

The Genealogy Gems Podcast

Episode 209

with Lisa Louise Cooke

In today's episode:

- David Ouimette of FamilySearch is known to his colleagues as “the Indiana Jones of genealogy” because of his globe-trotting adventures in curating record treasures. He joins us to talk about the millions of records being digitized around the world right now.
- Lots of excited emails from you!
- Compiled military service records from Military Minutes expert Michael Strauss



GENEALOGY GEMS EVENTS

Thanks for a great seminar, [Texas Czech Genealogical Society!](#) (shown right: the beautiful items you see in the foreground are Czech crystal and other traditional items)

[Jake's Texas Tea House, Waco, TX](#)



Magnolia Market at the Silos



See Lisa Louise Cooke in October:

Jewish Genealogical Society of Colorado Seminar

October 15, 2017

Denver, CO

Wilson-Cobb History and Genealogy Research Library

October 21, 2017

Roswell, NM

NEWS: ROOTSMAGIC UPDATE

Free update for RootsMagic 7 users: version 7.5.4.0 (update primarily fixes bugs). Click on the "Update Available" indicator in the lower right corner of your RootsMagic 7 program screen.

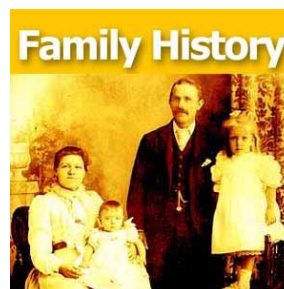
If you don't already have RootsMagic 7, [click here](#) to see what's new Or [click here](#) to order the upgrade.



RootsMagic's new TreeShare for Ancestry

MAILBOX

Gray recommends Lisa's free [Family History: Genealogy Made Easy Podcast](#)



MAILBOX: FREE WEBINAR RESPONSES

[“Reveal Your Unique Story through DNA & Family History”](#)

[RootsTech 2018: A First Look](#)

[RootsTech Q&A](#)



NEW GENEALOGY GEMS PREMIUM VIDEO

Develop your search superpowers to uncover information about your family history on the web with Google at lightning speed! Explore tools like Image search, facial recognition, finding specific types of files, how to find the answers you need, and more. [Click here](#) to watch a class preview; [click here](#) to become a Genealogy Gems Premium member.



BONUS CONTENT for Genealogy Gems App Users

If you're listening through the Genealogy Gems app, your bonus content for this episode is an easy-to-access version of the new Genealogy Gems Premium video, "Google Search Secrets." The [Genealogy Gems app is FREE in Google Play](#) and is only \$2.99 for [Windows, iPhone and iPad users](#).



INTERVIEW: DAVID OUIMETTE OF FAMILYSEARCH: “THE INDIANA JONES OF GENEALOGY”

David Ouimette, CG, manages Content Strategy at FamilySearch. He has conducted research and analyzed archival materials in dozens of countries in North and South America, Europe, Africa, and Asia. David lectures regularly and has written for genealogists, including [Finding Your Irish Ancestors: A Beginner's Guide](#).



Genealogy Gems Contributing Editor Sunny Morton is the author of “[Genealogy Giants: Comparing the 4 Major Websites.](#)” Use this jammed-packed cheat sheet to quickly and easily compare the most important features of the four biggest international genealogy records membership websites: Ancestry.com, FamilySearch.org, Findmypast.com and MyHeritage.com. Consult it every time your research budget, needs or goals change!

GENEALOGY GIANTS: Comparing the 4 Major Websites

By Sunny Morton
Editor: Lisa Louise Cooke

Why Learn about All 4 Websites?

- There are other web and mobile sites on the market.
- Each has unique and powerful features. Understanding the features of the four will help you decide on the best.
- Each has a price.
- Each offers unique features that you'll need to know.
- Each has a different interface.
- Each has a different search engine.
- Each has a different database.
- Each has a different user interface.
- Each has a different search engine.
- Each has a different database.
- Each has a different user interface.

About the Genealogy Giants

Ancestry.com is the largest and most popular genealogy website. It has a large database of records and a powerful search engine. FamilySearch.org is a free website that has a large database of records and a powerful search engine. Findmypast.com is a paid website that has a large database of records and a powerful search engine. MyHeritage.com is a paid website that has a large database of records and a powerful search engine.

Feature	Ancestry.com	FamilySearch.org	Findmypast.com	MyHeritage.com
Database Size	Large	Large	Large	Large
Search Engine	Powerful	Powerful	Powerful	Powerful
User Interface	Complex	Simple	Complex	Simple
Price	Paid	Free	Paid	Paid
Unique Features	Smart Matches, DNA	Free Access, Large Database	Smart Matches, DNA	Smart Matches, DNA



Start creating fabulous, irresistible videos about your family history with Animoto.com. You don't need special video-editing skills: just drag and drop your photos and videos, pick a layout and music, add a little text and voila! You've got an awesome video! Try this out for yourself at Animoto.com.



MyHeritage.com is the place to make connections with relatives overseas, particularly with those who may still live in your ancestral homeland. [Click here to see what MyHeritage can do for you](#): it's free to get started.

MILITARY MINUTES: COMPILED MILITARY SERVICE RECORDS

If a clue found in your ancestor's [US draft registration records](#) listed military service you will want next to search for his Compiled Military Service Record (CMSR).

The **Compiled Military Service Records** (often abbreviated at CMSR or CSR) record the name, unit, and period of service of the veteran along with information related to military service from the Revolutionary War to the end of the hostilities of the Philippine Insurrection after the turn of the 20th century.

The information varies greatly from each of the war periods that recorded this information. Besides the identifying features listed above, they typically contain muster



in/out information, rank in/out details and further highlight the soldier career by recording promotions, prisoner of war memorandums, casualties, and a number of personnel papers which may include enlistment papers and other related documents. Several of the war periods also provide physical descriptions of the soldiers including; name, age, nativity, occupation, height, hair, eyes, and complexion information. This set of records represents the volunteer Army and doesn't include regular Army enlistments. Except for limited records of the Revolutionary War and the War of 1812 for the Navy, the other branches of the military (including Navy, Marines, and Revenue Cutter Service) all have their equivalent set of records.

Your ancestor may have multiple entries in the **CMSR**. This could occur if a soldier served in more than one unit, or in the case of John LeMaster, who enlisted in two different armies. The Civil War divided our nation, testing the loyalty of all persons who lived during this time. Lemaster chose the Confederacy (as least initially) when in 1861 in with the 2nd VA Infantry Brigade commander Thomas J. Jackson who later would be known as "Stonewall Jackson." (Photos: John H. Lemaster and his family in Martinsburg, WV. Photos courtesy of Michael Strauss.)



Charlestown, VA he enlisted fighting alongside of his

After the Confederate loss at the battle of Gettysburg he deserted and lived in Martinsburg in what was now West Virginia where on his Draft Registration he was listed as a deserter from the Rebel Army. In 1864 he enlisted in the United States Army with the 3rd WV Cavalry, serving out the duration of the war until 1865. After the war he was granted a federal pension, with no mention of his former service in the Confederacy.

Shown on following pages: his military service records for both the Confederate and Union armies.

1222
Lemaster, John H.
Co. A, 2 Virginia Inf'y.

(CONFEDERATE.)
Private Private
CARD NUMBERS.

1	11080916	18
2	11080916	19
3	11080916	20
4	11080916	21
5	11080916	22
6	11080916	23
7	11080916	24
8	11080916	25
9	11080916	26
10	11080916	27
11	11080916	28
12	11080916	29
13	11080916	30
14	11080916	31
15	11080916	32
16	11080916	33
17	11080916	34

Number of medical cards herein *0*
 Number of personal papers herein *0*

BOOK MARK:
 See also

(CONFEDERATE.)
L 2 Vn.
John H. Lemaster
 Co. A, 2 Reg't Virginia Infantry.
 Appears on **Company Muster Roll**
 of the organization named above,
 for *Nov 1863*, 1863.
 Enlisted: *Jan 1 1863*
 When *April 18*, 1863.
 Where *Jeff. Co. Kan.*
 By whom *Capt. Rowan*
 Period *WAT*
 Last paid:
 By whom
 To what time *1863*
 Present or absent
 Remarks: *Disenrolled July 21 1863*
Disenrolled from the roll and again
enrolled in the 2nd Reg't Virginia
Infantry to the 1st of August 1863
which was before he was
disenrolled. Also
Ordinance of the 1st of August
1863 with him at the time of
disenrollment
see on roll
 Book mark:
W. H. B. B.
 (142) Copyist

1088
Lemaster, John H.
Co. C, 3 West Virginia Cav.

Private Saddler
CARD NUMBERS.

1	11953833	1
2	11953833	2
3	11953833	3
4	11953833	4
5	11953833	5
6	11953833	6
7	11953833	7
8	11953833	8
9	11953833	9
10	11953833	10
11	11953833	11
12	11953833	12
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34	11953833	34
35	11953833	35
36	11953833	36
37	11953833	37
38	11953833	38
39	11953833	39
40	11953833	40

Number of personal papers herein *1*

Book Mark *453-8-1876*
 General Notation *453-8-1876*
 See also

L 3 Cav. W. Va.
John H. Lemaster
 Appears with rank of *Priv.* on
 Muster and Descriptive Roll of a Detach-
 ment of U. S. Vols. forwarded
 for the *3rd* Reg't W. Va. Cav. Roll dated
Sept. 11th Jan 23, 1864
 Where born *Bedford County, W. Va.*
 Age *27* yrs; occupation *Saddler*
 When enlisted *Jan 23, 1864*
 Where enlisted *Griffin, W. Va.*
 For what period enlisted *3* years.
 Eyes *Blue*; hair *Dark*
 Complexion *Fair*; height *5 ft. 6 in.*
 When mustered in *Jan 23, 1864*
 Where mustered in *Griffin, W. Va.*
 Bounty paid \$ *100*; due \$ *100*
 Where credited
 Company to which assigned *Co*
 Valuation of horse, \$ *100*
 Valuation of horse equipments, \$ *100*
 Remarks: *Resides in Dist. 20*
Sub A. Not enrolled under
over
 Book Mark *General Notation 453-8-1876*
 (120) Copyist

Access various CMSR indexes and images online at the following:

At fold3:

Revolutionary War. Compiled Military Service Record images are online for CT, DE, GA, MD, MA, NH, NJ, NY, NC, PA, RI, SC, VT, VA, and Continental Troops. Genealogists should also search the local state where their ancestors were from as some Militia isn't included in these records.

During the Revolutionary War additional **Compiled Service Records were completed for the Navy**, which was broken down to include Naval Personnel, Quartermaster General, and Commissary General Departments.

One additional set of CMSR images covered Revolutionary War service along with Imprisonment Cards.

Old Wars (1784-1811). After the Revolutionary War, the newly formed United States government sought to maintain a regular Army. However, volunteer soldiers who served from 1784-1811 were recorded. (One of the reasons for volunteers to be called up would have included the Whiskey Rebellion of 1793.) Their Compiled Military Service Record full images are available online.

War of 1812. Compiled Military Service Records Indexes are online for CT, DE, DC, GA, IL, IN, KY, LA, MD, MA, MI, MS, MO, NH, NJ, NY, NC, OH, PA, RI, SC, TN, VT, VA and also the Cherokee, Chickasaw, Choctaw, Creek, and Shawanoe Indians along with United States Volunteers. Full copies of CMSR are online for the Chickasaw and Creek Indians, along with the men from Lake Erie and Mississippi.

Indian Wars. Compiled Military Service Records Indexes are online for the various Indians wars from 1815-1858.

Mexican War. Compiled Military Service Record indexes are online for AL, AR, CA, FL, GA, IL, IN, IA, KY, LA, MD, DC, MA, MI, MS, MO, NJ, NY, NC, OH, PA, SC, TN, TX, VA, WI, and the Mormon Battalion and the United States Volunteers. Full copies of the CMSR are online for AR, MS, PA, TN, TX, and the Mormon Battalion.

Civil War. [Click here](#) to search:

- Union: Indexes are online for AZ, CA, CO, CT, IL, IN, IA, KS, ME, MA, MI, MN, MO, NH, NJ, NY, OH, PA, RI, VT, WA, WI, United States Veteran Volunteers,



and Veteran Reserve Corps. Full copies of CMSR for AL, AR, CA, CO, Dakota Territory, DE, DC, FL, GA, KY, LA, MD, MA, MS, MO, NE, NV, NM, NC, OR, TN, TX, UT, VT, VA, WV, United States Colored Troops, United States Volunteers, and 1st NY Engineers.

- Confederate: indexes are online for AL, and VA. Full copies of CMSR are online for AL, AZ, AK, FL, GA, KY, LA, MD, MO, MS, NC, SC, TN, TX, VA, Miscellaneous, Volunteers, Indians, and Officers.

Spanish American War. Compiled Military Service Record Indexes are online for AL, AR, CA, CO, CT, Dakota Territory, DE, DC, FL, GA, ID, IL, IN, IA, KS, KY, LA, ME, MD, MA, MI, MN, MS, MO, MT, NE, NV, NH, NJ, NY, NC, ND, OH, OK, OR, PA, PR, RI, SC, SD, TN, TX, UT, VT, VA, WA, WV, WI, WY, and United States Volunteers. Also: [full copies of CMSR for FL.](#)

At Ancestry.com:

Revolutionary War. Full copies of the Compiled Military Service Records for CT, DE, GA, MD, MA, NH, NJ, NY, NC, PA, RI, SC, VT, VA, and Continental Troops. This database often doesn't list the local militia as most of the men listed were part of the continental line. Researchers can access this group of records and search by keyword or location.

Old Wars. This database is an index and full images of the Compiled Military Service Records of those men who served after the Revolutionary War and before the War of 1812, covering the years of 1784-1811.

War of 1812. Abstracted lists of names, state, and military units from the Compiled Service Records (no images).

Indian Wars: Database with images for Florida: includes the Florida Wars, Second Creek War, and the Third Seminole War from 1835-1858

Mexican War. Full copies of the CMSR are online for MS, PA, TN, TX, and the Mormon Battalion

Civil War:

- [Union: Compiled Military Service Records](#) are searchable, with a link to the collection on Fold3
- [Confederate: Compiled Military Service Records](#) are searchable, with a link to Fold3 to view original images. An [additional set of Service Records](#) comes from units that were raised by the Confederate Government and not from any of the states that comprised the Confederacy. The CMSR are available online to view the images and searchable by military unit

Spanish American War. Compiled Military Service Record Indexes are online that cover the same geographical areas as on Fold3; also [full copies of CMSR for Florida](#).

Free at FamilySearch.org:

Family Search has fewer Compiled Military Service Records available online that include images. One of the major collections includes the [Revolutionary War CMSRs](#) that when searched, the images provide a direct link to Fold3.

Most of the other major war periods are microfilmed and available through the Family History Library in Salt Lake City, Utah. With online access through both Fold3 and Ancestry provided on the computers in the library, accessing the film is less desirable.

GEM: USNEWSMAP

[UsNewsMap.com](#)

[Free video helps you visualize where historic newspapers are located in the US](#)

Suzanne's comment: "Did you realize that this site from the Georgia Tech Research Institute is actually a wonderful search engine for Chronicling [America.loc.gov](#). website? I have used the LOC site often, but found it cumbersome sometimes. This is a real time saver. Thanks for the Genealogy Gem."

Lisa's tip: In the timeline you can specify a date, like 1860 (date and month too!), then press play and it will play back and reveal the locations on mentions of your search query coming forward in time. It would be really interesting to take a word or phrase and see when it first occurred. This is a very feature-rich website!

PROFILE AMERICA: [HOME MAKING](#)

A short [YouTube video documentary on Leavittown](#): it's a great example of the do-it-yourself video narratives you can make to tell your own family's stories!

KEEP UP WITH GENEALOGY GEMS

Listen to the Genealogy Gems Podcast twice a month! Check in on or after October 26, 2017 for [Genealogy Gems Podcast Episode 210](#). What's coming? Paul Woodbury of Legacy Tree Genealogists will share some great tips for beginning Swedish genealogy—and much more!

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