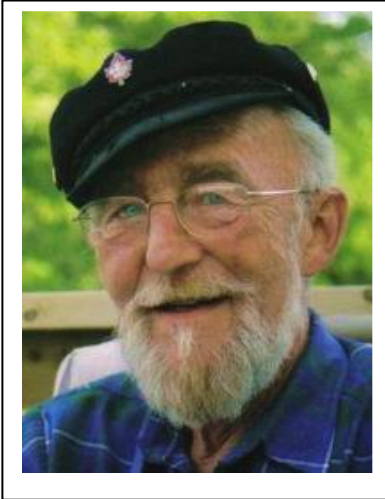


### LDS Church Putting It All Online



The most successfully kept secret in the Genealogical World is that the Mormons' Family History Library in Salt Lake City is busy working away at putting all their material online for free access to all researchers.

Halvor Moorshead, the editor and publisher of *Family Chronicle*, has known about it for a year but kept it quiet at their request until they were ready to make a public statement. Their biggest fear is that it would generate an enormous public reaction that they do not have the administrative capacity to handle.

The project is of mind-boggling proportions. They have 2.3 million rolls of microfilmed genealogical records from 110 countries. These have all to be digitized AND indexed. We are talking, here, of over 20 billion names. For purposes of comparison, the 1880 U.S. Census, one of the first databases that they made available online, took 12 years and tens of thousands of volunteers.

While the project is underway with selected groups of volunteers, they are also working with computer specialists to design new software that can cope with such an overwhelming amount of data.

An indication of the care they are taking with the project is that each image is transcribed by two separate volunteers. If there is any discrepancy in their transcriptions, it goes to an arbitrator. They are controlling the pace of the project to ensure the kind of control that is necessary and they want to find as many of the bugs as possible before they move into high gear.

These pilot projects will soon lead to an expansion of the volunteer base. They have an information link for individuals who might be interested in volunteering at: [FCH-InternetIndexing@ldschurch.org](mailto:FCH-InternetIndexing@ldschurch.org).

This is an excellent opportunity for Genealogical Societies to get involved in the most momentous project in the history of Genealogy.

### Census Online

This is a website that should be bookmarked by every Family Historian. It is essentially a list of links to online census data and, while it has a few extra tools like a calculator to determine the day of the week for any date in history, it is the census link that you may end up using frequently.

When I last checked the site, there were 44,148 links for census sites in the United States (42,827), Canada (697), England (410), Ireland (144), Scotland (19), and Wales (51). Ontario has 394 links and, in our own areas, we have Carleton (11), Lanark (29), and Renfrew (2).

It is a very easy site to navigate. You select your country and get a drop down menu of provinces or states; selecting a province brings you to the county level and selecting the county brings you a list of the appropriate links. Select the link and you are taken to the index of that place's census for that year. Nothing could be easier. I was delighted to find the 1821 index for Huntley and March Townships.

When I checked out some family in Ireland, I found the Griffith's Valuation list for their parish in 1849. In Scotland I checked out Wigtownshire for no other reason than that I was intrigued by the name. There was a general census for 1851 and an 1881 census for the Wigtownshire Union Workhouse.

I would suggest that you stick with what clearly is part of the site's offerings. There are boxes with teasers for recent U.S. censuses but these are actually advertisements for Ancestry.com, who obviously are paying for ad space and are soliciting subscriptions.

This site has won numerous awards for excellence and I am sure they will get your vote too if you visit them at: [www.census-online.com](http://www.census-online.com).