"Book" Research Online Bob Heck, MPAFUG 9 April 2025

Slide 1* Books Online

- Did you know that there are millions of books containing key family histories online?
- These books may contain early history of your town or village or even your photo in your high school class book.
- Online books are unknown to many genealogists and family history researchers.

Slide 2* We are going to take a look at ten sites that you should evaluate.

- Free Sites:
- 1. books.google.com
- 2. Archive.org
- 3. Hathitrust.com
- 4. Digital Public Library of America https://dp.la/
- 5. FamilySearch.org
- 6. WorldCat.org

Slide 3* We are going to take a look at ten sites that you should evaluate.

- Paid Sites (Available for free at most Libraries)
- 7. Ancestry.com
- 8. FindMyPast.com
- 9. MyHeritage.com
- 10. AmericanAncestors.org

Slide 4* 1. Books.google.com

- Books.Google contains over 40,000,000 books, most of which are searchable, readable, and downloadable.
- How does Google Books get its books?
- Google partners with libraries around the world to digitize physical books.
- The books are transported to Google's scan centers for scanning and digitizing.

Slide 5* You can enter Books.Google.com directly...

• Enter books.google.com directly into your browser.

Slide 6* You can enter into Google & then open Books... by clicking on the 9 dots.

Slide 7* Scroll down to find Books

Slide 8* What should I search for?

- You can enter an ancestor's name.
- Enter a town or village name.
- Enter a County name and the keyword Biography.
- Enter an author's name.

Slide 9* I entered Benajah Burgess, my 5th Great Grandfather

Slide 10* 2. Archive.org

• The website Archive.org is a free site that has a huge collection of County Histories.

Slide 11* Archive.org

- Enter History of _____ County, Wisconsin. Add the County Name.
- Example: History of Waukesha County, Wisconsin.
- Enter County Histories Wisconsin

Slide 12* County Histories Wisconsin

Slide 13* 3. Hathitrust.com

- What does HathiTrust do?
- Welcome to HathiTrust | HathiTrust Digital Library
- The HathiTrust Digital Library is home to millions of digitized books and publications. Our team works diligently alongside research institutions to preserve and grow this collection

while providing lawful access to visitors around the world.

Slide 14* First Settlers of Nicollet County, Minnesota

Slide 15* 1916 History of Nicollet County...

Slide 16* 4. Digital Public Library of America https://dp.la/

• Discover 52,675,298 images, texts, videos, and sounds from across the United States.

Slide 17* Digital Public Library of America

Slide 18* DPLA Search for Racine County

Slide 19* Wilhelm Kortendick Summary

- Wilhelm Kortendick (11/17/1817-7/11/1884 pioneer settler in Wisconsin, arrived in New York in July 1847. First married Dorothea Henningfeld with whom he had Francis Sales Kortendick, Bertha Kortendick Rambo, Jane Kortendick Cramer, William L. Kortendick, Henry W. Kortendick (died as an infant) and Mary Kortendick Wiemer.
- He later married Eva Katherina Neumaier (01/05/1836-02/05/1913), together they had Henry J Kortendick, Joseph L. Kortendick, George T. Kortendick, Wilhelmina Kortendick Albers, Rosa Kortendick Henningfeld, Fredrick Kortendick, Lawrence V. Kortendick, John Kortendick and Theresa Kortendick Lorenz.

Slide 20* St. Thomas Aquinas Grade School, Waterford, Wisconsin. Date 1887

Slide 21* Frances Henningfeld Sanders

Slide 22* 5. FamilySearch.org

• If you have a FREE FamilySearch account, then sign in.

- If you don't have an account then create one. It only takes a few seconds. You create a user name and a password.
- This allows you to have free access to the collections and it allows you to save your work accessible only to you.

Slide 23* FamilySearch.org sign in

Slide 24* FamilySearch.org

Click on Search and Select BOOKS.

Slide 25* Enter a keyword and click on Search.

- FamilySearch Digital Library
- Over 500,000 genealogy books, family histories, maps, yearbooks, and more.

Slide 26* 6. WorldCat.org

- Specializes on Ethnic Genealogy Research.
- WorldCat.org and genealogy: A powerful combination
- WorldCat.org connects genealogical researchers to millions of pieces of unique content not

found elsewhere.

- Newspapers, family Bibles, cemetery and burial archives, microfilm, and digitized local records—it's a treasure trove of family history waiting to be uncovered. Learn how to make the most of this powerful, global resource. WorldCat.org
- Cemetery and burial records
- United States Civil War and other military records
- Family Bibles, church histories, and records
- General genealogical resources, such as directories, handbooks, and magazines
- Indexes of births, marriages, deaths, wills, and obituaries
- Microfilmed genealogy and local history collections
- Newspapers from many countries

- Photographs
- Slavery and antislavery materials, including slave records
- Town histories and probate records

Slide 27* WorldCat.org Tips to search for your family history

- Family names
- Enter the family name followed by the word "family" (e.g., "Marsh family").
- Specific person
- Enter the person's full name (e.g., "Sarah Johnson").
- Organizations
- Enter terms to describe the organization (e.g., "presbyterian").
- Geographic locations
- For place names within the United States, search the place name in combination with the abbreviated and full state name (e.g., "Union Springs NY" and "Union Springs New York").

Slide 28* 7. Ancestry.com

- Commercial site but available at Family Search Center.
- To search for surnames in books on Ancestry.com, go to the search bar on the homepage,

enter the surname you want to find, and then use the filters on the side to narrow down your search by record type, location, and date range; you can also use wildcards to account for potential spelling variations in the surname.

Slide 29* 450,000 Yearbooks on Ancestry.com

- Ancestry.com also adds new records from books to its collection on a regular basis.
- Explanation
- Ancestry.com's database includes billions of records, including birth, marriage, death, military service, and immigration records.

 The Yearbooks Collection includes school yearbooks from 1900–2016, and contains photos,

club information, and other school activities.

 Ancestry.com also has other collections, including World War II Draft Cards and the Newspapers.com Obituary Index.

Slide 30* Ancestry.com search for Henningfeld

Slide 31* 8. FindMyPast.com

- Commercial site but available at Family Search Center.
- Rebranded in 2006, and acquired by DC Thomson in 2007, Findmypast has since expanded

to cover the UK, Ireland, Australia and North America.

 In 2011 Findmypast embarked on a 10-year project to digitize 40 million pages from The British Library's collection of historical newspapers.

Slide 32* Is FindMyPast available at FamilySearchCenters?

- Yes, you can use FindMyPast for free at any FamilySearch center.
- Not all of the content from FindMyPast is available at FamilySearch centers.
- You can search for FindMyPast records by starting your search from the Person screen of an individual.
- You can add documents from FindMyPast as sources in FamilySearch.
- FindMyPast is a genealogical website that's useful for people with ancestors from Great Britain and its colonies.

Slide 33* 9. MyHeritage.com

 When you first visit the myheritage.com/research page, you'll see the simplified search form at the top of the page.

• You can start by entering your data, or you can scroll down and select a specific type of record, or view the most recent collections, to start your search within a specific collection.

Slide 34* 9. MyHeritage.com

- Commercial site but available at Family Search Center.
- MyHeritage Search Engine includes more than 28.5 billion genealogy records such as birth, marriage, death, burial, census, military, immigration, yearbooks, and other types of records, plus scans of the original documents.

Slide 35* Records on MyHeritage.com

- Vital records: Birth, marriage, and death certificates
- Historical documents: Census records, immigration and naturalization records, military records, and more
- Family trees: Public family trees, photos,
- Passenger lists: US immigration records
- Citizenship records: US citizenship records
- Historical books: Index of authors and people mentioned, 1811-2003
- Property owners: US property owners index and maps

Slide 36* Tools on MyHeritage.com

- Colorization: Colorize black and white photos
- DNA matches: Compare DNA segments shared by two people, and estimate familial relationships
- Chromosome browser: Map chromosomes graphically
- Ethnicities map: View the top ethnicities in a given country
- Smart matches: Compare information about a person between two trees
- Record matches: Compare a person from one tree to a match in another tree

 MyHeritage also offers a search engine that allows users to search billions of global historical records.

Slide 37*-Slide 40* MyHeritage.com High School Yearbooks

MyHeritage.com High School Yearbooks MyHeritage.com Mrs. Annette Simmons MyHeritage.com Nathan C Simmons

Slide 41* 10. AmericanAncestors.org

- Commercial site but available at Family Search Center.
- AmericanAncestors.org is a website that offers access to records for family history research, including vital, probate, cemetery, and church records. It also includes periodicals such as The American Genealogist and The Virginia Genealogist.

Slide 42* What records are available?

- Vital records, Probate records, Cemetery records, Church records, New England Historical & Genealogical Register, The American Genealogist, The Virginia Genealogist
- Who is behind AmericanAncestors.org?
- AmericanAncestors.org is the global brand of the New England Historic Genealogical Society (NEHGS), which was founded in 1845. NEHGS is the oldest and largest genealogical society in the United States.

Slide 43* Conclusions: In my opinion

- The best site to use is books.google.com
- The second best is FamilySearch.org
- The other sites can be a bit more challenging to use but each is a great resource for research.
- I like MyHeritage for their School Yearbooks.

Slide 44* Are There Any Questions?