(Approx. 400 words)

Genealogy Research Online

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Well, the Coronavirus has us isolated at home instead of at work. Some people, so I’ve heard, are tackling tasks they’ve deferred for the proverbial “rainy day.” I’ve often said to myself that I would scan that box of photos I rescued from my departed uncle’s home before its contents were sold at an estate sale. I intend to distribute the images to my relatives. The issue is …identifying the people in the photos. Genealogical research can be a tedious task. Just such a task for a time like this. If you are interested in creating a family tree, or simply learning more about your ancestors, there are many websites where you can conduct genealogical research. Some of these websites are interactive and allow you to share photos and communicate with distant relatives. Bob Rankin at AskBobRankin.com provides a list of useful sites for Genealogical research:

1. Ancestry.com – perhaps the best-known website for genealogical research. It is a

subscription-based service that costs $199/year or $99 for six months. A 14-day trial will

allow you to evaluate the service. For an additional fee, the “World Explorer” package

adds the ability to search internationally.

2. Cyndi's List – is a free, “…categorized & cross-referenced index to genealogical

resources on the Internet. Over 335,000 genealogical sites are linked from this website.

3. Family Search – is run by the LDS Church. It provides access to over a billion records

worldwide at no cost. The LDS Church also provides personal assistance and access to

some of the paid sites via local family history centers. A local family history center is

located at 20 Boscobel Rd Fredericksburg, VA 22405 (540) 361-7494.

4. Roots Web – is the oldest and perhaps the largest genealogy site on the internet. The

Roots Web site has genealogy search engines and message boards where you can

obtain help from budding but more experienced genealogists.

5. USGenWeb – provides lists of genealogy resources by state and county.

6. WorldGenWeb – is similar to USGenWeb. Bob Rankin says, ”WorldGenWeb is a nonprofit volunteer organization that is dedicated to the free use and access of public domain genealogical information.”

Mr. Rankin notes several other websites and the resources that are provided in the article linked above (i.e., at AskBobRankin.com). He also provides links to genealogy software.