**Brick Wall Special Interest Group**
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# FINDING MAPS FOR GENEALOGICAL RESEARCH

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## WHY USE MAPS IN FAMILY RESEARCH?

- Locate and visualize ancestors in time and place
- Locate boundaries, towns and geographical features
- Locate and plat land parcels
- Discover and follow family groups
- Identify Migration Routes
- Discover the social context of our ancestors
- Organize and Correlate Information

## TYPES OF MAPS THAT CAN BE OF BENEFIT IN GENEALOGY RESEARCH

- Atlases
- Boundary change maps
- Census maps
- City and town maps
- County, Parish, or Province maps
- Fire insurance maps (Sanborn maps)
- Land ownership (cadastral) maps and plat books
- Military maps
- Railroad maps
- Topographic or geologic maps
- Statistical maps

## GENEALOGY WEBSITES WITH MAP COLLECTIONS

- **Family Search** www.familysearch.org
- **Ancestry** www.ancestry.com
- **My Heritage** www.myheritage.com
- **Find My Past** www.findmypast.com

**FREE AT FAMILY SEARCH:**
**https://www.familysearch.org - Create an account and/or sign in**

**Using a map as a tool to find records for a specific location:**

- **Search "Records" by "Place" on the clickable map from the home page**
- Scroll down the page to the world map
- Click on the United States map or the country of your choice
- Click on the state, etc. from the drop-down list on the right
- The Research Page for the state, etc. will be displayed
- Research tutorials for the state, etc. will be listed on the left panel
- Catalog resources for the state, etc. will be listed on the right panel
- Select the record sets you wish to search or browse from the list of resources

**Search for Historic Place Names of towns, cemeteries, etc. at**
**https://www.familysearch.org/research/places/**

- Type name of place in the search box or click on the map

**Search for plat map books at https://www.familysearch.org/library/books/**

- Type location and "Plat Map," etc.
- Type location and type of map in "Subjects" and "Keywords" search boxes

**BY SUBSCRIPTION ON ANCESTRY**

- Maps, Atlases, and Gazetteers Collection - search by location or browse the catalog **https://www.ancestry.com/search/categories/44/**
- Use the "Keyword" search box for location, etc., rather than searching by your ancestor's name

**HISTORIC MAP WORKS**

- **http://www.historicmapworks.com**
- Subscription website
- Viewable without a paid subscription, but maps are watermarked and not all features are available
- Strong on plat maps
- Search by location and surname

**US GENWEB**

- **http://usgwarchives.net/maps/ (Link may not work – Type URL into browser) United States Digital Map Library**
- **usgenweb.net** State and County sites may be better for local maps
- Maintained by volunteers so content varies
- **Browse the headings and entries on the home page to locate maps**
- Many have robust collections of local maps under various headings
- Features a comprehensive collection of Indian Land Cessions Maps (Great resource for place names circa 1900)

**HISTORY GEO**

- FREE access through the St. Louis County Library (slcl.org)
- **https://www.historygeo.com/v3/viewers/**
- Land ownership maps of original owners (first purchasers from the federal government)
- Index to the original owners at **https://glorecords.blm.gov/search/default.aspx?searchTabIndex=0&searchByTypeIndex=0**
- Antique Maps
- Place Finder

**MAP OF US**

- **www.mapofus.org**
- FREE Historic Atlases and Maps of U.S. and States
- Animated map of US state, territory and county boundary changes by date
- Animated state maps of county boundary changes
- County boundaries for each census year
- Clickable historic maps
- Links to historic maps from other repositories

**ATLAS OF HISTORICAL COUNTY BOUNDARIES**

- **Newberry Library**
- **Another animated state maps of county boundary changes by date**
- **https://publications.newberry.org/ahcbp/**

**NOTE – RECORDS STAY WITH THE PARENT COUNTY!**

**LIBRARY OF CONGRESS**

- https://www.loc.gov/maps/maps/ Maps home page
- https://www.loc.gov/collections/sanborn-maps Sanborn Maps
- Check out high resolution aerial/ bird's eye and panoramic view maps
- Houses the largest map collection in the world; more than 5 million maps!

**Library of Congress Collections that are most useful to genealogical research include:**

- **American Revolution and Its Era: Maps and Charts of North America and the West Indies 1750-1798** https://www.loc.gov/collections/american-revolutionary-war-maps/about-this-collection/
- **American Women** https://guides.loc.gov/american-women
- **Civil War Maps** https://www.loc.gov/collections/american-revolutionary-war-maps/about-this-collection/
- **Hotchkiss Map Collection** https://www.loc.gov/collections/hotchkiss-maps/about-this-collection/
- **Fire Insurance Maps** https://www.loc.gov/rr/geogmap/sanborn/
- **Indian Land Cessions in the U.S. (1784–1894)** https://memory.loc.gov/ammem/amlaw/lwss-ilc.html
- **Louisiana: European Explorations and the Louisiana Purchase** https://www.loc.gov/collections/louisiana-european-explorations-and-the-louisiana-purchase/about-this-collection/
- **National Atlases of the United States** https://www.loc.gov/collections/general-maps/articles-and-essays/national-atlases/
- **Panoramic Maps 1847–1929** https://www.loc.gov/collections/panoramic-maps/about-this-collection/
- **Railroad Maps Collection 1828–1900** https://www.loc.gov/collections/railroad-maps-1828-to-1900/about-this-collection/
- **Rochambeau Map Collection** https://www.loc.gov/collections/rochambeau-maps/about-this-collection/
- **World War II Military Situation Maps** https://www.loc.gov/collections/world-war-ii-maps-military-situation-maps-from-1944-to-1945/about-this-collection/

**DAVID RUMSEY MAP COLLECTION**

- https://www.davidrumsey.com/
- Physical collection housed at the Stanford University Library
- 117,000 images online
- Includes rare 16th -21st Century maps from around the world
- Some maps can be overlaid on Google Earth

**DIGITAL PUBLIC LIBRARY OF AMERICA**

- https://dp.la/search?q=maps
- 567,965 Results for "maps" search
- Huge variety of map resources

**FOLD 3**

- Search "Maps"

**FINDING AIDS/PORTALS:**

**CYNDI'S LIST**

- www.cyndislist.com/maps **Maps & Geography**

**LINKPENDIUM**

- http://www.linkpendium.com

**ONE-STEP WEBPAGES BY STEPHEN P MORSE**

- https://stevemorse.org/

**STATE UNIVERSITY AND LIBRARY REPOSITORIES:**

**New York Public Library Digital Collections - Maps & Atlases**
https://digitalcollections.nypl.org/collections/lane/maps-atlases

**University of Alabama Historical Map Archive**
http://alabamamaps.ua.edu/historicalmaps/

**University of New Hampshire Library - Historic USGS Maps of New England & NY**
http://docs.unh.edu/nhtopos/nhtopos.htm

**University of Southern Maine - Osher Map Library**
https://oshermaps.org/

**University of Texas at Austin Perry-Castañeda Library Map Collection**
https://legacy.lib.utexas.edu/maps/

**University of Kentucky Libraries – Research Guides – Historic Maps**
**https://libguides.uky.edu/c.php?g=222914&p=1476174**

**University of Minnesota Libraries - John R Borchert Map Library**
**https://www.lib.umn.edu/borchert**

**Western Michigan University Libraries – WMU Research Guide – Maps**
**https://libguides.wmich.edu/maps/links**