



Make the Internet Do Your Research for You

TXGenWeb 2007

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Internet Research Resources

- **eBay Favorite Searches**
- **Google Alerts**
- **RSS Feeds**
- **Google Earth**

eBay

- **Ability to set up alerts**
- **E-mails you daily when someone is selling an item with your keyword**
- **Items that may appear**
 - **Postcards**
 - **Old Photos**
 - **Books**
 - **Letters**
 - **Stock Certificates**

Pros

- **You have the ability to collect items on a national scale without having to shop around**
- **Some items that you may have never thought of will come available**

Cons

- **This costs money**
 - Try not to spend more than \$5.00
 - Don't forget about shipping costs
- **You may need access to a scanner**
- **If you can't afford to spend the money out of your pocket, see if a local society will help or contact the historical museum to see if you could donate the items to them after you have scanned the information**
- **Some counties will have common names that might bring up other items**

Example of eBay Screen

[Want It Now](#)

[My Messages](#) (4)

[All Favorites](#)

- [Searches](#)
- [Sellers](#)
- [Categories](#)

[My Account](#)

- [Personal Information](#)
- [Addresses](#)
- [Preferences](#)
- [Feedback](#)
- [PayPal Account](#)
- [Half.com Account](#)
- [Seller Account](#)
- [Subscriptions](#)

[My Reviews & Guides](#)

[Dispute Console](#)

Item counts delayed. [Refresh](#)

["karnes county"](#)

"karnes county"
Sort: Ending First

["panna maria"](#)

"panna maria"

[alamita, tx](#)

alamita, tx
Sort: Ending First

[Bainville, tx](#)

Bainville, tx

[Burnell, tx](#)

Burnell, tx

[Cestohowa, tx](#)

Cestohowa, tx

[Choate, tx](#)

Choate, tx

[Coy City, tx](#)

Coy City, tx

Example of Resulting Page

Land certificate for Mrs. Isabel Dillman for E.R. Cosby Karnes County 300 Acre Lease Pool

On October 12, 1932, Mrs. Isabel Dillman purchased a portion of land in Karnes County in the E.R. Cosby Karnes County 300 Acre Lease Pool. The certificate starts thusly:

"This certifies that Mrs. Isabel Dillman is the owner of a 1/3000th interest in and to 300 acres oil and gas leases in Karnes County, Texas, described below, and is entitled to his (or her) prorata share of an sale of any properties comprising the E.R. Cosby - Karnes County - 300 Acre Lease Pool being the 7/8th oil and gas leases on THIRTEEN tracts of land comprising 300 acres, as described and of record in Deed Records of Karnes County, Texas..."

In the 1930 census, there was an Isabel Dillman (wife of J. Alex Dillman) living in Milwaukee, Wisconsin (Districts 1-250). No record if this is the same person.

In March of 1927, E.R. Cosby is listed as a defendant in a lawsuit regarding the cancellation of a mineral lease in Pottawatomie County in Oklahoma. Source: [Heam vs. Blakeney & Ambrister](#)

You can view the lease certificate by clicking on the thumbnails below. The images are quite large and will open in a new window.



Tips About eBay

- **Don't just use the county name as your keyword**
 - Do you have cities of import?
 - Do you have local heroes of yore?
 - Did something historical happen in your county?
- **Don't get discouraged**
 - You may not get many hits on your keywords, but give it time; even one item may add a wonderful facet to your county site

Google Alerts

- **Setting up alerts in Google will give you an opportunity to have the search engine scan the web for your keywords**
 - **Newspaper articles**
 - **Obituaries and memorials**
 - **Book reviews**
 - **County festivals**

Newspaper Articles

- **This gives you an opportunity to keep your news archives updated**
 - **This may not seem like much today, but think about the person who views your archives in 30 years**
 - **Sometimes this will include notices of wartime deaths which you can then see if you can find an obituary or memorial**

Example of Google Page



Manage your Alerts

kantell13@yahoo.com | [Settings](#) | [FAQ](#) | [Sign out](#)

Your Google Alerts

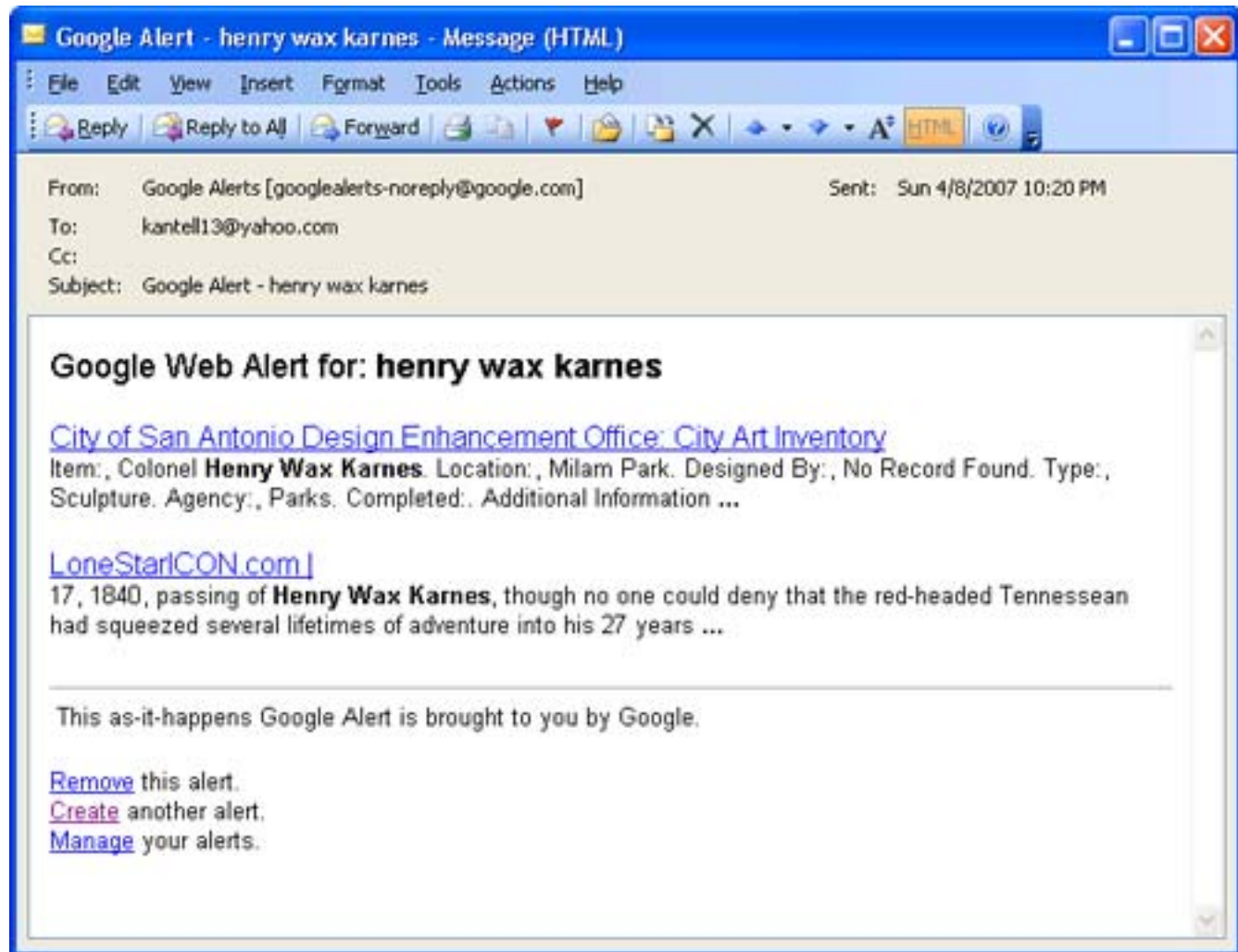
Sending **HTML emails**. [Switch to text emails](#).

Search terms	Type	How often	
<input type="checkbox"/> karnes	Comprehensive	once a week	edit
<input type="checkbox"/> karnes county	Comprehensive	once a day	edit
<input type="checkbox"/> kenedy	Comprehensive	once a day	edit
<input type="checkbox"/> panna maria	Comprehensive	once a day	edit
<input type="checkbox"/> runge tx	Comprehensive	once a day	edit

Delete

New Alert

Example of Google E-mail



Obituaries and Memorials

- **Google can send you updates when they find an obituary from your county newspaper**
 - Many newspapers update their obituary pages daily, so this usually doesn't happen, but you might get lucky
- **Sometimes when someone in your county passes, their family will create a memorial page on that person which might include photos**
 - Contact the family and see if they would mind if you posted the photos on your county site

Example of Memorial



Raymond Whipple, Jr.

September 27th, 1943 to October 22nd, 2006

*"Take care of each other.
I'll see you down the road."*

Us with Uncle Raymond

Tuesday, March 13th, 2007 at 5:29 pm by Cara

Site Admin

[Register](#)

[Login](#)

Recent Comments:

Cara: Boy, I don't remember seeing Raymond that thin. He looks good!

Cara: CARDS>> you have to know when to hold them, to know when to fold them and know when to run!!

Cara: LOL...cute comment!

Cara: Yes, the "hands on" decorations always made Christmas much more fun. Granny and Mom taught us kids how to string popcorn. I tried it

County Festivals

- **Most counties have festivals throughout the year**
 - **These alerts will keep you up-to-date on the festivals**
 - **Keep in mind that unless the dates are posted very early, you might not be hearing about the events until after the fact**
 - **You might get some great photos out of these events as well as a history write-up if the festivals are long-running**

Example of County Festival

Government

Farming/
Ranching

Karnes County's rich heritage is also host to many festivals and events each highlighting their ancestry, with Polish sausage, Czech kolaches, Mexican fajitas and barbecue. In addition, Karnes County is a popular hunting ground for doves, and host to The Lonesome Dove Fest, an annual event held in conjunction with the opening of dove hunting season.

Events



Lonesome Dove Festival (Karnes City)

Held annually the first two days of dove hunting season in the South Zone.

Features sporting clays and skeet shooting events, retriever demonstrations, archery displays, kids' fishing pond, barbecue and beverages and other family activities. Karnes County Showbarn.

Phone (830)780-3112 or (830)780-2471 for more information.

RSS Feeds

- **RSS feeds have really grown in the last year and can give you valuable updates**
- **You will need to have a Feed Reader**
 - **Many e-mail programs now support this service**
 - **My Yahoo or similar portals are great ways to do this, especially if they are your home page**

Great Feeds

- **The Portal to Texas History**
 - Good for historical information
- **Ecanned.com**
 - Good for county demographics
- **Topix.com**
 - Good news feed

Example of Portal Feed

The Portal to Texas History RSS feed for "karnes"

- [Reconnaissance soil survey of the central Gulf coast area of Texas](#) - 4 months ago
- [A gazetteer of Texas, by Henry Gannett](#) - 6 months ago
- [Texas Legal Directory For 1876-77](#) - 6 months ago
- [The Laws of Texas, 1822-1897 Vol 9](#) - 6 months ago
- [The Laws of Texas, 1926 Vol 24](#) - 6 months ago

cotton, corn, broom corn, and sorghum. It is not so well adapted to early truck as the sands and sandy loams. Most of the gravelly sandy loam is used for pasture.

The Lufkin series has three types—the sands, which are very limited in extent; the gravelly sandy loam, which is of small agricultural value; and the sandy loams, which are fair general-purpose soils well adapted to the earlier truck crops.

The Susquehanna soils are of limited extent and little agricultural value.

The Duval sandy loams are well adapted to truck crops, cotton, and corn. They are easily worked, maintain moisture well, and are above the average in productiveness. Very little of the Beeville fine sandy loam is under cultivation. Cotton and corn are grown to some extent and a small acreage is planted to vegetables.

The **Karnes** soils occur along the San Antonio and Cibolo Rivers and are very productive. A small acreage is irrigated, the chief crops being onions and alfalfa. Corn and cotton also do well.

The level coast country is occupied by the soils of the Victoria, Edna, and Lomalta series, and the Nueces and Galveston fine sands.

The Victoria series has three types—a fine sandy loam, especially

Example of ecanned.com Feed

▼ Karnes County, TX

- [In Karnes County, the support activities for mining industry jobs pay the highest wages](#) - 5 days ago
- [Karnes County Wages have increased by 18.9% Since 2001](#) - 2 weeks ago
- [Karnes County Industry Wages Lag Behind Texas, and Wages Lag Behind the United States](#) - 3 weeks ago
- [Karnes County Five-Year Industry Employment Change](#) - one month ago
- [Karnes County One-Year Industry Employment Change](#) - one month ago

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 21, 2007

In Karnes County, the support activities for mining industry jobs pay the highest wages

Employment in the support activities for mining industry had the highest average wages in Karnes County for the 2nd quarter of 2006. The average worker in the industry in Karnes County earned an annual wage of \$41,390 in 2nd quarter of 2006. The wage rate is less than the industry wage in Texas of \$73,362 and less than then the pay for jobs in this industry in the United States of \$64,588.

Example of topix.net Feed

▼  **Karnes County, TX - Topix.net**

- [Karnes suspect exits jail for 1 day](#) - one month ago
- [Manhunt continues for Karnes County escapee](#) - one month ago
- [Tradestar Resources Announces Operations Have Begun to Recomplete...](#) - 2 months ago
- [Tradestar Resources Corporation Announces Pink Sheet Filing of First...](#) - 3 months ago
- [Churches invite all to celebrate Christmas](#) - 3 months ago

▶ **CAMP GUIDE**
▶ **YELLOW PAGES**

HOME NEWS WEATHER SPORTS BUSINESS A & E LIFESTYLES TRAVEL OPINION MULTIMEDIA

Crime | Crime Database | Fiesta | Education | Environment/Water | Health/Medical | KENS 5 Video | Local
| News Wire | News en Español | Politics | Religion | Rodeo | Special Sections | Traffic

Crime | Public Safety

Story Tools

-   Instant Msg.
-  Email Story
-  Print This Story
-  Mobile MySA
-  News Feeds

Most E-mailed

- [OLLU president gets no confidence vote](#)
- [Folks tied to savior at Coliad seek to learn more of her life](#)

Karnes suspect exits jail for 1 day

Web Posted: 02/10/2007 01:15 AM CST

George Zarazua
Express-News

KARNES CITY — A 22-year-old local man who escaped from the Karnes County jail early Friday was captured after a daylong search when authorities found him hiding in the attic of a friend's house.

He had been arrested on a cocaine possession charge when he made his escape across a mattress placed over a razor wire fence.

Other Possible Feeds

- **Many newspapers now have RSS feeds built into their websites**
 - See if you can get one for the obituaries; it would be a great way to keep up
- **Media**
 - You might also check your local news stations to see if they offer feeds
- **Be sure that you always credit the source of your information!**

Cons

- **Unless you can set up a feed at a site that specifically keys into your county name(s), this might be cumbersome**
 - **For instance, the paper for my county is in Victoria, but I can't set up a feed for Karnes County, so I use Google alerts to let me know about news**
 - **However, I can set up The Portal to Texas History to show me only new items about Karnes, so it works great**

Google Earth

- **Google Earth is a program that allows you to have topographical photos**
- **You have to install the program on your computer and you have to have internet access when you are trying to find a new site**
 - **You can save these sites and view them later without internet access**

Why would I use Google Earth?

- **If you wanted to give your users an overhead view of directions to a place, like a cemetery, this would be a great addition to textual instructions**
- **You can also use these to add some nice thumbnail photos to your site**

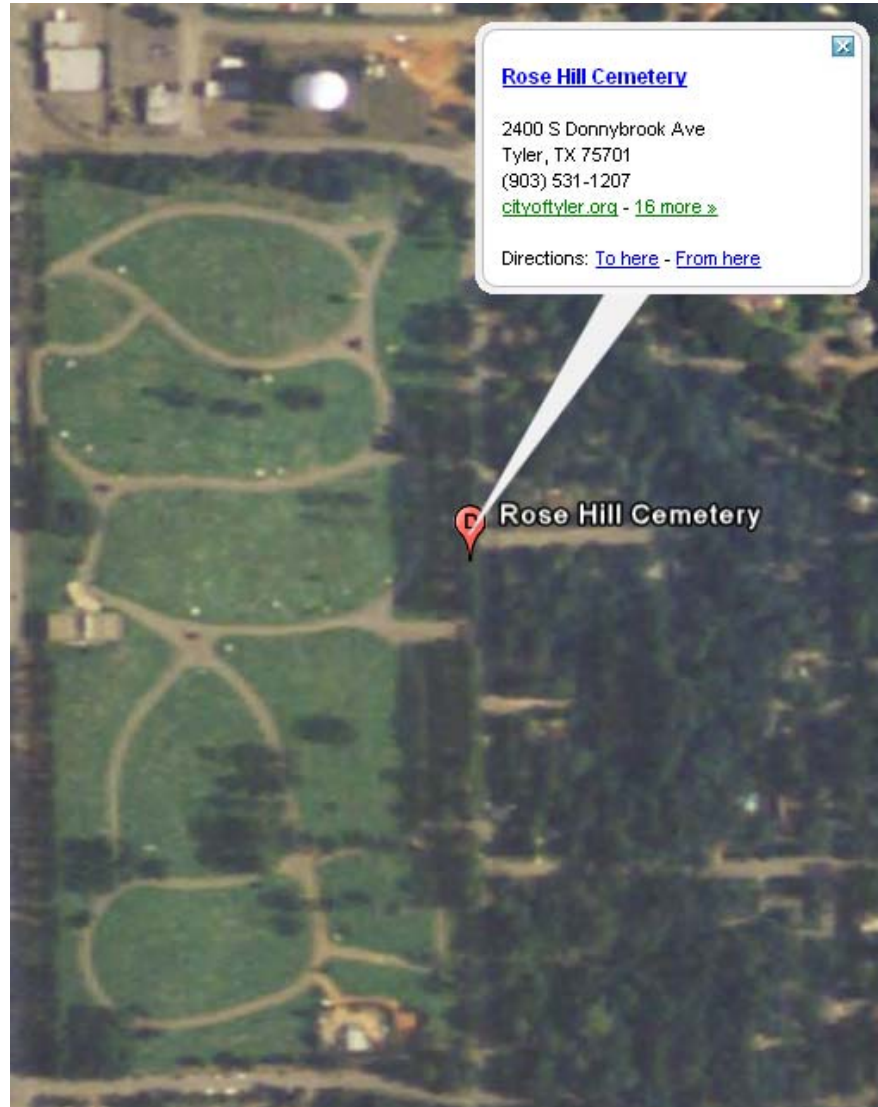
Pros

- **It will give you the exact GPS locations**
- **It will also give you the altitude of a location**
- **You can use this to find directions to a given location**

Cons

- **The resolution goes only so far**
 - Because these are satellite photos, you can only zoom in to a point
 - You wouldn't be able to zoom in and see a specific tombstone, for instance
- **Not all areas are well photographed**
 - United States is pretty good, but some of third world countries aren't
- **You can't see the forest because of the trees**
 - If the place is covered by foliage, you won't be able to see it from above

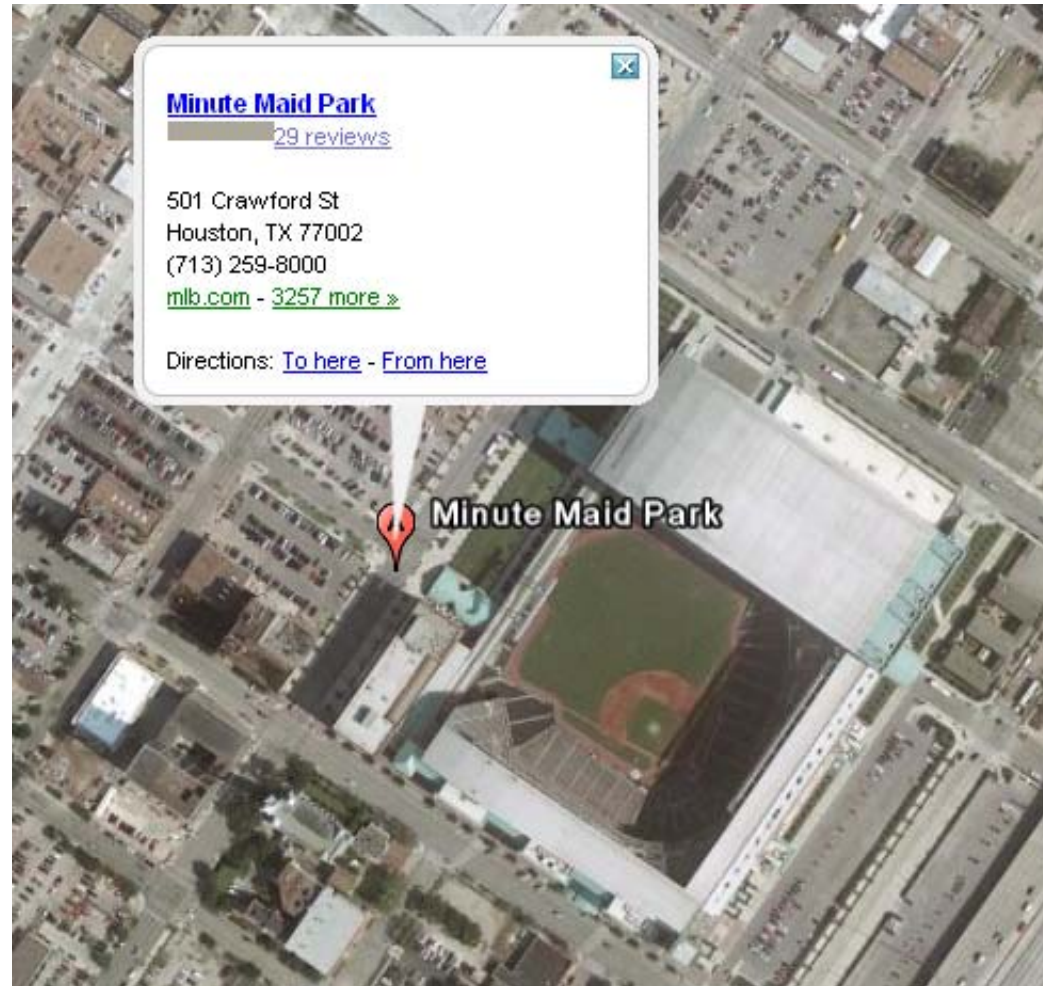
Example of a Cemetery



Example of a Historical Site



Example of a Landmark



Conclusion

- **The internet can offer you some valuable research tools that will give you a great deal of content to use on your county site through very little effort on your part**
- **Set up your alerts and feeds today and you will have a great way to keep your site and archives active**
- **To add some extra interactivity to your sites, try Google Earth**
- **Your users will thank you for it!**

Questions

- **Do you have any questions about what I have talked about today?**