

2015 OWOF Conference - Using the Family History Centre Services Online Portal

Outline:

- About FamilySearch and FHCs
 - What is the Portal?
 - What websites are available for free at FHCs, and what each offers?
 - How you can find information about your ancestors?
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About FamilySearch and Family History Centres (FHCs):

- FamilySearch has been a leader in preservation for over 100 years, and the mission of FamilySearch is the gather, preserve, and share family history information resources
- There are over 4,745 FHCs around the globe where people can gain personal assistance in doing their family history, access the resources of FamilySearch
- One of the resources available to researchers is the Family History Centre Services Portal where people can access premium family history subscription websites for free
- The portal is divided into 3 main categories: Genealogical Resources, Classes & Workshops, One-on-One Assistance
- This workshop will focus on the premium subscription websites in the Genealogical Resources section of the portal

Premium Subscription Websites in the Portal:

19th Century British Library Newspaper Digital Archive

- Contains British newspapers from the 18th and 19th centuries. Includes over 8 million newspapers from over 200 titles.
- 10 year project with the British Library to scan and digitize over 40 million newspapers
- Fully searchable database of the British Library's holdings
- Provides a complete runoff 48 national and regional Victorian British newspapers for the 19th century
- These newspapers support the study of colonial history, genealogical research, politics, urban studies, and media courses
- Filter by Date, Newspaper, Region, County, and by Place
- After selecting a newspaper you can see the run dates and view the issues available on the website which may tell you how often the paper was published and where it was published

Access Newspaper Archive

- Scope of the collection spans over 400 years and is the world's largest online newspaper archive
- Contains over 6,200 newspaper titles
- Covers all 50 States in the USA and 10 Countries
- Items of interest for genealogists included: Obituaries, birth announcements, and sports articles
- Filter by location (country), and filter by category
- Categories include: Arts and Entertainment, Athletes, Business & Economics, Criminal History, Famous People, Government & Politics, Man-Made Disasters, National Disasters, Nature & Science, Sports History, Surname, War History
- War History Articles are grouped by wars e.g. WWI, and then in the section for WWI the articles are organized by events/battles

Alexander Street Press

- Includes 3 main categories dealing with the American Civil War: Research Database; Letters & Diaries; Images, Photographs, Posters and Ephemera
- **American Civil War Research Database** includes is divided into 4 categories: Individuals – indexed, searchable database of over 4 million soldiers; Regiments; Battles of the American Civil War; Over 17,000 photographs
- **Letter and Diaries** contain over 2,000 authors, approximately 100,000 pages of diaries, indexed, including over 4,000 pages of previously unpublished manuscripts (letters and diaries), and includes biographies
- Provide feedback and comments by email: editor@alexanderstreet.com
- **Images of the American Civil War** provides a vivid visual history of a nation in crisis; browse by themes and there are over 12,000 images
- **Social and Cultural History: Letter and Diaries** online provides access to US Civil Rights Movement; African American Richmond Educational Segregation and Desegregation; Letters from Susan Hales to Caroline Weld, March 24, 1908 (one woman's description of a journey from Chicago to Mississippi almost 100 years ago; WWI section provides personal narratives of WWI experiences in the US and abroad
- **Women and Social Movements in the United States, 1600-2000** is a collection of over 116 projects and archives with 4,700 documents and more than 160,000 pages of full text written by more than 2,450 primary authors. The collection includes book, film, website reviews, notes from archives, and teaching tools
- **The Database of Women and Social Movements in the United States** includes-A document list; Key abbreviations in Database Spreadsheet; Militant Woman Suffragists Database, 1913-1920; Biographical sketches; Bibliography; A Crowdsourcing Experiment

Ancestry.com

- Massive online collection of records that vary from government to church records, and beyond from around the globe

- Suggested search method is to utilize the card catalogue to browse all of the online published collections where users can filter by collection, location, etc.

Who do you think you are ancestry.com

- A link is provided from the portal to the website that allows users to set up an account and tell their family history story, examples are provided

Find My Past

- Trace your ancestry and build a family tree by researching extensive birth records, census data, obituaries, and more (Census records, BMD records, Parish records, Travel and Migration Records, Military records, Newspaper records, Help topics, family tree building with hints)
- Coverage includes UK, Australia, US, and Canada
- Filter by collection

Fold 3.com

- US military historical documents by collections – War of 1812 Pension Application Files, The US Civil War, Native American Collection, The Holocaust Collection, The Great Depression, and more
- Using Fold 3 you can browse by – Historical Era, by Collection, and you can see all of the collections
- You can conduct searches with a category, and then search by publication, e.g. WWI then by the publication “Army Register of Enlistments, 1798-1914”
- The Holocaust Collection includes – Stories from the Holocaust Museum; Stories, Maps and Facts regarding Concentration Camps; Holocaust Era Assets – Looted Valuables; Original Documents and Photos from the US National Archives

Historic Map Works

- Offers access to searchable historical maps

Kinpoint

- A tool that helps you find what is missing in your FamilyTree
- View a tour to learn what Kinpoint is all about and how to use Kinpoint to help you reach further back in your timeline

MyHeritage

- A website based in Israel for discovering, sharing, and preserving your family history that offers online, mobile and software platforms for its users worldwide
- Create online family trees, search for ancestors in billions of historical records, share and preserve photos and videos while connecting with relatives

- Offered in 42 languages, there are over 80 million users, 1.6 billion profiles and 28 million family trees
- MyHeritage is a very popular, as of 2015 the site had over 5.5 million visits per month and ranked #3 among genealogy websites
- Types of records – Census Records, Family Trees, BMDs, Photos, Military, Immigration & Travel, Public Records, Schools & Universities, Directories, Guides & References, Histories, Memories & Biographies, Government, Land, Court & Wills

Paper Trail

- Website is a service by the Oregon-California Trails Association
- Scope of the website is aimed at Overland Pioneer history which includes pioneer names and documents that are searchable

ProQuest – Obituaries

- Searchable US Obituaries and death notices from prominent American newspapers dating back to 1851
- Searches are conducted by name and keywords

Puzilla.org

- A website that you can use your FamilySearch credentials to sign in and identify new research opportunities on descendant lines in your FamilyTree
- There are lots of choices for view your charts, various generation options and filters

WorldVitalRecords

- Scope of the collection includes BMDs, Census and Voter Lists (1 billion), MyHeritage Photos (29 billion) & Family Trees (1.5 billion names in over 21 million family trees), Military records (300 million), Directories, Parish Records, etc.
- Collection pages organized by tab for US, Canada, UK & Ireland, Australia, World
- Under the World tab you can access Military Collections and then select from the choices listed
- For my surname I found over 1,754 search results divided into main categories to select – personal favorites are the Photos, and Family Trees, Military History Records