

## Family History in the 21st Century

Anne Costello, Concord Genealogical Society

Family history has changed dramatically in the past five years. Thanks to the World Wide Web and high speed internet connections, we are now able to do research any time of the day or night from our home computers.

As with all things new, there is a learning curve. It is difficult to know how or where to start. I hope to give you a jump start on your search techniques.

Most of us will find that we are able to find family connections much more quickly and easily using online databases and search engines. It is possible to locate distant cousins that one wasn't even aware existed thanks to the surname message boards on web sites. There is a new search engine that only searches genealogy postings and info. It is Mocavo.com and it is a great place to start your research.

- 1) For starters, post the names and what you know about them on Rootsweb surname message boards. Check the option that says "notify me when someone answers this". At the same time, search the message boards using the Mocavo search engine for info on your families that may have been posted by others.
- 2) If you already have a large database, upload it to the World Connect project and people working on your lines will find you.
- 3) Research the county projects under US Gen Web Project or World Gen Web Project.
- 4) When you know what you want, consider requesting a volunteer from RAOGK to do a lookup for you or take photos of tombstones.
- 5) If you have ancestors in the western United States, check out the Western States Marriages database. It is a wonderful database and new marriage records are being added all the time.
- 6) Check state web sites for online images of censuses and vital records. Michigan and Arizona, for example have images of records online. There is no charge for the images.
- 7) Google the names you are researching and check out what others may have posted on your families and contact them to exchange information. Learn to use Google more effectively for narrowing your research.
- 8) Consider subscribing to one of the paid web sites.
- 9) If you can read a foreign language, consider signing up for a archive site in the country you are researching. Denmark, for instance has access to their national archives.
- 10) Come to the Family History Center for support from our volunteers and also access to our special web sites that have partnered with Family search.org.
- 11) Check out the new LDS web site at familysearch.org. There are a lot of original documents posted that can be accessed without charge.

## Anne's Links

<http://www.mocavo.com/> -- Search engine for genealogy sources.

<http://www.accessgenealogy.com/> -- List of links to various history and genealogy sites organized by state.

<http://www.sfgenealogy.com/> -- Genealogy and history of the San Francisco Bay Area

<http://genealogy.az.gov/> -- Site to find Arizona birth and death certificates

<http://genealogy.about.com/library/nrelationshipchart.htm> --Genealogy relationship chart

<http://www.zabasearch.com> -- Free People Search and Public Information Search Engine

<http://www.genealogy-search-help.com/> -- Free Genealogy Search Help for Google

<http://www.findagrave.com/index.html> -- Find the graves of ancestors

<http://www.academic-genealogy.com/> -- Family Genealogy and History Internet Education Directory - Wiki

<http://projects.exeter.ac.uk/RDavies/arian/current/howmuch.html> -- Current Value of Old Money

<http://www.searchforancestors.com/utility/cousincalculator.html> -- Cousin Relationship Calculator

<http://www.google.com/patents> -- Search over 8 million patents

<http://books.google.com/> -- Search the latest index of the world's books you can preview or read for free.

<http://www.usgw-tombstones.org/michigan/mitstable.htm> -- Find tombstone photos and transcriptions-US and Foreign

<http://www.arizonagravestones.org/search.php> -- Search for Arizona gravestones

<http://www.ancestorhunt.com/> -- List of many free genealogy related search engines and resources

<http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/> -- Free genealogy search page (owned by Ancestry.com)

<http://www.worldgenweb.org/> -- A non-profit, volunteer based organization dedicated to providing genealogical and historical records and resources for world-wide access.

<http://www.cyndislist.com/> -- Comprehensive list of links that point you to genealogical research sites online.

<https://www.familysearch.org> -- Search your family history in this index of many databases provided by the LDS

<http://www.gensource.com> -- List of genealogy databases.

<http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/genealogy/index-e.html> -- Canadian genealogy information

<http://lib.utexas.edu/maps/> -- University of Texas collection of online maps of the world

[http://services.dar.org/public/dar\\_research/search/?Tab\\_ID=6](http://services.dar.org/public/dar_research/search/?Tab_ID=6) -- Search engine from the DAR

<http://ce.byu.edu/is/site/courses/free.cfm> -- Free online courses from BYU on genealogy and family history.