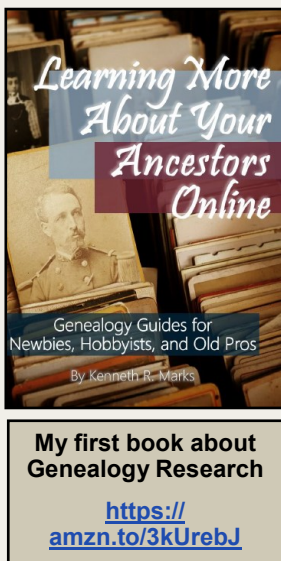


Bi-Monthly Newsletter December 15, 2021



Contents for this Issue:

- Articles Published Since Last Issue
- Useful Articles from Other Sources
- Interview With Shotbox Founders
- Easy Cousin Relationship Chart
- What Is Online in the National Archives Archival Databases
- 13 Ways to Find Physical Characteristics Without Photos
- Chapter List for "Learning More About Your Ancestors Online"



Reminders

Finding that your ancestor immigrated is one thing, but to complete the story, why did they immigrate?

A marriage isn't a marriage unless there is a ceremony. A marriage announcement, license, or engagement party does not mean they got married.

Hit a Brick Wall? Need Help?

Sometimes, we need to call in an expert, and yes, we may have to pay a few bucks, but it's worth it.

Get some help from

[Trace.com](https://www.trace.com)



**Risk-free genealogy research
from the most talented
professionals on Earth**

Stop overpaying researchers you don't know or who don't have the specific skills you need. Our process and network give you the best price with high-quality results.

→ Please Note: Hot Links are in [BLUE](#)



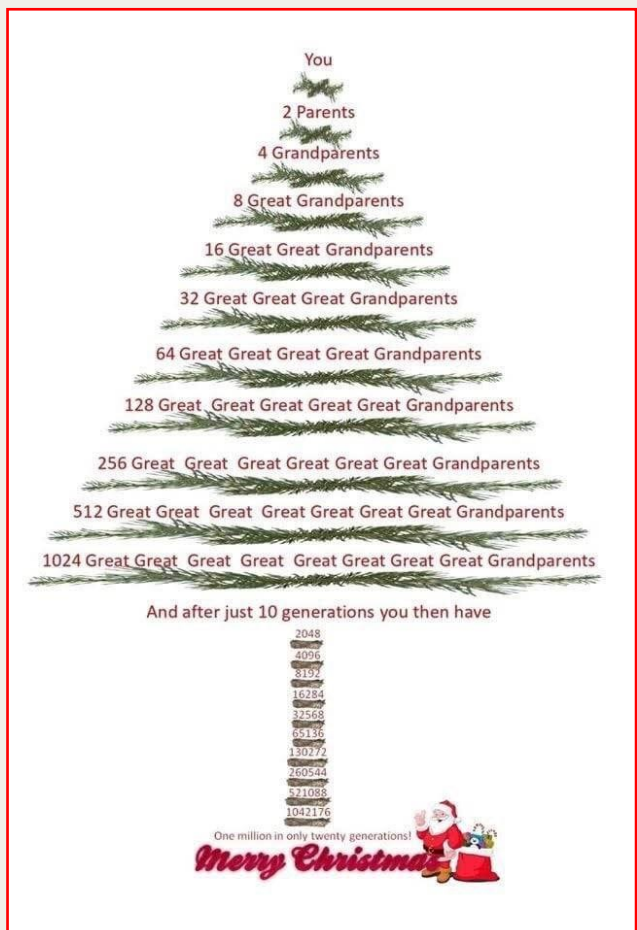
Articles Published Since Last Issue

- [FamilySearch New and Updated Collections – December 1-15, 2021](#)
- [Ancestry New and Updated Collections – November 1-30, 2021](#)
- [Free Online Michigan Birth Records and Indexes](#)
- [Free Online Indiana Birth Records and Indexes](#)
- [Free Online New Jersey Birth Records and Indexes](#)
- [Free Online Virginia Birth Records and Indexes](#)
- [Free Online Illinois Birth Records and Indexes](#)
- [Free Online Georgia Birth Records and Indexes](#)
- [Free Online North Carolina Birth Records and Indexes](#)
- [Free Online Minnesota Birth Records and Indexes](#)
- [Free Online New York Birth Records and Indexes](#)
- [Free Idaho High School and College Yearbooks Online](#)
- [Free Colorado High School and College Yearbooks Online](#)
- [Free New Mexico High School and College Yearbooks Online](#)
- [Free Online West Virginia Birth Records and Indexes](#)
- [Free Online Kentucky Birth Records and Indexes](#)
- [Free Online Tennessee Birth Records and Indexes](#)
- [Free Online United States Death Records and Indexes](#)
- [Free Ohio High School and College Yearbooks Online](#)
- [Free Missouri High School and College Yearbooks Online](#)
- [Free Texas High School and College Yearbooks Online](#)
- [Easy Cousin Relationship Chart](#)
- [Free South Carolina High School and College Yearbooks Online](#)
- [Free North Carolina High School and College Yearbooks Online](#)
- [Free Louisiana High School and College Yearbooks Online](#)
- [Free Online North Dakota Death Records and Indexes](#)
- [Free Online South Dakota Death Records and Indexes](#)
- [Free Online Indiana Death Records and Indexes](#)
- [Free Indiana High School and College Yearbooks Online](#)
- [What Is Online in the National Archives Archival Databases](#)
- [Free Online New York Death Records and Indexes](#)
- [Free Illinois High School and College Yearbooks Online](#)
- [11,600 Free Online Marriage Collection and Index Links for the United States](#)
- [Free Michigan High School and College Yearbooks Online](#)
- [Free Pennsylvania High School and College Yearbooks Online](#)

New From The Newspaper Corner

- [Veridian Adds/Updates 50 Titles – November, 2021](#)
- [Chronicling America Updates – November 2021](#)
- [Find My Past Adds/Updates 179 Historical Newspaper Titles – November, 2021](#)
- [British Newspaper Archive Adds/Updates 172 Titles – November, 2021](#)
- [NewspaperARCHIVE Update – November, 2021](#)
- [Advantage Archives Adds 1.2 Million Historical Newspaper Pages – November, 2021](#)
- [American Prison Newspapers](#)
- [Alaska Adding 55,000 Pages to Chronicling America](#)
- [GenealogyBank Adds/Updates 18 Titles – December 2021](#)

How Many Ancestors Do We Have?



Useful Articles from Other Sources

Looking for a Genealogy Event?

- [Remember to Check Out Conference Keeper!](#)

Looking for A Genealogy Gift?

- [2021 Holiday Gift Guide for Genealogists](#)

Do You Use FamilySearch?

- [FamilySearch.org: 22 Tips to Find Your Ancestors \(for Free!\)](#)

Trying to Fix Photos?

- [Everything You Need to Know About the NEW MyHeritage Photo Repair](#)



Register for RootsTech 2022
for free at

www.rootstech.org

March 3–5, 2022

WHAT I AM WORKING ON IN DECEMBER

FINISH CEMETERY AND BURIAL RECORDS AND
MILITARY RECORDS CATEGORIES

START TAX RECORDS CATEGORY RESEARCH

CHECK FOR BROKEN LINKS AND FIX THEM

UPDATE YEARBOOK CATEGORY

Quirky Old Newspaper Ad



FIND *your* ANCESTORS
Newspapers and more
(1690 to today)

[Search Now](#)



GENEALOGYBANK

Interview with Founder of Shotbox

As always, I am interested in new products and services that will help family historians to document their finds for future descendants and associated family members. Recently I became aware of a product called Shot-Box. I had personally used a light box to photograph some custom jewelry that my daughter had created. Frankly, my crude setup resulted in an imperfect outcome and experience. To summarize, I am a lousy photographer. Whenever I get a new cellphone, I am not wowed by the new capabilities of the camera and I take no time trying to learn the features.

That leads us to Shot Box. I am impressed with the thinking that went in to this product. For a lot of the mementoes, heirlooms, journals, letters and other materials that we wish to capture, it is simply so easy to use and it takes little photography skills—right up my alley!

I interviewed the founder, Aaron Johnson and co founder Steven Frame. The following is the interview. They were also kind enough to offer a \$20 discount to this newsletter readers. See that offer at the end of this article.

Why was Shotbox created? What is the background for the company?

Essentially, I couldn't find an easy way to make a book out of my mom's journal. The pics I took with just his phone were unacceptable. I found that by using a lightbox and a smart-phone I was able accommodate those things like journals, letters, memorabilia, medals, that were too hard to put through a scanner. Uploading the pics from my phone into a Google or Dropbox folder and then organizing digital images from there was the easiest way to begin telling a story. I wanted people with little pertinent skills to have an easy time digitizing lot of items, records, photos and cut the time they were spending with scanners in half. I built the first one out of wood.

How long has Shotbox been in existence?

We are a 7-year participant in RootsTech and have been producing Shotbox since 2013. We now have thousands of users who use Shotbox for everything under the sun from digitizing images of jewelry, to food they create, to digital scrapbooking, to genealogy and family history, to jobs for their teens selling on eBay or Etsy. If you have journals or books, Shotbox can handle them, if you have oversized documents that won't fit through a scanner, we can accommodate those as well. Coloring your images using your phone camera is pretty standard now if you want different color hues for your images.

How is it different than just using your phone or other solutions?

Simply it goes from flat to 15" X15" cube in 30 seconds. The hard plastic is very durable, the kickstands that hold it up are indestructible and the lighting is terrific. It varies from \$100-\$200 depending on what accessories you get, and with a shutter button that is Bluetooth you can never touch your phone and snap pictures in rapid succession. With 4 color backdrops and 12 different photo-quality background images like brick walls and wood floors you can vary your images and have hundreds of combinations.

Why would it be an important tool for Genealogy or Family History?

The Shotbox combined with today's smartphones and the digital camera technology built into the iPhone, Android/Samsung or Google phone, the images typically come out great. We work with people who regularly stack 50-100 documents and/or photos and with a Bluetooth shutter button snap digital photos in rapid succession. You just choose your spot and without moving the camera from either directly above or hanging in front of the image you want to digitally capture, snap the photo. If you want a closer image, put a flat object beneath the documents and raising it to the camera gives you total control over how close you can be.

With the ability to auto crop images now standard in many photo storage software solutions, you can then crop the images as fast as you take them. Using our depressor tools, you can turn pages and hold them flat to capture journals or letters without having to iron letters or cut off the binding of the journal. If you want to shoot images of Grandpa's war medals or the shoes of newborn babies, Shotbox can help you create a story to tell.



Interview with Founder of Shotbox

Are there warranties?

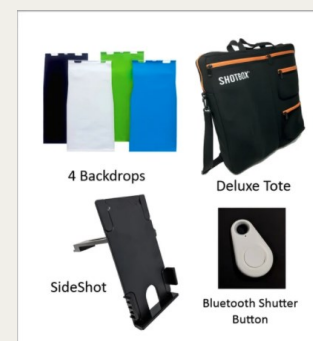
The one-year warranty covers 100% of everything that comes in the Shotbox Preservation Bundle.

What are the Top 10 Reasons a purchaser would benefit from a Shotbox?

- \$169 comes with awesome accessories, not just a box. A shoulder bag makes it really easy to carry
- You don't have to learn to be a great photographer to get a great image. Put it in the box and click. It doesn't require being smart and thinking, only clicking.
- Reduces the hours spent to shoot journal pages, letters, and keepsakes in a lit environment to minutes. It is a huge time saver
- Any digital images you take from now on could also end up as a cover for a book...makes you look good
- The Bluetooth button allows you to never touch your phone and click away - its super easy. Makes doing the tedious work of image capture fun.
- The LED lighting makes it much easier to read dark and old images & writing. Again...it makes you look like a PRO!
- Box setup and takedown is 30 seconds, and it stores nicely in a shoulder bag to carry around with you
- Hard plastic makes it virtually indestructible, and it will last 50 years
- You can loan it to someone who is newer to it than you and even they can use it and not break it
- It's so easy to use you will get excited to capture images of everything - even food, puppies, stitching & crocheting, you name it!

As a holiday promotion, Shotbox has reduced the price for a standard bundle to \$189, and for The Ancestor Hunt newsletter readers, if you enter "TAH20" in the promotions box at checkout, you can receive an additional \$20 off.

You can find out all about Shotbox at <https://shotbox.me/>



What Is Online in the National Archives Archival Databases

Personally, I had never used the U.S. National Archives databases until a couple of years ago, when I started using the Numident Files, which are a fantastic resource. I have discovered a wealth of documents, indexes, and a search capability that you can get lost in!

A great place to start is to review the [Research Topics](#) that you are interested in. There will be indexes and databases specified that you can search or browse. Here is the list with link:

- [African-American Research](#)
- [Aliens](#)
- [Bankruptcy Case Files](#)
- [Census Records \(1790-1940\)](#)
- [Chinese Immigration](#)
- [Congressional Records: Private Claims and Private Legislation](#)
- [Court Records](#)
- [Electronic Records for Genealogy or Other Personal Research](#)
- [Ethnic Heritage Research and Resources](#)
- [Exploration and American Expansion](#)
- [Federal Employees](#)
- [Immigration Records](#)
- [Income Tax Records of the Civil War Years](#)
- [Internal Migration](#)
- [Japanese Americans](#)
- [Land Records](#)
- [Maps of interest to Genealogists](#)
- [Maritime](#)
- [Microfilmed Records](#)
- [Military Records](#)
- [Native American Records](#)
- [Naturalization Records](#)
- [Naval Records](#)
- [Passenger Lists](#)
- [Passport Applications](#)
- [Post Office Records](#)
- [Pre-Federal Records](#)
- [Prisons](#)
- [Social Security Records](#)
- [State Department Records of Genealogical interest](#)
- [Tax Records](#)
- [Vital Records](#)
- [Women](#)

Real Newspaper Headlines

Prisoner serving 2,000-year sentence could face more time

Miracle cure kills fifth patient

Bugs flying around with wings are flying bugs

Man eats underwear to beat breathalyzer



NEWSPAPER ARCHIVE®

Explore billions of newspaper articles from all over the world.

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Easy Cousin Relationship Chart

Determining a "Cousin" Relationship between two people is quite easy if you have a proper chart. Many of the charts can be confusing. The one below is quite easy. All you have to do is follow 3 steps:

1. Determine the common ancestor between two people.
2. For the first person, select the common ancestor's relationship to them across the top row.
3. For the second person, select the common ancestor's relationship to them down the left column.

Where those two selections intersect is their relationship.

See? Easy Peasy!

Common Ancestor	Grandparent	Great Grandparent	2nd Great Grandparent	3rd Great Grandparent	4th Great Grandparent	5th Great Grandparent
Grandparent	1st Cousin	1st Cousin Once Removed	1st Cousin 2X Removed	1st Cousin 3X Removed	1st Cousin 4X Removed	1st Cousin 5X Removed
Great Grandparent	1st Cousin Once Removed	2nd Cousin	2nd Cousin Once Removed	2nd Cousin 2X Removed	2nd Cousin 3X Removed	2nd Cousin 4X Removed
2nd Great Grandparent	1st Cousin 2X Removed	2nd Cousin Once Removed	3rd Cousin	3rd Cousin Once Removed	3rd Cousin 2X Removed	3rd Cousin 3X Removed
3rd Great Grandparent	1st Cousin 3X Removed	2nd Cousin 2X Removed	3rd Cousin Once Removed	4th Cousin	4th Cousin Once Removed	4th Cousin 2X Removed
4th Great Grandparent	1st Cousin 4X Removed	2nd Cousin 3X Removed	3rd Cousin 2X Removed	4th Cousin Once Removed	5th Cousin	5th Cousin Once Removed
5th Great Grandparent	1st Cousin 5X Removed	2nd Cousin 4X Removed	3rd Cousin 3X Removed	4th Cousin 2X Removed	5th Cousin Once Removed	6th Cousin



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Download this Quick Reference Guide by clicking [HERE](#)



13 Ways to Find Physical Characteristics Without Photos

- World War I or II Draft Cards – on the second page of the card, questions were asked about the applicant's physical characteristics: height, build, eye color, hair color, physical markings, physical deformities, and in one version whether he was bald.
- Naturalization Records – there have been a few variations of naturalization forms, but several of them asked for skin color, height, weight, eye and hair color, as well as distinctive marks.
- Passport Applications – although some applications indeed have photos (although less than high quality), a number of physical characteristics were requested of the applicant, such as stature, forehead, eye color, nose, mouth, chin, hair color, complexion, face characteristics, and distinguishing marks.
- Military Discharge Records – there are an abundance of forms in the military, and many of them record physical characteristics. My father's discharge from the Marine Corps included height, eye color, hair color, and complexion were noted.
- Military Enlistment Records – include height, hair and eye color, and complexion
- Voter Registration – in some voter registration logs, physical characteristic information was requested. In some records, applicants included their age, height, complexion, eye color, hair color as well as marks or scars.
- Pension Applications – In pension applications, there often is a place to enter physical characteristics. Examples for a Civil War pension, include a place to enter age, height, weight, complexion, and eye and hair color. In Surgeons Certificates, there is an abundance of health information as well.
- Immigration Records – In immigration records for specific years, some physical description info was required. In this example, health condition, deformities, height, complexion, eye and hair color, and identifying marks were required.
- Prison Records – The usual age, hair color, height, eye color, physical deformities, and I have seen one that includes temperament!
- U.S. Customs Service Records – for seamen, their physical description was included in the records.
- Chinese Exclusion Act Case Files – physical appearance information was included in the records.
- Drivers and Other Licenses – Licenses didn't always have photos but often include height, weight, hair color and eye color.
- Hospital and Other Medical Records – include height, weight, and race.

Chapter List for "Learning More About Your Ancestors Online"

- | | |
|---|---|
| • Chapter 1: Introduction | • Chapter 8: Newspaper research |
| • Chapter 2: Birth and marriage | • Chapter 9: Occupations |
| • Chapter 3: Death records and information | • Chapter 10: Photos and physical description |
| • Chapter 4: General advice about genealogy research | • Chapter 11: Residences and other locations |
| • Chapter 5: Immigration, naturalization, travel | • Chapter 12: Schools and yearbooks |
| • Chapter 6: Military | • Chapter 13: Resources |
| • Chapter 7: Miscellaneous records (societies, illnesses) | |

Help Your Ancestors Live Forever - Write Your Family History And Write Your Own History While You're At It

One of my goals in my personal genealogy is to make sure that my ancestors are remembered. Many had no descendants, so absolutely no one alive remembers them. That's sad to me, which is why I created a couple of family history websites. But recently I have been seeking even better ways to memorialize their lives. Their stories are important to be documented, which might explain why I am such a fan of newspaper research.

In any case, here are a few tools that I have discovered that provide a unique means to memorialize our ancestors.

And guess what? We need to produce our own autobiographies. We aren't getting any younger and memories do fade.



Whoowe

Produce an online history easily with text, video, and audio from online questions on your phone. You can contribute content in minute or several minute increments.

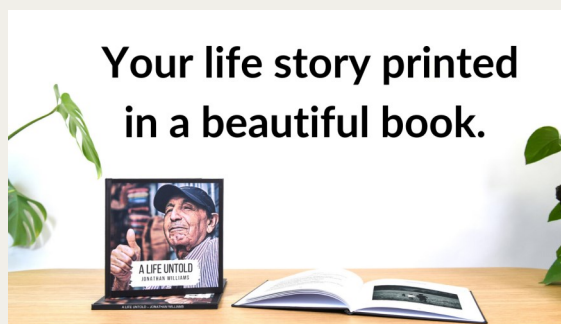
Whoowe is available from the AppStore and Google Play. Info at whoowe.com Try it out for free. Discount coupon for readers coming soon.



StorySpot

Produce an online memorial with text, video, timelines, photos, favorite songs, and audio, and produce an optional book. Great for family reunions also

Available at www.storystop.com. Try it out for free. 25% discount available by using "ANCESTOR" as coupon code.



A Life Untold

Produce an online history easily with text, video, and audio from online questions. Proceed at your own pace, and add questions if you like. Very easy to use.

Available at A Life Untold. Try it out. 10% discount available by using "HUNT as coupon code.

Record Your Autobiography With



AUDIOBIOGRAPHY

Audiobiography

They say the closest you can feel to someone without touching them, is hearing their voice. Produce an online autobiography or memorial with audio; add photos and coordinate with a book.

Available at Audiobiography. Try it out. 10% discount available by using "HUNT as coupon code.

"The Ancestor Hunt" is an affiliate for several of these companies and may receive a small commission should you purchase through this newsletter or the website and/or if you use the coupon codes mentioned above.

Last But Not Least

Newly Completed States with All Categories Created

- [7,885 Free Online New York Collections Available Now in 19 Genealogy Record Categories](#)
- [2,080 Free Online New Hampshire Collections Available Now in 19 Genealogy Record Categories](#)
- [2,429 Free Online Vermont Collections Available Now in 19 Genealogy Record Categories](#)
- [893 Free Online South Dakota Collections Available Now in 19 Genealogy Record Categories](#)
- [760 Free Online Rhode Island Collections Available Now in 19 Genealogy Record Categories](#)
- [2,009 Free Online Washington Collections Available Now in 19 Genealogy Record Categories](#)
- [803 Free Online Wyoming Collections Available Now in 19 Genealogy Record Categories](#)
- [521 Free Online Nevada Collections Available Now in 19 Genealogy Record Categories](#)
- [483 Free Online District of Columbia Collections Available Now in 19 Genealogy Record Categories](#)
- [6,952 Free Online Texas Collections Available Now in 19 Genealogy Record Categories](#)
- [834 Free Online North Dakota Collections Available Now in 19 Genealogy Record Categories](#)
- [975 Free Online New Mexico Collections Available Now in 19 Genealogy Record Categories](#)
- [1,968 Free Online Maryland Collections Available Now in 19 Genealogy Record Categories](#)
- [1,643 Free Online Mississippi Collections Available Now in 19 Genealogy Record Categories](#)
- [4,256 Free Online Kentucky Collections Available Now in 19 Genealogy Record Categories](#)
- [560 Free Online Nova Scotia Collections Available Now in 6 Genealogy Record Categories](#)
- [4,303 Free Online Ontario Collections Available Now in 6 Genealogy Record Categories](#)
- [268 Free Online Newfoundland and Labrador Collections Available Now in 6 Genealogy Record Categories](#)
- [317 Free Online New Brunswick Collections Available Now in 6 Genealogy Record Categories](#)
- [3,010 Free Online Minnesota Collections Available Now in 19 Genealogy Record Categories](#)
- [3,959 Free Online Michigan Collections Available Now in 19 Genealogy Record Categories](#)
- [519 Free Online Manitoba Collections Available Now in 6 Genealogy Record Categories](#)
- [2,057 Free Online Alberta Collections Available Now in 6 Genealogy Record Categories](#)
- [176 Free Online Prince Edward Island Collections Available Now in 6 Genealogy Record Categories](#)
- [2,230 Free Online New Jersey Collections Available Now in 19 Genealogy Record Categories](#)
- [4,735 Free Online Missouri Collections Available Now in 19 Genealogy Record Categories](#)

The Ancestor Hunt Research Link Categories:

- [Newspapers](#)
- [Obituaries](#)
- [BMD Records](#)
- [Directories](#)
- [Photos](#)
- [Yearbooks](#)
- [Divorce Records](#)
- [Naturalizations](#)
- [Cemetery and Burial Records](#)
- [Marriage Records](#)
- [Mortuary Records](#)
- [Immigration](#)
- [Church Records](#)
- [School Records](#)
- [Voter Lists](#)
- [Coroner Records](#)
- [Probate and Wills](#)
- [Alumni Records](#)
- [Birth Records](#)
- [Death Records](#)

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