

## FINDING OLD MAPS ON THE INTERNET by Ted Bainbridge

Many genealogical situations are easier to understand if you have a suitable map. Here are some ideas and links that will help you find different kinds of maps you may need.

You don't have to type the internet addresses below. Instead you can download a version of this article from the LGS web site, open your copy with a word processor, and click the link you want to use. Your computer will go to that site. The download version contains all the links in this article, plus many for several other countries.

### General Searches

If the specific ideas described in later sections don't fill your needs, try this search method:

1. Load your internet browser (Explorer, Firefox, Chrome, Safari, Opera, or other.)
2. Go to google.com
3. Select "Images" in the menu bar at the top left of the screen
4. Request "map" without the quotes, the location you want, and the type of map you want or the date you want
5. Scan the images in the hit list until you find what you need
6. Right-click the image and save it to your computer
7. Record the URL where you found the map, and describe what is there.

If those steps don't lead you to what you need, try that search in bing.com and yahoo.com and you will get different results. Also, change the descriptors and try again.

You also can do a topic search (instead of an image search) for "map collection" or "historical maps" or "historical atlas" without the quotes, and with the location you want.

The Perry-Castañeda Collection at <http://www.lib.utexas.edu/maps/> has thousands of maps, covering all parts of the world with wide-ranging times and themes.

<http://www.culturalresources.com/Maps.html> links to a huge variety of worldwide maps of all time periods.

### Modern Maps

Modern maps are the easiest to find. Load your internet browser and go to google.com, then select "Maps" in the menu bar at the top left of the screen. In the search box type any place name or geographic feature you want to find. Click the button that contains the magnifying glass. A map appears; adjust the window so it fills your screen. Use the + and - buttons at the top left of the map to zoom in and out until you see the area that interests you. At the top right of the map, click the "Map" or "Satellite" box. Use the pull-down menu to select the type of map you want and the kinds of information you want to see on that map.

For example, if you hunt Lykens, PA and zoom out, you see this highway map:

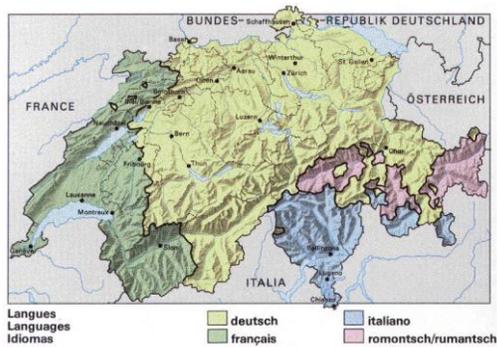


If you wonder why so many roads are almost east-west, ask for terrain and satellite maps.

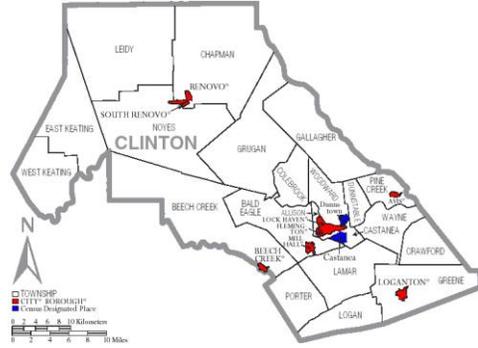


Those maps show how mountains affect travel patterns, development of towns and agriculture, and retention of forests. This knowledge helps you understand where people might have gone and therefore where their records might be.

Some projects require special maps. For example, Swiss research may require maps of dominant languages or religions.



For another example, some states divide their counties into townships. Search for township maps by using the county's name and "townships" without quotes.



[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ancestry\\_of\\_the\\_people\\_of\\_the\\_United\\_States](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ancestry_of_the_people_of_the_United_States) maps the dominant ancestries of United States citizens.

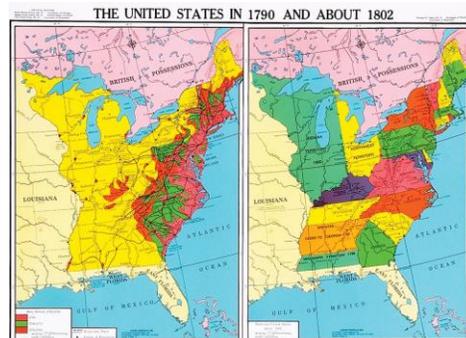
Modern maps are easy to find because search engines look for the topics you specify without regard to age. Historical maps can be harder to find because of the additional requirement of age. The following sections describe methods and links to make these maps easier to find.

### Old or Ecclesiastical Maps - United States

Old maps of the United States are easy to find using the search method described earlier, but finding the kind you want in the year you want with the detail you want may be a time-consuming task.

<http://www.libs.uga.edu/darchive/hargrett/maps/colamer.html> is a collection of North American maps from the colonial era.

Hunting "map united states 1790" without the quotes quickly led to this pair of maps:



Maps of such large areas seldom help genealogical research projects. Almost always, you will get more help from a state or local map.

### Old or Ecclesiastical Maps - States

Do a Google or Bing or Yahoo image search for “map” without the quotes, the state, the year you want, and the kind of map you want. Also, instead of the year, try typing “historic” or “old” without the quotes. Then examine the hit list until you find what you need.

County boundaries changed as populations increased. A family that lived in one home for many years might have been within several counties during that time. Knowing which counties they lived in tells you which records to search. Every time a state changed any of its county boundaries, a new map was created. Complete sets for each state are at <http://homepages.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~george/countyformations/formationmaps.html> Type the name of the state (using all lower-case letters) in place of the ■ symbol. There are no blanks before and after that symbol.

Some counties have similar sets of maps that show how their townships changed. Search for the state, county, “map”, and “townships changed” without the quotes.

### Old or Ecclesiastical Maps - Any Country

Old maps of any country are at [http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Category:Old\\_maps\\_of\\_■](http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Category:Old_maps_of_■) with the name of the country (using mixed-case letters) in place of the ■ symbol. There are no blanks before and after that symbol.

Other old maps of any country are at [http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Atlas\\_of\\_■](http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Atlas_of_■) with the ■ symbol used as above.

<http://www.gracegalleries.com/> is a commercial web site that offers free images of maps they have for sale. Their collections cover many places, times, and subjects. Look near the bottom of their menu for tutorials.

### Old or Ecclesiastical Maps - British Isles

First, find the place you want on a modern map. Go to <http://www.genuki.org.uk/big/Gazetteer/> and type the place you want in the search box. The site will open a modern map with a fuzzy gray shadow pointing to the exact location. Zoom in or out. Pan in any direction. The map you want cannot be downloaded, but you can grab the screen image if you want it. How you do that depends on which computer, operating system, and software you have. After you know the exact location of your research, you can look for an old map.

If you are working in England before the 1841 census, you probably will use church records. Those records were kept in each parish, so you will need a map of parishes. The next map shows all the parishes in County Durham, the location of the parish church, and the date that parish’s records began.



You can find a complete set of these maps in *Parish Maps of the Counties of England and Wales*, published by Everton. Neither the Longmont City Library nor the Longmont Family History Center has this book. City

library might be able to get this for you via Interlibrary Loan; tell a librarian you need help with “an I-L-L item”.

[http://www.streetmap.co.uk/grid/430500\\_581500\\_120](http://www.streetmap.co.uk/grid/430500_581500_120) has zoomable and panable maps. Right-clicking doesn't work well; grab the screen image.

<http://www.visionofbritain.org.uk/maps/> has maps of England, Scotland, Ireland, and Wales from 1805 through 1958. Look at all four tabs' offerings, then click the map series that covers the area and time you want. A map appears. In its lower right corner is a small map that shows where you are in the British Isles. Pan to the location you want, then zoom in or out as you like. Right-click an image to save it on your computer.

Go to <http://www.genuki.org.uk/search/> and put “maps” without quotes in the search box. This searches all GENUKI (Genealogy in the United Kingdom and Ireland) resources and shows many collections of maps.

<http://maps.familysearch.org/> has parish, diocese, poor law union, and other kinds of maps for England only. The print/save function is flawed, so grab the screen image if you want it.

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\\_of\\_Roman\\_Catholic\\_dioceses\\_in\\_England\\_and\\_Wales](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Roman_Catholic_dioceses_in_England_and_Wales) is an ecclesiastical site for England and Wales.

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\\_of\\_Roman\\_Catholic\\_dioceses\\_in\\_Ireland](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Roman_Catholic_dioceses_in_Ireland) is an ecclesiastical site for Ireland.

<http://maps.nls.uk/scotland/thematic.html> is an ecclesiastical site for Scotland. It also has many other kinds of maps.

## Old or Ecclesiastical Maps - Canada

Canadian Geographic magazine's site has maps and much more. Explore at [http://www.canadiangeographic.ca/mapping/historical\\_maps/](http://www.canadiangeographic.ca/mapping/historical_maps/)

<http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~canmaps/> is a map digitization project.

<http://www.vintagemaps.com/Canada-p-1-c-296.html> is another commercial site with free images.

[http://canadaonline.about.com/od/historymaps/History\\_Maps\\_of\\_Canada.htm](http://canadaonline.about.com/od/historymaps/History_Maps_of_Canada.htm) offers links to several collections of old maps.

<http://www.anglican.ca/resources/gsarchives/ncanada/#18>

## Old or Ecclesiastical Maps - France

[http://www.french-at-a-touch.com/French\\_History/maps\\_of\\_france.htm](http://www.french-at-a-touch.com/French_History/maps_of_france.htm) has a large collection of French maps, from prehistoric times to recent years.

[http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Category:Old\\_maps\\_of\\_France](http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Category:Old_maps_of_France) has links to several kinds of old French maps.

<http://www.edmaps.com/html/france.html> has a collection of historical French maps.

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\\_of\\_Ancien\\_Régime\\_dioceses\\_of\\_France](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Ancien_Régime_dioceses_of_France) describes old dioceses.

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Category:Roman\\_Catholic\\_dioceses\\_in\\_France](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Category:Roman_Catholic_dioceses_in_France) describes current dioceses.

<http://www.themapdatabase.com/1789/08/ecclesiastical-map-of-france-1789-1802/>

### **Old or Ecclesiastical Maps - Germany**

<http://www.progenealogists.com/germany/germaps.htm> has several old German maps from 375 through 2005. Right-click to save.

<http://www.edmaps.com/html/germany.html> has maps from 814 through World War II.

When you find an interesting image in <http://www.oldmapsbooks.com/ContinentIndex/Europe/germany.htm> click on the image to see close-ups of sections of that map.

[http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/4/4c/HRR\\_1789\\_EN.png](http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/4/4c/HRR_1789_EN.png) shows the many Germanic states in 1789.

<http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/b/be/WuerttembergPutzger1905.jpg> shows divisions of Wurttemberg in 1905.

<http://thephora.net/forum/showthread.php?t=46131> ecclesiastical organization in 1500.

[http://www.emersonkent.com/map\\_archive/western\\_europe\\_ecclesiastical.htm](http://www.emersonkent.com/map_archive/western_europe_ecclesiastical.htm) maps ecclesiastical organization in the Middle Ages.

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/German\\_Mediation](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/German_Mediation) describes bishoprics and principalities.

### **Old or Ecclesiastical Maps - Holland**

<http://www.heardutchhere.net/NLMaps.html> has several maps and links to other kinds of information.

<http://www.let.rug.nl/~maps/fokkevdmolen/index1.htm> claims to have “an enormous number” of historic maps.

<http://www.edmaps.com/html/netherlands.html> has maps from 300 to 1919.

[http://www.emersonkent.com/map\\_archive/netherlands\\_1568.htm](http://www.emersonkent.com/map_archive/netherlands_1568.htm) shows the area in 1568.

<http://www.zum.de/whkmla/histatlas/lowcountries/haxnederland.html> has maps from the Middle Ages to current years.

<http://watwaswaar.nl/> is an interactive detailed map displaying several subjects.

### **Old or Ecclesiastical Maps - Italy**

<http://vlib.iue.it/hist-italy/maps.html> has a number of old Italian maps.

<http://www.charmingitaly.com/old-map-of-ancient-italy/> has just a few maps.

<http://mapsof.net/map/italy-1796-historical-maps> shows one large map. At the bottom of the page you can select others to enlarge. Physical, political, population, and other maps.

<http://www.mapandmaps.com/en/italy-antique-maps-prints/2153-kingdoms-italy-original-antique-map-karl-spruner-1846.html> is a national map of 1846.

### **Old or Ecclesiastical Maps - Mexico**

<http://gomexico.about.com/od/planningandinformation/ig/Maps-of-Mexico/Historical-Map-of-Mexico.htm> also includes a tutorial about Mexican geography.

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Territorial\\_evolution\\_of\\_Mexico](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Territorial_evolution_of_Mexico) explains how Mexican territory evolved, with illustrative maps.

<http://www.worldgenweb.org/~mexchh/resources/maps.html> has maps plus links to other kinds of genealogical resources in Mexico.

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Mexico\\_states\\_evolution.gif](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Mexico_states_evolution.gif) Select “Evolution of

Mexican States” to see a video of states’ creation and boundary changes over time. Grab each image separately.

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\\_of\\_Roman\\_Catholic\\_dioceses\\_in\\_Mexico](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Roman_Catholic_dioceses_in_Mexico) describes dioceses but doesn’t have maps.

### **Old or Ecclesiastical Maps - Norway**

[https://familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/images/8/8c/Norway\\_County\\_Map.jpg](https://familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/images/8/8c/Norway_County_Map.jpg) shows new and old counties.

<http://www.borgos.nndata.no/norge.htm> describes counties and links to a map of each county with its subdivisions.

<http://www.borgos.nndata.no/norge.htm> has a composite map of all counties, showing farms’ locations. Compiled from maps dated 1826-1916.

<http://norwegianridge.com/2012/06/19/visit-your-norwegian-ancestors-farms-without-leaving-home/> provided drive-by views of Norwegian farms.

<http://digitalarkivet.no/geistleg/eng/oversikt.htm> Click on any part of the map to enlarge.

### **Old or Ecclesiastical Maps - Poland**

<http://info-poland.buffalo.edu/classroom/maps/task4.html> has national maps from the 1400s.

<http://www.progenealogists.com/poland/> is an information site with links to maps.

<http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~atpc/research/map-library.html> has maps from 1004 to recent years.

[http://germanhistorydocs.ghi-dc.org/map.cfm?map\\_id=3752](http://germanhistorydocs.ghi-dc.org/map.cfm?map_id=3752) around 1500.

### **Old or Ecclesiastical Maps - Sweden**

<http://www.progenealogists.com/sweden/places.htm> describes political and ecclesiastical organization of the country, and links to a map site.

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Counties\\_of\\_Sweden](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Counties_of_Sweden) has maps of counties and descriptions of old counties that no longer exist.

<http://www.slu.se/en/library/search/digitalmaps/historical-maps/> the National Land Survey’s collection of historical maps.