman** (PA, OH).
- **Kentucky** Census Index Cards, 1810-1900 – an independent reading of the original census records for all Kentucky counties from Family History Expos.com (NEW).
- **East Tennessee** Collection – tax rolls, deed abstracts, census records. We also have a master list of family genealogy collections in local E. TN and SW VA libraries.
- Harry L. Carle Collection – **Pennsylvania Genealogy** – books, periodicals on Juniata Valley and Lancaster County.
- Dolly Zeigler Collection – 300 volumes of American genealogy – **NY, NJ, PA, VA, MD, NC**.
- Doris Cline Ward – **Genealogies**: Russell, Davis, Miller, Sutor, Kendall, Cline.
- Donald J. Martin Collection – Genealogies (not yet ready for public use); census indexes and genealogy reference books; especially rich for European genealogy.

(Resources updated August 2008. New collections arrive every week. One of the most recent collections, and not yet processed, was literally snatched from the mayhem of Hurricane Gustav!)

## Genealogies and Pedigrees

— **Great Migration Project.** By 1642, some 20,000 settlers had arrived in the New England area. The Great Migration Project identifies many of these settlers for the first time and traces them to their *origins*. At the same time, the combined researches of many genealogists are feeding into this project, so that all of the early settlers will be included. This is one of the most important immigrant projects ever conceived. To keep abreast of the discoveries and the publications which reference them, consult <http://www.newenglandancestors.org>, the Web site of the New England Historic Genealogical Society.

Robert Charles Anderson and his team have already documented over 900 immigrants in the first series of volumes – *The Great Migration Begins: Immigrants to New England, 1620-1633*. Some 2,386 pp. published by NEHGS in 1996. Since then over 2,562 pages cover the years *1634-35*; with another 712 pages on *The Pilgrim Migration: Immigrants to Plymouth Colony, 1620-33*. (Published 1999-2005.) Surname lists are available online (free), and you can read the *Great Migration Newsletter* online or subscribe with membership (fee) in the Society. NEHGS, 101 Newbury Street, Boston MA 02116. (617) 536-5740.

Family History Library, 35 N West Temple, Salt Lake City, UT 84135. Access the FHL Catalog <http://www.familysearch.org>. This catalog, the largest of its kind in the genealogy world, is a finding aid to resources now in this country that at one time were available only in one research location. It needs a wider audience—all of it. See Emily Croom, “The Family History Library Online Catalog,” *Internet Genealogy* (April-May 2006): 55-57.

Some remarkable genealogies have been compiled by professional and amateur genealogists. The vast majority of these are still unknown—not yet consulted by the present generation of family researchers. Break your losing streak! Here is just a small sample to whet your appetite:

- **Tenison Groves Collection.** 54 microfilm reels, FHL. Filmed 1959. See David E. Rencher, “The Tenison Groves Collection,” *The Irish at Home and Abroad* 3 (1995/96): 108-10 for a description of the various libraries and archives that hold some of this vast collection. The article also includes precise dates and records Groves extracted from the Irish records before 1922.
  - **Albert E. Casey Collection.** 15 vols. And 2 supplements. 8 microfilm reels, FHL. Filmed 1970. See Judith Eccles Wight, “Dr. Albert E. Casey's Genealogical Collection: An RX for County Cork and County Kerry Research,” *The Irish At Home and Abroad* 3 (1995/96): 156-57 for a description of this Irish collection and how to use it.
  - **Philip Crossle Genealogical Abstracts Collection.** 28 reels of microfilm, FHL. Filmed 1961. Index to Crossle Abstracts, **PROI, Dublin.** 3 microfilm reels, FHL. Filmed 2001. These are alphabetical files, notebooks, and envelopes with notes and documents made before 1922. In the FHL catalog there are 11 entries for Crossle, including 1821 census extracts and family histories for the Drought, Gordon, and Seaver families. His Newry Families before 1910 are alphabetical files on 25 microfilm reels, FHL. Filmed 1961. The originals are in the **Belfast Record Office (PRONI)**
  - **Fletcher Collection, ca. 1160-1982.** Notes for pedigrees of Fletcher and related families. Compiled by Simon W. P. V. Fletcher on 200,000 leaves, in folders. Families of West Yorkshire, England. 17 microfilm reels, FHL. Filmed 1986.
  - **O Bryan Collection.** Compiled by Katherine Kimberland and Christopher O Bryan. 17 microfilm reels, FHL. Filmed 1990. Includes Patton, Osborne, Mooney, Hardin, McCoy (and many other families) from Scotland to the America Southern States.
1. **National Society Daughters of the American Revolution** <http://www.dar.org> founded 11 Oct 1890, incorporated 1896. Given governmental status, 1900. Members 190,000; 766,259 admitted since 1890. Local Chapters – 3,024 across the country.

— **Reference Library** in Washington, DC: Three volumes list an inventory of their holdings.

Volume I: *Family Histories and Genealogies*, 1982. 15,000 volumes

Volume II: *Local Histories and Records*, 1985. Over 25,000 volumes

Volume III: *Centennial Supplement-Aquisitions*, 1985-1991, 1992. 50,000 items

Each volume is indexed. If you do not have direct access to the items listed, you can request photocopies of the pages you need from the DAR for a nominal cost.

*DAR Library Card File*, 11 microfilm reels, 0544054-63.

The DAR receives a duplicate copy of the genealogical reports prepared by state and local chapters creating a massive collection of more than 11,000 volumes. These duplicates are stored at 1776 D Street. They have been microfilmed by the Family History Library (FHL). Recently the FHL staff re-catalogued these volumes describing their contents in greater detail, for easier access. The state depository collections have also been microfilmed providing access to these duplicates (carbon copies may be light and difficult to read on film). Each genealogical report contains transcripts of Bible pages, including publication dates, and locations of originals at time transcripts were made. Additions, annotations, and

corrections may also be included. Cemetery transcriptions, abstracts of county records, original fraktur, typewritten copies of military pensions and other documents—you will find these in each report too.

— **Rolls of Honor** (Lineage Books)

Volumes 1-160, 5 reels of microfilm FHL 0432609-613

Descent to registered Daughter, by National Number

***Index***, 4 volumes in 2, Baltimore MD: Genealogical Publishing Company, 1988

Also on microfiche, FHL Vol. 166 #165001-166000 and continued.

— **Pedigrees of the Daughters of the American Revolution**

2 vols., DAR, 1936. Typescript.

— **DAR Patriot Index**

Volumes 1-3 Centennial Edition, 1994

Also available on CD-Rom

Updates published in ***DAR Magazine***, 1892-1955 added to Centennial Edition.

— **Grandparent Forms**, discontinued 1960

13 separate series, Vols 1-670

On microfilm, FHL, 367 reels with Index

Vols. 671-874 available only at DAR Library, Washington, DC

Grandparents of DAR Members back to Revolutionary War ancestor

Card Index, Series 1-13, FHL film # 1473279; 1522207-09; 1522312-15.

— **Applications for Membership**

Available online to members; available for fee to non-members from NSDAR, 1776 D Street NW, Washington, DC 20006.

— **Grave Locations**

DAR Annual Report to Smithsonian Institution, 1900-74, 58,500 graves. Published annually in the ***DAR Magazine***, 1978-1987.

Reissued in Patricia Law Hatcher, ***Abstract of Graves of Revolutionary Patriots***, 4 vols. 1987. Available Pioneer Heritage Press, 8040 Claremont Dr., Dallas, TX 75228.

— **DAR Magazine**

***Genealogical Guide: Master Index of Genealogy in the DAR Magazine:***

Vols. 1-84 (1892-1950)

Vols. 85-89 (1950-55)

Vols. 91-95 (1958-62)

Vols. 100 (1966)

Vols. 100-40 (1966-1970)

*DAR Magazine Index*, 3 Vols. 1892-1997.

## 2. National Society Sons of the American Revolution

founded 30 Apr 1889, incorporated 1906.

<http://www.sar.org> 1000 S. 4th St., Louisville, KY 40203

— **Applications for Membership**

Over 100,000 applications on microfilm, FHL 1067 films

Catalog of Members FHL 0541457-72

Index of Ancestors 1877447-979

Applications begin with FHL film # 0001396.

— Revolutionary War Graves Register, 1993

Also on CD-Rom, 69,000 graves.

— Patriot Index, 1999

610,000 records of Patriots and their Descendants

Also on CD-Rom.

**Register of U.S. Lineage Societies**, 2nd ed. by Jayare Roberts. Salt Lake City, UT: Family History Library, 1990. Guide to microfilmed lineage society records with FHL call numbers. Also includes a brief history of each. See also article by Donna Potter Phillips, "Revolutionary War Lineage Societies," *Everton's Genealogical Helper*, November/December 2006, pp. 81-86.

## Doctoral Dissertations

See Harold E. Hines, "Doctoral Dissertations—A Neglected Source," *NGS News Magazine* (Jan-Mar 2008): 62-63. These valuable studies include family and local histories and even some genealogies with pedigrees attached.

## Genealogy Search Engines

— <http://www.google.com> Valuable access to local records online, family genealogies, and pedigrees. Also check other genealogy search engines. See Dan Lynch, "Genealogical Googling," *Internet Genealogy*, Apr-May 2006: 9-12.

— <http://www.cyndislist.com> Includes Web site descriptions and links to those search engines that index genealogy information.

— <http://www.liveroots.com/> This is a new genealogy search engine created by Illya D'Addezio to access databases, indexes, and images available online.

1. You can search by surname, given name, multiple names (484,337 names to date)
2. You can search by genealogy resources—printed books, original records, newly transcribed indexes, and combined sources (175,709 resources to date).
3. You can search related materials. Each resource has links to related materials.

These searches are straightforward and clear. I searched for one of my hardest to solve research problems—**Peter Sigler**. When I asked for Sigler, I got 5 results by surname in free sites including family histories and marriage indexes online, 28 hits by surname in subscription results, and 2 cemetery hits with over 120 inscriptions available online. This is the most Sigler information I have ever found in one single search. And I could easily check out the related materials where they appeared.

Illya includes a blog with the site where he adds corrections to broken links and direct links to new resources. Here I discovered that the **Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade Database**, begun several years ago, now yields almost 35,000 slave voyages with access to ships by name, officers of ships by name, more than 67,000 slaves by name with ship, age, gender, origin, and place of embarkation. Isn't it remarkable that this many slaves were listed by name!

Printed original sources include what librarians and archivists refer to as ephemera—unique, one-of-a-kind items that survive, amazingly, among collections of stuff. Illya has searched garage sales and antique shops for these kinds of records. These are a part of his **Family Tree Connection**—a database of information transcribed by hand, and verified for

accuracy, from original documents published between 1830 and 1930, including Masonic rosters, rural school and college catalogues, vintage telephone directories, insurance claims, church catalogues, association memberships and much more! The amount of information available for each individual varies from document to document, with some documents listing just the person's name. Some examples include:

1. Porter Home and Leath Orphan Asylum 1912-1913 Report – Report of the Porter Home and Leath Orphan Asylum from March 1, 1912, to April 1, 1913. Memphis, Tennessee. Includes a listing of Officers, Physicians, and Memorials.
2. Locomotive Firemen and Enginemen's Magazine 1914 April – Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen and Enginemen's Magazine, Volume 56, Number 4, April 1914. Includes a detailed Statement of Death and Disability Claims. Columbus, Ohio.
3. Fairview Country Club 1925 Year Book.
4. List of Registered Maine Embalmers 1913.
5. Soldiers' Home in Massachusetts 1889 Report – Seventh Annual Report of the Trustees of the Soldiers' Home in Massachusetts, at Chelsea, for the Year ending July 25th, 1889. Includes listing of Officers and also Deaths During the Year.

This is a sophisticated search engine that includes partnerings with commercial, private, and government sponsored Web sites. If the link is not active, the entry tells what has happened—this is a search engine's nightmare because sites appear and disappear at will. The hits, results, and descriptions indicate what data is free and what has a fee attached or requires a subscription.

Try it out with your hardest-to-find ancestor. You just might luck out like I did.

## Genealogy Networking Web Sites

— <http://www.werelate.org> A genealogy wiki that anyone can edit. Gedcoms have been uploaded by almost a million genealogists. Separate pages for each family are easy to create and edit. Maps, images, and pedigrees can be inserted and annotated. This site will partner with other genealogy sites.

There are many other network sites that include genealogy content:

— <http://www.pedigreesoft.com> You can organize your family history, access research anytime, anywhere, instantly share and corroborate, and backup all your research online.

— <http://www.tribalpages.com> User-friendly interface, password protected, privacy controls, build online or upload family tree from another site, generate charts and reports.

— <http://www.geocities.yahoo.com>

— <http://www.tripod.lycos.com>

— Ancestry.com and Rootsweb.com with WorldConnect—over 433 million names.

This category is growing rapidly, including genealogy content on Facebook, My Space, etc. New resources are announced in every issue of *Everton's Genealogical Helper*.

## Living Relatives

Begin an active campaign to find genealogy cousins, often unknown to you. Those who want to share what they know or have discovered about your common ancestors have already placed their data on

personal and family Web sites, in genealogy forums, including photos and video clips. Some of the most important family documents are already scanned and awaiting your discovery. Other genealogy cousins are also interested in their family background—they just have not yet begun the search. Your influence can change that and probably unearth family documents that have yet to be shared in any format. The family Bible, a soldier's personal record book, an exit document from Europe, an original passenger ticket for a packet ship, a portrait that hung over the mantle in the ancestor's home. Check:

- **Search Engines** – <http://google.com> just add +genealogy to your query for compiled information. Leave the +genealogy to access day-to-day events in which your relatives are featured.
- **Other search engines.** The feefhs Web site (Federation of Eastern European Family History Societies) will alert you to sites in Europe that reveal similar details for overseas relatives. <http://feefhs.org>.
- <http://www.lib.berkeley.edu/TeachingLib/Guides/Internet/SearchEngines.html> table of recommended search engines on the Internet with the strong points of each one. Click the link to “What Makes a Search Engine Good?” by Joe Barker.
- **Directories** – <http://www.distantcousin.com/Directories>.
- <http://www.superpages.com> for reverse phone numbers and addresses.
- <http://www.switchboard.com> for current phone numbers and addresses.
- **Social Networks** – <http://www.reunion.com/> The Reunion Network.
- <http://classmates.com> high school contacts.
- <http://www.linkedin.com/> lost contacts and relationships from the past.
- <http://www.zoominfo.com/> finding people and the companies they own or work for.
- **Birthday Databases** – <http://www.birthdaydatabase.com>.
- <http://stevemorse.org/birthday/> Steve Morse's birthday utility (includes Mickey Mouse and other fictional characters just for fun!).
- **Obituaries** – <http://www.legacy.com> Check for living descendants, their relationships and current city of residence. Married names of daughters are also given.

## Genealogy and History Blogs

- <http://blogfinder.genealogue.com/> Over 1,000 genealogy blogs are listed.
- <http://www.arleneeakle.com> *Genealogy News Sheet*.
- <http://www.virginiagenealogyblog.com> “Virginia is for Lovers” of Genealogy.
- <http://www.GermanGenealogyBlog.com>.

## Documents Online

### FamilySearch:

- Microfilm and microfiche <http://www.familysearch.org> – Call numbers for over 2 million reels. Eventually these reels will be digitized, indexed, and made available online.
- <http://www.labs.familysearch.org/> This site is a FREE test site offered by FamilySearch. They park databases, indexes, and digital images for genealogists to view, use, and comment on. The site includes Georgia vital records, 1919-1927 and Ohio vital records, 1913-1944. (These are partnered with the Vital Records divisions of these states.) Watch for additional free digital vital records projects to be posted here.

— *FamilySearch Indexing* which, on 31 October 2008 alone, launched more than 30 million newly-indexed images to online public use. <http://www.pilot.familysearch.org>.

More than 150,000 indexers are at work producing more than 1 million new names a day.

And indexers are actively recruited: members of the LDS Church, qualified volunteers from local genealogy groups and commercial research services, patrons of Family History Library facilities. If you are an indexer, you get access to indexed records—whether they have been released to the public or not. To learn more and view current projects visit: [http://www.familysearch.org/eng/indexing/frameset\\_indexing.asp](http://www.familysearch.org/eng/indexing/frameset_indexing.asp).

— <http://www.eneclann.ie> Includes Griffiths Valuations, Grenham's Irish Surnames, Memorials of the Dead, Irish Wills.

— <http://www.glorerecords.blm.gov> 2 million land patents, 1820-1908 Eastern Land Office; 1908-1960s being added. Free site.

— <http://www.stevemorse.org> Free utility to access Ellis Island more effectively and many more records and sources including Ancestry.com's databases. The *Immigration Triangle*: Passenger Lists, ship arrivals and pictures, and actual documents on microfilm with reel guide and film numbers is especially good. Many databases linked from this site are fee sites—you need a subscription. See Stephen P. Morse, "Morse's Code: A One-Step Portal for Online Genealogy," *APG Quarterly*, Sep 2006, Oct 2006.

— <http://www.archives.gov> Documents in the U.S. National Archives including 9.2 million military enlistment files. See Donna Potter Phillips, "NPRC? NARA? What Are These?" *Everton's Genealogical Helper*, May-June 2008: 60-62. Includes an excellent comparative chart of military records and their locations.

— <http://www.ancestry.com> Over 25,000 different databases. Check <http://www.ancestry.com/search/retype/alldblist.aspx> for a searchable catalog of these databases. Each customized database has its own search page and by accessing that page, you get a better match from the search screen than the global search—without all the extra entries that are irrelevant.

— <http://www.rootsweb.com> Many versatile search options: Transcribed and some scanned documents, as well as Surname lists including a Soundex option. Automatic surname notification registration, ROOTS-L and SURNAME-L queries, mailing lists, genealogy Web sites, and message boards. New submissions and archived queries. Supported by Ancestry.com.

— <http://usgenweb.com/> – Volunteer site with submissions from many hundreds of genealogists. This site can also be accessed from the Rootsweb site.

— Genealogy Web sites maintained by local government, personal and family sites, genealogy societies, and groups—Google name or location for sites and details.

See "Digital Documents for American Research: The Top Ten Genealogical Web sites on the Net," *Everton's Genealogical Helper* (Sep-Oct 2007): 85-125.

— <http://www.GenealogyBank.com> – an Internet FEE site you want to visit often. In the month of November 2007 alone, more than 1.5 million entries were added to the site. Categories posted online with every-word indexes:

**Newspapers, both current and historic.** Current obituaries from major newspapers are posted daily. Historic newspapers provide passenger lists, naturalizations, family

reunions, early settlers, marriage and deaths, news as it happened like the bombing of Pearl Harbor and publication of the poem that became the *Star Spangled Banner*.

**Early Americana** – unique, short items like funeral sermons, last will and testaments, broadsides announcing war casualties.

— **Historic Documents** – including American State Papers (100% online with indexes. Have you ever searched these volumes? I'll do a separate post on this incredible source—now indexed for us to use), U.S. Congress Serial Set (40% online and indexed).

— **Social Security Death Index** – with more than 700,000 deaths before 1965. This is the only SSDI site updated every week. And the Social Security officials are **ADDING** older entries every week! (Who ever told us that the pre-1965 entries are incomplete in this enormous database? And are being added as time permits.)

— **Historic Books, 1801-1900** – These include necrologies and publications issued by obscure organizations like American Society of Instructors for the Deaf.

— <http://www.GenealogyToday.com> – This site is maintained by Illya D'Addezio who haunts Americana sales sites and flea markets. He buys and collects business cards, publications and newsletters of business associations, graduation lists, insurance applications and claims, school records, motor vehicle registrations files, funeral cards, war ration books, Civil War salt lists, employment records, and any other kind of “ephemera,” as the archivists call it. Then he scans these items online and indexes them in databases so we can search and discover some choice tidbits about the ancestors we have yet to meet. Little-known, really cool, details of their everyday lives.

And if we are lucky, these overlooked and thrown away or sold parts of our background also **contain births, deaths, and marriages**. These vital records are supplied by the ancestors themselves, as well as recorded by both public and private scribes at or near the time of the events.

This is a **FREE site** for index searches and some content. This is a **FEE site** for access to the digitized documents themselves. This is a gateway to **Key sites** enabling you to see if there are hits elsewhere you also need to check.

— <http://www.WorldVitalRecords.com> This FEE site includes small-town newspapers, parish registers from the British Isles and Europe, tombstone inscriptions, county and local histories, and the Everton Library and *Genealogical Helper Magazine* pedigree and family group sheet files—3.5 million names with dates. One of the newest database expansions is the addition of more than 500,000 entries for Virginia—an area of great interest to me.

— <http://www.mortalityschedule.com> Death dates and causes, length of residence in place of death, and other important genealogical details for the 12-month period before the 1850, 1860, 1870, 1880 censuses.

— <http://www.footnote.com> This FEE site includes American Revolutionary War Pension files and other records from the National Archives in Washington, DC. These pension files are the number-one source for *vital information on women* and birth records on veterans who lived and died before vital records were kept in many parts of the United States. Over 2 million documents are added each month.

## New Online Strategies for Genealogy Research in England and Wales

**FEE Sites:** (Pay-per-View vouchers available at FHL and other libraries; subscriptions available online for your own computer).

1. [www.originsnetwork.com](http://www.originsnetwork.com) Free search engine for names and places available online; fee site for images viewed and ordered online.
  - \_\_\_ 1841 census complete for England and Wales.
  - \_\_\_ 1861 census complete for England, Wales, Isle of Man, Channel Isles. Searchable by name, age, birthplace, parish, and county.
  - \_\_\_ 1871 census for Metro-London and 10 other counties.
  - \_\_\_ Boyd's Marriage Index for England, all series complete.
  - \_\_\_ Boyd's Inhabitants [Citizens] of London, 58,000 family sheets, 16th to 18th centuries.
  - \_\_\_ Marriage license allegations for both Faculty and Vicar General Offices.
  - \_\_\_ Probate Records, several categories.
  - \_\_\_ Apprenticeship records for London and Great Britain.
  - \_\_\_ Trinity House petitions for seamen and their heirs.
  - \_\_\_ Charles I (1625-49) chancery cases Index, 82,000 plaintiffs-defendants.
  - \_\_\_ Teachers Registrations (1870-1948), over 100,000 teachers.
  - \_\_\_ Other indexes and records from Society of Genealogists.
  
2. [www.nationalarchives.gov.uk](http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk) (formerly Public Record Office) Free index searches, fee site for images.
  - \_\_\_ BMD (except Civil Registration).
  - \_\_\_ Military Records: Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force, and Merchant Marines.
  - \_\_\_ Emigration records, passports.
  - \_\_\_ Tax lists.
  - \_\_\_ Records for British Colonies.
  - \_\_\_ Link to [1901censusonline.com](http://1901censusonline.com).
  - \_\_\_ Manorial Documents Register.

By April 2008, BMD certificates began to be issued by the National Archives.
  
3. [www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk) Some free access at FHL and branches, public libraries, and UK National Archives of selected records. Fee site for most images and index searches.
  - \_\_\_ Pallot's Marriage Index, over 4 million entries, many from London.
  - \_\_\_ BMD (Civil Registration), 1837-1983.
  - \_\_\_ 1841-1891 censuses complete for England and Wales.
  - \_\_\_ UK and Ireland parish registers.
  - \_\_\_ Probate records.
  
4. [www.thegenealogist.co.uk](http://www.thegenealogist.co.uk) New Smart Search utility to access by partial data, spelling variants, and nicknames.
  - \_\_\_ BMD images 1837-1983, 1983-2004.
  - \_\_\_ 1841-1901 censuses for selected counties.
  - \_\_\_ 1873 landowners index (all those with 1 ac. of land).
  - \_\_\_ London directories 1852-1905.
  - \_\_\_ Metro-London parish registers.
  - \_\_\_ Knights of England.

5. [www.1837online.com](http://www.1837online.com) now called [www.findmypast.com](http://www.findmypast.com).
  - \_\_\_ BMD (Civil Registration) Indexes 1837-2004.
  - \_\_\_ 1861 census complete for England and Wales.
  - \_\_\_ BMD Armed Forces 1761-1994; at Sea 1854 on.
  - \_\_\_ Death Duty Index 1796-1803.
  - \_\_\_ Divorces and matrimonial causes 1858-1903.
  - \_\_\_ Army lists roll calls 1656-1888.
  - \_\_\_ Honour rolls 1914-18, 1939-45.
  - \_\_\_ Census records 1841, 1861, 1871, 1891, search by name or by address.
  - \_\_\_ Occupational directories 1858-1925.
  
6. [www.familyrecords.gov.uk](http://www.familyrecords.gov.uk) The Family Records Centre, 1 Myddleton St. Islington, EC1R 1UW. Search facility for BMD (Civil Registration) and other nationally held genealogy records. Online Index 1837-1958.
  
7. [www.pro.gov.uk](http://www.pro.gov.uk) General Register Office, Certificate Services, P.O. Box 2, Southport, Merseyside, PR8 2JD. Houses the Office of National Statistics (ONS). Genealogy records scheduled to be removed to the National Archives April 2008.

## FREE Sites

1. [www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org) A new search system is underway at the Family History Library, a revised format for databases and consolidation of data currently stored in new and old formats. So eventually this description will be obsolete—use these tools until the new system is launched world-wide:
  - \_\_\_ **International Genealogical Index (IGI).** Over 750 million entries. Data extracted and submitted up to 1998. Includes births/christenings, marriages (all categories), few deaths. The *Parish and Vital Records List* inventories the parish registers and Bishops transcripts in the IGI. It is updated on a regular basis. Check to see what years and which church books have been dropped into the database.
  - \_\_\_ <http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.com/~hughwallis> (I prefer to Google “IGI batch numbers” + Hugh Wallis to reach the site.) Search utility for the IGI, extracted entries with batch numbers for British Isles. Batch numbers are arranged alphabetically by county, then by parish name. When you click on the batch number, you go directly to the names processed for that number in alphabetical order. The batch numbers are also direct links to [www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org). You can search the index for all batch numbers, or search by surname or by parish. [Note as of 1 Jan 2009, a computer glitch on this site (now maintained by Ancestry.com) created a malfunction on the site. You can still search by manually inserting the batch number into the search box. Links from the master list of localities and batch numbers do not function properly.]
  - \_\_\_ [www.ldscompanion.com](http://www.ldscompanion.com) You can transfer the IGI data automatically from batch number to Excel spreadsheet format with LDS Companion.

**Caution:** The IGI includes record extractions only to 1998. Since 1993, batches of indexed and processed names were placed in a separate file—*Vital Records Index—British Isles*. These entries are not yet available on the Internet. Check Family Search computers at the FHL (not branches) and on more than 16 CDs available at your local Family History Center

or by purchase from the LDS Distribution Center, 1999 West 1700 South, Salt Lake City, UT 84123. You can also order them from [www.ldscatalog.com](http://www.ldscatalog.com) or by phone 800-537-5971.

The IGI Internet does not include the *IGI MSDos*. This version is available on Family Search computers at the FHL and its branches. Although it is awkward to search, check it for entries, for evidence on names not found in any other place, for “heir” names you may recognize as members of your own family. Entries represent names submitted by family organizations and special family-extraction projects or by professional genealogists who worked for your family.

2. [www.freebmd.org.uk](http://www.freebmd.org.uk) – 42 million names supported by Rootsweb, The Bunker, and Ancestry.com.
  - \_\_\_ BMD (Civil Registration) Indexes 1837-1983 (over 165,563,586 records).
  - \_\_\_ **Free Reg** parish registers indexes 1538 on 1.5 million records to date.
  - \_\_\_ **Free Cen** census entries 1841-1891 currently being input by volunteers.
3. [www.sog.org.uk](http://www.sog.org.uk) – Society of Genealogists Collections.
  - \_\_\_ Surname document collection. Surnames are listed online. SoG offers a limited search and copy service for both members and non-members.
  - \_\_\_ Library catalog online.
  - \_\_\_ Contents of *Genealogists Magazine*.

See OriginsNetworkOnline (above) for online access to many indexes and images in the SoG collections.

**Recommended reading:** Linda E. Brinkerhoff and Arlene H. Eakle. *British Isles Genealogy Secrets: Your Insider Guide to Research in England, Ireland, Scotland, and Wales*. 2007. Available from The Genealogical Institute, Inc., P.O. Box 129, Tremonton, UT 84337-0129. 800-377-6058. Written by professional genealogists who work for clients in British records. Extensive bibliographies, Web sites, key sources, and references for tracing your ancestors successfully in the British Isles.

**Access both FEE and FREE Web sites through your local libraries.** Many of the genealogy FEE sites, through special arrangements with public and university libraries and LDS Family History Centers, offer special versions of their databases for FREE.

## Maps

- \_\_\_ <http://www.topomaps.usgs.gov> U.S. Topographic Maps, 12201 Sunrise Valley Drive, Reston, VA 20192. 703-648-4000. Includes maps, aerial photographs, satellite imagery, directory of depository libraries.
- \_\_\_ <http://www.jonathansheppard.com>.
- \_\_\_ <http://www.goldbug.com>.
- \_\_\_ <http://www.proquest.com> has partnered with **Historic Map Works** to provide access to over 220,000 historical maps and over 400,000 online images including illustrations and portraits—through their Library Editions in public and academic libraries.

See “The Best World Gazetteers, Geoportals, and Digital Map Collections on the Internet,” *Everton’s Genealogical Helper* (Nov-Dec 2007): 93-110; and Linda E. Brinkerhoff, *Why Maps Are Important*. 1998. Family History World, PO Box 129, Tremonton, UT 84337-0129.

## Podcasts

See “Podcasting for the Genealogical Community,” *Everton’s Genealogical Helper* (July-Aug 2007: 89-92).

## Search Services

- \_\_\_ People Finders.
- \_\_\_ Document Referral Services.
- \_\_\_ Ads in Genealogy Periodicals.
- \_\_\_ Online Ads.
- \_\_\_ <http://www.historica.co.uk> Professional archive research UK, U.S.
- \_\_\_ Genealogy Society membership benefits—check Web sites for specific societies.
- \_\_\_ Library Search Services.
- \_\_\_ Local residents and special services persons: Undertakers, Police Officers, Title Search services, etc.
- \_\_\_ Professional Genealogists.

## DNA

Find proven cousins—persons to whom you know you are related, verify family relationships and traditions, prove or disprove genealogical research already done, preview the origins of your family ancestry as a guide for future research.

See Jeffrey A. Brockman, “Drilling Down for DNA,” *Everton’s Genealogical Helper* (Sep-Oct 2007): 28-35; and Maureen A. Taylor, “Adventures in Genetic Genealogy,” *Family Tree Magazine* (Oct 2006): 18-25.

- \_\_\_ <http://www.familytreedna.com>.
- \_\_\_ <http://www.smgf.org> – Sorenson Molecular Genealogy Foundation.
- \_\_\_ <http://www.abrahamschildren.net>.
- \_\_\_ <http://www.relativegenetics.com>.
- \_\_\_ <http://www.ancestrybyDNA.com> – Separates into Euro-DNA, Ancestry-Y, Ancestry-Mitro, Native American mtDNA.
- \_\_\_ <http://www.dnaconsultants.com> – Includes historical and analytical report.
- \_\_\_ <http://www.geocities.com/Heartland/Bluffs/2806/index4.htm> This is the Winslow Farr Web site and a **model** of how DNA can connect the records in the genealogy that is already completed and extend the pedigree back in time. You will enjoy this Web site that documents the family back before 1400 in and around Bedfordshire, England.

## Genealogy Tours

- \_\_\_ European Focus Photography and Tours, 508 S. Pineapple Avenue, Sarasota, FL 34236. 941-330-0877. <http://www.europeanfocus.com> Tours to Europe and the British Isles
- \_\_\_ Salt Lake Christmas Tour, PO Box 830, Bountiful, UT 84011. 801-949-7259. <http://www.genealogy-tours.com> – Leland and Patty Meitzler’s tour to the Family History Library the first full week of December each year.

- \_\_\_ Family History Expos Research Retreats, PO Box 187, Morgan, UT 84050. 801-829-3295  
<http://www.fhexpos.com> – Holly Hansen’s research retreats to Family History Library.

## Material Evidence

- \_\_\_ Paintings—one of the most potent of all genealogical resources, little used.
- \_\_\_ Photographs – See Arlene H. Eakle, *Photograph Analysis*. Family History World, PO Box 129, Tremonton, UT 84337.
- \_\_\_ Coats of Arms.
- \_\_\_ Landscapes, including details for plantings.
- \_\_\_ Cemeteries, their tombstones, carvings, and plantings. See Arlene H. Eakle, *How to Search a Cemetery*. Family History World, PO Box 129, Tremonton, UT 84337.
- \_\_\_ Buildings.
- \_\_\_ Fences.
- \_\_\_ Clotheslines.
- \_\_\_ Barns.
- \_\_\_ Equipment.
- \_\_\_ Vehicles.
- \_\_\_ Animals.

## Telephone

- \_\_\_ cell phones with instant messaging.
- \_\_\_ 800 numbers for toll-free calls.

## Oral Interviews

- \_\_\_ In person, tape recorder in hand.
- \_\_\_ By telephone appointment.
- \_\_\_ Questions in letters, with spaces for answers.
- \_\_\_ *via podcast*.
- \_\_\_ By e-mail and text messaging.

## Correspondence

- \_\_\_ Letters – letter writing is a lost art. But, it has become unusual today and, therefore, more welcome than ever before. Even with the Internet and e-mail, letters are the media of choice to share genealogy details with family and friends.

### **Important Customer Information** (from the U.S. Postal Service)

“We regret that your mail was not collected or is being returned to you due to heightened security requirements. All mail that bears postage stamps and weighs more than 13 ounces MUST be taken by the customer to a retail associate at a Post Office. United States Postal Service July 2007 DECDDD2.”

This notice was attached to a package of genealogy materials returned to my client, who wrote: “...the packet of information that I mailed to you last week got returned even though I mailed it from the post office at work...”

The packet did weigh more than 13 ounces. And it did have a bunch of postage stamps instead of the post office label. The stamps were only partly canceled—two cancel stamps in red—leaving the majority of stamps uncanceled.

### **How does this affect your genealogy?**

There are still many persons who mail *paper copies* of their research materials to relatives, colleagues, friends, professional researchers like me, and to libraries where their genealogy will be archived for generations to come.

**Be wise.** This is a time of heightened security. And the U.S. Post Office is required to follow the law. Remember that it was my own PO that returned the packet following a 2007 regulation. My client's work PO accepted the mail with all the stamps on it. So I will talk to my guys, and my client will talk to his guys. And you can talk to your guys. (Or gals.)

I recommend that we all take more care.

- 1) Ask the PO officially holding the mail if we can't pick it up every day.
- 2) Shipping our materials without using live stamps—even if you live a distance from the PO—and rely on a mail carrier to pick up your mail.
- 3) Clearly labeling the package as “GENEALOGY RECORDS AND MATERIALS.”
- 4) Alerting the recipient by advance letter or e-mail that the packet is coming.

Having to ship genealogy more than once is a drag in time, in lost contact and sharing, and in cost—they don't always refund your stamps or give you credit for them. Anytime you ship or mail something unusual or in an unusual package or envelope, check first with your postmaster.

Twelve Ways to Get More Genealogy Through Correspondence – With all the types of media discussed above, more genealogy is still acquired through handwritten or typed correspondence than any other way.

Public Officials are besieged with genealogy requests. When your letter lands on the top of the pile, you want effective service. Spend a little time on your letter—whether you post it online as e-mail or if you attach a stamp and drop it at the Post Office.

A small government office has a small staff; if demand is great, you may have to wait for a response to your request. Even larger agencies may select those letters to answer first that enclose money and the requests are easy to answer within the time they allot. Other requests are set aside for a more convenient time.

- Keep your letter short and to the point. Clerks are not really interested in your family tree or the stories that enhance it.
- Prepare a one-page summary of your ancestor's life or a one-page timeline. Send a copy with each request you make.
- Use the correct address. Online directories: <http://www.dexknows.com> and <http://www.whitepages.com> are general directories arranged by category. <http://www.genealogy.com/00000229.html> includes county courthouse addresses for all states by clicking your state of interest on the map. Your public library or genealogy library will have current address directories you can consult. Almost every county and city has their own Web site. Use Google to get e-mail and postal addresses.
- Address government and church officials by their correct titles. An old guide, *The Handbook for Genealogical Correspondence*, Rev. ed. 1974, can be found in most

- libraries. Table 1 on pp. 16-17 gives title, inside address, envelope address, and salutation. When in doubt, use “Dear Sir.”
- Leave blank space between each question so the clerk can write answers right on your letter. Even when you request birth information, the clerk may write comments directly on your letter—it saves time and taxpayers’ money.
  - Include your return address and your e-mail on your letter. If your outside envelope is discarded or the e-mail delivery system drops the information, the clerk can still contact you.
  - Always include a large enough envelope to accommodate the documents you request, and return postage with each request. This gives you a better chance of an early reply. In some jurisdictions, this ensures a response.
  - If your first letter does not bring a reply, send a courteous and gentle reminder. Refer to the letter you sent, give the check number and date (if you enclosed money), and briefly re-state your request. Include another SASE (stamped, self-addressed envelope).
  - Be sure you ask for the right document. If you ask for a probate packet, the clerk will look for an entry in the probate index. If your ancestor’s property did not go through probate, there will be no entry in the index. Property could also be transferred by deed or quit-claim when your ancestor died.
  - Request a photocopy of the original record, not a certified extract. The cost is usually the same and you get all the information the record contains, not just what fits on the extract form. This especially important when you order birth, death, and marriage certificates.
  - Calculate search dates carefully. If you lack a complete date, ask for a five-year search. Clerks vary in their search policy. And digital indexes may cost \$1.00 per year.
  - If your research surname is a common one, supply a specific year and add volume and page references as well. Do some preliminary research online and in your local genealogy libraries before writing for document copies. Check with your local Family History Center to see if you can search the records on microfilm or digital access yourself. This may save you considerable cost.
  - Be considerate of clerks’ time—express appreciation for their help. If they send a form to fill out first, fill in the blanks and return it. When a clerk goes out of their way for you, send a personal thank you.

**An important genealogy lesson** present in all of this: not all of the records we need to trace our ancestors were created and stored in the courthouse or the state archives. Each ancestor has unique life experiences and associations. Now, for the first time ever, we can find accounts of these lives and relationships more easily. And if we are lucky, the very birth or death or marriage we seek will be included.

## **A Final Word: Your genealogy and its protection in time of chaos**

Bob King, Director of Retail Sales for Associated Foods, described the chaos of an earthquake in the small Nevada town of Wells. His account illustrated how *advance planning*, a fleet of trucks, and a network of contacts enabled their grocery store—damaged at 6:19 a.m.—to reopen for emergency water and other necessities (including disposable cameras) at 6:00 p.m. The contrast between the coordinated efforts of this giant supplier and the unprepared town and government services it supported was immense.

Then Kerry Pettingill, director of the Oklahoma Office of Homeland Security, answered the question in lots of our heads: “Why would anyone attack my business?” He described with words and personal photos, the chaos at 9:00 a.m. on 19 Apr 1995 when a Federal building was bombed by a parked truck: 168 people were killed; people were killed in the building across the street; people were killed in a nearby restaurant; people were killed on the street—walking along minding their own business.

“You don’t have to be a target to be affected by the blast wave and its aftermath. 324 buildings were damaged in the bombing.” Pettingill showed the police corridor that closed off a substantial section of the city. No one was allowed in. Although that corridor shrank through the next days and weeks, there were still several city blocks where no one could enter. There was no opportunity to check for loss or damage or to retrieve items essential to operations in which individuals were involved. Only credentialed and critical personnel were given access—for days!

## Where is your genealogy?

In the basement in cardboard boxes? In the garage in cardboard boxes? Or loose papers on shelves or stuffed into the drawers of discarded bureaus and chests? Or lying in old trunks stacked in the corner of the utility shed? On your computer hard drive? Or stored on discontinued and obsolete floppies? Organized and tidy on the shelves and in file cabinets in your genealogy room or corner?

## This is a wake-up call for us all

- If your genealogy is digital, purchase a handful of memory sticks. Transfer multiple copies of your files to them. Send them to your family members **and to me**. Different towns, different venues in those towns. And if you are a woman, whose surname changes each time you marry, be sure at least one copy goes to a male of your *ancestral surname*—who can be tracked.
- If your genealogy is online, circulate pin and password to family members so your hard work **can be retrieved**. Do you have any idea how difficult it is to get access to password-protected data? Takes weeks of documentation that you have a right to access the data. If you are gone, your work may be locked up tight!
- If your genealogy is still in paper files—copy them. And send a copy somewhere else where it will not be subject to the same risks your originals are. Natural disasters are increasing each year. In a recent Utah poll, Dan Jones discovered that more than 80% of the Utah population at large believes that we will be part of a major disaster within the next 10 years.

Herbert Hoover stated 23 May 1927, when New Orleans was under 30 feet of water from January to August of that year: “Reconstruction is the most trying period of any disaster.” Another example—Oklahoma City, after more than 10 years, is *still reconstructing*.

**The Genealogy Library Center**, established by my husband Alma and me as a place to preserve and store genealogy manuscripts and books that might otherwise be destroyed, is *still reconstructing*. Since I am financing this enterprise myself, work on the structure progresses as I get enough money saved to do another part. And since I am working with volunteers who assist in preparing the manuscripts for public use, progress is dependent upon our collective efforts.

With that said, two large sections of the building are finished. And secure. And we are working in and out of these sections.

Your genealogy will be as safe as I can make it. That is why I took the initial Homeland Security “Ready Your Business” training and why I attended the Homeland Security Conference. And I will continue to stay informed and trained so that genealogy given to me for safekeeping will remain safe.

I have even changed my modus operandi of analysis. I do not lay my files on the floor. Some years ago my office was flooded by vandals who broke into the building looking for money. In those offices where they found none, they turned on the fire hoses. The fire department lifted as much stuff out of the water as they could find places to set it. The building guard summoned me at 1:00 a.m. to come rescue what I could. We were very lucky. I was working on only one project that week. And my large personal library was on shelves. I could dry the papers and copy them. We were very lucky.

When the new sewer pipeline was laid down my street, the construction company took out the old pipeline with its backhoe—*without connecting the new line*. My basement was ankle deep in raw sewage. I lost no genealogy papers or books or CDs or files of any kind. Everything was protected. We were very lucky.

This is not something that can be put off. If your genealogy could be in jeopardy, send it to me. If you haven't the time or the space to protect your work, I do and I can and I will.

Your favorite genealogist, Arlene Eakle – <http://www.arleneeakle.com>

P.S. Homeland Security spends much time learning from each event they participate in and then sharing those *lessons learned*. **The biggest lesson** learned in my experience—**share copies of your work** to safeguard your legacy. You and I owe it to our posterity to safeguard these precious data.

Remember! Your genealogy research files are Genealogy Media.

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<http://www.arleneeakle.com>