World Building for the Real World Resources

Compiled by Bill Cameron

This list is by no means comprehensive. Most of these resources have a U.S.-focus, though analogs for many places world-wide are available.

Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps

www.loc.gov/collections/sanborn-maps/

University, college, and local libraries often a collection of these, some in print and many digital.

Interpreting Sanborn Maps

<u>www.historicalinfo.com/fimo-interpret-sanborn-maps/</u> If you want to get really granular, this article does a deep dive into how to read Sanborn maps.

Special Collections

College and university special collections are often open to the public even if you aren't affiliated with the institution.

Local and regional historical societies usually have libraries and reading rooms. Some are open to the public, some available by appointment. Online help may also be available.

USGS TopoView

ngmdb.usgs.gov/topoview/

U.S. topographical and geologic maps (in addition to other data types), both contemporary and historical for U.S. states and territories.

Social Security Administration list of most popular names

www.ssa.gov/oact/babynames/

See lists for specific years, or by decade going back to the 1880s. Fun character naming resource.

Inflation Calculator

www.officialdata.org/countries

Provides a general indicator of the value of money over time in more than two dozen currencies. In different eras and countries, goods will have different values in relation to each other, which may or may not track with the overall value of money.

Prices and Wages by Decade

libraryguides.missouri.edu/pricesandwages/home

This resource from the University of Missouri is a carefully organized source for retail prices of goods and services in North America (primarily the U.S.), as well as wages. Some of the data goes back to the 1600s, though it is more detailed and plentiful in recent decades. This is an incredible resource!

Breakfast the Year You Were Born

www.thedailymeal.com/eat/breakfast-price-year-you-were-born-gallery

This long gallery starting in 1937 is U.S.-based, but a great way to see value in context over time.

A search online will bring up a number of similar sites, some as narrowly focused as the cost of a cup of coffee over time to broad overviews of the price of consumer goods and services.

Gold Prices Over Time

<u>www.macrotrends.net/1333/historical-gold-prices-100-year-chart</u> This website has a wide range of historical price data you can search.

Fashion for Men and Women from the Victorian Era through the 1980s vintagedancer.com

This website has a wide range of historical price data you can search.

5 Steps to Getting Rights to Lyrics

(Anne R. Allen and Michael Murphy) <u>annerallen.com/2013/03/so-you-want-to-use-song-lyrics-in-your/</u> Practical guide to getting necessary permissions.

Further Reading

Crime and Fantasy Books Have More in Common Than You Might Think (Kelly Braffet) crimereads.com/worldbuilding-crime-and-fantasy-books-have-more-in-common-thanyou-might-think/

The Five P's of World Building (Jaye Wells)

<u>http://jayewells.substack.com/p/the-five-ps-of-world-building</u> Jaye offers a lot of great writing insights through her website. This link a great place to start.

Grounds for Murder: Maps and Floor Plans in Mystery Novels (Kristel Autencio) bookriot.com/2015/09/28/grounds-for-murder-maps-and-floor-plans-in-mystery-novels/

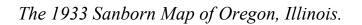
This is Us: The Pandemic and Being Too Specific (Jeff Somers) wwrdeepdives.substack.com/p/this-is-us-the-pandemic-and-being

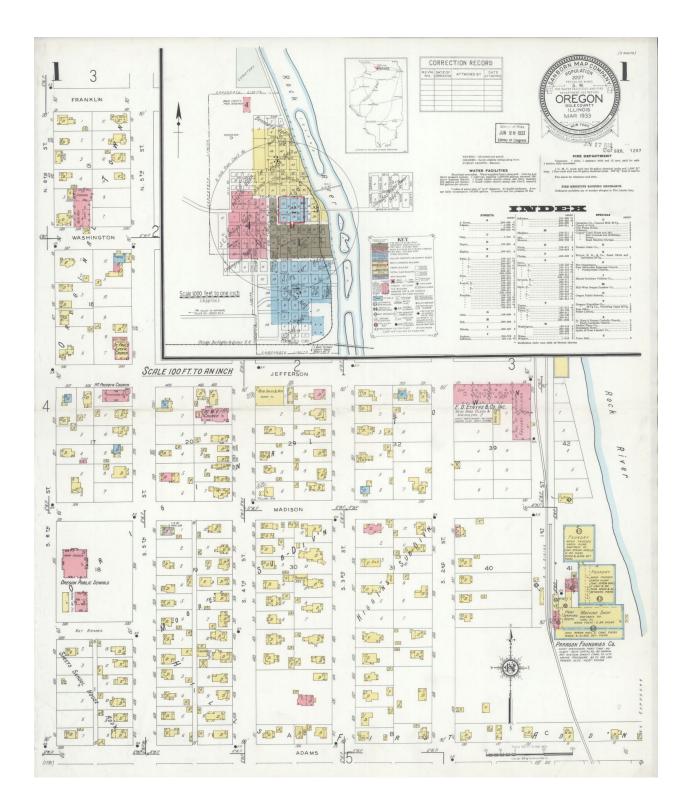
Using Real People, Places, and Corporations in Your Fiction: How Real Can You Get and Not Be Sued? (Matt Knight)

<u>www.sidebarsaturdays.com/2017/08/05/httpwp-mep7vddb-us/</u> Practical overview of the legal issues surrounding the use of the really real.

- Could I Be Liable for Libel in Fiction? (from the Rights of Writers blog by Mark Fowler) www.rightsofwriters.com/2010/12/could-i-be-liable-for-libel-in-fiction.html
- Blake Morrison on the cost of quoting lyrics www.theguardian.com/books/2010/may/01/blake-morrison-lyrics-copyright Insight into what it might take to use song lyrics in your title. (You'll have to convert from British Pounds.)

The Public Domain Review: Guide to Finding Public Domain Works Online <u>publicdomainreview.org/guide-to-finding-interesting-public-domain-works-online/</u> Looking for something to quote that you won't have to pay an arm and a leg for? This is a great rabbit hole to fall into.



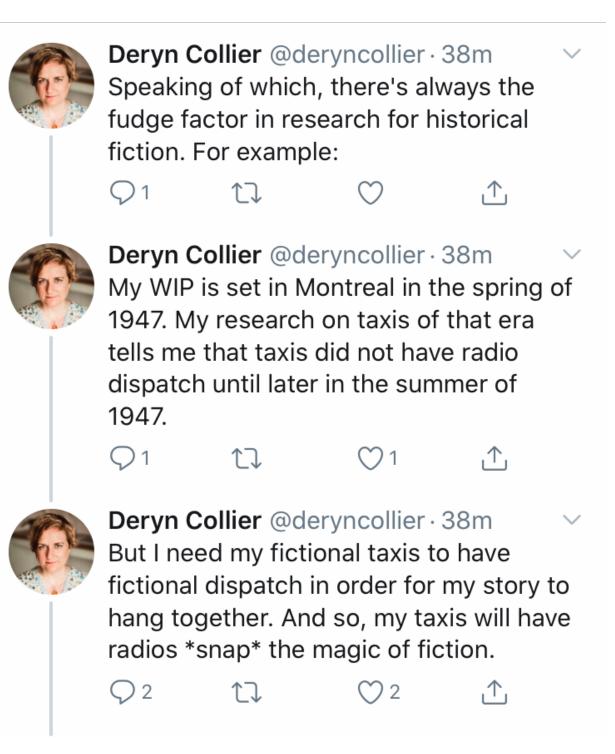


Sanborn Map Interpretive Key

·	K	(EY
BRICK IST Fire P	RE RESISTIVE CONSTN)	REARD ROOF Window opening in first story.
		NAARD ROOF ERRESKT OPENINGS. Window opening in first story. INDICATE STORIES. Window openings in second and third stories.
	TO RI	GHT, LOOKING F Window openings in second and fourth stories.
TO ROOT ETTE.	e duilding	the state of Windows with wired glass.
	rete, lime, cinder or ment brick	Windows with iron or tin clad shutters.
	w concrete or cement block con	87 twenty append daning I will
	rete or reinforced concrete cons	
		- jupen elevator.
TWO STORIES AND BSHT 28 COMPOSITION ROOF		E) Frame enclosed elevator. Width of street (BETWEEN BLOCK LINES,
	" " Stone front. E " " frame side. ES	, minings,
		で、 ・・・・ self closing traps. E Concrete block enclosed elevator with traps. "O" Iron chimney
and the second se	and frame building.	Sc Tile enclosed elevator with self closing traps.
	e building, brick lined. BE	
F=FLAT S=STORE	·· metal clad.	Drick chilmey.
Construction of the local data and the second	e building.	(15) Ground elevation.
AINB AUTOIN BISMT Iron t	uilding.	5 Block <i>URB</i> . Vertical steam boiler.
LOFT	t building occupied by ous manufacturing or occupanci	ies GroVerticale in a C Gasoline tank.
	e building covered with asbe	estos Ore Vertical pipe or stand pipe. (O. U.) Open under.
NON COMBUSTIBLE ROOF COVERING OF METAL. SLATE.TILE OR ASBESTOS SHINGLES	building with brick or metal corn	AFA Automatic fire alarm. ice. IEP Independent electric plant. Siamese fire dept connection
	wall 6 inches above roof.	
TOP STORY ONLY	. 12	
3. SKYLIGHT LIGHTING THREE STORIES W.G. WIRED GLASS SKYLIGHT	. 18	Automatic chemical sprinklers.
FIRE WALL 48 INCHES ABY RE S	. 36	Automatic sprinklers in part of building only. (NOTE UNDER SYMBOLINDICATES PROTECTED PORTION OF BUILDING)
PILIPIT A DIGUE	s 8,12,16 indicate thickness wall in inches.	IST ONLY (NOTE UNDER SYMBOL INDICATES PROTECTED PORTION OF BUILDING)
Wally	without opening and size in inche	
23	with openings on floors as design	
Openin Openin	ng with single iron or tin clad doo	
	 double iron •• •• doo standard fire doors. 	
		Single hydrant. (36) Under page number
WT WATER TANK Openi	ngs with wired glass doors.	D.H. Double Verefers to corresponding
P BRICK IST Drive	or passage way.	TH. Triple page of previous edilion.
Stable		QH. Quadruple hydrant of the High Pressure Fire Service."
	House or private ¢ara ¢e.	(A) Fire alarm box of the High Pressure Fire Service"
(C B)		H.P.F.S. 20 W PARE (MPARE) Water pipes of the High Pressure Fire Service
30110	brick with interior walls of r C.B. and brick mixed.	$\pm - \pm \frac{1}{2} \pm - \pm \cdots$ and hydrants of the
	d diamanana ang ang ang ang ang ang ang ang an	"High Pressure Fire Service" as shown on key map.
	I construction of C.B. and bric	K <u>6"W.PIPE</u> Water pipes and size in inches.
with Mixed	one wall of solid brick . I construction of C. B and brid	6"W.PIPE (PRIVATE) Water piper of private supply
(CB.& BR.FACED) With (one wall faced with 4" brick.	2 House numbers shown nearest to buildings are
	construction of C.B.	D \$\$ official or actually up on buildings. Old house numbers shown furthest from buildings.
and t	orick throughout.	

Deryn Collier on fudging

twitter.com/deryncollier deryncollier.com/



About W.H./Bill Cameron

When not tending his chickens, *Crossroad* author W.H. Cameron shapes unruly words into captivating people caught in harrowing situations. As Bill Cameron he writes the critically-acclaimed Skin Kadash mysteries, and his YA mystery *Property of the State* was named one of *Kirkus Reviews* Best of 2016. His stories have appeared in *Alfred Hitchcock's Mystery Magazine, A Beast Without a Name*, Lee Child's *First Thrills*, and more.

Bibliography

Writing as W.H. Cameron

Crossroad "Hey Nineteen" in A Beast Without a Name (anthology) "Christmas Spirit" Alfred Hitchcock's Mystery Magazine, Nov/Dec. 2021

Writing as Bill Cameron

Property of the State County Line Day One Chasing Smoke Lost Dog

Puppy Love Noir (short story collection)
Diaries of Misspent Youth (short story collection)
"The Princess of Felony Flats" in First Thrills (anthology)
"Heat Death" in Alfred Hitchcock's Mystery Magazine
"Slice of Pie" in Killer Year (anthology)
"Coffee, Black" in Portland Noir (anthology)
"Sunlight Nocturne" in Deadly Treats (anthology)
"The Last Ship" in West Coast Crime Wave (anthology)
"A Tall House" in Lost Children 2: Protectors (anthology)
"Daisy and the Desperado" in Murder at the Beach (anthology)

Learn more at <u>www.bcmystery.net</u>.

Check out the *Crossroad* map collection here: www.bcmystery.net/books/crossroad-maps/