

# *Finding Anyone, Anywhere, Anywhen*



*Noel Montgomery Elliot*

Techniques for using the Internet to locate people who lived during any century in the past, as well as how to find people living today—anywhere in the world.

**Revised Edition**

***Finding Anyone,  
Anywhere,  
Anywhen***

***Noel Montgomery Elliot***

FIREFLY BOOKS



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# *Introduction*

In the beginning, our ancient ancestors created artwork and text, pictographs and hieroglyphics, and each created work was an original.

With the invention of the printing press, mass production of copies of any original work became possible. Creativity exploded worldwide. As costs came down, the ability of people to share art and printed communication created a virtual torrent of knowledge and information.

It is always the creativity of individuals—inventors, innovators and visionaries—that leads the way.

The invention of radio and television created instantaneous mass communication. Each broadcast meant that anyone with a receiver would receive a simultaneous copy of the original work. Recording devices allowed copies to be literally frozen in time, for later playback.

In 1958, Jack St. Clair Kilby invented the integrated electronic circuit, or microchip. His invention paved the way for the miniaturization of computers and the birth of the Internet. Once again, another creative individual influenced and changed the world.

And so it was with the invention of the popular personal computer or PC. The Apple computer, one popular example, was born in 1975. Two teenagers in California were largely responsible for its success.

The Apple was designed by Steve Wozniak to demonstrate to his local computer club, and when a store ordered 50 of them, he and his friend, Steve Jobs, began production. The Apple II and its clones revolutionized the lives of millions of people throughout the United States and Canada.

The low price of PCs brought them within reach of highly creative and talented young people in their teens and twenties. For the first time, the power previously available only to multinational corporations and governments was suddenly available to the public.

Apple computer clubs swept the continent. Here, in monthly meetings, computer enthusiasts could meet to excitedly discuss new ideas and try out new experiments and programs.

Still, one thing was missing. And that missing something created a truly formidable challenge.

These avid computer club enthusiasts and other PC users wanted to go far beyond their local clubs and neighborhoods. They wanted nothing less than to be able to communicate globally, and exchange ideas with other young people all over the world.

To do this, they needed to cross language and geographical barriers, and political boundaries. It also had to be free, or almost free. How on earth could all these creative people—potentially millions of people scattered around the globe—share information and communicate with each other?

A large part of the answer came during a remarkable four-year period, from 1991 to 1994. A visionary scientist named Tim Berners-Lee, working in Geneva, Switzerland, created a shared information space which allowed communication among a group of research scientists. These scientists needed the ability to retrieve information regardless of the variety of computer platforms that were in use at the time.

Berners-Lee's real intent, however, even in his first proposal in 1989, went far beyond the needs of the physicists he worked with. He envisioned nothing less than a worldwide communication system for public use. And from 1995 onwards, the World Wide Web literally skyrocketed in popularity.

True, there were many Internet protocols being developed as early as the late 1960s, particularly by the U.S. military, and small nets were being used at an early date. It was the public's demand, however, that exploded the Internet into the real global phenomenon it has now become.



Today, the distinction has become blurred between the Internet and the World Wide Web (www). In this book I will often use the words interchangeably, but generally speaking, the word Internet will always include the World Wide Web.

The idea of retrieving information was paramount for the scientists in Switzerland when the World Wide Web was born, and it is still paramount. Remember this: everything that we call human history is simply what individuals have done, whether they acted alone or in a group. And retrieving information about individuals, precisely and accurately, is what this book is all about.

The Internet opened up tremendous resources that are extending deep within all fields of knowledge. The most remote details from the ancient past are coming alive at an unbelievable rate. New discoveries in the present are being added as they occur. Timelines become blurred: the first part of this sentence is already in the past.

New information is accumulating at a stupendous rate. It cannot be fathomed by any one person. It is unprecedented. Nobody, not even governments, can stay on top of it.

Every day hundreds of millions of new facts become available. Those who delve too deeply into the

information world find themselves speaking of a new disease – information overload.

This book is designed to provide you with the specific techniques that allow you to find and identify almost any individual, whether that person lived a hundred years ago, a thousand years ago, or even if that person is alive and living in our world today. This book will also provide you with the tools you need for navigation as the Internet unfolds.

You will also be sharing a vision of where the information highway is heading, what type of traffic it will have in the future and why.

To clearly see that future vision, we must first explore some unknown ancient history about ourselves.

This ancient history is quite well hidden. It is unknown to the vast majority of people in the world today. That, however, is all about to change.

# ***Our Hidden History***

## **Homo Sapiens at Dawn**

The birth of modern man begins many thousands of years ago. Scholarly ancient history books along with recent archaeological discoveries have told us far more today than what was known just one generation ago. It is for certain, however, that our beginnings are rooted in small tribal groups or clans.

The members of these tribes are truly our ancient ancestors. If they did not exist, then we would not exist today.

Recent discoveries are making it clear, however, that if we do not relearn some basic truths about our ancient past, our civilization today will most likely collapse—not in some distant future like some have imagined—but perhaps within our lifetime. If society and governments incur great errors, it will be partly because we forgot where we came from.

Many historians have studied the differences between ancient tribes. Emphasizing differences is only half the story, however, and focusing just on differences alone may be misleading.

After all, if you focus just on the differences between you and your own siblings, without understanding

the similarities and common elements, it might result in a fight. If we focus on differences only between nations, but without understanding, it could—and has in countless instances—led to war and destruction.

Instead of differences, let us look at the similarities between all of the ancient tribes, and see if we can pick up some new understanding. Remember: many of these tribes developed, seemingly unknown to each other, on several continents. And yet there were three major similarities between all of them. It is the similarities that provide important and crucial clues about our own nature, characteristics and origin.

## 1. Kinship

All early tribes were characterized by a strong energy-bond we call kinship. Each member of the tribe felt a strong sense of belonging. They shared a powerful family feeling. This bond created a strong rapport and affinity between each member of the tribe. They knew how they were all related to each other. They understood this on very deep levels and felt that relationship emotionally. It was a constant.

## 2. A Common Ancestor

Early tribes all carried, from generation to generation, the verbal story of a common ancestor. The common ancestor was seen as the tribe's founder, head or chief.

He was viewed as the ancestor from whom they had all descended. This shared belief strengthened the kinship feeling among every member of the tribe and provided a sense of purpose and value to the very existence of the tribe itself. Every man, woman and child felt this force: they had a common ancestor.<sup>1</sup>

### 3. Shared Religious Beliefs

Shared religious beliefs, regardless of what other groups believed, acted as a unifying force, and strengthened the feeling of oneness among each member of the tribe. It also helped to ensure the probability and protection of their descendants.

## **The Rise of the Nation-State**

As tribes grew larger and larger through the centuries, they would encounter other tribes, and if friendly enough they might coexist and engage in trade, or even form alliances against an invading tribe that appeared to be a common threat. Some encounters, however, were more like clashes, and the differences in beliefs and symbols spawned a multitude of rivalries, conflicts and wars.

Those that prevailed in wars, whether by physical might or intelligence, formed what we call nation-states. This led to formation of countries and nations, usually led by monarchs, demigods, emperors or dictators. The

important thing to remember about this development is that the oneness or family feeling that previously was a common characteristic of each tribe was gradually displaced within this new framework of society. The feeling of kinship declined as nation-states continued to move aggressively up through the hallways of time and into the future, eventually reaching what we now call our lifetime.

Now we have arrived in our present world. Countless conflicts are going on around the world. We sense many threats to our future existence. Yet these impending threats are mixed in with the hopes of the majority of people who wish for a more peaceful life in the future, along with reasonable prosperity.

It is during this time, in just slightly more than a decade, that the Internet has flourished. Like any new tool or invention, it has the potential for great harm, or great benefit. It really depends on how it is used.

The Internet is part of the new media along with television and a plethora of electronic gadgets.

The media forms our new community. The electronic village is our hometown. . . . We know celebrities but they don't know us. The new community is not a reciprocal neighborhood like earlier ones. These vicarious relations help create *a new kind of*

*loneliness*—the loneliness of people whose relationships are with personae instead of persons.<sup>2</sup>

## **The Discovery of Ebla**

Ebla is typical of the archaeological discoveries that keep changing our previous concepts about early civilization and bring a wealth of new information to light.

For 15 years archaeologists had been digging in the mounds of an ancient civilization on the plain of Syria. The dig took place between ancient Egypt and the Mesopotamian empire.

Then, in 1968, the archives of an ancient city-state were unearthed, revealing 15,000 clay tablets covered in an unknown cuneiform writing. At first, none of the experts were able to translate the writing, even though there are almost 7,000 known living languages in the world today.<sup>3</sup>

A little later, the archaeologists made yet another fortunate discovery. They found a unique set of tablets within the archive that showed the unknown Eblamite words along with the equivalent words in Sumerian.

By good fortune, Sumerian was a language that was understood by language experts. Suddenly they had the key to understanding this unknown language.

Incidentally, these translation tablets formed the oldest dictionary or lexicon ever discovered on our planet.

Armed with the key to deciphering the Eblamite tablets, the experts began the unprecedented task of translation. No archaeologists had ever encountered 15,000 clay tablets that required translation.

In the words of Dr. Giovanni Pettinato, an expert in ancient languages who had participated in the Italian Archaeological Mission in Syria,

All the other texts of this period recovered to date do not total a fourth of those from Ebla.<sup>4</sup>

A remarkably clear view of daily life in ancient Ebla began to unfold. The records being translated cover trade, commerce and the historical chronicles of this ancient empire. The details include over 5,000 geographical place-names. In essence, Ebla is rewriting much of history in that part of the ancient world.

Among thousands of people recorded in the tablets is the name of David, which has never been found in such ancient texts except the Bible. The large number of genealogical references include the names of Abraham, Esau, Saul and a King Ebrum, who was believed by some scholars to be Eber, the great-great-grandson of



Noah. Ebla's scribes had even kept track of the names of the people just traveling through their country.

In the Old Testament of the Bible, the Book of Deuteronomy refers to Abraham's grandfather as being a Syrian. These discoveries have excited and mystified scholars of Judaism, Christianity and Islam, and have left historians thinking anew about the formative years of ancient civilization.

Although the discovery of Ebla is fascinating, it is just one of a multitude of other discoveries coming to light all over the world. Some recent discoveries are nothing short of astonishing.

For example, more than 400,000 fragments of scrolls, books and papyrus were found in a 30-foot deep city dump near Oxyrhynchus, an ancient provincial capital in Egypt that dates from Roman times. Some of these fragments are more than 2,000 years old. Another large deposit of fragments from an ancient library has also been found in Herculaneum. The fragments are covered with grime, soot and ash—the result of volcanoes and fires.

Now, thanks to NASA technology and innovative scientists, enhanced multispectral imaging allows researchers to see through multiple layers of these fragments, even black upon black layers, to actually see the original writing clear enough to read, reconstruct and recreate as modern images.

Texts from these two cities now being translated include property records, New Testament epistles, early Islamic writings and fragments of lost plays by Euripides, Sophocles, and unknown works by the most famous classical writers and poets of antiquity.<sup>5</sup> Only 20 years ago many historians would have thought such scientific achievements were utterly impossible.

Many of the missing pieces of our true and ancient history are now coming to light. The shape of history is altering so quickly and on such a large scale that the authors of our history books are hard-pressed to stay abreast of the changes that follow each new major discovery.

Let me put it this way: the new revelations of science and archaeology require constant updating of our textbooks if we are to live in an aware and educated society.

## **The Discovery of Cousinhood**

Consider this opening phrase of a poem published in 1670 by John Wilmot:

The world appears like a great family.<sup>6</sup>

Later, in 1839, William Blackstone published a classic work entitled *Commentary on the Laws of England*.<sup>7</sup> In his research, he had noted that we all have a surprising number of ancestors.

For example, you have two parents, different from each other, or you would not exist.

It would seem logical to assume that your two parents each had two parents also, and therefore you have four grandparents. And you might further assume that your four grandparents each had two parents, and so on.

Your ancestors seemingly double with each generation as you go back in time. And although this may seem very logical and correct, it is actually not true! In fact, it's impossible. You can prove it to yourself in a few minutes.

Take a calculator and keep doubling your ancestors every 28 years or so (an average generation) and before you can get back to 2000 years ago, your ancestors outnumber the total world population at that time! And remember: we're not talking about anyone else – just your ancestors! The truth is, human history is loaded with cousins marrying cousins, far beyond what most people would ever imagine.

Mathematicians, genealogists and other scientists have examined this apparent enigma and have come to one conclusion: many of your ancestors knowingly or unknowingly married their cousins. This resulted in a reduction in the number of ancestors from the usual rate of expansion.

Genealogists call this phenomenon pedigree collapse. Pedigree collapse appears to have first been mentioned in a paper by Robert C. Gunderson.<sup>8</sup> It means that our ancient family trees are much smaller than we used to believe. As well, these repeated marriages between related cousins are far more plentiful in the past than we ever imagined. Parts of our ancestral family tree had branches that were expanding at a normal rate while other branches were contracting by comparison.

Certain individuals may show up in your family tree more than once. Acknowledging these events is the only way to reconcile world population with the fact that we each have two parents.<sup>9</sup>

In a more extreme example, the marriage of a brother and sister has quite a dramatic effect. This happened in some royal families, for instance. When a brother and sister marry, then there are only the same two people as parents for both of them in the previous generation, not four.

Often, because of religious and cultural beliefs, known sexual liaisons between certain individuals with their cousins were kept quiet and were closely guarded secrets. Genetic evidence is changing all that.

Far more children were born out of wedlock than our parents and grandparents ever would have believed. In fact, many of our parents and grandparents simply

wouldn't want to believe that this happened so often. This is understandable. After all, there was no convincing evidence of this reality until recently.

A term I particularly dislike is the word illegitimate when applied to children. Any child born into this world is as legitimate as any other child, and the use of the term illegitimate is of ill intent and demeaning and should never be used.

It would be more appropriate to refer to the activities of a parent of the child as engaging in illegitimate activities, contravening their vows or disrespecting social norms, but the child is not guilty of anything.

Today, DNA evidence and the human genome project have led to much closer linkage and cooperation between two very complementary sciences: genealogy and genetics.

While scientists may continue to argue about the exact and final degree of relationship, it is evident to them that everyone in the world is related. The relationship between us all is very clear:

We are all cousins

Many scientists now estimate that no person in the world could be further apart from you than 50th cousin. Other scientists believe that nobody else in the world

today could be any further apart from you than 32nd cousin. But they all agree on one thing: that we are cousins.

You may ask, “Does this include all of the various races besides my own?” The answer is an emphatic yes. Yes, it includes all so-called races. No exceptions.

Even remote tribes are not really being discovered for the first time. They are only being rediscovered a very long time after they were separated from other ancient tribes. In more ancient times they had ancestors in common to us all. And the latest evidence still indicates the origin of our species took place in Africa and spread out from there to other continents.

The most remote tribes are part of the overall human gene pool. In their ancient history they were intermingled with other tribes and had common ancestors with them before being cut off through exploration, natural catastrophes or other events.

When you hear news about a remote tribe being discovered, remember they represent those more distant 32nd or 50th cousins. They are cousins greatly removed by degree, but nevertheless they are still our cousins.<sup>10</sup>

As Guy Murchie pointed out, each one of us has ancestors that include: