

## Genealogy TV's Best 5 Places for Genealogy Research in 2021

By *Connie Knox*

All these services (accept one) have an overlap of the same records such as *U.S. Census, Social Security Death Index*, and other freely accessible records. However, all have something unique to offer and no one service has everything. Below are the Genealogy Top 5 Online Research sites for 2021 in reverse order. [VIDEO LINK](#)

### #5 WikiTree

[WikiTree.com](https://www.wikitree.com)



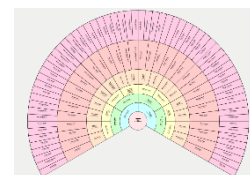
WikiTree is new on my list of “Go To” places.

WikiTree is free to everyone. No subscription will ever be charged.

WikiTree has a **world collaborative tree**, but now requires some form of evidence before adding a new person. This helps minimize mistakes in the one huge collaborative tree. The amount of detail and resources shown on WikiTree is huge and growing every day.

WikiTree does not host any records. They *do* show where the records are located on the other services within the ancestor profiles, created by users.

One of the coolest features I like is the variety of tree views. They have a ton of different ways to colorize them. However, it's not so easy to find, so here is how you get to the fan chart. You can colorize it a ton of different ways.



Go to the **MyTree** tab, drop down to **Family Tree & Tools**, scroll past the tree to a box with the tab **Genealogy Research** highlighted, down to **Fan Chart**. Then once the fan chart appears, you can change the generations at the top of the screen. You can also see a variety of settings across the top. Hover over **Colour Options**. Choose **Repeats** to show duplicated ancestors.

**WikiTree Support:** Help tab, drop down to G2G which means Genealogist to Genealogist and check out their mentorship program (also under the help tab).

Here is an episode about [How to use WikiTree](#).



[GenealogyTV.org](https://www.GenealogyTV.org)



[YouTube.com/GenealogyTV](https://www.YouTube.com/GenealogyTV)

## #4 FindMyPast

### FindMyPast.com

FindMyPast specializes in **UK and Irish records**. However, they also have records for **Australia & New Zealand**, and the **United States & Canada**.



They are becoming increasingly more popular for genealogists in the United States when searching ancestors who emigrated from the UK or Ireland. They host 8 billion records in total.

They have Birth, Marriage, Death, Church, Education, Travel & Migration, Military, Census, Land, Organizations, Newspapers, and the 1939 Register & Map.



Here is [video about how to use FindMyPast](#) in an interview with Alex Cox, produced in September 2020.



### Find All Record Sets at FindMyPast

- **Login** and go to **Search Tab**, then drop down to **All Record Sets** (right side of the box).
- Filter by country to help narrow results.
- Filter by date if needed.

**FindMyPast Support** - Available between 10:00 AM and 4:00 PM (BST – British Summer Time).

- Email Support [support@findmypast.com](mailto:support@findmypast.com)
- Phone Support 1-855-246-8234

## #3 FamilySearch

### FamilySearch.org

Own by The Church of Jesus Christ Latter Day Saints, FamilySearch is arguably a huge family history resource along with their physical Family History Libraries and associated libraries around the world.



### FamilySearch Tree

FamilySearch has 1.36 billion ancestors in one giant collaborative tree. It is their mission to preserve family history and they are very passionate about it.

### Family History Libraries

Their family history libraries are the largest family history repositories in the world.

### Records on FamilySearch.org

Most of their holdings both online and in their FHL libraries are cataloged and available to search on FamilySearch.org. They do host 14 billion records, images, and digital books online.

If you find a record or index without an image, take note of the FHL number, and seek the microfilm for it at the closest Family History Library (FHL) in your area. Not everything is imaged, but much of it was originally microfilmed and is continuing to come online every day.

### FamilySearch Wiki

The FamilySearch Wiki is one of their strongest assets. This is my first “go to” place anytime I am wondering where to find a record.



### DNA - No

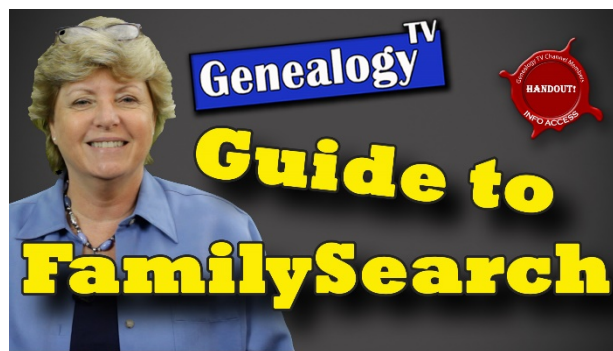
You should know that FamilySearch does not have any DNA services.

### Support for FamilySearch

[Go here for support including phone numbers worldwide.](#)

For **U.S. and Canadian Support** in English Monday-Friday 9am-5pm; Saturday 9am-2pm, closed Sunday 1-866-406-1830.

Here is the latest video about FamilySearch on Genealogy TV, called the [Guide to FamilySearch](#).



## #2 MyHeritage

MyHeritage.com



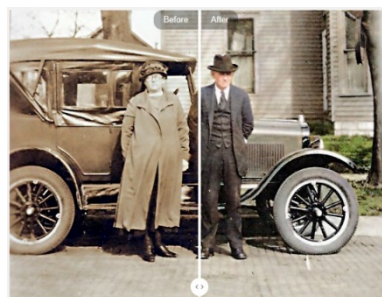
MyHeritage is not to be ignored and raises to my #2 pick this year. They have some of the best tools for genealogy research that are unmatched by anyone else. MyHeritage now has 5 billion Ancestor Profiles, 91 million users, 14.5 billion historical records, and 5.1 million DNA kits.

### Records & Profiles

Just like the other services, they have family trees, ancestor profiles, and tons of records to search. What is unique is the way they display their data, most unique DNA tools, and photo enhancements that no one else has.

### Photo Enhance & Animation

Starting with their photo enhancing tools, you can immediately repair images, remove cracks, or animate from still portrait images, with a click of the mouse.

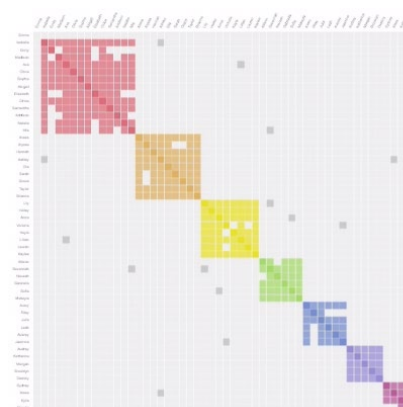


### DNA – Yes!

Two unique DNA tools that MyHeritage has is the AutoClusters and the Chromosome Browser. These tools help you to dig deeper into your DNA research.

AutoClustering helps you group your DNA cousins visually. →

The chromosome browser shows you what parts of each chromosome you share with your DNA cousins.



### MyHeritage Support

For USA Phone Support 1-844-994-1888.

For all Countries - [Phone Support](#)

Here are episodes about MyHeritage and [How to Use MyHeritage](#) and the [MyHeritage DNA](#) services, hosted by Daniel Horowitz.



## #1 Ancestry

Ancestry.com



### Records

Ancestry is my top pick for several reasons. First of the number of records they hold, at 30 billion, are easily searched from several places on across the platform.

### DNA

The fact that they have the most DNA tests worldwide at 20 million test kits.

While Ancestry's ThruLines® isn't perfect, it does show how your DNA cousins may be related to you.

### Searching for Records on Ancestry

There are several ways to search for the records of your ancestor on Ancestry. There are easy ways and smarter ways that help you dig deeper without too much effort.

#### Search Buttons

The easy ways are to use the search button while in the tree view or the ancestors profile view. These are easy and fun. There is nothing wrong with searching the easy way, but they only provide the obvious low hanging fruit. What if you still can't find the answer to your research question? That's when you turn to the Card Catalog.

#### Card Catalog

Ancestry's hint features deliver many record hints in the form of a leaf across their platform. To find ALL the records that might contain your ancestor, you'll want to search from the world-famous Card Catalog on Ancestry. Searching from the Card Catalog will deliver all records Ancestry has to offer with many filtering options to help narrow down to the record sets that might contain your ancestor.

## Ireland, Crew Lists and Shipping Agreements, 1863-1920

Match all terms exactly

**First & Middle Name(s)**

Autofill"/>

Katherine L. Havey 1849-1929

Showing people from:

**Last Name**

Exact...

**Year**

Exact +/-...

**Location**

Exact to...

**Browse this collection**

To browse this image set, select from the options below.

**Year**

**Description**

**Related data collections**



**Tip!** When searching any record set in the Card Catalog, Ancestry will have an autofill function as you begin to type your ancestor’s name (that is already in your tree). You can choose the ancestor from the list or populate the search fields manually. I recommend searching both ways, because the autofill might fill too much information into the search fields, thus narrowing your results. Sometimes less information is more results. Notice in the example above, autofill filled in two last names, her maiden and married name. In this search, I would not want her married name because she immigrated when she was single.

## Ancestry Support

Ancestry phone and text support is 9:00 AM to 11:00 PM (eastern) Monday – Sunday.

- Family History, Account, and Mobile phone support 1-800-615-6560
- DNA phone support 1-880-958-9124



Currently there are **62 episodes** about Ancestry and how to use it on Genealogy TV. Here is a playlist of all [Ancestry Tips and Tricks](#).

## Companies Compared

As of 8-10-21	Profiles/Ancestors	DNA Test/Connections	Family Trees	Records	Support	Starting Cost/Sale	Free Option
<b>Ancestry</b>	13 billion	20 million	100 million	30 billion Records Online	Chat, FAQ, Text & Phone	\$24.99 per month or \$119 for 6 Months	Yes
<b>MyHeritage</b>	5 billion	5.1 million	81 million	14.5 billion Records Online	Help Center, Searchable Knowledge Base, Phone	\$129 per year/\$89 1st Year or \$89 on Sale	Yes
<b>FamilySearch</b>	1.36 billion	None	1 World Tree	14 billion Records, Images and Digital Books Online	FS Wiki, Chat, phone worldwide	Free	Always Free
<b>FindMyPast</b>		Uses Living DNA. No. of kits not available.		8 billion	Help Hub, FAQ, Email, & Phone	\$129/Year or \$50 off Annual Rate	Yes
<b>WikiTree</b>	28 million	8.6 million	1 World Tree	No records, but links to the records wherever they are.	G2G Forums & Mentors	Free	Always Free

Note: Costs do not include DNA. Ancestry profiles are likely duplicated multiple times.