

# YELLOWSTONE GENEALOGY FORUM



## News from the President

The arrival of spring means a new "club" year is about upon us.

The Forum's annual meeting will be May 26th. We'll celebrate 32 years as a society. Along with the election of officers, members will vote on an increase in membership dues. All the present officers have agreed to serve for another year. Thank you for making my job easier.

Program chair, Judy Cohen, has a great lineup of interesting programs - Researching your Swedish roots & a trip to Sweden, a History Mystery; speakers from High Plains Women's Museum & Yellowstone County Museum, Railroads, and What is at the Montana Historical Society.

The executive board has discussed, many times, doing a data collection at a cemetery along with photos. Which cemetery has been the biggest question. Do you know of a cemetery that needs to be documented? If so, please let us know.

Do your ancestors qualify as "First Families" or "Early Settlers" of Montana? If they lived in Montana Territory before statehood (November 9, 1889), or in Montana after statehood but before December 31, 1929, then they qualify. The third volume of First Families & Early Settlers of Montana will be going to press this summer. The deadline for submitting applications is July 1st. Shawna Valentine can help complete applications. Volume III will be available for purchase at the state conference in September.

I'm looking forward to another wonderful year of great programs and numerous volunteer activities. I hope you are, too.

P. J. Smith  
President

## Best for Genetic Researchers

August 20, 2008

**Summary When you're ready for the cutting edge in genealogy research, these sites can help you jump into the gene pool.**

### [GeneTree](#)

This innovative site, still in beta, combines DNA and social networking. Although limited to mitochondrial test results so far, its mapping of DNA results is the best we've seen. You can order test kits here, but you can search for your DNA matches no matter which lab you used.

### [Sorenson Molecular Genealogy Foundation](#)

This nonprofit organization is dedicated to building the world's foremost collection of DNA and corresponding genealogical information. To date, its database tops 70,000 DNA samples with family trees from around the world.

### [YSearch](#) and [MitoSearch](#)

These sibling databases from Family Tree DNA let you search for Y-DNA or mtDNA matches no matter whom you tested with. At Family Tree DNA's site, you can see if your surname is among the 74,355 in the company's client database.

## UPCOMING CONFERENCES / SEMINARS

May 3 <sup>rd</sup> – 8 <sup>th</sup> , 2009	Digital Preservation Management: Short-Term Solutions for Long-Term Problems, Ann Arbor, MI <a href="http://www.icpsr.umich.edu">www.icpsr.umich.edu</a>
May 9 <sup>th</sup> , 2009	Logan, Utah Family History Expo 2009, Eccles Conference Center in Logan, Utah (5005 Old Main Hill) on the campus of Utah State University <a href="http://www.fhexpos.com">www.fhexpos.com</a>
May 9 <sup>th</sup> – 10 <sup>th</sup> , 2009	DNA Conference, Boise, ID More info: <a href="mailto:Juvanne@earthlink.net">Juvanne@earthlink.net</a>
May 12 <sup>th</sup> , 2009	Introduction to Scottish Family History Research Course, Toronto, Ontario, Canada <a href="http://www.torontofamilyhistory.org">www.torontofamilyhistory.org</a>
May 22 <sup>nd</sup> – 23 <sup>rd</sup> , 2009	Climbing Your DNA: Genetic Genealogy, Fort Wayne, IN <a href="http://www.acpl.lib.in.us">www.acpl.lib.in.us</a>
May 17 <sup>th</sup> – 24 <sup>th</sup> , 2009	NEHGS English Family History Research Tour, London, England <a href="http://www.newenglandancestor.org">www.newenglandancestor.org</a>
May 29 <sup>th</sup> – 31 <sup>st</sup> , 2009	Ontario Genealogical Society Provincial Conference, Oakville, Ontario, Canada <a href="http://www.ogs.on.ca">www.ogs.on.ca</a>
June 7 <sup>th</sup> – 12 <sup>th</sup> , 2009	14 <sup>th</sup> Genealogy "Summer Camp", Toronto, Ontario, Canada <a href="http://www.torontofamilyhistory.org">www.torontofamilyhistory.org</a>
June 12 <sup>th</sup> – 13 <sup>th</sup> , 2009	Colorado Family History Expo 2009, Loveland, CO <a href="http://www.fhexpos.com">www.fhexpos.com</a>
July 12 <sup>th</sup> – 19 <sup>th</sup> , 2009	NEHGS Newfoundland Research Tour, St. Johns, Newfoundland, Canada <a href="http://www.newenglandancestors.org">www.newenglandancestors.org</a>
July 16 <sup>th</sup> – 18 <sup>th</sup> , 2009	13 <sup>th</sup> Annual Angelina College Genealogy Conference, Lufkin, TX <a href="http://www.angelina.edu">www.angelina.edu</a>
July 17 <sup>th</sup> – 18 <sup>th</sup> , 2009	Wyoming Family History Expo 2009, Sheridan, WY <a href="http://www.fhexpos.com">www.fhexpos.com</a>
July 19 <sup>th</sup> – 24 <sup>th</sup> , 2009	Semaine de genealogie/Genealogy Week, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada <a href="http://www.ogsottawa.on.ca">www.ogsottawa.on.ca</a>
August 28 <sup>th</sup> – 29 <sup>th</sup> , 2009	Salt Lake City, Utah Family History Expo 2009, <a href="http://www.fhexpos.com">www.fhexpos.com</a>

### Magic: Faded Census Records to Re-Appear

This is about as close to magic as I can imagine. Picture in your mind original census pages that have faded so badly that the enumerators' handwriting is no longer visible. I am not talking about ink that has faded a bit. In this case, the ink is gone, not even visible on the page. All you can see is the page as it was printed and given to the enumerators (census takers) with the pre-printed text and boxes. These pages look as if they were never filled out, and yet you know they were.

Now, add in a mix of digital photography and different lights. Shake well with some computer enhancements. The result? Readable images!

If this isn't magic, I don't know what is.

Jack Reese at The Generations Network started working through the 1851 Manchester, England, census. He kept finding himself staring at a bunch of nothing. Ink had faded. Water damage left mold that was eating away at what was left of the paper. Some pages were just fragments. Others? Completely blank.

For Jack, it was a fun problem. After all, he is an engineer with two areas of special expertise: computer imaging and family history.

He started with a Nikon digital camera, disassembled it, replaced filters, and added specialized lenses. Next he built a box, "a complete light-controlled enclosure that we could house our custom lights and camera in." He then used a mix of light sources: infrared, ultraviolet, fluorescent, incandescent, and more.

You can see magician Jack's results on the Ancestry Magazine's web site at <http://www.ancestrymagazine.com/2009/04/genea-Logic/preserving-genealogical-records>.

The site includes sample before-and-after images of the pages. The results are amazing.

For the next few months, the camera will prove its mettle at The National Archives in London, capturing images of that 1851 Manchester census. Once snapped, keyed, and indexed, pages containing some 200,000+ names that might have been lost will be available at your fingertips on Ancestry.com.

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## Charles M. Bair – Sheep Rancher

Charles Bair was born on June 18, 1857 in Ohio. He started farming in Michigan; then became a train conductor for the railroad. He came to Montana in 1883 and was a conductor on the Billings to Helena run with the Northern Pacific for eight years. He saved his money and invested in ranch land. By 1891 he was ready to devote full time to ranching. In 1898 he became one of the area's largest and most successful stockman. He sold 25,000 sheep and some ranch holdings to purchase ground-thawing machines, which he took to the placer gold mines of the Klondike with Louis E. Miller. The machines worked perfectly, and he invested his earnings in rich Alaskan mining properties. He returned to Montana in 1899 and again invested in sheep. At one time he clipped 1,900,000 pounds of wool. By the turn of the century he owned the largest individual sheep operation in the northwest U.S. Bair ran as many as 300,000 head of sheep on his ranch in the Martinsdale area and other lease land. In 1910, his sheep sale filled a 47-car train with 1.5 million pounds of wool bound for the Boston market.

He built a home at Broadway & 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave N in Billings. It was considered to be the finest in Billings. His family farm home is a museum, and is open to the public. When the last of the family, Alberta died in 1993, the Bair Family Trust contracted with the C.M. Russell Museum of Great Falls to manage the ranch house as a public museum.

## New York City Restricts Access to Vital Records

Sad news: "The public is no longer permitted to look at the birth and death indexes at the New York City Department of Health." The following was written by Jan Meisels Allen who has given permission to distribute it elsewhere:

The New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DOHMH) has restricted access to the indices for vital records (birth, death) effective April 8, 2009. Only authorized personnel are now permitted to research the indices.

In speaking with the Commissioner's office, I was advised that anyone may pay \$15 to have the staff research a specific name for three years. More years requires additional payment. As genealogists, we would like to retain the opportunity to review the indices ourselves.

There is nothing, as of this posting, reflecting the change posted on the DOHMH website. (<http://www.nyc.gov/html/doh/html/home/home.shtml>) .

The DOHMH has birth indices/records after 1909 and death indices/records after 1948. (The New York City Municipal Archives has birth indexes prior to 1910 and death indexes prior to 1949 <http://www.nyc.gov/html/records/html/vitalrecords/home.shtml>.)

In 2008, the DOHMH adopted a resolution to repeal and reenact Article 3 of the New York City Health Code (see <http://www.nyc.gov/html/doh/downloads/pdf/notice/article-3-adoption-june-2008.pdf> or <http://tinyurl.com/df6937>. Section 3.25 (page 4) states the amendment is for the protection of the privacy of persons who are subjects of the information while providing for the conditions under which information may be disclosed.

Also, Section 3.27, which permitted access to the printed indices of vital statistics records, has been repealed in its entirety. This was the section that permitted anyone to review the indices available at the DOHMH. The stated rationale for repeal is due to concerns over abuse in access which can lead to identity theft and security risks. The resolution states while this is a Department determination, they are taking into consideration the federal regulations for the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA). This is not the usual interpretation of HIPAA, which is the standard for protecting the privacy of patient medical records and other health information provided to health care providers.

Jan Meisels Allen

Director, International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies and Chairperson, Public Records Access Monitoring Committee

## An Edible Family Record—Ukrainian Paska Bread

By Robert Samuel Breen

It was around 1870 in the village of Tyrawa Solna (near Sanok in present-day Poland) that Paraska Chutko's mother taught her to make the traditional Ukrainian Easter bread, paska. Four generations later in Ocean County, New Jersey, my Italian spouse uses the same recipe to provide dozens of loaves to family and friends on holidays throughout the year.

Celia Sucha brought her mother Paraska's recipe with her to Jersey City aboard the *Bulow* from Bremen in 1912. Celia taught my mother, Martha Mamrosh, how to make paska. My wife was the first to document the recipe.

I've been told by people in the Ukraine that the raisins in our recipe strongly suggest family origins in Russia. Perhaps this assessment isn't as scientific as DNA, but the recipe provides a clue for further family history research. And it's one of the few records you can enjoy eating.

### Ingredients:

About 4 lbs. of flour (bread or all-purpose)

4 cups of milk

1 cup sugar

2 sticks of butter

2 tablespoons of dry yeast

5 eggs

1/2 teaspoon of nutmeg

1 teaspoon of vanilla

1 box (12 oz.) of raisins

Scald milk. Melt butter in the milk as it cools. Dissolve sugar in the hot liquid. When the liquid is cool enough to be handled, pour it in a large bowl; add yeast and let dissolve. Mix in at least half of the flour. Texture of mixture should be wet and sticky. Let it rise in the bowl for 1 1/2 to 2 hours until double in bulk.

Add 4 eggs, 1/2 teaspoon of nutmeg, and 1 teaspoon of vanilla. Mix well. Dust raisins with flour and add to mixture. Add remaining flour, one cup at a time and knead the dough until it no longer sticks to your hands.

Divide dough into three sections. Place each section into a large, greased aluminum loaf pan. Let rise for another 1 1/2 to 2 hours.

Preheat oven to 375 degrees. Beat remaining egg and brush over each loaf. Bake for 15 minutes; reduce oven temperature to 325 degrees and bake for 35–40 minutes more. If the bread is not brown, bake an additional 10 minutes at 310 degrees.

This article was taken from Ancestry Magazine April 2009. There was also an article in the Billings Gazette regarding a Ukrainian transplant about this bread and some of the traditions the Ukrainian's have for the Easter Holiday.

**Hi Ho! Hi Ho! Now where did my ancestors go?**

## Name that Montana City Quiz

Each of the following phrases is a clue to the name of a town in Montana. Answers will be published in the next GenBug.

1. A noted newscaster
2. A wounded animal
3. An animal home
4. An African explorer
5. A well known circus
6. A small Sweetheart
7. A line of toiletries
8. A very fleet animal
9. A part of New York bought from the Indians for \$24
10. A fur trader
11. A ranch activity
12. A flower of infancy
13. A large snake
14. A warm, southwest wind
15. A small valley
16. A wide look
17. A geometric figure
18. 18..A former TV sheriff
19. No. 18's former deputy
20. A hill standing alone
21. A colorless vertebrate
22. A severed money institution
23. A double overpass
24. A starving mammal
25. A caretaker of sheep
26. An exterior view
27. Solomon's request
28. Abundant fuel
29. Much above average
30. Holds up a person's pants
31. Indian footwear
32. Next door to heaven
33. Multiple tableware
34. Custer's regimental song
35. The Trojan war was fought in
36. Uncivilized
37. First U.S. Treasurer
38. Flip Wilson's impersonation
39. Bookkeeping form
40. A type of bean
41. Name of a nuclear submarine
42. To split
43. Type of tree or bug
44. The Russian capitol
45. A vacuum cleaner brand
46. Get on your knees and
47. Invoices
48. Distance & City
49. Big stone
50. Large forest
51. Colorless corridor
52. Flaming inn
53. Large ice cube & West
54. Founder of psychoanalysis
55. What water does in the freezer
56. One who grows flowers
57. Small waterfall
58. A tree whose foliage was used to make crowns
59. A cigarette brand
60. Unmarried girl
61. He runs a prison
62. End of a sentence, twice
63. An island in Indonesia
64. A craving equine
65. Two kinds of fuel
66. To shed
67. Gloomy precipice
68. Bob's
69. Rear of trout
70. Fried town
71. A military chicken bite
72. Stuffed or pitted
73. A sink
74. Where bats live
75. A dirty bird
76. Probably a subsidiary of the Folgers Co.
77. A saint's fire and a lake in Billings

## Society's happenings

### April 2009 Membership Report

Since our last issue, the following have joined YGF for the first time. Please join me in welcoming:

Ted Blazina 265 Montclair Drive Billings, MT 59102 406-655-4531 [t.blazina@bresnan.net](mailto:t.blazina@bresnan.net)

Richard A. Klose Sr. & Gayle L. Botkin-Klose 511 Cottonwood Ave Laurel, MT 59044 406-628-7806 (no email address)

We have also had 3 previous members rejoin. Welcome back

Donna Jones 1512 Redwing Circle Billings, MT 59105 259-2112 [djones@meadowlarkco.com](mailto:djones@meadowlarkco.com)

Lorraine Martin 11 First St. West Roundup, MT 5907 323-1641 [lorraine@middrivers.com](mailto:lorraine@middrivers.com)

Ruth Normand 3105 Cactus Drive Billings, MT 59102 256-5235 [rhnorm@bresnan.net](mailto:rhnorm@bresnan.net)

We also have a couple of corrections to email addresses from the Membership Roster published in January. They are:

Alvin, Laura [hlchipmunk@bresnan.net](mailto:hlchipmunk@bresnan.net)

Wolchesky, Joise [cwolchesky@bresnan.net](mailto:cwolchesky@bresnan.net)



Former member Lester Atwood passed away in Billings on April 9, 2009.

### MSGs REPORT

#### July 1, 2009 Deadline:

Time is running out to include your Montana Ancestors who were in the state before 31 December 1929 in Volume III of the First Families and Early Settlers of Montana. If you have an ancestor that qualifies, simply to complete the application and provide the paperwork to prove that they are your ancestors and when they were first in Montana. Applications are available on the First Families link of the MSGS Website at [http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~mtlcs/ffm\\_esm/msgs\\_1st.htm](http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~mtlcs/ffm_esm/msgs_1st.htm) I will also have copies and be available at the YGF meetings if you want some help or have questions. We are hoping to have the books published and available by the September 2009 MSGS Conference.

Shawna Valentine



## Electronic Genealogy Magazine Publication

By Randy Seaver from Genea-Musings Blog

I received my invitation to download the April 2009 issue of *The New England Historical and Genealogical Register* yesterday, so I did, read it, printed off an article for one of my ancestral families, and saved it to my hard drive for future reference. When NEHGS offered an electronic copy in lieu of a printed copy, I jumped at it. NEHGS has not reduced the price of their membership, though.

I read yesterday that FORUM, the magazine of the Federation of Genealogical Societies, will be published only in electronic download format starting with the Summer 2009 issue.

My under-window bookcases groan under the weight of about 15 years of NEHGR and many other journals and magazines. My piles fall over sometimes. There is no more room! I welcome electronic distribution of magazines and newsletters! I have a lot more hard drive and flash drive space than physical space, and I can take the electronic versions with me on a flash drive. Not to mention saving publishing and mailing costs.

Last year, *Everton's Genealogical Helper* offered an electronic download version of their magazine for a reduced price of \$12 per year (vs. \$29 per year for the print issue). I jumped at that opportunity also - it was a great price for a wealth of information. It saved many trees, I'm sure, not to mention mailing costs.

There are at least two other genealogy magazines that offer electronic download format - *Internet Genealogy* (with a printed option) and *The Digital Genealogist*. I subscribe to the *Internet Genealogy* magazine (and just noticed today that they now offer a \$15 download price and a \$21 print price) but not *Digital Genealogist* (which is only a download for \$25 yearly). Both offer 6 issues per year.

Ancestry Magazine is available in a web page format for free or in print for \$17.95 per year.

What about the other genealogy magazines? *Family Tree Magazine*, *Family Chronicle* and *Discovering Family History* are still print only, as far as I know.

Am I missing any nationally published magazines in the USA?

What about other genealogical societies? The National Genealogical Society sends a print version of the *NGS Quarterly* and *NGS News Magazine* to subscribers, but offers an electronic download of NGSQ on their subscription web site. I don't subscribe to other national, regional or state publications, so I'm not aware of other society periodicals in electronic format.

The trend is toward offering electronic versions of genealogy magazines and periodicals, but not every publication offers a reduced price for the electronic version.

When will the print-only magazines decide to offer a reduced price for their magazines? Or will the economy force some of the other magazines to increase their prices. Will the economy sort this out, with some magazines folding or being absorbed by others?

***Continued on page 11***

## Scottish Death and Burial Records are now Online

Newly digitized records of famous Scots, including Adam Smith and Sir Walter Scott, have been made available online.

The digital images, on [scotlandspeople.gov.uk](http://scotlandspeople.gov.uk), the official Government source of genealogical data for Scotland, are of deaths and burials contained in the Old Parish Registers of Scotland (OPRs). The OPRs are the records which the Church of Scotland kept of births and baptisms, banns and marriages and deaths and burials for the 300 years before the start of the civil registration system in 1855.

As genealogists know, ScotlandsPeople website already contains the OPR entries for births/baptisms and banns/marriages. Now, in the year of Homecoming, the death/burial entries will complete the project to make all the OPRs of Scotland available on the internet.

You can read more in the EdinburghGuide.com web site at <http://www.edinburghguide.com/story/visitingedinburgh/3171>.

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## Latest Periodicals in the GenRoom

No report submitted

## New Books in the GenRoom

"Donated by Richard Thayer:

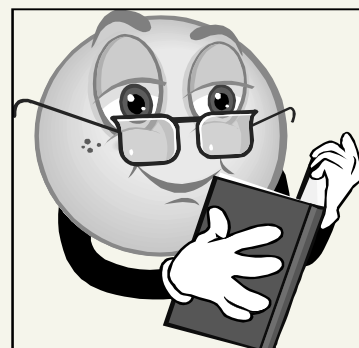
Dawsonian 1944, 1945, 1946 (Dawson County High School Yearbook, Glendive, Montana)

The Pasque 1923 (Northern Normal and Industrial School Yearbook, Aberdeen South Dakota)

Garden City, South Dakota History, 1887 to 1987

Donated by Judy Cohen:

History of Lewistown, Montana





## 20th Annual Montana State Genealogical Conference September 24, 25, 26, 2009

Red Lion Colonial Inn, Helena

featuring  
Jana Sloan Broglin, CG

A native of northwest Ohio, Jana is a professional genealogist with over twenty-five years of experience. She has spoken at local, state, regional, and national conferences. She is also a freelance writer. Jana is currently serving as Vice President of Membership for the Federation of Genealogical Societies and is a past trustee of the Ohio Genealogical Society.

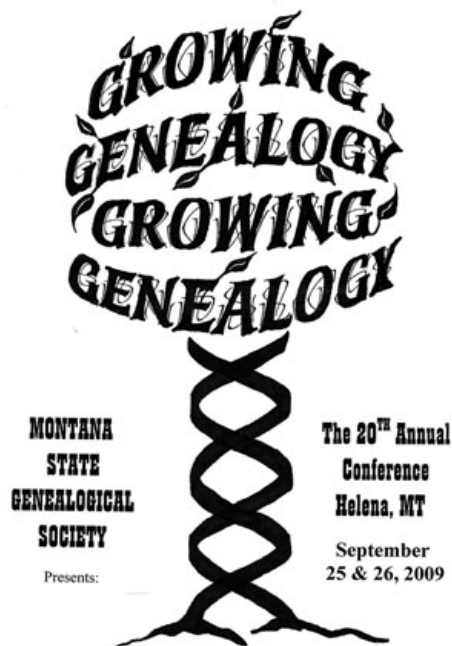
Jana will present:

**Ohio: the Great Land Experiment** - Ohio was the first state created from the Northwest Territory. Learn about migration, county formation, land offices, and the survey systems unique to Ohio.

**The Role of the Genealogical Society in the 21st Century** - Learn how your society can attract members, have a user-friendly website, encourage membership through publications and promote meetings.

**Ohio Records and Repositories** - Planning a research trip? Learn the types of records available. Discover the best libraries and archives in the state of Ohio. Internet sources for those working from home.

**Hooker's, Crooks, and Kooks: Or Aunt Merle Didn't Run a Boarding House** - A light-hearted look at searching for the black sheep in the family. Presented in costume.



Sister Dolores Brinkel, SCL Archivist will speak on Accessing & Researching Records at the Catholic Diocese of Montana, which is located in Helena.

Rich Aarstad of the Montana Historical Society will speak on Oral Histories.

Zoe Ann Stultz, also of the Montana Historical Society, will speak on their holdings.

We will also have a session on how to use the Shared Catalog which is an on-line database of books and which libraries have them.

We will also offer a tour of Helena's Cemeteries on the afternoon of Thursday, September 24th.

**Conference Registration Forms will be mailed in July.**

Full Registration Fee including 3 meals is only \$90.00.

Registration Fee with no meals is \$44.00. Tour is \$20.00 additional.

Rooms at the Red Lion Colonial Inn are \$82.00/night.

We hope you will join us  
September 24, 25, 26, 2009 in Helena!

## 50 Most Popular Genealogy Websites for 2009

This article was taken from Progenealogist.com by Kory L. Meyerink, MLS, AG, FUGA

This list was created in the first quarter of 2009. It was developed from a list of criteria explained in an article published in the [Digital Genealogist](#), edited by Elizabeth Kelley Kerstens. The 2008 ranking is given in parenthesis after the web-site description. Sites new to the list for 2009 are marked with \*.

### RANK WEBSITE COVERAGE/CONTENT

1. [Ancestry.com](#) \$ - Ancestry.com is the leading genealogical data site, with some articles, instruction, and reference help. (1)
2. [Genealogy.com](#) \$ - This is [major](#) data site, with instruction and reference help. (4)
3. [MyHeritage.com](#) - MyHeritage focuses on genealogy community building and [networking](#). (3)
4. [RootsWeb.com](#) - Rootsweb is a major data site, with free instruction and reference help. (2)
5. [MyFamily.com](#) - Hosts family websites for sharing photos, genealogy, and more. (5)
6. [FamilySearch.org](#) - This is a major data website sponsored by the LDS Church and includes with instruction and reference help. (5)
7. [FindAGrave.com](#) - A database of cemetery inscriptions and photos. (7)
8. [Geni.com](#) - Web 2.0 and focuses on genealogy community building and networking. (18)
9. [Footnote.com](#) \$ - In conjunction with the U.S. National Archives, Footnote offers data, original records images, and more. (8)
10. [AncestorHunt.com](#) - A site consisting of collected genealogy links. (12)
11. [OneGreatFamily.com](#) \$ - This is primarily a family trees sharing and collaboration website. (9)
12. [GenealogyToday.com](#) - Genealogy Today includes instruction, reference articles, and includes some unique data collections. (11)
13. [WorldVitalRecords.com](#) \$ - WVR is also known as Family Link, and represents a major data website, with instruction and reference help. (10)
14. [AccessGenealogy.com](#) - A website that includes references to helpful articles, especially for Native American information, and some data. (13)
15. [USGennet.org](#) - Historical and genealogical web [hosting service](#). (17)
16. [Interment.net](#) - Transcribed and indexed cemetery inscriptions. (16)
17. [CyndisList.com](#) - A huge website dedicated to cataloguing genealogy website links. (15)
18. [GeneBase.com](#) - A DNA ancestry cataloguing project (24)
19. [SearchForAncestors.com](#) - Interactive directory of free genealogy websites and data. (21)
20. [EllisIsland.org](#) - Database of passenger lists that is free to search. Actual passenger list images can be purchased. (14)
21. [FamilyTreeMaker.com](#) - Homepage for Ancestry.com's genealogical software. (20)

Continued from page 10

22. [KindredKonnections.com](http://KindredKonnections.com) \$ - Grassroots created data site with compiled family Trees, and some extracted records. (19)
23. [DistantCousin.com](http://DistantCousin.com) - An online archive of genealogy records and images of historical documents. (22)
24. [Linkpendium.com](http://Linkpendium.com) - A collection of genealogy links categorized by region and surname. (35)
25. [DeathIndexes.com](http://DeathIndexes.com) - Lists of links to United States death records, by state. (31)
26. [FamilyTreeDNA.com](http://FamilyTreeDNA.com) - DNA testing service focused upon family history test types. (27)
27. [CousinConnect.com](http://CousinConnect.com) - A large free queries website. (23)
28. [TribalPages.com](http://TribalPages.com) - Family trees hosting and charting program. (25)
29. [CensusFinder.com](http://CensusFinder.com) - Links to free census records. (40)
30. [USGenWeb.com](http://USGenWeb.com) - A group of volunteers working together to provide free genealogy websites for genealogical research in every county and every state of the United States. (49)
31. [GenealogyBank.com](http://GenealogyBank.com) \$ - Database with index of newspapers and early books. (41)
32. [JewishGen.org](http://JewishGen.org) - Jewish, reference, instruction, coordination, and databases. (28)
33. [PoliticalGraveyard.com](http://PoliticalGraveyard.com) - Comprehensive source of U.S. political biography that tells where many dead politicians are buried. (34)
34. [Genuki.org.uk](http://Genuki.org.uk) - Large collection of genealogical information pages for England, Ireland, Scotland, Wales, the Channel Islands, and the Isle of Man. (32)
35. \*[Genealogytrails.com](http://Genealogytrails.com) - Three year old site with free data contributed by volunteers (not ranked)
36. [GenCircles.com](http://GenCircles.com) - Upload and share your family trees. (30)
37. \*[GenoPro.com](http://GenoPro.com) - Genealogy software that produces genograms (53)
38. [Census-Online.com](http://Census-Online.com) - Links to censuses and census abstracts. (46)
39. [HeritageQuestOnline.com](http://HeritageQuestOnline.com) \$ - Census, PERSI (the periodical index), books. (39)
40. [US-Census.org](http://US-Census.org) - Census abstracts (U.S. GenWeb Census Project) (37)
41. [Daddezio.com](http://Daddezio.com) - Website focused upon Italian research, with instruction, information and more. (33)
42. [Geneanet.org](http://Geneanet.org) - A collection of family trees, community, and submitted records. (36)
43. [GenWed.com](http://GenWed.com) - Online marriage records, where to order, some indexes, and more. (42)
44. [ObitCentral.com](http://ObitCentral.com) - Obituary database for finding obituaries and performing cemetery searches. (29)
45. \*[ObitLinksPage.com](http://ObitLinksPage.com) - State-by-state directory of obituaries and obituary resources. (not ranked)
46. [FindMyPast.com](http://FindMyPast.com) \$ - Indexes to British records of many types. (50)
47. \*[FamilyHistory101.com](http://FamilyHistory101.com) - Less than two years old and full of instruction and guidance for genealogists (107)
48. [AncientFaces.com](http://AncientFaces.com) - Share genealogy research, community pages, family photos & records more for free. (38)
49. \*[Dar.org](http://Dar.org) - Site of the largest lineage society; includes their library catalog and 32 million name index. (67)
50. [GenealogyLinks.net](http://GenealogyLinks.net) - Links to free sites, arranged by state and county. (43)

## 25 Most Popular Genealogy Blogs

By Heather Henderson

Genealogy blogging is all the rage and on the rise. A Google search for genealogy blogs currently results in nearly half a million options, with over seven times that number for "family history" blogs. Nielsen Buzz Metrics BlogPulse shows a steady trend for genealogy and family history blogs with spikes correlating to celebrity family history activity in the news. Of the millions, 25 surface as the most popular all-around genealogy blogs, with a tie for 25th place according to rankings from Technorati. Top 25 Genealogy Blogs as of 3 April 2009

1. About.com Genealogy (Kimberly Powell)
2. Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter\* (Dick Eastman)
3. Genea-Musings (Randy Seaver)
4. Creative Gene (Jasia)
5. Dear MYRTLE (Pat Richley)
6. AnceStories (Miriam Midkiff)
7. Genealogue (Chris Dunham)
8. footnoteMaven (Anonymous)
9. Genetic Genealogist (Blaine Bettinger)
10. Tracing The Tribe: Jewish Genealogy Blog (Schelly Talalay Dardashti)
11. GenaBlogie (Craig Manson)
12. Olive Tree Genealogy Blog (Lorine McGinnis Schulze)
13. Steve's Genealogy Blog (Stephen J. Danko)
14. 24-7 Family History Circle (Juliana Smith)
15. Transylvanian Dutch (John Newmark)
16. GenDisasters (Stu Beitler)
17. Genealogy Insider @ FamilyTree (Diane Haddad)
18. Think Genealogy (Mark Tucker)
19. California Genealogical Society and Library Blog (California Genealogical Society)
20. The Genealogy Guys (George G. Morgan and Drew Smith)
21. Canada Genealogy, or, 'Jane's Your Aunt' (Diane Rogers)
22. Ancestry Insider (Anonymous)
23. Genealogyblog (Leland Meitzler)
24. Ancestor Search Blog (Kathi)
25. Genealoge (Hugh Watkins) /its a tie!/  
26. Legacy News (Legacy Tree Software) /its a tie!/

**Whoever said "Seek and Ye shall find" was NOT a genealogist!**

## NARA Finding Guides

National Archives staff have prepared more than 160 pages of finding guides to assist researchers with their most common records. These guides are printed on various hues of colored paper. They can be found on a rack in the lobby once you arrive at the Archives. The Mount Vernon Genealogical Society has also placed these finding aids online at [http://mvgenealogy.org/NARA\\_Guides.html](http://mvgenealogy.org/NARA_Guides.html). Whether planning a visit or not, these guides are a great resource for a better understanding and appreciation of the NARA holdings.

Taken from the Discovering Family History April 2009

## Irish Roots: New Genealogical Records Available Online

The following was written by Library and Archives Canada:

(Ottawa) December 22, 2008 — Library and Archives Canada is pleased to announce that its partner, the National Archives of Ireland, has launched the next important phase of an online census research tool for the Irish counties of Antrim, Kerry, and Down for 1911. The census records for all counties for 1911 and for 1901 will be made available online throughout 2009.

Library and Archives Canada signed an agreement with the National Archives of Ireland in December 2005 and the two institutions have been working to make the censuses of Ireland for 1901 and 1911 accessible online, free of charge. Library and Archives Canada's contribution included digitizing microfilm reels, linking images to the database and making the records searchable by name.

"With 70 million Irish diaspora around the world, and up to one-fifth of Canadians claiming Irish heritage, this project will connect even more people to their historical roots," stated Ian E. Wilson, Librarian and Archivist of Canada.

Making these records accessible online will give genealogists and historians around the world the chance to explore the age, occupation, religion and marital status of individuals. It will also allow research on Irish society of the early 20th century. The National Archives of Ireland have provided vibrant historical essays on topics such as social life, government, sport and religion and photographs depicting life in Ireland in 1911.

Library and Archives Canada and the National Archives of Ireland collaborated on other projects including the popular website *The Shamrock and the Maple Leaf: Irish-Canadian Documentary Heritage* at Library and Archives Canada and two Irish studies symposia were held in Ottawa in 2006 and 2008. There will be additional phases added to the census online in the coming year.

To visit the Irish Census Online and the virtual exhibition on life in Ireland in 1911, please, go to: [www.census.nationalarchives.ie](http://www.census.nationalarchives.ie) (in English only).

For more information or for information on Library and Archives Canada and the National Archives of Ireland's partnership, please visit *The Shamrock and the Maple Leaf* at: [www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/ireland/](http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/ireland/).

### **Continued from page 4**

What is the market here? Is it already saturated with magazines? Each magazine has a fairly unique style that bodes well for their survival. My impression is that the magazines are subscribed to by a fairly small percentage of genealogy researchers, and many (like me) subscribe to two or more magazines.

Updated 4/23: Readers Valerie C. and Diane Haddad commented that *Family Tree Magazine* has downloadable issues of the magazine for \$5.99 each here, but does not offer a digital subscription.

Updated 4/25: I edited several paragraphs above a bit to be more accurate. Elizabeth Kerstens Kelley, who publishes *Digital Genealogist* magazine, asked if price was my only criteria in this post. She pointed out that her magazine has 6 issues per year, each with almost 50 pages of content without advertising, and that is why the price of the magazine is higher than some others - there is no advertising revenue to offset publishing costs. I agree that apples to apples comparison would judge the number of content pages, the quality of the authors, etc. I didn't do that in this post - I was more interested in making the point that some offer a reduced price for a digital download from the print version and some don't offer digital downloads at all.

Frank Slaton asked if any genealogy magazines or blogs offer Kindle subscriptions yet. I think the concept is a great idea. I don't think any of them do yet, but if the demand was high enough, I'm sure that the publishers would jump on the idea. Is Kindle only for commercial subscriptions? I haven't looked at it in detail. Can a Kindle owner put their own content on the Kindle, or is it strictly a download through a subscription provider? interesting question.

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## 2 0 0 9   P r o g r a m s   &   E v e n t s   a t   a   g l a n c e

<b>January 27th</b>	Repairing Old Books by Paul Reeder
<b>February 24th</b>	Restoring Old Photos by Steven Kops
<b>March 24th</b>	Podcasts, websites, and other Genealogy tech tips by Jason Herman & Rick Davis
<b>April 28th</b>	Loween Peterson – Doing research in Sweden
<b>May 26th</b>	BLM – History Mystery
<b>June 23rd</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> ½ - High Plains Women's Museum 2 <sup>nd</sup> ½ - Yellowstone County Museum
<b>July 28th</b>	Kevin Kooistra-Manning – Railroads Shape Our Towns
<b>August 25th</b>	MT State Historical Society
<b>September 22nd</b>	
<b>September 25th &amp; 26th</b>	MSGs State Convention, "Growing Genealogy", Red Lion in Helena, MT
<b>October 27th</b>	
<b>November 24th</b>	
<b>December 22nd</b>	No Meeting

Please remember, these are subject to change!