HERITAGE QUEST ONLINE

Presentation on September 3, 2015
by Karen Theriot Reader

If you have an Internet connection, you can use this resource **from home,**
with your Santa Cruz Public Library card number, and your PIN number (available from the Library).

1) Just type into your computer browser santacruzpl.org (the Library's web site).

2) In the blue bar near the top, put your mouse over the third menu item, "Internet Resources." Click on it.

3a)   You can either type in the box on the right called "Find Resources" a part of the web site name —Heritage is enough—then click on "Go!" or
3b)   Go to the left column headed "Browse" and click on Genealogy. The top four Databases are the web sites we are discussing today, and the last (alphabetically) is Heritage Quest Online. Click on it.

4a) The next screen will prompt you to type in your 13-digit SC Public Library card number (from your borrower's card).
4b) The second field asks for your Password, a 4-digit pin number. Any Library desk can tell you how to determine what this is.

5) When you have clicked on "Login," you will open the Home page for HeritageQuest Online.

In the red bar at the top, under HeritageQuest Online, there are three main menu items:

SEARCH   RESEARCH AIDS   MAPS

The next six menu items show near the top, in blue. But these are only the newest content features at the site. There is MUCH more!

6a) If you click on the SEARCH word in the red bar, it will open twelve separate search categories, six described in blue, the next six in green. Below those are more categories--Maps and Photos, and Other Locations.
6b) Another complete menu of all these same possible databases is the green button below the beach-dancing photo--"BEGIN SEARCHING."

7) Perhaps the best feature of this free use-at-home data-packed site is that you can save any record you find, with its documentation, to your home computer. You just enter your e-mail (twice) and they send you a link to download your copy of the treasures you find. You can then save it to a file, or print it out.

AmericanAncestors.Org

Web site of the New England Historic Genealogical Society

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Before explaining the SC Library's paid subscription, I want to advise you that you CAN search this web site from home, but while it will give citations for your search results at home, you can only see them when you are fully logged in (inside the Library). BUT, since the GeneSoc collection has many of the books and journals that may be cited, you can just go to our shelves, with the volume and page citation, and read it here. Perhaps you prefer to hold a book, and check indexes for relatives, on your own. At any rate, it will save you time to know how to bring up the results of your search, and which databases are relevant to your research.

Personal Membership costs $89.95 per year, and the Library subscription should give the same search privileges. This resource can only be used fully <u>inside</u> the Central downtown Santa Cruz Public Library site. You can, however, pull it up on your own computer there.

AT HOME--
You can also search from home the "Free" databases, and with full access. This is a great cost-free resource. At home, on your own computer, type AmericanAncestors.org into the browser field. When it opens to the main page, in the green box, click on the blue button "Start Searching." Near the bottom, click on the blue "Advanced Search +" for "Database Type" choose "Free," and perhaps "Databases with images." Scroll down to the gold "Search" button, and click on it.

IN THE CENTRAL LIBRARY--
1) In the upper browser field, type americanancestors.org/

Log in

2) At the top of the page, there are four blue menu items:
SEARCH   BROWSE   SERVICES   EDUCATION   Choose one and click on it.

3 Below that, on the home page, in the green box, click on "Start Searching."
This will open a "Database Search" screen, with First Name and Last Name fields, plus span of Years and Type of record, and Location and Keywords fields. You can further limit to "Exact" on Name and Location fields. Try a wide search at first, and only limit to Exact if you get too many hits.

4) However, you will want to enlarge your options by clicking on the Blue "**Advanced Search** +" line at the bottom of the database search screen. This will allow other choices, such as Category, names of Family Members (can even "Add" more). One of the choices is "Database Type," where "Free" is one choice you can use from home. You can also limit searches to finds that offer images of the original documents (not just transcriptions).

A nice feature of most search pages is the helpful "Need Help?" pop-up, that reminds you of several search strategies--for example, on using Wildcards. AND, AmericanAncestors has uploaded a lot of useful short videos on how to use their site to YouTube.com. Look under "American Ancestors."