

Maps: handout © Pat Ryan

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Please Visit me at

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‘Google Earth’ & ‘Google Maps’ & ‘Google Images’: simply Google them! FREE

Take a minute and try these three totally FREE resources!

18 Cool Tricks Hidden Inside Google Maps: <http://bit.ly/1vHncUf> Click on the *Slideshow*. Amazing stuff in here.

Google Earth for Genealogy FREE <http://lisalouisecooke.com/free-google-earth-for-genealogy-video-class-by-lisa-louise-cooke>

Using digital historical maps, it is possible to overlay maps of cemeteries where family members are buried, Public Land Survey maps (township-range-and-section maps) and other historical maps that provide a visual image of where our ancestors lived compared to how that same area looks today. Give it a try. Lisa is a good friend of mine.

David RUMSEY Historical Map Collection FREE <http://www.davidrumsey.com>

One of the world’s largest private map collections. Over 150,000 high resolution maps available.

Sanborn Insurance Maps FREE <http://www.loc.gov/rr/geogmap/sanborn>

Digitized by the Library of Congress are some 50,000 editions comprising an estimated seven hundred thousand individual sheets of large scaled maps dating from 1867 to the present and depicting the commercial, industrial, and residential sections of some twelve thousand cities and towns in the United States, Canada, and Mexico. Designed for fire insurance purposes they are useful to genealogists due to their historical detail.

AniMap \$ http://www.legacyfamilytreestore.com/ProductDetails.asp?ProductCode=ANI_DL

Find old USA towns and counties long-since disappeared from the map or that have changed names. AniMap displays over 2,300 maps to show the changing county boundaries for each of the adjacent United States for every year since colonial times.

Centennia \$ [Google as available from numerous spots. Also watch on YouTube]

A map-based guide to the history of Europe and the Middle East from the beginning of the 11th century to the present. It is a dynamic, animated historical atlas including over 9,000 border changes. The map controls evolve the map forward or backward in time bringing the static map to life. Maps display every major war and territorial conflict displaying the status of each region at intervals of a tenth of a year. The maps reflect actual "power on the ground" rather than internationally-sanctioned or "recognized" borders.

Federation of East European Family History Societies [FEEFHS] Map Library
<http://feefhs.org/maplibrary.html> **FREE**

East European Genealogical Society [EEGS] <http://www.eegsociety.org>
Website is FREE, or you can become a member.

Old Maps Online <http://www.oldmapsonline.org/about/> **FREE**
There are over 400,000 maps indexed here. Say “Goodbye” to the rest of your day! ☺

Old-Maps <https://www.old-maps.co.uk/#/> Searches are **FREE**. Option to purchase.
Britain’s most comprehensive historical map archive.

Atlas of Saskatchewan [Ethnic Bloc Settlements] **FREE**
<http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~cansk/maps>

Just *Google* whatever maps, atlases, or gazetteers you are interested in. Try varying your search terms for different matches. Make your search terms very specific like “map kilwinning”, or “kilwinning map” [you’ll get different results], or be general “maps Scotland” or “map Ayrshire” ... whatever you’re interested in. You may be amazed at what’s out there, just waiting for you to find it!! ☺

What is a **Gazetteer**? It is a geographical dictionary of place names. Googling “Polish gazetteer” may again bring different matches that Googling “gazetteer Poland”. With your searches, try to be as specific as possible and use the name(s) of the village/town/community [+ gazetteer] where your ancestors lived. Gazetteers can solve problems such as border changes, or place names that no longer exist. They can also offer additional information such as population numbers, churches, schools, post office or where the civil registration was located. Costs you nothing! Make Google work for you!!

The following are examples from the **Prairie History Room Regina Public Library**
<http://www.reginalibrary.ca/prairiehistory/> supplied by librarian May Chan, 2015.

Illustrated Atlas for Lanark County - It’s a republished version that is part of the larger Ontario County Atlases collection. Even though you can access this atlas via McGill’s Ontario County Atlas collection, the book is a good remind that maps are tactile items. People like to see them in print format, run fingers along geographic features, etc.

Historical Atlas of East Central Europe

Historical Maps Book: A State-by-State Atlas of U.S. History, 1790-1900 and Phillimore Atlas & Index of Parish Registers are examples of how looking at

maps can answer your questions about changing borders, where to begin looking for certain records, etc.

Columbia Lippincott Gazetteer of the World - example of a geographic dictionary that discusses physical coordinates of a place, when the locale changed its name, how it might have gotten its name, etc.

Happy Searching Everyone!

Pat Ryan

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