

Track the Ithaca Kitty on HistoryForge!

pg. 1

What is HistoryForge?



HistoryForge is an innovative digital history project combining maps, archival records, and census data that allows any community to explore its local history through the individuals who lived there and the buildings and neighborhoods they lived in.

You can search people and buildings from Ithaca's past at www.historyforge.net!

How can a database about people and buildings help me learn about a toy cat from the late 1800's?



Great question!

It's true that you can't find Caesar Grimalkin on HistoryForge, but you can search for his owners, and the women who invented the toy inspired by him. You can even look for the house that he lived in!

Head to the next page for some help getting started!

Contact community@thehistorycenter.net with any questions. Visit www.thehistorycenter.net/learn for more History at Home activities.



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pg. 2

Who can you find that knew Caesar?



Using the "People" search button at www.historyforge.net see what you can learn about:

- **Celia Mattison Smith** (*She invented the original 3 panel toy design! Caesar was her cat*)
 - ***Hint*** Look under Celia M Smith. ***OOPS*** Sometimes on historic documents names are misspelled or spelled in different ways. Celia's name was written incorrectly during one census as "Cecelia" can you find out which year that was?
 - Celia invented over 23 toy designs that were accepted by the US Patent Office. Is her job listed on her census sheet? What information do you think is missing from her page?
- **Charity Smith** (*She painted the original Ithaca Kitty design!*)
 - When was she born? Who did Charity live with?
- **William Hazlitt Smith** (*He was married to Celia, and was Charity's older brother. His name is on the original Ithaca Kitty patent in our archives!*)
 - ****HINT**** Sometimes only the first letter of a middle name was written down.
 - What was his job? What was his address in 1900? Is it different in 1910?

Can you find Caesar's house? How has it changed since 1892?

If you find the page with Celia or William's information you can find out which street in Ithaca they and Caesar lived on in 1900! (***Hint*** their street is named after a tree!). You can also search their address under the "Places" tab.

Can you still find their house on Google Maps today?



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