

Explorer

Family History Newsletter
Issue 10: December 15, 2016



**Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays
from The Family History Guide**

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Holiday Greetings from The Family History Guide

On behalf of The Family History Guide, let me wish you all a Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays. We are delighted and humbled at the terrific support and encouragement we have received from so many of you, as we strive to bring the joy of family history to more and more people around the world. May the next year, 2017, be a banner year for you as well, with plenty of discoveries and moments of sweet gratitude.

Sincerely,

Bob Taylor

The Family History Guide



Bob Taylor, CEO



Bob Ives, COO



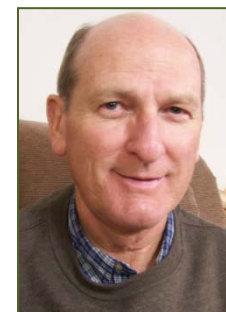
James Tanner, AB



Ann Tanner, AB



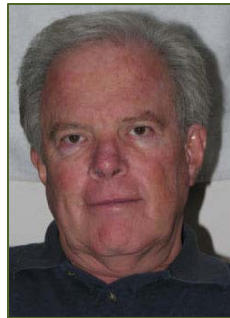
Laurie Beardall, AB



Dave Coles, AB



Sue Maxwell, AB



Paul Maxwell, AB

So the Vault helps you find more information when you want to go deeper than what's in the steps. You can access the Vault from the Home Page (left side):

Countries/Ethnic [Vault](#) About Version 2

or from the top tabs on most pages:

Home

Intro

Projects

Children

Training

[Vault](#)

Let's take a look inside to see some useful Vault features.

Index

Added fairly recently, the Index sits at the top of the Vault page to help you find categories more quickly. Here's a sample slice of the Vault Index:

Intro: Computer Basics FH Basics **Family Tree:** Stories **Descendants:** All **Discover:** Starting Books Family History Trips **Indexing:** Basics **U.S.:** Locations and Geography Vital Records

Major categories are in bold; minor categories (clickable) are in regular type, and they lead to lists of article and video links.

Welcome

The Welcome section contains a legend that defines the abbreviations used in the titles for each entry (FS=FamilySearch, A=Ancestry, etc.)

Organization

The Vault starts with the Introduction section (Computer Basics and Family History Basics), and then it follows each of the 9 Projects, from 1: Family Tree to 9: Countries / Ethnic.

New entries in a category are usually added to the end of the list. Clicking an article (A) or video (V, with timings) link opens it in a new browser tab.

Inside the Guide: The Vault

One of the more unusual features of The Family History Guide is an area tucked away at the back, known as the *Vault*.

This article helps you get familiar with this handy resource and provides some ideas on how you can use it effectively in your family history research.



About the Vault

The Family History Guide provides information in three basic layers, according to how likely you are to access the information:

- *Layer 1:* Instructional steps in the Goals and Choices. These comprise the most visible and easily accessed information.
- *Layer 2:* Links to articles, videos, and websites embedded in the instructional steps. These provide more information, but they are limited to two per step.
- *Layer 3:* The Vault. This is a large collection of articles and videos. While they may be secondary in importance to those found in the steps, they are still a highly useful resource for family history.



Vault Links in the Projects

In many of the Goals and Choices in The Family History Guide, you'll see a Vault icon at the right. You can click on it to go directly to the Vault area that matches the Goal or Choice you are reading. For example, clicking the Vault icon at the right of Goal 1: Navigating Family Tree (Project 1) takes you to the Navigating Family Tree area of the Vault, where you'll see additional articles and videos.



Training Material

If you're preparing to teach a class or mini-class with The Family History Guide, you'll want to remember two things: 1) Check out the Course Catalog for classes and mini-classes you can use, and 2) Review the articles and videos in the Vault that may be useful for the class you are teaching. Vault materials offer an extra level of depth and specialization that may be attractive to your students.



New Links for International Provinces and States

The Family History Guide has been expanding its international reach lately, with more content to come.



Here's what we've done recently:

* Created pages for the following Canadian provinces: British Columbia, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, and Ontario (Alberta was done earlier). Several more provinces will be added in the next

week, and then page creation for about 40 England counties will begin.

* Added QUIKLinks to provinces, states, or regions for the following countries: Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Chile, Costa Rica, Czech Republic, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Peru, Philippines, Portugal, Scotland, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, and Wales.

Programming Update

As you might imagine, we have a lot on our plate with the updates we are preparing for the RootsTech 2017 Conference. To assist with these efforts, we've enlisted the help of some expert programmers:

- *Brooke Weaver* will lead the database design and programming for the new Online Tracker. (See the Explorer newsletter issue of Dec. 1 for more information about the Online Tracker.)
- *Perry Thomson* and *Ari Dalton* will work on site enhancements, such as site-specific search, improved mobile device layouts, and Javascript tools.
- *Jason Sanchez* will begin the development of an app for The Family History Guide.

New Location, Instructor Tips

We've received some feedback that having the Instructor Tips in the regular Tracker sheets may not be the best thing for users or students who don't





need to see them. So we have removed them from the Tracker sheets and placed them in a separate file.

To access the Instructor Tips, go to the Training section on the site and in the submenu click **Tools**. This downloads a Word doc file with the Tips. You can copy and paste any of these into your own Tracker sheets as you prepare to teach classes on The Family History Guide.

On the Horizon

We will be at all Family History Fairs and events listed below. For details, see the Events link on the website for details (www.thefhguide.com/events.html).

RootsTech Conference - is on Feb. 8-11, 2017 in Salt Lake City, UT.



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