

# Multitasking 101: Family History While You Sleep

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The following are only a few suggestions involving websites that are completely free to use.

## I Free Web Pages at USGenWeb and Linkpendium

### A. USGenWeb [www.usgenweb.org](http://www.usgenweb.org)

- **LookUps**
- **Surnames**
- **Queries**
- **Links to Rootsweb Mailing Lists** - For the county or local area. [See RootsWeb Mailing Lists below for further details.]
- **Historical and Genealogical Societies and Museums**- You may find links for local groups that have records or indexes that you can request to be searched, for little or no money.

See also **WorldGenWeb Project** [www.worldgenweb.org](http://www.worldgenweb.org)

### B. LinkPendum at [www.Linkpendium.org](http://www.Linkpendium.org) Some features are similar to USGenWeb.

#### 1. Locality Search - Select State and drill down

- **Libraries, Museums, Archives** - List of places to contact, most by email
- **Lookups** - Note the *Books We Own* link– Use that query and fill out the form.
- **Mailing Lists and Message Boards** -
- **Societies** - Local historical and genealogical societies, local chapters of DAR, or other lineage society, etc. Email them!

#### 2. Surname Search - Go for a name and watch for:

- Libraries, Museums, Archives - Book hits in WorldCat, etc. Do ILL
- Mailing Lists and Message Boards

## II RootsWeb Home Page [www.Rootsweb.com](http://www.Rootsweb.com)

### A. Rootsweb Mailing Lists - This happens via email. Messages are archived and can be searched.

- They are arranged by surname, locality, ethnicity, or topic.
- You can join these lists and put your queries where those with answers may find them.

### B. Message Boards - Message Boards happen on a website.

- The message boards are also arranged by surname, locality or topic.
- Message Boards has an option called Message Board Alerts for which you can register. This features allows users to be notified, via email, when posts are made to message boards of interest.
- Messages are posted and answered in full view and are connected in “threads.”

### C. WorldConnect Project - Free Family Trees - Great options

- Here you may locate and download family tree information.
- Great place to post your own family tree and let others find you, while you sleep.

### D. Web Sites – Registry of Websites at Rootsweb - Register yours so folks can find you.

### III Other Options for Posting Your Tree - Post all or just part of your tree.

#### A. Ancestry.com

- Post Tree Publically or Privately;
- Message Boards; Communication with Tree Owners, etc.
- Shakey Leaves <https://familysearch.org/blog/en/ancestrys-shaky-leaf-hints/>;

**B. FamilyTree** Upload or create a Tree; Record Hints - links to possible sources; Watch;

#### C. Mocavo

- Upload or create a Tree
- Community - Groups for Surname Queries
- Automated alerts
- Karma

#### D. MyHeritage

- Upload or create a Tree
- Record Matches - records that match an ancestor
- Smart Matches - Your ancestor matches a person in another posted tree.

#### E. FindMyPast

- Upload or create a Tree
- Hints - Tutorial available

#### F. Other sites that will look for hits.

- Check out Family Tree Searcher <http://www.familytreesearcher.com/>
- Remember - Hints, Shakey Leaves, and Alerts can be wrong. They are just possibilities.

**IV Personal Database Programs** - Internet Connectivity - Links to hits on FS, Ancestry, etc.  
AncestralQuest; Family Tree-Maker - Windows; Family Historian; Family Tree Builder; Legacy  
Family Tree; RootsMagic

- See No1Reviews.com <http://genealogy-software.no1reviews.com/>
- Comparison of Genealogy Software  
[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Comparison\\_of\\_genealogy\\_software](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Comparison_of_genealogy_software)
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**V eBay at eBay.com** A new use for an old friend! Here's How:

1. Go to eBay.com and sign in [You will need to create an account if you do not have one.]
2. Enter a search [Book examples "Castillo Family Bible" or " Juab Co. Genealogy" then click search
3. At top of Search Results page click ***Follow this Search***
4. Sign in to your account if you haven't already
5. Receive the confirmation message.
6. Edit as needed from account home page

## VI Google or other search engine -- The Bonus Round

### A. Locate and Update Previous Queries

1. Google your name in whatever format you used for posting
2. Update e-mail address or query

### B. Alerts

#### Google Alerts [www.google.com/alerts](http://www.google.com/alerts)

- Customize - choose what types of hits you want, what media
- Chose: Frequency of Alerts; Email address of choice
- Email Confirmation - To confirm you are the one who requested the Alert.
- Accept and the system begins

Genealogy Gems How to set up Google Alerts for Genealogy

<http://lisalouisecooke.com/2014/07/set-google-alerts-for-genealogy/>

#### Archives.com Member Alerts

WikiTree Surname Following <http://www.wikitree.com/> See benefits of membership.

## VII Suggestions

### A. Local Historical and Genealogical Societies

1. Consider joining (approx. \$15/year) so you can post queries in the quarterly publication
2. Donate materials to the collection – with your contact information attached.
3. Add your surnames and contact info to the any researcher lists available

### B. FamilySearch.org

1. Put your email on FamilyTree.
  2. Go to ancestors of interest and click on *Watch*.
- You will be notified if any one makes changes.
  - You can then communicate with your new found “cousins.”

### C. InterLibrary Loan Free for genealogical materials at At BYU thru BYU ILL <http://lib.byu.edu/>

1. Call, set up your account and receive your User name
2. Request books, newspaper, articles, book chapters or pages.
3. Be electronically notified about your request.

### D. Free Look-ups and Free Websites [That is another whole class – just a few URLs]

#### Free Look-ups

- Genealogy Karma <http://www.mocavo.com/karma> Free From Mocavo
- Genlookups.com <http://www.genlookups.com/>
- Ancestral Findings <http://www.ancestralfindings.com/page10.htm>
- Genealogy Today <http://www.genealogytoday.com/genealogy/lookups/index.html>

**E. Find A Grave** [www.findagrave.com](http://www.findagrave.com) Create memorials - people can contact you, request a photo, search surnames & locations

## **VIII Strategy - How to use these free opportunities to best advantage?**

**A. Focus** on a particular ancestor or family.

**B. Make a list of questions** for which you hope to find answers.

**C. List which locations and time periods may be involved.**

- Note that the time period often dictates the correct civic or ecclesiastical jurisdiction. For example, a town may have been in more than one township or county or state over the course of time.
- Use appropriate historical reference materials to make sure your list is detailed enough.

**D. See what is out there** for your surnames and ancestral locations on these websites.

- Post, Leave messages, request searches as available.
- While these initial postings are working, you can be looking for other opportunities.
- Try asking genealogy friends what has worked for them.

**E. Formulate your query or message** for posting, in advance, on your word processor.

- Then you can cut and paste it where ever opportunity allows.
- If necessary, just tweak it for the particular county or site where the posting will occur.
- Be concise and clear and type the surnames in ALL CAPS.
- If you wonder if your query is clear – try it out on someone who will give you a frank opinion.

**F. Post your queries, messages, and/or requests.** It would be well to keep a list of what postings you have made and where you made them. Just cut and paste the URLs of the locations by the query you have already stored in your word processor.

**G. Social Media** Consider using social media opportunities such as Facebook, Pinterest, etc.

**H. Posting Unidentified Photographs of Ancestors to Obtain Help**

- **Dead Fred Genealogy Photo Archive** <http://www.deadfred.com/> [Also see Links]  
[They put out a Book - e-book or paperback, called The Desperate Genealogist's Idea Book.  
<http://www.desperategenealogist.com/>]
- Family Old Photos <http://www.familyoldphotos.com/3c/1-unknown.htm>
- Ancient Faces <http://www.ancientfaces.com/photos>

**I. Become a Blogger**

- Post what you are working on
- Posts become internet searchable

**J. Helpful Articles**

- The Armchair Genealogist Search While You Sleep <http://www.thearmchairgenealogist.com/>
- Fitting Genealogy Into Your Busy Life: Ten Tips to Maximize Your Research Time  
<http://www.archives.com/experts/alzo-lisa/time-saving-tips.html>

**Now – Get a good night's rest and check your email in the morning!**