

## Free Access to Subscription Sites At Family History Center

*Bob Lightburn, Family History Center volunteer, has created a guide to the use of FHC Portal. MCGS is presenting it here on our website to assist our members and friends in accessing these subscription services free of charge.*

The Eatontown FHC has added the *Family History Center Services Online Portal* to its computers. This portal provides users with access to several online services which normally require a subscription. To access the portal, drop by the Family History Center at 14 Reynolds drive, Eatontown. Volunteers will give you access to a computer. Then simply double-click on the *FHC Online Portal* desktop shortcut. You will then be presented with the *Family History Center Services Online Portal* webpage which asks you to choose from one of the following services:

- [19th Century British Library Newspaper Digital Archives](#)
- [FamilyHistory Link](#)
- [FindMyPast.com](#)
  
- [Footnote.com](#)
- [The Genealogist](#)
- [Genline.com \(launcher\)](#)
- [Godfrey Memorial Library](#)
- [Heritage Quest Online](#)
- [Historic Map Works Library Edition](#)
- [World Vital Records](#)
- [Alexander Street Press - The American Civil War:](#)
  - [Research Database](#)
  - [Letters and Diaries](#)
  - [Images, Photographs, Posters, and Ephemera](#)

The best thing to do if you are not familiar with these services and what each has to offer is to go to each organization's website (their URLs are shown below) and read their write-up. You can do this from home. For example, Footnote.com has a three minute "tour" that explains much about their site. It's located on the upper right-hand side of their home page. They have much more than just Revolutionary War data. On the left-hand side of the page, about half way down, you can see an area called "Browse by Historical Era." Use the arrows on either side of this area to scroll from side to side. You can click on any section and their data becomes filtered. You can also "browse all documents" there or from the "Browse" pull-down list at the top of the page. When you click on "Browse All" the screens "step down", so as you click on one category, the next column displays the titles of associated documents.

Here is a summary of each service & their respective URL, available via the FHC portal:

## **19th Century British Library Newspaper Digital Archives**

[www.infotrac.galegroup.com](http://www.infotrac.galegroup.com) then click on Proceed

The *19th Century British Library Newspaper Digital Archives* include:

- 2 million newspaper pages
- Selected by experts in the field
- Full runs when possible
- National and regional newspapers

About the database

- Fully text searchable
- View entire pages or individual articles
- Save, bookmark, e-mail and print results
- Use [Topic Guide](#) to learn more

## **FamilyHistory Link**

[www.familyhistorylink.com](http://www.familyhistorylink.com)

*FamilyHistoryLink* is an affiliated site of *World Vital Records* which is a social network for genealogists where you can share your family tree online and help others with their research as you get help with yours, e.g. via lookups. You may find family members actually living from where your family came. You can also share pictures in an online photo album and connect with others researching the same lines. *FamilyHistoryLink* requires the user to create a free membership account before getting started. Note that *FamilyHistory Link* is the one service of those provided via the *FHC Online Portal* that you can access from home.

## **FindMyPast.com**

[www.findmypast.com](http://www.findmypast.com)

*Findmypast.com* is a family history and genealogy website providing access to over 650 million family history records, primarily those of the United Kingdom.

Findmypast.com offers:

- Birth, marriage and death records for England and Wales.
- Records from each of the Victorian (1841-1901) censuses.
- Access to the 1911 census on [1911census.co.uk](http://1911census.co.uk) using findmypast.com credits.
- The Parish Records Collection, which features over 22 million parish baptisms, marriages and burials.
- An extensive military records collection, which includes records from the First and Second World Wars, military births, marriages and deaths, army roll-calls, Waterloo records, and more.
- [Ancestoronboard.com](http://Ancestoronboard.com) - an exclusive collection of full-colour Passenger Lists for all long-haul voyages leaving the UK between 1890 and 1960.
- Overseas births, marriages and deaths indexes.
- Free use of our innovative family tree building software Family Tree Explorer.
- An electoral-roll search.

## **Footnote.com**

[www.footnote.com](http://www.footnote.com)

*Footnote.com* provides access to Over 44 million documents and photos. According to their website, “The Footnote.com collections feature documents, most never before available before on the Internet, relating to the Revolutionary War, Civil War, WWI, WWII, US Presidents, historical newspapers, naturalization documents, and many more.”

## **The Genealogist** [www.thegenealogist.co.uk](http://www.thegenealogist.co.uk)

*The Genealogist* provides access to over 500 databases related to British research. These include:

- Birth, marriage and death indexes.
- Census transcripts.
- Parish records (transcripts).
- Parish records (printed books).
- Non-conformist and non-parochial records.
- Circa 1911 directories.
- Directory transcripts.
- Free use of our innovative family tree building software Family Tree Explorer.
- Directories search.
- Directories.
- School, college and University registers.
- Roll of honour records.
- Military, landowner and electoral roll records.
- Wills, probates and testaments.
- Reference books.
- Free volunteer census indexes.

## **Genline.com** [www.genline.com](http://www.genline.com)

*Genline* is an extremely important site for those tracing their Swedish ancestry. The *Genline* archives contain over 16 million images of the original Swedish church records from the 16th to the 20th century. These records include births, marriages, deaths and household examinations (similar to yearly census) records. The household examinations include each member of the family unit, where and when each individual was born, where and when they may have been married and where and when they may have died. In addition, these records include when an individual moved into a given parish and the parish from which they previously resided. If they left the parish the household examinations include the parish to which an individual moved and when. These records are a veritable goldmine (obviously, I have Swedish ancestry)!

## **Godfrey Memorial Library** [www.godfrey.org](http://www.godfrey.org)

*Godfrey Memorial Library* has many premium databases that include city and business directories, vital records, printed census records, state, county and local histories as well as

numerous family histories, family bible records and service and pension records. They also have an extensive newspaper collection.

**Heritage Quest Online** [www.heritagequest.com](http://www.heritagequest.com) directs you to [www.proquest.com](http://www.proquest.com)

After you reach the *ProQuest* website, select “Genealogy” under “Browse by Subject.” According to their website "HeritageQuest Online is a collection of over 25,000 family and local histories, and content. Founded in 1983, *HeritageQuest* has been in business for over 20 years and brings a wealth of genealogy data to *ProQuest* who purchased *HeritageQuest* in August 2001.

*HeritageQuest* is designed specifically for patrons in public libraries who are either just beginning their family research or who after years of work are still uncovering their past. With over 25,000 books, the entire U.S. Federal Census and other expanding collections, HeritageQuest gives any library the chance to tap in to one of the largest collections of genealogy material in the country."

The search process is different than what you may remember with Ancestry. *Heritage Quest* uses a process that could be called "drill down." After doing a search by name only, you get a breakdown by State, then you click on the State and you get counties and then a listing of people. There are several ways to search. *HeritageQuest* data also includes PERSI, books, Congressional records, etc.

**Historic Map Works Library Edition** [www.proquest.historicmapworks.com](http://www.proquest.historicmapworks.com)

*Historic Map Works Library Edition* has nearly 20,000 atlases composed of over 1 million maps and illustrations online. The core of the collection consists of over 100,000 cadastral, land ownership maps detailing the geographic and development history of the United States over several hundred years. There is extensive coverage of rural and suburban areas, as well as cities and towns across America. In addition, the print collection contains over 100,000 contemporaneous pages of illustrations and over 1,000 city directories related to the cadastral maps, allowing additional research capabilities. The first of nearly 100,000 antiquarian maps covering the world from the 15th to 19th centuries are currently being added to the collection. This exclusive program with the University of Southern Maine's Osher Map Library, includes many of the world's most important printed maps. Thousands of high quality, digital map images from all categories (maps, illustrations and directories) are added monthly. Full color, fine art quality printed reproductions and low cost, black and white research prints are also available.

**World Vital Records** [www.worldvitalrecords.com](http://www.worldvitalrecords.com)

*World Vital Records* contains over 1 billion names and more than 10 thousand databases not all of which are available to the FHC. *World Vital Records* was founded to “[provide] affordable genealogy databases and family history networking tools to a worldwide audience.”

*World Vital Records* has partnered with: Accessible Archives, Inc., Allcensus, Find A Grave, EllisIsland.org, NewspaperArchive.com, SmallTownPapers, Everton Publishers, FamilySearch, Quinton Publications, Godfrey Memorial Library (and more) to provide

genealogical information online.

You can also find census, military, newspaper, court, land, probate, immigration, parish, gazetteer and family histories.

*World Vital Records* does have original images of many records. Whether or not the record you find is an original image will depend on the type of record it is.

## **Alexander Street Press – The American Civil War**

Research Database [asp6new.alexanderstreet.com/cwdb/](http://asp6new.alexanderstreet.com/cwdb/)

*The American Civil War Research Database* is the definitive online resource for researching the individuals, regiments, and battles of the American Civil War. Originally created by Historical Data Systems, Inc., the database contains indexed, searchable information on over 4 million soldiers and thousands of battles, together with over 17,000 photographs. With thousands of regimental rosters and officer profiles, the database will continue to grow as new information is loaded semiannually.

- Letters and Diaries [solomon.cwld.alexanderstreet.com/](http://solomon.cwld.alexanderstreet.com/)

*Civil War Letters and Diaries* contains over 2 thousand authors and approximately 100,000 pages of diaries, letters and memoirs. Particular care has been taken to index this material so it can be searched more thoroughly than ever. Each source has been carefully chosen using leading bibliographies. The product includes 4,000 pages of previously unpublished manuscripts such as the letters of Amos Wood and his wife and the diary of Maryland Planter William Claytor.

The collection also includes biographies, an extensive bibliography of the sources in the database, and material licensed from *The Civil War Day-by-Day* by E.B. Long.

- Images, Photographs, Posters and Ephemera [cpho.alexanderstreet.com](http://cpho.alexanderstreet.com)

*Images of the American Civil War: Photographs, Posters, and Ephemera* provides a vivid visual history of a nation in crisis. Thousands of dramatic images from the fields of battle, politics, and general society allow students and researchers to experience the events, both monumental and mundane, of the war that tested and defined the core meaning of America. The database currently holds over 1,400 images

You can get a better idea of what to expect from the services available through the *FHC Portal* from the following websites:

<[http://www.uvpafug.org/classes/smaxwell/FHC\\_portal-jul\\_2008\\_uvpafug-part1.pdf](http://www.uvpafug.org/classes/smaxwell/FHC_portal-jul_2008_uvpafug-part1.pdf)>  
and  
<[http://www.uvpafug.org/classes/smaxwell/FHC\\_portal-jul\\_2008\\_uvpafuge-part2.pdf](http://www.uvpafug.org/classes/smaxwell/FHC_portal-jul_2008_uvpafuge-part2.pdf)>

In summary, the *FHC Portal* provides the user with access to resources that are normally available only through subscription.

Come visit the Eatontown FHC and check out the *FHC portal* and happy hunting!

Submitted by: Bob Lightburn, 12 February 2010