

18 Online Hints & Hacks to Find Ancestors Faster!

family & tree magazine

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MARCH/APRIL 2017

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familytree magazine

march/april 2017 • volume 18, issue 2



cover photo: Al Parrish; design: Julie Barnett

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| By Rick Crume

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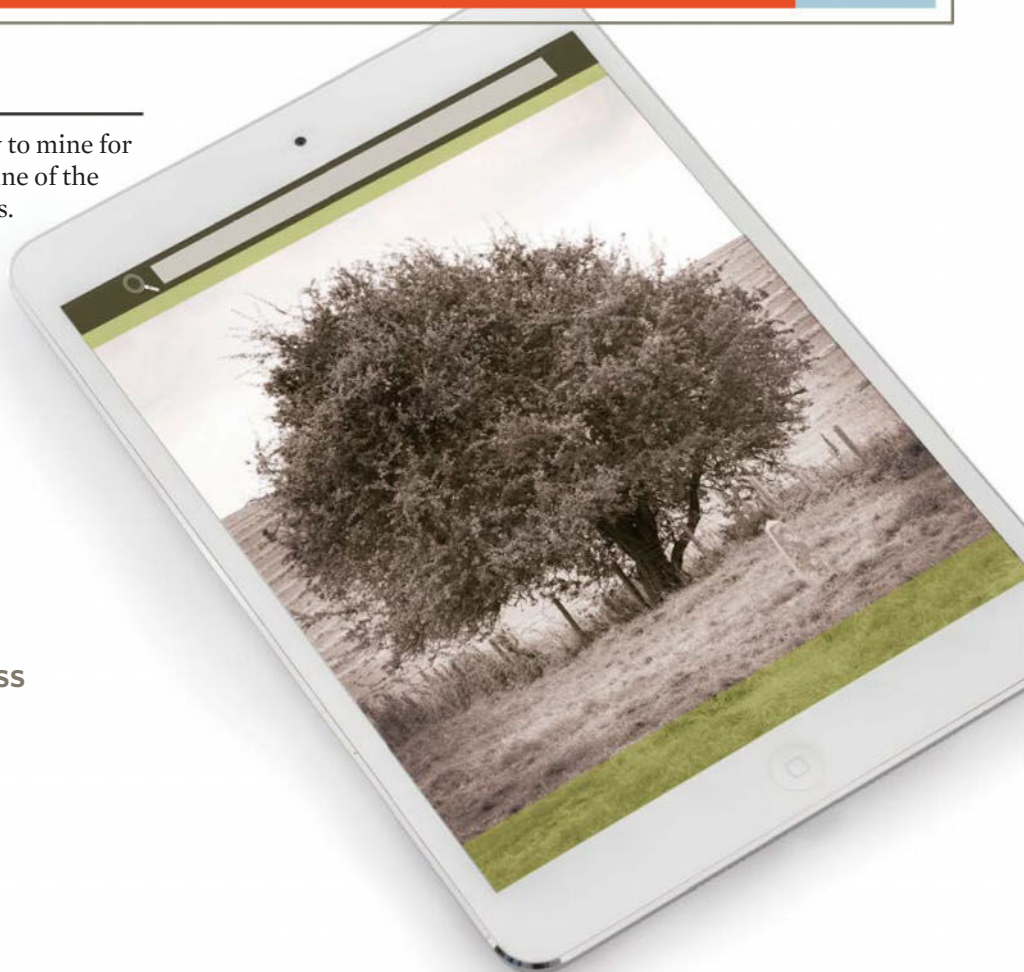
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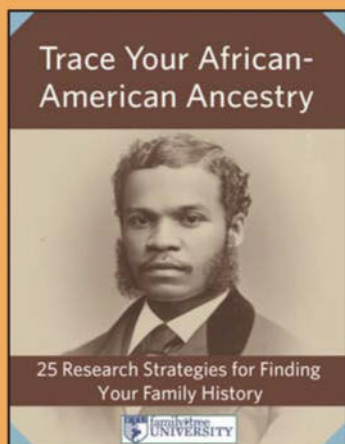
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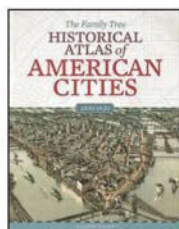


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PODCAST

» GENEALOGY WEBSITES

Want more online research tips? Tune in to our March podcast at <familytreemagazine.com/info/podcasts> as host Lisa Louise Cooke and guests talk about top tools and website hacks.



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Yes, you can organize all your genealogy research and access the notes and documents you need from anywhere! Learn how with our course *How to Use Evernote for Genealogists* <familytreeuniversity.com/courses/how-to-use-evernote-for-genealogists>.



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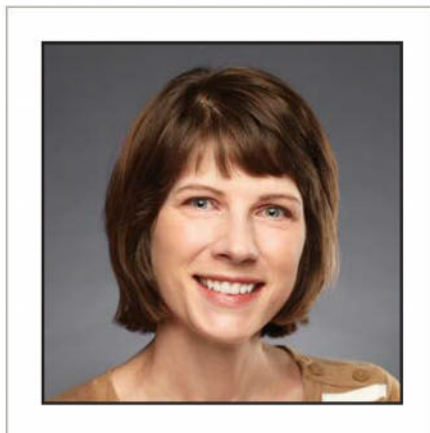
Stitches in Time

🧵 **WHEN I'M NOT** doing genealogy, I do a little sewing. Nothing too complicated—a new hem for my son's jeans, a pillowcase for my little girl, soft books for kids' birthdays, mini Christmas stockings. So far, I've managed to avoid sewing clothing or things requiring zippers and buttonholes (Velcro, I can do).

But I've decided to issue myself a challenge. To put my mediocre skills and my inherited machine (from my grandma, who sewed her own wedding dress) to better use. I'm going to watch some YouTube <www.youtube.com> videos, take in a tutorial or two, and learn to install a zipper. Then I'm going to make a skirt.

You might be at a similar point in your family history research. You've started your tree, done Google <google.com> searches and downloaded records from Ancestry.com <ancestry.com> or FamilySearch <www.familysearch.org>, and now you're ready to step up your game. See what online genealogy experts know that you don't, and what beyond-the-basic records you can find online.

That's where this special issue of *Family Tree Magazine* comes in. Every article



is focused on really working the web to expand your family tree and learn more about your ancestors. The web guides have insider tricks for digging deep into the collections of Ancestry.com, FamilySearch, MyHeritage <myheritage.com> and six other top sites for genealogy research. You'll also discover new family history tools and records on websites you hadn't thought to try.

Whether you're a sewist or a genealogist, bumping up your skills pays off. I might be wearing my new skirt next time I see you at a genealogy conference—and I'd love to take a look at your expanded, enriched family tree. ■

Diane F. Haddad

DIANE'S TOP 3 TIPS from this issue

- 1 Listen to your ancestors' music on the Library of Congress website at <loc.gov/folklife> and <loc.gov/jukebox>.
- 2 Read background information on record collections to help you better interpret the data.
- 3 Automate searches at major genealogy websites (even if you don't subscribe) to keep an eye on new collections that might cover your family

family tree magazine

MARCH/APRIL 2017 •
VOLUME 18, ISSUE 2

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Family Tree Magazine, published in the United States, is not affiliated with the British *Family Tree Magazine*, with *Family Tree Maker* software or with *Family Tree DNA*.

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SUBSCRIPTION INFORMATION: U.S.: 1 (888) 403-9002;
international: (386) 246-3364; email: familytreemagazine@emailcustomerservice.com, <www.familytreemagazine.com/customer-service>.

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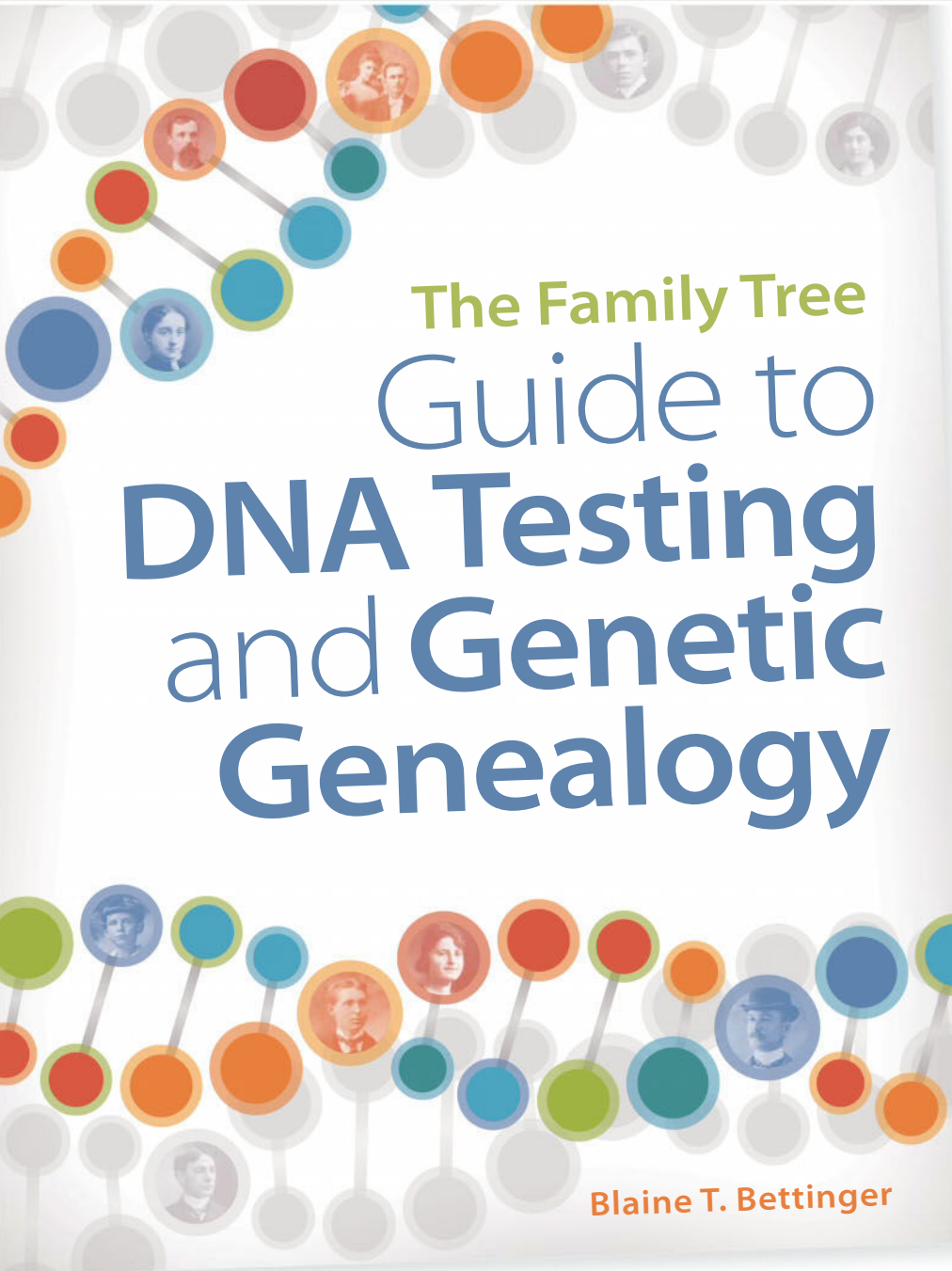
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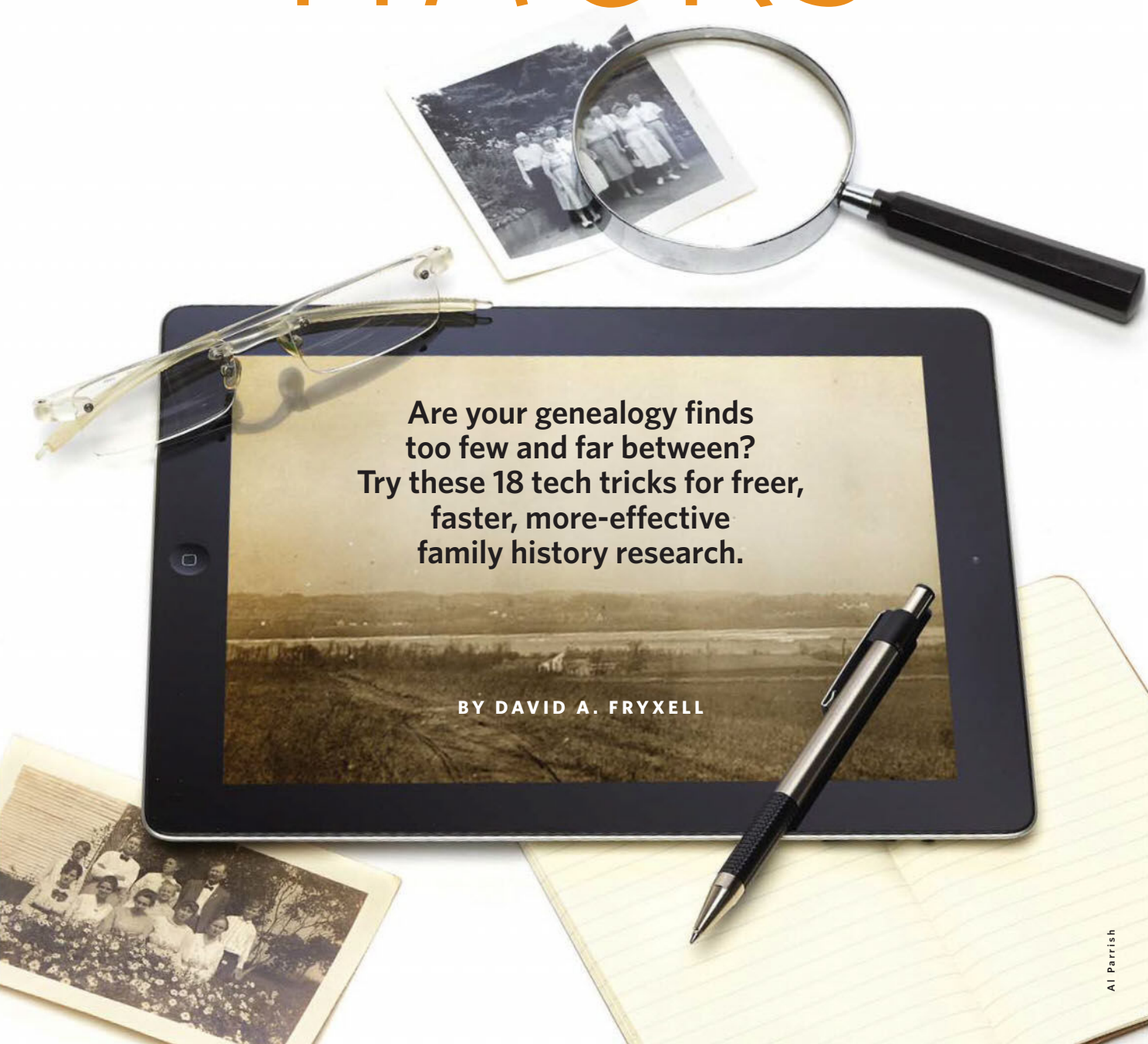
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HERITAGE HACKS



🔧 **HACKERS ARE BAD**, but “hacks” can be good—when you’re talking about technology tricks that make your genealogical life easier or more enjoyable. Our favorite online genealogy hacks make websites do things you didn’t know they could do, speed up your research, and even combine the capabilities of multiple websites and tech tools. Some hacks can also save you money on subscription websites, by helping you ferret out free records or pay for them as you go.

Here we share 18 of the best online genealogy hacks to try. Do you have any favorite hacks not covered here? Share them with us on Facebook <www.facebook.com/familytreemagazine> or Twitter (@familytreemag) with hashtag #GenWebHacks.

1 See what's new at your favorite genealogy websites.

It’s good to repeat searches on your favorite genealogy websites. But rather than slog through the same matches you’ve already seen, you can easily check out the latest additions at these sites:

■ **ANCESTRY.COM:** Go to <ancestry.com/cs/recent-collections> to see just-added content and what’s coming soon. (Note the dropdown menu set to United States; use it to view new content for other countries.) To have Ancestry.com automatically email you about new databases added to the site, opt in to New Records Notifications at <secure.ancestry.com/account/emailpreferences>.

■ **FAMILYSEARCH:** On the same page where you can browse all collections <www.familysearch.org/search/collection/list>, click Last Updated to list them by the most recently updated.

■ **FINDMYPAST:** This UK-focused site at <www.findmypast.com> makes it easy to see new content. Just click Latest Records on the main menu bar.

■ **FOLD3:** Subscription site Fold3 <www.fold3.com> focuses on US military records. Latest additions and updates are listed at <www.fold3.com/document/s/?type=titles&start=0&sort=updated>.

2 Find free databases on Ancestry.com.

Ancestry.com <ancestry.com> has more than 1,800 databases that are free to search even without a paid subscription.

Many of these collections were created or indexed in partnership with other organizations, such as FamilySearch <www.familysearch.org>, and Ancestry.com has agreed to keep access to them free. If you’re not a subscriber, you’ll need to create a free Ancestry.com account to access them. This account also lets you build online family trees, preserve and share photos and stories, connect with other researchers and read how-to help.

To see a list of free databases, search the card catalog at <search.ancestry.com/search/cardcatalog> for the keyword *free* (you can also combine this with other words, such as *Ohio* or *war*, to see

what’s free in your area of research). Or you can search all the free databases at once at <search.ancestry.com/search/group/freeindexacom>. Scroll down on this page to see the full list. Collections include selected censuses for the United States, United Kingdom and Australia, as well as more obscure topics such as Alabama convicts and passengers on the sunken ship *Meffkure*.

3 Find free and a la carte records on Findmypast.

Ancestry.com isn’t the only subscription website with freebies. By registering for

The screenshot shows the Findmypast website interface. At the top is a navigation bar with links for Family tree, Search, Free Records, My records, Blog, and Help. There are also links for Subscribe and Sign in / Register. The main banner features a large image of a steamship with the text "What records are free to view?" and a subtext explaining that over 830 million records are included in the FREE collection. Below the banner, there are two featured sections: "Free Inhabitants in" with a sample of a census record and the heading "US Censuses", and "US & Canada: Public Records of Birth, Marriage and Death" with a photo of a man holding a baby. At the bottom, there are two lines of text: "Census records are the best resource to use when beginning to build your family tree, and Findmypast is the only place online that you can" and "Birth, marriage and death (BMD) records form the foundations of your family history research and".

Findmypast points you to its free resources—which include US censuses and Irish Catholic parish records—at <www.findmypast.com/free>.

Focusing your newspaper searches on papers published in a single city can help you weed out articles on other people with your ancestor's name. GenealogyBank lets you search for papers from one or more cities in the same state.

a guest membership at Findmypast, you can unlock 850 million records—US censuses, US and Canadian public records, family trees and 10 million Irish Catholic parish records—without paying a cent. You'll find the freebies listed at www.findmypast.com/free.

If the records you want at Findmypast aren't free but you don't care to commit to a subscription, you can buy "credits" to pay for individual records. Check out your options at www.findmypast.com/pay, starting at 60 credits for \$10.95. Credits are valid for 90 days, and records cost between 5 and 60 credits to view. Once purchased, records can be viewed unlimited times.

4 Search GenealogyBank for all newspapers published in a city.

Don't limit yourself to the biggest newspaper in your ancestors' hometown when searching subscription site GenealogyBank www.genealogybank.com. Newspapers have come and gone, and the site's collection often includes lesser-known publications you might never have thought to search. (Conversely,

searching the entire site when you're really interested in hits only from one place can flood you with useless results.)

To view all the newspapers from a single city and search them at once, click on the state (on the map or text link) on the GenealogyBank home page. You'll be taken to a page with a map and list of links by city. Select a city, and the next page lets you search all the applicable titles. (Or, if you want to search all the papers from several cities, check the boxes next to the cities of interest.) In Birmingham, Ala., for example, you can search the *Age-Herald*, *Courier*, *Labor Advocate* and *Wide-Awake* all at once. If you're using America's GenealogyBank, the institutional version available through many libraries, click View



TIP: Automate searches at major genealogy websites, even if you don't subscribe—just to keep an eye on what collections are available that might cover your family.

Title List in the Historical Newspapers paragraph and that will take you to the same list of states.

5 Search GenealogyBank for only recently added records.

If you're a regular user of GenealogyBank's newspaper collection, you might not want to search all billion-plus articles every time you return to the site. Fortunately, GenealogyBank makes it easy to limit your searches to records added in the past few months. On the main Newspaper Archives page www.genealogybank.com/explore/newspapers/all, as well as on individual state, city and periodical search pages, click under the Added Since dropdown menu to select a date range of new content to view. You can view a list of all new content at www.genealogybank.com/newcontent.

6 Add your DNA profile to MyHeritage or Geni.

You can now privately incorporate your autosomal DNA results into your MyHeritage www.myheritage.com family

trees. First, download your raw DNA from 23andMe <www.23andme.com>, AncestryDNA <dna.ancestry.com> or Family Tree DNA's Family Finder test <www.familytreedna.com>. Then click the orange Upload button on your member profile page. A similar process works on Geni <www.geni.com> for those who've tested with Family Tree DNA: Just go to your Geni profile page and click Transfer Your DNA Results.

7 Map your family tree locations in MyHeritage.

Another new MyHeritage feature, PedigreeMap puts your ancestors on the map—literally. In the menu on the left side of your home page, select PedigreeMap, and MyHeritage will automatically generate a world map of your online tree events. You can zoom in and out and select different trees to map.

8 Automate searching at your favorite site.

Once you've created at least one family tree at the following genealogy websites, why not let the 'bots do the searching for you? Each site offers hints for potentially matching records on its site. Even if you don't subscribe to all these sites and can't fully view matches, it's worth keeping track of what records are out there. Here's a breakdown:

■ **ANCESTRY.COM:** Hints show up as leaf icons next to individuals in the tree view; click on each leaf to review and accept or reject hints. Or, on an ancestor's profile page, click Hints to see them. See all recent hints by clicking on the leaf in the far upper right corner of any tree. The dropdown menu under See All Recent Hints In lets you choose a tree to work with. Manage hint preferences at <secure.ancestry.com/account/sitepreferences> and request weekly, monthly or no email alerts for new hints at <home.ancestry.com/myancestry/myalerts> (click Delivery Options).

■ **FAMILYSEARCH:** In the tree view, blue icons indicate available hints.



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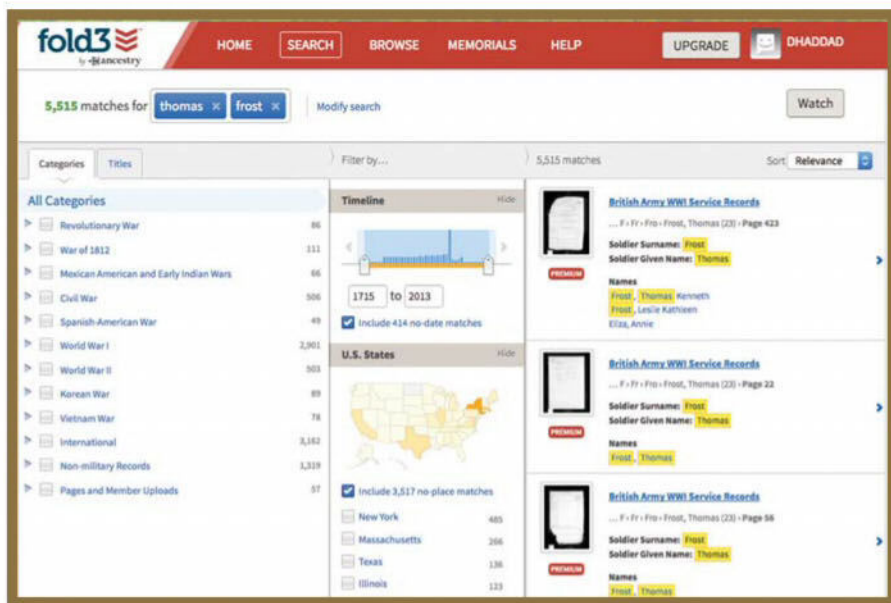
Click the icon to view, and click Show Details in the resulting popup window to jump to a page where you can view all this person's hints and accept or dismiss them. FamilySearch also offers Research Suggestions. Click the purple icon to view these tips. You can view both hints and Research Suggestions on the right side of a person's page.

■ **FINDMYPAST:** Automated hinting is now available for just birth, marriage and death records (additional collections are pending). When you add a new person or amend a key piece of information in your family tree here, you may notice that a number within a circle appears on that profile, indicating the number of hints automatically found for that person. Clicking on the orange circle takes you to that ancestor's hints page. Hints for birth and baptismal records are red; marriages, green; and deaths and burials, blue.

■ **MYHERITAGE:** The site automatically generates possible matches (called Smart Matches) in others' trees; you'll need a Premium or Premium Plus subscription to fully explore them. A data subscription or a membership at MyHeritage's sister site, World Vital Records <www.worldvitalrecords.com> qualifies you to view Record Matches from historical records and from Geni. According to MyHeritage, its hinting technologies are about 97 to 98 percent accurate, based on user acceptance rates. View pending matches by clicking links on the left side of your MyHeritage home page.

9 Get search updates from Fold3.

Keep an eye on updated information with the Watch feature on Fold3. To get started, simply run a search. Once you've examined the results, click the Watch button to add the search to your Watch List. Now, when Fold3 adds records matching the search, you'll get a notification by email. You can manage your list at <www.fold3.com/edit-watchlist>, where you also can choose



On Fold3, click Watch in the upper-right corner of a search results page to save and automate your searches. You'll receive email notifications when new matches are found.

to receive the notifications of new hits as they happen, daily, weekly or never.

10 Try some one-stop shopping.

A few genealogy sites have extended their reach by searching sites beyond their own collections. The best part? You don't have to do anything extra to add these partner sites to your searches, as long as you're doing a general search rather than focusing on a single collection or group of records.

MyHeritage automatically pulls in finds from its sister family tree website Geni, as well as BillionGraves <www.billiongraves.com>, Tributes <www.tributes.com> and Familysearch. It also searches digitized newspapers

at Chronicling America <chroniclingamerica.loc.gov> and the Australian site Trove <trove.nla.gov.au>. Ancestry.com scours the RootsWeb site it hosts <home.rootsweb.ancestry.com>, Find A Grave <www.findagrave.com> and more than 300 other "web indexes," or copies of indexes that point to offsite content. The free FamilySearch hosts indexes to several collections that require connecting to subscription sites to view related images.

11 Get a quick view of Ancestry.com search results.

Once you've got some search hits on Ancestry.com, you can save time by not clicking through to review every possible result. Instead, hover your pointer over the blue, underlined collection title (such as "1940 United States Federal Census"). A window pops up showing all key data from that record, which you can use to decide whether this hit is worth investigating further.

If it is, click on the collection title or on the green See More box in that floating popup window to jump to a complete,



TIP: Regularly check for new record collections on your favorite genealogy websites to see what you may have missed.

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printable extract page. You also can skip straight to the associated record image, if available, by clicking View Image below the collection title or on the thumbnail image on the floating window.

12 Print without paper.


Of course you want to save your finds from these popular genealogy sites, but you might not want bits of dead trees cluttering up your workspace. One simple way to “print” without paper—and to make your finds accessible on any device—is to use the free Evernote app <www.evernote.com>. Once it’s installed, you can use the Evernote “clipper” to save a full screen or selection to your Evernote notebook, or just copy the record you want to save and paste it into Evernote. You also can select Save PDF to Evernote from the PDF dropdown menu in the lower left corner of the Mac print box. In Windows, you’ll need a

PDF printer installed; then you can “print” a PDF to a designated folder that Evernote automatically imports into a designated notebook. (Set this folder in Evernote under Tools>Import Folders.) For more about Evernote, see our guidebook *How to Use Evernote for Genealogy* <shopfamilytree.com/how-to-use-evernote-for-genealogy>.

Even without Evernote, you can still use PDF “printing” in Mac or Windows to save digital copies of documents into whatever folder you choose. You can even organize these by ancestor or family group. Just remember to back up all your finds on the cloud or on separate storage media. Unlike paper, digital printouts can get lost when your computer crashes.

13 Get a free online research notebook.

Similar to Evernote but designed especially for genealogists, FHNotebook



TIP: Search online from your genealogy software to save time and streamline the process of adding information to your tree.

<www.familyhistorynotebook.com> lets you securely store records, to-do lists, notes, images and even audio and video files in the cloud (online). You can access your notebook from any computer or with a free smartphone app. Don’t trust the cloud? Use the free desktop app to back up your files on your local computer. If you need to store more than 100 files or 1 GB of data, premium plans cost \$19.99 or \$59.99 a year.

14 Search from within RootsMagic.

Users of the RootsMagic genealogy software program <www.rootsmagic.com> don’t even need to leave the program to search the web for ancestral info. According to *Family Tree Magazine* software guru Rick Crume, just select the individual you want to research and switch to the WebSearch tab (if Auto-search is checked). You can search for someone else on the same site by clicking the name in the sidebar.

To select which websites to search, click the little dropdown arrow to the right of the search button. If you want to add sites that the program doesn’t include (or if you want to hide some of the built-in sites), choose Manage Search Providers.

The main part of the WebSearch screen is a web browser window that displays your results. Like a standard browser, the web address is displayed at the top of this window, with Back, Forward and Refresh buttons to the left. A down button at the right side lists recently viewed sites, which you can revisit by selecting from the dropdown menu. Add WebTag adds a link

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- Free online genetic genealogy tools <familytreemagazine.com/article/free-dna-genealogy-websites>
- Organize your computer’s hard drive <familytreemagazine.com/article/feb-2012-make-over-hard-drive>

+ For Plus Members

- Ancestry.com cheat sheet <familytreemagazine.com/article/ancestrycom-cheat-sheet>
- Harness the power of your genealogy software <familytreemagazine.com/article/get-on-the-family-tree-fast-track>
- Comparing Ancestry.com, Findmypast and MyHeritage <familytreemagazine.com/article/triple-threat-big-3-websites>

\$ ShopFamilyTree.com

- 10 must-have genealogy tech tools <shopfamilytree.com/10-genealogy-tech-tools-you-cant-live-without-webinar>
- 23 tips for better research <shopfamilytree.com/23-tips-for-better-genealogy-research-u4184>
- Guide to Steven Morse’s one-step webpages <shopfamilytree.com/research-strategies-stephen-morse-s-one-step-web-pages>

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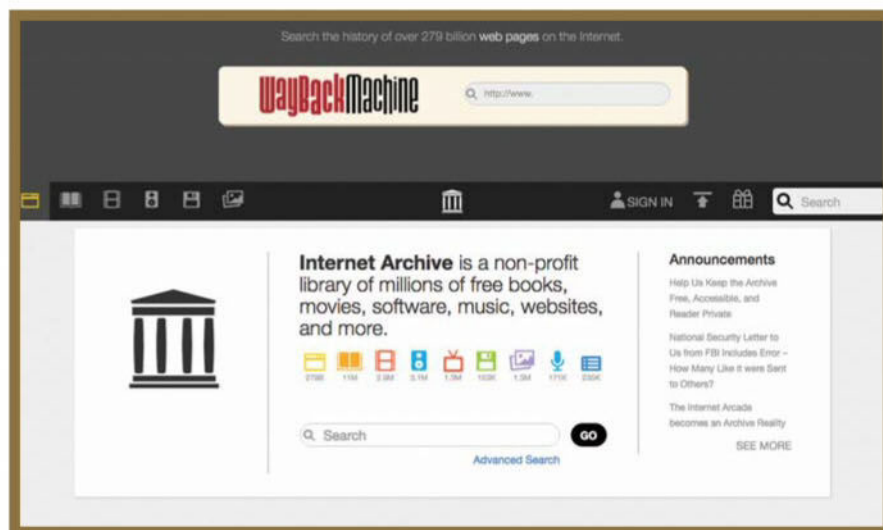
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success stories—enjoyed reading those. **So much information** from all
the programs will keep me busy for months."

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Did the distant cousin's family history website you had bookmarked vanish? You may be able to find a cached version using the WayBack Machine, part of the Internet Archive website.

to the current website to the card of the person on whom you're searching. To open your results in your regular web browser instead, click the Use External Browser checkbox. (Note that this disables the Add WebTag button.)

15 Search from within Legacy Family Tree.

A similar hack works to search from within the Legacy Family Tree genealogy software <www.legacyfamilytree.com>. Start by selecting Search Internet from the Internet tab on the Ribbon bar. Legacy comes preloaded with 30-plus sites to begin your searching. A dropdown combo box at the top of the Search Internet page displays all the current options. In the Deluxe Edition, you can click Customize Searches to add, delete or edit sites.

Here, too, the search focuses on the currently selected individual. Legacy pre-fills the necessary search fields with information from your file. You can change this data, however, before beginning your search. Fields that are not used for the currently selected site are grayed out. As you select different search sites, the appropriate fields are made available. To keep the search window open after a search, uncheck Close This Window after Each Search.

16 Upgrade your mobile web browser.

While most of these hacks focus on desktop or laptop surfing (though most also work on mobile devices), this one is specific to tablets and smartphones. Try the free Dolphin web browser <dolphin.com/download>, available for iOS and Android. It's got the Evernote web clipper built in, along with nifty shortcuts for copying web addresses, sharing web pages with nearby users, syncing bookmarks, annotating pages, printing and more. Its Find on Page feature, similar to the Find feature in computer browsers, lets you jump to an ancestor's name or an ancestral place on a long page.

17 Translate foreign-language finds.

Records from your ancestors' overseas homelands won't do you much good if you can't understand what they say. Fortunately, the web is full of free translation tools. Google Translate <translate.google.com> can translate words or phrases from any of more than 50 languages; it even accepts voice input in 15 languages and can speak translations in 23 languages. Type a web address to translate an entire page.

Google's free Chrome browser <google.com/chrome> will offer to translate any foreign-language site you visit with it. You also can try Microsoft's Bing Translator <www.bing.com/translator>, which can handle more than 40 different languages.

18 Find vanished web pages.

How frustrating is it to find something valuable online about your family history, only to have the web page vanish into the interwebs the next time you try to visit? The Internet Archive <archive.org> may have a solution for such puzzles. Its Wayback Machine (accessible via a link at the top of the Internet Archive home page) stores the history of more than half a trillion web pages, including many from sites that are no longer live. It's the perfect place to track down that elusive page about your family that was once hosted on Geocities or some other platform now lost in the rapidly changing online landscape. ■

Contributing editor **DAVID A. FRYXELL** remembers when it was cool to call the online world "cyberspace" (and to describe things as "cool"). He goes online from Tucson.

Heaven's Embrace

by Thomas Kinkadee

ENHANCED WITH
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THOMAS KINKADEE
Painter of Light

On Angel's wings you were taken
But in my heart you'll stay
And in God's light you will rest
Until we meet again some day

Shown smaller
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Ancestry.com

ANCESTRY.COM, THE LARGEST commercial genealogy website, went online in 1996. Based in Utah, it has localized websites in nine countries. It boasts a huge collection of more than 18 billion records, including US, UK and Canadian censuses; Irish Catholic parish registers; birth, marriage, death, military and immigration records; digitized books and city directories; and more than 80 million member-contributed family trees. AncestryDNA, launched in 2012, has DNA profiles of 3 million people.

How to Search

These four strategies will help you search Ancestry.com for your ancestors efficiently—and successfully.

■ **USE SEARCH FILTERS TO BROADEN OR NARROW YOUR SEARCH.** Names spelled in unexpected ways and transcription errors (caused when an indexer misreads a document) can confound your best search efforts. And sometimes you

the BASICS

URL: <ancestry.com>

Customer service: 1-800-401-1601, <support.ancestry.com/s>, contact form <support.ancestry.com/s/contactsupport>

Major sister sites: Fold3 <www.fold3.com>, RootsWeb <home.rootsweb.ancestry.com>, Newspapers.com <www.newspapers.com>, Find A Grave <www.findagrave.com>, Archives <www.archives.com>; international sites including Ancestry.ca <ancestry.ca> (Canada) and Ancestry.co.uk <ancestry.co.uk> (United Kingdom)

Membership: 2.4 million paying subscribers across all its family history websites and 3 million people DNA tested

Mobile app: Ancestry for iOS and Android <ancestry.com/cs/ancestry-app>

Major collections: User-contributed family trees; US, Canadian and UK censuses; US immigration records; US military records; US city directories; US vital records. See the Card Catalog <search.ancestry.com/search/cardcatalog.aspx> for a complete list.

Social media: <www.facebook.com/ancestry>, <twitter.com/ancestry>, <www.instagram.com/ancestry>

MEMBERSHIP OPTIONS

Level	Benefits	Cost
Basic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ build a family tree ■ access free databases 	free
DNA Insights	access Shared Ancestor Hints, DNA Circles and genetic matches' tree locations and surnames	\$49/year
US Discovery	access all US records on Ancestry.com	\$19.99/month or \$99/six months
World Explorer	access all US and international records on Ancestry.com	\$34.99/month or \$149/six months
World Explorer Plus	access all records on Ancestry.com and sister sites Fold3 and Newspapers.com	\$44.99/month or \$199/six months

won't know a person's exact years and places of birth and death. So Ancestry.com by default finds matches that don't necessarily fit all your search criteria exactly. But you can weed out some irrelevant results by using filters built into the search form (shown on the next page) to specify how closely the records in your search results must match your search terms.

When you fill out the search form with a person's name, the place an event occurred, or the date an event occurred, an Exact checkbox appears below the field you typed in. Click the Exact checkbox and a menu of additional filter options, listed in order from narrow to broad, will pop up:

» **First name:** Exact, Exact and Sounds-like, Exact and Similar meanings/spellings, and Exact and Initials instead of names

» **Last name:** Exact, Exact and Sounds-like, Exact and Similar meanings/spellings, and Exact and Soundex

» **Event date** (the option to add a year of birth, marriage, death or another event will appear once you click on the event you want to add): Exact to this year, or this year plus/minus one, two, five or 10 years

» **Location:** Exact to this place, the county where the place is located, the county and adjacent counties, the state where the place is located, the state and adjacent states, or the country

Ancestry.com Expanded Search Form

The image shows the Ancestry.com Expanded Search Form with several fields and filters. Numbered callouts point to specific features:

- 1** Points to the "First & Middle Name(s)" field, which contains "John Hudson".
- 2** Points to the "Last Name" field, which contains "Pennington".
- 3** Points to the "Add event:" dropdown menu, which is currently set to "Birth".
- 4** Points to the "Exact +/-..." checkbox for the "Year" field.
- 5** Points to the "Exact to..." dropdown for the "Location" field.
- 6** Points to the "Add family member:" dropdown menu, which is currently set to "Spouse".
- 7** Points to the "Keyword" field, which contains "Occupation, street address, etc.".
- 8** Points to the "Collection Focus" dropdown menu, which is currently set to "All Collections".
- 9** Points to the "Historical Records" checkbox, which is checked.

Other visible fields include "Place your ancestor might have lived" (City, County, State, Country), "Birth Year" (1850), "Lived In" (1886), "Spouse" (Margaret), and "Last Name" (Jonah). There are also checkboxes for "Exact" and "Exact +/-..." for various fields.

1 Type a name to see the Exact checkbox. Click Exact for a menu of search filters you can check.

2 Type the last name and click Exact to view filter options.

3 Click an event to search for records with that information.

4 Add an event year and click Exact for filters to add a range of that year plus or minus one, two, five or 10 years.

5 When you begin typing a place, choose from the dropdown menu of filter options that appears.

6 Click a relationship to add that family member's name (along with name filter options) to your search.

7 Add a keyword that might appear in your ancestor's records.

8 Focus your results on records associated with a particular country or ethnic group.

9 These boxes are checked by default. Uncheck a box to omit records from that collection from your results.

You also can restrict the type of records in your results, such as only US or Canadian records, only historical records, or everything but family trees, by using the search form's Collection Focus options.

■ **USE SLIDERS TO BROADEN OR NARROW YOUR RESULTS.** The "sliders" under Search Filters on the left of your search results (see page 18) correspond to the filters on the search form. For example, the given name slider has five positions: broad; exact, similar, sounds like and initials; exact, sounds like and similar; exact and similar; and exact. Event date sliders have six positions: broad; +/- 10 years; +/- 5 years; +/- 2 years; +/- 1 year and exact. Location sliders have seven positions: broad; country; state and adjacent states; state; county and adjacent counties; county; and exact.

Moving a slider to the left broadens your search and gives you more matches for that term; moving a slider to the right narrows your search and gives you fewer matches. Experiment with different combinations of slider positions. To reopen the search form and change the terms you typed, click the Edit Search link below the sliders.

■ **SEARCH SPECIFIC RECORD CATEGORIES AND COLLECTIONS.** Using the main search form to find someone in all of

Ancestry.com's records and family trees at once is a good way to begin your research. But searching specific record categories and individual databases lets you focus on the most relevant records and use search forms customized to the type of information in that collection.

From the Search tab at the top, select broad categories, including Census & Voter Lists; Birth, Marriage & Death; Immigration & Travel; Public Member Trees; and Military. If you're researching an immigrant, for example, select Immigration & Travel. The search form has fields for dates and places of arrival and departure, and place of origin.

Keep in mind that several important record categories, including Private Member Trees, Newspapers and Pictures, aren't listed under the Search tab. To find these, select All Collections from the Search tab and choose from the list on the right.

To the right of the search form for a category, you can click a subcategory to search. Subcategories in Immigration & Travel include Passenger Lists, Border Crossings & Passports, and others. You also could click one of the featured data collections, such as US, Border Crossings from Canada to U.S., 1895-1956.

Ancestry.com Search Results

The screenshot displays the Ancestry.com search results for 'Alexander Robertson'. At the top, a family tree overview shows children (James Stewart Robertson, Dora Augusta Robertson, Elizabeth Lucy Robertson) and parents (John Robertson, Elizabeth Ferguson). Below this, the search filters section allows refining results by birth, marriage, and death dates, as well as location. The main results section shows a list of records, including 'U.S., Find A Grave Index, 1600s-Current', 'New York, State Census, 1875', '1880 United States Federal Census', and 'New York, State Census, 1855'. Each record entry includes a preview of the record details, such as name, birth, marriage, and death information.

1 When you search on a name in your Ancestry Member Tree, the search results screen includes an overview of that person's family.

2 Use the sliders to broaden or narrow the scope of your search. Then click the Update button.

3 Limit the results to records associated with a particular country or ethnic group. Then click the Update button.

4 Click on Edit Search to modify this search or on New Search to start a new search in the same collection.

5 Click on a category to limit the results to that topic.

6 Click a relationship to add that family member's name (along with name filter options) to your search.

7 Hover your mouse cursor over a database name to display a preview. Click on the link to view more details.

The best way to find a specific database is to use the Card Catalog, accessible under the Search tab. You can search the catalog by words in a database title, but the keyword search is best if you don't know the title of the database you want. Searching for the keywords *Civil War*, for example, brings up any database with *Civil War* in its title or description. Click on a database title to search it. You can filter the catalog by collection and location, too. To see collections for Lancaster County, Pa., use the Filter by Location option and select the country USA, the state Pennsylvania and the county Lancaster. The 102 matches include local histories, church records and directories.

■ SEARCH FROM YOUR ANCESTRY MEMBER TREE OR GENEALOGY SOFTWARE. If you have a Member Tree, when you start filling in the search form with a name, the site will suggest matching names from your trees. Select one, and the search form will autofill with details from your tree, including the first and middle names; maiden and married surnames (both in the Last Name box); years and places of birth, marriage and death; and names of the parents, spouse and children. The advantage isn't only speed: Searching with the detail and family connections could result in higher-quality matches. (If none of the suggested names are the person you're searching for, just finish typing the name.)

Also retry the search with different combinations of criteria, such as without family members' names, with different

places of residence and with different keywords, such as the target person's occupation or a military conflict he was in.

You also can start a search by first going to your Ancestry Member Tree. Just click on a name and then on Search. In shifting its focus to Ancestry Member Trees, Ancestry.com last year sold its desktop genealogy software, Family Tree Maker, to Software MacKiev <www.mackiev.com/ftm>. That company is expected to retain the program's ability to search Ancestry.com and sync with Ancestry Member Trees. To search online for someone from your Family Tree Maker software, highlight a name in Tree or Person view, click the Web Search tab and select Ancestry.com, RootsWeb, Google or another search engine. If you find a pertinent record on Ancestry.com, you can merge the facts into your tree. Source information is linked to the fact and, if there's an associated record image, it's linked to the source.

RootsMagic <www.rootsmagic.com> genealogy software for Windows, also is adding the ability to search records on Ancestry.com.

Insider Advice

Save time and make Ancestry.com more convenient to use by following these tips:

■ SEARCH WITH WILDCARDS. Ancestry.com lets you use a ? to stand in for one letter or a * to stand in for zero to five

letters in a name. You can use a wildcard as the first or last character, but not both, and the name must have at least three nonwildcard characters.

■ **GET AUTOMATIC HINTS.** Ancestry.com can automatically search its records and family trees for your ancestors. Just create a free Ancestry Member Tree online and/or keep your family tree in Family Tree Maker software for Windows or Mac. A waving leaf by a name in your tree indicates a potential match in its records or in other members' trees. Click to review whether the hint is in fact for your ancestor. (RootsMagic is also adding Ancestry WebHints.)

■ **EDIT YOUR TREE ON THE GO.** Use Ancestry.com's free mobile app for Apple or Android to create and edit your Member Tree on your phone or tablet. You can add records you find in Ancestry.com, as well as records uploaded from your device. Changes will automatically sync to all your devices.

■ **FIND IT FREE.** The page at <search.ancestry.com/search/group/freeindexacom> lists free indexes on Ancestry.com; some of which include record images. Search the Ancestry Wiki <ancestry.com/wiki> for *World Archives Project*, *Live Projects* to find a list of volunteer-indexed databases available to search for free. Also search the Ancestry.com Card Catalog on the keyword *free*; many of the results will be free databases. You can access almost all Ancestry.com's records free at FamilySearch Centers <locations.familysearch.org> and at libraries subscribing to Ancestry Library Edition. Contact your library or check its website to see if it offers this service.

■ **DON'T LOSE ACCESS TO YOUR RECORDS.** Anyone can create an Ancestry Member Tree for free, and paying subscribers can attach Ancestry.com records to people in their trees. But if you let your subscription lapse, you could be in for an unpleasant surprise: You'll be able to access your tree and any records uploaded from your computer, but not the

records attached from Ancestry.com. To avoid this, when you attach a record to someone in your Member Tree, save a copy to your computer with a descriptive file name so you can easily find it. You also could use Family Tree Maker software to keep a copy of your family tree on your computer that syncs with your online tree.

■ **ATTACH LONG RECORDS AS PDFS.** When saving a record to your Member Tree, Family Tree Maker software or computer, you can save only one page at a time. This takes awhile for large files, such as a long Revolutionary War pension file or a book chapter, and it creates a new attached record for each page. HeritageQuest Online, available through many libraries, used to let you download multiple pages from a book or a whole pension file at once. But now that Ancestry.com "powers" HeritageQuest Online, you can save only one page at a time. To speed things up, you could attach select pages from a long record, or use software like Adobe Acrobat to combine the pages into a single PDF. ■

» Rick Crume


QUICK TIPS

- Want to search Ancestry and view and edit your Member Tree and photos when you're on the go? Just download the Ancestry app for iOS and Android to your mobile device.
- If you find a transcription error, you can correct it. You can also add maiden names, nicknames and name variations. Go to the record summary page and click on the link to Add Alternate Information.
- Some names in Public Member Trees, such as those without any sources or only a name, are not indexed. Searching on other family members might turn up matches in those trees.
- The US Wills and Probate Records collection <ancestry.com/will-probate-records> has more than 170 million documents from all 50 states. Various files pertaining to the same estate, such as a will and letters testamentary, might show up separately in your search results, while others don't appear at all. So browse Ancestry's probate records to do a more thorough search.
- A subscription isn't required for basic access to AncestryDNA results, but you need one to access Shared Ancestor Hints, DNA Circles and matches' tree locations and surnames. A DNA Insights subscription for \$49 a year gives you those benefits. A full Ancestry subscription includes all those features, plus access to records.
- Members of a DNA Circle share DNA with other members of the circle, but not necessarily all of them. Click on the List tab to see who shares DNA with you.

SHORTCUTS

- **Search** <search.ancestry.com>
- **Ancestry.com Wiki** <ancestry.com/wiki>
- **AncestryDNA** <dna.ancestry.com>
- **Ancestry Blog** <blogs.ancestry.com/ancestry>
- **Card Catalog** <search.ancestry.com/search/CardCatalog.aspx>
- **Contact Ancestry Support** <ancestry.com/cs/contact-us>
- **Family Tree Maker software** <www.mackiev.com/ftm/>
- **Ancestry Support** <support.ancestry.com>
- **Message Boards** <boards.ancestry.com>
- **Mobile app** <ancestry.com/cs/ancestry-app>
- **Recently updated collections** <ancestry.com/cs/recent-collections>
- **Start your Member Tree** <trees.ancestry.com>
- **Your account** <secure.ancestry.com/myaccount>

Archives.gov

 **THE ARCHIVES.GOV WEBSITE** describes historical records at the National Archives and Record Administration's (NARA) Washington, D.C., headquarters and branches around the country. It helps you access records by mail, online request, on commercial genealogy sites, and for a few of the archives' records—including some unique documents naming members of the military, immigrants, American Indians and others—using the Archives.gov online catalog.

The site's strength is providing information about NARA's records. If your ancestor immigrated to America, was counted in the US census, applied for federal land, served in the Armed Forces, lived on an Indian reservation or dealt with a government agency, start your search for records on Archives.gov. The site's weakness? It can be difficult to navigate, and the catalog search can be cumbersome. Our web guide will help you overcome the obstacles and make the most of this site.

Records Rundown

A good place to start is the Resources for Genealogists page <archives.gov/research/genealogy>. If you're after a particular type of genealogical record, using the categories here may be more helpful than a site search. Below are the most useful genealogical records you can learn about. If records aren't

the BASICS

URL: <archives.gov>

Contact: (866) 272-6272, <archives.gov/contact>

Digitization partners: Ancestry.com <ancestry.com>, FamilySearch <www.familysearch.org> and Fold3 <www.fold3.com>

Site visitors: more than 1.8 million monthly users and 9 million monthly page views

Major digital collections: passenger list indexes, WWII Army enlistment records, Korean and Vietnam War casualties, documents from various federal agencies

Social media: <www.facebook.com/usnationalarchives>, <twitter.com/USNatArchives>, <www.flickr.com/photos/usnationalarchives>, <www.youtube.com/user/usnationalarchives>

MEMBERSHIP OPTIONS

Level	Benefits	Cost
Unregistered user	complete access to the website	free
Citizen Archivist (see < archives.gov/citizen-archivist >)	add tags, comments and transcriptions to entries in the National Archives Catalog to enhance their searchability	free

available online or on microfilm, you can order photocopies for a fee by mail or online following the instructions at <archives.gov/research/order>.

■ **US CENSUSES** <archives.gov/research/census>: The federal census has been taken every 10 years since 1790; the 1940 census is the most recent one open to the public. Censuses until 1840 name just heads of households and count others; thereafter, they list each person's name and other details. (Only a fraction of the 1890 census survived a 1921 fire.) The links under Census on the left lead to in-depth information about each decennial enumeration, as well as the nonpopulation censuses (such as agricultural, manufacturing and mortality schedules) taken in some years.

■ **LAND RECORDS** <archives.gov/research/land>: NARA holds records documenting transfers of US government land, such as bounty land warrants (issued as compensation for military service) and 10 million land entry case files. Search land patents for free on the Bureau of Land Management website <www.glorerecords.blm.gov/search>, then order the land entry case file from NARA.

■ **MILITARY RECORDS** <archives.gov/research/military>: NARA holds federal military service, pension, draft registration and other records back to the Revolutionary War. Records from World War I and later are at the National Military Personnel Records Center (NPRC) in St. Louis.

Click the war your ancestor served in to learn about its records. Genealogy sites such as Ancestry.com <ancestry.com>, FamilySearch <www.familysearch.org>, Fold3 <fold3.com> and MyHeritage <www.myheritage.com> offer access to many NARA military records. Among NARA's nondigitized records are Civil War Union pension files. You'll need to order copies from NARA for \$80 for up to 100 pages, plus 70 cents per additional page.

WWI draft registrations, taken in 1917 and 1918, record 24 million male US residents born between Sept. 11, 1872, and

Sept. 12, 1900, whether or not they went on to serve. Men also registered for the WWII draft; records of older registrants are digitized online. Draft cards are available on Ancestry.com, FamilySearch, Fold3 and MyHeritage.

Official Military Personnel Files (OMPFs) with a discharge date of 1955 and earlier are open to the public in accordance with the policy to release records 62 years after discharge. A military service file costs \$30 to order, but it's usually free for the veteran named in the record or his or her next-of-kin. Note that a 1973 fire at the NPRC destroyed about 17 million OMPFs, including 80 percent of records for Army personnel discharged between Nov. 1, 1912, and Jan. 1, 1960.

■ **PASSENGER LISTS** <[archives.gov/research/immigration](https://www.archives.gov/research/immigration)>: NARA has records of arrivals to the United States from foreign ports (including US citizens returning from travel) between about 1820 and 1982; 20th-century records contain the most passenger information. See a port-by-port list of available microfilmed arrival records from 1800 to 1959 at <[archives.gov/research/immigration/passenger-arrival.html](https://www.archives.gov/research/immigration/passenger-arrival.html)>. These records are digitized on sites such as Ancestry.com, FamilySearch, Findmypast and MyHeritage. Four immigration indexes are part of the Access to Archival Databases online search (see "How to Search").

■ **PASSPORT APPLICATIONS** <[archives.gov/research/passport](https://www.archives.gov/research/passport)>: US citizens could apply for passports starting in 1789, but with a few exceptions, weren't required to do so for foreign travel until 1941. Ancestry.com, Fold3 and FamilySearch have digitized applications.

How to Search

Archives.gov has several searchable databases and a catalog of NARA records, some with images. Here's how to search:

■ **ACCESS TO ARCHIVAL DATABASES (AAD)** <aad.archives.gov> lets you search 85 million of the archives' 10 billion electronic records. AAD's most useful databases for genealogists, almost all only in text format, include indexes to German (1850-1897), Italian (1855-1900), Russian (1834-1897) and Irish (1846-1851) immigrants (each collection actually covers more than just the group named); WWII Army enlistment records; and Korean and Vietnam war casualties. Use the search box on the main AAD page to search everything at once. Or to search a single database, click the search button by a database title, then the search button on the resulting page.

You might start your search with just a last name, and add a first name or place if needed to focus your search. A search on my surname, Crume, produces 509 matching records in 11 series, including 72 WWII Army Enlistments. Click on the View Record column for more details from each result. A search on *Crume Minnesota* narrows the matches to three, two of whom are my relatives.

■ **FIND DIGITIZED RECORDS IN NARA'S CATALOG** <[archives.gov/research/catalog](https://www.archives.gov/research/catalog)>. It searches the NARA and presidential library websites, catalog listings about NARA records, and other federal electronic records. A catalog search is useful for finding obscure records created when your forebears dealt

Viewing Catalog Search Results

The screenshot shows the NARA Catalog search results for the query "John Hudson Pennington" OR "John H. Pennington" OR "J.H. Pennington". The search was performed using the "Advanced Search" option. The results page shows 1 to 5 of 5 results in 1.52 seconds. The left sidebar contains filters for "Refine By: Data Source" (Archival Descriptions with Digital Objects (4), Archival Descriptions (1)), "Refine By: Level of Description" (File Unit (5)), and "Refine By: Type of Materials" (Textual Records (5)). The main results area displays two entries for John H. Pennington, both from RG 94, "Indexes to the Carded Records of Soldiers Who Served in Volunteer Organizations During the Civil War". The first entry is for the 42nd Infantry, Company: [Blank], Enlistment Rank: [Blank], Discharge Rank: [Blank]. The second entry is for the 84th Infantry, Company: A, Enlistment Rank: Pvt, Discharge Rank: Pvt. Both entries include the National Archives Identifier: 34046223 and HMS Entry Number(s): PI-17 520. The page also includes a "Share" button and a "Results per page" dropdown set to 20.

1 To modify your search or to start a new one, change or replace your search terms and click the magnifying glass icon.

2 Filters let you view only search results with digital images, published within a certain time frame, and more.

3 View results by type (such as those available online or as web pages).

4 Share the results via Facebook, Twitter or Gmail, or copy a link to the results.

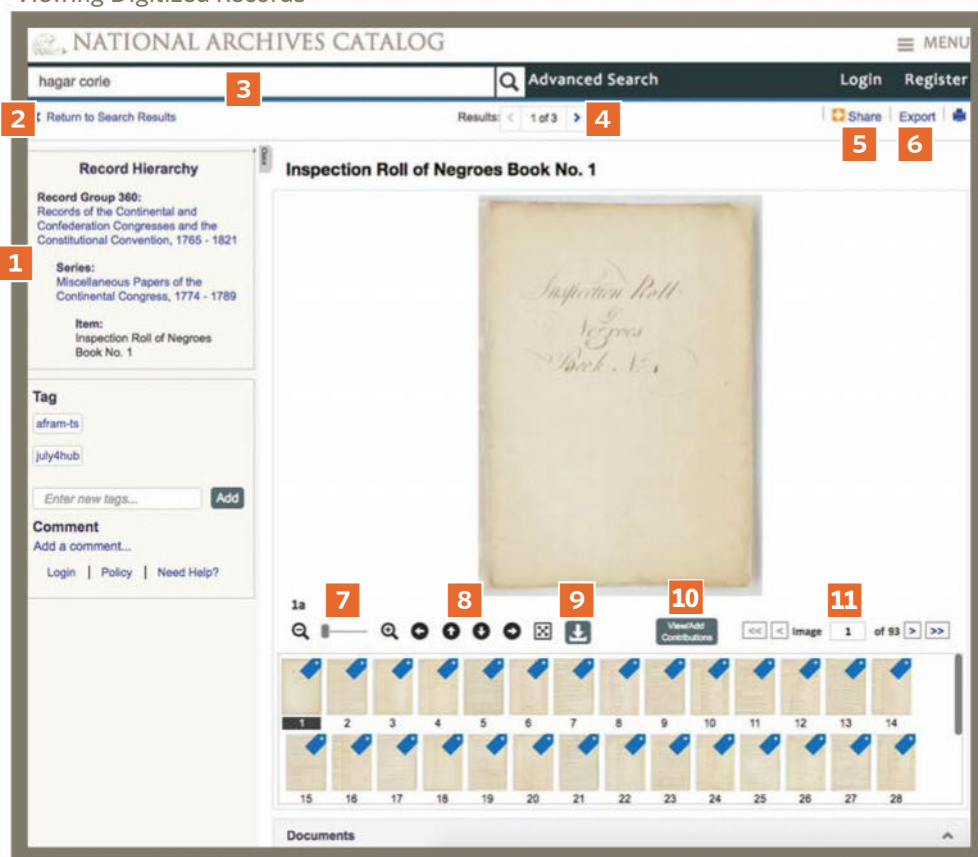
5 Export search results in TXT, PDF, CSV or other file formats.

6 Print the results displayed on the current page or the top 10,000 results.

7 Display 20, 50, 75 or 100 results per page.

8 Click on a thumbnail image or a title to view the catalog record.

Viewing Digitized Records



- 1 View details about the record group and series to which this record belongs.
- 2 Return to the search results list.
- 3 Change your search terms.
- 4 Jump to another search result.
- 5 Share a link to this search result via social media or Gmail.
- 6 Export this result in TXT, PDF, CSV or other file formats; or print it with a brief or full description and with or without thumbnail images.
- 7 Zoom in or out on the image (you also can use the scroll wheel on your mouse).
- 8 Move the image around your computer screen (you also can drag it with your mouse).
- 9 Download the full-size image.
- 10 View (or sign up to contribute) tags, comments and transcriptions.
- 11 Jump to the first, previous, next, or last page image. To jump to any image, enter the image number or click on a thumbnail image.

with the federal government. Most listings describe records that NARA holds, with information about how to access them. The description may be indexed by name, as for Alien case files (records beginning in the 1940s that document an immigrant's progress through the citizenship process), helping you determine whether to order the record.

An assortment of catalog listings, though, are linked to digital images of records. Those include some Civil War enlistment records, Confederate service records, post-1906 naturalization files, penitentiary records, Indian school reports and journals, and birth records from applications for seamen's protection certificates.

A basic catalog search is easiest, then you can add search terms or filter matches from the results page (shown on the previous page). Enter keywords related to your family, such as

- » a person's name, especially an unusual one
- » an American Indian tribe or school name
- » a federal agency or institution (such as the name of a federal penitentiary, for a person convicted in federal court)
- » the name of a business or other organization
- » a type of record, such as naturalization or criminal case

Let's say you're researching a slave ancestor with an unusual name, Hagar Corie. Type the name in the catalog search box and hit Search. The first match is Inspection Roll

of Negroes Book No. 1, part of Miscellaneous Papers of the Continental Congress, 1774-1789.

Click on the thumbnail image or title for that match to see the first of 93 page images in the file (shown above). You have to browse the images to find your search term, and you can download each image. In this file, blue tags indicate that other researchers have tagged pages with names from the records, so those names turn up in catalog searches. Other users also have transcribed the records in this file. Click on a blue tag to view a split screen with the image on top and a transcription below. On the third page, the Names column lists Isaac Corie, a "stout man" of 27 years, and Hagar Corie, age 22, a "wench [with a] small child 18 mos. old." In the possession of Col. Gilbert, they were on the *Spencer* bound for St. Johns.

■ **SEARCH THE CATALOG FOR OFFLINE RECORDS.** Most items described in the catalog haven't been digitized. My relative John H. Pennington was involved in international trade, so I suspected he dealt with the federal government. I searched on his name as a phrase, using OR to cover several variations in one search: "John Hudson Pennington" OR "John H. Pennington" OR "J.H. Pennington," as well as "Pennington, John Hudson" OR "Pennington, John H." OR "Pennington, J.H."

I got a match for "Pennington, J.H." in a State Department record. The description advises contacting NARA for copies.

I emailed the catalog reference and my contact information and asked how to get a copy of the record. Within three weeks, I received photocopies of the nine-page file. It has Pennington's application to be the US representative at the Central American Expo in 1897, along with recommendations from a senator and other luminaries. I didn't even have to pay a fee.

See the online Guide for Genealogists and Family Historians <archives.gov/research/genealogy/online-catalog-guide.html> for suggested search terms. To focus your search on the most relevant records, include a term such as a city, county or state, and refine the search by date.

For example, say one of your ancestors was involved in a federal criminal case in Fargo, Dakota Territory, in the 1880s. Under the Suggested Keywords section of the guide, click on the link to Criminal Case. This runs a catalog search that produces 70,706 matches. Add *Fargo* to the search box at the top of the page and click Search, narrowing the matches to 244. Then use the filters on the left to refine results by date to 1880-1889, leaving 25 matches. The first one is Criminal Case Files, 1873-1888, created by the US Territorial Court for the Third (Fargo) District of the District of Dakota. The description says the records are arranged alphabetically by surname. The original records are only in paper format at NARA's Kansas City location. The catalog listing gives the address, phone number and email address of NARA in Kansas City, so you can contact staff to ask about obtaining copies.

Insider Advice

Make the most of your catalog search with these tips:

■ **USE WILDCARDS TO FIND VARIANT SPELLINGS.** Use ? as a single-character wildcard and * as a wildcard for one or more characters. A search on the name *Ols?n* finds Olson, Olsen and Olsan and a search on *rail** finds railroad and railway.

SHORTCUTS

- **Access to Archival Databases** <aad.archives.gov>
- **NARA Locations** <archives.gov/locations>
- **NARA records digitized on other websites** <archives.gov/digitization/digitized-by-partners.html>
- **National Archives Catalog Guide** <archives.gov/research/genealogy/online-catalog-guide.html>
- **National Archives Catalog** <archives.gov/research/catalog>
- **National Archives Store** <www.nationalarchivesstore.org>
- **Order records online** <eservices.archives.gov/orderonline>
- **Order military records for yourself or next-of-kin** <archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records>
- **Record order forms** <archives.gov/forms>

■ **USE QUOTATION MARKS TO SEARCH ON A PHRASE** as well as various versions of a person's name. In addition to just a surname and a full name, try the name as a phrase with the first name first and the last name first, and with and without a middle name or middle initial. Use parentheses to group search terms like this: (*John H. Pennington*) OR (*J. H. Pennington*) AND *Central America*.

■ **LIMIT YOUR CATALOG SEARCH TO DIGITIZED RECORDS.** You can do this a couple of ways: In the filters to the left of your search results, look under Refine By: Data Source and choose Archival Descriptions With Digital Objects. Or, look above your search results and click the Images tab.


■ **BE PATIENT WITH PDFS.** If the catalog indicates the record is available in PDF format, but the image is blank, hang in there. It may take a while for a large PDF file to load. ■

» Rick Crume

QUICK TIPS

- The Family History Library (FHL) in Salt Lake City has many NARA microfilms, which you can rent through a local FamilySearch Center. See <www.familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/NARA_and_FHL_film_numbers> for help finding NARA films in the FamilySearch catalog. If FamilySearch has the digitized records, the catalog links to them.
- Got American Indian roots? If the Dawes Commission accepted your ancestor as a member of the Five Civilized Tribes, the tutorial at <archives.gov/research/native-americans/dawes/tutorial/intro.html> helps you search the Dawes Rolls and suggests next research steps.
- Archives.gov has links to its resource guides for those researching African-American, American Indian, Chinese, Hispanic, Japanese and other ancestries at <archives.gov/research/genealogy/ethnic-heritage.html>.
- Many of NARA's most useful genealogy records are available for free on sites including Castle Garden <www.castlegarden.org>, Ellis Island <www.ellisland.org>, FamilySearch <www.familysearch.org> and HeritageQuest Online <www.heritagequestonline.com> (through subscribing libraries); and at the fee-based Ancestry.com <ancestry.com>, Archives.com <www.archives.com>, Findmypast <www.findmypast.com>, Fold3.com <www.fold3.com> and MyHeritage.com <www.myheritage.com>.
- For videos on how to use records at the National Archives, follow the links under Other Learning Resources at <archives.gov/research/genealogy>.
- For advice on preserving and digitizing family papers and photographs, and home movies, visit the National Archives' Preservation page <www.archives.gov/preservation>.

FamilySearch

 **A FREE WEBSITE** from the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (the Mormon Church), FamilySearch has a large, growing collection of records, books, photos and family trees. Since going online in 1999, the site has expanded to encompass more than 2,000 historical record collections from around the world, more than 5.5 billion searchable names in old records, and more than 300,000 digitized books. You can search many of these records by name and other details, thanks to FamilySearch's volunteer indexing program; but some collections are still awaiting indexing and must be browsed. All the genealogical bounty is accessible from tabs at the top of FamilySearch.org.

How to Search

Use these strategies for success in finding your ancestors on FamilySearch.org:

■ **SEARCH FOR RECORDS.** Under the Search tab, click Records to bring up a search form for a person in indexed records. You can enter the first and last names and the date range and place for one or more life events, such as birth, marriage, death, residence (useful when looking for census records), death or “any,” which could be, for example, an immigration or military enlistment year. Narrow your search

the BASICS

URL: <www.familysearch.org>

Contact: 1-866-406-1830, <www.familysearch.org/ask/help>

Visitors: 291,000 visits per day in 2015

Mobile app: FamilySearch Tree Viewer apps for Android <www.familysearch.org/apps/product/familysearch-tree/android> and iOS <www.familysearch.org/apps/product/a-family-tree/ios>

Major collections: US vital, census and military records; UK census and church records; Ireland civil registration indexes; Italian civil registration records; photos; books; user-contributed genealogies and family trees; the Family History Research Wiki

Social media: <www.facebook.com/familysearch>, <www.youtube.com/user/FamilySearch>

MEMBERSHIP OPTIONS

Level	Benefits	Cost
Public Member	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> view records (some are viewable only at FamilySearch Centers) create, view and edit family trees 	free (registration required for viewing some records)
LDS Member	the above, plus at-home access to records otherwise restricted for viewing in FamilySearch Centers	free (registration required)

with names of the person's parents, spouse or another person who might appear with him in records. You also can restrict your results to those from a certain country or of a certain type (such as census or military records).

On the search results page, look to the left for fields where you can adjust your search terms. Below that, you can use filters to narrow your search by collection (which lets you limit results to one or more databases), a birthplace in the record, a birth year in the record, and more.

A camera icon in the far right column for a match indicates a digital image you can download to your computer and/or add to your tree; no camera icon means it's an index-only record. In a few collections, due to the wishes of record custodians, you must register with FamilySearch to access record images or use the website at a FamilySearch Center (also called a Family History Center; find one near you at <www.familysearch.org/locations>). Some collections, such as the 1901 census of England and Wales, link to a record image on a subscription site. You can view these with a subscription or by visiting a FamilySearch Center.

■ **BROWSE RECORD COLLECTIONS.** Searching a specific record collection that covers a place and time your family lived can help you focus on the most relevant matches. On FamilySearch, this technique also lets you access images of records that aren't yet part of the site's searchable indexes. Under the Search tab, click Records, then Browse All Published Collections to see a list of all records, both indexed and unindexed, arranged by place. If “Browse Images” appears in the Records column, none of the collection is indexed by name. If that column gives a record count, the collection is at least partially indexed. On the left, you can filter the list by name (enter any word in the collection title), place, date,

record type and image availability. Click a title to search or browse that collection.

■ **FIND RELATIVES IN THE FAMILY TREE.** The FamilySearch Family Tree has a lofty goal to create a family tree that includes all people. Other websites have large collections of trees that often duplicate each other, errors and all. In an effort to increase accuracy and decrease duplication, FamilySearch has designed its tree with one profile per ancestral person, that anyone can edit. Unlike most of FamilySearch, you must register to use the Family Tree, but it's still free.

To search the tree, look under the Family Tree tab and click Find. You can enter a name; gender; dates of birth, christening, marriage, death and/or burial; and family members' names.

Adding your relatives to the tree can help you find their records, as FamilySearch automatically searches its records for matches to people in the tree. Click the Family Tree tab to start your tree and either manually enter the information, or use "FamilySearch-approved" genealogy software that can reconcile data between the family file on your computer and Family Tree. Those programs include Ancestral Quest <www.ancquest.com>, Legacy Family Tree <www.legacyfamilytree.com>, RootsMagic <www.rootsmagic.com> and MacFamilyTree <www.macfamilytree.com>. To avoid duplicating people

already in the tree, FamilySearch looks for a profile for each person you're adding.

Click on an icon beside a name in landscape or portrait tree view for research help. Record hints are blue, research suggestions are purple, and data problems are red. Record hints and research suggestions also appear under the Details tab in Person view. You can review and verify possible matches, and attach the records to personal profiles.

Now you can search four large genealogy collections—FamilySearch, Ancestry.com <ancestry.com>, Findmypast <www.findmypast.com> and MyHeritage <www.findmypast.com>—from Person view. You still should try searching on other combinations of terms, such as a woman's married name, and searching individual record collections.

■ **FIND FAMILY PHOTOS.** Click the Memories tab to see at a glance all the photos, stories, documents, audio and albums you or someone else has submitted and linked to your relatives. To search the Family Tree's photos, stories and documents for any term (such as a name, place or other topic), look under the Memories tab and select Find.

■ **SEARCH USER-SUBMITTED GENEALOGIES.** Under Search>Genealogies, you can search the old Ancestral File and Pedigree Resource File, two collections of family trees

FamilySearch Search Form

The screenshot shows the 'Search Historical Records' form on the FamilySearch website. The form has several sections with search criteria. Numbered callouts are placed as follows:

- 1** Points to the checkbox next to the 'Last Names' field in the 'Deceased Ancestor's Name' section.
- 2** Points to the 'Birth' link in the 'Search with a life event:' section.
- 3** Points to the 'To' field in the 'Birth Year (Range)' section.
- 4** Points to the 'Spouse' link in the 'Search with a relationship:' section.
- 5** Points to the 'Country' field in the 'Restrict records by:' section.

1 Checking the box next to a search term looks for records with information exactly matching what you typed in that field.

2 Click a life event to get boxes to enter place and date details. Use Residence to look for census records and Any for military enlistment, immigration or other events

3 If you don't want to search on a date range, just enter a year in either the From or To box.

4 Click a relationship to look for records containing that family member's name. To look for all a couple's children, try leaving the Ancestor's Name fields blank and clicking Parents to enter the couple's names.

5 Enter a country and optionally, a state or province, to find records from that place. Or click Type to select the types of records you want (birth and baptism, military, probate, etc.).

FamilySearch Search Results

1 Click Refine your search to edit your search terms. Filters let you view results by collection, birthplace, etc.

2 Click the arrow in a record's Preview column to quickly see transcribed information from that record.

3 Click the person's name or the icon in the Details column to view transcribed information from the record. You'll also get an automatically generated source citation and a link to view the document image, if available.

4 Click the camera to view the digitized document in the FamilySearch image viewer.

5 No camera icon in the Image column means this match is from an index-only collection.

that researchers submitted over many years. Pedigree Resource File includes notes and sources, but Ancestral File doesn't. Neither collection shows the submitters' names. It's worth mining these family trees for clues, but always try to verify the information with original sources.

A Genealogies search now covers several other collections, too: Community Trees were an effort to cover the genealogy of entire towns or communities. Oral Genealogies were obtained with personal interviews. The International Genealogical Index (IGI) has information on 430 million ancestors contributed by members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

■ **FIND MICROFILMED RECORDS.** It'll take years to digitize and index the massive holdings of microfilmed records at FamilySearch's Family History Library in Salt Lake City. If you can't visit the library, you can access most of its microfilm and microfiche for a small fee through FamilySearch Centers around the world.

Under Search>Catalog, run a Places search to find books and microfilmed records about a place. Search on all the towns, cities, counties, states and countries where your ancestors lived. Run a Surnames search to find family histories. Note that this search covers only surnames mentioned most often in a book, not every name. You can search on multiple terms, such as a surname and a place, but you'll probably have better luck by entering these terms in the Keywords box.

Three icons are used in the Format column for microfilms in the catalog:

- » A magnifying glass icon appears if the film is indexed and searchable by name. Click it to search for a name.
- » A camera icon indicates that the film has been digitized. Click it to browse the images online.
- » A clickable film roll icon lets you order a film for viewing at a branch FamilySearch Center. Printed books don't circulate to FamilySearch Centers; click the link to "View this catalog record in WorldCat" to find the book in a library near you.

■ **SEARCH DIGITIZED BOOKS.** Under the Search tab, click Books to search more than 300,000 digitized publications, including family and county histories, transcribed records and more. Using the Advanced Search, try searching on a name using the "Any is (exact)" option. To view a match, you must download the entire book (a PDF file), then use your PDF reader to search for the term in the book. Some digitized books can be viewed only in the Family History Library or a FamilySearch Center.

Insider Advice

These tips will help you maximize FamilySearch's power to help you find family:

■ **EXPLORE ALL THE SEARCH OPTIONS.** The site's record search doesn't cover all its genealogical information.

Under the Family Tree menu, choose Find to search the Family Tree. To search user-contributed genealogies, use Search>Genealogies. With Memories>Find, you might find photos and stories not attached to the Family Tree.

■ **SEARCH WITH WILDCARDS.** The FamilySearch records search lets you use the ? wildcard in a surname to represent one letter, and the * wildcard to represent multiple letters.

■ **LOOK FOR INDEXES IN IMAGED VOLUMES.** Browsing an unindexed collection? Digitized volumes may contain handwritten or typed name indexes. Look for a volume with “index” in the title, and check the beginning and end of individual volumes.

■ **START SEARCHING WITH A PLACE.** To focus your search on record collections related to a place, look under the Search tab, click Records and select a region on the world map. If you click on the United States and click New York in the popup menu, a New York research page comes up, where you can search indexed New York records. Scroll down to see collections that haven’t been indexed yet; click a title to browse.

■ **SEARCH FROM A FAMILY TREE PROFILE.** FamilySearch can help you find records faster by filling in the search form with details on someone in the Family Tree. In the person’s Details view, look under the Search Records section of the right column and select FamilySearch, Ancestry, Findmypast or MyHeritage. You can attach a matching record from FamilySearch to everyone it pertains to in the tree. Now

MyHeritage can do that, too. Look for the link at the bottom of the record to “Attach source to FamilySearch.”

■ **GET RESEARCH ADVICE.** The FamilySearch Wiki, which you can access under the Search tab, offers research advice, such as how to access records for a particular state or country or how to find military records.

■ **SEE RECENTLY UPDATED COLLECTIONS.** FamilySearch’s fast digitizing pace means you should check regularly for new records from the places your family lived. Under the Search tab, click Records, then click Browse All Published Collections to see a list of all records. Click the Last Updated column heading to move recently updated collections to the top.

■ **GET MORE HELP.** To find articles and videos about using FamilySearch, Click on Get Help, then Help Center and search on a topic. For example, search for *Civil War*, and the matches include an article on South Carolina Civil War service records of Confederate soldiers, videos on researching Civil War records and more.

■ **VOLUNTEER TO INDEX RECORDS.** If you have a few minutes, you can index digitized records on your home computer and make them searchable. Click on Indexing>Overview to get started with FamilySearch Indexing. ■

» Rick Crume

SHORTCUTS

- **Blog** <www.familysearch.org/blog/en>
- **Browse All Published Collections**
<www.familysearch.org/search/collection/list>
- **Contact** <www.familysearch.org/ask/help>
- **FamilySearch App Gallery** <www.familysearch.org/apps>
- **FamilySearch Centers**
<www.familysearch.org/locations>
- **FamilySearch Indexing**
<www.familysearch.org/indexing>
- **Help** <www.familysearch.org/ask>
- **Search digitized books** <books.familysearch.org>
- **Search the Family Tree**
<www.familysearch.org/tree/find/name>
- **Search the FamilySearch Catalog**
<www.familysearch.org/catalog/search>
- **Search historical records**
<www.familysearch.org/search>
- **Search photos and stories**
<www.familysearch.org/photos/find>
- **Site Map** <www.familysearch.org/site-map>
- **Your account** <www.familysearch.org/profile/account>

QUICK TIPS

- Download the FamilySearch Tree Viewer app, which lets you view the FamilySearch Family Tree, add photos and stories, and search record collections.
- If a record collection looks promising, search it and save records pertaining to your ancestors. Don’t delay: Record collections are occasionally removed from FamilySearch.org (and other sites) when licensing agreements change.
- To download your list of search results, log in and run a search. On the results page, select 75, the maximum number of records to show. Click on Export Results to save each page of results in a spreadsheet.
- To receive email notifications when a relative’s Family Tree profile is changed, click on the star below the name in Person view. To see your watch list, click on Family Tree>Lists at the top of any page.
- You can’t see who else is watching someone in the Family Tree, but you can see who’s made changes to a profile. In the Latest Changes panel on the right, click on Show All. Then click on the user name of a person who made a change and you can send a message via email or through FamilySearch.
- In a person’s Details view in the Family Tree, click on “Add a New Discussion” to ask questions and prompt feedback from other researchers.

Findmypast

FINDMYPAST, A UK-BASED genealogy site, began with a focus on UK and Irish records but has since added large collections for the United States and Canada. The website launched in 2003 as 1837online.com, with vital records indexes for England and Wales. It changed its name to the broader Findmypast in 2006. In partnership with FamilySearch <www.familysearch.org>, it's creating the web's largest collection of US marriage records, which eventually will have more than 100 million records and more than 450 million names dating from 1650 to 2010. Through its acquisition of Mocavo, Findmypast added US census records from 1790 to 1940, plus books, pamphlets and periodicals. You can build your family tree on Findmypast and attach records to it, but you can't yet search all the site's family trees.

How to Search

Find ancestors on Findmypast with these strategies:

■ **SEARCH ALL THE RECORDS.** On the home page, you can search on first and last names, an event type (birth, death or other), a year or range of years, and a place. Place options include World, Australia and New Zealand, Ireland, the United Kingdom, or United States and Canada, plus a state, county or city you type. You might start by typing just a surname

the BASICS

URL: <www.findmypast.com>

Customer service: <www.findmypast.com/help/contact>

Major sister sites: The British Newspaper Archive <www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk>, Genes Reunited <www.genesreunited.com> and Lives of the First World War <livesofthefirstworldwar.org>

Membership: 18 million registered users across Findmypast's family of websites as of January 2016

Major content collections: US census records, marriage records and newspapers; Canadian census records; UK census records, parish records, military records, passenger lists and newspapers; Irish Roman Catholic parish records and newspapers

Social media: <www.facebook.com/findmypastus>, <twitter.com/findmypastUS>

MEMBERSHIP OPTIONS

Level	Benefits	Cost
Basic	free collections; build a family tree	free
Starter	US records (except premium marriage records & Catholic records) and UK/Ireland census records, build a family tree (for 12-month memberships, add Find My Past Firsts webinars, priority support and special offers)	\$9.95/month or \$34.95/year
Premium	US and international records, build a family tree (12-month subscribers also get Find My Past Firsts webinars, priority support, the 1939 Register and special offers)	\$19.95/month or \$239.50/year
Pay as you go	access to records and transcriptions in exchange for credits (most records or transcriptions cost 5 to 60 credits each)	\$10.95 for 60 credits that are good for 90 days

into the home page search form. If you get too many irrelevant results, click Edit Search on the results page. This form's fields echo the search form on the home page, and add checkboxes to deselect first and/or last name variants, effectively producing an exact search.

To the left of your results, further narrow your matches by selecting a country, a category (such as Immigration & Travel) or a subcategory (such as Passenger Lists).

My ancestor Evan Powell died in 1819 in Boughrood, Radnorshire, Wales. Search on the name with the year of death and location (select United Kingdom and enter *Boughrood* in the box), and you get one match. A transcription, created by the Powys Family History Society as part of the National Burial Index, says Evan Powell was buried March 3, 1819, at age 80 at St. Cynog Anglican church in Boughrood. This index has more than 12 million names of people buried in England and Wales between 1452 and 2005 (mostly from 1813 to 1850).

■ **SEARCH A RECORD CATEGORY.** To browse all record categories, select Search All Records from the Search tab and select a category or subcategory on the left.

Each category has a customized search form. For example, the census search form lets you enter a house number and

street name. To limit your search to a specific census, start typing a year, such as *1850*, in the Record Set box or click on Browse Record set, and select an option.

A global search doesn't produce matches in the Newspapers & Periodicals category, so you need to search it or individual record sets in that category separately.

Try searching the Newspapers records category for a name plus a place of residence or another term closely associated with your relative, such as an occupation or a spouse's name. My ancestor Samuel Jones, for instance, lived in the parish of Llanigon, Breconshire, Wales, so I clicked on Newspaper records, selected the British newspapers collection and searched on his name plus *Llanigon* as a keyword. The 18 matches include an article in the Jan. 29, 1806, *Hereford Journal*, which says, "To be sold by auction, At the Fountain Inn, in the town of Hay, in the county of Brecon, on Thursday, the Sixth day of February, 1806 ... All that messuage, farm & lands, called Brynglessey, Situate in the parish of Llanigon, in the county of Brecon ... now in the occupation of Samuel Jones." He'd died the previous year at age 39.

Samuel's son Evan moved to the Ludgate Hill area of London, where he worked as a draper and a tutor in Latin and Greek. A newspaper search on the name Evan Jones and the keyword *Ludgate* produces 1,327 matches. Narrowing by date to 1800-1849 and then to 1810-1819 brings the matches down to nine. Among them, *The Hampshire Chronicle* of Feb. 17, 1817 has a list of "Bankrupts," including "Evan Jones, Ludgate-hill, haberdasher."

When you search newspapers, your search terms aren't highlighted on the pages, so it can be hard to find your ancestor's name. You can zoom in on the image and download it.

■ **SEARCH A SPECIFIC COLLECTION.** From the Search tab, select A-Z of Record Sets to find a collection relating to your research. Select "Show list of everything" to display an alphabetical list of all record sets. Click on the blue arrows to sort the record sets by category or subcategory.

Optionally, click on a place on the left to filter the list of record sets by country. You could type a British county or a US state or county in the Search box at the top. For example, to find Devonshire records, select United Kingdom on the left and search for *Devon*. Matches include baptisms, marriages, burials and an index to wills. Click a match to use that collection's customized search form.

Journal collections aren't covered by a global search on Findmypast, so you need to search them individually. Search everything for Elizabeth Reisner in New York and you get 49 results, but none in journals. Findmypast has an important journal covering this area, *The New York Genealogical and Biographical Record*, back to 1870. To find it, select A-Z of Record Sets from the Search tab and type *New York Genealogical* in the Search box. Select the record set, search it for the name *Elizabeth Reisner* and you get a match showing she was a member of the German Reformed Church of New York City in 1774.

■ **GET HINTS WITH YOUR GENEALOGY SOFTWARE.** Three programs automatically search Findmypast for records

Findmypast Advanced Search

The screenshot shows the Findmypast Advanced Search page. On the left is a sidebar with 'All Categories' and a list of categories including Birth, Marriage & Death (Parish Registers), Census, Land & Substitutes, Churches & Religion, Directories & Social History, Education & Work, Immigration & Travel, Institutes & Organizations, Military Service & Conflict, and a Special Collection for Newspapers & Periodicals. The main search area has several sections: 'WHO' with First Name and Last Name fields and Name variants checkboxes; 'WHEN' with Year, Year of Birth, and Year of Death fields, each with a range selector (-/+ 2yrs); 'WHERE' with a dropdown menu set to 'World'; 'CATEGORY' with a text input and a 'Browse Category' link; 'SUBCATEGORY' with a text input and a 'Browse Subcategory' link; and 'RECORD SET' with a text input and a 'Browse Record set' link. At the bottom are 'Search World records' and 'Clear search' buttons. Numbered callouts 1 through 6 point to specific fields: 1 to WHO First Name, 2 to WHEN Year, 3 to WHERE dropdown, 4 to CATEGORY input, 5 to SUBCATEGORY input, and 6 to RECORD SET input.

1 Enter names and check the Name Variants boxes to find spelling variations.

2 Enter a date range of plus or minus zero, one, two, five, 10, 20 or 40 years in the boxes for any event, year of birth or year of death.

3 Choose a country or region, then enter a locality.

4 Start typing a category, click on Browse Category or select a category on the left.

5 Click on Browse Subcategory or start typing a subcategory if you already know the name.

6 Click on Browse Record Set or start typing a record set if you already know the name.

Viewing Search Results

The screenshot shows the Findmypast search results page for 'United Kingdom records'. The search criteria are: Pennington (Last Name), Upwell (Where). The results table shows 41 results, with the first seven displayed. Each result includes the name, birth and death dates, event, record set, and location. Callouts 1-7 point to specific UI elements: 1. Edit search button, 2. New search button, 3. United Kingdom dropdown, 4. All Categories sidebar, 5. Order by dropdown, 6. Record icon, 7. Camera icon.

Who		When		Where		
Last name	First name	Born	Died	Event	Record set	Location
PENNINGTON	BESSIE	1880	1911	1911	England & Wales deaths 1837-2007	Wisbech, Cambridgeshire, England
PENNINGTON	CAROL A	1945	—	1945	England & Wales births 1837-2006	Wisbech, Cambridgeshire, England
PENNINGTON	CAROL A	—	—	1963	England & Wales marriages 1837-2008	Wisbech, Cambridgeshire, England
PENNINGTON	CHARLES	—	1843	1843	England & Wales deaths 1837-2007	Wisbech, Cambridgeshire, England
PENNINGTON	ELIZABETH E	1881	1941	1941	England & Wales deaths 1837-2007	Wisbech, Cambridgeshire, England
PENNINGTON	FREDERICK THOMAS	1967	—	1967	England & Wales births 1837-2006	Wisbech, Cambridgeshire, England
PENNINGTON	GEORGE	—	—	1906	England & Wales marriages 1837-2008	Wisbech, Cambridgeshire, England
PENNINGTON	GEORGINA L	1965	—	1965	England & Wales births 1837-2006	Wisbech, Cambridgeshire, England
PENNINGTON	JOANN	1960	—	1960	England & Wales births 1837-2006	Wisbech, Cambridgeshire, England

1 Click the Edit search button to revise your search criteria.

2 Click on New search to start a new search or on Save search to view it again later under My Account.

3 Click on United Kingdom to search a different country or region.

4 Filter the search results by category.

5 Order the results by relevance, last name, first name, born, died, event or record set.

6 Click on a record icon to view a transcription of the record.

7 Click on a camera icon to view an image of the record.

pertaining to people in your family file. In RootsMagic, click on a light bulb to view WebHints for that person (for WebHints to work, you may need to use Chrome or Firefox as your default browser). In Findmypast's own Family Tree Builder software, the number in an orange circle on your tree and in profile views indicates how many Hints have been found for that person. Family Historian, a popular program in Great Britain, also notifies you when it finds matching records on Findmypast.

■ **USE PERSI TO FIND ARTICLES.** Now available only through Findmypast, the Periodical Source Index (PERSI) indexes articles in genealogy and history magazines, newsletters and journals dating back to the 1700s. Findmypast is linking the index entries to digitized articles they reference, but only a small percentage of articles are online to date. (If the article you need isn't available, you can order a copy from the Allen County, Ind., Public Library <www.genealogycenter.org>, whose staff produces PERSI.)

To search PERSI on Findmypast, select A-Z Record Sets from the Search Records tab and then search for Periodical. The PERSI search form here doesn't have a box for the surname. To search for a surname, type it into the Optional Keywords box near the bottom. Remember, you're searching an index, not the articles' full text, and the index includes only the key surnames mentioned in an article. To search for a place, use one or more of the Town/City, State, County and Country boxes. Type USA for the United States.

■ **ACCESS FREE RECORDS.** Click on the Free Records tab for descriptions of some key records available for free, including census records, US and Canadian birth records and Irish church records. You just need to register and create a free account to access these records.

The Free Records tab doesn't have links to the databases, so you'll have to find them for yourself. To jump to a specific record set mentioned on the page, select A-Z of Record Sets from the Search tab. Then either select a country or World on the left and type the name of the record set in the Search box. Alternatively, click on Show List of Everything on the left and use your web browser to search the page for the name of the record set (press Ctrl+F in Windows or Command+F on a Mac).

In 2016, Findmypast acquired Mocavo, a no-longer-extant genealogy site that let you search individual record collections for free. Those records, including all US censuses, are still free on Findmypast.

The site's databases of Irish Roman Catholic baptismal, marriage and burial registers from the National Library of Ireland <www.nli.ie> have more than 10 million records with 40 million names from over 1,000 parishes. Free to view, the records date from 1671 to 1880, plus a few up to 1900.

Published in association with the National Archives of Ireland <www.nationalarchives.ie> and FamilySearch, the following four record sets—all with name indexes linked to images of the original records—are also free:

» Ireland, Original Will Registers 1858-1920 has more than 181,000 records

» Ireland, Catholic Qualification & Convert Rolls 1701-1845 lists Catholics who swore loyalty to the crown or converted to Protestantism

» Ireland Valuation Office Books contains over 2 million names of land owners and renters between 1824 and 1856

» Ireland Merchant Navy Crew Lists 1863-1921 contains detailed information on over 832,000 men and women.

■ **SEARCH THE 1939 REGISTER OF ENGLAND AND WALES.** The 1939 National Identity Register for England and Wales, taken soon after war broke out, was used to issue identity cards, plan mass evacuations and establish rationing. It's particularly important because no census was taken in 1941 due to the war, and the 1931 census of England and Wales was destroyed in a fire in 1942. Originally offered only on a pay-per-view basis, the 1939 Register is now included in a 12-month (not monthly) regular international or British subscription.

Household records in the 1939 Register include each inhabitant's name, date of birth, marital status and occupation. But there's a major downside if you hoped to find details on living relatives: To protect their privacy, information on persons born within the last 100 years is blacked out.

Insider Advice

Save time and make Findmypast easier to use with these tips:

■ **TRY THE SITE FOR FREE.** To start a 14-day trial membership, go to <www.findmypast.com/Pay?isfreetrialrequest=true>. You'll need to enter your credit card information on the next screen. Remember to cancel before the trial period ends to avoid charges.

SHORTCUTS

- **Blog** <blog.findmypast.co.uk>
- **Contact** <www.findmypast.com/help/contact>
- **Free records** <www.findmypast.com/free>
- **Genealogy advice**
<www.findmypast.com/content/articles-how-to-guides>
- **Help** <www.findmypast.co.uk/requently-asked-questions>
- **List of all records**
<search.findmypast.com/historical-records>
- **Site map**
<www.findmypast.com/articles/using-the-site/sitemap>
- **Subscribe or buy pay-as-you-go credits**
<www.findmypast.com/pay>
- **Your account**
<www.findmypast.co.uk/account/personal>
- **Your family tree** <www.findmypast.com/family-tree>

■ **SEE ALL YOUR RECORDS.** If you're a Findmypast member, click the My Records tab at the top of the page (or go to <www.findmypast.com/my-records>) to see a list of all the records you've viewed on the site.

■ **LOOK FOR HINTS.** Findmypast automatically searches its vital and census records for information on people in your Findmypast family tree. (Start a tree under the Family Tree link at the top of the home page.) A number by a person's name in pedigree or family view indicates hints are available. In any family tree view, click the orange My Hints button to view all the new hints for that tree. You can search them by surname.

■ **SAVE TIME WITH SAVED SEARCHES.** After you run a search, click Save Search on the left of your results page. When you want to run the search again, click Saved Searches under the My Account tab.

■ **SEARCH WITH A WILDCARD.** You can use a wildcard in a name or a keyword to find alternate spellings and related words. Use a question mark to stand in for one letter and an asterisk for zero or more letters. *Rob?son*, for example, finds Robison and Robeson, while *Rob*son* finds both of them, plus Robson, Robinson and Robertson. ■

» Rick Crume

QUICK TIPS

■ Findmypast's free record collections are listed at <www.findmypast.com/free> and include Irish Catholic parish registers, the US census and more. You must set up a free registration to use these collections.

■ You can access all of Findmypast for free at FamilySearch Centers <locations.familysearch.org> and libraries that subscribe to the service.

■ Download a whole newspaper page to easily preserve information such as the newspaper title and page number. If you want to save part of a newspaper page or a document image, take a screenshot with the Windows snipping tool <support.microsoft.com/en-us/help/13776/windows-use-snipping-tool-to-capture-screenshots> or (on a Mac) hit the keyboard shortcut Shift+Command+4 and draw a box around the article you need with the crosshairs.

■ To share your Findmypast family tree with other registered users on the site, view your tree and then opt to share the URL in your browser's address bar.

■ Check the Findmypast blog at <blog.findmypast.com> for an extensive collection of search tips, how-to guides, help videos and articles. To search the blog for a topic of interest, click the magnifying glass icon at the top right.

■ The 1939 register of England and Wales doesn't include records of those born within the past 100 years or who died after 1991.

Fold3

FOLD3 AIMS TO be the premiere online source for researching US military records. Launched in 2007 as Footnote.com, the site originally sought to publish a range of digitized original documents from the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) <[archives.gov](http://www.archives.gov)> and other repositories. Ancestry.com <[ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com)> acquired Footnote in 2010 and narrowed the site's focus to military records. Ancestry.com later renamed the site Fold3, a reference to the flag-folding ceremony in which the third fold is said to memorialize veterans.

Key resources here include Revolutionary War pension files (from NARA microfilm M804, which has the complete pension files); a growing collection of War of 1812 pension records (free to access without a subscription and digitized as part of the Preserve the Pensions Project); Civil War service records; some Civil War "Widows' Pensions;" FBI Case Files; WWII "Old Man's Draft" registration cards; and photos, Navy cruise books and casualty lists from more recent wars. Nonmilitary records from the Footnote days include city directories, naturalizations, Native American enrollment cards and Nebraska homestead records. You also can search the indexes to pensions on FamilySearch, but you need to follow the links to Fold3 to view record images.

Most of Fold3's key military records, such as Revolutionary War pension and service files, indexes to service and

the BASICS

URL: <www.fold3.com>

Contact: 1-800-613-0181, <www.fold3.com/help>

Major sister sites: Ancestry.com <[ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com)>, Ancestry ProGenealogists <www.progenealogists.com>, Ancestry Academy <[ancestry.com/academy](http://www.ancestry.com/academy)>, Ancestry Institution <[ancestry.com/cs/us/institution](http://www.ancestry.com/cs/us/institution)>, RootsWeb <home.rootsweb.ancestry.com>, Newspapers.com <www.newspapers.com>, Find A Grave <www.findagrave.com>, Archives.com <www.archives.com>

Major collections: US military records, some US census records and British military records, user-contributed Memorial Pages

Social media: <www.facebook.com/foldthree>, <twitter.com/fold3>

MEMBERSHIP OPTIONS

Level	Benefits	Cost
Basic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> access free records and member images upload images create Memorial Pages spotlight record images annotate member images 	free
All-access	all of the above, plus access and share premium record images	\$79.95/year or \$7.95/month (look for discounts for Ancestry.com members)

pension files from the War of 1812 and the Civil War, and draft registration cards the world wars, are also available on Ancestry.com. Many record indexes are searchable at FamilySearch <www.familysearch.org>, which sends you to Fold3 to view the record.

How to Search

These search techniques will help you find your ancestors' records among Fold3's bounty:

■ **SEARCH FOR A NAME.** Use the search boxes at the top of the home page to find a name in all the site's records. Click on the plus sign (or click the Search tab, then Advanced) for a search form that lets you add other criteria (shown on the next page). Those include a keyword that might appear in the record you want, the place, a year range, and how recently the record was added to Fold3 (great if you're repeating a search and want to see only new results). You also can decide whether to get results in records indexed by optical character recognition (OCR) software, such as newspapers and city directories. In these records, a first and last name you type may not appear close together. To improve your results in OCR-indexed records, search on a name as a phrase in the keyword box, such as "*John Q. Smith*" and "*Smith John Q.*"

For example, a search on the name of my relative Frank Shaubut produces four matches. The first, an index to Civil War service records, says he was a private in Company E of

the 9th Infantry of the Minnesota Volunteers. Two matches in city directories show he worked as an accountant in New Orleans in 1867 and 1868. The other match is a memorial page where Fold3 members can add photos, stories, facts and links to more information about him.

■ **FILTER YOUR RESULTS.** If your search doesn't produce the records you want, try a broad search with just a name, then use Fold3's sophisticated filters (shown on page 34) to narrow your results. The right side of your search results page will show every record matching your search. To the left, you'll see filtering options. There, checkboxes let you limit your results to specific military conflicts, to nonmilitary records, or to contributions from Fold3 members (such as Memorial Pages and photo uploads).

Using the checkboxes is a bit tricky. Select a category, such as Civil War, and it will then display only matches for that category, as you'd expect. But if you then click on a subcategory, such as Civil War Pensions Index, it will deselect that subcategory and not display records in it. To display records in a subcategory, you might deselect the whole Civil War category first and then select the subcategory you want.

In the middle of the page, you can use timeline sliders to limit results by date, a clickable map to see only matches associated with one or more states, and checkboxes to limit

results by type (historical documents or Memorial Pages) and by the date they were added to Fold3.

■ **FOCUS ON KEY COLLECTIONS.** On the home page, under Browse Military Records by War, click on a war to view lists of popular record collections and new or updated collections. For example, click on Revolutionary War and you'll get links to the four most popular collections for that war, including Revolutionary War Pensions and Revolutionary War Service Records. The most popular collections are usually the largest and most useful ones.

■ **BROWSE COLLECTIONS.** If you want to see what collections Fold3 has for a given conflict, or you know when and where your ancestor's record was created, browse to the record set you want, then navigate through it page by page. Click on the Browse tab and select a category on the left (such as Civil War), then select a publication. You can do a search at any point when drilling down through the hierarchical record arrangement by using the search box at the top of the page. For example, you could search the entire Civil War category or work your way down the levels to the Civil War Pensions Index, a state, an arm of service, such as cavalry or infantry, and, finally, company. So if a search for a soldier doesn't turn up a match in the pensions index, but you know the unit in which he served, you could browse the records for that unit.

Advanced Search

fold3 by ancestry

HOME SEARCH BROWSE MEMORIALS HELP

DHADDAD PREMIUM

First Name 1 Sounds like Last Name Sounds like

Hide Advanced Browse Watch

ADVANCED FIELDS

2 Keyword Keyword (military unit, rank, application number, etc)

3 Place Location name (state, county, city, precinct, etc)

4 Year Range From To

5 ☒ Include OCR matches (Example: newspaper text)

6 Added in the past Any time

Search

SEARCH TIPS

- Adding a **keyword** will yield more results. Not all records "know" about first & last names.
- Use a wildcard "*" if you are uncertain about spelling. Hans*n = Hanson & Hansen.
- "Place" can be Virginia (the state), Virginia County, or Virginia City.

1 Try searching both with and without checking Sounds Like for first and last name.

2 A keyword, such as a military unit, pension application number or name, may yield more results.

3 Use the OR operator in the Place box to search for records with two places: *Minnesota OR Illinois*.

4 You must fill in both boxes, even if it's with the same year, for the date fields to work.

5 Deselect if you don't want results from OCR-indexed records, such as newspapers or city directories.

6 Repeating a search? You can limit results to records added in the last one, three, six or 12 months.

Viewing Search Results

The screenshot displays the Fold3 search results for 'James L. Olmsted'. The interface includes a search bar at the top with the query 'James L. Olmsted' and a 'Modify search' button (1). Below the search bar are tabs for 'Categories' (2) and 'Titles'. The 'Categories' sidebar on the left lists various historical periods and record types, with 'Civil War Service Records' selected (3). The 'Timeline' filter (3) shows a range from 1893 to 1893. The 'U.S. States' filter (4) shows a map of the United States with Illinois highlighted. The 'Military Service' filter (5) shows 'Infantry' selected. The 'Watch' button (6) is located in the top right. The search results list four matches, each with a thumbnail (7) and a title (8). The first match is 'Civil War Service Index - Union - Illinois' for 'Olmsted, James L. (Pvt)'. The second match is 'Civil War Service Index - Union - Illinois' for 'Olmsted, James L. (Corp)'. The third match is 'Civil War Pensions Index' for 'Olmsted, James L.'. The fourth match is 'Civil War Service Index - Union - Illinois' for 'Olmsted, James L. (Pvt)'.

1 Click to change your search terms.

2 Filter the search results by a record category or subcategory.

3 Use the sliders or type dates to filter results by a range of years. You also can include or exclude records without a date.

4 States represented in the search results are shaded; click a state or states to view only those records.

5 Filter the results by arm of military service or unit.

6 Click to be notified when a new record matches your search.

7 Click on a record to view a larger version.

8 Click on a link or an arrow to view a record image and source information.

Subcategories depend on how the collection is organized—you might select a volume number, year range, place or alphabetical range. When you've homed in on record images, click one to open it in the Fold3 viewer. Click the filmstrip icon at the bottom to page through the records. Note that you can download only one page at a time, which can take a while for long service records and pension files.

■ **GET COPIES OF RECORDS.** If you find a reference to a record that's not online, order a copy. For example, Fold3 has digitized index cards to War of 1812 and Civil War pensions, but doesn't have all the pension applications online. Pension

applications usually provide more family information than service files. In person at NARA, you can make copies from paper records for 25 cents per page. You can also request copies by mail or online. The National Archives <[archives.gov/research/order](https://www.archives.gov/research/order)> charges \$55 for a pre-Civil War pension application file and \$80 for up to 100 pages in a pension file from the Civil War and later, plus 70 cents for each additional page. You can receive your order as a paper reproduction or as PDF files on a CD or DVD or by email. Order fulfillment can take up to a year, so it's often faster—and cheaper—to hire a professional researcher. See NARA's list of researchers

available for hire at <archives.gov/research/hire-help>. Look for one in the Washington, D.C., area who specializes in genealogy and family history records or military records.

Insider Advice

Be a Fold3 search master with these tips:

■ **SEARCH WITH A WILDCARD.** If you're unsure how your relative's name is spelled in a record, you can search with wildcards in the names boxes, as well as in the keyword and place search boxes (available on the advanced search form). Use an asterisk * to stand in for any number of letters. For example, a search on the last name *Olmst*d* finds Olmsted and Olmstead.

■ **GET A FREE TRIAL.** Click the 7-Day Free Trial link on the home page to try Fold3 for free. You'll have to enter your contact information and credit card. If you don't want to purchase a subscription, you must cancel before the end of the trial to avoid charges. You can do so using the Account Details link under your user name.

■ **WATCH A SEARCH.** After you run a search, click the Watch button at the top of your search results to receive email notifications when a new record matches your search. To "unwatch" a record, click the link in the notification email and then click Remove Watch at the top of the page.

■ **ANNOTATE RECORDS.** When you find a record of interest, use the plus button in the image viewer toolbar at the top to add notes about people, places and dates the record mentions. For example, if a record refers to a woman by her married surname, you could add her maiden name. These annotations become searchable, and others interested in that record can contact you through the site. Note that the plus button on the right enlarges the image.

SHORTCUTS

- **Basic and advanced search** <www.fold3.com/search>
- **Blog** <blog.fold3.com>
- **Browse records** <www.fold3.com/browse.php>
- **Contact** <www.fold3.com/contact>
- **Free collections** <www.fold3.com/free.php>
- **Help** <www.fold3.com/help>
- **List of all record collections**
<www.fold3.com/documents>
- **Membership comparison**
<www.fold3.com/choose-a-plan>
- **Memorial Pages** <www.fold3.com/pages>
- **Site map** <www.fold3.com/sitemap>
- **Veterans Honor Wall** <www.fold3.com/wall>
- **Your account** <www.fold3.com/account>
- **Your profile** <www.fold3.com/account>: Click View Profile at the bottom.

■ **DON'T GIVE UP ON BAD LINKS.** Occasionally, a name in an index is linked to the wrong record, but if you browse around, you might find the right record. Searching for the name *Reuben Shaubhut*, I got a match in US Veterans Administration Pension Payment Cards. But it links to the card for Joseph Shaubarker. I clicked on View Larger and then on the left arrow to navigate to the previous image and, voilà! It's the card for Reuben Shaubhut.

■ **CREATE A MEMORIAL PAGE.** You can honor veterans and other ancestors by creating Memorial Pages with photos, stories and links to Fold3 records. To start with one of the automatically generated pages created from WWII Army Enlistment records, the Social Security Death Index and other data sets, search for a name at <www.fold3.com/pages>. You also can use the Start a New Page link to create a page. You can create pages about any person, place or historical event. Access your pages by clicking your user name at the top right.

■ **ATTACH RECORDS TO YOUR TREE.** Have an Ancestry Member Tree? Click the Save to Ancestry button in Fold3's image viewer to add the record to a profile in your tree. ■

» Rick Crume

QUICK TIPS

- You can get free access to Fold3 at subscribing libraries and any FamilySearch Center (find one at <www.familysearch.org/locations>).
- To see a complete list of Fold3's record collections, click on the Browse tab and then on View Title List in the upper right hand corner. Free collections are marked with the word *Free* in green. Click on the *i* in a circle for more information on a collection.
- It's free to access all the international titles on Fold3, such as British Army World War I service and pension records and Australia service records for the world wars.
- Although you need a subscription to view most records, you can search all of Fold3 for free. Check for names in your family to see if a subscription might be worthwhile.
- Don't limit your searches to relatives who served in the military. Fold3's Civil War "Widows' Pensions" collection indexes not only the names of the soldier and widow or other pensioner, but also children and other dependents. Fold3 also indexes all the names in Revolutionary War pension files, such as wives and children.
- You can download records in JPG or PDF format. When you download a page, you can select an entire page or a region of it. If you save the file in PDF format, you can include index and source data.

GenealogyBank

NEWSPAPERS REPORT DETAILS on the major events in our lives—births, marriages, graduations, anniversaries, deaths. They also chronicle local events, businesses, sports, crimes and gossip. Few sources provide better insight into our ancestors' lives.

Websites now make it easy to search through millions of old newspaper pages. GenealogyBank <www.genealogybank.com> has one of the largest collections of digitized US newspapers: more than 7,000 titles from all 50 states, dating from 1690 to the present. They're in two collections:

- » Newspaper Archives 1690-Current
- » Recent Newspaper Obituaries 1977-Today

Another collection, Historical Documents, contains the American State Papers and the US Serial Set, both of which you can search for free on the Library of Congress website <memory.loc.gov/ammem/amlaw/lwsp.html>. (GenealogyBank lists military records and "Revolutionary and Civil War Pension Requests" among its historical documents. Those records are sometimes mentioned in the American State Papers and the US Serial Set, but GenealogyBank doesn't have military service records or pension applications.) The small Historical Books collection is made up mostly of funeral sermons and vintage advertisements. The Social Security Death Index covers primarily deaths from 1962 to 2014; it's free here and on other sites, such as FamilySearch <www.familysearch.org>.

the BASICS

URL: <www.genealogybank.com>

Customer service: (866) 641-3297, gbsupport@genealogybank.com

Major sister sites: World Newspaper Archive <www.readex.com/content/world-newspaper-archive>, NewsBank <www.newsbank.com> (accessible only in libraries)

Major collections: US newspapers (including ethnic, foreign-language and other special-interest titles), 1690-present; US obituaries, 1977-present

Social media: <www.facebook.com/genealogybank>, <twitter.com/genealogybank>

MEMBERSHIP OPTIONS

Level	Benefits	Cost
Subscriber	access to GenealogyBank newspapers, documents and digitized books	\$19.95 per month or \$69.95 per year

How to Search

These search techniques will help you find articles and records mentioning your relatives:

■ **START WITH A NAME.** The search form at the top of GenealogyBank's home page lets you search all its collections at once, or scroll down to select a specific collection. You might search on just a last name if it's unusual, or add a first name if it's common. You'll get a match whenever the terms you enter in the Last Name and First Name boxes appear within two words of each other in an article. This proximity search finds the names whether or not they're separated by a middle name or initial.

Try adding a middle name or initial, and searching with first and middle initials, such as *J. H. Pennington*. To search on more than one variation of a first or last name at a time, separate them by *OR*: *John OR Jonathan*.

The Advanced Search lets you add a range of years, such as 1880 to 1910, or July 1880 to Jan. 1910. Or select Date and enter just a year, such as 1880, or a specific date, such as July 4, 1880.

Search results are organized into collections (if matches come from more than one collection); select a collection title to view matches.

■ **FOCUS YOUR SEARCH WITH KEYWORDS.** Using the Advanced Search, you can add keywords. In the Include Keywords box, try searching for a person's first and last names as a phrase surrounded by quotation marks: "*John Pennington*." Also try terms closely associated with your target person, such as an occupation, a place, a college, a company or a spouse's name. John H. Pennington, for example, built railroads in Latin America, and I've found articles about him by searching on his last name plus his company name, "*South American Transportation*" (in quotation marks so it appears as a phrase in matches), and places where he lived, such as *Bogota, Colombia* and "*South America*."

John's scandalous personal life made headlines, too. Searching on his last name with *bigamy OR divorce* in the Include Keywords box turns up several articles detailing his marriages and an affair with a married woman.

■ **NARROW BY PLACE AND DATE.** Click Newspaper Archives on the home page for a search form (shown below) that lets you check boxes to limit your search to certain states. Click a state name to see which of its cities' papers are on GenealogyBank. On the resulting page, you can further narrow your search by checking one or more boxes by cities' names. (You can't narrow to cities from more than one state.) Click on the city name and you'll jump to a similar setup listing newspapers from that city. Finally, click on a newspaper's name to search just that publication. Here you can also check dates of GenealogyBank's coverage for that title. You also can search a specific paper, or all papers from a state, by clicking Newspaper Titles on the home page.

■ **SEARCH ETHNIC NEWSPAPERS.** GenealogyBank has newspapers published for ethnic communities, including African-Americans and Germans, Latinos, Irish and Italians. Results from these papers show up in regular searches, or you can search African-American and Irish papers separately. Click Newspaper Archives on the home page, then

look for links to these collections on the left under Other Genealogy Records.

Keep in mind that German, Latino and Italian papers are usually in the native language of the audience. You'll need to enter your search terms in that language, using Google Translate <translate.google.com> for help if needed. In addition, Optical Character Recognition (OCR) software, used to index the papers by keyword, may misinterpret unfamiliar alphabets. You may need to browse these papers.

Published in 38 states and the District of Columbia from 1827 to 1999, the 276 African-American newspapers on GenealogyBank feature slave ads, slave narratives and slave owner petitions, as well as many personal accounts and obituaries of former slaves. The obituary of James R. Starkey in the San Francisco newspaper *The Elevator*, of June 17, 1870, says that he was born into slavery in North Carolina, raised enough funds with the help of benevolent New Yorkers to purchase his freedom and settled in New York. Samuel A. McAlwee, a member of the Tennessee state legislature, tells in the Feb. 2, 1884 *New York Globe* how he was born a slave in Tennessee in 1858, worked his way through college and law school and became a successful businessman. The *Cleveland Gazette* of Aug. 24, 1889, reports on the death of "Old Black Joe" in

Genealogy Bank Newspaper Archives Search

The screenshot shows the 'Enter your ancestor's name below and we'll search historical newspapers to help you learn more.' form. It includes fields for Last Name, First Name, and Exact Search. There are checkboxes for 'Include Keywords' and 'Exclude Keywords'. A 'Date Range' section has radio buttons for 'Date Range' and 'Date', and a dropdown for 'Added Since' set to 'the beginning'. A 'Begin Search' button is at the bottom. To the right, a section titled '5 Search U.S. Newspaper Archives By State' lists 50 states and the District of Columbia with checkboxes. A map of the United States is at the bottom left. Numbered callouts 1 through 6 point to specific features: 1 points to the First Name field, 2 points to the Include Keywords checkbox, 3 points to the Exclude Keywords checkbox, 4 points to the Date Range radio button, 5 points to the 'Search U.S. Newspaper Archives By State' section, and 6 points to the state checkboxes.

1 Matches include newspaper pages with the first and last names appearing within two words of each other.

2 To find two keywords as a phrase, enclose them in quotation marks. The OR operator (*death OR died*) and proximity searching (*Norris NEAR/5 died*) also work here.

3 Excluding a keyword can help when searching for names that are also words. For example, exclude the word *weather* when searching with the surname Frost.

4 Select Date to type a date or a year, optionally with a range of plus or minus one, two, five or 10 years.

5 Check boxes by states or click a state on the map to narrow your search to papers from those states.

6 Click on a state name to further narrow your search to cities in that state or to specific newspapers published in a city.

Viewing GenealogyBank Search Results

1 Click on Refine Search Results to modify your search criteria.

2 Click here to sort the results by best matches, oldest items or newest items.

3 Click here to save your search and view it anytime by clicking the My Folder tab.

4 Click on an article title or preview to view an image of the article.

New Jersey. Joseph Queen, age 112 and probably the oldest man in the state, was born in Virginia in 1777, was a runaway slave and went to New Jersey in 1827. You might search these papers for the names of African-Americans and slave owners and add place names to narrow your searches.

Eight Irish-American newspapers published in New York City date from 1810 to the present and report news from Ireland and about Irish Americans across the country. In the 19th century, the papers frequently ran death and bankruptcy notices from Ireland and the names of Irish Americans contributing to Irish relief. People also placed many “missing friends” ads in an effort to locate lost friends and relatives. One of many Information Wanted notices in the *Irish American Weekly* of Sept. 20, 1879, says, “Of John Kerby, a native of the parish of Castle-Lyons, county Cork, Ireland, who came to this country six or seven years ago, and when last heard of, two years ago, was in Boston, Mass. Any information of him will be thankfully received by his brother, Patrick Kerby, No. 8 Calias [sic] street, Providence, R.I.” To find mention of your relatives in these papers, you might search on a name and, optionally, a place in Ireland or the United States.

Insider Advice

Mine GenealogyBank’s newspaper articles for the best matches by following these tips:

■ **LOOK FOR TITLES LIKELY TO COVER YOUR ANCESTORS.** To see if GenealogyBank has papers from the places and times your family lived, go to the homepage and click on Newspaper Titles, then on either Full List or a state. Each state listing has links to search all that state’s Newspaper Archives or recent obituaries, plus a list of newspapers arranged by city. To search a specific newspaper, click on its title.

■ **SEARCH BY RECORD CATEGORY.** On the left side of the Newspaper Archives search page is a list of categories, including Historical Obituaries, Birth Records, Marriage Records, Passenger Lists and Legal, Probate & Court. In practice, searching by category usually produces many matches that don’t fit, but it’s worth a try. A search on the last name *Shaubut* in the Historical Obituaries category produces 38 matches, including several obituaries, plus an adoption, a court case and many local news items.

■ **OUTSMART OCR.** The OCR process used to convert newspapers to searchable text often misinterprets words, especially from older newspapers, so your searches may miss some relevant articles. Try other terms (such as your ancestor’s address or spouse’s name) to get at the same articles.

If a search doesn’t turn up a good match and you have an approximate date and place (such as for a marriage notice, obituary or another news item), try browsing. The process is clunky on GenealogyBank. Go to the home page, click on Newspaper Titles, select a state and then a newspaper. Enter

a date range like *July 1–7 1882*, and click **Begin Search**. You could sort matching articles by **Oldest Items** so they're in chronological order. Display an article by clicking on its title or the snippet. On the left, click the link to "List all pages in this issue." To browse the whole issue, you might start by clicking on page 1. To go to another page, you have to click on "List all pages in this issue" again and select the page number.

■ **USE BOOLEAN OPERATORS.** This "search language" saves time by accomplishing at once what might otherwise take separate searches. My great-great-granduncle John H. Pennington traveled frequently to Latin America. Instead of doing individual searches with his name and each country, I can search on his last name plus *Honduras OR Guatemala OR "Costa Rica" OR Colombia OR "South America" OR Cuba* in the **Include Keywords** search box, and a date range of 1892 to 1909. The top matches include articles in the *Cleveland Leader* about an exposition Pennington was organizing in Honduras in 1900 and *The Omaha World-Herald* about how he was wanted on a charge of bigamy in Colombia in 1895.

■ **START WITH THE FAMILYSEARCH OBITUARIES INDEX.** The Recent Newspaper Obituaries collection has 248 million obituaries and death notices from over 7,000 newspapers. GenealogyBank has partnered with FamilySearch to index them. You can search the obituaries on either site, but the indexes are different. The one on GenealogyBank covers only the deceased individuals, but the FamilySearch index

(United States, GenealogyBank Obituaries, 1980–2014 <www.familysearch.org/search/collection/2333694>, which actually starts in 1977) covers every name mentioned, including surviving relatives. So you could start on FamilySearch and search for anyone whose name might appear in the obituary you want. That'll give you the key facts, but you must search again on GenealogyBank—with the deceased person's name—to view the complete obituary. You'll need a subscription to GenealogyBank as well. ■

» Rick Crume


QUICK TIPS

- Experiment with search wildcards and variant spellings. GenealogyBank recommends using wildcard characters to find name variants, including an asterisk (*) to stand in for up to five characters in a name and a ? for one character. For example, *Rob*son* finds Robertson, Robson and Robinson. *Rob?son* finds Robison and Robeson, but not Robson or Robinson. In practice, however, the wildcards work inconsistently and may miss valid matches, so search for variant spellings and misspellings of your ancestor's name.
- Use proximity searching in the keywords box. If you type *Vietnam NEAR/5 war*, matches will have *Vietnam* and *war* within five words of each other, in any order.
- See only new matches, eliminating those you've already reviewed. When you click **Newspaper Archives** on the home page, the search form has a dropdown box that lets you search only content added since a specified month.
- Browse matches by date. By default, the most relevant matches are listed first. You can re-sort them by date of publication using a dropdown menu above your results.
- Search for any word in the article. When you view a newspaper page, your search terms are highlighted. To search for a word in the article, even one not in your original query, enter it in the box and click the **find** button.
- Print or save an article with a citation. If you click the **PDF** button to save the article, the PDF won't include a citation. Instead, click **Print** for a printer-friendly version. Then you can right-click on the image and select **Save Image As** to save it as a graphical image file with a source citation.
- Search for a woman under her husband's name. Ida Tasker's obituary in the 1924 *Boston Herald* turns up only by searching for Mrs. Albert Tasker.
- Don't miss any of a multi-part article. When you're viewing an article, yellow arrows pointing to the left or right indicate the article has multiple parts. Click on an arrow to view the next one. The source reference above the article indicates which part you're viewing.

SHORTCUTS

- **Blog** <blog.genealogybank.com>
- **Contact** <www.genealogybank.com/information/contact-genealogybank>
- **Search Help**
<www.genealogybank.com/information/help>
- **Newspaper titles by state**
<www.genealogybank.com/newspapers/sourcelist>
- **Recently added newspapers**
<www.genealogybank.com/newcontent>
- **Site map**
<www.genealogybank.com/information/sitemap>
- **Newspapers Advanced Search**
<www.genealogybank.com/explore/newspapers/all>
- **Search African-American newspapers**
<www.genealogybank.com/static/ethnic/african-american-newspapers.html>
- **Search Irish-American newspapers**
<www.genealogybank.com/static/ethnic/irish-american-newspapers.html>
- **Your account** <www.genealogybank.com/account>

Library of Congress

 **THE LIBRARY OF** Congress (LOC) has one of the world's largest genealogy collections. Its 38 million cataloged books, manuscripts and other print materials in 470 languages include more than 50,000 compiled family histories and over 100,000 US local histories. The library also collects local histories from around the world, with strong collections for Western Europe, especially the British Isles, Ireland and Germany.

Only a small percentage of the LOC's holdings are online, but that includes photos, maps and manuscripts that can be great genealogical resources. If you do get the chance to visit the library in person, it's thrilling to sit in the magnificent Main Reading Room or browse the stacks in the Local History & Genealogy Reading Room. (Most materials are in closed stacks and need to be requested.) Whether you can research onsite or from home, here's how to mine the library's website for genealogy resources.

Records Rundown

For an overview of the LOC's genealogy resources and services, start with the Local History & Genealogy Reference Services page <loc.gov/rr/genealogy>. Under Tours and Research Orientations, you can view how-to videos, including two focusing on African-American and Amish genealogy research at the LOC. (You'll need to view them using the Firefox, Internet Explorer or Safari web browser with Microsoft Silverlight installed.)

Under The Collections, learn about the library's onsite resources. A copy of every copyrighted published book in the United States is automatically added to the Library's collections. (Click on the link for Acquiring Published Genealogies for details on donating a genealogy or local history book to

MEMBERSHIP OPTIONS		
Level	Benefits	Cost
Unregistered	online access	free
Registered reader (see < loc.gov/rr/readerregistration.htm >)	online and on-site access	free

the library.) In addition to family and local histories, the LOC has one of the few strong royalty, nobility and heraldry collections in America.

Vertical files in the Local History and Genealogy Reading Room contain magazine and newspaper clippings, as well as genealogical charts and newsletters. These items aren't listed in the LOC catalog, but you can download the Vertical File Subject Index and a list of Family and Regional Newsletters.

The library doesn't lend its books and other print materials via interlibrary loan. But microfilm copies, which cover most of its books on US genealogy and local history published between 1876 and 1900, are available on interlibrary loan. Ask your local library's reference staff for help. And as copyright law allows, LOC staff can photocopy books by request for a small fee.

The Local History & Genealogy Reference Services page also has a Bibliographies and Guides link, focusing on genealogical topics such as African-American family histories, Hispanic research and Civil War diaries.

Digitized items you can view on the library's website include Sanborn fire insurance maps and other old maps of US towns and cities; oral histories with former slaves, military veterans and others; photos; and digitized historical newspapers at *Chronicling America*.

How to Search

Here's how to search for online and offline resources related to your research.

■ **FIND DIGITIZED PHOTOS, MAPS AND MANUSCRIPTS:** The search box at the top of the home page and on most of the site's pages lets you search LOC online catalog descriptions of print and digital collections, as well as pages on the website and digitized items that are indexed. Using the drop-down menu to choose a type of item, such as books, maps or photos, is a helpful way to narrow the scope of your search.

the BASICS

URL: <www.loc.gov>

Site stats: 86.1 million website visits in 2015

Major digital collections: photos, manuscripts, maps, newspapers (at *Chronicling America* <chroniclingamerica.loc.gov>), sound recordings, veterans oral histories

Social media: <www.facebook.com/libraryofcongress>, <twitter.com/librarycongress>, <www.flickr.com/photos/library_of_congress>

Viewing LOC.gov Search Results

Library of Congress > Maps > Search

Format: **Maps**

Search Maps Collections with Maps

Results: 1-5 of 5 | Refined by: Original Format: Maps

Refine your results

- Available Online: 5
- All Items: 6

Original Format: Maps

Online Format: Image (5), Online Text (2)

Date: 1900 to 1999 (1), 1800 to 1899 (4)

Location: United States (5), Hamilton County (3), Ohio (3), Kendall County (1)

View: List Go Sort By: Relevance Go

MAP
Map of Hamilton County, Ohio

"Entered according to and of Congress in the year 1847 William D Emerson in the Clerk's Office of the District Court of Ohio." LC Land ownership maps, 632 Available also through the Library of Congress Web site as a raster image. Includes insets of Sharon, Elizabethtown, Cleves, Mt. Pleasant, Miamitown, Harrison, Springdale, Mt. Auburn, Cummingsville, Newtown, Lockland, Columbia, Reading, Montgomery, Walnut Hills, and Carthage.

Contributor: Emerson, William D.
Date: 1847

MAP
Map of Hamilton County, Ohio / by Geo. Moessinger & Fred Bertsch ; compiled and executed from official records surveys and conveyances up to the date of completion.

"March 1884." LC Land ownership maps, 635 Available also through the Library of Congress Web site as a raster image.

Contributor: Moessinger, Geo - Bertsch, Fred
Date: 1884

1 To find old maps, choose Maps from the pulldown menu and search for a place, optionally with another term.

2 Filters let you narrow results by online availability, format, date, location and more.

3 Click the X to remove the filter.

4 Choose a year range to see sub-filters with narrower ranges.

5 View results in a list, gallery or grid; and sort by relevance, alphabetically or chronologically.

6 Click an item's thumbnail image or title for publication details and a larger (usually, downloadable) version.

(You can choose Newspapers, but it's much easier to use the separate Chronicling America search, described on the next page.) To search only digitized items, choose Digital Collections from the dropdown menu. Alternatively, click Digital Collections on the Library's home page and choose from the themed collections of digitized materials.

Filters on your results screen let you drill down by type of item, publication date, collection, author and other criteria. Selecting the first filter, for Available Online, is yet another way to see only items accessible on the LOC website.

A name search probably won't be productive unless your relative was well-known, but it's worth a shot. Try searches for the name and for a last name with the word *family*. Searching All Formats for *Abigail Adams* and filtering by Available Online yields 467 results. I can use the Original Format filters to see just digitized photos, books, manuscripts or another type of item.

Searching by place or other terms can lead you to maps, photos and manuscripts that relate to your research, including unindexed materials that name relatives. To find digitized maps, choose Maps from the search pull-down menu at the top of the home page and enter a state, county, town or other place. Adding a keyword, such as *Civil War* (to find battlefield maps) or *landowner* (to find maps with names of landowners) can help narrow your search. On the results page, use the filters on the left to see only maps related to select time periods, locations or library collections (see a search example above). Find photos by choosing Photos, Prints, Drawings from the search dropdown menu. Search for a county, town, neighborhood, street, church, school, business or other organization.

■ **FIND FAMILY AND LOCAL HISTORY BOOKS:** The Library Catalog search link on the home page (under the large image) has advanced and subject search options that work best for finding offline family and local histories. Use these strategies:

Chronicling America Advanced Search

1 Optionally, limit your search to one or more states or newspapers. To select more than one option, hold down the Ctrl key in Windows or the Command key on a Mac.

2 Fill in one or more blanks with your search terms.

3 Search this directory of US newspapers published since 1690 to identify titles covering ancestral dates and places, and learn how to access them.

» **Search for last names.** Enter the last name plus the word *family* in the Quick Search box. Entering *Cooley family* returns 74 matches, including *Cooley Genealogy*, published in 1941, which traces my Cooley line to Colonial New England, and handwritten family trees prepared in 1968 by my relative Julia Cooley Altrocchi.

To narrow the search to matches with the subject term *Cooley family*—not just keywords anywhere in the catalog record—look under the Refine Your Search filters on the results page and select Subject (instead of All) from the dropdown menu. Click the Search button. That produces 16 matches, including the two previously mentioned.

» **Add search terms.** If you're researching a common last name, adding another term, such as a place, helps you focus on the best matches. A search on *Hall family* produces 2,207 matches. Click on Refine Your Search, search on *Hall family AND Wallingford* (the town they settled), and hit Search. This narrows the matches to four, including two about the Wallingford Halls.

» **Do an Advanced search.** To easily build a query using AND, OR and NOT, click on Search Options at the top of the results screen and select Advanced Search. Put *Hall family* in the first box and *Wallingford* in the second box. This searches on the two search terms as Keywords Anywhere, and turns up six matches, including four about the Hall family of Wallingford.

To find history books about a place, click Library Catalog and run a subject search on the name of a town, county or state and the word *history*. Use the standard state abbreviation, but try the state's full name, too. To find histories of Mercer County, Ill., click on Library Catalog on the home page and select Keyword Search on the next screen. Enter

Mercer County Ill history in the Search box, select Subject in the other box and hit Search. That produces seven matches, which mention my relatives.

■ **BROWSE SUBJECT TERMS.** Browsing subject terms is a good way to find family histories, local histories and other useful items. On the home page, click on Library Catalog and then on Browse. Select Subjects Containing in the first box, enter a last name, a last name plus the word *family* or a place name in the second box and click Search.

When entering a county name, add the word *county* or *co* (try both) and the state name or abbreviation (again, try both). Search with *Otsego County* in the Subjects Containing field and matches include Otsego County (N.Y.)—Genealogy, Otsego County (N.Y.)—History and Registers of births, etc.—New York (State)—Otsego County. Click on any of these entries to view books and other items classified with that subject.

■ **SEARCH DIGITIZED NEWSPAPERS.** Newspapers often turn up family details you won't find anywhere else. Chronicling America <chroniclingamerica.loc.gov> has two parts—digitized newspapers and a directory. Click on the Search Pages tab to do a simple search (shown above). Try different forms of a person's name, such as *John Hudson Pennington*, *John H. Pennington* and *J. H. Pennington*. Search for the name (without quotation marks around it) and as an exact phrase (with quotation marks) and with the last name first. Also try searching on a name with an occupation, place of residence, spouse's name or other terms associated with the person.

A search limited to California newspapers from 1880 to 1909 for my great-great-granduncle "*J. H. Pennington*" (as an exact phrase) produces 21 matches. One of them, an article in *The San Francisco Call* of Dec. 23, 1895, describes him as "a fine, military-looking gentleman, who had money to spend

freely” and was “a visitor at all the exclusive clubs,” but was now charged with bigamy.

The Advanced Search option here lets you compose complex queries by just filling in the blanks. A search for “all the words” *Pennington* and “any of the words” *divorce bigamy* in newspapers from 1880 to 1909 produces 4,530 matches ranked by relevance. The first one is my guy. Searching on just the last name in “all the words” turns up a fascinating article in *The Daily Herald* of Brownsville, Texas, dated May 8, 1894, describing my relative as “a giant in stature” with “good features, frank blue eyes and a perennial smile.” Having recently departed for South America, he was now being sued for divorce by the wife he deserted in California. (She didn’t yet know he was still married to a woman in Canada.)

Click on the tab for “All Digitized Newspapers 1836-1922” to find newspapers by state, ethnicity and language. Then you can browse a specific newspaper by date. That could be helpful when searches aren’t fruitful, but you have at least an approximate date of a marriage, a death or another event.

The US Newspaper Directory, 1690-Present provides details on historical US newspapers, most of which aren’t yet digitized. Search by state, county, city, years and other criteria. The directory tells you where to find microfilm copies that may be available on interlibrary loan. Search for my hometown Glyndon, Minn., and you find that the town’s earliest newspaper, *The Red River Gazette*, was published from 1872 to 1874. Issues from June 27, 1872, to July 17, 1873, are available on microfilm from the Minnesota Historical Society.

Insider Advice

If the LOC catalog lists a book you need, you might be able to find the book elsewhere online instead of waiting for interlibrary loan items to arrive. Try these tips:

SHORTCUTS

- **Archival Finding Aids** <findingaids.loc.gov>
- **Ask a Librarian** <loc.gov/rr/askalib>
- **Chronicling America** <chroniclingamerica.loc.gov>
- **Copying and Printing Services** <loc.gov/rr/copying.html>
- **Digital Collections** <loc.gov/collections>
- **Preserving your family archives** <loc.gov/preservation/care>
- **Local History & Genealogy Reference Services** <www.loc.gov/rr/genealogy>
- **Maps** <loc.gov/maps>
- **Online Catalog** <catalog.loc.gov>
- **Prints and Photographs Online Catalog** <loc.gov/pictures>

■ **USE OCCASIONAL CATALOG LINKS TO DIGITIZED BOOKS ON OTHER SITES.** For example, its description of *The Halls of New England, Genealogical and Biographical*, a 735-page genealogy published in 1883, says the library has the book on microfilm, but it also links to an electronic copy on HathiTrust and to LC Find It, which lets you search for the book on Google Scholar, Google Book Search, Google and other search engines with a single click.

■ **SEARCH THE WEB.** Many of the family history and local history books at the LOC are also digitized and available online at FamilySearch Books <books.familysearch.org>, Google Books <books.google.com/advanced_book_search>, the HathiTrust Digital Library <www.hathitrust.org>, and Internet Archive <www.archive.org>. Check for digitized books on those sites, which are all free, as well as subscription genealogy websites you have access to. Instead of going through each of these sites one by one, you might start by searching Google for the title. ■

» Rick Crume

QUICK TIPS

- Click on the three bars at the upper left of most screens to jump to key pages of the website.
- You can use wildcards when searching the LOC online catalog, but they’re not the ones used on most other sites. A percent sign (%) is a single-character wildcard, so *Peters%n* finds Peterson and Petersen. A question mark (?) is a multiple-character wildcard, so *Rob?son* finds Robson, Robison and Robertson. Wildcards here find matches across more than one word—*Rob?son* also returns Robert, son of Abraham Lincoln—so you get a lot of false hits.
- See your recent LOC.gov searches at <catalog.loc.gov> by clicking Search Options at the top left and selecting Search History. You can re-run the same searches or revise them.
- Search for Civil War photos. My great-grandmother’s half-brother Charles J. Hall was killed at the Battle of Antietam in 1862. A catalog search for *Antietam* in the Photos, Prints and Drawings collection produces 653 matches, including photos of bodies gathered on the battlefield for burial.
- Search for oral histories in the Veterans History Project by keyword, war and other criteria at <loc.gov/vets>, and listen to some of the interviews online. A guide to the WPA-era slave narratives is at <hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/collmss.ms000008>; you can read digitized interview transcriptions organized by state and surname.
- Listen to your ancestors’ folk tunes and popular music with recordings from the LOC’s American Folklife Center <loc.gov/folklife> and National Jukebox <loc.gov/jukebox>.

MyHeritage

MYHERITAGE BOASTS MORE than 7 billion historical records, 2 billion-plus names in family trees, and millions of photos. Founded in 2005 and based in Israel, the site has members all over the world, a multilingual website and genealogy software available in more than 40 languages. If you put your family tree on the site, it automatically matches names in your tree with billions of names in its huge collection of family trees and records. Now, you can attach genetic genealogy results to your tree and discover matches in other members' trees.

How To Search

Employ these search strategies to find your ancestors among the records on MyHeritage:

■ **PUT YOUR TREE ON MYHERITAGE.** To take advantage of the site's automated searching, you'll want to put a family tree on the site (free up to 250 relatives). As part of the registration process, new users are prompted to enter basic information about themselves and their parents and grandparents. If you've never used MyHeritage before, you may get a free report with Instant Discoveries (one of MyHeritage's clever names for its technologies)—names in MyHeritage records and family trees that match names in your tree. If you're already a member of the site, click the family tree tab at the top to add people to your tree.

If you have a family tree on another site or in genealogy software, you can upload a GEDCOM to start your MyHeritage tree. You also can use the site's free Family Tree Builder software. Edit your family tree online, on your computer with Family Tree Builder, or on your mobile device, and MyHeritage automatically syncs your tree so it's up-to-date on all devices. You can make your tree public or limit access to MyHeritage members you invite, and optionally, let family members edit it.

■ **GET AUTOMATED MATCHES.** Once your family tree is on MyHeritage, the site performs two kinds of automated matching, Smart Matching and Record Matching:

» **Smart Matching:** MyHeritage compares the profiles in your tree with family trees from other site members, analyzing names, dates, places and relatives' names. The site finds Smart Matches to your tree even when profiles contain discrepancies (such as variant name spellings or different birth dates). You can access your Smart Matches via a link under the Discoveries tab. Premium or Premium Plus members can

MEMBERSHIP OPTIONS		
Level	Benefits	Cost
Basic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> family tree with up to 250 names and 500MB storage for photos and videos basic Smart Matching 	free
Premium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> family tree with up to 2,500 names and 1,000MB of storage enhanced Smart Matching 	\$110 per year (plus a 25% discount for first-time subscribers)
Premium Plus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> family tree unlimited size enhanced Smart Matching 	\$175.12 per year (plus a 25% discount for first-time subscribers)
Data	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> access to all MyHeritage premium records view Record Matches in your tree 	\$159.20 per year (plus a 25% discount for first-time subscribers)
Complete Subscription	a combination of PremiumPlus and Data	\$250.74 per year (plus a 30% discount for first-time subscribers)

confirm or reject a match, view full information from family trees with matches and contact the trees' owners. They can also merge information in their overlapping trees through the Smart Match Merge feature.

» **Record Matching:** MyHeritage automatically searches its collections of historical records, such as censuses, passenger lists and even books, to find records that match people in your family tree. Like Smart Matching, Record Matching works even if names and other data don't exactly match up. View Record Matches by clicking the link under the Discoveries tab, but you'll need to pay for a separate Data subscription to access most of the matching records. Many useful matches were in newspapers from the NewspaperARCHIVE website, but that collection was dropped from MyHeritage last year when the organizations' contract ended.

Record Detective takes Record Matching technology a step further. Once you find a record pertaining to a relative,

Record Detective gives you a summary of other records about the same person and about that person's relatives. For example, if you find someone in the 1900 US census, below the summary of that record you might find that Record Detective discovered the same person and family members in the 1910 and 1920 censuses and an 1888 passenger list. Once you confirm a record is a match, you can save it to the person's profile in your family tree, along with a source citation. If a record (such as a census) pertains to several family members, you can extract the information into all their family tree profiles at once. If a record names someone missing from your tree, you can add the new profile right from the record.

Record Detective used to work only when MyHeritage has at least one family tree profile matching the record. Now, Record Detective II makes record-to-record matches and works even when there are no matching family tree profiles on MyHeritage.

■ **SEARCH FOR RECORDS:** Whether or not you have a family tree on the site, you can manually search records using SuperSearch, the site's records search engine. Access it by clicking Research at the bottom of the home page or at the top of other pages on the site. The basic search form lets you enter a name, birth year, place and keywords. Click Advanced Search for a form (shown on the next page) that lets you specify exact matching and use name, date and place filters. These include:

» **First name** (choose any or all): spelling variants, matching initials, and names starting with the same letter(s) as what you typed.

the BASICS

URL: <www.myheritage.com>

Customer service: (877) 432-3135, <www.myheritage.com/FP/contact-us.php>

Major sister sites: Geni <www.geni.com> has a collaborative global family tree; WorldVitalRecords.com <www.worldvitalrecords.com> has records from many countries

Membership: more than 80 million registered members as of January 2016

Mobile app: MyHeritage for iOS and Android <www.myheritage.com/mobile>

Major collections: birth, marriage and death records from around the world; the complete US and UK censuses; Scandinavian church and census records; immigration, military and tombstone records; books and directories

Social media: <www.facebook.com/myheritage>, <twitter.com/myheritage>, <www.pinterest.com/myheritagepins>

SHORTCUTS

- **Blog** <blog.myheritage.com>
- **Contact** <www.myheritage.com/contact-myheritage>
- **Family Tree Builder software**
<www.myheritage.com/family-tree-builder>
- **Forums** <www.myheritage.com/support-forums>
- **Help** <helpcenter.myheritage.com>
- **Last Name Directory**
<lastnames.myheritage.com/last-names>
- **Mobile app** <www.myheritage.com/mobile>
- **MyHeritage DNA** <www.myheritage.com/dna>
- **Search MyHeritage genealogy records**
<www.myheritage.com/research>
- **Subscriptions** <helpcenter.myheritage.com/Account-and-Subscriptions/Subscriptions>

» **Last name** (choose any or all): several types of Soundex systems (including Daitch-Mokotoff, designed to work with Eastern European names); Megadex, the site's proprietary system for finding surname variants; and names starting with the same letters as what you typed.

» **Date:** match flexibly (results containing closer dates rank higher in your search results) or exactly match what you typed, with an optional range of plus or minus one, two, five, 10 or 20 years

» **Place:** match the place you type exactly or match it optionally (results containing closer places rank higher in your search results)

Filters on the left of your search results page let you view matches by the collection they're part of, so you could see, for example, all results from censuses and even drill down to matches from individual censuses. Below that filter, you can refine your results to view only matches containing a particular first or last name, birth year or other criteria.

■ **BROWSE FOR RECORDS.** You also can search individual collections and databases related to your family history. Why would you want to do this? Search forms for specific categories and record sets also have search fields customized to that type of record, letting you better target your search. You'll also have a more manageable number of matches. Record categories (such as Census & Voter Lists or Military) and subcategories (US Census, UK & Ireland Census, etc.) are listed along the right side of the main search page.

Another way to access these record categories is by place, a handy method if you're not sure what records the site has for your ancestral places. Scroll down on the Search page and select a country or a region from the map, then a place within that country. You'll get a page with a search form for records associated with that place, and a list of databases covered in the search. Click on a database title to search just those records.

MyHeritage Advanced Search Form

1 Click a search field's dropdown menu to make your search term exact or apply filters.

2 Additional event options are Any (finds the date you type in any date field in a record), Birth, Death, Marriage, Residence, Immigration and Military.

3 Add the name of your relative's father, mother, spouse, child and/or sibling to find records that also name these people.

4 A keyword, such as an occupation or ship name, can improve your search results. When looking for photos, try a keyword such as *wedding*, which often appears in titles and descriptions of uploaded images.

5 Click a record category to search just those records, and to find subcategories or specific databases to search.

6 Select a country, then a state or province, to search and browse databases of records from that place.

The screenshot shows the MyHeritage 'Welcome to SuperSearch™' page. At the top, there's a navigation bar with links: Home, Family tree, Discoveries, Photos, Apps, and Research. Below the header, a banner displays 'Welcome to SuperSearch™' and '7,026,504,444 historical records'. The main search area is titled 'Search all records - advanced' and includes a 'Hide advanced search' link. The search form is divided into several sections:

- Name:** Fields for 'First and middle name(s)', 'Last name', and 'Gender' (set to 'Any'). Each name field has a 'Match similar names' dropdown menu, with callout 1 pointing to the first one.
- Events:** A 'Type' dropdown menu (set to 'Any', with callout 2 pointing to it), and fields for 'Date' (Day, Month, Year) and 'Place'. There are also 'Match flexibly' and 'Match optional' dropdowns.
- Relatives:** A 'Type' dropdown menu, and fields for 'First and middle name(s)' and 'Last name', each with a 'Match similar names' dropdown menu. Callout 3 points to the 'Type' dropdown.
- Keywords:** A text input field with examples: 'carpenter, or "SS Anglia"'. Callout 4 points to this field.

 At the bottom of the search form, there are checkboxes for 'Exact search' and 'With translations', a 'Clear form' link, and a 'Search' button. Below the search form is a section titled 'Search records by location' with a button 'Search records from USA' and a world map. Callout 6 points to the map. On the right side of the page, there's a 'Categories' section (with callout 5 pointing to the header) listing various record categories like 'Census & Voter Lists', 'Family Trees', 'Birth, Marriage & Death', 'Photos', 'Military', 'Immigration & Travel', 'Newspapers', 'Books & Publications', 'Public Records', 'Schools & Universities', 'Directories, Guides & References', 'Histories, Memories & Biographies', 'Government, Land, Court & Wills', and 'Maps'.

Insider Advice

Use these tips to make the most of your MyHeritage membership:

■ **EDIT YOUR TREE ON THE GO.** The free MyHeritage mobile app for iOS and Android lets you view and edit your MyHeritage family tree and search the site's records with your smartphone or tablet. Find it in your device's app store.

■ **CONTROL YOUR MATCHES.** Smart Matching and Record Matching work wonders, but they can be too much of a good thing. A large tree might get thousands of matches—way more than you have time to review. Unfortunately, there's no way to limit Smart Matches or Record Matches to a selected branch or generation of your tree. But you can avoid information overload by creating a new family tree with only the people you want to focus on. Then disable Smart Matching for your master tree like this:

- » Log in to your family site, click on your name at the top of the page and select My Privacy.
- » Under the name of the family site, click on Content.
- » Uncheck Enable Smart Matching for MyHeritage and MyHeritage websites and partners.

To disable Record Matching, open Family Tree Builder, click on Tools in the menu bar and select Options. In the General section, change Automatic Record Matching to No. Matching settings apply to only one tree. If you have more than one tree, you need to manage the settings for each one separately.

■ **SEARCH AUTOMATICALLY WITH SOFTWARE.** MyHeritage's Family Tree Builder software uses Smart Matching and Record Matching to help you search the site. Now RootsMagic <www.rootsmagic.com> and Family Historian <www.family-historian.co.uk> software do the same thing.

■ **USE YOUR DNA.** The new MyHeritage DNA testing service (\$79 at press time) provides ethnicity reports and shows you whose DNA matches yours. Those matches might confirm existing relationships in your family tree and even help you discover new relatives. If you've already tested your DNA with 23andMe <23andme.com>, AncestryDNA <dna.ancestry.com> or Family Tree DNA's FamilyFinder test <www.familytreedna.com>, you can upload your results to MyHeritage for free DNA matching. For step-by-step instructions, see a tutorial on MyHeritage DNA matching in the January/February 2017 *Family Tree Magazine*.

■ **SEARCH BOOKS FOR FREE.** You can search MyHeritage's large collection of family and local history books, city and county directories, school yearbooks and more <www.myheritage.com/research/collection-90100/compilation-of-published-sources>, and view search results for free. Experiment with different search combinations, such as just an unusual last name or a name with a keyword (for example, a place, occupation or spouse's name). Record Matching automatically searches the books for people in your family tree; Data subscribers are alerted when matches are found.

■ **SAVE RECORDS TO YOUR TREE.** When you find a reference to a relative in a census record, a book or another source, click on the orange Save Record button to save it to your online family tree. You'll be prompted to select the tree and person. Once the record is attached, go to that person in your tree and you can view a snippet from the book plus a page image and you can browse through other pages from the book to see the full context.

If you let your MyHeritage Data subscription lapse, you'll lose access to records you've attached to your online tree from the site. But as long as you have MyHeritage Family Tree Builder software on your computer, it will sync with your online tree and you'll have copies of records you linked to your online tree. The syncing process doesn't always seem to work, though; to be on the safe side, save records from MyHeritage to your computer.

When viewing a page from a book, click the Print button at the bottom of the screen, and it will print a short excerpt from the book that contains your search term. To download a page image, right-click on it and select Save Picture As. You'll want to copy and paste the text in "About this source" to save the source reference, maybe as a text file to go with the record image. ■

» Rick Crume

QUICK TIPS

■ Access MyHeritage Library Edition for free at subscribing libraries, as well as at FamilySearch Centers and the Family History Library (the latter two also provide free access to sister site World Vital Records).

■ Select People from the Family Tree tab to search for a relative's name across all your family trees.

■ Select PedigreeMap from the Apps tab to see all the places in your family tree plotted on a world map. Click on a place to see everyone associated with it. This lets you view your relatives' migrations in relation to each other and to historic events, and helps you prepare for research in a particular locality.

■ To create charts and books with information from your family tree, select Print Charts & Books from the Family Tree tab. You can customize charts and books in several formats and print them, save them as PDF files and order posters professionally printed on heavy paper, vinyl, glossy photo paper or matte canvas.

■ Need research assistance, such as help finding a book or translating a document? Post your request to MyHeritage Community <www.myheritage.com/community>, where you can get help from other researchers and use your skills and expertise to assist others.

Newspapers.com

NEWSPAPERS RANK AMONG the top sources for information on key events in our ancestors' lives. Birth and marriage notices, anniversary celebrations and obituaries provide facts that form the framework of our family trees. But newspapers also reveal details you won't find anywhere else. You might turn up articles highlighting your ancestors' business successes, sports honors or personal misfortunes, and even lurid details of scandalous affairs or criminal offenses.

Searching newspapers once meant hours of scrolling through microfilmed pages. But now you can search through millions of online newspaper pages at once and find articles about your ancestors in seconds.

Newspapers.com has more than 229 million pages of papers dating from the 1700s to the 2000s. It has titles from across the United States, plus smaller collections from Australia, Canada, England, Ireland, Northern Ireland and Panama. The core of the collection is from the former Footnote website (now called Fold3 <www.fold3.com>), whose owner, Ancestry.com <ancestry.com>, launched Newspapers.com in 2012 with a similar user interface to Fold3. Millions of new pages are added every month. These tips will help you mine them for your family news.

How to Search

On the home page, you can search on a name or another word, then adjust your search terms in the box at the top of the search results page. The advanced search form at

the BASICS

URL: <www.newspapers.com>

Customer service: 1-877-519-0129, <www.newspapers.com/contact>

Major sister sites: Ancestry.com <www.ancestry.com>, Fold3 <www.fold3.com>

Major collections: Newspapers from the United States, plus small collections from Australia, Canada, England, Ireland, Northern Ireland and Panama

Social media: <www.facebook.com/newspaperscom>, <twitter.com/_newspapers>

MEMBERSHIP OPTIONS

Level	Benefits	Cost
Subscriber	full access to all digitized newspapers	\$7.95/month or \$79.95/year
Publisher Extra	access to 115 million more pages still under copyright (mostly from 1923 and later)	\$11.95/month or \$59.95/year

<www.newspapers.com/search> (shown on the next page) offers the same search fields as the home page search, but also displays your recent and saved searches. Here's how to find mentions of your family:

■ **START BROAD.** You'll get the best results by casting a wide net and then experimenting with different combinations of search terms, following these strategies:

» **Begin with a surname, place and date range.** Search on just the last name if it's unusual, then add a first name. Click on Show Advanced (on the Search page) or Add More Info (on the home page) to add a location and a date. The Place box (called Paper Location on the home page) is for place of publication, not just any place associated with the person you're researching. You can enter a country, state or city, and if Newspapers.com has no newspapers published in that place, you'll get a "No matching locations" message. In that case, broaden your place from a city to the state, and try cities near your relative's hometown.

In the Date box you can enter a date range, such as 1880-1910 (for example, if you want articles from any time in your relative's life), or a day or month, such as March 1893 (a good approach for finding an obituary).

Results display as thumbnail images. Click a match to view the whole page with your search terms highlighted. To jump to other instances of your search terms, including those on other pages in the same issue, use the arrows by the search box at the top of the page.

» **Search with and without a middle name or initial.** Someone who usually went by his first name might be known by his middle name at times, and men in the 19th century often went by two initials plus their last name. I've turned up numerous articles with these variations of John Hudson Pennington's name: John H. Pennington, J. H. Pennington and Hudson Pennington. In addition to using the First and

Advanced Search

The screenshot shows the 'Advanced Search' page on newspapers.com. At the top, there is a search bar (1) containing the text '"Francisco Land and Cattle"'. To the right of the search bar is a dropdown menu (2) labeled 'Hide advanced' and a search button (3) with a magnifying glass icon. Below the search bar are two input fields: 'Place' (4) with the placeholder text 'Enter a location name (country, state, or city)' and 'Date' (5) with the placeholder text 'Enter a date or range (year, month-year, or day-month-year)'. A blue 'Search' button is located below these fields. Below the search bar, there is a list of recent searches (6) including '"San Francisco Land and Cattle Comp...', '"San Francisco Land and Cattle Comp...', '"Francisco Land and Cattle"', and '"San Francisco Land & Cattle"'. To the right of this list is a link (7) that says 'See all ...'. At the bottom of the list is a circular button (8) with an 'X' icon and the text 'Clear all'.

1 Enter your search terms, such as a name.

2 Return to the basic search.

3 Click here for search tips.

4 Enter a country, state or city where the newspapers you want to search were published. To search for a place mentioned in a newspaper article, put it in the main search box.

5 Enter a specific date or date range.

6 Click on a recent search to run it again, save it and/or automate it.

7 Re-run a saved search.

8 Clear recent searches.

Last Name search boxes, also try searching on the name as a phrase by surrounding it with quotation marks.

» **Search for nicknames and formal addresses.** Despite never having served in the military, Pennington called himself a Colonel, so I also search on both *Colonel* and *Col.* plus his last name. Newspapers might use honorifics such as Dr. or Rev., and women were often called by their husbands' names (Mrs. Henry Kolbeck).

» **Add search criteria.** Experiment with keywords, year ranges and places. Think of a term closely associated with your target person, such as an occupation, place name, employer, street address or a spouse's name. George W. White was an artist, so his name used with the keywords *artist* and *portrait* turn up articles on the right person.

Save time by using the Boolean operators AND, OR and AND NOT to combine several searches into one. Instead of doing separate searches on the different forms of John H. Pennington's name combined with the various countries where he lived, I can cover them all in one query: ("*J. H. Pennington*") OR ("*John H. Pennington*") AND (*Cuba* OR *Honduras* OR *Colombia* OR "*South America*"). Limit the date range to 1880-1910 and the 72 matches are mostly the right person. Use AND NOT to exclude terms. If searches for your Seeger family in Wisconsin turn up articles about concerts by the unrelated Pete Seeger, you could add *AND NOT Weavers* to your search string.

■ **FILTER YOUR SEARCH RESULTS.** You can sort your results by relevance ("best matches") or date using the dropdown menu at the top right. Filters to the left of your matches let

you view them by newspaper title, publication date (use the slider or type a date in the box), and publication place (click a state on the map). See an example on page 50. Click in the search box above your results to change your search terms or add a keyword to your search. Clicking an X by a search term removes it from the search.

■ **BEWARE OF OCR MISTAKES.** Optical character recognition (OCR) software is used to convert digital images of printed pages to text you can search. If OCR misinterprets a letter, the word won't be indexed correctly and you won't get a match on it. OCR on books is highly accurate because books are usually scanned directly and the printed text is typically sharp and easy to interpret. But newspapers are a different story. Papers are usually digitized from microfilm copies, which can be hard to decipher. Old newsprint is prone to fading and ink splotches. OCR mistakes can easily foul up phrase searching. The longer the phrase you search on, the more likely a mistake will creep in. So when searching on a phrase, it's a good idea to keep it short. A search on "*San Francisco Land and Cattle Company*" produces only one match, but a search on "*Francisco Land and Cattle*" turns up five matches, all in articles that refer to the company's full name.

■ **SEARCH WITH WILDCARDS.** Newspapers.com uses the standard wildcards (? to stand in for one character and * for zero or more). A search on *rail** covers rail, railroad, railway and even railroaders, a term I wouldn't have thought to search on.

The letter *s* at the beginning or in the middle of a word resembles an *f* in many newspapers from the 18th century.

Viewing Matches

1 Click on a search term to edit it, or on the X next to it to delete it. Click in the search box to add a keyword.

2 Save your search and be notified when the site adds papers with matches.

3 Click on a title or thumbnail image to see the article.

4 Preview other matches in the same issue.

5 Use the sliders to narrow your matches by date, or enter a range below.

6 Choose one or more states from the map or use the checkboxes to see only matches from papers published in that state.

7 Open a window allowing you to narrow matches by newspaper.

8 View recently added matches, a way to eliminate matches you've already reviewed.

OCR usually mistakes it for an f or an l. A search on *Briftol* produces more than 11,000 matches and a search on *Briltol* produces more than 1,700 matches. Virtually all are misreadings of *Bristol*. Search on *Bri?tol* to find the word *Bristol* plus cases where it is mistakenly interpreted as *Briftol* or *Briltol*.

But wildcard searches on Newspapers.com often miss some or all of the matches they ought to find. A search on “*Edward Rob*son*” finds Edward Robson, Edward Rob-son and Edward Robison, but not Edward Robertson. A search on “*J. H. Pennington*” AND *Colombia* for the years 1880 to 1909 produces nine matches. The country of Colombia is sometimes misspelled Columbia, so you should be able to search on “*J. H. Pennington*” AND *Col?mbia* to find both spellings, but that search produces no matches at all. Experiment with wildcards, but be sure to try searches without them, too.

■ **BROWSE OR SEARCH BY PLACE OR NEWSPAPER.** To limit your search to one or more papers published in the same

place, or to browse a paper, click on Browse at the top of most pages and you can work your way down through newspapers organized by country, state, city, newspaper and date. At any point, use the Search box to search just the papers in the group you've selected. But searching while browsing works only sporadically. Sometimes you can do the search, but other times the Search button is greyed out and unavailable.

A similar strategy is to start at <www.newspapers.com/papers> and use the filters to narrow the list of papers by date published or state; a search box at the top lets you search just the titles displayed.

Click on a newspaper title to search just that paper or to browse papers published on a specific date. For example, if your search for an ancestor's obituary isn't productive, try browsing papers published in the week after his death. You may find the name misspelled, or the page so faded that optical character recognition software couldn't read it.

Searching everything on Newspapers.com at once can turn up relevant articles in places you might not have thought to check, but it's also worth focusing on newspapers published in your ancestors' hometowns. George W. White is a fairly common name, but I've had good luck limiting my search to newspapers from his hometown, Hamilton, Ohio. Using the Advanced Search, I search on his name as a phrase, "*George W. White.*" When you enter something in the Place box, a pop-up appears listing matching places where Newspapers.com has papers. If you enter *Hamilton* in the Place box, the six matches include Hamilton, Ohio; Hamilton County, Ohio; and Hamilton, Australia.

It may help to be familiar with your ancestral geography. If I select Hamilton, Ohio, in an attempt to search only newspapers from Hamilton, Butler County, Ohio, the results actually include newspapers published both there and in Cincinnati, Hamilton County, Ohio. But if I select Hamilton County, Ohio, the matches don't include papers from the city of Hamilton.

Insider Advice

These tips will help you get the most from your Newspapers.com subscription:

■ **TRY IT FREE.** You can get a free seven-day trial of Newspapers.com by signing up at www.newspapers.com/free. You'll need to enter your credit card information. To avoid charges, cancel (from your Account Details page) before the trial period ends.

■ **VIEW OR HIDE PUBLISHER EXTRA MATCHES.** For some newspaper titles, issues still under copyright are part of the Publisher Extra collection, which costs an additional subscription fee. Publisher Extra papers date mostly after 1923, though a few date from as far back as 1881; see the included titles and years at www.newspapers.com/choose-a-plan. Each Publisher Extra match listed in your search results has an X at the upper right; click it to hide these matches.

■ **CLIP AN ARTICLE.** When viewing a newspaper article, click the scissors icon to "clip" a copy, which saves it to your

Newspapers.com account. Click on Go to Clipping and you can download or share it via e-mail, Facebook or Twitter, or link it to a profile in your Ancestry.com ancestry.com Member Tree. You can add a note to a clipping and your friends can see the article even if they don't subscribe to Newspapers.com. Click on the Clippings tab to see and search all your clippings or go to www.newspapers.com/clippings.

■ **DOWNLOAD AN ARTICLE.** To save an article to your computer, click the printer icon, choose the portion of the page you want, click Save, and choose a file format, PDF or JPG. A PDF file includes source information.

■ **SAVE YOUR SEARCH.** The site adds millions of newspaper pages every month. Instead of running the same searches over and over to catch new matches, you can save your searches to run automatically. Click on the Save/Notify button to save your search and Newspapers.com will send you an email when it finds a match in new pages. When you're signed in, click on your user name on the upper right of the site, My Profile and the Searches tab. Then you can view, run and delete your saved searches. ■

» Rick Crume

QUICK TIPS

■ You may be able to get free access to Newspapers.com through your local library. Check the website or ask at the reference desk if the library subscribes to Newspapers.com Library Edition.

■ When searching with a newspaper's place of publication, don't limit yourself to the exact places your ancestor lived. Also try nearby towns and counties, as well as places he or she worked, attended school and served in the military.

■ Save money on genealogy website subscriptions with an All Access subscription to Ancestry, Newspapers.com and Fold3 for \$44.99 a month or \$199 for six months.

■ Click on the Papers tab and then on Map on the top left to view the Newspapers Map. Click on a red marker to find newspapers in your area of interest.

■ On the home page under Get Started, click on the links to watch tutorials and videos on how to search the Newspapers.com collection.

■ When you repeat a search, avoid going over matches you've seen. Sorting results by date added will make articles from recently added newspapers appear first.

■ If you open a search result in a new browser window, you won't have to wait for your list of results to reload when you click the back arrow. To do this on your PC, hold down the Control button when you click to open a match. On your Mac, hold down the Command button when you click.

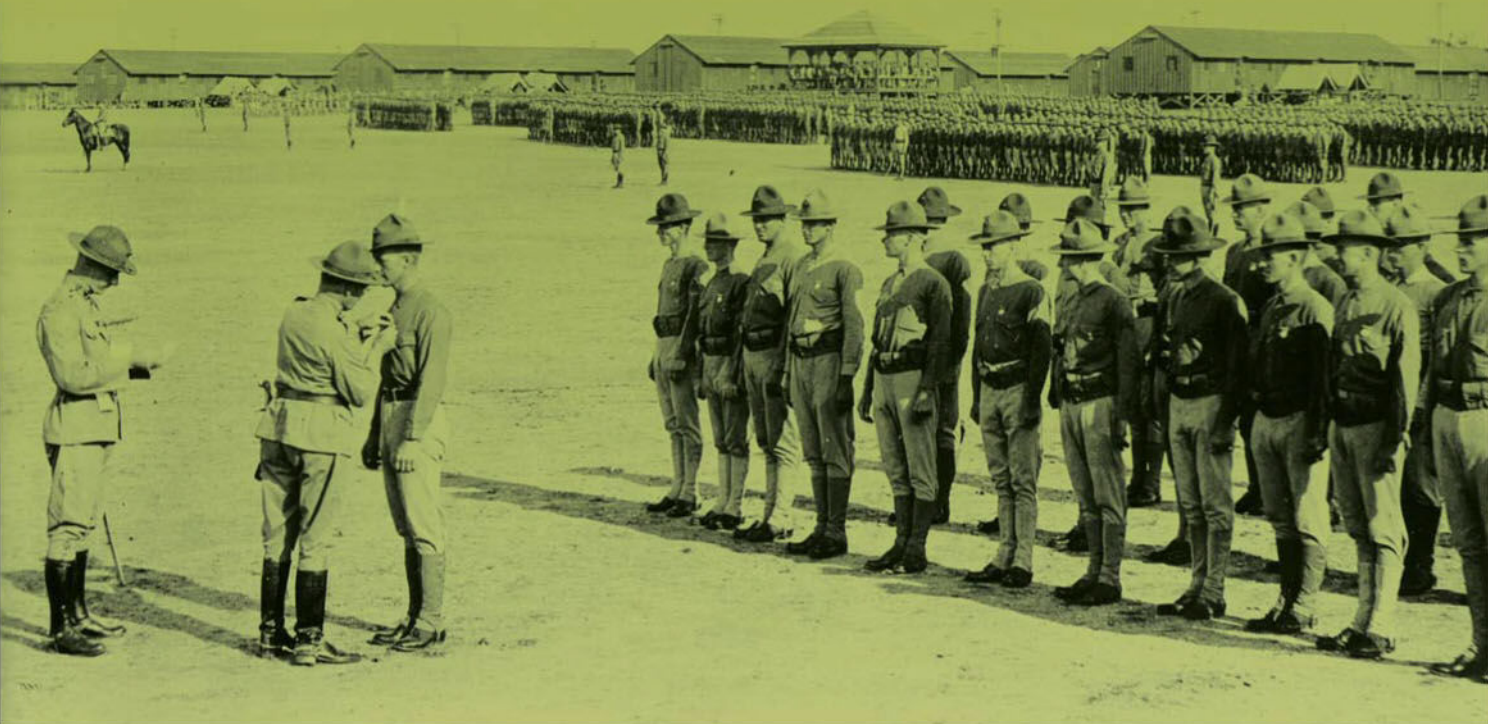
SHORTCUTS

- **Blog** blog.newspapers.com
- **Browse newspapers** www.newspapers.com/browse
- **Contact** www.newspapers.com/contact
- **Find newspapers by place**
www.newspapers.com/map
- **Help Center** www.newspapers.com/help
- **Recently added newspapers**
newspapers.com/papers: Click New & updated.
- **Your account** www.newspapers.com/account

IN THE TRENCHES

The WWI centennial is the perfect time to dig into these online resources for US troops in the Great War.

BY DAVID A. FRYXELL



🐉 **TODAY, WITH THE** United States as the world's dominant superpower, it's hard to imagine that traditional European powers—England, France, Germany—largely determined whether the world was at war or peace. Their imperial reach extended across Africa and Asia. When smaller nations in the combustible Balkans brought the great European powers into the disaster of World War I in 1914, the United States stayed mostly aloof. Despite the vigor of our continental expansion and industrial revolution, America was still more potential than power.

That changed irrevocably when the United States entered the war in April 1917, just 100 years ago. More than 4 million American soldiers fought in the “Great War” between April

Unprepared for fighting in World War I, the United States had to build its military through volunteer enlistment and the draft. Of the 24 million men who registered for the draft, 2.7 million were conscripted into the army.

Another 300,000 volunteered.

6, 1917, when Congress voted to declare war on Germany and the Austro-Hungarian Empire, and the armistice on Nov. 11, 1918. If your ancestors were among them, you can now discover their records on a variety of websites. Other online resources can help you learn more about their experiences and their final resting places. (You'll find resources for Great War soldiers from Canada, Europe and Australia in the July/August 2014 *Family Tree Magazine*, available at

<shopfamilytree.com/family-tree-magazine-july-august-2014>.) And even if your early-20th century ancestors didn't serve in the military, the war created a vast collection of paperwork as America geared up for the conflict: More than 24 million American men, ages 18 to 45, registered for the military draft between June 1917 and September 1918.

So whether your ancestors served abroad or stayed on the home front, these websites will help you document their WWI experience.

Service-related records

Although the Great War was in many ways the first “modern” war, its military service records are less readily available than those from earlier wars. That’s because US Army service records for those discharged between Nov. 1, 1912 and Jan. 1, 1960—including those for WWI soldiers—were mostly destroyed in a 1973 fire at the National Archives and Records Administration’s (NARA) National Personnel Records Center (NPRC) in St. Louis <archives.gov/st-louis>. You can request surviving Army service records, as well as records of service members in the Navy and Marine Corps, from NARA. See instructions at <archives.gov/veterans>. If your ancestor served in a National Guard unit, his records also would’ve been spared; check the state archives, library or historical society in the state from which he served.

Even WWI service records that survived aren’t yet widely available online. Instead, you’ll have to dig a little deeper and research in somewhat more obscure resources. The richest source is Fold3 <www.fold3.com>, which specializes in military records (if you don’t subscribe, see if your local library does). The site boasts more than 82.5 million records related to World War I, many of them specific to America’s history in the war. Target these by searching from <go.fold3.com/records/ww1>. To look even more closely at possible matches, select a specific database within which to search, such as:

- **REGISTERS OF OFFICERS WHO SERVED IN THE US ARMY, 1798-1969:** Listings typically include rank, date of commission, former commissions, when they entered service, and where they were born. The register for 1918 is online.

- **GORRELL'S HISTORY:** An online version of NARA microfilm M990, this includes historical narratives, reports, photographs and other records of the Air Service in the American Expeditionary Forces (AEF) during World War I.

- **NATIONAL WWI MUSEUM PORTRAIT PHOTOGRAPHS AND PANORAMIC UNIT PHOTOS:** Two collections, with more than 500 group and individual photos of soldiers, sailors and nurses. Some are identified.

- **NATURALIZATION INDEX, WWI SOLDIERS:** Index cards about men whose naturalizations were fast-tracked so they could serve in the US military.

- **NAVY AND MARINE CORPS OFFICER REGISTERS:** Name, rank and service information are detailed, with World War I represented by the November 1918 volume.

The Great War
was in many ways
the first “modern” war.

- **NAVY CASUALTY REPORTS, 1776-1941:** Arranged by casualty type (drowning, enemy action, aviation accidents, shipwreck), these reports are arranged chronologically and most go into detail.

- **NAVY CRUISE BOOKS:** Like yearbooks for ships, these include photos and biographies; the last year of the war, 1918, is the first in the collection.

- **RENDEZVOUS REPORTS INDEX (WWI ARMED GUARD PERSONNEL AND WWI NAVAL AUXILIARY SERVICE):** These are indexes to the Navy’s equivalent of Army enlistment registers.

- **US EXPEDITIONARY FORCE, NORTH RUSSIA:** From NARA M924, these record the brief Allied incursion into post-revolutionary Russia.

- **WWI OFFICER EXPERIENCE REPORTS, AEF:** Detailed reports and correspondence of engineer units serving in Europe.

Fold3 also hosts some databases of state military service records. For example, Connecticut WWI Service Rosters include the person’s name, service history, birth date, rank, where he served, and notes regarding discharge or death. The site’s collection of New York WWI Army Cards includes abstracts of National Guard officers and enlisted men who were mustered into the regular Army.

WWI-specific databases are tougher to ferret out on WorldVitalRecords <www.worldvitalrecords.com> and its parent MyHeritage <www.myheritage.com> subscription sites. But if you try searching all military records (under Search>Military Records), you may get results in specific collections such as Illinois in the World War, a Gold Star Honor Roll list for Indiana (“Gold Star” referring to lives lost during the war), and even histories of individual units.

Ancestry.com <ancestry.com> subscribers can access the same naturalization database as on Fold3, along with a collection of WWI accounts from Camp Travis, Texas, and some recollections of the war. The Great War era is covered in Ancestry.com’s US Marine Corps Muster Rolls, 1798-1958,



TIP: Look for state-level and other collections to substitute for the federal WWI service records that were lost to fire.

(3-7-1-10)

NAME **Shellenberger, Smith** Law: **Act of May 1, 1920**

Certificate No. **895883** **ARMY INVALID**

Service **Corp B 77 Pa V Inf**

CLASS	RANK	DATE OF COMMENCEMENT	DATE OF CERTIFICATE	HONOR—Admitted	Discharged	Reported
50		May 1, 1920				
Ino 72		Aug 24, 1925	Sept 19, 1925			APR 10 1926
				Died	May 12 1926	
				Reported	APR 10 1926	
SEP 25 1925						

Nearly 600,000 Veterans Administration pension payment cards document payments made to disabled veterans between 1907 and 1933—well representing injured WWI soldiers and their widows.

too. More numerous on Ancestry.com are state-level collections of WWI service: see the previously-mentioned table, which also mentions other websites that host state-level WWI service information.

Casualty collections

Finding ancestors who were wounded or died in World War I, or the burial records of war veterans, can be considerably easier than searching for service records. Start with the American Battle Monuments Commission (ABMC) <www.abmc.gov>, which manages 24 overseas military cemeteries, plus 26 memorials, monuments and markers in 16 countries. On the search page <www.abmc.gov/database-search>, you can target your search to just the 33,717 US military from World War I who are buried in overseas cemeteries or listed on ABMC Walls of the Missing.

Specifically dedicated to the more than 600,000 who died in the West Flanders front area of Belgium during the war, including 411 dead or missing Americans, the In Flanders Fields Museum <www.inflandersfields.be/en> includes an online database of casualties <www.inflandersfields.be/en/namelist/searchname>.

If your WWI veteran is buried in a stateside cemetery, search the Nationwide Gravesite Locator <gravelocator.com.va.gov> at the US Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) website. It covers burials in VA National Cemeteries, state veterans cemeteries, other military and Department of Interior

cemeteries, and private cemeteries where the grave has a government marker.

The most authoritative listing of American military deaths in World War I is probably the three-volume *Soldiers of the Great War*, compiled in 1920 by W.M. Haulsee, F.G. Howe and A.C. Doyle. Several partial transcriptions of names from these volumes are at RootsWeb <rootsweb.ancestry.com>. A digitized version can be searched and partly viewed at Google Books <books.google.com>, or searched and browsed at Archive.org <archive.org/details/soldiersgreatwa02doylgoog>, <archive.org/details/soldiersgreatwa00doylgoog> and <archive.org/details/soldiersgreatwa03doylgoog>.

Major genealogy websites host some casualty records, too. Look for two collections at Fold3: Foreign Burial of American War Dead and Navy Casualty Reports, 1776-1941. At Ancestry.com, you'll find five casualty databases:

- US, World War I Naval Deaths, 1917-1919
- American Soldiers of World War I
- US, Burial Registers, Military Posts and National Cemeteries, 1862-1960
- US Military Burial Registers, 1768-1921
- WWI, WWII, and Korean War Casualty Listings.

Don't forget state-specific resources (not all exclusive to World War I) such as those listed in the box on pages 56 and 57.

Pension paperwork

Fortunately, military pension records weren't destroyed in the NPRC fire that consumed so many valuable documents. Ten years before America's entry into World War I, the Bureau of Pensions and Veterans Administration began using a card system to keep track of pension payments made to members of what was termed the "Regular Military Establishment." This group consisted of Army and Navy invalids and their widows.

@	+	\$
<div style="background-color: #0056b3; color: white; padding: 10px; text-align: center; font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold;">MORE ONLINE</div> <p>Free Web Content</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 10 WWI websites <familytreemagazine.com/article/ww1-genealogy-websites> ■ WWI Red Cross nurse records <familytreemagazine.com/article/now-what-raiding-records> ■ World War I around the world <familytreemagazine.com/article/ww1-around-the-world> 	<p>For Plus Members</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Women in WWI records <familytreemagazine.com/article/women-in-ww1-genealogy-records> ■ Workarounds for lost NPRC records <familytreemagazine.com/article/federal-records-in-flames> ■ WWI draft registration cards <familytreemagazine.com/article/document-detective-wwi-draft-registrations> 	<p>ShopFamilyTree.com</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Ordering a military grave marker <shopfamilytree.com/step-by-step-guide-ordering-a-military-grave-marker> ■ Preserving military uniforms <shopfamilytree.com/preserving-memories-caring-for-military-uniforms> ■ Finding ancestors in military records <shopfamilytree.com/how-to-find-ancestor-military-records-ondemand-webinar>

Crossroads of History

America's road to joining the Allies in World War I was a long one. Contrary to popular belief, a US war declaration didn't immediately follow the German sinking of the *Lusitania* on May 7, 1915. After that provocation, Germany pledged to suspend unrestricted submarine warfare in the North Atlantic and Mediterranean—a pledge it broke in early 1917, sinking the American liner *Housatonic*. Then in late March, Germany sunk four more US merchant ships. America had already been roiled by the March 1, 1917, publication of the "Zimmerman telegram." Deciphered by British code breakers, the telegram from German Foreign Minister Arthur Zimmermann to Mexico offered US territory in return for joining the German cause.

On April 2, 1917, President Woodrow Wilson stood before a joint session of Congress to ask for a declaration of war against Germany, a "war to end all wars" that would "make the world safe for democracy." The Senate voted for war, 82 to 6, and the House concurred, 373 to 50. The first 14,000 infantry landed in Europe June 26.

Involvement in the war forever changed your ancestors' United States. Taxpayer dollars and war bonds boosted the US economy and brought many more people into what's been called the "investor democracy." As exports increased and the United States became a major world creditor, its role in the global economy also grew. Although German immigrants found themselves ostracized, Italians and Jews used the wartime experience to assimilate into American culture. Hundreds of thousands of African-Americans left the South to fill new wartime jobs. When black soldiers returned home, their frustration at the lack of racial progress helped spark political activism for civil rights.

President Wilson expressly cited the war in supporting a constitutional amendment granting women's suffrage: "We have made partners of the women in this war. Shall we admit them



Library of Congress Prints & Photographs Division, LC-DIG-ppmsca-11422

More than 350,000 black men served in the US Army during World War I. Their experiences helped galvanize African-American communities to end racial injustices at home.

only to a partnership of suffering and sacrifice and toil and not to a partnership of privilege and right?" The 19th amendment giving women the right to vote was ratified Aug. 18, 1920, less than two years after the armistice. Learn more about World War I and US involvement at these websites:

- World War I Document Archive <wwi.lib.byu.edu>
- WorldWar1.com <www.worldwar1.com>
- The War Times Journal <www.wtj.com/wars/greatwar>
- The Zimmerman Telegram <archives.gov/education/lessons/zimmermann>

■ Library of Congress Guide to World War I Materials <loc.gov/rr/program/bib/wwi/wwi.html>

Collected in NARA microfilm M850, this database of US Veterans Administration Pension Payment Cards is being digitized by Fold3. At last count, the project was nearly three-quarters complete; find it at <fold3.com/browse/250/h3PrcBSAN>. The collection includes cards for pension payments made between 1907 and 1933, so it well represents the aftermath of World War I. Browse for your ancestor by clicking on the first letters of the surname. (American Indian names are grouped alphabetically at the beginning of the appropriate letter of the alphabet, rather than sorted with other surnames.) This collection is also available on the subscription website Findmypast <search.findmypast.com/search-world-Records/veterans-administration-pension-payment-cards-1907-1933>.

What might you learn about a WWI veteran from pension payment cards? Information includes:

- name of pensioner and/or name of soldier (on the card of a veteran's widow)
- certificate number, service details and disability
- law under which pensioned
- class and rate of pension
- commencement date of pension
- date of certificate, fees paid and pension transfer
- date of death and date the bureau was notified of death
- former roll number
- home
- individual payments made (back of card)

You may be able to use the information from the index cards to order pension files from the Department of Veterans Affairs. Files are located at the regional office closest to the residence of the veteran at the time of application. Ask the

staff at the Veterans Affairs office in your area for help in obtaining copies.

If your WWI ancestor was disabled, you might also be able to find him in an Ancestry.com database of US National Homes for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers, 1866-1938.

Feeling a draft

The largest—and perhaps most genealogically useful—online collection related to US participation in World War I includes data on many men who never served. When the nation declared war in 1917, the standing army was nowhere near the size we expect today: only 120,000 federal troops, plus another 80,000 members of the National Guard. Those numbers were fewer than at any time besides the Civil War. The only recent action seen by US military had been Gen. John “Blackjack” Pershing’s 1916 pursuit of Pancho Villa in Mexico.

To meet the new wartime needs of the nation’s military, on May 18, 1917, Congress passed the Selective Service Act. It was America’s first draft since the Civil War. Operating under what was termed “supervised decentralization,” the Selective Service System employed 4,648 local draft boards in the 52 states and territories. Each county had at least one draft board, with one for about every 30,000 people in more populous counties and cities.

As the demand for “doughboys” grew, draft registration was expanded to both younger and older men. Ultimately, the Selective Service carried out three different registrations during World War I, totaling nearly 25 million men:

- June 5, 1917, for all men between the ages of 21 and 31
- June 5, 1918, for those who had turned 21 in the past year (a supplemental registration, filed with this second batch, covered those turning 21 by Aug. 24, 1918)

Salute to state sources

Most federal service records for US Army troops in World War I were lost to fire. State-level WWI records such as these (many on free sites) can serve as substitutes:

- **Alabama Military Card Files, 1917-1918**
<search.ancestry.com/search/db.aspx?dbid=2236>
- **Alabama WWI Gold Star Database** <www.archives.state.al.us/goldstar/search.cfm>, indexed images are at Ancestry.com <search.ancestry.com/search/db.aspx?dbid=61021>
- **Arkansas WWI Discharge Records**
<www.ark-ives.com/research/search-records.aspx>:
Use drop-down menu for Record types.
- **California WWI Death Announcements, 1918-1921**
<search.ancestry.com/search/db.aspx?dbid=2245>
- **California WWI Soldier Citations, 1918-1921**
<search.ancestry.com/search/db.aspx?dbid=2244>
- **California WWI Soldier Photographs, 1917-1918**
<search.ancestry.com/search/db.aspx?dbid=1784>
- **California WWI Soldier Service Cards and Photos, 1917-1918** <search.ancestry.com/search/db.aspx?dbid=1701>
- **Colorado Soldiers in WWI, 1917-1918**
<search.ancestry.com/search/db.aspx?dbid=5442>
- **Colorado, various WWI databases**
<history.denverlibrary.org/research/colorado-military>
- **Connecticut WWI Service Rosters** <www.fold3.com/title_778/connecticut_wwi_service_rosters>
- **Connecticut Servicemen and Women during World War, 1917-1920** <www.consuls.org/record=b1032493-S16>:
Follow the Internet Archive links.
- **Florida WWI Service Cards**
<www.floridamemory.com/Collections/WWI>

- **Georgia WWI Service Cards, 1917-1919**
<search.ancestry.com/search/db.aspx?dbid=3129>
- **Illinois Roll of Honor** <www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/archives/databases/honorroll.html>
- **Illinois in the World War, Vols. 1-3**
<www.worldvitalrecords.com>: To find these three databases, click Search, choose Card Catalog and run a title search for *Illinois world war*.
- **Indiana WWI Deaths**
<www.genealogycenter.info/search_inww1deaths.php>
- **Indiana Gold Star Honor Roll, 1914-1918**
<www.worldvitalrecords.com/indexinfo.aspx?ix=ia_goldstarhonorroll00indi>
- **Kansas Casualties in the World War, 1917-1919**
<ksgenweb.com/archives/statewide/military/wwi/casualty>
- **Kansas 353rd Infantry Regiment in World War I**
<search.ancestry.com/search/db.aspx?dbid=5695>
- **Kansas Soldiers of the Great War**
<www.kshs.org/p/kansas-soldiers-of-the-great-war/15805>
- **Kansas WWI Bounty Claims**
<www.kshs.org/p/world-war-i-bounty-claims/15808>
- **Kansas WWI Veteran Collection, 1917-1919**
<search.ancestry.com/search/db.aspx?dbid=2021>
- **Louisiana Soldiers in the Great War**
<freepages.military.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~worldwarone/WWI/Louisiana/soldiers.html>
- **Maine Military Index, 1917-1920**
<search.ancestry.com/search/db.aspx?dbid=4619>
- **Maryland Military Men, 1917-1918**
<search.ancestry.com/search/db.aspx?dbid=4545>
- **Massachusetts WWI Soldier Photographs**
<archives.lib.state.ma.us/handle/2452/124230>
- **Mississippi WWI Statement of Service Cards and Indices**
<mdah.ms.gov/arrec/digital_archives/wwicards>

■ Sept. 12, 1918, for men ages 18 through 45 not previously registered

The resulting draft cards occupy 4,383 rolls of microfilm, available at NARA or from the Family History Library via your local FamilySearch Center. Fortunately, though, a recent digitization effort has made this entire trove of WWI-related data searchable online. All three registrations are free to search at FamilySearch <www.familysearch.org/search/collection/1968530> and available to subscribers at Ancestry.com or Findmypast. You also can find WWI draft cards at several state sites, including Colorado, Nebraska and Oregon (see state table). These are worth checking if you can't find an ancestor in the nationwide database.

What you'll learn from WWI draft registration cards depends on when your ancestor registered. The first round, in June 1917, used what's sometimes called the "10-question

card," which asked for name, age, address, birth date and place, citizenship status, employer, nearest relative, race and physical appearance. The second registration, a year later, used the "12-question card," adding occupation and any claimed exemption from the draft. Eligible ancestors who were older or younger than these first groups and who didn't get registered until the war was nearly over, in September 1918, appear in the most data-rich registration. That final 20-question form provides a more-detailed physical description.

Whether your ancestor served "over there" or simply registered here, the centennial of America's entry into World War I is the perfect time to take advantage of the records created during the "War to End All Wars." ■

Contributing editor **DAVID A. FRYXELL's** grandfather, Victor Fryxell, registered for the draft in 1918 at age 35.

■ **Missouri Soldiers' Records**

<s1.sos.mo.gov/records/archives/archivesdb/soldiers>

■ **New Jersey WWI Deaths** <www.net1.state.nj.us/DOS/Admin/ArchivesDBPortal/WWICards.aspx>

■ **New Mexico WWI Casualties**

<genealogytrails.com/newmex/WWI_soldiers.htm>

■ **Nebraska WWI Draft Registration cards**

<www.nebraskahistory.org/databases/WWIdraft.shtml>

■ **New Mexico WWI Records, 1917-1919**

<search.ancestry.com/search/db.aspx?dbid=8803>

■ **New York Soldiers of the Great War**

<nyww1.larchmonthistory.org>

■ **New York 74th Regiment (National Guard) Service Cards, surnames A-L** <www.fold3.com/title_911/new_york_74th_regiment_service_cards>

■ **New York State Military Museum Roll of Honor** <dmna.ny.gov/historic/reghist/wwi/HonorList/HonorList.htm>

■ **New York Abstracts of WWI Service**

<search.ancestry.com/search/db.aspx?dbid=3030>

■ **New York WWI Veterans' Service Data, 1913-1919**

<search.ancestry.com/search/db.aspx?dbid=1196>

■ **New York WWI Army Cards**

<www.fold3.com/title_929/wwi_new_york_army_cards>

■ **North Dakota Military Men, 1917-1918**

<search.ancestry.com/search/db.aspx?dbid=4569>

■ **Ohio Soldiers in WWI, 1917-1918**

<search.ancestry.com/search/db.aspx?dbid=7895>

■ **Ohio Soldiers, Sailors and Marines in the World War, 1917-1918** <www.usgwarchives.net/oh/military/roster>

■ **Oregon WWI Personal Service History Records**

<genealogy.state.or.us>: Choose Military from the Record Type dropdown menu.

■ **Oregon WWI Deaths** <rootsweb.ancestry.com/~orgenweb/military.html>: Use links to Army and Navy deaths.

■ **Oregon WWI Draft Registrations** <www.gfo.org/ww1>

■ **Pennsylvania WWI Service Medal Application Cards Indexes** <www.digitalarchives.state.pa.us/archive.asp?view=ArchiveIndexes&ArchiveID=6>

■ **Tennesseans in World War I** <teva.contentdm.oclc.org/cdm/landingpage/collection/p15138coll29>

■ **Tennessee WWI Gold Star Records**

<sos.tn.gov/products/tsla/tennessee-world-war-i-gold-star-records>: Use links to index and digital collections.

■ **Tennessee WWI Veterans**

<www.myheritage.com/research/collection-10138/tennessee-wwi-veterans?s=224001131>

■ **Texas, WWI records, 1917-1920**

<www.familysearch.org/search/collection/2202707>

■ **Virginia WWI History Commission Questionnaires**

<www.lva.virginia.gov/public/guides/opac/wwiqabout.htm>: To search, click WWI History Commission Questionnaires at the top of the page.

■ **Virginia Military Dead**

<www.lva.virginia.gov/public/guides/vmd/vmd_Search.asp>

■ **Washington WWI Service Statement Cards, 1917-1919**

<www.digitalarchives.wa.gov/Collections/TitleInfo/640>

■ **West Virginia Veterans Memorial**

<www.wvculture.org/history/wvmemory/wvvetmem.html>

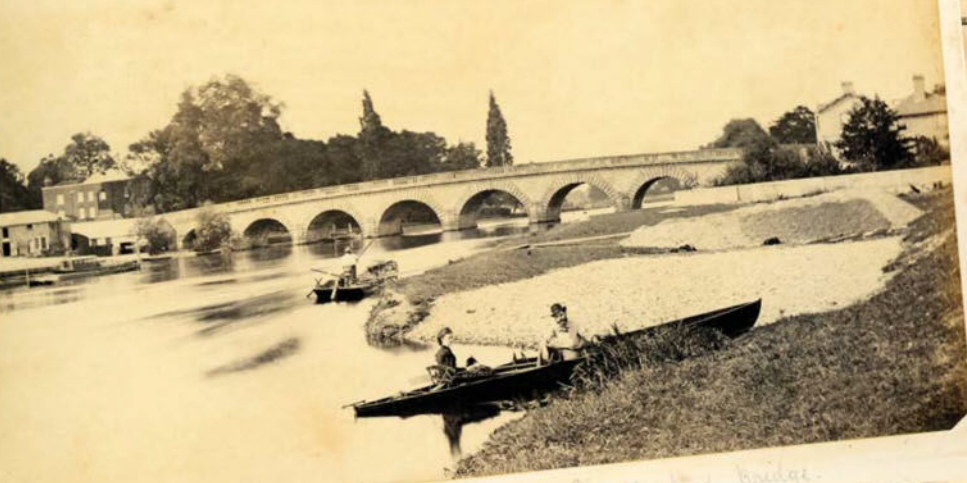
■ **Wisconsin Gold Star List** <www.accessgenealogy.com/wisconsin/wisconsin-gold-star-list.htm>

■ **Wisconsin Veterans Museum WWI Database**

(coming soon at press time) <www.wisvetsmuseum.com/researchers/genealogy/World_War_I_Database>

■ **Wyoming: Fremont County Draft Registrations**

<web.archive.org/web/20130602064518/http://gennut.home.bresnan.net:80/ww1Text.htm>



ENGLAND

English Miles.

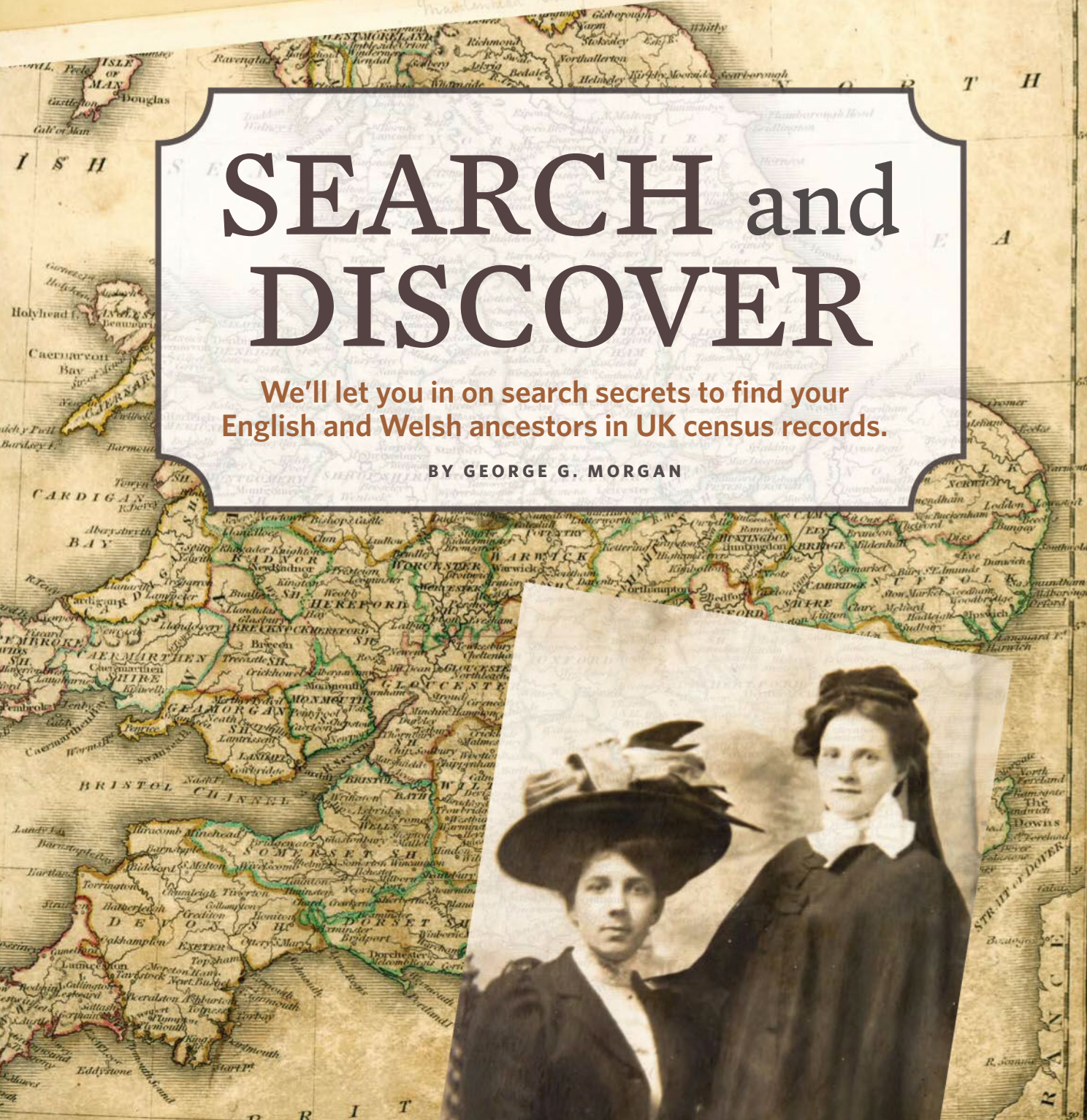
5 10 20 30 40 50

T H E

SEARCH and DISCOVER

We'll let you in on search secrets to find your English and Welsh ancestors in UK census records.

BY GEORGE G. MORGAN



🐞 **NATIONAL CENSUS RECORDS** naming UK residents, created every 10 years starting in 1841, give you a regular snapshot of your relatives in the United Kingdom. They place an individual or family in a location on a specific date, and can provide information such as names, relationships, place of birth, marital status and occupation. As for US censuses, the details recorded about each person increased over the years.

The good news is that images of census records for 1841 to 1911 are readily available online. These cover England, Wales, and the Crown dependencies of the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man (the UK countries of Scotland and Ireland participated in the censuses as well, but those countries' records aren't always in the same databases as English records, so we won't cover them here). We'll share when and how censuses were taken, their availability online, and some search strategies to help you find and understand the data on the images.

Census story

The United Kingdom has taken a census every 10 years since 1801, with the exception of 1941, when World War II kept the government preoccupied. (The 1931 census also was destroyed during the war.) The House of Commons passed an act in December 1800 to organize the census, and the first census in England and Wales was taken the night of March 10, 1801. Parliament continued to enact legislation every 10 years from 1810 to 1910 to allow each census to be taken the next year. The Census Act of 1920 eliminated the decennial legislative requirement and provided for an enumeration at any time, so long as five years had elapsed since the last census.

The 1801 through 1831 censuses were conducted at the county level; the national government didn't collect the returns. Overseers of the Poor, clergy, and other local officials served as enumerators. These censuses requested only the name of the householder, the number of families in the dwelling, and the numbers of males and females in the household. The records are therefore of limited genealogical value and in any case, most of the documents were lost or destroyed. Local county records offices may have some surviving pieces; some have been transcribed and published in books such as *Pre-1841 Censuses & Population Listings in the British Isles* by Colin R. Chapman (Genealogical Publishing).

The 1841 census was the first "modern" enumeration, organized and collected centrally under the office of the Registrar General. For the first time, the original materials were kept and stored. It also was the first census to list the names of every individual in each household or institution. The only information requested was name, age, gender, occupation, whether born in the parish where currently enumerated, or whether born in Scotland, Ireland or "foreign parts."

Ages in the 1841 UK census can be misleading, as ages 15 and older were rounded down to the nearest five years. That may explain why both parents in the Thomas Shepherd family are an even 40 years, with three 15-year-old children.

The 1841 census was the first UK census to list the names of every individual in each household or institution.

Count 'em up

It's important to note the date an enumeration was conducted and how the information was gathered and processed. Enumerators were responsible for distributing census questionnaires before the official census date to every inhabited dwelling and institution. Instructions printed on the form helped the householder understand whom to include and how to enter the information. The householder was to complete the form and name every individual who would spend the night in that place, including travelers. People who were working or traveling during that night were supposed to be included on the schedule at the house where they usually returned in the morning or at the place where they would've stopped on that night. But some night workers and travelers were inevitably omitted because of confusion over the instructions.

PLACE	HOUSEHOLD Uninhabited or Building Inhabited	NAMES of each Person who abode therein the preceding Night.	AGE and SEX		PROFESSION, TRADE, EMPLOYMENT, or of INDEPENDENT MEANS.	Where Born: Whether Born in same County, Wales, Ireland, Scotland, or Foreign Parts.
			Males	Females		
Rostrey	1	William Gornall	60		ay Lab	41
		Priscilla	50			41
	1	John Shepherd	40		Farmer	41
		Ardena	40			41
		George	15			41
		James	15			41
		Ann	15			41
		Jane	14			41
		Ellen	12			41
		John	11			41
		Thomas	9			41
		Elizabeth	6			41
		Mary	5			41
		William	4			41
		Francis	40			41
D.		Hannah Wingo	20		S. S.	41
		Richard Wingo	14		W. S.	41
	1	Alexander Gills	40		Carriage	41
		Mary	40			41

census images: © Crown Copyright Images reproduced courtesy of The National Archives, London, England and used courtesy of Findmypast.

British Census Dates

Census	1801	1811	1821	1831	1841	1851	1861	1871	1881	1891	1901	1911
Enumeration Date	March 10	May 27	May 28	May 30	June 6	March 30	April 7	April 2	April 3	April 5	March 31	April 2



The census was to be completed based on occupancy on the nights of the enumeration dates listed above. By comparing the age of a person from one census to the next, and taking into consideration the official census date, you may be able to note that a person's birthdate falls between, for example, March 30 (the 1851 census) and June 6 (the 1841 census).

Immediately following census night, the enumerator revisited each dwelling to collect the completed forms. This might require multiple trips if no one was home. The enumerator also might help householders who were illiterate or who didn't understand the instructions to complete the questionnaire. The enumerator arranged the collected forms in sequence for the district and copied the information into bound household enumeration books. Special enumeration books were prepared for hospitals, barracks, workhouses, orphanages, jails, prisons and other institutions. Beginning in 1851, special schedules covered sailing vessels.

It is these enumeration books that have been microfilmed, and later digitized, and whose images we consult today. The original 1841 through 1901 household books are deposited with the British national archives (TNA) in Kew, Richmond, Surrey, as are the 1911 household forms.

To help you understand the data recorded, refer to the extracts from enumerator instructions for the 1841 through 1901 censuses at freepages.history.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~framland/census/directions.htm.

In 1841, for example, enumerators were supposed to round the ages of those 15 years and older down to the nearest five years. Directions for one age group, for instance, stated "For

London was a bustling city of nearly 5.6 million in 1891, about when this photograph of Seven Dials, an intersection of seven streets in Covent Garden, was made.

persons aged ... 35 years and under 40 write 35." The exact age was to be recorded for those younger than 15. You can see how this might be confusing in the 1841 census image shown on page 59.

Household schedules serve as the official records for the 1911 census; the enumerators didn't copy the forms into household books that year. Instead, they created summary books listing every address, even unoccupied buildings, with the names of the heads-of-household and statistics. You can view these on Ancestry.com. This also was the first census to name military personnel overseas, some 135,000 soldiers on 288 bases and 36,000 naval personnel on 147 Royal Navy ships. Soldiers not on base on the night of April 2, 1911, were listed on the census schedule and marked absent. If a soldier was on leave in the British Isles, the census form should state whether he was in England, Wales, Scotland or Ireland. Naval crew on shore leave on the night of the census won't be listed on the ship's census return, since the instructions specify including only those on board.

Search secrets

Because the 1801 through 1831 censuses were never collected centrally, they were never microfilmed. TNA holds (and has microfilmed) the 1841 through 1901 census books and the 1911 household schedules. County record offices throughout

the UK may also hold microfilm or microfiche copies of censuses for their respective areas.

Fortunately, you don't have to fly overseas or order microfilm to find ancestors in these censuses. Digitized records are now on these familiar commercial genealogy websites, along with indexes you can search by name:

■ Ancestry.com <ancestry.com> and its British sister site Ancestry.co.uk <ancestry.co.uk>

■ Findmypast.com <www.findmypast.com>

■ MyHeritage.com <www.myheritage.com>

■ UK Census Online <www.ukcensusonline.com>

The free FamilySearch <www.familysearch.org> lets you search indexes for these censuses, but the site links you to Findmypast—where you'll need a subscription—to see the record images.

We'll use Findmypast as an example. This site, based in the United Kingdom, provides comprehensive search facilities for UK censuses, along with complete online guidance to the

content. If you don't have a subscription, see if your library offers access or visit your nearest FamilySearch Center. Then follow one of these search strategies:

■ **SEARCH ALL CENSUSES.** If you're hoping to find folks specifically in census records, skip the Findmypast home page search form because you'll probably be overwhelmed with matching records of all types. Instead, click on the Search dropdown list at the top of the home page, then on the link for Census, Land & Substitutes. On that search form, under Where, narrow your search by selecting United Kingdom. Next, look at the filters on the left side of your screen and click Census (under Census, Land & Substitutes).

You'll end up with the template to search for an individual in all the censuses, 1841 to 1911. You might start simply with the person's name. You can select name variant check boxes for First Name and/or Last Name to find records with variant spellings, misspellings and initials (the person who completed the form might have used nicknames, or a name might have

Findmypast UK Census Search

The screenshot shows the Findmypast UK Census Search form. On the left is a sidebar with 'All Categories' including 'Birth, Marriage & Death (Parish Registers)', 'Census, Land & Substitutes' (selected), 'Churches & Religion', 'Directories & Social History', 'Education & Work', 'Immigration & Travel', 'Institutes & Organizations', 'Military Service & Conflict', and 'SPECIAL COLLECTION' with 'Newspapers & Periodicals'. The main form has sections: 'WHO' (First name(s) 'Thomas', Last name 'Shepherd', both with 'Name variants' checkboxes), 'WHEN' (Year '1832', 'Give or take' range '-/+ 2yrs'), 'WHERE' (Country 'United Kingdom', Region 'Yorkshire'), 'HOUSE NUMBER' (empty), 'HOUSE NAME' (empty, with 'Browse House Name' link), 'STREET' (empty), 'OTHER HOUSEHOLD MEMBER' (Member First Name 'Ann', Member Last Name empty, both with 'Name variants' checkboxes), 'RECORD SET' (empty, with 'Browse Record set' link), and 'OPTIONAL KEYWORDS' (empty). At the bottom is a 'Search Census' button and a 'Clear search' link. Numbered callouts point to: 1. 'Name variants' checkbox for first name; 2. 'Census' category in sidebar; 3. 'Year' field; 4. 'Yorkshire' region; 5. 'House Number' field; 6. 'Ann' in 'Other Household Member' first name; 7. 'RECORD SET' field; 8. 'OPTIONAL KEYWORDS' field.

1 Check this box to find variants of the first and/or last name.

2 Type a census year here to prioritize records from that census in your search results.

3 Enter the year of your target relative's birth, adding a range to include "close" records in your results.

4 If your search for a specific place comes up empty, try using a broader jurisdiction, such as a county instead of a town.

5 Unless you're sure of the house number, house name (for example, a hotel or institution) or street, start your search with these fields blank.

6 Adding the name of someone who should appear in the same house as your relative can help narrow your results.

7 Click to choose a specific census collection to search.

8 Add an occupation, name or other keyword to prioritize results containing that word.

Page 143

The undermentioned Houses are situate within the Boundaries of the

No. of House	ROAD, STREET, &c. and No. or NAME of HOUSE	HOUSES	NAME and Surname of each Person	RELATION to Head of Family	CON- DITION	AGE of	Rank, Profession, or OCCUPATION	WHERE BORN	1. Deaf and Dumb 2. Blind 3. Imbecile or Idiot 4. Lunatic
26	Raskelf, cont.		John Kirk Raskelf	Son	Married	15	Schooler	Yorkshire	
			James Walker	Son		11	Schooler	Do	
			William Raskelf	Apprentice	Married	20	Schooler's Apprentice	Do	
			James James Thompson	Son	Married	25	Blacksmith	Do	
			Frederick Walker	Son	Grandson	2		Do	
			William Raskelf	Son	Grandson	9		Do	
27		1	Thomas Shepherd	Head	Married	39	Farmer of 25 acres employing 1 man	Do	
			Ann	Wife	Married	34		Do	
			James James	Son		9	Schooler	Do	
			Albert	Son		7	Do	Do	
			Thomas James	Son		3	Do	Do	
28		1	John Walker	Head	Widow	54	Blacksmith	Do	
			Elizabeth	Wife		10		Do	

Start your census searches broad and narrow them as needed. Thomas Shepherd and family were indexed in Raskelf, Yorkshire, in 1871, which prevented a search on Raskelf (the modern spelling) from finding their record.

been indexed incorrectly). The search results will include all matches to the name in all censuses and in all categories. You can select a census result, view a transcription of the record, or view the digital image of the actual census page.

You can always go back to the search form to change or add information to narrow your search. By adding the census year, you limit your query to only that census. Adding the

year of birth, with a range of plus or minus 0 (exact), 1, 2 or 5 years, further narrows the resulting list of matches to those of an approximate age.

Knowing the location also helps your search. Specify United Kingdom and then enter the name of the county. You could enter a more finite location but remember that you might not get a match. For example, I searched for Thomas Shepherd in Raskelf, Yorkshire, in the 1871 census, but there was no match. When I changed the location to just Yorkshire, I found him (shown above). The census page he's on has the heading Raskelf Civil Parish, the Village of Raskelf, and the Diocese of York. But notice the *e* on Raskelf. It's not typically included in modern spellings of the place, but the 1871 census index includes it. As you experiment with variations of your search terms, remember that adding more terms can increase the odds of not finding the person. Start broad and then add or change search terms one at a time.

If your "target ancestor" has a common name, try searching for someone else in the family with a more unusual name. Instead of searching for John Alexander, you might look instead for his son, Ezekial Alexander, or his daughter, Parthenia Alexander. There'll be far fewer Ezekials and Parthenias to review.

■ **NARROW TO A SPECIFIC CENSUS.** To search a specific year's census records on Findmypast, click on the Search dropdown list at the top of the home page, then on the link for A-Z of Record Sets. On the next screen, under the Showing Records From box on the left side, click on United Kingdom. Censuses are displayed near the top of the list, with entries for each of the 1841 to 1901 censuses (labeled "England, Wales & Scotland") and the 1911 census for (for "England & Wales"). Note that Findmypast provides only transcriptions for the Scotland censuses, but not digital images.

Click the link for a census to open its search form. Just as previously described, you can enter as much or as little information to facilitate your search. You'll find census-specific information and search tips below the search form.

MORE ONLINE

@ Free Web Content

- British and Irish genealogy websites <familytreemagazine.com/article/best-british-irish-genealogy-websites-2016>
- Podcast: British records on Findmypast <familytreemagazine.com/article/episode55>
- Five British genealogy tips <familytreemagazine.com/article/5-English-genealogy-tips-online>

+ For Plus Members

- Guide to English, Scottish and Welsh church records <familytreemagazine.com/article/british-intelligence-church-records>
- Welsh roots guide <familytreemagazine.com/article/researching-welsh-ancestry> Researching English ancestors <familytreemagazine.com/article/seeking-english>

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- A Genealogist's Guide to Discovering Your English Ancestors e-book <shopfamilytree.com/genealogists-guide-to-discovering-your-english-ancestors-download>
- Strategies for Tracking Down English, Scottish and Welsh Ancestors video class <shopfamilytree.com/strategies-for-tracking-down-english-scottish-and-welsh-ancestors-w8730>

CENSUS OF ENGLAND AND WALES, 1911.

Before writing on this Schedule please read the Examples and the Instructions given on the other side of the paper, as well as the headings of the Columns. The entries should be written in Ink.

The contents of the Schedule will be treated as confidential. Strict care will be taken that no information is disclosed with regard to individual persons. The returns are not to be used for proof of age, as in connection with Old Age Pensions, or for the preparation of Statistical Tables.

NAME AND SURNAME <small>of every Person, whether Member of Family, Visitor, Boarder, or Servant, who (1) passed the night of Sunday, April 2nd, 1911, in this dwelling and was alive at midnight, or (2) arrived in this dwelling on the morning of Monday, April 2nd, not having been enumerated elsewhere. No one else must be included. (The order of entries, except on back of Schedule.)</small>	RELATIONSHIP to Head of Family. <small>State whether "Head," or "Wife," "Son," "Daughter," or other Relative, "Visitor," "Boarder," or "Servant."</small>	AGE Last Birthday and SEX. <small>For Infants under one year state the age in months as "under one month," "one month," etc. Write "Single," "Married," "Widowed," or "Widow," opposite the names of all persons aged 15 years and upwards.</small>	PARTICULARS as to MARRIAGE. <small>State, for each Married Woman entered on this Schedule, the number of— Children born alive to present Marriage (If no children born alive write "None" in Column 7.) Total Children born alive. Children who have died.</small>				PROFESSION or OCCUPATION of Persons aged ten years and upwards. <small>Personal Occupation. The reply should show the precise branch of Profession, Trade, Manufacture, &c. If engaged in any Trade or Manufacture, the particular kind of work done, and the Article made or Material worked or dealt in should be clearly indicated. (See Instructions 1 to 8 and Examples on back of Schedule.)</small>				BIRTHPLACE of every person. <small>(1) If born in the United Kingdom, write the name of the County, and Town or Parish. (2) If born in any other part of the British Empire, write the name of the Dependency, Colony, &c., and of the Province or State. (3) If born in a Foreign Country, write the name of the Country. (4) If born at sea, write "At Sea." NOTE.—In the case of persons born elsewhere than in England or Wales, state whether "London" or "Visitor" in this Country.</small>				
			10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20		
1. Thomas Charles Shepherd	Head	48	Married	11	6	5	1	Farmer	100	York	York	York	York	York	York
2. Annie Shepherd	Wife	42	Married							York	York	York	York	York	York
3. Alice Shepherd	Daughter	14	Widowed							York	York	York	York	York	York
4. Thomas William Gater Shepherd	Son	8						Labourer		York	York	York	York	York	York
5. Reginald Charles Shepherd	Son	5						Labourer		York	York	York	York	York	York
6. Jane Ann Shepherd	Daughter	4								York	York	York	York	York	York
7. Margaret Shepherd	Daughter	1								York	York	York	York	York	York

■ **BROWSE BY LOCATION.** Examining all the census pages from one location might be helpful if you can't find your relative where he should be. Try to narrow the place you need by identifying where the person lived in previous and subsequent censuses, as well as in other records covering the time period. Remember that enumeration districts changed from census to census. The GENUKI website has a tool at www.ukbmd.org.uk/genuki/reg/districts to help you determine the civil registration district you need in England from 1837 to present, and in Wales between 1837 and 1996. These same districts were used to compile the decennial censuses from the years 1851 to 1911.

Start browsing by following the steps above to search one census. On the search form enter the place as the residence (you can leave the name blank). Click on a search result, view the page image and use the arrows to page through the records.

Side notes

Each UK census database offers its own search options and indexes the records differently, so it's worth searching another site when you can't find an ancestor in the first one you try. Regardless of which website you use, read the available help and information about the census collections.

Here's an example of how the site's background information is important: Remember how the records for the 1911

The 1911 Census form for Thomas Charles Shepherd is annotated with key code 100 (for "farmer") in column 10, and key code 39 ("York") in column 14, indicating York.

census are the original forms each householder completed, not the household books that enumerators copied? If the householder wasn't very literate, you can expect to find spelling errors, which were indexed in the online database as written. In addition, an individual's hard-to-read penmanship may have led names to be indexed in unexpected ways.

Two columns of particular interest in the 1911 census might have clerks' annotations of standardized key codes. Findmypast has lists of these codes, which can help you decipher the householder's answer.

■ **PERSONAL OCCUPATION:** Find a list of occupation key codes for column 10 at www.findmypast.co.uk/content/expert-1911-occupation-codes.

■ **BIRTHPLACE:** In column 14, the respondent may have written the location in a nonstandard way, making it difficult to identify on a map. For example, York may have been written as York's, or later, used as an abbreviation for Yorkshire. Birthplace key codes are listed at www.findmypast.co.uk/content/expert-1911-birthplace-codes.

UK censuses are invaluable for locating and reconstructing British families and determining exact places of birth. These clues can point you to other records, such as civil registrations, church records, land transactions, taxes, newspaper articles and more. They also can help you trace migrations, occupations and other details to extend your understanding of your ancestors' lives. ■

GEORGE G. MORGAN is a family history presenter, author of books including *How to Do Everything: Genealogy, 4th edition* (McGraw-Hill Education) and half of "The Genealogy Guys" Podcast duo genealogyguys.com.



TIP: Be sure to read the information provided below the search template titled "Learn about these records" area. These details can help you more effectively interpret the census data.



Underused and Undiscovered

Look beyond the big
genealogy websites to the
research treasures on these
29 superb sites less traveled
by family historians.

BY LESLIE ALBRECHT HUBER

🐞 **IN THE ONLINE** genealogy world, a few powerhouse websites tend to dominate the scene—namely, FamilySearch <www.familysearch.org>, Ancestry.com <ancestry.com>, MyHeritage <www.myheritage.com> and Findmypast <www.findmypast.com>. These sites have excellent marketing and offer so much family history help that you may not always think to look beyond them.

In reality, though, hundreds of not-just-for-genealogy websites can help people learn about their family history. Some of these sites have their own narrow specialties, such as the Surgeon General's tool for helping people preserve family health histories or Archaic Medial Terms, which focuses on antiquated causes of death. Others are mammoth online

enterprises: Wikipedia, Internet Archive and Flickr. (You can read more about the aforementioned sites on the following pages.) But because they aren't necessarily designed with the genealogist in mind, they don't always get the attention—or use—they deserve in the quest to grow family trees.

These less-obviously-for-genealogy sites may offer just what you need to gain an important insight or unearth a hidden gem about your family. Here we highlight 29 such websites. You can access nearly all genealogical indexes and how-to guides content on the sites below for free (we'll note any exceptions). Many will prompt you to create a free account, and some have “plus” options that require payment or paid subscriptions.

1 Archaic Medical Terms

<www.archaicmedicalterms.com>

Have you ever looked at your ancestor's cause of death and been bewildered by a term you've never heard of or a disease that means nothing to you? This site, the new incarnation of Antiquus Morbus, is the perfect tool for anyone whose ancestor's death record says he died of watery gripes, pyrexia, military fever or other obsolete medical term. Enter your term in the search box on the home page, which runs a Google search of the site.

2 ArchiveGrid

<www.archivegrid.com>

This tool from the Online Computer Library Center (the same folks who bring you WorldCat), helps you locate online finding aids to unpublished records in libraries and archives across the country. Search results link you to the finding aid on the holding institution's website, where the records may or may not be online. If not, contact the library to request a search, or see if your library can borrow the materials through interlibrary loan.

3 BillionGraves

<billiongraves.com>

Although it hasn't been around as long as Find A Grave (see page 66), BillionGraves has carved out a place for itself among online cemetery databases. The site's free app allows volunteers to take GPS-tagged photos of headstones and upload them to BillionGraves, where others can transcribe the information so *you* can search it.

4 Daughters of the American Revolution

<www.dar.org>

This organization, commonly known as the DAR, has been collecting genealogical information about Revolutionary War servicemen and their descendants for over 100 years. Search its databases for free by clicking GRS from the home page. The Genealogical Research System (GRS) databases include lineage information from DAR member applications as well as Genealogical Research Committee Reports, which include 20,000 typescript volumes of Bible records, cemetery transcriptions and more.

5 Digital History

<www.digitalhistory.uh.edu>

Anyone wanting to place US ancestors more squarely in their historical context should spend some time exploring here. Divided by historical era—each with categories covering Events, People, Images and more—Digital History allows you to read original documents, view photos, listen to music and even watch films from these eras. You also can read overviews of each period or look at a timeline of important events.

A less-obviously-for-genealogy website may offer just what you need to gain an important insight or unearth a hidden gem about your family.

6 Digital Public Library of America

<dp.la>

This site offers you a one-stop shop to search for digitized books and other resources on library websites. You can keyword-search for names, hometowns, neighborhoods, streets, ethnic groups, schools, churches, military units, businesses and other terms; or browse for materials covering dates or places of interest. Results show details about matching items and link you to the holding library for full access.

7 Epodunk

<www.epodunk.com>

You could easily sit down for a quick peek at Epodunk and not glance up again for a few hours. From the main page, look up a US town where your family lived, or visit <ca.epodunk.com> to search for Canadian places. On the town's home page, view population and other stats. With just a few clicks, get a map with local cemeteries marked, see the community's ethnic makeup, discover nearby genealogical societies and libraries, or even link to databases with vital and other records.

8 Evidence Explained

<www.evidenceexplained.com>

Elizabeth Shown Mill's book *Evidence Explained* is well known among genealogy researchers as the gold standard in documenting and citing sources for your family tree information. What many people don't realize, though, is that the accompanying website has helpful tools for your documentation journey, such as a forum full of questions about documenting quirky sources, a Q&A, and templates for some of the most common citations.



TIP: When the records you want from a website are for members only, see whether a free trial membership is available. You may be able to get all you need within the trial period.

9 Find A Grave

<www.findagrave.org>

Search over 154 million gravestone transcriptions on this free website, where individual volunteers host gravestone memorials. These may have indexed images of tombstones, transcribed obituaries and other contributions.

10 Flickr

<www.flickr.com>

Among Flickr's billions of photos are historical images from world-famous repositories such as the Smithsonian <www.flickr.com/photos/smithsonian/albums>, The British Library <www.flickr.com/photos/britishlibrary> and the Swedish National Heritage Board <www.flickr.com/photos/swedish_heritage_board>, as well as state archives and libraries across the country. Search for places your relatives lived, and you're sure to find images that bring life to their experiences.

11 Foundation for East European Family History Studies

<feefhs.org>

This organization, formerly the Federation for Eastern European Family History Societies, offers links to resources for each Eastern European country, along with a fabulous map section. This is particularly important for people tracing ancestors from this part of the world that experienced so many major boundary changes.

12 GenDisasters

<www3.gendisasters.com>

Point your mouse here if your ancestor died a tragic death. GenDisasters transcribes newspaper articles—often including names of witnesses, emergency responders and those injured or killed—on train wrecks, fires, floods, shipwrecks, plane crashes, accidents and other disasters. Browse by state, year or type of disaster. There's no name index, but you could run a Google search of the site by entering something like *site:www3.gendisasters.com "John Doe."*

13 Genealogy Calculators at Ancestor Search

<www.searchforancestors.com/utility>

Among the most unique and useful tools at Ancestor Search are the genealogy calculators. Use them to calculate a birthdate from an age at death, the relationship between two people (third cousins once removed?) or the day of the week for any date in history. These are just some of the tasks every genealogist faces at one time or another.

14 Genealogy Today

<www.genealogytoday.com>

Branch out beyond vital and census records to more unconventional ones, such as ration, railroad employee, masonic and criminal records. This site also hosts how-to articles and tips (click Getting Started). Some content here is free; most genealogy databases are available with a subscription.

Google your next favorite site

Local genealogy websites are among the best for finding family in town, cities and counties. Although we couldn't list every place-based website you should visit, we can help you find them. Model your web searches after those below, filling in the towns, cities, counties, states and even countries where your ancestors lived:

■ [CITY/COUNTY/STATE] GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY:

Geographically based society websites may host records, indexes, historical information and links to more resources for that place. Their websites are generally free to peruse. Societies charge fees to join but membership may be worth it for the helpful newsletter, lookup services, classes, research library or members-only online databases.

■ [CITY/COUNTY] PUBLIC LIBRARY: Your own local public library and the one in your ancestor's US hometown are gateways to a broad array of materials. Look for a local history and genealogy reference area with obituary collections (which may be indexed online), surname files, newspapers, school yearbooks and other unique resources. Your librarian also can help you borrow microfilm and books from *other* libraries, and you may discover free access to major genealogical, periodical or newspaper databases.

■ [STATE] ARCHIVE LIBRARY HISTORICAL SOCIETY:

Each US state runs an archive, library and/or historical society, which may have overlapping holdings or be combined into one organization. Search the organization's online directory or catalog for materials relevant to your search and to decide whether it's worth an in-person visit. Their websites may offer indexed and/or digitized vital records, historical books, photos and more.

■ [STATE/COUNTRY] DIGITAL NEWSPAPERS: Several nations now offer digitized newspaper collections, whether free or fee-based, that are national in scope, such as the US Library of Congress' Chronicling America <chroniclingamerica.loc.gov>, British Newspaper Archive <www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk> and Australia's Trove <trove.nla.gov.au>. You'll find that coverage varies by place and time period—a genealogical treasure trove may await you.

■ [COUNTRY] NATIONAL ARCHIVES: These can't-miss online destinations often dedicate tips and resources just for family history researchers. Their online collections of parish records, census records, land records, photos and other records (all these vary by archive) may make these some of the most important sites you'll visit.

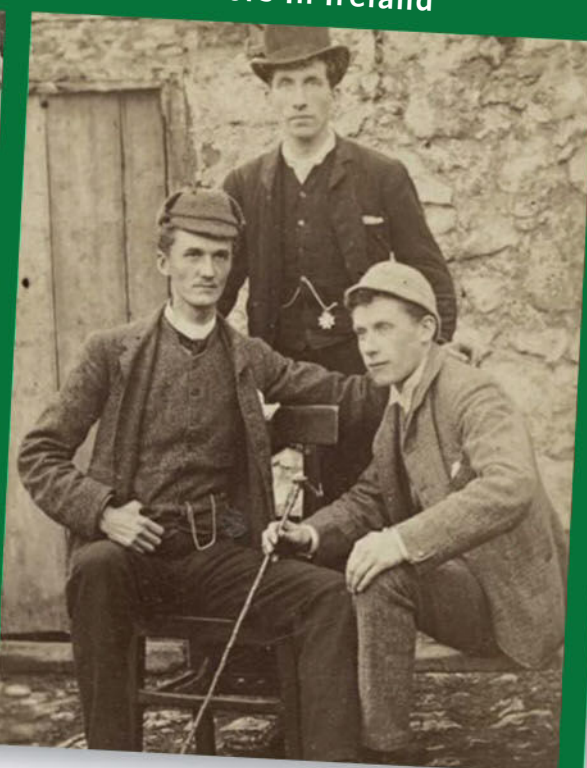
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A How-To Manual
for Tracing Your
Family Tree on the
#1 Genealogy Website



NANCY HENDRICKSON

15 GENUKI

<www.genuki.org.uk>

Researchers with UK or Irish roots will want to devote some time to poking around the in-depth research help here. This volunteer-run reference library for UK genealogical information has pages for each country, as well as a gazetteer and a database of church parishes that existed around 1837. From the country pages, you can drill down to each county and often all the way to a town for a historical overview of places your ancestors lived. You'll discover links to maps, newspaper indexes, links to local genealogical societies and more.

16 German Roots

<www.germanroots.com>

This site is invaluable for those with German ancestry, and its research how-tos are useful even if you don't. For example, the Emigration and Immigration Records section links you to emigration resources (which can reveal an immigrant's place of origin) for each state in Germany and immigration sources for dozens of US ports, complete with how-to instructions and links to records. Other sections of the site to look for: US military records, US census records, death records and about anything else you can think of.

17 Internet Archive

<archive.org>

Who says archives have to be located in buildings filled with old, crumbling papers? Internet Archive is an online, non-profit library with millions of free books, movies, software, music, websites, and other material. Try the American Libraries collections, where you'll find scanned texts from libraries across the countries that include government documents and family and local histories. Just for fun, peek at their radio and television collections and the Wayback Machine, which stores 273 billion web pages as they once were in the past.

18 The Legal Genealogist

<www.legalgenealogist.com>

Judy G. Russell's blog deserves to be called out for her unique expertise, legal background and genetic genealogy knowledge that brings new perspectives and insights to genealogy research. Posts cover genealogy websites' terms and conditions, DNA testing, and how various aspects of historical law affected the creation of our ancestors' records. This understanding can go a long way in helping you know what documents to look for and where—and what you might expect to find.

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19 My Family Health Portrait

<familyhistory.hhs.gov/FHH/html>

You know how important creating a family health history can be. So why haven't you started one? This step-by-step process, a tool provided by the Surgeon General, directs you in documenting health risks that run in your family. It also provides an easy tool for printing the information as a pedigree chart, as well as saving it so you can update it as needed. Your information isn't shared unless you want to share it.

20 National Union Catalog of Manuscript Collections

<www.loc.gov/coll/nucmc>

Although it can be confusing to use, this Library of Congress catalog is worth experimenting with. It combs catalog descriptions of original documents and manuscripts at US libraries and archives so you can search for unpublished materials related to your research (actual documents aren't online, just the catalog listing). Here's a tip: Instead of using the main search box, look under the Services for Researchers column in the middle of the page and choose Searching on OCLC WorldCat. If you find an item of interest, contact the library about ordering copies or search online to see if it's digitized at another site.

21 Olive Tree Genealogy

<www.olivetreegenealogy.com>

Over time, this genealogy website has collected a little of this and a little of that to build up the significant spread it now boasts. Browse records in categories such as Passenger Lists and Orphan Records, and consult research guides on everything from how to access specific record groups to general methodology.

22 Ravenstein Atlas Des Deutschen Reichs

<uwdc.library.wisc.edu/collections/german/ravenstein>

"Exciting" might not be how you'd describe most atlases, but Ludwig



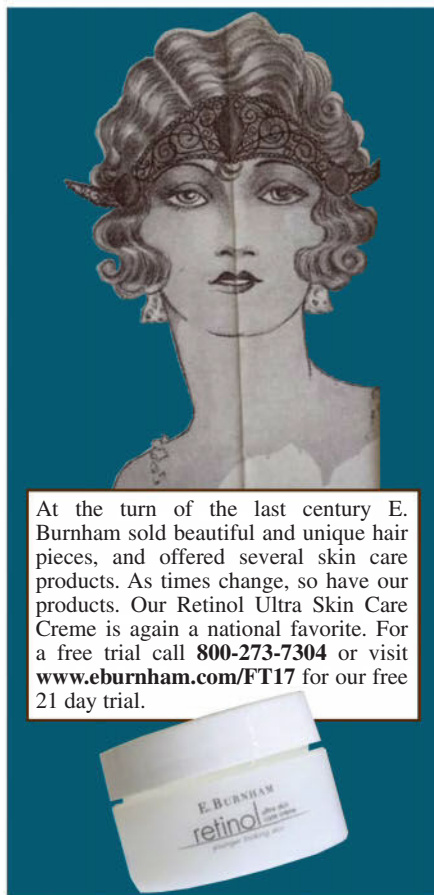
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Ravenstein's detailed 1883 atlas of the German Empire earns that designation for anyone with German ancestors. Still, it might require a little patience to use. Start with the gazetteer pages at the beginning to get a map number and quadrant in order to find the town you need.

23 Rootsweb

<rootsweb.ancestry.com>

Despite its massive size and being hosted by Ancestry.com, Rootsweb sometimes still gets swept under the rug. In addition to its research guides and indexing projects, this long-standing website is all about forming connections. Through its pages, you can link up to other researchers via mailing lists, message boards, surname lists and even through the WorldConnect Family Tree. You can also launch your own surname website here, or submit your data for others to see.

24 Civil War Soldiers and Sailors Database

<www.nps.gov/civilwar/soldiers-and-sailors-database.htm>

Hosted by the National Park Service, this database is a treasure trove of information about people who fought in the Civil War. You also can locate histories of your ancestors' regiments or search for names of prisoners of war or those buried in national cemeteries (this database is still growing).

MORE ONLINE

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- Using Internet Archive <shopfamilytree.com/reaching-into-the-internet-archive-w8719>

25 Treelines

<www.treelines.com>

Treelines is relatively new, but the company is already making a splash with its mission of turning family trees into stories. With easy-to-use tools, you can upload photos and type text that you attach to a timeline to tell your family's story (current or past). The result is fun and different, operating kind of like an interactive scrapbook.

26 USGenWeb

<www.usgenweb.org>

At more than 20 years old, USGenWeb is a pioneering website with information still relevant to anyone tracing US ancestors. Categorized by state and then by county, it gathers links and information on local topics from biographies to cemeteries to naturalizations. It's all free and volunteer-run, so the quantity and type of information varies by place.

27 VitalRec

<vitalrec.com/usmap.html>

VitalRec isn't a database of online vital records. Instead, it provides links to state, county and town records offices along with the information you need to order vital records from those places (including costs) or visit the office to get copies yourself. Note that some of the links to "Order Online" order through the Archives.com website <www.archives.com>, rather than directly from the vital records office in your place of interest. The site also has useful information on obtaining international vital records.

28 Wikipedia

<www.wikipedia.org>

Of course you've used Wikipedia. But have you used it for genealogy? If not, you're missing out. Wikipedia is the perfect place to get a quick background on about any topic—including the times and places your ancestors lived or events they were part of. When searching for information on overseas places, you might find more details on the relevant country's Wikipedia site (so, <wikipedia.de> for German towns). Use Google Translate if needed <translate.google.com>. Because Wikipedia is user-contributed, confirm important facts you learn there in more scholarly sources.

29 WorldGenWeb

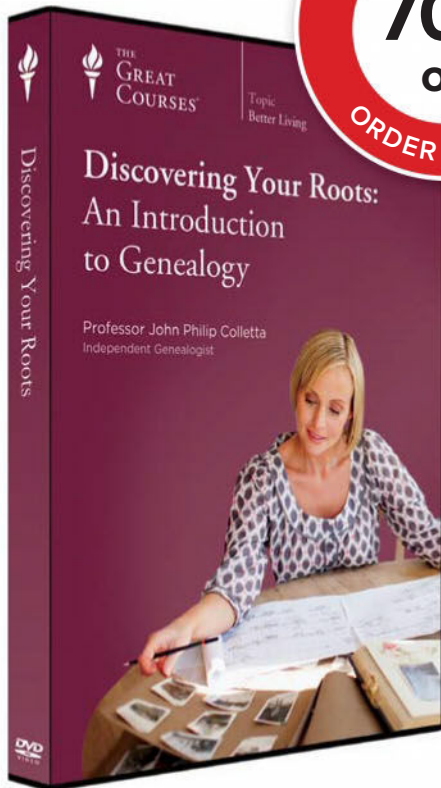
<www.worldgenweb.org>

The lofty goal behind the volunteer-run WorldGenWeb is to have a page for every country in the world. To date, most countries are covered, with sites including links, histories, research hints, maps and more. ■

Wisconsin-based **LESLIE ALBRECHT HUBER** wrote our guide to using Freedmen's Bureau Records in the January/February *Family Tree Magazine*.



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