

Welcome to this issue, from **RootsBasic™** www.rootsbasic.com



If you have a specific question about how and where to find sources for your family tree, or wonder about genealogy classes online (run by certified genealogists), drop me an email and I'll include my answers in the next issue of TreeTips. - Celia

Note: All web links in the newsletter go to free sites

TreeTip #1: Remember - Start with a List of Surnames!

A master list of family names and surnames will be necessary once you get started in your genealogy research. For instance, you may have your grandparents' names, but nothing of their parents. Write down your four different grandparents' names with identifying dates/places for birth, marriage, death, so that you can decide what to do next in searching.

- Email me at Celia@RootsBasic.com for a 5 Generation Form that you can write on, with numbering in the approved genealogical manner, as well as for other helpful forms for your research. Forms and lists will be your friends!!

TreeTip #2: Scandinavian Ancestors -?

Norway, Denmark, Sweden, Finland, Iceland – are generally grouped and referred to as the Scandinavian countries. Very specific areas in each country accounted for the bulk of emigrants to North America. Many early emigrants went to England and sailed out of English ports (e.g., Liverpool) from 1830s to 1900s, until approximately 1905-1915. For those of you who have ancestors who came originally from one of the Scandinavian countries, check out a website with a short history of emigration patterns, in relation to your ancestors. You will also find an emigration map which might also help you determine which specific counties your ancestor came from. Additional maps showing routes of emigrants may also be helpful in your searches. These are only a few possible sources.

- <http://www.migrationinstitute.fi/nordic/Text/Emistory.htm>
<http://www.migrationinstitute.fi/nordic/Images/Emimap1900.jpg>
<http://www.migrationinstitute.fi/nordic/Images/emiroute.gif>
- Of course, FamilySearch.org also contains helpful records which have been transcribed for online searching. For example, click on Vital Records Index, select "Sweden" in the space for "Country" and a search record will be the next page, specifically for Mexico and Scandinavia only. www.familysearch.org
- Finally, do look at "Cyndi's List" for a comprehensive listing of genealogical websites to help you in your search for Scandinavian ancestors, history, and more. Click on the specific country desired.
<http://www.cyndislist.com/scan.htm>

TreeTip #3: Websites Change Frequently!

For instance – just as I'm writing this newsletter FindMyPast has been recently bought by "brightsolid online publishing limited" company. The latter company is consolidating ownership of genealogy databases in the United Kingdom, and also owns ScotlandsPeople, for example. Remember to Google a search item from an old magazine or book, as you may come to a slightly different website. When in doubt, go to Cyndi's List for the most up-to-date listing web address (known as a URL).

TreeTip #4: Resources Folders – so helpful!

- I keep folders handy with various resource information details for my searches. One particularly helpful folder is labelled "**Abbreviations**": abbreviations for States (USA), or Provinces (Canada), or Counties/Shires (UK). These are amazingly helpful, and I have attached maps of the country at specific times during their formation/history. For example, I have a British line of ancestors from the Dudley/Netherton area in the "Black Midlands" i.e., Worcestershire and Staffordshire and a bit of Warwickshire and Shropshire. As the borders of the counties (shires) were modified over the 17th and 18th centuries, I can quickly look at the map and county borders to see where my ancestors may have lived, worked, been born or buried. Here are a few sites which will give you this information free, and you can print it out easily. But note that there are many more sites on the web that may be even better – take 10 minutes and Google your way to more.
- <http://www.stateabbreviations.us/>
- http://familyhistory101.com/map_county.html click on a state, then click on a specific year to see how the map changes over time.
- <http://canadaonline.about.com/library/bl/blpabb.htm> abbreviations of Canadian provinces and territories
- <http://www.britain101.com/british-regions.htm> England & Wales counties and their ridings.
- <http://homepages.nildram.co.uk/~jimella/countmap.htm> Here's a great map with the UK counties shown clearly.
- <http://www.wikipedia.org> Don't forget to check with Wikipedia for information as well. The information gets better and better every month!
- Finally, GENUKI is the main site for Genealogy searching in the UK, and has much helpful resource information for beginners: www.genuki.org.uk/

Happy searching!

- Celia

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