

Not an ancestry subscriber? Ancestry does have some free records (mostly indexes, use the catalog), as well as individual state records for state residents' access

Conference Keeper, genealogy- and family history-related conferences, events, calls for papers, contests, and volunteer opportunities: <https://conferencekeeper.org/>

Subscription sites: may have a free trial period for prospective subscribers. Also get on the mailing lists for sites of interest; you will be notified of subscription specials as well as times when access to records (or limited records) are free. Parts of subscriptions sites may always be free (usually indexes).

Download a variety of easy-to-use, free genealogy cheat sheets. Topics include: using google for genealogy, immigration records, military records, research and search strategies, using internet archive, city directories, yearbooks, census records, historical newspapers, occupations, German genealogy records, transportation resources, and more: <https://genealogybargains.com/free-genealogy-cheat-sheets/>

Of particular interest: strategies for saving money on genealogy
<https://genealogybargains.s3.amazonaws.com/10+Ways+to+Save+Money+on+Genealogy.pdf>

Family Tree Magazine offers a number of free forms, checklists, and worksheets:

<https://familytreemagazine.com/free-genealogy-records-worksheets/>

Download free genealogy guides: <https://www.familyhistoryfanatics.com/resources>

The Library Is Your Friend

Libraries, city/county or university libraries, local library, as well as library where ancestors lived. May have subscriptions available online, generally available to patrons only (may require card#). Most libraries have onsite ancestry.com library subscription

Heritagequest (multiple resources) available online through most libraries (library card required)

Other resources POSSIBLY AVAILABLE online at a library site: cemetery index, obituary index, marriage index--start search with surname only (possible relatives, maiden and married names). Other on-site resources: microfilmed newspapers, special in-house-created indexes; family files. Links to US library websites, <http://www.lib-web.org/>

Links to individual library web sites throughout the world <https://librarytechnology.org/libraries/>

Digital Public Library of America: public domain and openly licensed content held by U.S. archives, libraries, museums, and other cultural heritage institutions: <https://dp.la/> Also see online library at <https://openlibrary.org/> millions of free digital books

Worldcat connects to collections of 10,000 libraries around the world; locate where books are and their availability for inter-library loan: <https://www.worldcat.org/>

Links to Free Genealogy Websites

26 totally free genealogy websites: <https://www.genealogyexplained.com/basics/free-genealogy-websites/>

18 important free genealogy websites: <https://www.ngsgenealogy.org/free-resources/websites/>

16 best free genealogy websites for research 2023: <https://genealogyyou.com/best-free-genealogy-websites/>

12 best free sites to trace your genealogy: <https://www.makeuseof.com/tag/top-10-free-genealogy-websites-to-find-ancestors/>

8 best free genealogy websites: <https://www.lifewire.com/best-free-genealogy-websites-4163831>

Free genealogy sites and software for ancestry research: <https://familyhistorydaily.com/genealogy-resources/50-free-genealogy-sites/>

10 best free genealogy websites for family history: <https://www.dollarbreak.com/free-genealogy-websites/>

7 free genealogy websites you might be overlooking: https://www.amyjohnsoncrow.com/7-free-genealogy-websites-that-you-might-be-overlooking/?vgo_ee=sDMIQu0vyywdNE7HiVKz%2FGdE%2B8p7R9zi4jFwhEHKaoo%3D

Best free genealogy websites: <https://theancestorhunt.com/blog/best-free-genealogy-websites/>

Assorted Genealogical Records

Links to a wide variety of records organized by state (24 resource categories, including yearbooks, city directories, coroner records); also quick-reference genealogy guides, research toolkits:

<https://theancestorhunt.com/>

Free websites for genealogy research: <https://www.ngsgenealogy.org/free-resources/websites/>

US vital records and probate records links: <http://www.learnwebskills.com/family/vitalrecords1.htm>

US vital records, birth certificate, death record and marriage license - where to find (for fee). Always check to see if records are available at the county or town level, as they will be cheaper and sent faster. <http://www.vitalrecordsus.com/vital-records-states.html> or <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/w2w/index.htm> or

Tutorial for researching family tree. <http://www.learnwebskills.com/family/intro.html>

Familysearch.org – LDS (Mormon) site, US and international records, marriage records, birth and death records. Set up a free account to access all files. Be creative with your searching. Remember that some records are not indexed, but are browsable. <https://familysearch.org/> To access catalog search <https://www.familysearch.org/catalog/search> - start with placename search

Genealogical research portal, search by location and/or topic, index of free and fee-based sites <http://www.cyndislist.com/>

Access genealogy includes Black genealogy, cemetery, military, and census records, DNA, databases, and vital records, as well as extensive Native American records. <https://www.accessgenealogy.com>

Reclaim the records: genealogical and archival data sets from government agencies, state libraries, and municipal archives (very limited states): <https://www.reclaimtherecords.org/>

Joe Beine genealogy articles, tips and research guides: <https://www.genealogybranches.com/>; see also <https://www.genesearch.com/> for extensive links related to genealogy and family history

Historical maps (by place name/date): <https://www.randymajors.org/ancestry-historical-tools>

11 free historical maps websites for genealogy research: <https://www.familyhistoryfanatics.com/free-online-historical-maps>

Death Indexes/Death Information (*death certificates generally more than 50 years old*)

Death index online directory, listed by state and county (death records, death certificate indexes, death notices and registers, obituaries, wills and probate records, and cemetery burials). Also information about searching Social Security Death Index online. <http://deathindexes.com/>

Funeral homes and local newspapers are good sources for recent obituaries. Recent newspaper obituaries (2000-current), world-wide newspapers <http://www.legacy.com/>

Cemetery, graves database, (entered by volunteers, and may not always be accurate) <http://www.findagrave.com/>; also <https://billiongraves.com/>

Genealogy bank.com: while this is a subscription service, the SSDI (Social Security Death Index) portion of it is free <http://www.genealogybank.com>; SSDI also available on <http://stevemorse.org/>

Immigration

One-step searching site for immigration records (mostly free, some on ancestry), more user-friendly access to Ellis Island and Castle Garden to print records: <http://stevemorse.org/>
Statue of Liberty-Ellis Island Foundation, Inc., records starting 1892 www.ellisland.org
Castle Garden Immigration Center (1855-1890) <http://www.castlegarden.org/>
Ships' passenger lists: <http://www.olivetreegenealogy.com/ships/>

Historical Newspapers and Media

Newspaper how-tos and links: <https://theancestorhunt.com/newspaper-research-links.html>
Google archives, old newspapers <http://news.google.com/newspapers>
Chronicling America (Library of Congress), old newspapers <http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/>
Historical newspapers in the US and Canada: <http://fultonhistory.com/Fulton.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, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Texas, Utah, Virginia, Washington, and Wyoming; find with your favorite search engine.
Out of copyright, county and/or family history books <http://archive.org> Site also offers digital "borrowing" of books which might still be in copyright. Guide for using archive.org for genealogy research: <https://familyhistorydaily.com/free-genealogy-resources/internet-archive-for-genealogy/>
US city directories: <http://www.uscitydirectories.com/> <https://ldsgenealogy.com/city-directories/>; https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/City_Directories; <https://theancestorhunt.com/blog/14600-free-online-city-directories-from-the-united-states/>
Links to family/county histories: <http://www.learnwebskills.com/family/countyhistories1.htm>

Social Media

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 a clickable table of contents. *Note:* As of January 2021, future updates and maintenance of list is being handled by Cyndi's List at <https://cyndislist.com/facebook>. Download a Canadian list that 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/>
Helpful YouTube videos about using Facebook: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a-n8O5mSFvE>, <https://www.wikihow.com/Use-Facebook>