

Free Genealogy Resources

AFRICAN-AMERICAN GENEALOGY

[AfriGeneas](#) – African-American genealogy research and online community

[Digital Library of American Slavery](#) – Provided by the University of North Carolina at Greensboro.

[The Freedmen's Bureau](#) – Records of the relief assistance to African Americans and poor whites in the south post-Civil War. Also available to search in [HeritageQuest](#) online.

[Low Country Africana – African American Genealogy in SC, GA and FL](#) – Website dedicated to African-American genealogy research of SC, GA, and FL ancestors.

[Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade Database](#) – Source of historical data on the trans-Atlantic slave trade.

[UCF Africana Heritage Project](#) – A new site is coming, but the old site is currently linked and available.

ASSORTED ONLINE RECORDS

[Allen County Public Library – Genealogy Center](#) – One of the largest American library collections of genealogy records.

Any library or historical society within the area where you are researching – Look at the library/organization's website to see what local history has been digitized and posted online. Reach out to helpful staff/society members.

[Bureau of Land Management General Land Office Records](#) – Federal land conveyance records for public land states from 1788 to the 1960's.

[Daughters of the American Revolution \(DAR\)](#) – Database of information about patriots who are ancestors of members past and present. (There is a fee for descendent applications.)

[Digital Library of Georgia](#) – Historical newspapers, ledgers and more for Georgia ancestors.

[Digital Public Library of America](#) – Large digital collection of Family Bibles, photographs, Civil War records, etc.

[Documenting the American South](#) – Resources focused on the south and its people.

[FamilySearch.org](#) – Provides free access to one of the largest record collections worldwide. Affiliate libraries and Family History Centers, such as the [Naperville Family History Center](#), offer increased access to records that have additional viewing restrictions.

[Free Ancestry.com databases](#) – List of Ancestry databases that are free, U.S. and worldwide.

[Free BMD](#) – Free access to transcriptions of Civil Registration index of birth, marriages and death for England and Wales. This is an ongoing project so check back for updates.

[Free FindMyPast Databases](#) – Includes U. S. census records and Ireland Roman Catholic Parish Records,

[Google Books](#) – Source of free books including local and family histories. Includes books that have surpassed their copyright date.

[Internet Archive](#) – A non-profit digital library offering free books, movies, software, and more. Good source of local history documents and books.

[Library of Congress](#) – Millions of books, maps, photographs and newspapers. Includes Sanborn Maps.

[Naperville Public Library](#) – Free onsite access to resources including *Ancestry Library Edition, Fold3, Chicago Tribune Historical Edition, and HeritageQuest*; with online access for Naperville Library cardholders. Free monthly genealogy education programs, and Drop-in assistance from Fox Valley Genealogical Society volunteers.

[National Archives and Records Administration – Resources for Genealogists](#) - A variety of resources for beginners interested in family history research.

[New York Public Library](#) – Over 750,000 items including maps, private family papers and photographs, with daily additions.

[Olive Tree Genealogy](#) – Free genealogy records for researchers.

[Patriot and Grave Index – SAR](#) (Sons of the American Revolution) – Database containing grave and biographical information on patriots.

[Presbyterian Historical Society](#) – Resource for Presbyterian ancestors.

[Soldiers and Sailors Database](#) – Searchable database of men serving in the Union and Confederate armies of the Civil War.

State Archive Digital Collections – For example [Illinois State Archives](#), [Library of Virginia](#)

[United States Online Historical Directories](#) – Explore historical directories by state.

[War of 1812 Pension Records - Fold3](#) – This is an ongoing project. Check back regularly for updates. This collection is a free to everyone. (The [Fold3 Naperville Library Online Resource](#) is identical to a paid Fold3 subscription).

BURIAL/CEMETERY RECORDS

[American Battle Monuments Commission](#) –200,000+ burials and memorials.

[Billion Graves](#) – Volunteer based website photographing and preserving cemeteries.

[Cemetery Census.com](#) – Free listing of cemetery surveys. Information provided by volunteers.

[FindAGrave](#) – Volunteer based (unverified) source of gravestones and burial sites.

[Interment.net](#) – Browse cemetery records by state.

[National Cemetery Administration](#) – Nation-wide veteran grave site locator.

INSTRUCTION/GUIDANCE

[About.com](#) – [Genealogy: Introduction to Genealogy](#) - Genealogy course for beginners.

[AbundantGenealogy.com](#) – Presents free and low-cost genealogy resources and education.

[Access Genealogy](#) – One of the largest directories of genealogy websites.

[Archive Lady](#) - A regular advice column by Melissa Barker, archivist at the Houston County (TN) Archives

[Are You My Cousin?](#) – Genealogist Lisa Lisson provides resources and tools for genealogy research.

[BYU Independent Study](#) – Free online courses from Brigham Young University include a number in the area of Family History/Genealogy basics and ethnic genealogy

[Cyndi's List](#) - A comprehensive, categorized & cross-referenced list of links that point you to genealogical research sites online. Includes a category for "[Free Stuff](#)".

[DearMYRTLE](#) - [DearMYRTLE You Tube channel](#) for recordings of previous live events.
<http://blog.dearmyrtle.com/>

[Evidence Explained](#) - Companion site to the reference book *Evidence Explained: Citing History Sources from Artifacts to Cyberspace*.

[FamilySearch Learning Center](#)

[FamilySearch Research Wiki](#) - A free, online genealogy and family history guide that lists websites, provides research strategies, and suggests records and resources to help you find ancestors from all over the world.

[Guild of One Name Studies](#) – Resource website to find information on surname project studies. Check for your ancestor's surname, connect with other researchers or start a study of your own.

[Linkpendium](#) - 10,000,000+ Resource directory to information on the Web about families worldwide and genealogically-relevant information about U.S. states and counties.

[Naperville Public Library](#) – Free onsite access to *Ancestry Library Edition*, *Fold3*, *Chicago Tribune Historical Edition* and *HeritageQuest*; with remote access for Naperville Library cardholders. **Free monthly genealogy education programs, and Drop-in assistance from Fox Valley Genealogical Society volunteers.**

[National Archives and Records Administration – Resources for Genealogists](#) A variety of resources for beginners interested in family history research.

[RAOGK – Random Acts of Genealogical Kindness](#) – A global volunteer organization that performs all types of tasks such as look-ups at local courthouses or taking a photograph of a tombstone. Volunteers may ask for reimbursement of their expenses (Ex. Postage), but never their time. Consider being a volunteer yourself!

[RootsWeb.com](#) – Large genealogy community.

[USGenWeb Project](#) – Volunteer based website providing online genealogy information.

MAPS

[Atlas des Deutschen Reichs](#) – Large scale maps of Prussia and bordering lands from 1883.

[Atlas of Historical County Boundaries](#) – Reveals the progression of changes in U.S. county boundaries. A similar county boundary resource is available in the Naperville Public Library's [HeritageQuest](#) database.

[Chicago Ancestors](#) – Newberry Library's Chicago interactive map to the past can be searched by address.

[David Rumsey's Historical Maps](#) – Historical map collection including maps from around the world.

[Google Maps](#) and [Google Earth](#) – Resources for visualizing where your ancestors lived.

[Library of Congress](#) – Millions of books, maps, photographs and newspapers. Includes Sanborn Maps.

NEWSPAPERS

[Chronicling America](#) – National Archives' searchable collection of historic American newspapers.

[Elephind](#) – Find free online historical newspapers.

[GenDisasters.com](#) – Newspaper articles about Train Wrecks, Fires, Floods, Shipwrecks, Plane Crashes, Accidents and other disasters. Most of these articles list the dead and injured or missing.

[Google News Archive](#) – Research historic newspapers from around the world.

[United States Online Historical Newspapers Directory](#)

ORGANIZATION

[Color-coded Genealogy Research Filing System](#)

[Cyndi's List > Organizing Your Research > Filing Systems](#)

[Digital Folder Organizing & Naming Made Easy](#) – Instructions for one option for organizing digital files, with tips for duplicating repetitive steps.

[Family Roots Organizer Color Coding System](#) – Step-by-step instructions, shopping list, and images which will help you to get your hard-copy genealogy documents organized.

[The Swedish Organizer](#) – Provides a free email course on getting organized.

PHOTOGRAPHS

[DeadFred.com](#) – Contains thousands of identified and mystery photos for genealogy enthusiasts looking for long-lost family.

[Familyoldphotos.com](#) - Free Photo Archive of over 52,000 vintage photographs. Searchable by surname.

SHIP RECORDS

[Castle Garden](#) – Passenger list search of immigrants arriving through America's first immigration center.

[Ellis Island](#) – Passenger list searches of immigrants arriving through Ellis Island as well as immigration information.

[Immigrant Ships Transcribers Guild](#)

[The Ships List](#)