

Research – FreeGenData.com - A Genealogy Links Database, i.e., a search tool to help you locate free genealogy databases and transcriptions on the web

By Joe Petrie

I collect free genealogy links. I call it a hobby within a hobby. I have been doing my families' genealogy for over 30 years. I started collecting genealogy links about two years ago when I was a volunteer doing consults on Friday Nights from 7 to 10 PM at a local Irish genealogy library. The library had three types of consults: scheduled, walk-ins and phone. Because I was the newest volunteer, my workload was mostly walk-ins and phone. I found walk-ins to be extremely challenging because there was no advance preparation and because they were usually significantly less than the three hour scheduled consult. With help from my peers, I collected genealogy links.

Recently, I found FreeGenData.com. I was really amazed at the collection of links. As of September 17, 2013, there are **16,875** links in the database. On the web site's first page, it indicates that there were: 1898 Cemetery links, 406 Passenger List links, 74 Royalty and Nobility links and 29 Disaster links.

I have organized my own links documents by locality. I include personal links by surname. There is no surname search in FreeGenData.com. I have to resist the urge to harvest and incorporate FreeGenData.com's links.

The following table is simply constructed to show FreeGenData.com'

Locality	Number of links
Canada	600
Nova Scotia	159
Cape Breton	26
Newfoundland	31
Prince Edward Island	33
New Brunswick	134
United States	172
Maine	142
New Hampshire	43
Vermont	16
Rhode Island	55
Connecticut	52
Massachusetts	84
England	2793
Ireland	992
County Cork	99
County Galway	60
County Waterford	20
County Kilkenny	21
County Tipperary	63
County Roscommon	20
Scotland	619
Northern Island	1

Sometimes, I find that the link does not work. Often it is because it has been re-hosted. I usually copy and paste the hyperlink's underlined text into my browser to find it. It is simple but it does not always work.

Happy Hunting!

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