Alternatives to Vital Records

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General Resources

Vital and probate records, links by states: http://www.learnwebskills.com/patriot/vitalrecords1.htm

Links to resources: http://www.learnwebskills.com/patriot/links.htm

61 free forms for genealogy: https://www.familytreemagazine.com/freeforms/

Death Indices/Information, Cemeteries:

Funeral homes, local newspapers good sources for recent obituaries; library websites may be helpful.

Online death indexes, records, certificate indexes, death notices and registers, obituaries, wills and probate records, and cemetery burials. http://www.deathindexes.com/

https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Online U.S. Death Indexes %26 Records

Cemetery, graves database, (entered by volunteers) http://www.findagrave.com/; also see https://billiongraves.com/ (primarily tombstone pictures)

Recent newspaper obituaries (2000-current): http://www.legacy.com/

Cemetery listings by state and county: https://www.accessgenealogy.com/cemetery-records

Social Security Death Index, usually free even on subscriptions sites, available on ancestry and family search; another source https://www.stevemorse.org/ssdi/ssdi.html

Historical Newspapers, Books, and Media

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

Chronicling America (Library of Congress): Historical newspapers from 1790 to 1924. Newspaper list

(1690 to present) where to find (microfilm or hard copy) http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/

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

newspapers.htm; another: http://www.stparchive.com/landing.php

Old Fulton History, New York and other states: https://fultonsearch.org/

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

Many states have a statewide project (often through a university library), see also

theancestorhunt.com and others (above) for newspaper links organized by state. Due to copyright restrictions, newspapers published after 1925 may not be included, but projects can digitize beyond 1926 when permission has been secured. States with a central online repository include: Arizona, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Georgia, Florida, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas,

Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Texas, Utah, Virginia, Washington, and Wyoming; find with your favorite search engine.

Media out of copyright, including county and family history books, also a free digital lending library:

https://archive.org/

County and town histories: http://www.learnwebskills.com/patriot/countyhistories1.htm

Bible Records

Cyndi's List general bible records: https://www.cyndislist.com/bibles/general/

Searchable Bible records: https://www.genealogytoday.com/guide/family-bibles.html OR

<u>http://www.biblerecords.com/?src=gentoday</u>; DAR Bible records search:

https://services.dar.org/Public/DAR Research/search/default.cfm?Tab ID=12

Pre-1830 Bibles: http://www.learnwebskills.com/patriot/biblerecords.htm

Church Records

Religion and churches, records, birth, marriage, death, and burial:

https://www.cyndislist.com/religion/records/

Locating US church records:

https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/U.S. Church Records Class Handout

https://www.familytreemagazine.com/premium/church-records-genealogy-workbook/

Family trees for American religions: http://www.thearda.com/denoms/families/trees/index.asp

Libraries, city/county or university libraries, local library, as well as where ancestors lived. Genealogical subscriptions may be available online (may require card#) .Most libraries have an an ancestry.com subscription (in library use only). Other resources POSSIBLY AVAILABLE online: indexes: cemetery, obituary, marriage--start search by surname only. Other resources onsite: microfilmed newspapers, special in-house-created indexes; family files

Links to individual library web sites throughout the world https://librarytechnology.org/libraries/
To find US libraries websites: http://www.lib-web.org/

Collections and services of more than 10,000 libraries worldwide: https://www.worldcat.org/

City Directories

For best results, find city of interest, then page through directory rather than to rely on search.

What you might be missing in city directories: https://www.amyjohnsoncrow.com/might-missing-city-directories/

Abbreviations used: http://www.millburnlibrary.org/site/1915www /CityDirectoryAbbreviations.pdf US directories, general resources: https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/United States Directories

Historical city directories https://sites.google.com/site/onlinedirectorysite/Home/usa or

https://archive.org/search.php?query=%22city%20directories%22 or

http://www.donslist.net/PGHLookups/Dir1Win.shtml

Online historical directories: https://sites.google.com/site/onlinedirectorysite/Home/

Heritagequest has large city directory collection; access for free on your home library site (library card required).

Digitized reproductions of local and trade directories for England and Wales for 1750–1919 https://cdm16445.contentdm.oclc.org/digital/collection/p16445coll4

Finding your rural and small town ancestors in directories: http://onlinedirectorysite.blogspot.com/

Yearbooks

Getting more out of yearbooks for genealogy: https://www.amyjohnsoncrow.com/getting-more-out-of-yearbooks-for-genealogy/

19 places where you can access old yearbooks online: https://theancestorhunt.com wp-content > uploads > 2021 > 05 > Yearbooks.pdf

Using yearbooks for genealogical research: https://news.legacyfamilytree.com/legacy-news/2016/10 /using-yearbooks-for-genealogical-research-.html

Using yearbooks for genealogy (downloadable pdf)

https://genealogybargains.s3.amazonaws.com > CHEAT+SHEET+Using+Yearbooks+for+Genealogy

Yearbooks and annuals: https://www.cyndislist.com/schools/yearbooks/

How to use yearbooks for genealogy research and where to find yearbooks:

https://theancestorhunt.com/yearbooks.html

Familysearch Digital Library has a large collection of yearbooks

Finding Live People (free)

Address, phone, age (including cell), some e-mails; reverse look-ups for address and phone: https://www.truepeoplesearch.com/

Associated names, relatives, month and year of birth, address and phone (including former address, phone) https://www.familytreenow.com/ (uses same database as above)

Social Media

Free webinar, <u>Ancestry Academy - Cousin Bait: Make Social Media Work for You</u>: explores what to find on Facebook and Twitter. as well as other less obvious places to search

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), Random Acts of Photo Restoration, and Obituary Look-ups may be particularly helpful; also city/county/regional genealogy/historical society groups.

Erie County, Pennsylvania, Resources

Erie County Library http://www.erielibrary.org/ Erie County obituary index; online access to Fold 3, Heritagequest and Newsbank (Erie-Times News from 1995-current, as well as images of Erie newspapers, 1884-1923); library card # for access. In Heritage Room access to library version of ancestry as well as American ancestors (New England Historical Society)

Local Erie County Organizations to Consider (also have Facebook pages)

Computer Users of Erie (CUE) https://cuerie.com/ has a genealogy SIG, (special interest group) as well as others including photography, beginner's user group, hand-held devices

Erie Society for Genealogical Research (ESGR) https://genealogyerie.org/ also has a DNA SIG