

Genealogy Basics: Using Ancestry's RootsWeb WorldConnect Project's User Contributed Databases (wc.rootsweb.ancestry.com)

By Joe Petrie

Summary:

In 1999, RootsWeb launched the WorldConnect Project. This article is intended to help people use the WorldConnect software and databases.

Some claim that WorldConnect has evolved into the world's largest collection of Family Trees. Why? For genealogists who love to share, WorldConnect provides software for the genealogist to share records on the sharers' terms. For example, the contributor selects how to share, for example, the contributor can select to share by allowing a user to download a GEDCOM file. Attribution is still a major issue.

For this article, I'll focus on the World Connect databases of two contributors: Robert L Hegerich and Sheila Smith. There are lots of Boutilier records in my database that I have gathered from these two contributors' databases. Remember that both of my parents were Boutiliers from Cape Breton who immigrated to Boston in the 1920s. Dad did not know that his Rockett grandmother was a Boutilier.

Background:

I am a genealogy gatherer. I can honestly say that WorldConnect has made my gathering and integrating easier. Two of the many genealogists who have made gathering faster and easier are Bob and Sheila. They deserve a lot of credit for my writings about my Boutilier families. I am currently working on my Maillard family. Thank you both!

About 15 years ago, I learned about WorldConnect in Sydney NS at a dinner hosted by Charles "Chick" Buchanan. John Howie, another of Chick's guests, was astonished that I as a "genealogist in-training" had done very little Boutilier research and never heard of the project. (Please note that I used the "genealogist in-training" description for over 20 years.) John promptly educated me as best he could even though there was no available computer. (I had 2 desktops at home but no laptop.)

Bob and Sheila are two of my favorite genealogists who have published Boutilier records on the Internet. Others include: Kim Stevens, Don Shankle, Victoria Boutilier, David S Conrad and Pat Watson. Favorite Boutilier genealogists who have shared but have not published (to my knowledge) on the internet include: Charles Buchanan, John Howie, Brenda Maruca, and Elizabeth Taylor. (Some of them have passed away.) There are others who have been enumerated in my articles that have been published in the members' section of the Cape Breton Genealogy and Historical Association's web site. Please note that all of my articles are in the repository and web site of the Friends of Irish Research.

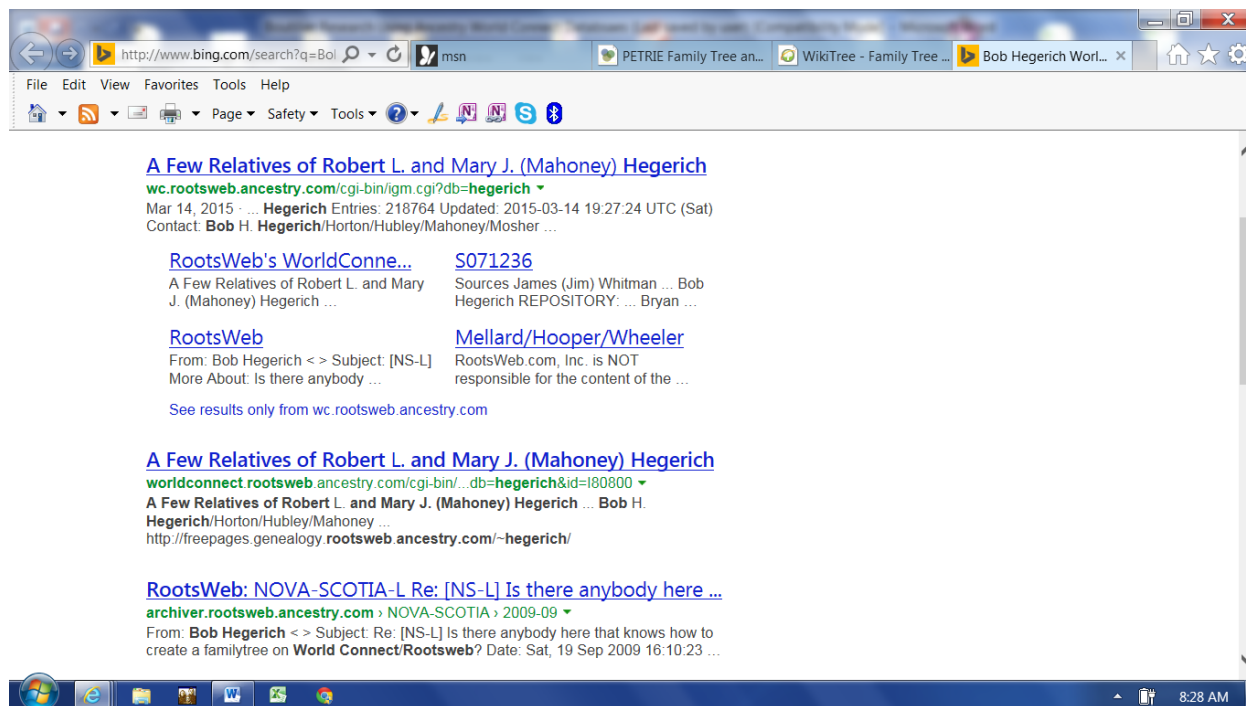
Bob's WorldConnect database is named: A Few Relatives of Robert L and Mary J (Mahoney) Hegerich. In March 2015, Bob's database contained over 200 thousand records. Nearly 4000 were for individuals with a Boutilier surname. At one time, Bob's database had nearly 500 thousand records.

Sheila's WorldConnect database is named: Sheila's Family Tree. In March, 2015, it contained over 50 thousand records. Nearly 900 were for individuals with a Boutilier Surname. (Please note that Sheila's database has Boutilier Surnames with 3 different spellings.)

One final note: With the explosion of internet resources, you might wonder how I keep up. Periodically I search "Boutilier Genealogists" to search for new contributors or updates. Also I search my ancestors' surnames (such as Petrie Genealogists) for the same information for the other surnames on my direct line. In addition, I look at WikiTrees for my ancestors' surnames.

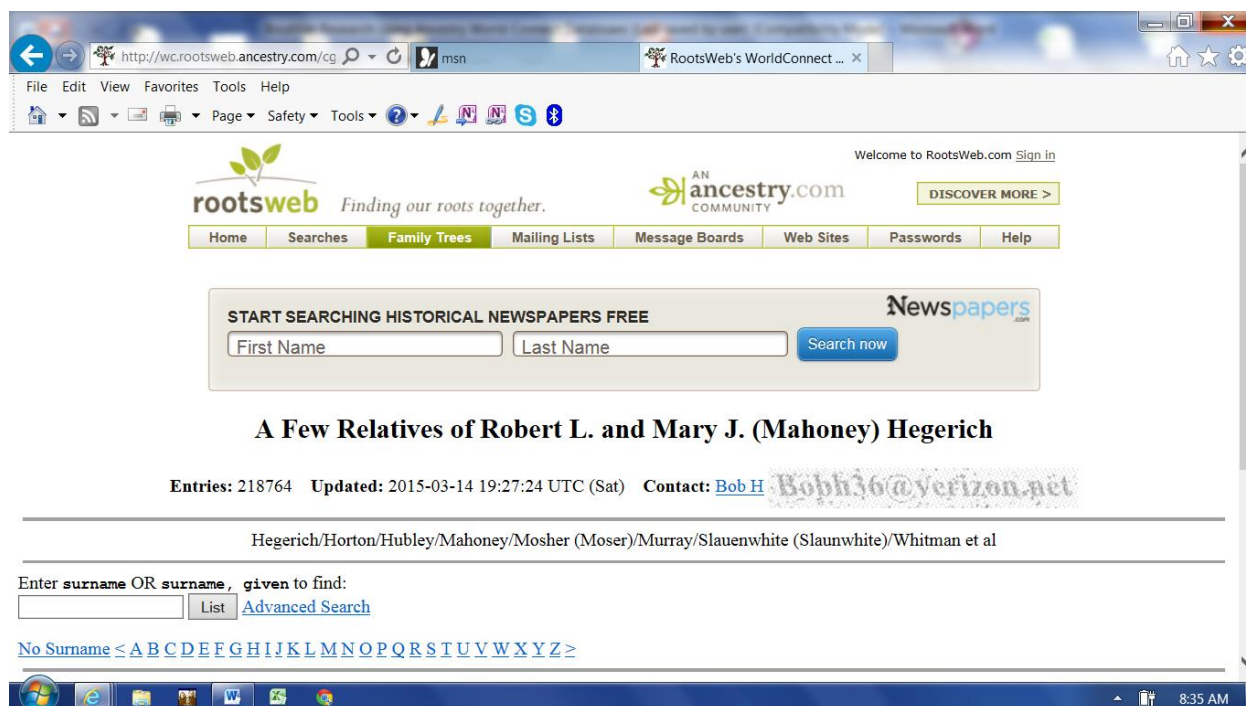
Bob Hegerich's WorldConnect Records:

The following is a screen print for the results of my query using Internet Explorer.



I selected the first result.

The next screen is the Index, the start page.



Software to search the WorldConnect Index has few options: (1) First Initial of Surname, (2) Surname, (3) Surname, Comma and Given Name, (4) partial Surname; and (5) no Surname. I use partial when I want to check multiple spellings of the same name.

For example, when I enter PET in the search engine, the following appeared:

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL <http://wc.rootsweb.ancestry.com/cg>. The page title is "A Few Relatives of Robert L. and Mary J. (Mahoney) Hegerich". Below the title, it says "Entries: 218764 Updated: 2015-03-14 19:27:24 UTC (Sat) Contact: Bob H Bobh36@verizon.net". The search criteria are "Enter surname OR surname, given to find: PET". The results show "Surnames starting with PET" and a list of names with counts in brackets: PETER[3], PETERMAN[12], PETERS[107], PETERSEN[15], PETERSMITH[1], PETERSON[79], PETERSON-BANFIELD[1], PETHONG[2], PETIT[1], PETITE[1], PETLEY[1], PETRALIA[1], PETRELLA[2], PETREQUIN[1], PETRI[2], PETRIE[10], PETRONI[1], PETROSINO[1], PETROSSI[17], PETROVS[1], PETROWICZ[2], PETRUCCI[2], PETTAPECE[3], PETTEN[3], PETTENGILL[2], PETTERSON[1], PETTIE[1], PETTIGREW[11], PETTINARI[1], PETTINGILL[2], PETTIPAS[136], PETTIS[3], PETTIT[12], PETTY[5], PETUCHA[1], PETZKE[1], PETZNICK[1]. A note at the bottom states: "To facilitate search and help eliminate duplicate entries, some surnames in this file have been anglicized/standardized; e.g. KOCH==>COOK. Additions, corrections, comments, aspersions, etc, are welcome." The footer includes links for "Search Ancestry", "Search WorldConnect", and "Join Ancestry.com Today!".

Note that there were 10 records for PETRIE. They may be related to me!

I decided to search for Jacques (James) Boutilier from: Etoban, Montbeliard; Lunenburg NS; St Margaret's Bay NS and Coxheath NS. Jacques (James) Boutilier purchased the "Cox Heath Farm" in Sydney River, Cape Breton about 1811 from Major Cox who was returning to England. Jacques moved most of his family to Coxheath by 1814. The family was transported from the St. Margaret's Bay area in Jacques' cargo ships which were principally used to transport coal from Cape Breton to Halifax. Please note that Jacques also had a successful fishing business in Boutilier's Point NS. In Coxheath, the family also became successful farmers and millers.

I've had Genealogists tell me that Jacques was the first French man to buy land. Victoria Boutilier describes the Boutilier family move as follows:

"Sometime during the period of 1811-1814 James and Suzanne removed from Boutilier's Point and joined most of their sons and daughters at Sydney River (now Coxheath), Cape Breton where they took up residence. He petitioned the government in 1822 for a grant of land stating he is upward of 100 years old. He lied a little as he was about 87. He states he is a native of Switzerland, as the french were frowned upon. His mother or grandmother may have been Swiss. He was not French although his language was French, the Montbeliards were considered a forgotten people. James died in 1827."

Obviously, Victoria Boutilier believes that some of Jacques' family had already settled in Cape Breton. If so, I suspect that they were involved in the shipping business and may have been based in Sydney Mines.

The next two screen prints are Bob Hegerich's record for Jacques.

The first screen print (on the next page) shows his vitals:

Name: Jacques BOUTILIER

Given Name: Jacques

Surname: Boutilier

Nickname: James

Sex: M

Birth: 4 AUG 1735 in Etoben, Montbeliard

Death: 27 MAY 1827 in Sydney, Cape Breton, NS

In addition, after Jacques' vitals, the first screen print shows some of Jacques' parents vitals with hyperlinks to their record.

Father: Jean Georges BOUTILIER b: 19 AUG 1691 in Etoben, Montbeliard, France

Mother: [Sarah GRANGE](#)

Marriage 1 [Susanne Elisabeth RIGOULEAUX](#) b: ABT 1745 in Montbeliard

+ Married: 22 DEC 1765 in Lunenburg County, NS [2](#)

The second screen print shows Jacques' children and Bob's sources.

Children (Married children have an icon before their name)

1.  **[James Frederick BOUTILIER](#) b: 20 FEB 1766 in Lunenburg County, NS c: 23 FEB 1766 in Lunenburg County, NS**

2.  **[Catharina Elizabeth BOUTILIER](#) b: 9 FEB 1770 in Lunenburg County, NS**

3. **[George Jacob BOUTILIER](#) b: 28 NOV 1772 in Lunenburg County, NS**

4. **[Jean Pierre BOUTILIER](#) b: 24 SEP 1773 in Lunenburg County, NS**

5. [George BOUTILIER](#) b: 16 SEP 1777 in Lunenburg County, NS
6. [Maria Catherina BOUTILIER](#) b: 9 AUG 1781 in St. Margaret's Bay, Halifax, NS
7. [Susanne Margarethe BOUTILIER](#) b: 28 OCT 1786 in St. Margaret's Bay, Halifax, NS
8. [Henry Joseph BOUTILIER](#) b: 29 AUG 1789 in St. Margaret's Bay, Halifax, NS

Sources:

1. Title: Robert Kim Stevens (E-mail notes of various dates)
2. Title: Parish Register, St. John's Anglican Church--Lunenburg (Unless page/line # or other citation is given, record cited is from either Don Shankle's or Kim Stevens' Lunenburg register transcriptions)

Please note in my database there are 10 children – 9 were married. CBGHA and Friends of Irish Research have published my Register Reports for a number of the children. I plan to submit reports for the remainder in the near future. The Register Reports are available in cbgen.org/Records/Families and friendsodirishresearch.org/Publications tab.

FIRST Screen Print of my search for Jacques Boutilier

3.

SECOND Screen Print of my search for Jacques

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the address bar displaying <http://wc.rootsweb.ancestry.com/cg>. The page content is as follows:

Children

1. [James Frederick BOUTILIER](#) b: 20 FEB 1766 in Lunenburg County, NS c: 23 FEB 1766 in Lunenburg County, NS
2. [Catharina Elizabeth BOUTILIER](#) b: 9 FEB 1770 in Lunenburg County, NS
3. [George Jacob BOUTILIER](#) b: 28 NOV 1772 in Lunenburg County, NS
4. [Jean Pierre BOUTILIER](#) b: 24 SEP 1773 in Lunenburg County, NS
5. [George BOUTILIER](#) b: 16 SEP 1777 in Lunenburg County, NS
6. [Maria Catherina BOUTILIER](#) b: 9 AUG 1781 in St. Margaret's Bay, Halifax, NS
7. [Susanne Margarethe BOUTILIER](#) b: 28 OCT 1786 in St. Margaret's Bay, Halifax, NS
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[Index](#) | [Descendancy](#) | [Register](#) | [Pedigree](#) | [Ahnentafel](#) | [Public Profile](#) | [Add Post-em](#)

To facilitate search and help eliminate duplicate entries, some surnames in this file have been anglicized/standardized; e.g. KOCH==>COOK. Additions, corrections, comments, aspersions, etc, are welcome.

[Printer Friendly Version](#) | [Search Ancestry](#) | [Search WorldConnect](#) | [Join Ancestry.com Today!](#)

Note that at the bottom of the screen print there are 6 options:

[Descendancy](#) | [Register](#) | [Pedigree](#) | [Ahnentafel](#) | [Public Profile](#) | [Add Post-em](#)

The first four are genealogy terms:

- Descendancy lists the individuals in Bob's WorldConnect database who descended from Jacques. The report lists 8 generations descended from Jacques.
- Register is a typical NEHGS format report covering 7 generations.
- Pedigree displays a Pedigree Chart. It shows Jacques' parents.
- Ahnentafel is essentially a Register reports for Jacques' Ancestors.
- Public Profile provides additional information on Bob.
- The final option identifies the user.

Sheila Smith's WorldConnect Records:

Showing the same screen prints would bore you! I'll show the Index and a few new screens.



Sheila's Index contains nearly 900 Boutilier records – when the 3 Boutilier name totals are summed.

[BOUTEILLER](#)[378]

[BOUTELLER](#)[1]

[BOUTILIER](#)[498]

Please see the next screen orint.

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the address bar displaying "http://wc.rootsweb.ancestry.com/cg". The page title is "RootsWeb's WorldC...". The browser's address bar shows several tabs: "Inbox (1) - ellenfrances...", "Inbox (3) - jfpetries@...", and "Compare & Buy Dell In...". The page has a navigation bar with links: "Home", "Searches", "Family Trees" (highlighted), "Mailing Lists", "Message Boards", "Web Sites", "Passwords", and "Help".

The main content area features a search box with the text "SEARCH MILLIONS OF ORIGINAL SOURCE DOCUMENTS" and a "fold3" logo. The search box contains the text "First Name" and "Last Name", and a "State" dropdown menu. A red "Search now" button is visible.

Below the search box, the page displays "Sheila's Family Tree" with the following information: "Entries: 55424 Updated: 2014-04-06 16:45:08 UTC (Sun) Contact: [sheila](#) [sheilasmith44@gmail.com](#)".

The page then prompts the user to "Enter surname OR surname, given to find:" with a text input field containing "Bout" and a "List" button. A link to "Advanced Search" is also present.

Below this, the page shows "No Surname < A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z >".

The next section is "Surnames starting with BOUT", which lists the following surnames: "BOUTEILLER[378], BOUTELLER[1], BOUTHENOT[1], BOUTILIER[498], BOUTON[2]".

At the bottom of the page, there are links to "Search Ancestry", "Search WorldConnect", and "Join Ancestry.com Today!". The footer also includes "WorldConnect Home | WorldConnect Global Search | WorldConnect Help".

The following screen print shows that I selected Nicolas Bouteiller, (Jacques Boutilier's Ancestor).

<http://wc.rootsweb.ancestry.com/cg>
[RootsWeb's WorldC...](#)
[Inbox \(1\) - ellenfrances...](#)
[Inbox \(3\) - jfpetries@...](#)
[Compare & Buy Dell In...](#)

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[N](#)
[N](#)
[S](#)
[f](#)

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Sheila's Family Tree

Entries: 55424
Updated: 2014-04-06 14:45:08 UTC (Sun)
Contact: [sheila](#) [sheilasmith44@gmail.com](#)

[Index](#) |
 [Individual](#) |
 [Descendancy](#) |
 [Register](#) |
 [Public Profile](#)

[Download full GEDCOM as a ZIP file](#)

Starting with	I5175
Name	Nicolas BOUTEILLER
Born	Abt 1596 in Chagey, Haute Saone, France
Died	25 Jan 1675 in Etobon, Haute Saone, France
Produce a GEDCOM file from	<input type="text" value="Ancestors"/> ▼
Number of Generations	<input type="text" value="10"/> ▼
End of line character	<input type="text" value="CRLF"/> ▼

Summary of Differences between Bob's and Sheilas:

There are a few differences between Sheila's and Bob's versions of World Connect:

- Sheila has a GEDCOM option that allows the user to download a GEDCOM File. I use the GEDCOM feature to gather records for my database. Bob's software does not include a GEDCOM option.
- Sheila's Boutilier Register Report starts with Nicolas Boutilier who died in Etoban in 1675. Her Pedigree Chart and Ahnentafel Report for Jacques Boutilier goes back a few more generations than Bob's Pedigree Chart and Ahnentafel Report which goes back one generation.
- Sheila has a lot less records than Bob's.
- I believe that for both there are a number of Boutilier families that are incomplete or missing. (I always expect that.) For example, in Sheila's World Connect database, Jacques' Index record's screen print shows two children. Bob's print screen shows 8 children with 4 married. (On a published Register Report, I have 10 children - there are 9 married in my database.)
- Sheila's database is static. It has not been maintained since 2014.

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Your corrections, comments and suggestions are appreciated. Please Email me at joe-apg@norwoodlight.com .

Joseph F. Petrie

Founding Member, Friends of Irish Research (FIR)

Member, Cape Breton Genealogy and Historical Association (CBGHA)

Member, Family History Society of Newfoundland and Labrador (FHSNL)

Member, New England Historic Genealogical Society (NEHGS)

Member, Association of Professional Genealogists (APG)