

Free General Genealogy Websites

[Access Genealogy](#)

This grab-bag of free genealogy records keeps growing. Click the Databases tab to search data from Southern states, military records, small-town newspapers and the Guion Miller Roll index to Cherokee tribal members. The latter supplements what was already a must-bookmark site if you have Native American roots.

[FamilySearch](#)

More than 3,000 online collections (and growing) make this the internet's largest home to free genealogy data, with recent updates spotlighting Italy, South America and US vital records. You can share and record your finds in family trees and a "Memories" gallery, and get research help from the [wiki](#).

[HeritageQuest Online](#)

Free to your home computer courtesy of your library card via participating institutions, HeritageQuest is "powered by" (but not owned by) Ancestry.com. This partnership has dramatically expanded its half-dozen collections to a sort of "Ancestry.com lite," including the complete US census, military and immigration records, and city directories. Once logged in via your library, find Search and scroll all the way to the bottom to unlock more US records as well as selected foreign databases.

[Olive Tree Genealogy](#)

Since its launch in 1996, this modest website has grown into a useful collection of how-to help and databases. It's strongest on passenger records, heritage groups such as Palatines and American Indians, and less-familiar records, such as those for residents of orphans and almshouses.

[RootsWeb](#)

This venerable free site still serves up how-to articles, databases of surnames and US locations, mailing lists, pedigree files and much more—making it an oldie but a goodie.

[USGenWeb](#)

This volunteer site recently celebrated its 20th birthday with a mobile-friendly update. Its state and county pages and special projects remain as vibrant as ever. Just found an ancestor who lived in, say, Stone County, Ark.? [There's a page for that](#), as for almost every other place your family may have landed.

Free Newspaper Archives

[California Digital Newspaper Collection](#)

Read all about your California kin in this fast-growing collection that (at last count) contains 640,000 issues comprising more than 7.3 million pages and 44 million articles. The University of California, Riverside project can be searched or browsed by tag, county, date or title.

[Chronicling America](#)

Now topping 18 million pages from coast to coast, this [Library of Congress](#) project digitizes US newspapers from 1789 to 1924 and offers a directory to help you find newspapers in libraries.

[Elephind](#)

One click seeks your ancestors in 200 million-plus items from more than 4,300 newspaper titles. Elephind searches big collections (including the aforementioned [Chronicling America](#)) as well as small, such as academic archives, and goes overseas to include plenty of Australian papers.

[GenDisasters.com](#)

This specialized site will have you perversely wishing all your ancestors had died in train wrecks, fires, floods, shipwrecks, plane crashes or other disasters. Search by keyword or browse by type of disaster, state or province, or year to find transcribed newspaper accounts of the events.

[Online Historical Newspapers](#)

Though still a work in progress, this website is worth bookmarking for help in answering these key questions: Are newspapers from my ancestors' town online? And if so, where?

[Old Fulton Postcards](#)

Don't let the name fool you. This has 23+ million indexed pages of local/hometown newspapers from early 1800s into 1980s. While most are New York State, it includes some out of state as well as Canada, too.

Free UK Genealogy Websites

[FreeUKGenealogy](#)

Volunteers for this site's three online transcription projects have made available 274 million [birth, marriage and death records](#) (1837–1992); 49 million records from [parish registers](#) (1500s and later); and entries on 39 million [individuals from census data](#) (1841–1911). Before you pay to find your UK kin, check here.

[GENUKI](#)

Get your British Isles genealogy questions answered in this virtual reference library of genealogical information about the UK and Ireland (GENealogy + UK + Ireland = GENUKI). Maps, how-to's, a church database, FAQs and more will jump-start your research.

Free Canadian Genealogy Websites

[Library and Archives Canada](#)

Do your one-stop "shopping" here for free Canadian censuses, immigration lists, vital records, land and military files at this umbrella site.

Free Irish Genealogy Websites

[National Archives of Ireland](#)

Explore your Irish ancestry in this collection that includes 1901 and 1911 census records, census survivals (1821–1851), census search forms (1841–1851), Tithe Applotment Books (1823–1837), Soldiers' Wills (1914–1918), and the Calendars of Wills and Administrations (1858–1922).

[National Library of Ireland](#)

The pot of gold here is the free collection of images of birth, marriage and burial registers from the majority of Catholic parishes in Ireland and Northern Ireland, dating from the 1700s to about 1880. You can browse them by parish; click on the map at [registers.nli.ie](#) to get started.

Free Danish Genealogy Websites

[Danish Demographic Database](#)

Find the Danes in your family tree with this English-accessible collection of all Danish censuses plus some probate and emigration records.

Free Norwegian Genealogy Websites

[Digitalarkivet](#)

The [fully scanned 1875 census](#) adds to this comprehensive collection of Norwegian enumerations, church records, emigration information, historical photographs, land and probate records and more. Click the link for digitized archives to get started.

Free Central and Eastern European Genealogy Websites

[Federation of Eastern European Family History Societies](#)

The map library is the star of the organization's site, but you'll also find databases and how-to guides.

[GenealogyIndexer.org](#)

Search nearly 2 million pages relevant to Central and East European family history here, including historical directories, Holocaust memorials, military lists and school sources.

Free French Genealogy Websites

[GeneaNet](#)

Find your French families with this site's guides to archives, a genealogy encyclopedia, uploaded trees and *beaucoup* links.

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Free German Genealogy Websites

[German Genealogy Server](#)

Yes, this site from Germany's Association for Computer Genealogy is in *Deutsch*, but [Google Translate](#) can open the door to its mailing lists, forum, society pages, digitized books, gazetteer, WWI casualty database and research aids.

Free Jewish Genealogy Websites

[Israel Genealogy Research Association](#)

The 2 million-plus records in this collection range in date from the Ottoman era to the early 1950s, and cover Jewish communities both in Israel and elsewhere, including North Africa and Middle Eastern countries.

[JewishGen](#)

The dozens of databases here include the 500,000 surname and town entries in the [JewishGen Family Finder](#), 7 million names in the [Family Tree of the Jewish People](#), a database of 6,000 Jewish communities, a 54-nation gazetteer, and 3.6 million entries on victims of the Holocaust.

Free Dutch Genealogy Websites

[Wie Was Wie](#)

This home to 220 million entries about Dutch ancestors puts civil-registration records at your fingertips, along with population and church registers and family trees and biographies.

Free Genealogy Technology Tools

[Cyndi's List](#)

Launched in 1996, Cyndi's List remains the go-to resource for carefully categorized links to genealogy websites—more than 332,000 in 213 categories, last we looked.

[Evernote](#)

This digital scrapbook lets you save web pages and genealogy finds on one device—tablet, PC, Mac, even your phone—and then access them on all your gadgets.

[GEDMatch](#)

Match your autosomal DNA (atDNA) results with genetic kin who've uploaded their data from [AncestryDNA](#), [23andMe](#), [MyHeritage DNA](#) or [Family Tree DNA](#)'s Family Finder.

[Google](#)

Seriously, if you're not already using the search, mapping, translation and other tools here, you probably shouldn't be reading this article.

[International Society of Genetic Genealogy Wiki](#)

Learn all about genetic-genealogy technology from the experts at this informative wiki, founded in 2005 by DNA project administrators.

[Internet Archive](#)

The long list of collections here ranges from millions of library items to specialized collections for California and Portugal. Plus the [Wayback Machine](#) can find vanished genealogy sites from the early internet. (Remember

Geocities?)

[One-Step Web Pages](#)

Clever Steve Morse has figured out how to dive deep into genealogy databases—notably censuses and passenger records—with flexible search forms. (Matches in subscription websites require payment to view.)

[WordPress](#)

Build your own family history website with the most popular platform, complete with thousands of free themes, or host a blog-style site at the companion wordpress.com.

Free Resources from Libraries and Archives

[Allen County Public Library](#)

Though based in Indiana, this library's online reach extends much further—reflecting its status as the nation's second-richest genealogy library. Special collections focus on Native American, African American, military and family Bible records.

[ArchiveGrid](#)

An offshoot of 101 Best Websites fave [WorldCat](#), ArchiveGrid searches more than 7 million descriptions of archival records from 1,400 different institutions. Learn about historical documents, personal papers, family histories and other materials that may mention your ancestors. A clickable map makes it easy to find archives near you.

[Clayton Genealogical Library](#)

This branch of the Houston Public Library has one of America's best genealogical collections. With an emphasis on the Gulf Coast region, the library also has an international collection and material for all fifty U.S. states.

[Digital Library on American Slavery](#)

This University of North Carolina at Greensboro project compiles sources including extracts from court and legislative petitions, slave "deeds," insurance registries and "wanted" ads for escaped slaves. The focus is North Carolina, but data relate to all slave states.

[Digital Public Library of America](#)

One click searches more than 45 million digitized items from libraries, archives and museums, or you can navigate via interactive timelines and maps. Your searches also include FamilySearch's growing free digital historical book collection.

[Genealogy Gophers](#)

Smart, intuitive searching is the hallmark of the partnership with [FamilySearch](#) here, which quickly combs 80,000 digitized books.

[HathiTrust](#)

Log in with credentials from a participating institution such as a university to get the most out of this digital library's almost 17 million total volumes and 6 billion pages. But there's plenty here accessible to the general public, too.

[Library of Congress](#)

Though not specifically focused on genealogy, the nation's library has plenty to offer online, including the [National Union Catalog of Manuscript Collections](#) and its own comprehensive catalog.

[Midwest Genealogy Center](#)

This site from the Mid-Continent Public Library in Independence, Mo., taps one of the nation's largest genealogy collections. Online extras include an [index to US Railroad Retirement Board pension records](#).

[National Archives and Records Administration](#)

Read all about the genealogical treasures stored at the National Archives, order military and other records, and

browse historical maps and photos. [Access to Archival Databases](#) serves up files ranging from WWII enlistments to passenger lists for millions of German, Irish, Russian and Italian immigrants.

[New York Public Library Digital Collections](#)

The cool factor is off the charts at this handsome home to more than 900,000 digitized prints, photographs, maps, manuscripts, videos and other items. The site's maps and atlases alone are worth a visit.

[WorldCat](#)

Find your family history in 2 billion items at 10,000 of the world's libraries, then click to see holdings nearest you.

[E-Bay](#)-You'd be surprised at what you might find: post card photos of an ancestor's community, church, school; yearbook with an ancestor's picture, community history-get creative.

[Bookfinder](#)-buy books, new/used cheaply: community history, family history, etc

Possible Discussion Topics

What Genealogy Website(s) do you use most?

What genealogy program do you use?

What problem(s) do you have in your genealogy?

- website

- brick wall

- genealogy program

What about:

- Special interest meetings (by ancestor nationality, by website, by program, etc.)

- building meetings?

- hands on/interactive meetings-with pen & paper, laptop/tablet, etc.

- field trip-State Library, NARA, Lancasterhistory.org, Family History Library, etc.

- Video presentations-YouTube, others

- Professional speakers

- Zoom meetings

- viewable past programs

Topics you'd you're interested in knowing more about