











Jeans & Genes



2015 BEST GENEALOGY SEARCH SERVICE RATINGS

Rank	#1	#2	#3	#4
10-9 Excellent	Ancestry	MyHeritage	Mocavo Gold	Archives
8-6 Good				
5-4 Average				
3-2 Poor				
1-0 Bad				
Ratings	9.78	9.35	8.35	7.43

Rank	#5	#6	#7	#8
10-9 Excellent	Findmypast	WorldVitalRecords	OneGreatFamily	MyTrees
8-6 Good				
5-4 Average				
3-2 Poor				
1-0 Bad				
Ratings	7.33	7.03	6.75	6.70

Rank	#9	#10
10-9 Excellent	GenealogyBank	The Genealogical Research Library
8-6 Good		
5-4 Average		
3-2 Poor		
1-0 Bad		
Ratings	5.98	4.65

Read more detailed comparison information at "Genealogy Search Review," <http://genealogy-search-review.toptenreviews.com/>

(continued on page 2)

GENEALOGY SEARCH WEBSITES: WHAT TO LOOK FOR

The best way to preserve your family history is by discovering and documenting it. Family history searching has expanded to an entire online industry with billions of records available at the click of a mouse. The hardest part is getting started. The best genealogy search sites connect you with libraries full of records and have search options that let you sort the resources you want from those you don't. Features such as DNA testing and professional guidance get you the most information about your ancestry for the price of a subscription, and community features like message boards connect you with other passionate genealogists.

Searchable Records

Look for genealogy search sites that provide more than the essentials like birth, death and marriage records. These documents are important, but they won't paint the whole picture of your family or your ancestors' lives. At minimum, you should be able to find census records two or three generations past your latest recorded ancestor. Marriage, immigration, church and birth records are valuable documents you can find on genealogy search sites. Military, criminal and professional documents are harder to find, but they give you the best picture of the middle part of your ancestor's life.

Features

Extra tools on genealogy sites help you build your family history database. The features we found to be most useful are family tree builders and family hints. These features make a genealogy search engine more interactive, and when you store your ancestors' records in an online family tree, you can build as you research. Family hints go by different names on different websites, but this feature acts as an alert that shows you when the genealogy search engine finds a match between your family tree and the contents of the database. In addition to these tools, some genealogy searches have interesting but more novel features like DNA testing, blogs and apps to make your genealogy process run smoothly and to give you additional information you can't necessarily find online.

Community

The nature of genealogy research requires you to reach out to others for records and personal documents. Genealogy searches with large, accessible communities make it easier to discover new connections and reach out to newly discovered relatives. Interacting with other users on message boards and forums can help you with things like site navigation and research tips for finding more information about your family. Message boards have different threads to fit different user needs, such as tips for starting the genealogy process, research help and finding connections based on location. We encountered some helpful site community members who quickly start digging for information when another user asks for help or runs into a research wall.

Help & Support

Help and support comes in many forms on genealogy search sites. The best genealogy search engines can help you with research and site questions alike. They also have research help available from professional genealogists willing to give you pointers, sniff out research leads or even complete portions of your family tree for you. Quality help and support are crucial for a good genealogy search. Without a telephone number, email or even FAQs center, you have to fend for yourself while navigating massive databases.

The most important features in the best genealogy searches boil down to content and resources for finding the most relevant information linked to your relatives. At their best, genealogy searches should have an abundance of easily accessible records, fun features for your family tree, an active community of users and helpful support for research and site-related questions.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN GENEALOGY

FREE PERSONS OF COLOR FROM GEORGIA IN NEW BOOKS

Free Persons of Color in Georgia are the subject of two new books compiled and edited by Michael A. Ports, a professional genealogist. Each contains a copy of the Georgia laws from 1818 to 1834 relating to free persons of color that resulted in the information used herein. "Georgia Free Persons of Color, Volume I" contains lists from Elbert, Hancock, Jefferson, Liberty, and Warren Counties. Volume II contains lists from Appling, Camden, Clarke, Emanuel, Jones, Pulaski, and Wilkes Counties, as well as Morgan County from an original manuscript at the Georgia Archives, but that county was omitted from the cover. That volume includes legislative manumissions, or freeing of slaves. The author used the original county records on microfilm from the Georgia Archives, while the originals remain in the courthouses. Each entry contains the name, age, place of nativity, residence, date they came to Georgia, occupation, and date of registration. Under occupation, some give the name of their employer, and some counties used this column to give the white person who was named guardian

to the free person. These books are a very important source for African-American history bringing to light a source that has long needed to be accessible. They can also help genealogists connected to either the free persons or their guardians find a link back to some other states, since nativity is listed. The books could have used a table of contents giving the counties and pages where the listings start. Volume I is available for \$26.95 and Volume II for \$19.95 plus postage from the Clearfield Company, 3900 Clipper Mill RD, Suite 260, Baltimore, MD 21211 or www.genealogical.com.

GEORGIA'S HISTORIC NEWSPAPER ARCHIVES AT UGA IS LECTURE TOPIC

The Georgia Genealogical Society's winter meeting will feature Donald Summerlin, Digital Projects Archivist at the Digital Library of Georgia, speaking on "Exploring Georgia's Historic Newspaper Archives at the Digital Library of Georgia." He will introduce attendees to the newspaper archives, how newspapers are selected and digitized, and how to get the most out of the free, online website for genealogical and historical research. He will also preview future pro-

jects. To be held December 12 at the Georgia Archives. 5800 Jonesboro Road, Morrow. Check-in time is 10:30 a. m., followed by a business meeting, awards, and then lunch (included in your registration). The program begins at 1:15 p. m. Cost is \$25 GGS members, \$35 nonmembers. Mailing deadline November 27 postmark, online deadline is December 2, via PayPal and the GGS website. Mail check to GGS at P.O.Box 550247, Atlanta, GA 30355-2747. To learn more about the society or to register online, see gagensociety.org. Read about the Digital Library of Georgia and the newspaper collection at <http://dlg.galileo.usg.edu> or search "Digital Library of Georgia."

COBB COUNTY OBITUARY PROJECT

An "Index to Obituary and Death Notices" from the "Marietta Journal" and "Marietta Daily Journal" between 1875 and 1931, with gaps, is in a binder in the Georgia Room at the Charles Switzer Library, 266 Roswell Street, Marietta. The listings are to be added to the Cobb County Genealogical Society website later this year. More indexers are needed to complete the project. See www.cobbgagensoc.org.

~ Excerpts taken from submissions by Kenneth H. Thomas, Jr. Atlanta Journal Constitution

DNA TESTS FOR CHRISTMAS

The Holiday season is a good time to purchase a DNA test for someone. This could help you sort out some aspect of your genealogy. Remember, if you don't test, you will learn nothing. If you do, you eventually will connect with relatives that could help you solve some genealogy questions. At this time of year the three main DNA for genealogy testing groups often offer a discount. See FamilyTreeDNA.com, Ancestry.com, or 23andMe.com. All three offer the autosomal test, only FamilyTreeDNA offers the Y-chromosome test. The more people who do DNA testing for genealogy, the more we are all going to learn from the connections we make.

FIRST FAMILIES OF ALABAMA

The Alabama Genealogical Society has a First Families of Alabama certificate program open to those with ancestors in Alabama prior to 1819. Check www.algensoc.org for details and information on other society activities.

Genealogy (Love of the Hunt)



Ellen Blakeslee,
Genealogist

I hope you have been able to visit your oldest relatives throughout the summer. I am sure you have all your group sheets filled in. It is now time to decide which surname you are going to follow first. Let's make a pedigree chart. You can make one on your own or go to Ancestry.com and print out a blank one to fill in. Remember, we are doing this so we can decide which family surname we need to work on the most.

FORMS, FORMS, FORMS are the researcher's best friend and can be found at several websites.

Ancestry.com,
Familysearch.org,
Familytreemagazine.com.

These blank forms are free. I have chosen the **correspondence record, research calendar, research extract, source summary for family info.**

Let us take a few minutes to go over each of the forms.

Correspondence record helps you keep track of who you correspond with such as the caretaker at the cemetery, a great aunt, another researcher and so forth. The form shows the date sent, to whom sent, the purpose sent, and what the reply

was and the date. This form will help you to track your resources and also to follow up.

Research calendar helps you to track your source of information, the name you were researching and time period and your results. This is a great form to take with you when you go to the Library, Georgia Archives and even the probate office.

Research extract is similar to the Research Calendar but it shows you that you were able to extract information from the source. Example, if you get a result from a particular source then you can use your extract form to elaborate on what you found.

Source summary for family information needs to be filled out when you do find information from such sources as microfilm, reference books, birth index, death index, marriage books, obituaries, etc. These forms are great to use to keep track of your sources and what information you found. Of course, use these forms at your own comfort. You may want to use just one or two of them or all of them.

By now you know the surname you are going to follow. You have your forms printed and filled out. You have visited the relatives and obtained all the information available.

Let's talk about the surname you are hunting. Whether it be on your mother's side or your father's side, the first step is get to know something about him/her. Did you get the birth/death date?

Did you find out where they resided? Let's explore this a little more.

Let's say you know nothing, my first place would be to go to Ancestry.com (subscription) Familysearch.org (free) and type in the name. Remember, libraries offer Ancestry.com for free. It is also free at the Georgia Archives in Morrow, GA. Next time, we will talk about other free sites on the internet to search for information about our ancestors.

Ellen Blakeslee is a professional genealogist living in Covington, GA. You can reach her by emailing her at **genealogy.loveofthehunt@gmail.com**.

SAVE THE DATE!

Genealogy Workshop

Clayton State University
March 5, 2016
8-4 p.m.

It's Free!
RSVP Required to
ourgenealogygroup@gmail.com
by 2/21/16

RCGS TENTATIVE SPEAKER LIST FOR 2016

January

Andy Criminger
Topic: Blogging

April

Jennifer Dondero
Topic: DAR

August

Kristin Harms
Topic: Colonial
Research

February

Rosemarie Cantrell
Topic: Timelines &
Finding Women

May

Tim Christman
Topic: War of 1812

September

TBD

March

Don Summerlin
Topic: DLG History
newspapers

June

Don Shadburn
Topic: TBD

October

TBD

July

Michele Lewis
Topic: Legacy

**Speakers and/or topics
are subject to
change without notice**



A LITTLE GENEALOGY HUMOR

GENEAPALOOZA

BY ESTO FRIGUS



The purpose of the Rockdale County Genealogical Society (RCGS) is to encourage researchers, individuals, historians, genealogists, and others in their quest to find and document their ancestors, with accurate, historical information that will enhance their research capabilities.

The RCGS meets at 3:00 p.m. on the 2nd Sunday of the month, unless a Holiday, then on the 3rd Sunday at: The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter- Day Saints, 1275 Flat Shoals Road, Conyers.

*Visit us
on the web at:
[rockdalegenealogical
society.weebly.com](http://rockdalegenealogical.society.weebly.com)*

*Like us on
Facebook!*

RCGS BOARD MEMBERS

President—Chris Zawadzki
770-785-9888
zawadzki@bellsouth.net

Vice President—Gayle Vivian
770-922-5151
gpv@bellsouth.net

Secretary/Webmaster/Facebook—Ellen Blakeslee
770-922-9379
ceirrageorgia.antq@gmail.com

Treasurer—Jane Conn
770-860-8072
janeconn1275@aol.com

Library Liaison—Martha Brown
770-483-6949
mbrown2205@aol.com

Newsletter—Valerie Vinson
404-285-2135
vinsonv@bellsouth.net

Program Coordinator—Debbie Dial
770-786-0288
debbiedial2013@gmail.com

**JEANS &
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ALL ARE WELCOME!

*The meetings are free and
open to the public,
however donations are
accepted and graciously
appreciated to help defray
operational expenses.*