

1. Google Update 2026
Bob Heck, MPAFUG, 8 April 2026

2. Google has gone through a lot of change since AI.

Artificial Intelligence = AI Many of the search tools are now automatically used by AI in Google searches.

3. Enter Google using Google.com. Click on the small **9 dot box** in upper right corner.

4. This symbol opens the tools (apps).

5. These are the popular apps...Click on "More" to see 119 apps.

6. We are going to concentrate on those that you might want to use.

Google Maps	Google Videos
Gemini AI	Google Newspapers
Google Books	Google Search
Google Images/Photos	Google Translate

7. Google maps includes several views of an area.

Map View: Looks like a standard map.

Satellite View: Bird's Eye view of the area.

Street View: Drive down the street & zoom in on items.

8. Enter Village name and house number if you have it.

9. This is map view. Click on icon at lower left for satellite view. The red pin = house 31.

10. Click on gold icon at lower right and move it to a street. The street will turn blue.

11. Blue streets are viewable. Gold icon shown on the street.

12. Just to whet your appetite:

"Drive" down the streets of your ancestral village in Europe or the USA.

Zoom in to see the home where your ancestors lived.

Walk around the block to see where your ancestors were married.

13. Driving through Rudimov, Czech Republic

14. To "Drive" down the street just click on the arrow in the street.

15. To look to the side just click and drag from the side. Use scroll wheel to zoom in.

16. Zoom in to see the home where my ancestors lived since 1780.

17. Walk around the block to see where your ancestors were married.

18. Gemini AI

You can ask Gemini AI almost anything.

Ask Gemini AI to translate script writing.

Ask Gemini AI to identify location on a post card.

Ask Gemini AI when and where your ancestors were married.

We use Gemini AI every day to help us with research at the **Family Search Center.**

19. I asked Gemini AI to determine the age of this photo taken in the Czech Republic.

20. This is the response from Gemini:

Based on the automotive design and the specific location, this photo was most likely taken in the **early to mid-1930s (circa 1932–1935).**

The photo depicts the **Church of the Immaculate Conception in Uherský Brod, Czech Republic.**

Car Identification

Tatra 57 (The "Hadimrška"): The car on the right (the closed coupe/tudor) is almost certainly a **Tatra 57**, which began production in **1931.**

Praga Piccolo or Alfa: The open-top roadster in the center is a **Praga Piccolo** or a **Praga Alfa** from the late 1920s

21. I asked Gemini to determine the year of this document and translate to printed English.

22. This is what Gemini returned.

This is a historical document, specifically a petition from the residents of Southport (now Kenosha), Wisconsin Territory, to the U.S. Congress **in about 1848-1849.**

We the undersigned Petitioners of the **Town of Southport in the Territory of Wisconsin** Your Petitioners would humbly ask that **an Appropriation of ten thousand Dollars** be granted for the construction of a Road from **Southport to Beloit**

Three of my ancestors signed it: **Peter McNulty, Alonzo Burgess, and Alfred Foster.**

23. I asked Gemini, "Which apps on Google are the most used by genealogists?"

24. Here are the most used Google apps and tools by genealogists:

1. Google Earth Pro (Desktop & App)

This is widely considered the "holy grail" for geographic genealogy.

Historical Overlays: Genealogists upload digital copies of old plat maps or fire insurance maps (like Sanborn maps) and overlay them on modern satellite imagery to see exactly where an ancestor's house stood.

Street View: Researchers "walk" the streets of ancestral villages in Europe or remote rural towns without leaving their homes.

25. 2. Google Sheets

Unlike a rigid family tree, Sheets is used for **Research Logs. Tracking**

Progress: Genealogists use it to list every record they've searched (and what they *didn't* find) to avoid repeating work.

DNA Triangulation: It is the primary tool for mapping DNA matches and segments to identify common ancestors.

County Histories: Many "mug books" from the late 19th century contain detailed biographies of local residents.

Out-of-Print Texts: You can find genealogies written in the early 1900s that are now in the public domain and available for full-text search.

27. 4. Google Translate These are essential for those with international roots.

Instant Translation: Point your phone camera at a headstone in a foreign cemetery or an old letter in German Fraktur script, and Google Translate will provide a live translation.

Handwriting OCR: Google Drive can often "read" and index the text in uploaded images or PDFs of historical documents, making them searchable.

28. 5. Google Alerts

This is a "set it and forget it" tool for "brick walls" (unsolved mysteries).

Automatic Monitoring: Genealogists set alerts for specific rare surnames or unique combinations like "**John Doe**" + "**Pickens County**". If a new website, blog, or digitized record mentioning that person as indexed by Google, you get an email.

29. 6. Google Photos & PhotoScan

PhotoScan: This standalone app by Google is designed to scan physical photos using your phone while removing glare—perfect for when you're visiting a relative and want to digitize their old albums quickly.

Face Grouping: The AI in Google Photos can often recognize the same ancestor across different photos spanning decades, helping to organize a chaotic digital archive.

30. Where was this letter sent from by my great grandmother?

31. My great-grandmother & my mother 1912 from Uhersky Brod, Czechoslovakia.

32. Google Books

There are **130,000,000** books in Google Books. Search for a **Surname**.

Add the **Surname** and **Family** for a better search. Add the **Surname** and **Genealogy**

33. Enter Simmons Family or Simmons Genealogy in a Book Search

34. 30,000 results in **0.4** seconds from Search for **Simmons Genealogy**

35. Google Books search for Alonzo Burgess: 1879, 1892, and 1916

36. Alonzo Burgess 1879 Biography
ALONZO BURGESS farmer born in **Bennington Co Vt Aug 27, 1820** moved when **3 years old 1823 to Oswego Co** with his parents. His grandfather was a soldier in the Revolutionary war. **Alonzo at the age of 15 in 1835** moved to **Southport now Kenosha, arriving on March 5, 1835.** Alonzo Burgess' father, **Benjamin Burgess**, bought 160 acres in Pike's Woods went into the lumber business and ran a saw mill. **He died about 1837 at the age of 39.**

37. Google Images / Photos

This is the **Gold Mine** in Google.

Conduct a search for your family names.

Conduct a search for the ancestral village.

If you have a photo that you can't identify, try a reverse image search.

38. Google Image search for Henningfeld

39. My Henningfeld Relatives

40. Click on a photo to see details then click on VISIT to see the site.

41. Found a complete biography

42. Google Image: reverse search

Google Image will try to match an image that you upload.

43. Click on the camera to upload photo.

44. Google Image matched my photo to Prague, CZ completed in 1472.

45. Search for Powder Tower Prague

46. Google Videos

Use this address to launch Google Videos:

<https://www.google.com/videohp?hl=EN>

47. Enter a search subject: I got 127 videos for Rudimov, CZ

48. On one of the videos I found my grandmother's sister, Vincensia.

49. An unbelievable video search.

I tried a video search for a school that I attended many years ago. Roosevelt School, in Racine, WI

50. That's me at right in an Army Air Force uniform in 1946.

51. History of the video.

The **School Principal** was the photographer who recorded General Douglas McArthur landing on the beach at the Philippines in WWII in 1944. **"People of the Philippines, I have returned".**

In **May 1946** he made a 16mm movie in color of the children from **Kindergarten** through 8th grade.

52. Google Newspapers

Use the following web address to access the newspaper lists.

<https://news.google.com/newspapers>

NOTE: Many Newspapers have removed their publications from this site and now charge for issues or articles.

53. Starting page for Google Newspapers

54. Select M for Milwaukee Newspapers 1884-2007. Unfortunately, the owners of the Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel withdrew permission to post. They now charge for access.

55. Select a Decade

56. Articles like this in the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel are no longer available on Google News.

57. Google Search System for the Internet. **Google Search (google.com)** is the world's most-visited search engine. Users can search by typing queries in any browser, using voice commands, or performing reverse image searches. It now uses AI for better searches.

Google vs. Chrome: Google is the search engine (website), while Google Chrome is the web browser used to access it.

58. How to Use Google Search

Access: Navigate to **google.com** in any web browser.

Search Types:

Text: Type keywords into the search box.

Voice: Click the microphone icon to speak your query.

Images: Click the camera icon for a reverse image search or visit images.google.com.

59. Just enter your question in Google

What Wisconsin unit did Henry Heck serve in during the Civil War?

60. Google's response to my query:

Henry Heck served with the **19th Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry Regiment in Company F** during the Civil War. He was wounded at the battle of Drewry's Bluff and was later associated with the **Grand Army of the Republic** in Burlington, Wisconsin.

Post-War: Member of the **GAR**.

61. Google Translate

Use Google to translate any language text to English or to any other language.

Use Google to translate a **web site** from any language to English.

Remember that in most foreign language web sites you can right click and select **"Translate to English"**. That is the simple way.

62. A postcard in Czech to my Grandmother

63. English Translation from Czech:

To Mr. Johan Mikel 1604 Wisconsin St.
Racine, Wis[consin], North America

Dear little sister,

Accept from me heart-felt wishes for your name day (feast day), and I wish you all the good things that you wish for from the Lord God. I also greet [my] brother-in-law Bohušek and Mařenka, and I wish you all much health.

With regards, your brother J Pastyrík.

Note at the top (upside down): "The last writing from brother"

64. Google Gemini translation

The Date: Just behind the "With Regards" line, there is a date stamp or handwritten numerical mark. It appears to read **"12.8.17"** (August 12, 1917).

Historical Context: If Josef was killed in Italy during WWI, this date fits perfectly into the timeline of the **Battles of the Isonzo**, which were some of the most brutal engagements on the Italian front in 1917. The note on the other side of the card stating this was his "last writing" adds a poignant layer of confirmation to your family history.

65. Conclusion

Experiment a little or a lot using Google. You will discover things that you never knew existed.

I hope that you learned something new today and are eager to try those new tools. Happy Hunting!

66. Are there any questions?