

# EAST GIPPSLAND FAMILY HISTORY GROUP INC

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## BULLETIN

Meetings are held at 2.00 p.m. on the second Saturday in the month

### AUGUST 2016

Welcome to the August edition of the Bulletin. As you will all be aware we have recently held our AGM with a few changes to the roles of the committee. Kerry Hopkins has stood down from her Secretarial position on the committee and the new Secretary for the coming year is Teresa Collis. I would like to thank Kerry for her work over the past 3 years as the role of Secretary is without doubt the most demanding of all our jobs. Kerry has been a great help to me as President and to the group as a whole. We will not however miss out on Kerry's ongoing assistance as she has retained a position on the general committee. Our new Secretary Teresa has already stamped her mark on various subcommittee roles and I know she will bring enthusiasm and drive with her to the job. I look forward to the next year working with all of the committee members in running the groups affairs.

At the AGM a number of decisions were made that will require us to hold a Special General Meeting in the coming year. We decided that a revision of our rules regarding the timing and method of setting fees was required and also that a maximum number of committee members should be set at 9 members plus the President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. These changes require the rules to be amended by the Justice Department and will have some cost to the group, therefore we will be holding the meeting so that all changes will be made at the same time and minimum cost will be incurred. The committee will inform you of the timing of the meeting.

Members will note that we have new neighbours at our rooms with a group called GROW taking up residence in the old EGFHG rooms for a period of time. This group will be working with unemployed people to help make them job ready for the future. It is not anticipated that any disruption will occur due to their presence and by being there they are helping to support our continued maintenance of the rooms and surrounds.

Over the next weeks Martin will be introducing a revised and revamped website to the membership, have a look and when you see the new website we would appreciate any comments or suggestions that will help us to improve the site. As with all such ventures there is sure to be a typo or spelling mistake that we will attend to as soon as possible, however sometimes more rare problems can occur such as the inability to view the website or parts of it using some search programs. If you encounter any such problems please let us know, if you have problems then others will be as well. To provide the best possible site we need your help and input.

Tony Meade  
President

I am one step  
 away from being  
 rich, all i need  
 now is money.



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**AUSTRALIA**

<http://www.bdm.vic.gov.au/home/family+history/help+guide/help+guide>

It is interesting to note that the website only allows searching of the births index to 1915 whereas the CD provides access to 1920. The on line deaths now go to 1988 while the CD only goes to 1985.

## Victorian Archives Centre Gallery



The **Victorian Archives Centre**, at 99 Shiel Street North Melbourne, plays host to regular displays of original records from our collection as well as touring exhibitions about Victorian stories.

From May until 16 September 2016, the National Archives of Australia will be showing their exhibition *A Place To Call Home? Migrant Hostel Memories*.

More than 7.5 million immigrants have arrived in Australia since World War II. With hundreds of thousands of new arrivals, housing was at a premium. Former army and air force camps were converted into hostels to provide temporary accommodation while immigrants found homes and jobs. Snakes in the laundry, dreary meals of mutton and a British reluctance to shower are just some of the memories post-war immigrants have shared in this exhibition.

‘While this latest exhibition is based around photographs held in our collection, it is these human recollections, both good and bad, that bring it to life,’ said National Archives curator Amy Lay.

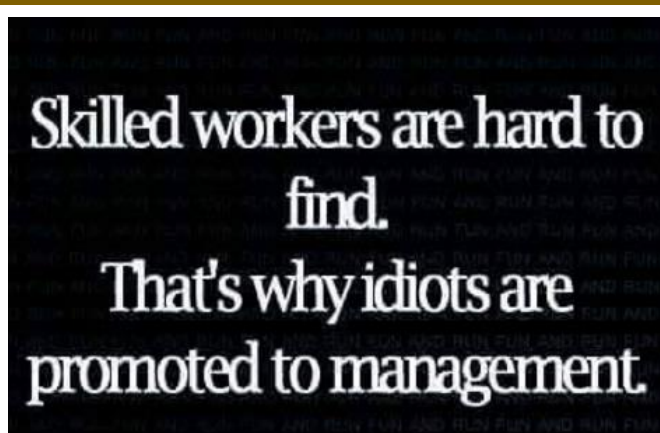
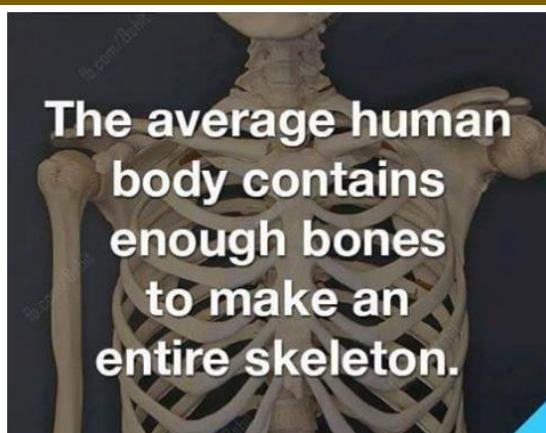
**No bookings required, entry is FREE.**

Monday to Friday: 10:00 am to 4:30 pm (excl. public holidays)

Plus the second and last Saturday of every month.

You can search the **Victorian BDM indexes** for free online at

<http://www.bdm.vic.gov.au/home/family+history/search+your+family+history/>



Victoria's Greater Metropolitan Cemeteries Trust.

email address [Enquiry@gmct.co.au](mailto:Enquiry@gmct.co.au)

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## Victoria - Preston Cemetery

The following is from David Weatherill, past president of the GSV and an authority on Victoria's lone graves. (D Weatherill via" [aus-vic-gippsland@rootsweb.com](mailto:aus-vic-gippsland@rootsweb.com))

In the recent East Gippsland Family History Group Bulletin, July 2016, there is an article on Page 3 regarding the Preston Cemetery to the north of Melbourne.

Preston Cemetery did have their burial records on line when it was a standalone Cemetery run by the Preston Council, but as it is now part of the Greater Metropolitan Cemetery Trust, their burial records will in the future (no time known yet) go online with the other cemeteries burial search process. It was a different database format to the one in current use. They do have a search facility in front of the office at the cemetery via a computer screen for anyone who visits the cemetery and wishes to search the burials to locate a grave.

But what has to be kept in mind is -

The burial records for the cemetery only start from the early 1930s. The earlier burial records were destroyed in a fire circa 1930-31. All that is known of the earlier burials now comes from remaining headstones with memorial inscriptions.

The cemetery has had a number of names over the years from the early 1840s- Macleans (after the original owner of the land and who set up the cemetery for their family), Darebin Creek, Strathallan and finally Preston.

I have researched the cemetery for a number of years and do hold some information from early burials prior to 1931, mainly from inscriptions but also from death certificates.

If I can be of assistance in regards to the cemetery, I live quite near it, just ask. I may be able to assist.

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## New South Wales 1901 Census

Explore over 232,000 records, the only surviving fragments of the New South Wales 1901 census, to discover where your ancestors were living and who was living with them. Included in each result is a transcript and image of the original census document. By viewing original images, you may be able to discover additional information, the number of residents who are Aboriginal or Chinese and any additional remarks. [Findmypast](#) For Young Mums!

Beat School Holidays Boredom with These Kid-Friendly Family History Activities

[http://feedproxy.google.com/~r/ancestry/~3/399tDe3hZVk/?utm\\_source=feedburner&utm\\_medium=email](http://feedproxy.google.com/~r/ancestry/~3/399tDe3hZVk/?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=email)

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The **National Library of Australia** holds resources that could prove helpful. Search the Library's catalogue for topics that relate to family history. These will include published family histories, local histories, military histories and diaries, ship information and biographies. The Library maintains an extensive online subscription service that includes many resources useful to researchers. Any Australian citizen can access this material but they need to seek a free reader's card first. This service is known as *eResources*. You can apply for a library card *online*. Most readers will already be well aware of the *Trove* site managed by the National Library. *eResources* allows similar access to some newspapers beyond Australia. The collection includes newspapers from Hong Kong, UK, Ireland, USA and many others.

One lesser known feature of the National Library is their program operating since 1996 to archive Australian websites. This can prove a useful resource and if a site you found helpful is no longer available it is possible it was archived. The **Pandora Archive** is freely available.

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## Trove

**A Little Thing Called Tim** <http://www.nla.gov.au/blogs/trove/2016/06/23/a-little-thing-called-tim>

Spending Time With Trove's Identity Matching Software

The names that appear in Trove's [People and organisations zone](#) have been brought together from over 70 different bibliographic sources. Often a variety of entries relate to the same person or organisation. When pulling these names together we check for existing matches using the Trove Identity Manager software, otherwise known as TIM.

TIM allows for new identities with no existing matches to be loaded straight into Trove. When there are different forms of names and sources for the one identity they can be matched, making searching much simpler.

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*Politicians are people who, when they see light at the end of the tunnel, go out and buy some more tunnel.*

*~John Quinton, American actor/writer*

Try this link to help find those elusive arrivals <http://www.theshiplist.com/ships/australia/>

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## Your ancestors and the Commonwealth

Often researchers overlook the material held in the National Archives of Australia in Canberra. Often I hear people say that their interest is much earlier than 1901 when the Commonwealth was created and therefore there will be nothing of interest to them in the National Archives. This is just incorrect!

When considering what material any government archive may hold of interest to your research, make the following determination—what contact would your ancestor have had with the particular government? In the case of the Australian Government this may include migration into Australia, citizenship, serving in defence forces including civilian roles, voting, registering a patent, trademark or business, residency in any former or current territory, of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Island background and employment. The best way to start is to go to the **National Archives of Australia** [website](#) and simply do a surname search. You will find a very simple field to enter the name at the top right of the page.

The archive also publishes a number of Fact Sheets to aid researchers. *Fact Sheet 201* is a good starting point to gain an understanding of the holdings.

For readers with South Australian interests it is important to know that at Federation the colonial government departments that became a Commonwealth responsibility handed over their colonial records. That means naturalisation, post and telegraph, lighthouse and mercantile marine records for colonial South Australia are held by the National Archives. *Fact Sheet 87* details the holdings held in the Adelaide Office.

The Adelaide Office is not alone in holding records pertaining to the colonial period. In the early part of the 20th century many people who migrated to Australia sought citizenship and their papers will reveal material pre-dating Federation. Likewise people enlisting in the military, especially World War I, will have records detailing events that occurred pre-Federation.

There are some other organisations managed by the Commonwealth that may have helpful material. The most obvious in the [Australian War Memorial](#). It is not just a museum and memorial to those who fought in war but an archive and resource that provides links to material that can help you research the service and wartime experiences of relatives.

[Find & Connect](#) collates resources that are available to those seeking material about children placed in care including child migrants, adoption/fostering and Stolen Generations. About 500,000 Australian children experienced some form of institutional care in the 20th century! Another site managed by the National Museum of Australia, [Forgotten Australians](#) may also prove helpful.

The **Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies** [AIATSIS] can assist anyone with an indigenous background with their family history research—*Finding your family*



## Military – Lost Medals

From DPS (W.A.) Mailing List

### Query:

Just wondering if anyone has any advice please, or perhaps can glance at Ancestry for me for any clue?....

Many years ago..... my father found a British WWI medal, I think in Coolgardie, WA but not sure. Dad passed away 31 yrs ago (today), so it was long before then.

His story was that the local RSL could not find any information about the British soldier, so put it in his drawer which is where it stayed.

I now have the medal and the outside inscription reads:

100478 Gnr. A.J. MILES, R.A.

From Google searching I was able to find that this soldier's first name was Alfred.....

Royal Garrison Artillery

Alfred J. MILES

Service No. 100478

<https://livesofthefirstworldwar.org/lifestory/3029324>

I haven't been able to find any further information.

Anyone know an Alfred J. MILES ;-)

Gail

**Reply:**

Gail, the best person for this job is Lt Colonel Glyn Llanwarne. He was awarded the OA medal for his work in returning lost medals to families. You can contact him via his website:

[www.lostmedalsaustralia.com](http://www.lostmedalsaustralia.com)

From Glyn's website:

Hello and welcome to my web site 'Lost Medals Australia'. I also have a blog which is updated a little more frequently than the website and is located here:

<http://lostmedalsaustralia.blogspot.com/>

This site is dedicated to returning medals that I have in my possession to the veteran's nearest kin. Since 2000 I have been acquiring, researching and then returning lost medals to veterans or their families. I started out purchasing medals however; now I am supported through donations of 'found' medals and I no longer purchase them. I now use all my resources for research and trying to locate families. I do this free of any charge or fee.

This alone keeps us very busy. However, we do receive quite a number of emails from people who are trying to locate their relatives medals but unfortunately we do not have the time to assist them in their quest. Some helpful hints for people searching for their relatives' medals can be found [here](#).

If you are searching for lost medals, I hope they are in the current list I'm researching. If any of the names are familiar to you and you have information that will help me locate the veteran, or family I would appreciate your assistance. I hope you enjoy this site.

**- LtCol Glyn Llanwarne, OAM**

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**U.K.**

(Perhaps no longer quite so united as in days of yore!)

**Free catalogues reveal Cambridgeshire gems**

A former librarian has created a series of free online resources to help researchers explore thousands of historic Cambridgeshire records.

[Mike Petty](#) has uploaded a series of catalogues to the [Internet Archive](#), providing details about the books, images and ephemera in the Cambridgeshire Collection, which he looked after at Cambridge Central Library until his retirement in 1996.

Crucially, the catalogues contain links to records in the Collection that can also be accessed online via the Internet Archive and other platforms such as [Google Books](#).

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**Society of Genealogists publishes Notts transcripts**

Records of baptisms, marriages and burials across 90 Nottinghamshire parishes have been uploaded to the Society of Genealogists' website.

Accessible to members of the organisation through the [SoG Data Online service](#), the latest parish register transcriptions to be uploaded include records from Littleborough, Linby, Morton and Newark (Christ Church).

For full details, click [here](#).

**Yorkshire Baptisms**

Over 79,000 new records have recently been added to our collection of Yorkshire Baptisms. The new additions cover Church of England parishes across Rotherham as well as the Roman Catholic parishes of Doncaster, St Peter in Chains, Knaresborough, St Mary, Rotherham, St Bede, Sheffield, St Marie Cathedral, Sheffield, St Vincent and Staveley, St Joseph. Each record includes a transcript and an image of the original document that will reveal where your ancestor was baptised, the date of their baptism and the names of their parents.

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## **Yorkshire Banns**

Over 6,000 new records have been added to our collection of Yorkshire Banns. The new additions come records the details of banns read in Catholic churches in Doncaster, Knaresborough, Rotherham, Sheffield and Staveley. Each record includes both a transcript and an image of the original document that will reveal your ancestor's name, place of banns, date of banns, marriage year, residence and the name of their spouse.

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## **Yorkshire Marriages**

More than 28,000 new records have been added to our collection of Yorkshire marriages. The new additions record Roman Catholic marriages that took place in the parishes of Doncaster, St Peter in Chains, Knaresborough, St Mary, Rotherham, St Bede, Sheffield, St Marie Cathedral, Sheffield, St Vincent and Staveley, St Joseph. Search these records to discover when, where and to whom your ancestor was married. Each record includes both a transcript and image of the original document that may also reveal the couples birth years, residence, occupation, marital status, fathers' names and the names of any witnesses.

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## **Yorkshire Burials**

733,000 new Yorkshire burials are now available to explore. As with the new baptisms, banns and marriages, these new additions record the details of Roman Catholics buried across five parishes in Doncaster, Knaresborough, Rotherham, Sheffield and Staveley. The records will reveal your ancestors age at death, birth year, burial date, and burial place.

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## **Devon Burials**

Our Devon burials collection reaches over 2 million with the addition of 113,264 new records. Covering 450 years, these parish registers date back to 1538, and cover burials for most of the Anglican parishes in the English county of Devon. Along with parish registers, you will find burial registers from Ford Park Cemetery and Torquay Cemetery. The Victorian Ford Park Cemetery was established in 1846 and opened in 1848. Torquay Cemetery opened in the mid-19th century and is a listed site by English Heritage. You can find burial records from both the consecrated and unconsecrated ground.

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## **Northumberland and Durham Marriages**

Explore four centuries of marriages from over 330 parishes with the addition of 37,023 records covering Northumberland, Durham, and surrounding areas. The records include over 800,000 marriage transcripts, most of which will include names, ages, places and details of the bride and groom's individual parishes, which could prove invaluable for further research.

The Local Government Act, 1972 reformed the local government on the county and district levels in England and Wales. All the changes were put in place by 1974. For this reason, the Northumberland and Durham records include villages outside of their current boundaries; such as Newcastle in County of Tyne and Wear or Romalldkirk of the County of Yorkshire. Additionally, the records include Cumberland, which is now part of Cumbria.

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## **Northumberland and Durham Baptisms**

32,935 new records from over 350 Presbyterian, Independent, Wesleyan, Methodist and Anglican parishes have been added to this collection, bringing the total number of transcripts up to 888,270. The records will reveal not just your ancestor's name but also his/her parents' names. You will also discover their occupations and where they lived. Like the other Northumberland and Durham sets, this collection also contains records from villages outside of their current boundaries, including Newcastle, Romalldkirk and Cumberland.

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## **Northumberland and Durham Burials**

We've added 20,676 burial records to this collection, bringing the total number of of this collection up to 651,210. Discover where your ancestor is buried, where he/she lived and an additional relatives name to add to your growing family tree. Like the other Northumberland and Durham sets, this collection also contains records from villages outside of their current boundaries, including Newcastle, Romalldkirk and Cumberland.

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## **Durham - Houghton's fallen**

A County Durham history society has published its research into the lives of local First World War soldiers. After four years of painstaking work, the six women from the Houghton-le-Spring War Memorial Research Group have released a book featuring biographies of over 200 men named on the cenotaph in St Michael's Churchyard. The publication costs £4.99, with proceeds going to the armed forces charity SSAFA and the Houghton Racecourse Community Association, where the group is based.

For more information, email [ww1houghtonwartmem@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:ww1houghtonwartmem@yahoo.co.uk).

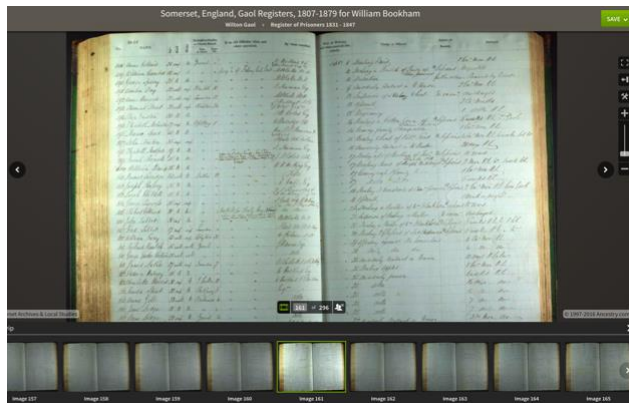
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## Worcestershire Monumental Inscriptions

Explore centuries of monumental inscriptions from 178 different parishes. This brand new set contains 85,847 records, including one for UK prime minister Stanley Baldwin. The detail in each transcript can vary, especially as over the centuries many of these monuments have been damaged by weather, exposure and, in some cases, vandalism. Most will include a name, death year, any relevant places and a link to purchase the full inscription.

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## Somerset records



### Millions of historic Somerset records have been made available to explore on Ancestry.

Digitised from original documents held by Somerset Archives & Local Studies in Taunton, the latest additions include [five collections](#) of baptism, confirmation, marriage and burial records from across the county dating back to the 16th century. The genealogy website has also added a tranche of local [school registers](#) spanning 1860-1914, alongside [gaol records](#) spanning 1807-1879.

Search the records [here](#) (requires subscription).

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## Middlesex Monumental Inscriptions 1485-2014

This addition includes 10,592 inscriptions from 22 churches, including one dating all the way back to 1189, exclusive to Findmypast. While the amount of available information will vary from transcript to transcript, most will include names, dates, and places, as well as monument type and inscription, which may include the names of others buried in that plot as well as more specific details regarding age and birth and death dates.

Notable names include Hans Sloane, an Irish-born physician from County Down. Throughout his life, he collected items about natural history, books, drawings, manuscripts, coins, seals, and other curiosities. His collection, which he donated to the state, formed the foundation for the British Museum.

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## Essex Memorial Inscriptions

We've added 40,702 records from 44 new places and improved data for five existing ones, covering Anglican, Roman Catholic, Quaker, and non-conformist, as well as community and war memorials. This record set represents two decades of work by transcribers from the Essex Society for Family History. These records have been compiled from engravings found on tombstones and other memorials in the churches and churchyards of Essex. They represent significant evidence for your family history research and can often provide additional information outside of death dates.

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## Volunteers transcribe Kent memorial inscriptions

A unique collection of Kent memorial inscriptions has been made available to search online for the first time. Transcribed by volunteers from [Kent Archaeological Society](#), the records were created using information from heraldic ledger stones found on graves in Canterbury Cathedral, Rochester Cathedral and historic parish churches across the county.

Typically erected by middle-class families, the ledger stones were designed to record a wealth of information about the deceased, including details of their children, spouses and occupation.

As the writing on many old ledger stones has been damaged beyond recognition, the volunteers also utilised records kept by the likes of Nicholas Eyare Toke, who transcribed hundreds of Kent memorial inscriptions in the early 20th century.

Search the records [here](#).

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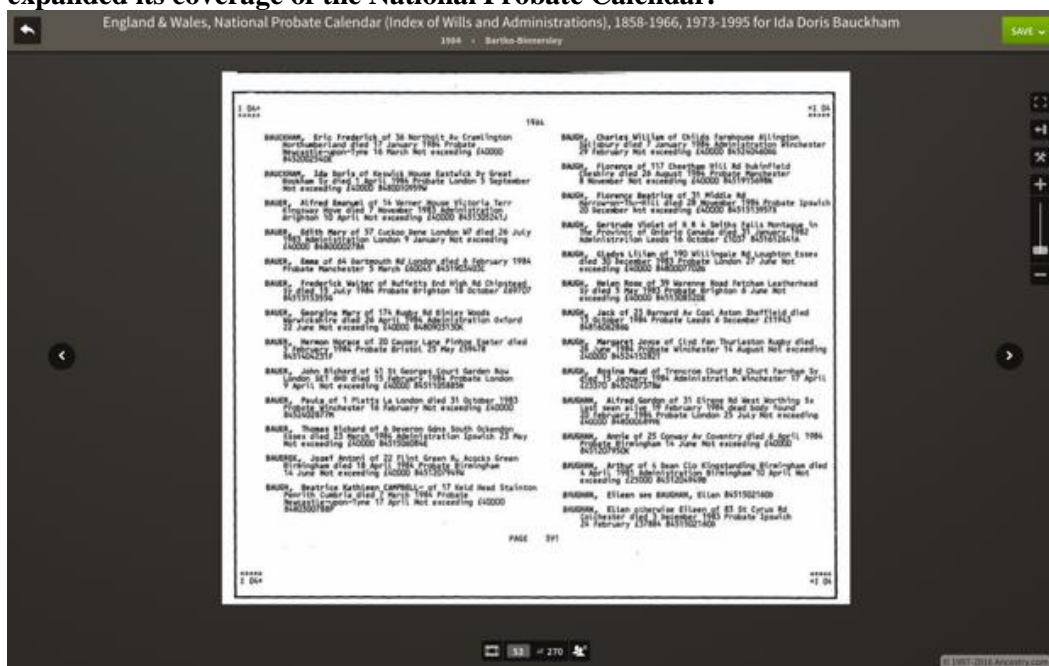
## A new resource designed to honour the lives of Jewish Londoners involved in the First World War has launched online.

Unveiled at Bevis Marks Synagogue on Thursday 30 June, [We Were There Too](#) enables users to share and search for details of ancestors who served overseas and on the Home Front, ranging from soldiers to nurses.



The site also provides access to an array of historic photographs, video clips and documents, as well as a memorial wall that allows people to light a virtual Yahrzeit candle – traditionally lit on the anniversary of a loved one’s death. Explore the website free of charge [here](#).

## Ancestry has expanded its coverage of the National Probate Calendar.



Previously only covering the years 1858-1966, the genealogy giant has now [added a further tranche of entries](#), showing basic details of wills and administrations proved in England and Wales between 1973 and 1995. Although the same records can be accessed via the UK Government’s [Probate Service website](#), the addition of the new calendar entries to Ancestry means users can quickly attach discoveries to their family tree. The entries can also be used to request a digital copy of the full probate record for £10 – a service the HM Courts & Tribunals service [introduced in 2014](#).

## UK wills – online

<https://probatesearch.service.gov.uk/>

## Historic nursing records revealed on the web

Over 1.6 million historic nursing records have been made available to search online for the first time.

In addition to updating the National Probate Calendar (see above) Ancestry has also published [three new digital collections](#), each containing material held by the Royal College of Nursing Library and Archive Service and the Wellcome Library.

Together, these can provide a number of details about the career of a nursing forebear, including their education, qualifications and the different places that they worked.

Read our full story [here](#).

## British Army Service Records Image Browse

[Findmypast](#) British Army Service Records are now available to browse. Containing roughly 7.8 million records, Findmypast’s British Army service records is one of the most significant British Army collections available online. The collection includes a myriad of Army forms including attestation papers, medical forms, discharge documents, pension claims, and proceedings of regimental boards.

The new browse function allows you to explore these fascinating documents in their entirety, page by page and is an excellent research tool for both genealogists and military historians. Browsing will allow you to study the history of individual regiments, conflicts and specific areas of British military history in much greater details.

## New tranche of crime records hits Findmypast

More than 2.5 million crime records have been published on [Findmypast](#).

Spanning 1770-1935, the fully searchable material has been digitised from documents held by The National Archives at Kew, including records of female convicts released on licence.

Read the full story [here](#).

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### British Newspaper Archive hits 15 million milestone

The British Library has now uploaded more than 15 million pages of historic newspapers to the web.

The [British Newspaper Archive](#) – also available to access via [Findmypast](#) – reached the milestone earlier this week, following fresh additions from publications including the *Cornish Telegraph* and the *Western Daily Mercury*.

Learn more [here](#).

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### Britain, Absent Voters Lists 1918-1921 Browse

182 volumes of British Library Absent Voters Lists are also available to browse at [Findmypast](#). These volumes contain over 20,000 pages listing over 100,000 names of service men, women serving with the auxiliary forces, merchant seamen, diplomats and others working in occupations recognised as supporting the war effort. Absent voters' lists are registers of eligible voters who were absent from their homes and are of particular importance for those whose ancestors fought during the First World War.

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### War memorials website launches online

A new resource containing details of thousands of war memorials has launched online.

Created using records collected by Mark Herber, the database at [war-memorial.co.uk](#) currently holds the names of more than 270,000 men and women remembered on monuments across Britain, with photographs of the inscriptions also available to download.

A monthly subscription to the website costs £5, with quarterly and annual membership priced £9.95 and £29.95 respectively.

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## SCOTLAND

### Scotland, Linlithgowshire (West Lothian), Electoral Registers 1864-1931 Image Browse

485 volumes of Scottish Electoral Registers held by the British Library are now available to browse on [Findmypast](#). The registers cover the traditional county of Linlithgowshire which became West Lothian in 1921.

Each result will bring you directly to the image of the electoral register. The registers allow you to discover where your ancestor lived and if they owned property.

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### Aberdeenshire, Banffshire & Kincardineshire Monumental Inscriptions

A brand new set containing 21,078 records from three different Scottish counties in the northeast of Scotland.

Monumental inscriptions are an excellent resource for family historians because many record the names of other relatives such as a spouse, children or parents, as well as their birth and death dates. For example, the record for Katherine Alexander holds six additional names: Katherine's husband, two daughters, two sons, and daughter-in-law.

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### Ancestry uploads Scottish material

Thousands of Scottish records have been made available to explore on Ancestry.

Spanning 1656-1875, the material includes details of [births and baptisms](#), [banns and marriages](#) and [deaths and burials](#) that do not appear within the Church of Scotland Old Parish Registers (OPRs).

Although the same material is currently free to search via [Scottish Indexes](#), the addition of the records to the Ancestry database means users can attach relevant documents directly to their family trees.

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Every dog should have a kid ☺



## IRELAND

### List of Church of Ireland Parish Registers

The following announcement was written by the Irish Genealogical Research Society :

**A colour-coded resource of surviving registers and their locations**

[www.ireland.anglican.org/library/archive](http://www.ireland.anglican.org/library/archive)

**THE LIST OF  
CHURCH OF IRELAND  
PARISH REGISTERS**

*A Colour-coded Resource Accounting For What Survives; Where It Is;  
With Additional Information of Copies, Transcripts & Online Indexes*



At a reception in St Audoen's parish church, Dublin, at 6pm, Wednesday, 3rd August 2016, the Director of the National Archives, John McDonough, launched **The List of Church of Ireland Parish Registers**: an online colour-coded resource featuring live links to other relevant online resources.

The list accounts for all Church of Ireland parochial registers of baptism, marriage and burial – noting what survives, the dates covered, and where they are located. Where registers were destroyed in the burning of the Public Record Office of Ireland (PROI) during the Irish Civil War in 1922, the list records details about abstracts, transcripts and where they are held.

The original list was the work of Margaret Griffith, Deputy Keeper at PROI, who in the 1950s used extant parochial returns (dating from the 1870s) to compile a hand list of Church of Ireland parish registers known to exist in 1922. In the ensuing decades the list was heavily annotated by PROI staff with notes about abstracts, transcripts and locations of microfilms. Latterly, from 1984 onwards, when the RCB Library was designated as the official place of deposit for Church of Ireland registers in the Republic of Ireland, the updating of the list was carried out by Library staff in conjunction with the National Archives and the Public Records Office of Northern Ireland.

The new online version of the list interpolates all previous work into an accessible, colour-coded resource.

Additionally, it now includes live links to other websites holding indexes, transcripts and scanned images of parish registers. Ultimately the list will further link to the RCB Library's detailed in-house hand lists of the collections of parochial records – including the registers but also the wide variety of other records such as vestry minute books, preachers' books, accounts and magazines.

In producing this new resource, the RCB Library has collaborated with the Irish Genealogical Research Society (IGRS) as a project to celebrate the latter's 80th anniversary. Widely known for her online genealogy blog, Irish Genealogy News, Claire Santry, a Fellow of the IGRS, painstakingly reworked the list to create a one-stop search tool that links easily to online information.

IGRS Chairman Steven Smyrl will say: "Parish registers are a vital tool to genealogists and the loss of so many in 1922 has been an ever-present handicap. This new online resource, highlighting the existence of so many surviving registers, along with abstracts and copies of those that do not, will prove invaluable. Its launch today is a terrific way to mark the IGRS' 80th anniversary."

Dr Susan Hood, Librarian and Archivist at the RCB Library, will say: "For a small record repository like the RCB Library, collaboration with committed organisations like the IGRS whose volunteer members have such an interest in Church of Ireland records (most especially the parish registers) is positive and rewarding." She will thank Claire Santry who had worked so hard on the project and express the hope that there will "future opportunities to work so constructively for mutual benefit."

## Free Irish parish register resource launches

Parish, Church/Chapel	Diocese	County	Baptisms	Marriages	Burial	Key	Comments
Aasleagh	Mayo		-	1859-1956	-		Some coverage at <a href="#">Eocstairland.ie</a> <i>Kilforna see Newspaper. Also Kilkallihen and Maccally in Waterford</i>
Abbey							
Abbeyfeale	Ardfert	Limerick	1829-1875	1843	1844-1877		
Abbeygormacan or Boolagh							
Abbeyknockmoy	Tuam						see Kiltorner
Abbeyleam	Andagh	Longford	1821-1876	-	1828-1875		see Kiltorner
Abbeyleix	Leighlin	Queen's	1781-1877	1781-1956	1781-1911		Some coverage at <a href="#">Eocstairland.ie</a>
Abbeymation	Ross	Cork	1827-1878	-	-	M T	Earlier records were destroyed in 1922. Transcript RCB PC.30 covers baptisms 1827-1873. see Tullyhoy
Abbeysheale	Ardagh						
Abbeystrewey	Ross	Cork	1778-2001	1785-1956	1783-2001	M	
Abington	Emly	Limerick	1898-1992	-	1884-1984	M	Some coverage at <a href="#">Eocstairland.ie</a>
Achill	Tuam	Mayo	1854-1978	1855-1999	1854-1994	M	also see <i>Barrickoola and Dagar</i> . Some coverage at <a href="#">Eocstairland.ie</a>
Achony	Achony	Sligo	1909-1997	1845-1985	1911-1993		Earlier records destroyed in 1922. Some coverage at <a href="#">Eocstairland.ie</a>
Acton	Armagh	Armagh	1801-1876	1812-1845	1825-1877		Some coverage at <a href="#">Eocstairland.ie</a>
Adamstown	Ferns	Wexford	1802-1875	1802-1869	1814-1876	M +	
Adamstown	Ferns	Wexford	-	1851-1968	-		
Adare	Limerick	Limerick	1845-2001	-	1845-2001		Some coverage at <a href="#">Eocstairland.ie</a>
Addergoole	Killala					M	see <i>Crossmolina</i>
Addergoole	Tuam						see Tuam
Affine	Lismore	Waterford	1804-1876	1804-1856	1804-1878		Some coverage at <a href="#">Eocstairland.ie</a>
Agha	Leighlin						see <i>Davichney</i>
Aghaboe							see Agharoe
Aghabog	Clogher	Monaghan	1799-1877	1806-1844	1801-1877		Some coverage at <a href="#">Eocstairland.ie</a>
Aghabullogue	Cloyne	Cork	1796-1877	1808-1843	1806-1878	+	
Aghabullogue	Cloyne	Cork	1808-1877	1808-1843	1809-1979	T	NAI holds copy of the some material. see <i>Clenore</i>
Aghacross	Cloyne						see <i>Clenore</i>
Aghada	Cloyne	Cork	1815-1875	1815-1845	1815-1875	M	See rector's amendments to retention order for further details.
Aghade	Leighlin	Carlow	1740-1877	1740-1856	1740-1877		
Aghadara	Diocese	Dosen	1814-1868	1815-1845	1815-1988		Some coverage at <a href="#">Eocstairland.ie</a>
Aghadoe	Ardfert&Aghadoe	Kerry	1842-1877	1842-1861	1845-1877	M	Also some entries 1838-1842. Some coverage at <a href="#">IrishGenealogy.ie</a> also see <i>Kiltorner</i>
Aghadoey	Derry	Derry	1805-1881	1808-1840	1808-1881		
Aghadown	Ross	Cork	1751-1765	-	-		
			1799-1879	1782-1856	1808-1879		
Aghadrumsee	Clogher	Monaghan	1821-1870	1821-1851	1822-1870		
Aghagallon	Deemore						see Aghalee
Aghalee	Deemore	Antrim	1782-1875	1782-1845	1782-1874		Some coverage at <a href="#">Eocstairland.ie</a>
Aghaloo	Armagh						see <i>Calahoe</i>
Aghalurcher	Clogher	Tyrone	1788-1875	1788-1845	1788-1875		

### A free resource designed to make it easier for genealogists to trace their Irish kin has been launched online.

Officially unveiled at St Audoen's Parish Church in Dublin yesterday evening (Wednesday 3 August), [The List of Church of Ireland Parish Registers](#) provides comprehensive details of websites and archives that hold historic baptism, marriage and burial records – noting what survives and the precise dates covered.

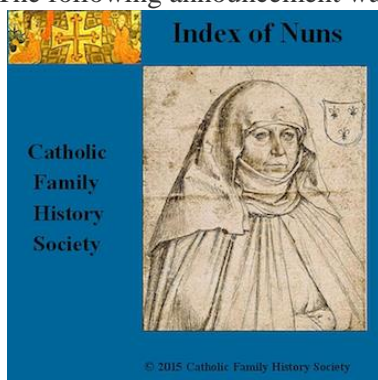
Where registers were destroyed during the Irish Civil War, the resource names abstracts and transcripts that can be used as substitutes for the original material.

The List is the result of a collaborative project between the [RCB Library](#) and the [Irish Genealogical Research Society](#) to mark the latter organisation's 80th birthday.

### Early Irish Marriage Index Reaches 80,000 Records

Dick Eastman

The following announcement was written by the folks at the Irish Genealogical Research Society:



The Irish Genealogical Research Society's Early Irish Marriage Index has now been updated, with several thousand more records being added, all noted from obscure and underused sources. The database now holds reference to more than 80,000 marriages.

Combining the names of brides, grooms with the various relatives mentioned in the database, the Marriage Index now notes almost 177,000 named individuals. A good many of the latest batch were extrapolated from *Index of Nuns*, a CD publication in 2015 by the Catholic Family History Society, which notes biographical information for about 14,000 nuns, many of them from Ireland. For many, their date of birth and parents' names are recorded, allowing for an approximation of the year by which their parents had married.

Roz McCutcheon, the creator and coordinator for the BMD Indexes, said about the latest update: "I'm quietly pleased at breaking through the 80,000 barrier. With the steady help of some valued volunteers, I'm looking forward to the database soon reaching 100,000 marriages! In the meantime...I owe a big thank you to every one of my volunteers."

You can search the updated Marriage Index by following this link to the [search page](#).

An update to the Death Index was launched at the end of June. An update to the Birth Index will be launched in August.

The full story is published here: <http://www.irishancestors.ie/?p=7550>.

## EUROPE

GenTeam adds Records from the old Austro-Hungarian Empire

Dick Eastman

# GenTeam Die genealogische Datenbank

GenTeam is a European online genealogy service for historians and genealogists who work independently or as a team on databases. All data at GenTeam is available free of charge. The use of GenTeam also requires no membership fee. The collection currently contains 14,409,435 entries and will be continually updated. GenTeam recently added:

- Vienna: index of Catholic baptisms in Vienna for the years 1584-1915 – approximately 36,000 new entries
- Vienna: index of Catholic deaths in Vienna – approximately 53,000 new entries
- Churchbook Registry-Indices of Lower Austria, Upper Austria, Burgenland, Tirol and Poland – approximately 111,000 new entries

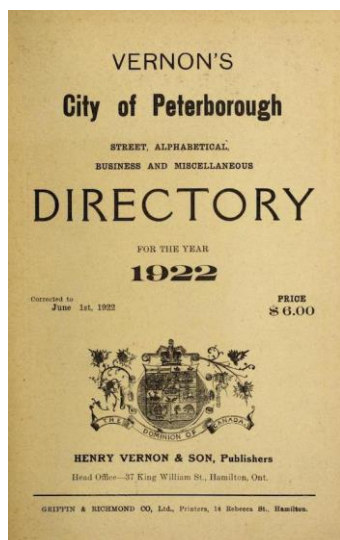
GenTeam may be found at: <http://www.genteam.eu>.

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## CANADA

City Directories of Peterborough, Ontario are now Online

Dick Eastman



A collection of 115 Peterborough city and county directories, dating back to 1858, have been digitized. They're now available online for anyone to search – for free – at <https://archive.org/details/peterboroughcitydirectories>.

For years, city directories were published annually with lists of names, addresses and professions of people in a particular city. Look up your house address in a directory and you can see the names of those who lived there in that particular year. You can also look for your ancestors and other relatives who lived in Peterborough. Then you can look up the name of that person in the same directory – under a different section – to find out what that person did for a living.

The directories are also packed with business listings and advertisements. You can read more about the directories at <http://goo.gl/Zvom47>. Also, please note that a few years are missing. If you have access to any of the missing years of directories, Kathryn Matheson, heritage researcher for the city, would love to hear from you! She can be reached at [kmatheson@peterborough.ca](mailto:kmatheson@peterborough.ca).

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CanadianHeadstones.com now Exceeds 1.5 Million Records

Dick Eastman



The folks at CanadianHeadstones.com (CH) sent a note announcing that the online web site has now surpassed 1.5 Million records. The announcement states, “CH was founded in 2009 as a completely FREE archive of headstone photographs. As a Canadian non-profit corporation, CH is staffed and controlled

by unpaid-volunteer Directors. As a corporation, its longevity does not depend on a single person or private control. CH is the only fully Canadian site which indexes every name on the headstones, provides the complete transcription and is fully searchable on multiple levels including the text of the transcription.

“Hundreds of volunteers and volunteer groups are submitting over 800 records per day!”

You can learn more or even submit your own headstone photos for others to enjoy at

<http://www.CanadianHeadstones.com>.

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AGONY AUNT **“DEAR ABBY”** ADMITTED SHE WAS AT A LOSS AS HOW TO ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:  
(You can't make this stuff up??)

Dear Abby,

What can I do about all the Sex, Nudity, Foul Language & Violence on my VCR?

Dear Abby,

I am a twenty-three year old liberated woman who has been on the pill for two years. It's getting expensive & I think my boyfriend should share half the cost, but I don't know him well enough to discuss money with him.

## U.S.A.

### United States, Canadian Border Crossings

United States, Canadian Border Crossings contains over 6.6 million highly detailed records. The collection is made up of four collections from the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA), including both indexes and passenger manifests of entries from Canada into the United States through St Albans, Vermont, between 1895 and 1954. Passage to Canada was generally less expensive than travelling directly to the United States. If you have been unable to discover how your ancestors arrived in the United States using other US travel and migration records, it could be because that they chose to take this route.

The collection contains both transcripts and images which can reveal a wide variety of fascinating biographical details such as your ancestor's country of origin, their occupation, education, physical condition, details of their finances, the name and address of their next of kin and more. Finding your ancestor in these records is easier if you know the general time frame in which your ancestor immigrated. If you are unsure, check out our US Census records to find when they were first recorded, thus providing you with a time range in which to search.

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### Episcopal Diocese of Utah Database of Indexed Parish Records is Now Online

Dick Eastman

The Episcopal Diocese of Utah made available a database of indexed parish records from its no longer functioning congregations in Utah. Besides being a project associated with the Utah State Historical Records Advisory Board, it is also an informal kick-off to the Diocese's sesquicentennial in 2017. It is hoped that besides documenting the Episcopal Church in Utah it may also be of use to genealogists with other than LDS Utah roots and those whose ancestors may have physically followed mining in the western United States.



The initial database covers the years 1870 to 1975 and records individuals in Arthur, Brigham City, Castle Gate, Corinne, Dugway, East Garfield (now known as Magna), Eureka, Frisco, Garfield, Helper, Kelton, Kenilworth, Layton, Logan, Myton, Provo, Roosevelt, Silver Reef, Standardville, Terra, and Vernal (some of which are now authentic ghost towns).

The database contains 4,163 line item entries covering Baptisms, Confirmations, Marriages, Burials, Communicant members, Clergy, services held, and in Archdeacon Ridgley's case, "persons to be visited". The Baptism section includes one done by Bishop Tuttle "on board the U.P.R.R. train near Hanging Rock, Utah" and the services section records services not being held due to heavy snow, several scarlet fever outbreaks, and when the person with the key to the Kenilworth schoolhouse unexpectedly took it out of town for the weekend.

The indexed early Diocesan records may be found at: <http://www.episcopal-ut.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/Merged-Index-final-1.xls>.

**Note:** The index is a spreadsheet in Excel (xls) format. Depending upon the software installed in your computer, simply clicking on the link may or may not open the spreadsheet. If it does not, you can download the spreadsheet (try right-clicking on the above link) and then view it with almost any spreadsheet program, such as Excel, Macintosh Numbers, Google Sheets, Zoho Sheet, LibreOffice Calc, OpenOffice Calc, or any other spreadsheet program that can import xls files.

My thanks to Diocesan Historiographer Kurt Cook, the project coordinator, for telling me about this new online resource

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This week [Findmypast](#) marks the release of over 257,500 new records including:

### PERiodical Source Index

18,257 articles from 94 publications have been added to [Findmypast](#) June update. The PERiodical Source Index is the world's largest and most widely used subject index for U.S. genealogy and local history literature. Read our June update blog to find out more about the individual series included in this update.

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## Interment.net Adds 1.4 Million Cemetery Records

Dick Eastman

The following announcement was written by the folks at Interment.net:



(August 1, 2016, San Diego, CA) In the month of July 2016, Interment.net added 670,276 cemetery records to its online archives, covering 87 cemeteries across 23 states. It's the largest one-month publishing effort in the website's history.

View the full list of July's transcriptions here: <http://www.interment.net/whatsnew/20160707.htm>

All in all, nearly 1.4 million records have been added when the previous months of June and May 2016 are included. The accelerated rate of expansion comes from a renewed effort to re-establish Interment.net as the top destination for cemetery records.

"We launched Interment.net in 1997 back when USGenWeb Archives was the only genealogical source of cemetery records", says Steve Johnson, publisher and founder of Interment.net. "Interment.net quickly fostered a volunteer base that contributed thousands of transcriptions from cemeteries all over the globe."

But back then, acquiring records in digital form was not easy to come by. Many cemeteries still kept paper records. Those that had computer databases were not able to easily export their data. Thus, Interment.net relied heavily on volunteers to visit cemeteries and transcribe inscriptions.

Today, however, most cemeteries are able to easily export their digital records to textfiles or spreadsheets.

"We're presently updating records for all national cemeteries and state veterans cemeteries", Johnson added. "We're also adding records from thousands of municipalities, counties, cemetery associations and districts."

Interment.net is a free online archive of cemetery transcriptions. Records are acquired from government offices, private cemeteries, and from volunteers who transcribe inscriptions. Visit Interment.net to publish your transcription.

## More than 8.7 Million New US Immigration and Travel Records

### United States Naturalization Petitions

United States Naturalization Petitions contains more than 7.8 million records spanning the years 1905 to 1950. The collection currently covers four states: Connecticut, Massachusetts, New York, and Pennsylvania, and allows you to discover when and where your immigrant ancestor was born, how old they were when they first crossed the Atlantic and their port of entry. Images of the original documents may even include a photograph of your ancestor.

The United States government began to regulate the naturalization process, including the forms and courts authorized, in September 1906 with the formation of the Bureau of Immigration and Naturalization (later known as the Immigration and Naturalization Services (INS)). The changes that followed included more information being taken from applicants during the naturalization process as forms required applicants to record their occupation, birth date, and names of spouse and children.

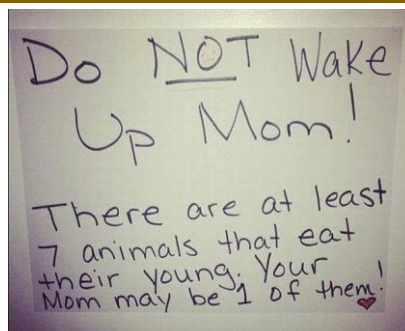
### US Passport Applications and Indexes

Discover when, where, and why your ancestors travelled with over 800,000 US Passport Application records.

Applications may also include a physical description, your ancestor's occupation, residence, naturalization details, the name of their spouse, date of birth and place of birth. Most applications are one to two pages in length and, from 21 December 1914 onward, photographs of applicants are also included.

The collection has been compiled from the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) collection M1490. Images of the original documents are included and may reveal additional details of your ancestor's citizenship, such as when and from where they immigrated, by what means they arrived in the United States, and when they were naturalized. For those born in the United States, you may learn details of their fathers' naturalization such as their full name, birthplace, and date and place of emigration. Additional details were also recorded such as the applicant's eye color as well as descriptions of their mouth, nose, forehead, chin, complexion, face, and hair color.

Earlier passport applications, from 1795 for example contain fewer details. However, they would still include name, age, and physical description



This is how my week goes;  
Mooooooooooooooooonday  
Tuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuesday  
Weeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeednesday  
Thuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuurdsday  
FridaySaturdaySunday

## Staten Island Historical Newspapers Now Online

Dick Eastman

The New York Public Library just posted more than 9,000 pages from The Richmond County Advance online, covering the years 1886 to 1910. Find them at [nypl.org/sinewspapers](http://nypl.org/sinewspapers). This “NYPL Innovation Project” began with the scanning of the Advance from the collections of Historic Richmond Town. It is the largest batch of historical Staten Island papers ever posted to the Web — and it is changing the way we explore the Island’s past. The Advance joins the Richmond County Mirror online, which was previously posted by the New York Public Library.



Historical newspapers can be useful to many different people:

- Genealogists seeking information about ancestors will find a treasure trove of information about the Island’s early residents.
- Students and teachers can learn about how national and global events affected their own communities.
- Scientists seeking to model changes in the climate can easily trace local weather events back to the 1800s.
- Historians can follow the development of Island social and political issues across the decades. Very often these newspapers are the only record left of significant historical events.

You can read more about this new collection

at <https://goo.gl/WrVLVV>.

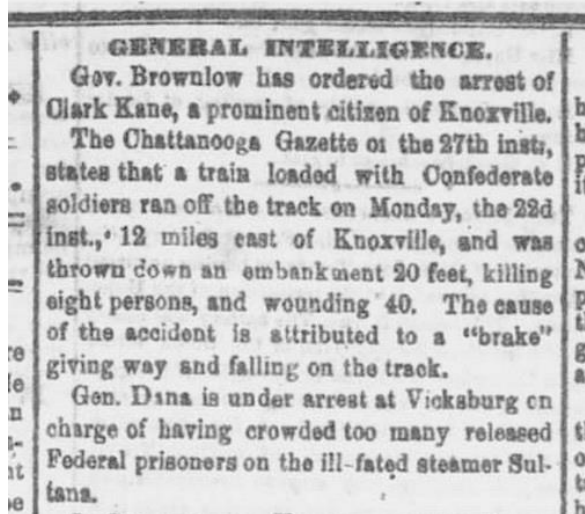
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## Virginia Tech’s Civil War Newspaper Collection is Online

Dick Eastman

The American Civil War Newspapers website can be a valuable resource for genealogists researching Civil War era ancestors, even those outside of Virginia. The ultimate goal of the American Civil War Newspapers website is to index newspapers from the Civil War era — Northern and Southern, Eastern and Western, urban and rural, white and black — in order to offer a balanced cross-section of opinion, observation, and experience, from all across America.

Quoting from the newspaper collection’s web site:



“For many years the newspapers of the Civil War era were probably the most neglected of all sources, and yet they are one of the richest. The reason no doubt lay in the sheer mass of them, their inaccessibility, and the fact that they were not indexed. Few if any scholars had the time or resources to spend weeks and months scanning page by page in the hope of finding something of use to their projects. Yet the newspapers are the surest windows on the attitudes of the time, despite their inevitable editorial bias.

“All of the daily affairs of the common people play out in the pages of newspapers, only perhaps in smaller type than the antics of the great and powerful. Moreover, thousands of soldier letters, military reports, general orders, and even occasionally diaries, found their way into ink on newsprint, many of them items available nowhere else. Thanks to the policy of editors exchanging newspapers among themselves and borrowing stories from each other, often newspapers for which not a single issue survives, still live in

excerpts published in other journals. Even the advertisements are mirrors of consumers and their concerns in the 1860s.

“The goal of the American Civil War Newspapers database is to select a representative group of journals to index, with digital images of the newspapers themselves, for use by students and scholars. The newspapers selected will be a representative sampling of Union and Confederate, urban and small town, Eastern and Western, pro- and anti-administration.”

The American Civil War Newspapers site is available free of charge, as one of the continuing projects of the center to further awareness and understanding of the Civil War era. Users may search by keyword, or browse the pages either on their own or by predefined topics. Each page provides options for downloading and viewing printable digital images of the newspaper columns in which a search finds a hit, and also to browse the pages throughout an issue. American Civil War Newspapers has been funded in part by a grant from the Watson-Brown Foundation with the cooperation of ProQuest of Ann Arbor, Mich.

You can access Virginia Tech’s Civil War Newspapers at <https://goo.gl/wBNlCh>.





Elephind is a great service that searches online digital newspaper collections. Best of all, it is available free of charge.

Elephind.com is a search engine that operates much like Google, Bing, or other search engines. The one thing that is different with Elephind is that it searches only historical, digitized newspapers. It enables you to search, for free, across many newspaper sites simultaneously, rather than having to visit each collection's web site separately.

At this time, Elephind has indexed 2,779 newspaper titles containing more than two and a half million editions, ranging from March 1803 up to January 1, 2015 in some titles. The Elephind search engine has indexed 149,363,907 items from 2,779 newspaper titles. These include such well known sites as the *Chronicling America* (the U.S.'s Library of Congress) and *Trove* (National Library of Australia), as well as smaller collections like *Door County Library* in Wisconsin. Many of the smaller newspaper sites are not well known and may be difficult to find with the usual search engines but are searchable from Elephind.com. A list of available newspaper collections that have been indexed so far is available at <http://goo.gl/VRQN5l>.

Additional newspaper collections are added to Elephind's indexes frequently.

I found that Elephind operates in much the same manner as Google and other search engines. If you already know how to search for things in Google, Bing, Yahoo, or elsewhere, you already know how to use Elephind. In fact, there are two search methods available on Elephind:

1. When you first visit the site at <http://www.elephind.com/>, you are greeted with a very simple search box containing one data entry box. You can search for words or phrases in much the same way as you do on Google although not all of Google's sophisticated Boolean search terms are available on Elephind. You can find tips for using the search box at <http://goo.gl/3T6JuH>.



2. When visiting the site at <http://www.elephind.com/>, you will also see a highlighted link of "Advanced Search." When you click on that, a more sophisticated search form appears allowing the user to narrow the search to any combination of specific newspaper titles, country, or a range of dates. I did a search for my own last name between the years 1811 and 1890 in the United States. It returned far too many "hits" for me to search through so I started narrowing the search by specifying first names and cities or towns of interest. I was soon looking at information of interest.

I was impressed with the clarity of the newspaper pages I was able to view but, of course, that is under the control of the individual newspaper collection. Elephind does not host the images on its own web site. Instead, it merely links to newspapers found on a wide variety of servers in a number of different countries from around the world.

Elephind.com is a great tool for family historians, genealogists, and researchers to search historic digitized newspaper archives from around the globe. Will Elephind locate newspaper articles about your ancestors? There is no way to tell in advance. You need to try it for a while to see. It is a free resource so why not try it to see for yourself?

Elephind may be found at <http://www.elephind.com>.

Elephind is continuing to add more newspapers, so if at first you can't find what you're looking for, check back later. You also might want to add your name to the Elephind mailing list at <http://eepurl.com/ndGhb> to receive an email message every time a new collection is added.

## A Unique Navigational Achievement

The passenger steamer SS Warrimoo was quietly knifing its way through the waters of the mid-Pacific on its way from Vancouver to Australia. The navigator had just finished working out a star fix and brought the master, Captain John Phillips, the result. The Warrimoo's position was latitude 0 degrees x 31 minutes north and longitude 179 degrees x 30 minutes west. The date was 31 December 1899. "Know what this means?" First Mate Payton broke in, "We're only a few miles from the intersection of the Equator and the International Date Line."

Captain Phillips was prankish enough to take full advantage of the opportunity for achieving the navigational freak of a lifetime.

He called his navigators to the bridge to check and double check the ship's position. He changed course slightly so as to bear directly on his mark.

Then he adjusted the engine speed. The calm weather and clear night worked in his favor. At midnight the "Warrimoo" lay on the Equator at exactly the point where it crossed the International Date Line!

The consequences of this bizarre position were many.

The forward part of the ship was in the Southern Hemisphere in the middle of summer. The stern was in the Northern Hemisphere in the middle of winter. The date in the 'aft' part of the ship was 31 December 1899, while in the 'forward' it was 1 January 1900.

This ship was therefore not only in two different days, two different months, two different seasons and two different years, but also, in two different centuries, all at the same time.

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## The Problems with OCR

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Much of the genealogy information available on the World Wide Web is obtained from old books, published many years ago. With today's technology, vendors are finding it easy to scan the books and to convert the pages into computer text. The results are placed online and the text becomes searchable in Google and other search engines, as well as each site's own "search box." The conversion from printed pages to computer text can be performed at modest expense and the information derived can be valuable for many genealogists. There is but one problem: it doesn't always work very well.

Scanning a page from a book creates a picture of the page. However, a picture is not easily searchable. The image is similar to taking a picture with a digital camera: while it is easily readable by a human eye, the computer cannot "see" the words in the picture. A conversion process, called Optical Character Recognition, is required.

Optical Character Recognition, usually abbreviated to OCR, is the mechanical or electronic conversion of scanned images of handwritten, typewritten or printed text into machine-encoded text. For this article, I will ignore handwritten text as that is a much different process with its own challenges. Most genealogists are concerned with converting typeset books to computer text that can be searched.

The OCR process is simple in theory. When a printed page of text is scanned, the scanner delivers an image of the text to OCR software stored in the attached computer. The software then attempts to identify each letter of each word in the image in order to convert it to an editable text document or to convert the information into whatever format is needed.

Converting a picture of a word into the computer text equivalent of the same word is a much more complex process than one might think. If you are aware of the strengths and weaknesses of the conversion process, you can better understand the search process when looking for information. That understanding can result in better results when you understand what works and what does not.

Early OCR efforts needed to be programmed with images of each character, and worked on one font at a time. If a second book published in a different font was to be converted, or even one book that had different fonts on different pages, the software had to be changed to recognize the letters published in the second font. If three, four, or more fonts were used, the difficulties multiplied. Even printing a chapter title in bold or larger text counts as a second font.

In addition, early OCR products were not very good at differentiating and separating text from pictures or drawings that might be printed on the same page. Even more difficult, OCR software must recognize printed letters, numerals, or symbols (optical characters) as discrete entities rather than as simply an image containing lines, curves, and shading.

OCR software has matured in recent years. Current products use "intelligent" systems with a high degree of recognition accuracy for most fonts. Instead of memorizing the image of each letter, most modern OCR products will examine the shape and outline of each character in an attempt to decide which letter of the alphabet or which number or symbol it might be.

Computers are not nearly as intelligent as the human mind. Making decisions via computers usually requires an obvious “yes or no” situation. However, the human mind can evaluate, consider alternatives, and make judgements that are difficult to replicate in a computer.

For instance, early OCR software often had difficulty differentiating between the letter “e” and the letter “o”. Both have roughly the same shape and the same outline. Similar problems exist with the letters “h” and “b”, as well as capital letters “E” and “F”. If the image is not perfectly sharp and clear, a bit of “fuzziness” of the image may induce more difficulties. Even the latest software often confuses those letters although the human mind encounters little difficulty with those characters.

The second improvement of OCR software used spell checkers. These operate in a similar manner as a spell checker in a word processor although OCR spell checkers usually operate as a background process. The user typically doesn’t see the spell checker in operation.

The spell checker may decide that a word that was decoded as “scheel” is more likely supposed to be “school.” If so, the software may even change the word automatically. Even better, most OCR software also includes syntax checkers that compare the words around the possible error to see if it makes sense as a complete sentence.

Spell checkers work well when the text being converted contains complete sentences in English or some other language. OCR typically works well on novels and other textual information. However, it often fails when attempting to convert columns or listings of letters and numbers that do not make up complete words. Perhaps the most difficult information to convert via OCR is stock market information, such as these listings for Microsoft, Apple, Amazon, and Google (Alphabet):

MSFT (NASDAQ) 56.19 -0.57

AAPL (NASDAQ) 102.95 +6.28

AMZN (NASDAQ) 736.67 +1.08

GOOG (NASDAQ) 741.77 +3.35

A spell checker doesn’t do much good on the above information!

Unfortunately, much of the genealogy information published over the years is in column format and not written in complete sentences. Here is a typical example showing page 15 from the “History and genealogy of the Eastman family of America” by Guy S Rix, published in 1901:

13. Zachariah Eastman<sup>3</sup> (John<sup>2</sup>, Roger<sup>1</sup>), born in Salisbury, Mass., Aug. 24, 1679 ; married 1st, May 1, 1703, Martha Thorn, of Ipswich. She died June 6, 1718. She was admitted to the church in Salisbury, July 28, 1706. He married 2d, Phebe West, who died March 3, 1723. He married 3d, Sept. 3, 1724, Deborah Pillsbury, widow of Reuben Whittier, by whom he had seven children. He lived in Ipswich, Mass., where he died Nov. 18, 1732.

In the above example, the OCR software will have difficulty differentiating Roman numerals from English letters as well as the superscript numbers following many names. Abbreviations and symbols also often will not be converted properly. For example, look at the entry for Zachariah Eastman. After the OCR conversion and before spellchecking, the OCR’ed text looks like this:

1 3. Zachariah Eastman^ (John-, Roger’), born in Salisbury, Mass., Aug. 24, 1679 ; married ist, May i, 1703, Martha Thorn, of Ipswich. She died June 6, 1718. She was admitted to the church in SaHsbury, July 28, 1706. He married 2d, Phebe West, who died March 3, 1723. He married 3d, Sept. 3, 1724, Deborah Pillsbury, widow of Reuben Whittier, by whom he had seven children. He lived in Ipswich, Mass., where he died Nov. 18, 1732.

You will note the superscript numerals were not decoded properly, the number “1” is decoded as a lower-case “i”, and several letters were erroneously converted to upper or lower-case letters. For instance, “Salisbury” was decoded as “SaHsbury.” Can you imagine trying to search for “ Salisbury” in a word processing program?

The problems are even worse with columns of data. For instance, on the same page Zachariah's children, Jeremiah, Martha, and Abigail were not decoded properly. The OCR'ed version lists them as:

44. i. Jeremiahs b. March 30, 1704.

ii. ]\IarthaS b. Nov. 19, 1705 ; bapt. in Salisbury, July 14, 1706.

iii. Abigails b. Dec. 16, 1708 ; bapt. June 12, 1709.

The above image shows a clear and distinct serif font. However, unusual fonts are impossible for the OCR to understand and duplicate.

Another problem involves "page curl." When reading a book, a human eye will see the book as a flat piece of paper but the scanner sees it differently. The letters near the center binding in an image may have significant page curl.

Not only are some of the characters difficult to see, but the computer software may have difficulty decoding straight lines. As the page curls near the binding, the computer may think that some words belong on the line above or below the line where it was actually printed.

As if these problems were not enough, additional difficulties include page stains, extraneous marks, fading, and blurring. You will notice the above image has a torn page near the upper left corner. Some OCR programs will interpret that is letters.

Letters need to be crisply printed to be decoded properly. Photocopies of pages rarely are as crisp and sharp as original text. The result is that photocopies rarely produce satisfactory results when converted by OCR software.

The above image also shows another problem: lack of color contrast. When printed in 1901, we can assume that the black ink on white paper resulted in a very sharp contrast. Had anyone taken a picture of this page in 1901, that picture later could have been used for OCR input. However, in the one hundred thirteen years since the book was printed, the paper has turned into a sepia color and the image does not have the sharp contrast it once had. OCR software will have a more difficult time decoding the edges of the letters and may not always know where the ink begins. Even slightly blurry, shiny type from thermal fax paper could throw the software into fits.

I earlier used the example of the word "school" being decoded as "scheel." However, the errors encountered in OCR conversion are usually not that simple nor as easy to correct.

Early OCR software converted characters with 90% accuracy. In other words, one out of every ten letters was decoded improperly. Words in the English language average about five letters each so that meant that one word out of every two had an error. While the software developers claimed 90% (nine letters out of ten) accuracy, the more realistic number was 50% (one word out of two).

Improvements in OCR software soon resulted in 99% accuracy. That sounds good until one realizes that is still one error in every twenty words, or 95% of the words being decoded error-free.

Under ideal conditions, when scanning high-quality text from original pages (not photocopies), accuracy rates with today's (expensive) OCR products often result in the range of one error per tens of thousands of characters. In other words, more than 99.99 percent accuracy. Still, when one considers that a single article of several pages may contain over 10,000 characters, for large scanning projects this rate will allow many errors to pass if other quality control methods aren't practiced.

OCR errors tend to not occur as isolated single errors in the midst of a word. Due to a blemish or fuzziness of an imperfect image, errors often are grouped together. OCR-decoded text often may have dozens of words or even entire paragraphs decoded as "garbage characters." Here is an example a newsletter reader recently sent to me that she had copied-and-pasted from an obviously OCR-converted document displayed on a leading genealogy web site. This is a rather extreme example but does happen occasionally on almost all OCR-decoded documents.

The above is an extreme example, to be sure. Gross errors such as this may occur only a small percentage of the time. However, it is not unusual to encounter such corruption in any OCR-converted document, especially if the original image being converted is not perfect in every way.

The result is that OCR conversion by itself cannot be depended upon to provide readable and accurate text. Some manual clean-up work by humans is desirable. Due to the expenses of paying for all the labor involved, such manual effort often is not cost-effective. It is easy for us, as users, to say, "They should have used humans to manually clean up the text." However, who pays for the labor? In all cases, the customer pays, either directly or indirectly. Any company that provides information online has to be reimbursed for the expenses involved. Those expenses always are passed on to the customers in some manner, be it directly by user fees or indirectly by more advertising or other revenue-producing methods. In all cases, the customer pays.

OCR is a marvelous invention. When it works well, it produces billions of pages of valuable information. Luckily, OCR works well most of the time. However, the wise genealogist is aware of the occasional imperfections and understands the shortcomings. The information you seek may still be in that book, even though a computer search does not always find it. In all cases, try to look at the IMAGE of the original page in order to see ALL the information.

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From Gould Genealogy [newsletter@gould.com.au](mailto:newsletter@gould.com.au) (Disclaimer - neither EGFHG nor Robbo have any involvement with Gould other than to read and pass on snippets from their newsletter that may interest members)

**Family Historian 6** is the latest version of the powerful, award-winning genealogy program with comprehensive features designed to meet the needs of the beginner and expert alike.

Version 6 is a huge update for Family Historian, both in terms of features and usability, as they have teamed up with MyHeritage to add automatic internet data matching. This means that as you use the program, Family Historian automatically finds matching records on MyHeritage databases - from more than 6 billion records.

They've also added a Web Search workspace window, and a new web clipping capability, to make it easy to transfer all the information you find into your project, with full source citations. We've added best-of-breed mapping in another new workspace window, the Map Window, so that users can easily see events marked on maps, and use the Time Slider to observe changes over time.

The Media Window has been completely redesigned and now includes a new Media Link tool, to make linking people to faces in pictures much quicker and easier than before, and there is a new Automatic Source Citation pane, to help with adding source citations. And there's much more.

The program has been given a complete refresh, with a great new look and numerous usability improvements. There is a long list of important enhancements and great new features, and the list below give you a summary of some of them. "Family Historian 6 takes this well-loved program to dizzying new heights ... packed with a host of new features and improvements ... it's the most user-friendly and accessible release yet ... vastly improved web-clipping tool, which is now best in class ... The crown for best PC software belongs to Family Historian 6 for 2015!", **Your Family Tree magazine** Issue 154, Spring 2015

"Family Historian was the most popular of all the Family History programmes" Conclusion from a survey of members of the Guild of One-Name Studies (10% responded). **Journal of One-Name Studies** Volume 11 Issue 8, October — December 2013

June 2016. Family Historian comes top in group comparison by Who Do You Think You Are? magazine. -> [learn more](#)

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## A (Possibly) Better Notebook Program than Evernote is Available Free of Charge

Dick Eastman

Evernote has long been a useful tool for genealogists. Indeed, I have written several times about the use of Evernote in genealogy research. It is one of my favorite programs. I use Evernote more often than I use a genealogy program although I have to add that I use Evernote for all sorts of things, not just for genealogy purposes.

(See <https://goo.gl/RXq5Ez> for a list of my past articles about Evernote.)

Evernote disappointed many of its users a couple of weeks ago when the company announced a price hike and also a reduction in service for free users. (See my earlier article at <https://goo.gl/iBShNp> for details.) Even though the price hike is modest, a number of Evernote users are now looking for alternative programs that perform the same tasks as Evernote but are either more powerful or else free of charge or both. One product from a little-known company appears to meet the needs of many Evernote users although perhaps it is not a 100% replacement. Then again, a price tag of **FREE** and the ability to use it on as many computing devices as you wish is very attractive.

### Introduction

**Zoho** is a company that offers all sorts of cloud-based applications for both personal and business use. Available applications include word processing, spreadsheets, presentations, databases, note-taking, wikis, web conferencing, customer relationship management (CRM), project management, invoicing, social networking applications, surveys, online meetings, online chat rooms, expense report management, inventory management, human resources applications, and other applications. The California-based company was founded in 1996 as AdventNet Inc. and changed the name to Zoho Corporation in 2009 to reflect the focus on its online suite of office applications.

While Zoho's many applications are a direct competitor to Google Docs and other Google Apps for use in the workplace, many of Zoho's applications also integrate nicely with Google Apps. If you or your employer use Google Apps, you can add extra functionality to those apps by using Zoho's supplemental services. Details may be found at <https://www.zoho.com/google-apps.html>.

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Handheld devices grow more and more powerful every year. Now the mobile device in your hand can not only create digital images of documents and pages from a book, it also can even perform OCR (optical character recognition) that converts the printed words into computer-readable and editable text. This should be a very useful tool for genealogists, historians, and anyone else who does a lot of research and needs to save much of the information found.

ABBY FineScanner has been available on other operating systems and has become one of the most powerful OCR products today. New versions for Apple iOS and for Android were released recently and are also gaining in popularity. ABBY FineScanner is available in two versions: free and paid.

The free version of ABBY FineScanner lets you scan documents, apply perspective corrections, use filters, and print from the app. A \$39/year Pro Subscription adds OCR and removes ads. Either version will convert your smartphone or tablet into a powerful mobile scanner to quickly capture any paper, create electronic copies in PDF and JPEG formats, and (optionally in the Pro Subscription version) extract text from scans for further editing and sharing in DOCX, XSL, PDF, and 9 other formats.

A one-month free version of the Pro Subscription is also available for anyone who would like to take it for a test drive. Both the free and paid versions will scan any printed or hand-written papers, create perfect digital copies and save them to JPEG or PDF documents. The program also includes something called BookScan, a unique feature for digitizing books quickly and easily. It splits facing book pages into two separate images, removes any defects, and straightens curved text lines.

The paid Pro Subscription also will recognize text from scans in 193 languages and save results in 12 formats (DOCX, PDF, TXT and more), preserving the original document formatting.

I have been using the free version for a couple of days and am impressed with it. I will probably upgrade to the paid version with OCR capabilities the next time I have a need for OCR. Until then, I'll settle for the free version.

You can learn more at <http://www.finescanner.com/>

## The Strange Tale of 19th-Century Quack Doctors

*(While this one relates to the USA, Australia had its fair share of quacks too)*

Dick Eastman

During the 19th century, quack “doctors” outnumbered legit ones three to one. A growing interest in science and a booming open market proved irresistible to businesspeople who rushed to bring products with dubious medical claims to health-starved consumers. These were the people who treated (and mistreated) our ancestors’ medical woes. Among these were Wallace and Willis Reinhardt, twin brothers who helmed a kind of fraudulent dynasty in the Midwest.

After being run out of Minnesota for fear of a grand jury investigation of their faux medical institute, the brothers set up shop in Milwaukee. Under the guise of the “Wisconsin Medical Institute,” they took advantage of ailing patients, diagnosing “sexual ailments” and pushing pricey treatments on their victims. Those who were unable to travel to their office could experience the Reinhardt’s “cures” from afar thanks to mail-order books, devices and medicines.

Their brazen actions caused a crackdown on ads for patent medicines, and the 1906 Pure Food and Drug Act further decimated the patent medicine and quack industry across the country.

You can read all about the Reinhardt twin brothers in *Giving Them What They Want* by Erika Janik and Matthew B. Jensen. The article was published in the *Wisconsin Magazine of History* by the Wisconsin Historical Society in 2011. The article is now available online and free of charge at

<http://www.jstor.org/stable/41331156>.

