

Top Free Family History Websites for Genealogy Research

[Video Link](#)

Got to love free websites! Here are a baker's dozen U.S. websites as well as some European, Australian, and Canadian websites for free genealogy research.

United States

1. **Linkpendium**: A vast directory with over 10 million resources covering families worldwide and genealogically relevant information about U.S. states and counties. Emphasizes free resources provided by libraries, government agencies, genealogical societies, and individuals.

<http://www.linkpendium.com/>

2. **FamilySearch Wiki**: An online genealogy and family history guide offering research strategies, lists of websites, and resources to find ancestors from around the world. Contains over 90,000 Wiki articles. https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Main_Page

3. **Digital Public Library of America (DPLA)**: Provides free access to a wide range of materials including photographs, books, maps, news footage, oral histories, personal letters, and more, representing the richness and diversity of America's cultural institutions. <https://dp.la/>

4. **Cyndi's List**: A categorized and cross-referenced index to genealogical resources on the Internet, serving as a free jumping-off point for online research and a portal to genealogical collections.

<https://www.cyndislist.com/us/>

5. **FindAGrave**: A database of cemetery records and burial information, often including photos of headstones and memorials. <https://www.findagrave.com/>

6. **USGenWeb Project**: A volunteer-driven project providing free genealogical resources and information for every U.S. state and county. <https://www.usgenweb.org/>

7. **Geni**: A collaborative genealogy platform allowing users to create and share family trees, connect with relatives, and explore their ancestry. <https://www.geni.com/>



8. WorldCat: The world's largest network of library content and services, providing access to resources across various institutions' catalogs. Useful for determining the availability of books and accessing materials through interlibrary loan. <https://www.worldcat.org/>

9. The U.S. National Archives and Records Administration (NARA): NARA is the nation's record keeper. It holds vast collections of historical documents and records, including census and military service records, immigration records, land records, and more. NARA serves as a valuable resource for genealogists and researchers seeking information about their ancestors and the history of the United States. With locations across the country, as well as an extensive online presence, NARA provides access to a wealth of primary source materials essential for exploring family history and understanding the nation's past. <https://www.archives.gov/>

10. Chronicling America

Chronicling America is a website provided by the Library of Congress that offers access to digitized newspapers from across the United States. It provides a searchable database of historic newspapers published between 1789 and 1963, covering a wide range of topics and events. -

<https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/>

Bonus Websites

U.S. State Archives: This is one of my favorite resources and **should be the top of your list for the states you are researching in.** Each state archive preserves and provides access to historical records and documents from individual states across the country. These archives contain a wide range of materials, including vital records, land deeds, court records, newspapers, and government documents, all of which are invaluable resources for genealogists and researchers. State Archives serve as repositories of the collective memory of each state, offering insights into local history, culture, and society. With online databases and physical repositories, the State Archives offer convenient access to primary source materials essential for tracing family histories and understanding the development of communities and institutions within each state. Here is a link to the handout for every state archive in the U.S.

<https://genealogytv.org/product/u-s-state-archives-handout/>

Google Books: Google Books is a vast digital library offering access to millions of books from around the world. For family historians, Google Books provides valuable resources such as out-of-print publications, local histories, biographies, and other genealogically relevant materials. Researchers can search for ancestors' names, locations, or specific topics to uncover historical information and primary sources. Additionally, Google Books allows users to preview portions of books, view full-text versions if available, and access scanned images of original publications. This platform serves as a valuable tool for genealogists seeking to delve into historical literature and uncover new insights into their family's past. Google Books - <https://books.google.com/>

eBay:

eBay often has hard to find or out of print books, family histories, postcards, letters, and heirlooms. Researchers should return often and search family names and search the locations. eBay – <https://www.ebay.com/>

European Websites for Genealogy

1. **Europeana:** A digital platform that provides access to millions of digitized items from European museums, galleries, libraries, and archives. Includes photographs, artworks, manuscripts, and more. <https://www.europeana.eu/>

2. **The National Archives (UK):** Offers access to various genealogy records, including census records, military service records, and wills. <https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/>

3. **FamilySearch Europe:** The European branch of FamilySearch, offering access to genealogical records, family trees, and research guidance specific to European countries. <https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Portal:Europe>

4. **Geni:** A collaborative genealogy platform allowing users to create and share family trees, connect with relatives, and explore their ancestry. <https://www.geni.com/>

5. **Geneanet:** A European genealogy website providing access to family trees, records, and collaborative research tools. <https://en.geneanet.org/>

6. **Archives Portal Europe:** Provides access to archival material from European countries, including documents, photographs, and other historical records. <https://www.archivesportaleurope.net/>

7. **The National Archives of Ireland:** Offers access to various genealogy records, including census records, wills, and church registers. <http://www.nationalarchives.ie/>

8. **ScotlandsPeople:** Provides access to genealogical records from Scotland, including statutory registers, parish registers, and census records. <https://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/>

9. **Rijksarchief België (Belgium State Archives):** Provides access to archival material from Belgium, including civil registration records, population registers, and church records. <https://arch.arch.be/>

10. **Archives Portal Denmark:** Offers access to archival material from Denmark, including census records, church registers, and probate records. <https://www.sa.dk/ao-soegesider/da/>

Australian Websites for Genealogy

1. Trove: Trove, provided by the National Library of Australia, is a vast online repository of digitized newspapers, magazines, books, maps, and more. Genealogists can access a wealth of historical Australian content, including birth, marriage, and death notices, obituaries, shipping records, and electoral rolls. Trove's extensive collection offers valuable resources for tracing Australian ancestors and exploring the country's rich history. Trove - <https://trove.nla.gov.au/>

2. National Archives of Australia: The National Archives of Australia preserves and provides access to records of the Australian Government. Genealogists can explore a wide range of archival materials, including immigration records, military service records, land records, and government correspondence. With online databases and research guides, the National Archives offers essential resources for tracing Australian family histories. National Archives of Australia - <https://www.naa.gov.au/>

3. Australian Cemeteries Index: The Australian Cemeteries Index is a database of cemetery transcriptions and photographs from cemeteries across Australia. Genealogists can search for ancestors' burial records and gravestone inscriptions, providing valuable information for family history research. The index covers a wide range of cemeteries and can help researchers locate ancestral burial sites and uncover additional family connections. Australian Cemeteries Index - <http://austcemindex.com/>

4. FindMyPast Australia: FindMyPast Australia offers access to a variety of Australian genealogy records, including birth, marriage, and death records, electoral rolls, immigration records, and newspapers. With a focus on Australian family history research, FindMyPast provides searchable databases and record collections that can assist genealogists in tracing their Australian ancestors. FindMyPast Australia - <https://www.findmypast.com.au/>

5. Australian War Memorial: The Australian War Memorial commemorates the service and sacrifice of Australian military personnel. Genealogists can access a wealth of information about Australian service members, including service records, photographs, diaries, and official histories. The memorial's online collections provide valuable resources for researching ancestors who served in the Australian armed forces during various conflicts. Australian War Memorial - <https://www.awm.gov.au/>

Canadian Websites for Genealogy

1. Library and Archives Canada: Library and Archives Canada (LAC) is the country's national library and archives, preserving and providing access to a wide range of Canadian historical records and documents. Genealogists can explore LAC's collections, which include census records, immigration records, military service records, land grants, and more. With online databases and research guides, LAC

offers essential resources for tracing Canadian family histories. Library and Archives Canada - <https://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/>

2. Canadiana: Canadiana is a digital platform providing access to a wealth of Canadian historical documents and publications. Genealogists can search for ancestors' names, locations, or specific topics to uncover valuable resources such as newspapers, government publications, maps, and archival materials. Canadiana's extensive collection offers insights into Canadian history and culture, making it a valuable tool for family history research. Canadiana - <https://www.canadiana.ca/>

3. FamilySearch Canada: FamilySearch Canada offers access to a variety of Canadian genealogy records, including birth, marriage, and death records, census records, immigration records, and more. With a focus on Canadian family history research, FamilySearch provides searchable databases and record collections that can assist genealogists in tracing their Canadian ancestors. FamilySearch Canada - <https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Portal:Canada>

4. Canadian Gravemarkers: Canadian Gravemarkers is a database of cemetery transcriptions and photographs from cemeteries across Canada. Genealogists can search for ancestors' burial records and gravestone inscriptions, providing valuable information for family history research. The database covers a wide range of cemeteries and can help researchers locate ancestral burial sites and uncover additional family connections. Canadian Gravemarkers - <http://www.canadianheadstones.com/>

5. Canadian Museum of History: The Canadian Museum of History offers online access to a variety of historical resources related to Canadian culture and heritage. Genealogists can explore digital collections, exhibitions, and educational resources that provide insights into Canadian history, including Indigenous peoples, early settlers, and cultural traditions. The museum's online offerings serve as a valuable tool for understanding the context of Canadian family histories. Canadian Museum of History - <https://www.historymuseum.ca/>

More Resources from Genealogy TV

Genealogy TV YouTube Channel

https://www.youtube.com/@genealogytv?sub_confirmation=1

Genealogy TV Website

<https://genealogytv.org/>

North Carolina Ancestry YouTube Channel

https://www.youtube.com/@NCAncestry?sub_confirmation=1

NC Ancestry Website

<https://ncancestry.com/>

Genealogy TV Academy Information

<https://genealogytv.org/about-genealogy-tv-academy/>



Portions of this handout was created with the assistance of AI technology.