

## Message Boards, Queries, and Mailing Lists

Geoffrey D. Rasmussen  
<mailto:geoff@geoffrasmussen.com>

### Message Boards

|                     |   |
|---------------------|---|
| Genforum            | <a href="http://www.genforum.com/">http://www.genforum.com/</a>       |
| Ancestry            | <a href="http://www.ancestry.com/">http://www.ancestry.com/</a>       |
| USGenWeb Project    | <a href="http://www.usgenweb.org/">http://www.usgenweb.org/</a>       |
| WorldGenWeb Project | <a href="http://www.worldgenweb.org/">http://www.worldgenweb.org/</a> |
| Cyndi's List        | <a href="http://www.cyndislist.com/">http://www.cyndislist.com/</a>   |

### Mailing Lists

|                      |   |
|----------------------|---|
| Rootsweb             | <a href="http://lists.rootsweb.com/">http://lists.rootsweb.com/</a>   |
| Password Central     | <a href="http://passwordcentral.rootsweb.com/">http://passwordcentral.rootsweb.com/</a>                               |
| FamilySearch         | <a href="http://www.familysearch.org/">http://www.familysearch.org/</a>   |
| Software             | <a href="http://rootsweb.com/~jfuller/gen_mail_software.html">http://rootsweb.com/~jfuller/gen_mail_software.html</a> |
| Netiquette and Rules | <a href="http://www.cyndislist.com/mailing.htm">http://www.cyndislist.com/mailing.htm</a>                             |

### Terms

Preliminary Survey on the Internet. Searching various resources on the Internet to learn if any research has been performed, or if others are currently researching your family.

Query. A message, usually in the form of a question, that an individual submits to either a message board or a mailing list.

Message Board. Site(s) on the Internet where queries are stored so others can view them.

Mailing List. Utilizes e-mail. When a query is submitted to a mailing list, everyone who is subscribed to this mailing list receives a copy of the query.

Subscribe. To participate in a mailing list, an individual must be subscribed. Subscribing is free, and only requires a valid e-mail address. See <http://lists.rootsweb.com>.

Follow-up. A response to a query.

Search Engine. A method of searching for information on the Internet.

Netiquette. Rules of communicating via the Internet and e-mail.

Spam. An e-mail sent to a large number of individuals without their consent. Also known as junk e-mail.

SHOUT. THIS IS SHOUTING. AM I ANGRY? NOT POLITE?

Threaded Discussion. A chain of queries and responses related to an original query.

### Elements of a good subject line

1. Name/subject
2. Time period
3. Locality

### Examples of subject lines

- Marshall McCall
- McCalls in Texas
- Samuel McCall / Nancy Inman
- Elizabeth McCall m. Jesse McCarley, 15 Dec 1805 KY
- My McCalls
- Thomas McCall, 1793-1825 in Washington County, Tennessee
- Please read this message!

### Example of a message board

