

Collaborating on the Internet using a Wiki

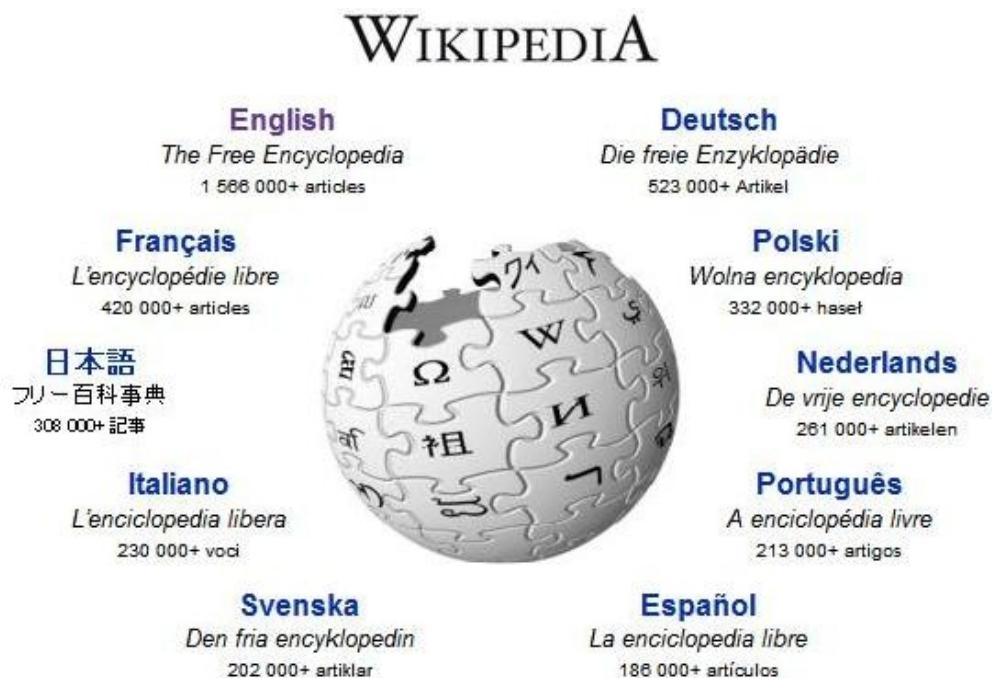
Presented by Solveig Quass, of Foundation for On-Line Genealogy, Inc.

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Summary: Wiki is web publishing made easy. If you can type with one or more fingers, you can Wiki. You don't need to know html or hire a programmer. You just type. Wiki is a type of website that lets you and your cousins work together on the same web page to write Grandma's story. No photocopies and no mailings, and no forgetting to photocopy and mail, you just type and scan. You can work with cousins from all over the world, each from their own home and share information, documents and pictures, instantly. There are several Genealogical Wiki's available, WeRelate, WikiTrees, Eogen, Wikitree, Rodovid and GenealogyWiki. All provide a Wiki environment where members of the community can contribute what they know and learn from each other. WeRelate and Rodovid have GEDCOM uploads. We will be using WeRelate in our demonstration. WeRelate.org is a free public service website that lets you upload your pedigree and collaborate on-line. It creates web pages automatically for each individual and family group in your file. You and your cousins can then add bios, research notes, pictures, and documentation. Once your ancestors are on the Internet you can collaborate on-line with cousins from all over the world.

What is a Wiki?

Wiki is a new type of web site. If you have ever been to www.Wikipedia.org you have seen a Wiki. Wikipedia is the most popular Wiki site and is now the 22nd most popular web site on the Internet. It has over 3 million articles in various languages; these 3 million articles were all cooperatively written by volunteers. People wanting to share what they know.



We are All on the Same Page

All Wiki pages are dynamic. Unlike static html pages, which have to be recoded and FTP'd to the server for even the smallest change, all Wiki pages can be edited, added to, and changed at any time by anyone.

- You mean just **anyone can type on any page??!** Exactly!
- Wait, you mean anyone can type on my page and change things?! That's right. However, every version is archived and always available. **Nothing is ever lost**, even if it is mistakenly deleted or altered. Just select the *history* button and **you can see every version, every edit**.
- But, won't people get into editing wars and keep erasing each other's work? This actually doesn't happen very often. Most Wiki participants come on-line to share what they know. Generally people understand the community nature of the Wiki and play nice. Occasionally, someone becomes annoying and finds himself locked out by the System Administrator.

 Discover and share information about your ancestors

» Solveig » Sign out
VISA American Express
DONATE

Home Search **Wiki** My Relate Help

Person Discussion Edit History Protect Delete Move Unwatch

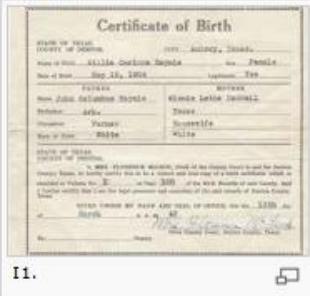
Person:Willie Haynie (2)

Corinne grew up on a dry land farm in west Texas. She hated the farm and talked frequently about wearing a flour sack on her head when she worked in the pea field--she didn't want to get a tan. She moved to town as soon as she was old enough and married a man named Taylor. She said he was out falandering the day Crissy was born. She never took him back. Her sister Dora took care of Crissy (Margarite Christene) for several years until about the time Dora's son Pete was born. Corinne worked as a phone operator. She married Wayne in 1928. She helped run the grocery store. She worked hard and made a good life for her family. She enjoyed crafts and was always well groomed. She was a wonderful grandmother. She died of cancer in 1991.

Sources

S1. Solveig/Willie Corinne Haynie Birth Certificate, II, N1
S2. Solveig/Willie Corinne Haynie Funeral Program
S3. California Death Index, 1940-1997 -- Family History Search, Willie Corinne Phillips ss#467287612 BD: 19 May 1904 Birthplace: Texas Death Date: 8 Oct 1991 Death Place: Los Angeles Mother's Maiden: Caddell Father's Surname: Haynie

Images


II.




Willie Corinne Haynie
female
Child of family
John Haynie and Minerva Caddell (1)
Spouse of family
Wayne Phillips and Willie Haynie (1)
Birth S1, S3, N1
19 May 1904
Aubrey, Texas

A Wiki is a Community

Wiki's are **community** web sites. No one owns the pages, they are community discussion pages and belong to the community. Its very easy to discuss alternate theories and opinions without removing conflicting opinions. So, unless something is inappropriate or obviously wrong (like a 4 year old having a 12 year old son), there is no reason to erase it. I can always add my theory and evidence in the next paragraph.

Working Together

Having all the information and documentation (even if its conflicting) on one page is very helpful. We can profit from each other's research and conclusion without agreeing on every point. We may both be researching Lewis Caddell and have come up with contradictory information. In reality, there may be more than one person by that name in that place and time. I might actually be related to yours and you to mine. You may laugh but I know of six Louis Green Caddells, all contemporaries in a very small frontier town and all buried in the same cemetery. I also have information on one Edna Bertozzi who died simultaneously in both Oregon and California.

This way we can work together even though we may have conflicting information. Here is the edit screen for Edna Bertozzi. Note that there is valid documentation for simultaneous death in two different states! The point is, my cousins don't need to conclude to share information and work together. We can agree that this is the same person and post alternative opinions.

Events and Facts

	Date ?	Place ?	Description ?	Source ID(s) ?	Image ID(s) ?	Note ID(s) ?
Birth	11 Aug 1915	Rhea's Mill, Washington Count		+ S1	+	+
Christening				+	+	+
Death	25 Dec 1993	Douglas, Oregon, United State		+ S2	+	+
Burial				+	+	+
Alt Death	25 Dec 1993	Madera, California, United Stat		+ S3	+	+

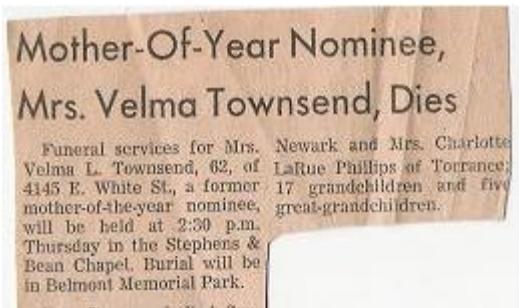
[Add event/fact](#)

Sources

ID	Title ?	Page ?	Quality ?	Date ?	Image ID(s) ?	Note ID(s) ?
S1	MySource:Clouse Family Bible	2	fair	1915	+ I1	+ remove
Edna born August 11 1915						
	Text:					
S2	Source:Oregon Death Index, 1903-		good	dec 1993	+	+ remove
Edna Lee Bertozzi birth:11 Aug 1915;other:25 Dec 1993						
	Text:					
S3	Source:Social Security Death Index		good	dec 1993	+	+ remove
Edna Bertozzi;Birth:11 Aug 1915; death date: Dec 1993,93638, Madera, Madera, California, USA; California						
	Text:					

What if you simply can't find Mary's death date and I have a picture of her headstone? What if the cousins in England know what ship the family was on and how many children left England? What if the Australian cousins know that Jane (the one who always traveled with the family) was your gg grandfather's only sister. Its easy to see how helpful it is to have an easy way to share research and conclusions. If all the cousins can post their information (contradictory or not) on the same page, its much easier to sort it all out. We might even help each other by disagreeing. Suppose you find tax or probate records that are 12 years later than the death date in the family bible. **Together, we can help each other solve the puzzles.**

The great thing about Wiki's is that is so easy to share information, anytime. For instance: Let's say that you wrote about Velma Townsend 2 years ago. Your cousin googles that page. She has some information that you didn't have. All she has to do is select the edit button and type it in. She can insert a paragraph about Velma's professional recognition and last illness right after your paragraph on her education. She can scan a copy of her obituary and Marriage Certificate. She doesn't have to give you her email or address, she doesn't have to remember to make photocopies and mail them to 16 people. And, other cousins can also add to the story and include their documents and pictures.



RECORD OF MARRIAGES.	
STATE OF NEW MEXICO,	ss.
COUNTY OF CHAVEZ,	
I hereby certify that this instrument is	
filed for record on the 2nd day	
November 1927,	
of 1927 by Clerk, John C. Peck,	County Clerk, Dept.
rely make application for a license to unite in marriage with Louise Stephens	
was born at Roswell, N.M., on the 25th day of June, 1905,	
now a resident of Roswell, N.M., that we are not related within the degree prohibited by the laws of this State of us is bound by marriage to another; that there exists no legal impediment to said marriage,	
Robert H. Townsend	
scribed and sworn to before me, this 2nd day of November, 1927,	
John C. Peck, County Clerk	
By: Jennie Bildersbach, Deputy	

WeRelate's **Surname in Place** pages work very well for this sort of collaboration. Organized by location and family groups, information posted on these pages will always be organized and searchable, answers to questions will be found under the question, new information can be added in an organized fashion as it is discovered. If we are all on the same page, using the Wiki as a place to store our research, its more likely that strangers will keep each other posted on new discoveries. **We can do so much more together than we can alone.**

Phillips in Texas

Contents [hide]	
1 Mitchell County	
1.1 Daniel Lincoln Phillips and Ella Boone Grey family	
1.1.1 ranch days for Dan and ella	
1.2 Wayne Lincoln Phillips and Willie Corinne Haynie family	
2 Dallas County	
2.1 Alma Dan Phillips	
2.2 Robert LeRoy Phillips	
3 Garza County	
3.1 Daniel Lincoln Phillips and Ella Boone Grey Family	
4 Monahans, Texas	
4.1 Robert LeRoy Phillips and Maude Key family	
5 Nolan County	
5.1 Robert LeRoy Phillips and Maude Key family	
5.2 Alex Miller and Alma Dan Phillips family	
6 Bexar County	
6.1 Alex Miller and Alma Dan Phillips family	
6.2 Robert LeRoy Phillips family	

Surname(s):
Phillips
Grey
Haynie

Place(s):
Texas
Denton County, Texas
Garza County, Texas
Nolan County, Texas
Bexar County, Texas
Abilene, Texas
Monahans, Texas
Dallas County, Texas
Mitchell County, Texas

Mitchell County

[edit section]

Daniel Lincoln Phillips and Ella Boone Grey family

[edit section]

Daniel Phillips, born 24 July, 1860 in Bowling Green, Ohio to Aaron Phillips AND Anna Crom

Question does anyone have any documentation for dan's birth?--EBG 14:25, 30 Jun 2006 (MDT)

He is listed as 49 in the 1910 Census. Daniel_Phillips_1910_census_Mitchell_County_Texas.jpg.--sq 17:46, 12 January 2007 (MST)

paid poll taxes as a resident of Mitchell, Texas, 1889.

paid absentee land owner tax 1891, 1892 in Mitchell County.

Self Policing and Dynamic Archiving

Many people worry about vandalism, about malicious deletions and spam. On Wikipedia, **vandalism generally lasts for less than one hour**. Its very simple to understand why. Every reader has access to the *edit*, *recent changes* and *history* buttons.

When I select the edit button on any Wiki page, I see all the formatting commands and any hidden HTML or XML code. So spam is instantly visible. The next person who reads and sees something inappropriate, can simply hit the edit button and delete the offending material. If you think about it, few people are willing to spent their time creating vandalism or posting a malicious article when **the very next reader can easily delete it**.

Many Wiki'ers like to check the *recent changes*. By selecting this button, you can see a list to all the changes to pages within a certain period. You can see the time, date, author, and explanation. If something interests you--click through and see the changes. You can edit or delete malicious material immediately. Wiki'ers often take interest in a certain group of pages and regularly patrol them. It is their community and they want to maintain its integrity. If we all want to work together, its to all our benefit to help with the maintenance.

Lastly, all Wiki pages are **dynamically archived**. What this means is that the Wiki stores a copy of every saved version. You can select the *history* button and then select two versions to compare. The system will highlight the changes. Since every version is always available to be viewed, nothing is ever lost even if some material is mistakenly deleted.

The screenshot shows the WeRelate website interface. At the top, there's a logo with three overlapping circles (red, green, blue) and the text "We Relate". Below the logo, a banner says "Discover and share information about your ancestors". On the right side, there are links for "Solveig" and "Sign out", and a "DONATE" button with VISA and MasterCard logos. The main navigation menu includes "Home", "Search", "Wiki" (which is highlighted), "My Relate", and "Help". Below the menu, a horizontal bar contains links for "Project page", "Discussion", "Edit", "History", "Protect", "Delete", "Move", and "Watch". The main content area is titled "WeRelate:Watercooler". It shows a list of page history entries. Each entry includes the revision number, date, author, and a brief description of the changes made. The descriptions use standard Wikipedia-style edit summaries. A legend at the bottom explains the symbols: a square for "(cur)" (current), a circle for "(last)", and a small 'm' for minor edits.

Revision	Date	Author	Description
(cur) (last)	13:39, 12 January 2007	Tim	(Talk contribs block) (<i>→Access to pages, ease of search</i>)
(cur) (last)	12:05, 12 January 2007	Dallan	(Talk contribs block) m (<i>fixed links</i>)
(cur) (last)	12:04, 12 January 2007	Dallan	(Talk contribs block) m (<i>fixed links</i>)
(cur) (last)	11:34, 12 January 2007	Dallan	(Talk contribs block) (<i>response to Tim's comment</i>)
(cur) (last)	23:00, 10 January 2007	TomChatt	(Talk contribs block) (<i>→Unknown name standard - concur</i>)
(cur) (last)	22:57, 10 January 2007	TomChatt	(Talk contribs block) (<i>→Combine the "How to" category with the "Research Guide" category - response</i>)
(cur) (last)	20:26, 10 January 2007	Solveig	(Talk contribs block)
(cur) (last)	20:41, 9 January 2007	Tim	(Talk contribs block)
(cur) (last)	08:29, 9 January 2007	Joeljkp	(Talk contribs block) m (<i>→Unknown name standard</i>)
(cur) (last)	08:28, 9 January 2007	130.18.49.72	(Talk block) (<i>→Unknown name standard</i>)

Accuracy

Recently, Nature magazine did a study comparing 42 similar articles from Encyclopedia Britanica and Wikipedia. Expert and specialists were asked to find factual errors. They weren't told where the articles came from. Wikipedia articles were found comparably accurate. The truth is that most people play nice and want to share what they know. Most of us are not experts on everything, but we know a lot about some things. If everyone shares a little, the knowledge base grows and we all benefit.

Formatting

There are a few simple formatting commands that are easily learned. You can block out text you want bolded, italics or used as a header and select an icon for that format. Or you can insert simple commands where you want special formatting. Just like you used to do with word processors. For instance if I want something bolded, I would insert three apostrophes on either side of the word to be bolded., i.e. "Bold". You can just find a page you like and select the *edit* button. Everything Wiki is transparent. So, you will see all the formatting commands when you select edit. You can learn to create tables, lists, headers and blocked text by see them used on another page. If you select edit on the main page, you would see:

```
==<center>WeRelate is ''Your'' Genealogy Community'''</center>==  
[[WeRelate:About|WeRelate]] uses genealogical web search and  
[[Help:FAQ#What_is_a_Wiki|Wiki pages]] to create a virtual genealogical  
community. We can '''learn''' from each other, '''work''' together,  
'''share''' what we know, and '''find''' what we need to make our  
research easier, more rewarding, and fun.
```

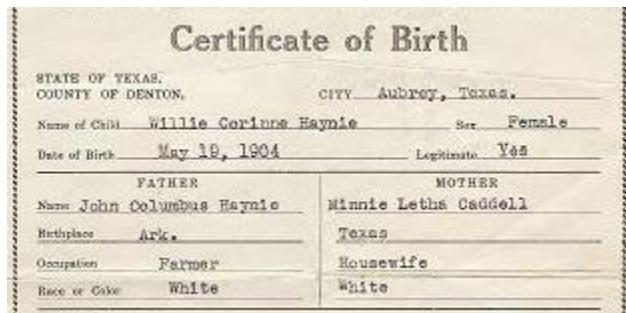
When I save it looks like this. The "share" is bold, the title between the `<center>title</center>` is centered and the links surrounded by `[[link]]` are links.

WeRelate is Your Genealogy Community

WeRelate uses genealogical web search and Wiki pages to create a virtual genealogical community. We can **learn** from each other, **work** together, **share** what we know, and **find** what we need to make our research easier, more rewarding, and fun. Join us.

Pictures and Images

You can easily scan in images and pictures onto Wiki pages. This makes it possible for you to share scans of your supporting documents, family bible pages, family pictures, pictures of the ranch, etc.



On the WeRelate site you can annotate these images, so when a cursor is drawn across a face or item, names and information pops up.



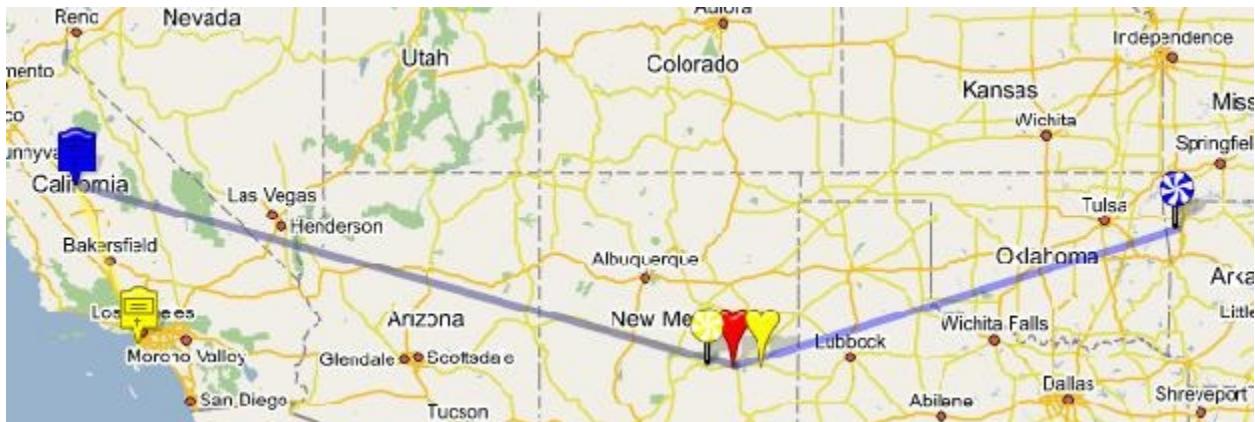
How Can Genealogists Use the WeRelate Wiki to Collaborate?

WeRelate is dedicated to helping genealogists work together, share what they know and learn from each other. It has public and password protected Wiki pages, the largest historical inhabited place index, largest Wiki based name and source index; GEDCOM uploads automatically create person, family, pedigree and migration map pages.

- Editing the person or family group Wiki pages is done the same way it is with all Wiki pages. They have a fill in the blanks form to help with page generation. You can chose from 45 life events or create your own.
- Each place for each event can be automatically linked to the place index. The place pages give you a place to leave and read research tips. You might learn about the collection in the basement of the Court house and who to ask. You might type in links to family web sites and organizations. This page is for Cheyenne County, Nebraska

<p>Cheyenne County is a county² located in the U.S. county seat³ is Sidney⁴.</p> <p>Contents [hide]</p> <p>1 Timeline 2 Population History 3 Research Tips 4 External links</p> <h3>Timeline</h3> <table border="1"><thead><tr><th>Date</th><th>Event</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>1867</td><td>County formed</td></tr><tr><td>1870</td><td>First census</td></tr><tr><td>1870</td><td>Marriage records recorded</td></tr><tr><td>1871</td><td>Court records recorded</td></tr><tr><td>1871</td><td>Land records recorded</td></tr><tr><td>1871</td><td>Probate records recorded</td></tr><tr><td>1910</td><td>No significant boundary changes after this year</td></tr></tbody></table> <h3>Population History</h3>	Date	Event	1867	County formed	1870	First census	1870	Marriage records recorded	1871	Court records recorded	1871	Land records recorded	1871	Probate records recorded	1910	No significant boundary changes after this year	<p>Alternate names</p> <p>Cheyenne Co (WeRelate - abbreviation) Cheyenne (Getty Vocabulary Program) Taylor County (WeRelate - abbreviation) Taylor Co (WeRelate - abbreviation) Taylor (Family History Library Catalog)</p> <p>Type</p> <p>County</p> <p>Coordinates</p> <p>41.217°N 103°W</p> <p>Located in</p> <p>Nebraska</p> <p>See also</p> <p>Banner County, Nebraska (Child county (source: Source:Population of States and Counties of the United States: 1790-1990)) Deuel County, Nebraska (Child county (source: Source:Population of States and Counties of the United States: 1790-1990)) Kimball County, Nebraska (Child county (source: Source:Population of States and Counties of the United States: 1790-1990)) Lyon County, Nebraska (Parent county (source: Source:Population of States and</p>
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- Just type the village, town, or county followed by a comma. A drop down list will list all the places in the world with that name. Select one. The vital events will be automatically geocoded and mapped.



- You may also type in a biography and post pictures. You may annotate each picture and image—on the picture or image. This is done like any other Wiki page. You select *edit* and start typing. This means if you don't know the names of all the people in a picture, you cousin might and would be able to add that annotation, on-line.
- Each fact or event can be completely and easily referenced. You can instantly link to the WeRelate source list. Each source has a Wiki page with all the reference information, along with user tips and evaluations; you don't need to enter any reference information on these sources. If you are using personal sources such as a family bible, you can even create your own MySource list. This lets you create a personal Wiki page for your sources' reference information. You will only need to enter the reference information once.
- Every source, event or fact can be automatically linked to an image so you can completely document your ancestor's life and share what you have on-line.

Conclusion

Wikis provide an interactive community environment where genealogists can share information, work together, learn from each other and find more information. This makes genealogy faster, easier, more rewarding and fun!