

Black Sheep Ancestors: Search for criminal ancestors in free genealogical prison and convict records, historical court records, executions, insane asylum records and biographies of famous outlaws, criminals & pirates by state: <https://www.blacksheepancestors.com/united-states/outlaw-and-criminal-ancestors-search/>

For United Kingdom: <https://www.blacksheepancestors.com/united-kingdom/>

For Canada: <https://www.blacksheepancestors.com/canada/>

International pirates and buccaneers: <https://www.blacksheepancestors.com/international/>

Prisons, prisoners and outlaws: <https://www.cyndislist.com/prisons/>

Our Criminal Ancestors is a UK project supporting people and communities to explore the criminal past of their own families, communities, towns and regions: <https://ourcriminalancestors.org/>

Prison history, practice and experience of British Isles imprisonment between 1500 and 1999: <https://www.prisonhistory.org/>

How to use 19th century UK census records for prison research:

<https://www.prisonhistory.org/2019/11/how-to-use-census-for-prisons-research/>

Prison records search tips (SC, but advice applicable to other states): <https://scdah.sc.gov/news/2021-10/research-tip-month-prison-records>

Prisons, prisoners and outlaws, general resources: <https://www.cyndislist.com/prisons/general/>

For more specific information, search Cyndi's list by state, then related category such as court records, prisons, prisoners, and outlaws, newspapers

Court records collections in the US and other countries.

Familysearch US court records wiki has links to court records for all 50 states and District of Columbia:

https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/United_States_Court_Records.

State links for court records: <https://www.blacksheepancestors.com/united-states/court-records-search/>

Search familysearch **catalog** by county or state location, then court records (records may be browsable only, not searchable): <https://www.familysearch.org/search/catalog>

US courts records directory: <https://www.courtreference.com/>

Look up legal terms, *Black's Law Dictionary*: <https://thelawdictionary.org/>

Types of Information Found in Prison Records

Name	Eye color	Relations (parents living)
Age	Hair color	Crime charged
Birth date	Nationality	Date incarcerated
Height	Occupation	Court where charged
Weight	Education	Recommitments
Complexion	Habits (alcohol use)	How and when discharged

Historical Prison Records

14 best websites for tracing prisoners in your family history (UK): <https://www.whodoyouthinkyouaremagazine.com/feature/the-14-best-websites-for-tracing-prisoners-in-your-family-history/>

Researching UK prison ancestors guide: <https://ourcriminalancestors.org/researching-your-prison-ancestors-an-introductory-guide/>

Prisoners in the US federal census 1850-2010 (information related to statistics only):

<https://www.acrosswalls.org/statistics/prisoners-us-decennial-censuses/>

Prison records at the National Archives: <https://www.archives.gov/research/prisons>

How to get deceased ancestor's FBI file: <http://www.getgrandpasfbifile.com/>

Federal Bureau of Prisons, search for inmates 1982-present: <https://www.bop.gov/inmateloc/>

Former Alcatraz inmates list: <https://www.archives.gov/san-francisco/finding-aids/alcatraz-alpha>

Anamosa State Penitentiary, Iowa, History: <http://www.asphistory.com/>

Andersonville, GA, Confederate Prison Records, 1862 - 1865 (Union Prisoners of War), browsable only, not searchable_ <https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/2019835>

Arizona Department of Corrections historical prison register <https://corrections.az.gov/historical-prison-register>

Atlanta Federal Penitentiary: Name index to inmate case files, 1902 - 1921 <https://www.archives.gov/atlanta/finding-aids/atlanta-penitentiary>

Executions at Fort Smith, Arkansas, 1873–1896

<https://www.nps.gov/fosm/learn/historyculture/executions-at-fort-smith-1873-to-1896.htm>

Chicago Police Department homicide record index, 1870-1930 <https://homicide.northwestern.edu/> (index only).

Colorado State Penitentiary prisoner index, 1871–1973

<https://archives.colorado.gov/collections/corrections-records>

Colorado State Reformatory prison records, 1887-1939 (index only is free):

<https://archives.colorado.gov/reformatory-records>

Indiana Digital Archives - Institution Records: <https://www.in.gov/iara/services-for-public/search-archives-holdings/indiana-archives-digital-index-records/>

Index to life prisoners' statements, State Prison at Michigan City, IN:

<https://www.in.gov/iara/divisions/state-archives/online-indexes/index-to-life-prisoners-statements-state-prison-at-michigan-city/>

Index to inmate case files, U.S. Penitentiary, Leavenworth, Kansas, 1895 -1931,

<https://www.archives.gov/kansas-city/finding-aids/leavenworth-penitentiary>

Maryland historical judiciary case search: <https://www.courts.state.md.us/clerks/queenannes/historicrecords>

Nevada State Prison inmate case files, 1863-1972: <https://nsla.nv.gov/archives-judicial-corrections>

Name indexes at the New York State Archives (includes several prison & inmate case files):

<http://www.archives.nysed.gov/research/name-indexes-search>

Utah State Archives historical name indexes: <https://archives.utah.gov/research/indexes/index.html>

Walla Walla Penitentiary, WA, 1887-1922

<https://www.digitalarchives.wa.gov/Collections/TitleInfo/314>

Early court records of Washington Territory:

<https://www.sos.wa.gov/archives/frontierjusticeguidetothedistrictcourt.aspx>

Wethersfield, CT, State Prison 1800-1903 <https://www.ctatatlbrarydata.org/wethersfield-prison-record/>

Prisoners of war: <https://www.cyndislist.com/prisons/prisoners-of-war/>

US Civil War prisons and prisoners: <https://www.cyndislist.com/prisons/us-civil-war/>

Wild West, prison, prisoners, and outlaws: <https://www.cyndislist.com/prisons/wild-west/>

US court records: https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/United_States_Court_Records

US correctional institutions: https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/United_States_Court_Records

Enumeration of prisoners, 1950 US census: <https://historyhub.history.gov/community/genealogy/census-records/blog/2022/01/05/1950-census-enumeration-of-prisoners>

Freedmen's Bureau records (murders and outrages): <http://www.freedmensbureau.com/outrages.htm>

Prison Records on Ancestry \$ (Note: some indexes free)

Alcatraz Federal Penitentiary, Free prisoner index, 1934-1963: <https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/34666/>

Arizona state prison records, 1875-1929, Free index: <https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/61065/>

California, prison and correctional records, 1851 - 1950, \$: <https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/8833/> ,

Chester County, PA, criminal and prison record indexes, 1681-1911, Free <https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/70835/>

Idaho, old penitentiary records, 1882-1961 \$: <https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/61475/>

Iowa, registers of convicts, 1867-1970, Free Index: <https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/60384/>

Louisiana, state penitentiary records, 1866-1963, \$: <https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/60299/>

Montana, prison records, 1861-1968, \$: <https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/61261/>

Pennsylvania, prison, reformatory and workhouse records, 1829 - 1971, \$: <https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/61173/>

Tulare County, CA, sheriff's office and jail records, 1874-1963, Free Index: <https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/5330/>

U.S. Penitentiary, Atlanta, GA, prisoner index, 1880-1922: <https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/1632/>

U.S. Penitentiary, Leavenworth, KS, name index to inmate case files, 1895-1936, Free: <https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/34594/>

U.S. Penitentiary, McNeil Island, WA, photos and records of prisoners received, 1887-1939, \$: <https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/1253/>

Prison Records, specific states (from theancestorphunt:

Illinois - <https://bit.ly/3qEdchg>

Ohio - <https://bit.ly/3uyPOCU>

Michigan - <https://bit.ly/3iG76Zt>

Minnesota - <https://bit.ly/35eOnAV>

Nebraska - <https://bit.ly/36yquVH>

Iowa - <https://bit.ly/3IH8qWo>

Kansas - <https://bit.ly/3NvltfX>

Indiana - <https://bit.ly/3Nkc71>

Wisconsin - <https://bit.ly/3JNUETj>

Missouri - <https://bit.ly/3ID8Hd5>

Oklahoma - <https://bit.ly/36GOWNM>

North Dakota - <https://bit.ly/3LI3OHa>

South Dakota - <https://bit.ly/36z01aw>

Reform schools and juvenile correctional institutions

[Lyman School for Boys \(Massachusetts\): Daily Registers 1848 - 1901](#) browsable, not searchable

[Massachusetts State Nautical School: Case Histories and Commitment Register of Boys, 1856 - 1870 -](#)

FamilySearch, click cameras

[Massachusetts State Nautical School: Case Histories of Boys for School Ship George M. Bernard, 1864 - 1872](#) – browsable, not searchable

Current, Not Historical, Prison Records *(examples; search by state to find others)*

Finding living people, criminals and prisoners: <https://www.cyndislist.com/finding-people/criminal-and-prisoner-resources/>

Federal Bureau of Prisons, search for inmates 1982-present: <https://www.bop.gov/inmateloc/>

Florida corrections offender network: <http://www.dc.state.fl.us/OffenderSearch/InmateInfoMenu.aspx>

Pennsylvania inmate locator: <http://inmatelocator.cor.pa.gov/#/>

Mug Shots

How to find mugshots on line for free: <https://remove-arrests.org/how-to-find-mugshots-free/>

Find mugshots for free: <https://www.findmugshots.com/>

Sacramento police mug books, 1864-1949 (covers much more than just Sacramento, even outside CA): <https://accessgenealogy.com/california/sacramento-police-mug-books-1864-1949.htm>

Recent bookings, arrests, mugshots in Moore County, NC: <https://recentlybooked.com/NC/Moore>

A google search for mugshots by location reveals many more

Execution Records

History of executions before lethal injection (original link broken; this link is an archived copy):

<https://web.archive.org/web/20091028164904/http://users.bestweb.net/~rg/execution.htm>

Kansas, records of hangings, 1862-1965: <http://genealogytrails.com/kan/legalhangings.html>

Executions by state: <https://deathpenaltyusa.org/usa1/indexstate1.htm>

Public Records *(some examples below; search by state to find others)*

Public records database (recent) links by state, some free, some for fee: <https://www.brbbpub.com/>

Researching courthouse records, online and In person: <https://www.familytreemagazine.com/records/courthouse/guide-to-genealogy-research-in-courthouse-records/>

Oklahoma state court records, with links to county court records:

<https://www.statecourts.org/oklahoma/>

Pennsylvania unified judicial system: <https://ujportal.pacourts.us/CaseSearch>

Oregon search court records and cases: <https://www.courts.oregon.gov/how/Pages/find.aspx>

Historical Newspapers and Media

Google archives, old newspapers <http://news.google.com/newspapers>

Chronicling America (Library of Congress): Historical newspapers from 1790 to 1924. Also provides listing of newspapers (1690 to present) and where to find collections of them, either microfilm or hardcopy, <http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/>

Free US small town newspapers: <https://www.accessgenealogy.com/america/small-town-newspapers.htm>

More US small town newspapers, fully searchable: <http://www.stparchive.com/landing.php>

Links to free newspapers: <http://www.theancestorhunt.com/newspaper-research-links.html> This site has a variety of other resources too.

Media out of copyright, county and family history books, download; some newer books eligible for lending <https://archive.org/>

US newspapers online: https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/United_States_Newspapers

Finding current and historical newspapers, guide, and links by state (not updated after 1 Jun 2019): <https://libguides.bgsu.edu/c.php?g=227439>

Many states have statewide newspaper projects (often through a university library), theancestorphunt (above) for links organized by state. The following states have a central online repository: AZ, CA, CO, CT, FL, GA, IL, IN, KS, KY, ME, NY, NC, OH, OR, SC, TX, UT, VA, WA, and WY. City, county and university libraries may be a source for newspapers (sometimes online).

Old Fulton History: <http://fultonhistory.com/Fulton.html>; use alternate search site for better results <https://fultonsearch.org/>

Facebook:

Genealogy and history (in English) Facebook groups/pages, a 436-page PDF file containing 16,700+ links (updated Jan 2021): <https://moonswings.files.wordpress.com/2021/01/genealogy-on-facebook-jan-2021.pdf> File includes hyperlinked table of contents. *Note:* Future updates and list maintenance is being handled by Cyndi's List at <https://cyndislist.com/facebook>. Download Canadian list (includes French-speaking groups) at https://genealogyalacarte.ca/?page_id=10169, and an Australian list at <https://www.lonetester.com/2020/12/facebook-for-australian-history-and-genealogy-2/>

Facebook groups such as Random Acts of Genealogical Kindness (US and world) and historical societies, as well as city, county and/or regional genealogy groups and societies

Bonus Information

Institutional Records

Index of links to (limited) state mental hospital records (CO, DE, ID, IL WV, VA, WI and WY):

<https://www.blacksheepancestors.com/united-states/insane-asylums-search/>

Kansas State Historical Society online database of 1157 people buried at Topeka State Hospital cemetery, <http://www.kshs.org/genealogists/vital/topekastatehospitalcemetery.htm>

Were your ancestors in the poorhouse? <https://familyhistorydaily.com/genealogy-help-and-how-to-ancestor-poor-house-farm/>

Orphans: <https://www.cyndislist.com/orphans/>

Medical and medicine, hospitals, asylums, and sanatoriums:

<https://www.cyndislist.com/medical/hospitals/>

Poorhouses and poverty: <https://www.cyndislist.com/poor/>

NYC Municipal Archives Guide to the Almshouse ledgers, 1758-1952:

https://www1.nyc.gov/assets/records/pdf/Almshouse_REC0008_MASTER.pdf

Handout - Discovering Your Ancestors in Poorhouse Records: https://acpl.libnet.info/images/pdfs/acpl/Genealogy/Handout_Discovering_Your_Ancestors_in_Poorhouse_Records.pdf

Find out if your ancestors were in the poorhouse? <https://familyhistorydaily.com/genealogy-help-and-how-to-ancestor-poor-house-farm/>

Almshouse and poorhouse records: <https://www.olivetreegenealogy.com/almshouse/>

Online calendar of genealogy conferences and events: <https://conferencekeeper.org/>