

WOLFRAM ALPHA

Powerful web or mobile research

- Origins in providing a research capability for academia
- Created by Professor Stephan Wolfram & introduced in 2009
- **IS NOT** an information lookup service – e.g Google, Bing, etc.
- **IS** a computational research engine
 - Pulls data from curated external sources
 - Operate on questions (queries) from researcher
 - Provides answers in form of a report, including e.g. assumptions on the query, historical timelines, charts, sources used – depending on the query
- Best of all, it's **FREE**

How do I access it?

- Full program on your computer – see <https://www.wolframalpha.com>
- Mobile apps for smartphone, tablets – see <http://products.wolframalpha.com/mobile/>

What areas are available for research?

- Quite comprehensive – see first page of site and <http://www.wolframalpha.com/tour/>
- Specialized apps for different areas if you want

BUT, for Genealogy

- **Use homepage for queries**
- **Use mobile app “ Wolfram Genealogy & History Research Assistant”** (iPhone \$4.99)

Basics

- Queries: Operates on queries; don't “overthink” how to pose the query
- Assumptions: Provides these based on query, and picks what it thinks is the best. You can pick alternate though by clicking on hyperlink.
- Input Interpretation: shows how WA interpreted your query
- Report: The “answer” is in a report, length depending on query.

AREAS OF INTEREST FOR GENEALOGISTS

Family Relationships

- Basic Family Relationship Information

Names

- Given Names
- Surnames

Words and Text

- Determine Missing Letters in a Word
- Translation
- Soundex

Dates

- Historical Dates of Holidays
- Calculate a Date Based on Another Date
- Calculate a Date Based on a Previous Day of the Week
- Calculate Julian Calendar Dates
- Determine a Day of the Week for a Historical Date
- Generate a Calendar for a Specific Year

Money

- Current Value of Historical Money
- Convert Historical Quantities of Money

Weather

- Local Historical Weather
- Historical Weather for Specific Locales

All with thanks to Thomas MacEntee, High Definition Genealogy

(<http://hidefgen.com>)

See his article on Wolfram Alfa