

## THE BEST OF THE REST: GOLD MINES FOR EXPERIENCED GENEALOGISTS

*Kay Rudolph*  
*<http://www.pastinsight.com>*

- 1) The Best:
  - a) **FamilySearch digital collections**
  - b) **Ancestry.com**
    - (1) digital collections
    - (2) trolling the trees for records that other researchers have found
  - c) **Fold3 (especially strong in military and naturalization records, and city directories)**
- 2) The Rest (or at least, the tip of the iceberg)
  - a) FamilySearch wiki
  - b) *TheAncestorHunt.com* – one-stop index to genealogy databases web-wide
  - c) Atlas of Historical County Boundaries at  
***<https://publications.newberry.org/ahcbp/>***
  - d) *Cyndislist.com*
  - e) Facebook
    - i) *search for genealogy groups in locations of interest: e.g., “Connecticut genealogy”*
- 3) **My personal Gold Mines**
  - a) National Archives: tremendous resource for records and research guidance
    - (1) *[www.archives.gov/research/genealogy](http://www.archives.gov/research/genealogy)*
  - b) **State and county archives**
    - i) *to find online archives:*
      - (1) FamilySearch wiki
      - (2) Google
        - (a) *“pennsylvania state archives”*
        - (b) *“cuyahoga county ohio archives”*
  - c) **USGenWeb**
    - i) *state and county genwebsites*
      - (1) USGenWeb Project: *[usgenweb.org](http://usgenweb.org)*
      - (2) USGenWeb Archives: *[usgwarchives.net](http://usgwarchives.net)*
  - d) Land Records
    - i) *Original federal land grants*
      - (1) **US Government Land Office, Bureau of Land Management**
        - (a) *Locate website by Googling “glo blm”*
      - (2) Original federal land grants in

(a) *Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Florida, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Dakota, Utah, Washington, Wisconsin, and Wyoming*

(3) Does NOT include State or Foreign Land Grants

(a) *The original 13 colonies and their “children”*

1. *Maine, Vermont, West Virginia, Kentucky and Tennessee*

(b) *The Republics*

1. *Hawaii and Texas*

(c) *Grants from Spain or France*

ii) *EarthPoint.us*

(1) map Township-Range descriptions (“Where is that particular SE¼ NW¼?”)

(a) view as latitude longitude

(b) save kml file to view on Google Earth

**e) Local Court websites**

i) how to find:

(1) Google “County State “ and one of the following:

(a) Clerk of Court

(b) Register of Deeds

(c) Tax Assessor or Appraiser

(d) online records deeds

(2) example:

(a) *escambia county florida clerk of court*

**f) Online books**

i) *Internet Archive (archive.org)*

(1) Wayback Machine: to view defunct web links

(2) Internet Archive digital book collection

ii) *Google Books*

(1) select Advanced Book Search

(a) *Search “Full view only” and “Google eBooks only”*

iii) *HeritageQuest*

(1) access through public library website

(2) requires library card to log on

iv) *FamilySearch Books*

(1) access through Search Tab on familysearch.org

v) *GenealogyBookLinks.com*

(1) Now only available through the Wayback Machine (see above)

**g) SteveMorse.org**

h) *DAR.org*

i) *click “Online Research” in side-bar menu*

4) Visit the local genealogy library!

a) West Florida Genealogy Library at 5740 N 9th Ave, Pensacola

b) Santa Rosa County Genealogy Library at 6275 Dogwood Drive, Milton