

Google Maps: My Maps Tutorial by HSGPV

Use your Google (gmail) account and design a personal customized map for your genealogical pursuits!

Creating a custom map with Google Maps, including place names geolocated, notes and pictures for your genealogical travels. Can be shared with your personalized group or made available to the public. A free Google email account is needed to access My Maps in the Google Drive. The tutorial/presentation includes developing a map from scratch showing how easy and versatile this tool can be.

See [HSGPV's orientation map](#), as an example.

Check out the project that inspired us.....[Germans from Russia Settlement Locations](#).

Sandy gives an excellent overview of her project and Google mapping history!

Check out [HSGPV's customized map of Volhynia](#) by parish

– dataset provided by Sandy AND her Edmonton slide presentation.

You will need a gmail account. They're free.

How to get to Google My Maps:

1. **Sign into** your Google (gmail) Account: [Google Mail](#)
2. At the top right, click on the "square" to enter the Google apps attached to your account. **Go to Maps app.**
3. In Maps app, click: **Menu** (on top left of the search bar-however over the 3 "bars" to see the 'Menu' identified).
4. Scroll down to *Your Places*, about half-way down the list. Then click: **Your Places**.
5. You will see 4 choices: Labeled | Saved | Visited | **Maps** at the top.
6. Click: **Maps**. Go to the bottom. Click: **Create Map**.
7. Provide a title to your map. The map is automatically **saved** in **Google Drive**.

* *If you already have a map created, it can be found in your Drive. Open it and to edit again, you MAY need to click: Edit or another message , such as "Open in MyMaps" under the title to get to the editing mode, which has the search bar & blank edit box.*

Don't forget to set the map **To Share**, so others can see it! On your map: Find the person icon – Share, click on this and choose: public to allow anyone to see it OR Anyone, with the link, to share with specific people. Follow the directions provided to choose your preference.

Don't forget to **log out** of your account! Go to top right. Find your 'icon' click... to find "**Sign out.**"

*Example: [AGS Workshop – October 2, 2019](#) is set to **Public** and shared here! "Anyone on the Internet can find and **view.**" No one can edit this map, UNLESS you give them permission, via email, as per the share settings, for the specific map you've created.*

Features to explore to customize your map:

Features: GPS locations, links to Google maps, customized text, personal pictures/images, layers,

colours choices for points/places (markers), etc.

When you open the map.... top is a red band, with your map title. Underneath the title: Click: "**Open in My Maps**" to be able to **edit** your map.

How to add a place: Example: Red Deer

Go to the Search Bar at the top (middle). Type in "Red Deer" . Choose: Red Deer, AB from the drop down list. A point will be created (in green) in the middle of Red Deer. Click on the green marker, then choose: + **Add to map**.

The geolocation is shown. You can now add: text, colour, image, directions, etc. and also delete it. Edit the point further to customize.

Add a photo from your Google Drive: The Album / Album Archive must be set to Public to avoid "blacked out" photos. This seems to be done through the Account settings. Be VERY wary of this feature, as this author is NOT familiar with ALL the privacy ramifications.

Add a photo from your computer: *This feature is not working properly, as easily as the past. The photos are uploaded, but are black and the author is unaware, as to why, as of October 2, 2019.*

Adding your OWN marker... one that isn't in the search bar.... *is VERY easy....* Go to the search bar at the top and click on the 'teardrop' (marker). Place the + (cross hair) on the map where you want it to sit, then click on the + sign, which means "Add this marker." It will automatically appear as a Point # with an edit screen, and will be seen on the left (in the layer/table of contents). You can edit it further, by giving it a name, colourizing it, and adding a description, photo, etc. **Practice:** Try finding your house and placing it on the map! Now YOU have a place on your Google customized map!

Layers and Points: Within each layer it's very easy to move the points around. Click on the point you want to move, and keep your finger on the mouse, then move it to where you want it to be placed. **Points** can have a variety of styles. Explore the "paint roller" icon above the points on the left. Click on **individual styles** and choose your preference. Making changes is easy. Note: there is no 'undo' button. If you liked something and changed it, you will have to manually change it back again.

Handy Tools: [GPS Coordinate Converter](#) *Other tool suggestions, welcome!*

NOTE: The Google Community Forum has many people noting the "black" photos (from both Google Photos app and personal computer) since July 2019. It's likely Google is updating this feature, and that it's presently in transition, until account settings/privacy settings between apps are clearer for the consumer.

Other ways to get to My Maps:

OR: Search (type) into Google browser: *google my maps*. Sign into your Google Account. Create a new map or Click on a previous map.

OR: Sign into My Maps by clicking: [Google Maps](#) **OR**..... type the following into your browser: <https://www.google.com/maps/> Then sign into your account.

See Google's Tutorial: [Google My Maps Tutorial](#) *Good overview. Scroll to the bottom & see what's possible.*

Also: [Google Help: My Maps](#) *Help for computer, tablet, phone versions.*

Please note: Google updates their apps periodically and sometimes the steps from the past are not quite the same. Keep looking, until you find what you need. This tutorial is updated, as

changes or features are noted by the author. The updates are not provided, timely to any Google updates. Kindly provide any suggestions to the author.

Author/Contact: Barbara Stenzel at Contact Us for more information about this tutorial.

See Also:

Google Website (Free) on Google Drive, linked to your Google (gmail) account.

Example: **HSGPV Google Practice Site** **OR** copy & insert into browser:

<https://sites.google.com/view/hsgpv/home> . Note: the URL name. To have a custom URL, there is a cost, and web hosting fees through Google business/personal accounts.

There are tours and drop down menus to help navigate and edit the site quickly. For example, HSGPV Google Practice Site took less than 5 minutes to complete, as shown.

Google Tour Builder [beta version] *A Google Earth Experiment*

Check out the featured tours! Check out the **Gallery** for many more tour examples!

Create a tour using your gmail account. You will be asked for the following information: Name of Tour, Your name or organization name. Message: "*Don't worry, your tour is completely private until you decide to share it with others. Tours are subject to our [Terms of Service](#) and [Content Policy](#).*"