



Building a Fantastic Map Collection

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Some creeks of today were once deep enough to carry one settlement on to the next. Some short trails were used in everyday expeditions, and eventually created a network for longer journeys. Development of turnpike, post road, canal and railroad routes added to the network web and layers. Travelers needed road maps to follow no matter what the route was. Word maps and sketches were much more common than the details of surveyor's maps until the age of railroad development. Land grants promoted plat maps, but metes and bounds records can be used to recreate missing plats. Spreading business centers created an insurance market and the insurance map industry. Graphics and photography technology created thousands of panoramic views of the countryside, complete with streets, rivers, railroads and architectural details. Locating a variety of maps and comparing them aids in locating your ancestors' migrations, bounty lands, homesteads and more.

Personal Map Collecting

- Specialty maps – Private companies create maps for their specific business needs.
- Visitor's Bureau – A great place to get maps for specific areas within the area.
- Unique service industries – AAA, fire departments, emergency services, railroads, etc.
- Create your own using software like AniMap.
- Use Gazetteers to learn more about place names and locations.
- Ask, Seek, Peek, never quit looking.

Online Map Collections

www.ancestry.com/search/rectype/reference/maps/main.asp

Ancestry.com features several hundred historical maps from all areas of the world, including helpful jurisdictional maps for every U.S. state. Choose a map from the drop down lists provided.

www.davidrumsey.com

The David Rumsey Historical Map Collection has over 10,000 maps online. The collection focuses on rare 18th and 19th century North and South America maps and other cartographic materials. Historic maps of the World, Europe, Asia and Africa are also represented. Collection categories include antique atlas, globe, school geography, maritime chart, state, county, city, pocket, wall, children's and manuscript maps.

<http://lcweb2.loc.gov/ammem/gmdhtml/gmdhome.html>

Map Collections offers online access to the Geography and Map Division of the Library of Congress which holds more than 4.5 million items. These images were created from maps and atlases and, in general, are restricted to items that are not covered by copyright protection. Map Collections represents only a small fraction of those that have been converted to digital form.

<http://sanborn.umi.com>

ProQuest Information and Learning's Digital Sanborn Maps, 1867-1970 provides academic and public libraries digital access to more than 660,000 large-scale maps of more than 12,000 American towns and cities. Founded in 1867 by D. A. Sanborn, the Sanborn Map Company was the primary American

publisher of fire insurance maps for nearly 100 years. Access is available to authorized users at subscribing institutions.

<http://nationalmap.gov/gio/viewonline.html>

Links will take you to selected partner sites where you may view USGS maps and aerial photo images from your Web browser.

http://www.lib.utexas.edu/maps/map_sites/hist_sites.html

The University of Texas at Austin maps collection contains many links to historical maps.

<http://ancestralmanor.com/dnn/Default.aspx?tabid=113>

Map teleconferences are held periodically where you can listen in to genealogists discuss the value of and how to use maps, information on waterways, trails, land grants, surveying and more.