

## Using Google Earth to Pinpoint Your Ancestor's Locations on Current Maps

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Finding Historical Maps Online: 1) Google (Genealogist's best friend), 2) Some are free for download, 3) Some are free to View, purchase download or purchase reprint, 4) Did I mention Google? Example "Historic Map Louisville Kentucky"

Historical Maps: 1) Only a portion are available online, 2) More coming online daily, 3) Libraries, Archives, Court Houses, 4) Private Collections (some which are online)

Online Map Collections: 1) Old Maps Online ([www.oldmapsonline.org](http://www.oldmapsonline.org)), 2) Historic Map Works ([www.historicmapworks.com](http://www.historicmapworks.com)), 3) David Rumsey ([www.davidrumsey.com](http://www.davidrumsey.com)), 4) Library of Congress ([www.loc.gov/maps/collections/](http://www.loc.gov/maps/collections/)), 5) UK (<http://libguides.uky.edu/c.php?g=222914&p=1476174>), 6) KY Transportation Cabinet (<http://transportation.ky.gov/Planning/Pages/Historical-Maps.aspx>), 7) University of Alabama ([http://alabamamaps.ua.edu/historicalmaps/us\\_states/kentucky/](http://alabamamaps.ua.edu/historicalmaps/us_states/kentucky/)), 8) UofL (<http://digital.library.louisville.edu/cdm/landingpage/collection/maps/>), \*Lynne Hollingsworth presented "Never Lost, But Bewildered for Three Days": How Maps Could Have Helped Daniel Boone and Do Assist Researchers at LPFL Genealogy Day 2016

Unlike Vital and Court Records, Extent of Maps is unknown: <http://articles.latimes.com/2012/oct/19/local/la-me-map-house->

Historical Map-Sample: Extracted from Atlas of Orange Co., NY A.H. Mueller & Co., Downloaded from [Historicmapworks.com](http://Historicmapworks.com); Clark County, IN-Downloaded from [Historicmapworks.com](http://Historicmapworks.com)

Mapping Software/ Apps: There are lots of mapping software, apps and online mapping websites Google Earth is one of these (Free!!!!) , 2) Do not confuse Google Maps and Google Earth:  
a) Google Maps-Web Browser/ App based, b) Google Earth-Run Alone App based, c)Both reliant on internet access

Google Maps ([maps.Google.com](http://maps.Google.com)): 1) Limited to Directions, 2) Also has satellite/ aerial photography, 3) Aerial and Street View, 4) Finding locations by name or address

Link to install: <https://www.google.com/earth/>

Google Earth Showcase: <https://www.google.com/earth/explore/products/>

Google Earth-Navigation: 1) Use arrows to Look around (keeps your feet planted)  
Use outer ring to make quicker movements, 2) Use the joystick below to move about in space, 3) Use + to zoom in, - zoom out or grab bar in middle to make quicker zooms

Google Earth-Navigation: Once you zoom in far enough “Pegman” will appear. You can drag him to a location on the map. A Yellow line on the map means pictures have been taken at street level. A white line means pictures have not been taken

Google Earth-Navigation: 1) View in Google Maps, 2) Save Image to computer, 3) Print image, 4) Email image, 5) Show Ruler (to make measurements), 6) Switch between Earth, Sky and Other Planets, 7) Show Sunlight across Landscape, 8) Google Earth-Navigation, 9) Show Historical Imagery, 10) Record Tour, 11) Add Image Overlay, 12) Add a Path, 13) Add a Polygon, 14) Add a Placemark, 15) Show left pane (search, layers places)

Google Earth: Search bar (on left hand side) 1) address, points of interest 2) My Places-Places you have added are saved here.

Google Earth-Layers: If you uncheck a block further to the left, it unchecks all of the options inset from it.

Google Earth-Layers (Continued): Uncheck items not of interest to de-clutter the map  
Notice Rumsey Historical Maps under “Gallery”

Google Earth-Layers (Continued): 1) Historical Maps Already Geo-located, 2) David Rumsey Map Collection, 3) Historic Map Works, 4) Scotland Historical Map Overlays, 5) New York Public Library Map Warper, 6) Greater Philadelphia GeoHistory Network, 7) British Library - Georeferenced Maps, 8) North Carolina Historic Map Overlays, 9) Historical Maps of Paris, 10) Atlas of Historic New Mexico Maps, 11) RetroMap - Historical Maps of Russia, [http://genealogy.about.com/od/mapping\\_tools/tp/historical-map-overlays.htm](http://genealogy.about.com/od/mapping_tools/tp/historical-map-overlays.htm)  
Geo-locate: means already placed in the correct spot

What do Geo-located Historical Maps Provide: 1) The ability to view digital images of maps overlaid onto a current GPS designed (means accurate to feet) map, 2) This map can have satellite imagery, aerial imagery (pictures taken from drone/ air planes) or even pictures taken by the public, 3) Any thing else you can dream of can be attached or overlaid on this location (histories, videos, pictures, virtual tours...)

David Rumsey: Other methods to view Maps-On Home Page

How to Launch Pre-Overlaid Maps: <http://www.davidrumsey.com/view/google-maps>

Another Alternative to Viewing Geo-Located Maps The .kml file

If You find a .kml file you wish to add: 1) .kml files are link files to maps that have been geo-located. 2) If you come across a map/ collection you wish to refer to at a future point, save the .kml file to your computer. 3) These files are like internet bookmarks, but for maps. 4) To add a .kml file to Google Earth, double click it, 5) It will show up in your “Places” link in Earth

Add .kml File to Google Earth: 1) Double Click Here To Add This here

Make it permanent: 1) When you load a .kml file, it will reside under temporary places. These are removed when you close Google Earth. 2) If you want to keep the link in Google Earth, drag it up under “My Places”, 3) If you forget and close Google Earth, you can go back and double click the .kml file again

Add Your Own Map-Getting Started: 1) Start with a small map, 2) Play with green controls to get use to their function, 3) Understand that maps developed before GPS are not perfect, 4) If you find that you can't line up a map perfectly, Get the roads around your area of interest as close as possible. 5) Once you know current day location, you can find current owner and follow deeds back

Add Your Own Map-Getting Started: 1) Choose landmarks/ intersections that are toward the extreme of the map, preferably diagonal opposite corners, 2) Be careful when panning Google Earth map to not accidentally grab green overlay map handles, 3) Rotation handle seems to jerk image at mouse depress. Watch map across screen when first depressing mouse button.

How To Add Your Own Map: 1) Use search bar to find town, 2) Zoom to find relevant area

How To Add Your Own Map: 3) Click Add Image Overlay, 4) Click Browse and locate map file on hard drive, 5) Resize and move window to left side of screen, 6) Change name

Refresher -Resizing and Moving Window: 1) Resize Icon (double headed icon)-Appears at 4 corners of window, 2) Move Window-You can move the window when the cursor is on the title bar of window

How to Add Your Own Map: 7) Do Not Click OK, 8) Because you clicked OK like I did the first 1000 times, right click on image name under “My Places and select “properties” to open it back up

How to Add Your Own Map: 3) With the window still open, turn the transparency down to where you can see through the image

Move Map Image To Line Up: 9) Use Green Cross Hairs to Move image on Map to line Up 1 point on a corner

Look for Bigger items: 1) 4 Corner Markers (Green “L”) Stretch diagonally, 2) 4 Side Markers (Green “T”) Stretch laterally, 3) 1 Diamond Shaped Marker Rotates image

Adjust, Repeat: 10) Once 1 part of the map lines up, move to the diagonal opposite side and adjust things to make it line up. 11) Return back to original point and adjust to line it up again. 12) Repeat 10 and 11 multiple times until you are happy with the map

Learn Through Repetition: 1) This is not a skill that we are born with. 2) Due to the fact that the map is stretched over its entirety, means and adjustments done one extreme adjusts the scale of the map on the other corner proportionately. 3) Practice, Practice, Practice, 4) If worse comes to worse, cut the map into smaller pieces and add these pieces 1 at a time

Helpers (All under Layers): 1) Waterways (More->Water Bodies Outline), 2) Post Offices (More->Place Category) , 3) Railroad Tracks (POI->Transportation->Rails)

Fantastic Chris, Now What: 1) You now can take GPS coords from Google Earth, and put these in your Garmin and go see the place (especially if the old house is in the middle of a field), 2) You now know modern names for streets/ towns so you can Google them, 3) You can overlay natural disaster maps to see if your ancestors were affected (Louisville 1937 flood, Chicago 1871 fire-<http://chicago.curbed.com/2015/10/8/9913324/great-chicago-fire-map>, 4) If you can't travel there, see what pictures or videos have been uploaded., 5) Take a look at Street View

One Last Thing-Public Domain: 1) Maps published before 1923 are in public domain, 2) Do your homework, and you may find other websites with them for free!

<http://www.publicdomainsherpa.com/public-domain-maps.html>

My Online Presence: 1) [Christopher.Hettinger@gmail.com](mailto:Christopher.Hettinger@gmail.com), 2) Blog: <http://nurturing-leaves.blogspot.com/>, 3) Twitter: @ChrisHettinger2, 4) Instagram: Hettingerchris, 5) Pinterest: clhett01, 6) [www.facebook.com/chris.hettinger.9](http://www.facebook.com/chris.hettinger.9), 7) Ancestry: clhett01

Quad Maps:

[https://store.usgs.gov/b2c\\_usgs/usgs/maplocator/\(ctype=areaDetails&xcm=r3standardpitrex\\_prd&carearea=%24ROOT&layout=6\\_1\\_61\\_48&uiarea=2\)/.do](https://store.usgs.gov/b2c_usgs/usgs/maplocator/(ctype=areaDetails&xcm=r3standardpitrex_prd&carearea=%24ROOT&layout=6_1_61_48&uiarea=2)/.do)

Quads are maps created by the US Geological Survey. The whole US is broken up into quads. (53,000 to be exact) Some date back to 1892.

Additional Resources: Watch any of the plethora of videos on Youtube!