Google for Genealogy

Tina Beaird   tbeaird@plainfieldpubliclibrary.org

- Google Search Strategies

- Books

- Maps

- Newspapers

- Google Photos

- Google Images

Google Search Strategies

- Google is a frequently used tool for searching for ancestors, but has several limitations

    - Your results are only as good as the information provided

    - Google does not cluster information into useful chunks

    - Google limits your search results to North America

- Boolean operators can help you succeed

    - AND, OR, NOT

    - Google does not use the Boolean NOT as a limiter, you must use – for results.

    - Quotation Marks " " can narrow your results to a specific person or phrase.
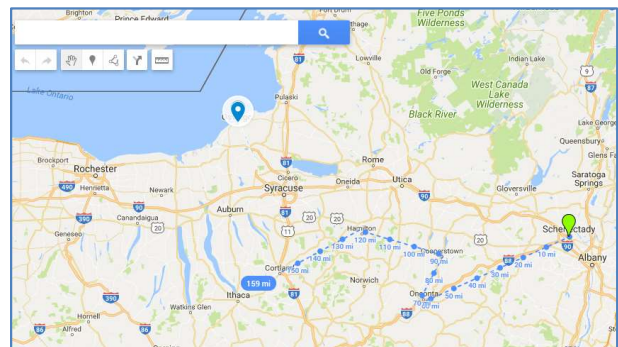
Googling Your Family Tree:

- Google does not sort results or search for alternate terms (e.g. headstone, grave marker, monument).

- Alternative search sites: www.yippy.com or www.bing.com

    - Clusters information into "clouds"

    - Includes a list of sources/sites to help save time

    - Offers access to maps, images and blogs just like Google

Google Books: https://books.google.com/bkshp?hl=en&tab=ip

    - Google has partnered with universities and archives to digitize and provide access to millions of hard to find/out of print titles

    - Book text fully searchable

    - Log in with a user name and password to save items to your bookshelf for future reference

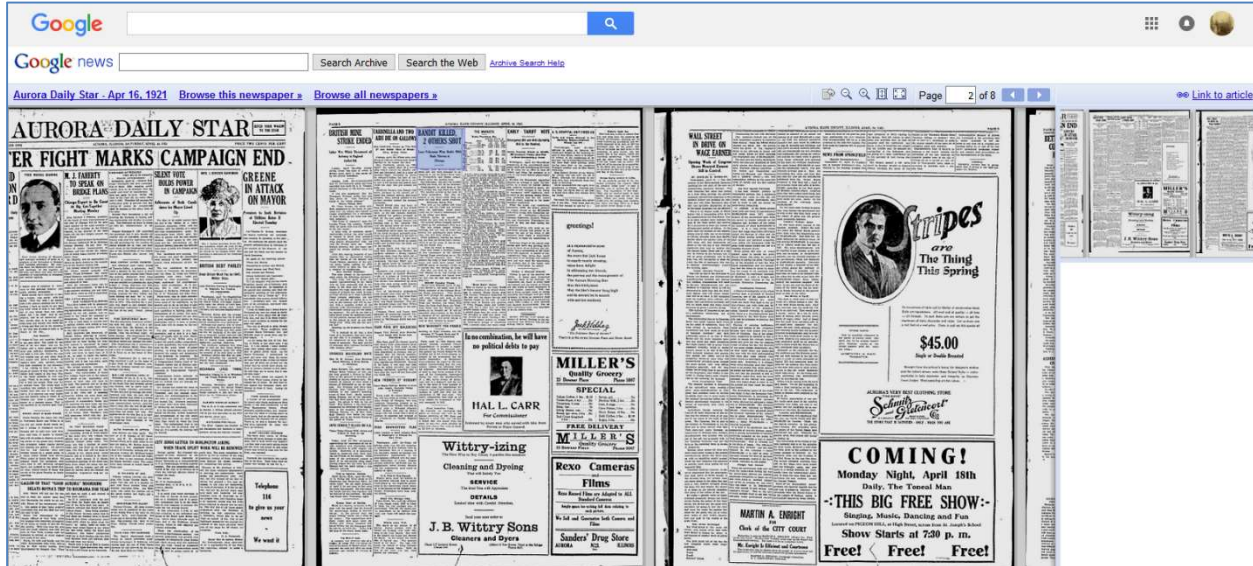**Google Maps: www.google.com/maps?hl=en&tab=il**

    - You can build your own interactive maps, plot your family history, and share it with others! www.google.com/maps/about/mymaps

    - MapsGL interactive 3D imagery for buildings & landmarks

    - Measure distances between points

    - Google Street-View gives you an opportunity to 'visit' family sites around the globe!

    - View street view maps back to 2008.

Google News: http://news.google.com/newspapers

- Global news in multiple languages

- Alphabetical by newspaper title

- Browsable only, no search capability

- Unprintable- need to do screen captures to save images

Google Photos: www.google.com/photos/about

- Upload crop and edit an unlimited number of photos* (exceptions apply to images over 16 megapixels- those count against your drive storage).

- Create albums and provide information (metadata) on each image (e.g. date, location, description).

- Tag the faces of friends and family

- Utilize face recognition software to hasten your uploads and identify unnamed family

- Google Photos categorizes your images by people, places and things

Google Images: www.google.com/imghp?hl=en&tab=wi&ogbl

- Click on upload an image, find your photo within your device then click on search by image.
- Google will search the web for a match and provide the link to any images it finds.

Google Print Resources:

- Bradley, Phil. Expert Internet Searching. Facet Publishing. London, 2017.

- Johnson, Luke. Google Apps. Flame Tree Publishing. London. 2017.

- Kilday, Bill. Never Lost Again. Harper Collins. New York. 2018.

- Redding, Anna Crowley. GOOGLE IT: A History of Google. Fiewel and Friends. New York. 2018.

- Smith, Helen. Google: The Genealogist's Friend. Global Heritage Press. 2016.