

Maps, Maps, and *More* Maps for the Genealogist

By Howard Maynard Faulkner

Genealogists and family historians alike use cartographic images to learn more about the places where their ancestors were born, lived, worked, traveled and died. Maps represent a geographical area illustrating political, cultural, or other divisions. Maps often show buildings, churches, businesses, roads, cemeteries, farms, orchards, land contours, lakes, ponds, oceans, rivers, etc. Some early maps show ownership of residences, farms, businesses. Of nearly 100 websites for maps I have in my database these six have proven especially valuable. They include both free and for fee sites. Many allow downloadable and printable images. However, don't forget local and state libraries, universities, and historical societies in the community you are researching. These entities may have early maps not available elsewhere.

Historic Map Works Free to search. Fee to purchase these beautiful maps.

<http://www.historicmapworks.com/index.php>

The first GIS-linked, address-searchable maps of 19th and early 20th century America. Browse 55,276 maps and illustrations from a collection of more than 100,000. As a plus see the contemporaneous directories searchable by family names, occupations, or addresses from the past 250 years. Fee to purchase maps

Google Earth Basic program is free and safe to download. www.googleearth.com

A unique interactive global map service featuring recent satellite images with close-up capabilities. Simply type in any worldwide address, click enter, sit back and let Google take you for the ride of your life as you zoom in on the site you wish. Many features to numerous to describe here.

Historic New England & New York Map Images (From the Univ. of NH Library)

<http://docs.unh.edu/nhtopos/>

Historic USGS Quadrangle and other Historic maps from the mid to late 1800's through the early 1900's. View and print from comprehensive index.

Oddens' Bookmarks (of world maps) <http://oddens.geog.uu.nl/index.php>

From the University of Utrecht, the Netherlands comes this most comprehensive and detailed collection of maps from around the world with over 25,000 listings covering a span of several hundred years. This is not the easiest website to use but a little patience and practice will yield results not available elsewhere.

Global Gazetteer Version 2.1 www.fallingrain.com/world/

If it's in this world you will find the town, city, or country you require at this site, in satellite, map or hybrid format which you may enlarge, reduce, and print.

Library of Congress Geography and Map Reading Room

<http://www.loc.gov/rr/geogmap/gmpage.html>

The LOC is an excellent resource of maps of the US (both early and more current) as well as maps from around the world. This is a free site and you may download and print images or in many cases order quality reproductions directly from LOC.