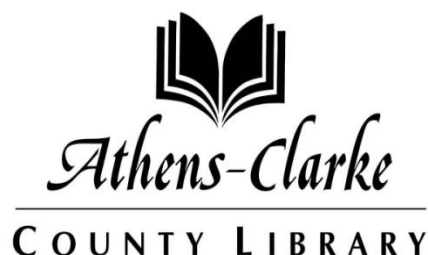


**The Heritage Room**  
[heritageroom@arlsmail.org](mailto:heritageroom@arlsmail.org)  
[http://www.clarke.public.lib.ga.us/hqdepts/heritage/family\\_local.html](http://www.clarke.public.lib.ga.us/hqdepts/heritage/family_local.html)  
(706) 613-3650 Ext. 350  
FAX (706) 613-3660



**Athens Regional Library  
System**  
2025 Baxter Street  
Athens, GA 30606  
<http://www.clarke.public.lib.ga.us>

## **Genealogy on the Internet** Heritage Room

<http://www.clarke.public.lib.ga.us/hqdepts/heritage/index.html>

### **GOALS** of class are:

1. To acquaint you with types of sites and the information they provide.
2. To help you decide which type(s) of site you need to choose to solve your research problem
3. To provide a beginning list of resources both print and online for you to explore as you have time
4. To cover some basic principles of Internet use
5. To explain limits of Internet and digital genealogy and when to use other resources
6. Copyright and sharing

The same principles apply to online genealogy as to research in traditional sources:

- Develop a plan for each person based on what you already know so you are systematic in looking for your ancestors
- Evaluate your sources carefully
- Join a genealogical society near where you live for networking and for methodology classes

Modern genealogy has developed 3 sets of criteria:

The terms **original and derivative** are applied to **Sources**

The terms **primary or secondary** are used to determine **where the Information came from**

And the terms **direct or indirect or circumstantial** are applied to evidence.

From Devine, Donn. "Evidence Analysis," Mills, Elizabeth Shown, editor. *Professional Genealogy: a Manual; for Researchers, Writers, Editors, Lecturers, and Librarians*. Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Company, 2001.

### **WHY USE THE INTERNET?**

Remember that you will not be able to do your entire family tree and get all your documentation online, but internet resources can be an efficient tool if you do your homework.

You will still need to go to libraries and archives, use microfilm and print materials in addition to the Internet. You will need to get copies or digital images of actual documents. A listing of a deed, or will, or marriage record from a book or from information online is not adequate. You **MUST** use the information you find online to go to the original record or a reliable digital copy of the record.

What the Internet helps genealogists do:

- Network with others
- Get clues to follow
- Get solid information from actual images of census records, wills, and other digital databases
- Save travel time and costs

To help you choose a computer program for genealogy – **Cyndis List Software and Computers** <http://www.cyndislist.com/software.htm#Articles>. There are a number of sites listed that can help you make your decision. Also look at **Genealogy Software Reviews** aka **GenSoftReviews** <http://www.gensoftreviews.com>. This site has reviews of many genealogy software programs with charts that submitters rate by:

- Enjoy Using It
- Use It Often
- Easy Input
- Useful Output
- Overall Rating

Ratings are provided by users of the software like you and me and everyone is encouraged to submit their experiences with different software.

An article, “Software Test Kitchen,” comparing four software programs - Family Tree Maker, Legacy Family Tree, The Master Genealogist, and RootsMagic - appeared in the January 2008 issue of *Family Tree Magazine*. You might want to read this since it is a comparison done by people like you and me who are not computer geeks.

## **GETTING STARTED**

Start with you

Talk with family members

Choose ancestors carefully when learning

Make a list of variant spellings of name

For the name, make a list of all the variant spellings you have found or know about so far. Then go to **Table of Common Surname Variations & Surname Misspellings** <http://www.ingeneas.com/alternate.html> and add any you do not already have. As you search online you will find new ones to add to your list.

Have information at hand on ancestor you are searching

Look for one piece of information at a time in the beginning

Look for sites that may be set up for your surname. Start with the Guild of One-Name Studies [www.one-name.org](http://www.one-name.org)

Use bookmarks and favorites to keep track of where things are you need. Use the folders you can create within those to keep them organized in whatever way makes it easy for you.

### **EVALUATING SITES AND INFORMATION**

Ask yourself a few questions

- Who created the database or Web pages? – an individual, a library, an archives, a society, or other entity. For digital images put online from a reputable organization or repository, trust the image you see. Be a little more skeptical of something from an individual since it is easy to alter digital files.
- When was the page created? Last updated?
- Where does the information come from? Are sources cited?
- Does the site creator use and define terms correctly? If terms such as yeoman are used is the meaning clearly defined – there are several things it can mean.
- In what form is the information presented? Is it a GEDCOM? Is there a site index?
- Does the information agree with what you know to be fact or make sense with what you know?

### **ONGOING RESEARCH**

Revisit databases and Websites – you will find new information, and/or new people to collaborate with.

There are three basic types of genealogical resources on the Internet - (1) **Online genealogies**, (2) **Online records**, and (3) **Online leads to offline genealogies and records**.

Dr. Jim Rice has created a detailed handout describing these. The link for Dr. Jim Rice's detailed handouts for Genealogy on the Internet – is posted on the Clarke-Oconee Genealogical Society Web site at

<http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~gacogs/learn/jrice/genoninternet.html>

### **ONLINE GENEALOGIES**

1. Compilations of Contributed Genealogies,
2. Messages posted to Surname, Locality and Topically specific message boards and

- email lists,
3. Data posted to various other web pages, including personal ones, and
  4. Queries posted to various query bases, including especially those found on relevant U.S. and World GenWeb pages.

### ONLINE RECORDS

Use both subscription and free databases. – Below is a sample list of a few

America's Genealogy Bank – reasonably priced for individuals  
Ancestry.com – individual subscription  
Ancestry Library Edition – library edition of Ancestry.com available at all Internet computers in Georgia public libraries.  
Digital Library of Georgia - Free  
Footnote.com – free in Heritage Room  
HeritageQuest™ Online – PERSI, Census, Freedman's Bank records, American Revolutionary War, and Family and Local History books, U.S. Serial Set. Free to search from home or library through GALILEO  
New England Ancestors – NEHGC members  
USGENWEB - Free  
Virtual Vault from Georgia Archives - Free  
World Vital Records

*Plugging Into Your Past* (listed in Further Reading below) lists by topical chapters many Websites and databases with URLs: Topics include vital records, census, will, probate and court records, cemeteries and tombstone inscriptions, military records, land and property records, newspapers, church records, and full-text books, journals, and manuscripts.

Lots of the sites listed are from the “Books” from HeritageQuest™ Online. These are not given URLs in the book, so you need the following search directions for finding these books: First get into HeritageQuest™ Online through GALILEO – call the Reference desk or the Heritage room for directions if you have trouble. From the Athens-Clarke County Library home page <http://www.clarke.public.lib.ga.us>, look on the right side of the page in the yellow frames and select the one that says GALILEO Research & Homework. There will be a green box on the page. These are links to shortcuts to make it easier to find some of the more frequently used databases. Choose Genealogy & Georgia from the list; choose HeritageQuest™ Online.

1. choose Search Books, then choose Publications if you have the title of a specific book you are looking for.
2. Type words such as a name you are searching for in the Keyword box and the first few words of the title as listed in the database directories in *Plugging Into Your Past*, in the Book or Article Title box
3. Click on search
4. Click on view image
5. Title page of the book should come up. Click on the Hit button's right arrow to view the first page where the search term you entered appears
6. Click on the Hit button's right arrow again to view the other matches, one by one.

### ONLINE LEADS TO OFFLINE GENEALOGIES AND RECORDS

Search engines are tools that can help you find information on the Internet. This is not a comprehensive list, but gives you plenty to start with

<http://www.altavista.com/>  
<http://www.ask.com/?o=0&l=dir>  
<http://www.dogpile.com/>  
<http://www.Google.com>  
<http://www.ixquick.com/>  
<http://www.metacrawler.com/>  
<http://www.search.com/>  
<http://search.yahoo.com/>  
<http://www.yippy.com/>

**Genealogy specific search engine**  
[Linkpendium.com](http://Linkpendium.com)

### COPYRIGHT AND SHARING

Copyright is designed to protect the rights of people who create any kind of intellectual work and to protect the concept of “fair use.”

Facts cannot be copyrighted. Narrations, compilations, and creative works can be copyrighted.

A pedigree chart or GEDCOM file is not protected, but a book, article or other compilation is.

Fair use allows us to make a limited number of copies from copyrighted works for our personal use or for educational purposes.  
Publication means Web sites, emails, message boards, books, pamphlets, and the Internet in general in addition to print.

Copyright rules are different in different countries and when you are doing international research and using sites from other countries you need to learn their laws.

For basic U.S. information,

**Copyright Basics** <http://palimpsest.stanford.edu/bytopic/intprop/circ1.html>

Please watch this delightful video about Fair Use at YouTube

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CJn\\_jC4FNDo](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CJn_jC4FNDo)

Here is a copyright Gadget that may help you keep things straight -

<http://librarycopyright.net/digitalslider/>

Share information but understand who you are sharing with and what they are going to do with the information. When you share information, be clear as to how you are willing to have the other person use it, preferably put your expectations in writing.

YouTube has a good help page that explains copyright issues

<http://tinyurl.com/pgeyow>

**GEDCOM** (**GE**nealogical **Data COM**munication) files are the standard way to share genealogical files.

### **PRIVACY, ETIQUETTE, AND SECURITY**

It is important to be aware of privacy and legal issues.

Think about the privacy of living persons and do not put information about living people online.

Privacy laws vary from country to country. In the U.S. most places observe 72 years from date of creation for release of records. In Canada and the British Isles, it is 100 years.

Learn the rules of online etiquette.

### **SCAMS, HOAXES, AND SUCH**

To avoid being misled or spending money for something that is not what it is supposed to be check out the following Web sites.

The Genealogy Watch List

<http://www.genealogytoday.com/genealogy/watchlist/index.html>

Cyndis List Myths, Hoaxes and Scams

<http://www.cyndislist.com/myths.htm>

### **For Further Reading**

I recommend that you systematically browse/scan through each title on the list that follows and make notes on the things that will be useful to you. Each item takes a different approach and I learned something new from each of them. You do not have to do this all at once. But the more you work on your genealogy, the more some of the information in these books will make sense to you. In addition, each lists some different Web sites. Since Web sites and their contents change constantly, you should find some treasures in all of them.

Athens-Clarke County Library does not have all of these, but you can borrow them from other PINES libraries. The Internet and the resources available change so quickly that these titles have much specific information that is out of date. The general principles and techniques they provide are what make these

titles useful. If there is a call number listed following the titles below it is the call number in the Athens-Clarke County Library.

Crowe, Elizabeth Powell. *Genealogy Online*, 8<sup>th</sup> ed. New York: McGraw Hill/Osborne, 2008. **Call Number:** NONFIC 929 CROWE

Crume, Rick. *Plugging into your past: how to find real family history records online*. Cincinnati, OH: Betterway Books, 2004. **Call Number:** NONFIC 929.1028 CRUME

Dollarhide, William. *Getting Started in Genealogy Online*. Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Company, 2006. **Call Number:** NONFIC 929.1072 DOLLARHI

Good book to read if you are a beginner. He also provides a list of the top 20 Reference Books for Genealogists and other resources in the chapter "Research Help for the Addicted". Some of these you may want to purchase, others you may want to go to your local library and use as needed.

Helm, Matthew L. and April Leigh Helm. *Genealogy online for dummies*, 5<sup>th</sup> ed. Indianapolis: Wiley Pub Co., 2008. **Call Number:** NONFIC 929.1 HELM

Hendrickson, Nancy. *Finding Your Roots Online*. Cincinnati, Ohio: Betterway Books, 2003. **Call Number:** NONFIC 929.1 HENDRICK

This one walks you through some searches near the end of the book. You can perform the same searches as practice. Be aware that these were done several years ago as the book was published in 2003 and you may get somewhat different results and probably more information today. Hendrickson talks about getting organized, how to network online, and explains how search engines work among other things.

Howells, Cyndi. *Cyndi's list: a comprehensive list of 70,000 genealogy sites on the Internet*. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Baltimore, MD: Genealogical Publishing Co., 2001.

Howells, Cyndi. *Netting your ancestors: Genealogical research on the internet*. Baltimore, MD: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1997. **Call Number:** NONFIC 929.1028 HOWELLS

Levine, John R., *The Internet for dummies*, 10th ed. Indianapolis: Wiley Pub., 2005. This one helps you understand the Internet.

Lynch, Daniel M. *Google Your Family Tree: Unlock the Hidden Power of Google*. FamilyLink.com:2008 order from <http://www.googleyourfamilytree.com/>  
**Call Number:** NONFIC 929.1072 LYNCH

McClure, Rhonda. *The complete idiot's guide to online genealogy*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. New York: Alpha Books, 2002.

As always, "The Complete Idiot's Guide ..." is a great way to begin learning something new.

Mills, Elizabeth Shown. *Evidence! Citation and Analysis for the Family Historian.*, Baltimore: Gen. Pub. Co., c1997. **Call Number:** NONFIC 929.1 MILLS

This book is a must have for your personal library – it helps you analyze and evaluate your evidence and gives you quick and easy to use examples of how to cite many common sources.

Mills, Elizabeth Shown, *Evidence Explained: Citing History Sources from Artifacts to Cyberspace*. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Baltimore: Genealogical Pub. Co., 2009.

This is the standard for source citation. It seems overly complicated at first, but you will find it indispensable in creating citations. This is one to consider purchasing as a reference book. We do not yet have 2<sup>nd</sup> edition. So I did not include call number.

Otterson, Michael, *Finding your family on the internet the ultimate guide to online family history research*. Sandy, UT: Silverleaf Press, 2006

In addition to the basics, this one helps you get information from the British Isles and introductory information on other international research.

*Standards For Sharing Information With Others*

[http://www.ngsgenealogy.org/galleries/Ref\\_Researching/gssharing.pdf](http://www.ngsgenealogy.org/galleries/Ref_Researching/gssharing.pdf) accessed 17 August 2010 from National Genealogical Society Web site

*Standards for the use of Technology in Genealogical Research*

[http://www.ngsgenealogy.org/galleries/Ref\\_Researching/gstechnology.pdf](http://www.ngsgenealogy.org/galleries/Ref_Researching/gstechnology.pdf) accessed 17 August 2010 from the National Genealogical Society Web site

Weverka, Peter, *The everyday Internet all-in-one desk reference for dummies*, Indianapolis: Wiley, 2005.

Wilson, Richard S. (Richard Scott). *Publishing your family history on the Internet*, LaHabra, CA: Compuology, 1999. **Call Number:** NONFIC 929.1029 WILSON