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JULY/AUGUST 2020

M A G A Z I N E

101 BEST GENEALOGY WEBSITES

**ANNUAL
GUIDE**

Find Your
**Scots-Irish
Roots**

12 Tips for Using
**FAMILY TREE
MAKER**

EXPERT ADVICE:
DNA & Privacy



How to Become a Pro Genealogist



of 2020

Staats
Archiv
BremenBremen Passenger Lists
A Project with the Bremen Chapter of Germanica and the Bremen Stadtmuseum

Bremen Passenger Lists

Now topping 738,000 entries, this database mostly covers 1920 to 1939, but some records are earlier. This site isn't much to look at, but its search and browse options are powerful; you can even view by hometown.

[VISIT SITE](#)

CompGen

CompGen.de

A little German will help you make the most of this deep site from Germany's largest genealogy group, packed with family trees, digital documents and research how-to's.

[VISIT SITE](#)

FEEFHS

FOUNDATION for EAST EUROPEAN FAMILY HISTORY STUDIES

Foundation for East European Family History Societies

Maps, links, journal back-issues and how-to tips make this a key starting place for research in the region.

[VISIT SITE](#)

Genealogy Indexer

Genealogy Indexer

Search for Central and East European ancestors in 1.85 million pages of more than 3,000 historical directories, plus memorials to Jewish communities destroyed in the Holocaust (Yizkor books), military lists, community and personal histories, and school records.

[VISIT SITE](#)

Geneanet

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Even if you don't parler français, you can make headway in finding your French ancestors here, starting with 1.25 million user-submitted family trees. Stepping up to premium features runs about \$50 a year.

[VISIT SITE](#)

Geneteka

This volunteer-created site from the Polish Genealogical Society searches more than 10 million records. Click the UK/US flag icon on the home page to switch to English and make initial searching easier.



Register for free, then dive into this collection of more than 20 million user-submitted entries about ancestors in Austria and neighboring lands.

VISIT SITE

Hungaricana

This English-friendly Hungarian Cultural Heritage Portal puts more than 4 million pages of digitized publications, 100,000 old maps, and 300,000 pages from the Urbarium census of 1767 at your fingertips. The Budapest Time Machine here is also simply cool.

VISIT SITE

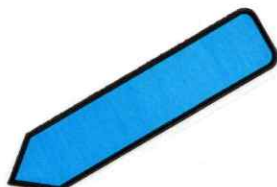


JewishGen

Beautifully redesigned, this site affiliated with the Museum of Jewish Heritage and Ancestry.com covers 54 countries but is especially useful for European research, including surnames, towns, Holocaust victims, the Family Tree of the Jewish People, and the JewishGen Family Finder.

VISIT SITE

Search the Meyers Gazetteer



The Miriam Weiner
Routes to Roots Foundation

Meyers Gazetteer

Search every place name in the German Empire (1871–1918) in this simple-to-use, wildcard-friendly database.

VISIT SITE

The Miriam Weiner Routes to Roots Foundation

This website provides a town-by-town inventory/index (in English) to surviving Jewish and civil documents in the archives of Poland, Belarus, Ukraine, Lithuania and Moldova.

VISIT SITE



WieWasWie

Find your Dutch family in civil registrations and other records—more than 200 million records in all. You can power up your searches with a premium membership (about \$22 per year), but basic searches and results are free.

LEARN MORE

European Genealogy Cheat Sheets

Good *as* Gold



**We won't see medals awarded this summer after all. But these
101 Best Genealogy Websites are all winners in our book.**

by DAVID A. FRYXELL

IF YOU WERE LOOKING FORWARD to watching the Olympics this summer, you'll have to wait until next year. But "going for the gold" in your genealogy research can help fill the gap left by the postponement. The cheering crowds may be only in your head—and the medal ceremony just a few more branches on your family tree—yet your finds will last as long as the actual Olympic records.

To help you in this marathon endeavor, we've once again assembled a medal-worthy roster of 101 Best Genealogy Websites. As in past years, we've winnowed a world wide web of competitors to the magic number of 101. (Why 101? We've been doing this for 21 years now, so we can truthfully answer, "It's tradition!")

To make room for more genealogy- and history-specific "medal" winners, we've jettisoned some general sites such as Facebook <www.facebook.com> and YouTube <www.youtube.com> that focus far beyond the family-tree field. We realize these sites have a lot of utility for family historians, but figure you don't need our help to discover them. (An exception to this culling is Google <www.google.com>, which simply offers too many useful tools for our list to ignore.)

As a result, this year's installment includes a record (we think) 17 sites that didn't appear on last year's list, each marked with an asterisk (*). Sites marked with a dollar sign (\$) require a subscription or other payment to really take advantage of their content. Sites that are free but have some sort of premium tier or paid add-on are indicated as such in the write-ups.

As you "go for the gold" in your genealogy research, these sites will prove to be clear winners, essential to getting you over the finish line. Ready? Set? Go!

Digital Danish Emigration Archives

<www.udvandrerkivet.dk/soegeside>

Find your emigrating Danes (and others departing via Copenhagen) in this searchable database of nearly 400,000 records, 1869 to 1908, kept by the police to prevent passengers from being defrauded. The site is also home to more than a half-million digitized emigrant letters and photos.

Digitalarkivet

<www.digitalarkivet.no/en>

This English-friendly site from the National Archives of Norway has plenty of searchable databases as well as a global person search. Or browse even more offerings among the church books, censuses, emigration lists and land and probate papers.

PARADE OF NATIONS

Bremen Passenger Lists

<www.passengerlists.de>

Now topping 738,000 entries, this database mostly covers 1920 to 1939, but some records are earlier. This site isn't much to look at, but its search and browse options are powerful; you can even view by hometown.

CompGen.de

<www.compgen.de>

A little German will help you make the most of this deep site from Germany's largest genealogy group, packed with family trees, digital documents and research how-to's. (See our guide in the October/November 2018 issue <www.familytreemagazine.com/premium/tracing-german-ancestry-compgen-de>.)

Foundation for East European Family History Societies

<www.feefhs.org>

Maps, links, journal back-issues and how-to tips make this a key starting place for research in the region.

Genealogy Indexer

<genealogyindexer.org>

Search for Central and East European ancestors in 1.85 million pages of more than 3,000 historical directories, plus memorials to Jewish communities destroyed in the Holocaust (Yizkor books), military lists, community and personal histories, and school records.

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<en.geneanet.org>

Even if you don't parlez français, you can make headway in finding your French ancestors here, starting with 1.25 million user-submitted family trees. Stepping up to premium features runs about \$50 a year.

Geneteka

<www.geneteka.genealodzy.pl>

This volunteer-created site from the Polish Genealogical Society searches more than 10 million records.

Click the UK/US flag icon on the home page to switch to English and make initial searching easier.

GenTeam

<www.genteam.at>

Register for free, then dive into this collection of more than 20 million user-submitted entries about ancestors in Austria and neighboring lands.

Hungaricana

<www.hungaricana.hu/en>

This English-friendly Hungarian Cultural Heritage Portal puts more than 4 million pages of digitized publications, 100,000 old maps, and 300,000 pages from the Urbarium census of 1767 at your fingertips. The Budapest Time Machine here <hungaricana.hu/en/databases/budapest-time-machine> is also simply cool.

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<www.jewishgen.org>

Beautifully redesigned, this site affiliated with the Museum of Jewish Heritage and Ancestry.com covers 54 countries but is especially useful for European research, including surnames, towns, Holocaust victims, the Family Tree of the Jewish People <www.jewishgen.org/gedcom>, and the JewishGen Family Finder <www.jewishgen.org/jgff>.

Meyers Gazetteer

<www.meyersgaz.org>

Search every place name in the German Empire (1871–1918) in this simple-to-use, wildcard-friendly database.

* Roots to Routes Foundation

<www.rtrfoundation.org>

This website provides a town-by-town inventory/



index (in English) to surviving Jewish and civil documents in the archives of Poland, Belarus, Ukraine, Lithuania and Moldova.

Wie Was Wie

<www.wiewaswie.nl/en>

Find your Dutch family in civil registrations and other records—more than 200 million records in all. You can power up your searches with a premium membership (about \$22 per year), but basic searches and results are free.

MAPPING YOUR VENUES

* Atlas of Historical County Boundaries

<publications.newberry.org/ahcbp>

This essential site from Chicago's Newberry Library <www.newberry.org/genealogy-and-local-history> can solve your research riddles with its interactive maps of shifting county lines.

Atlas of the Historical Geography of the United States

<dsl.richmond.edu/historicalatlas>

Even better than the original 1932 atlas, which chronicles the American story from 1492 on, this site enhances the nearly 700 maps with animation to show change over time or views of the underlying data.

Bureau of Land Management General Land Office Records

<www.glorerecords.blm.gov>

Start your land-records research here, with a database of more than 5 million federal land title records from 1788 on. No luck? Move on to the images of survey plats and field notes, control document index records and land status records.

David Rumsey Map Collection

<www.davidrumsey.com>

Pick your viewer (Google Earth? Insight Java Client? The list goes on) and dive into more than 95,000 historical maps and related images from Ankara to Zeeland.

Historic Map Works

<www.historicmapworks.com>

Peruse 1.6 million historical maps—many of them compatible with the “geographic time machine” of Historic Earth that overlays them with a modern map. Prints and full-size downloads are available for purchase.



Mapire

<mapire.eu/en>

Gorgeous color maps, viewable side-by-side with modern maps or in 3D, bring 18th- and 19th-century Europe to life. It's strongest on the former Austro-Hungarian Empire, but now extends to Scotland and Norway.

US Geological Survey

<www.usgs.gov/products/maps/overview>

Generate a map using the National Map, find obscure ancestral places, and explore satellite and topographic views.

DASH FOR LIBRARY DATA ALLEN COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY

<www.genealogycenter.info>

The country's second-largest genealogy library (after Salt Lake City's Family History Library) also has an impressive digital presence. Check out the military collection, surname file, African American and Native American records, and all things Hoosier.

* Genealogy Gophers

<www.gengophers.com>

Searching is simple at this gateway to 80,000 digitized family-history books.