FINDING OLD MAPS ON THE INTERNET - HANDOUT
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Deciding What Kind of Map You Want

The possibilities are almost unlimited, so fantasize about what you want. Consider subject, scale, and date. Beware of ambiguous place names. Search diligently for what you want.

Ways to Find Maps

Links and handouts: Download and use the links available from your society's web site. Try the links given in the handout and described in the presentation.

Google maps: Go to google.com and click "Maps" near the top left of their page. Type the name of the place you want into the "search" box near the top left of the screen and hit the "return" key. Zoom in or out using the + and - keys at the bottom right of the map. Move in any direction by dragging the map accross your screen. Change views by clicking the three short horizontal bars near the top left of the screen, then clicking the view you want. For better understanding of the area; look at the highway map, the terrain map, and the satellite image.

To see street views as though you were standing in that place, drag the person near the bottom right of the map to the street location you want to use. To change your direction of view, drag the image left or right across your screen.

To find two places click "Directions" near the top left of the screen, type the starting point and destination in their appropriate boxes, and click "Leave now" at the bottom of the list. You can pan and zoom as before. To find more than two places, type the first two places of your route as above, click the circled plus sign at the left of "Leave now", and type the third place you want to mark. Continue as desired for up to ten places on your list. Then click "Leave now".

Image search: Go to google.com and click "images" near the top left of their page. In the "search" box type "map" without quotes and the name of the place you want, then hit the "return" key. (Including a date or era is optional.) Look at the hit list and click the image you want. Click "visit page".

Subject search: Go to google.com, type the name of the place you want in the "search" box, and hit the "return" key. (Including a date or era is optional.) Look at the hit list and click an item that interests you. Also try "map collection", "historical maps", or "historical atlas" without quotes and with the location you want.

Gazetteers: Go to google.com. In the "search" box type "gazetteer" without quotes and the name of the country or state that includes the place you want. (Including "historic", "historical", "old", "early", or "ancient" without quotes is optional. Including a date or era is optional.) Hit the "return" key. Look at the hit list and click an item that interests you. Inside the gazetteer, find the

name of the place you want. It should tell you where the place is or what prominent place is close to it. Use the above processes to find that prominent place and then the place you want.

Other search engines: You can do similar searches with Bing, Yahoo, or any other search engine.

Searching and Saving

Changing descriptors: Start with descriptors of exactly what you want. If you don't succeed, use different descriptors or more generalized descriptors.

Events: If you can't find a place on maps or in gazetteers, do an internet search for an event that occurred there. Various web pages might tell you what prominent place was nearby, thus showing you where to look on maps and in gazetteers.

Saving images: When you see an image you want, right-click the image. A dialog box will guide you through the process of saving the image to your hard disk. Create a separate folder on your hard disk to save genealogy maps. As you save an image, give it a name that will be meaningful to you later. If you are using someone else's computer, save your images onto a thumb drive.

Google Earth: If you put *Google Earth* or a similar program on your computer, you can go to any place on the planet and "fly" over the area by using the program's controls.

Gazetteers

A gazetteer is a list of place names. It tells where the place is, and gives some information about the place. Some descriptions are very brief, giving only the population of a town at the time the gazetteer was written or the height of a mountain. Some gazetteers give very lengthy descriptions of major places. Some also give detailed descriptions of important historic events that occurred in that place. Some even describe prominent local families and their ancestors.

Some gazetteers let you use the "search" button on your keyboard or browser, or a "search" box on their web page. Other gazetteers require you to read screens of text until you find what you want, just as you would read a book.

If you are really lucky, you will find a gazetteer that links to maps. A gazetteer of the British Isles at **http://www.genuki.org.uk/big/Gazetteer/** links to zoomable maps.

Making Your Own Maps

Organizing information onto a map can be an enlightening experience. There are three ways to make your own maps. All three kinds of maps are shown in the presentation.

Add information to a map: You can do this with computer imaging programs or on paper. Start with a suitable background map you have found. Draw in and/or write in any additional information you want (probably by using an "insert text box" feature).

<u>Use *Google Maps* to mark a map:</u> Follow the instructions in the fourth paragraph under "Ways to Find Maps".

<u>Trace a map:</u> Print a current map of an area, and an old map of that area in the same size. Mark your target on the modern map. Hold both maps against a lighted window and trace the mark onto the old map. Alternatively, you can mark the old map and trace onto the new map.

From Old to Modern   and   From Modern to Old

If you don't find what you want on an old map, look for it on a new map. Then transfer the new location to the old map. You also can do this trick in the reverse direction.

Try the same trick for finding a place in gazetteers.

Worldwide Map Collections

The Perry-Castañeda Collection at http://www.lib.utexas.edu/maps/ has thousands of maps, covering all parts of the world with wide-ranging times and themes.

http://www.culturalresources.com/Maps.html links to a huge variety of worldwide maps of all time periods.

Old or Ecclesiastical Maps - Individual States

Do an image search for "map" without the quotes, the state, the year you want, and the kind of map you want. Also, instead of the year, try typing "historic" or "historical" or "old" without quotes.

County boundaries changed as populations increased. Hunt sets of development maps for any state at http://www.mapofus.org/ . Click the state you want, then click the year you want. Saving images by right-clicking has been disabled, so use your screen grabber to save each image.

Some counties have similar sets of maps that show how their townships changed. Search for the state, county, "map", and "townships changed" without the quotes.

Old or Ecclesiastical Maps - Any Country

Old maps of any country are at http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Category:Old_maps_of_■ with the name of the country (using mixed-case letters) in place of the ■ symbol. There are no blanks before and after that symbol.

Other old maps of any country are at http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Atlas_of_■ with the ■ symbol used as above.

http://www.gracegalleries.com/ is a commercial web site that offers free images of maps they have for sale. The collection covers many places, times, and subjects. Look near the bottom of their menu for tutorials.

First, find the place you want on a modern map. Go to **http://www.genuki.org.uk/big/Gazetteer/** and type the place you want in the search box. After you know the exact location, you can look for an old map.

In the British Isles, genealogical records were kept in parish churches for several centuries. You can find a complete set of these maps in *Parish Maps of the Counties of England and Wales*, published by Everton. A similar set of maps, with a parallel set of physical maps, is in *The Phillimore Atlas and Index of Parish Registers - New Edition*. If your local library doesn't have these books, ask a librarian to get them for you through Interlibrary Loan.

http://www.streetmap.co.uk/grid/430500_581500_120 has zoomable, panable maps. Grab the screen image.

http://www.visionofbritain.org.uk/maps/ has maps of England, Scotland, Ireland, and Wales from 1805 through 1958. Right-click an image to save it on your computer.

Go to **http://www.genuki.org.uk/search/** and put "maps" without quotes in the search box. This searches all GENUKI (Genealogy in the United Kingdom and Ireland) resources and shows many collections of maps.

http://maps.familysearch.org/ has parish, diocese, poor law union, and other kinds of maps for England only. The print/save function is flawed, so grab the screen image if you want it.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Roman_Catholic_dioceses_in_England_and_Wales is an ecclesiastical site for England and Wales.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Roman_Catholic_dioceses_in_Ireland is an ecclesiastical site for Ireland.

http://maps.nls.uk/scotland/thematic.html is an ecclesiastical site for Scotland. It also has many other kinds of maps.

My data set available on your society's web page lists and briefly describes several map sites for each country that appears most often in Americans' genealogies: The British Isles, Canada, France, Germany, Holland, Italy, Mexico, Norway, Poland, and Sweden.