

Where in the world...? Maps & Apps for Genealogy Geography

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MAPS = TOOLS for answering the WHERE questions about the WHOs in your family tree

1) START with what you know: locations, time frames/years

2) ORGANIZE with MAP INFORMATION SHEETS at town/county/state/country level

Suggested columns: Place name/feature, year established, feature ID, name of map/source, longitude/latitude of place, time frame/years of interest, evidence/document note

3) CONFIRM information/COLLECT additional information—GAZETTEERS/DIRECTORIES, ATLASES

4) Investigate different TYPES of MAPS as well as maps from different TIME periods representing:

- LAND/GEOGRAPHIC AREA
 - *TOPOGRAPHIC, SATELLITE maps – physical features on the Earth’s surface*
 - *PROPERTY maps (cadastral) – survey maps, plat maps showing land ownership*
 - *Also Enumeration District maps (census), county maps/atlasses, ward maps*
- TRAVEL/TRANSPORTATION
 - *Historic MIGRATION & TRAVEL maps*
 - *ROAD/HIGHWAY maps, ATLASES – types of roads crossing boundaries and properties*
 - *RAILROAD maps*
- conflicts over land: MILITARY MAPS/SURVEYS for battles, wars
- the URBAN, SOCIAL, BUSINESS landscape
 - *SANBORN FIRE INSURANCE maps*
 - *PICTORIAL “maps” (panoramic/bird’s eye view maps) of cities, towns*

HINT: Save all maps in a separate folder in your office/work space AND on your computer, with sub-folders for city or town, township/section, county, state, country.

RESOURCES

MAPPING SOFTWARE

Family Tree Maker—migration mapping for individuals or family groups, ancestors (4 gen. max)

RootsMagic—map family events, build reference database about place names

▪ *Google Earth Pro*

Google Earth for Genealogy (free video class, 1 hr), Lisa Louise Cook/Genealogy Gems Podcast

<https://lialouisecooke.com/free-google-earth-for-genealogy-video-class-by-lisa-louise-cooke/>

HINT: Check YouTube videos for overviews/reviews before choosing mapping software

USING MAPS

USGS. Sep 2002. USGS Fact Sheet 099-02: *Using Maps in Genealogy*.

Overview plus print resources <https://www.census.gov/history/pdf/mapsgenealogy.pdf>

Topographic Map Symbols, USGS

<https://pubs.usgs.gov/gip/TopographicMapSymbols/topomapsymbols.pdf>

SEARCHING FOR PLACE NAMES

- *The Geographic Names Information System (GNIS)*

Official data base of US place names <https://geonames.usgs.gov/>

- *Meyers Gazetteer* (Germany) <https://www.meyersgaz.org/>

Gazetteer, see *Worldwide links* <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gazetteer>

FINDING MAPS

GSCC www.thegscc.org to search Genealogy Room, Collier County Public Library

Click *Search Genealogy Books* -- Search terms: *map, map guide, atlas, gazetteer,..*

Best Mapping Websites of 2014

<https://www.familytreemagazine.com/premium/best-mapping-websites-2014/>

- *David Rumsey Historical Map Collection* <https://www.davidrumsey.com/>

See *View Collection* tab for overview of features

- *Historical Maps and Atlases of the US and States* (and some from Europe) <https://www.mapofus.org/>

“Each State page contains rotating animated maps showing all of the county boundary changes & all of the county boundaries for each census year...Past and present maps of US are overlaid so that you can see the changes in county boundaries,...state atlas maps” —

→downloadable Dept. of Transportation county road and highway maps.

Harvard Map Collection Digital Maps (US and international maps)

<http://vc.lib.harvard.edu/vc/deliver/advancedsearch?collection=maps>

Atlas of Historical County Boundaries, The Newberry Library (interactive maps)

<http://publications.newberry.org/ahcbp/index.html>

Perry-Castañeda Map Collection, University of Texas at <https://legacy.lib.utexas.edu/maps/histus.html>

Includes historical maps of US and US cities, military maps, territorial growth

US Migration Trails & Roads, Family Search

https://integration.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Category:US_Migration_Trails_and_Roads

- *Civil War Military Maps*, Library of Congress Collection <https://www.loc.gov/collections/civil-war-maps>

SANBORN FIRE INSURANCE MAPS:

- *Where to find Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps*

https://lialouisecooke.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/Sanborn_Guide-to.pdf

- *Using Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps (basic tutorial)*, Kansas City Public Library

<http://www.kchistory.org/sites/default/files/UsingSanborns.pdf>

MAPS OF THE WORLD

Wikipedia Commons Atlases of the World -- <https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Atlas>

“an organized and commented collection of geographical, political and historical maps”

EX: Search for “*atlas of Germany*” -- https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Atlas_of_Germany

BLOG on MAPS: *All Over the Map*, National Geographic

<https://www.nationalgeographic.com/people-and-culture/all-over-the-map/>

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RESOURCES NOT INCLUDED IN 2018 GSCC HAND-OUT

PROPERTY DESCRIPTIONS

Romer, A. R. *How Land is identified in a Deed*

<http://www.dummies.com/education/law/how-land-is-identified-in-a-deed/>

Rectangular Surveys, Family Search https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Rectangular_Surveys

United States Land & Property at

[https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/United States Land and Property](https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/United_States_Land_and_Property)

Searching for LAND PATENTS, SURVEYS using the property description

General Land Office Records, US Bureau of Land Management <https://glorerecords.blm.gov/default.aspx>

If searching in *Land Catalog*, see User Manual link below (or click HELP tab on page):

https://glorerecords.blm.gov/LandCatalog/Help/Land%20Catalog%20User%20Manual_r1.pdf

Latitude/Longitude.

+ latitude coordinates = N of Equator, - latitude coordinates = S of Equator

+ longitude coordinates = E of PM, - longitude coordinates = W of PM (Prime Meridian)

Two types of coordinates may be given:

DEC (Decimal Degrees or DD) or DMS (Degrees, Minutes, Seconds)

Examples of coordinates:

DEC (+/- coordinates) Lat. 37.9203181 Long. -91.9709958

DMS (N/W coordinates) Lat. 375513N Long. 0915816W

To find lat./long. of a property description (Public Lands Survey System):

L A T www.earthpoint.us

O See left column: USA Utilities/Township & Range → Search by description

N Enter state/meridian/township/range/section information → View for lat./long. coordinates

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National Gazetteer of the United States of America (1990)—Google Books, Free eBook/Read

<https://play.google.com/store/books/details?id=NwWS4j2YMOoC&rdid=book-NwWS4j2YMOoC&rdot=1>

A Historical Atlas and Gazetteer of Europe from Year 1 to 2000, Euratlas Periodis Web (\$\$)

<https://www.euratlas.net/history/europe/index.html> or www.euratlas.org

21 FREE maps giving a short overview of changing political borders in Europe BUT this is a subscription site so limited in what can be seen for free