

## How to Create a Family Tree for *Free* on Ancestry.com

### [Video Link](#)

I created a free family tree on **Ancestry** where I was able to confirm ancestors **back six generations into the mid 1700's**. That's 153 ancestors (not descendants) in my tree, in just two days, for free! **This was *not* a free trial. There was no credit card required. There is no time limit. This is truly a free tree.**



The bonus to all of this is that **you have total control over your tree**. No one can change it. This is not the same as a collaborative tree. It's your tree (unless you choose to share it with someone else).

**There are limitations to a free account at Ancestry.** I'll share those limitations here too.

I'm going to show you how I did it. Follow these steps and links below.

### Create a Free GUEST Account

Again, this is not a free trial; it is a **free guest account**. There's a difference. Few people know about this option at Ancestry. [Click here to register for a free guest account.](#)

Ancestry® Account

#### Free Registered Guest Accounts

A registered guest account is a free Ancestry® account. If you've never had a membership or your membership has ended, you have a registered guest account.

Create a free account

Membership options

**Because registered guest accounts are free, there's no need to cancel them;** you will never be billed for a free registered guest account. Simply discontinue use whenever you'd like.

All Ancestry accounts require an email address, and the same email address may be used with only one Ancestry account. If you don't have an email address, or if your email address is shared and is already connected to an Ancestry account, you'll need to [create a new email address](#) to create your own Ancestry account.

As a registered guest, you can...

- Search our [free databases](#)
- [Activate a DNA kit](#)
- Access articles in the [Support Center](#)
- Create, edit, and delete family trees
- View educational videos in [Ancestry Academy™](#)
- Share trees with friends and family
- View family trees to which you're invited
- View any DNA results that have been shared with you
- Initiate messages to anyone
- Respond to messages from anyone
- Post to Ancestry Message Boards
- Read tips from our experts on the [Ancestry Blog](#)
- View your [AncestryDNA®](#) ethnicity estimate and matches (if you have a DNA test on your account)

You can add a paid subscription later if you wish.



[GenealogyTV.org](http://GenealogyTV.org)



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

## Follow the Wizard: Build a Tree with What You Know First

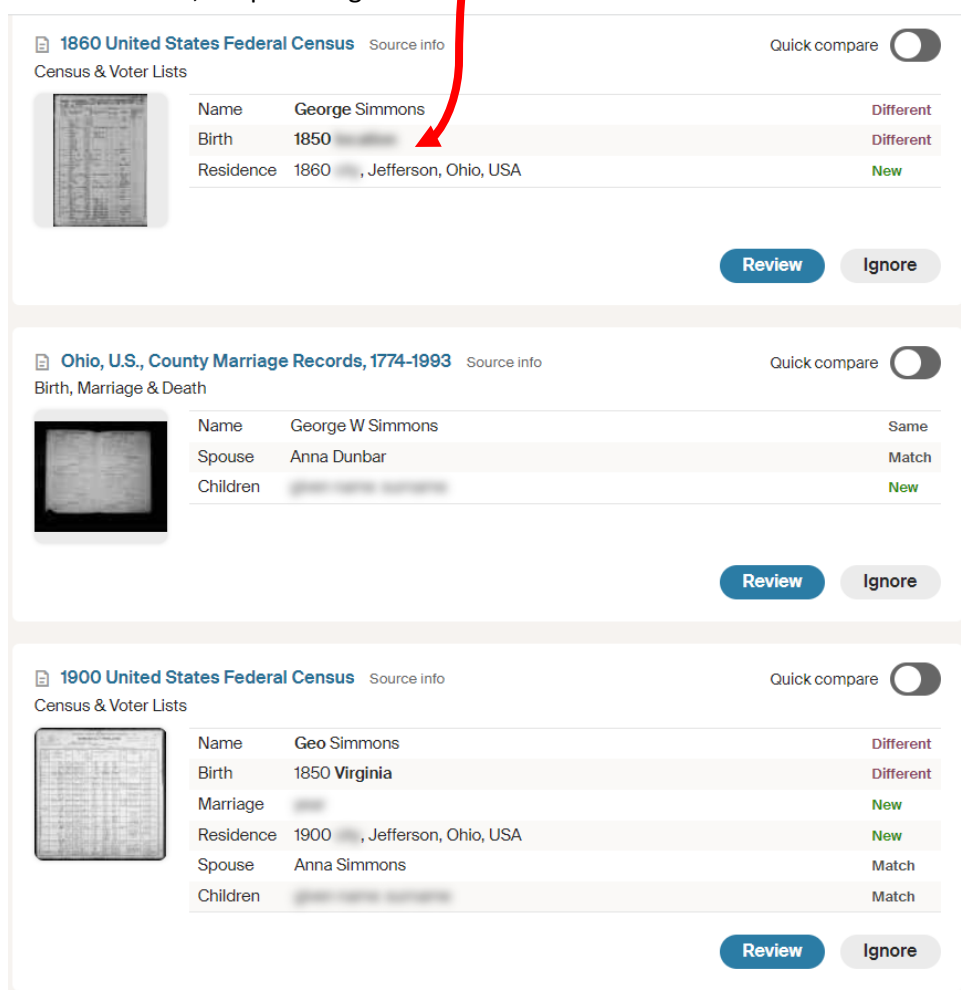
Adding a tree is simple just follow the prompts that Ancestry gives you to get started. Put all the information you know. The more you put in the Ancestry tree (than you know), the more accurate will be the hints Ancestry delivers back to you.

## What you Can and Cannot See in Hints

Ancestry is going to deliver the same hints that they would any paying subscriber. However, some record details, you will not be able to see. But looking at the hints and indexes will provide clues as to whether these are your ancestors or not. Looking at just the hint information can provide a lot of detail.

Ancestry will provide you with other **member tree hints**. However, **you will not be able to drill in and see them** without a paid subscription.

While you **can see all the hints**, a clue that **you won't be able to drill in** and see the actual record (behind the paywall) is **when portions of the data are blurred out**. No worries, we have workarounds to see some of these records, keep reading.



The screenshot shows three hint cards for George Simmons. The first card is for the 1860 United States Federal Census, showing a blurred birth date. A red arrow points to this blurred area. The second card is for Ohio, U.S., County Marriage Records, 1774-1993, showing a blurred children field. The third card is for the 1900 United States Federal Census, showing a blurred birth date and a blurred children field.

Hint Title	Field	Value	Status
1860 United States Federal Census	Name	George Simmons	Different
	Birth	1850 [blurred]	Different
	Residence	1860 [blurred], Jefferson, Ohio, USA	New
Ohio, U.S., County Marriage Records, 1774-1993	Name	George W Simmons	Same
	Spouse	Anna Dunbar	Match
	Children	[blurred]	New
1900 United States Federal Census	Name	Geo Simmons	Different
	Birth	1850 Virginia	Different
	Marriage	[blurred]	New
	Residence	1900 [blurred], Jefferson, Ohio, USA	New
	Spouse	Anna Simmons	Match
	Children	[blurred]	Match

## Records You Can Search for Free

There are thousands of records you can research for free on Ancestry. [Go here](#) and scroll down to see them all.

## U.S. States & Indexes

There are indexes from at least 39 U.S. states and territories. I counted them!

There are hundreds of records and free indexes, they often provide plenty of information to determine if they are your ancestors from all around the world.

You can see a full list of free records and indexes by going [here](#) and then scroll down.

## Full Access to Major U.S. Record Sets and Resources

- 1850 U.S. Federal Census
- 1850 U.S. Federal Slave Schedules
- 1860 U.S. Federal Slave Schedules
- 1880 U.S. Federal Census
- 1940 U.S. Federal Census
- 1950 U.S. Federal Census
- Find-A-Grave
- Geneanet

## Categories Include

Some are indexes and may be limited by location or era.

Military, Vital Records (birth, marriage, and death), Jewish & Holocaust, Immigration & Passports, Civil War, Spanish American War, Histories and Postcards, Directories, Enslaved records, Mayflower, National Archives records, Cemetery records, Biographies, Quaker Indexes, and the list goes on.

### Included data collections:

10,000 Vital Records of Central New York, 1813-1850	FREE INDEX
10,000 Vital Records of Eastern New York, 1777-1834	FREE INDEX
10,000 Vital Records of Western New York, 1809-1850	FREE INDEX
1770-1790 Census of the Cumberland Settlements	FREE INDEX
1787 Denmark Census	FREE
1801 Denmark Census	FREE
1834 Denmark Census	FREE
1840 Denmark Census	FREE
1845 Denmark Census	FREE
1850 Denmark Census	FREE
1850 U.S. Federal Census - Slave Schedules	FREE
1855 Denmark Census	FREE
1860 Denmark Census	FREE
1860 U.S. Federal Census - Slave Schedules	FREE
1864 Census for Re-Organizing the Georgia Militia	FREE INDEX
1880 Denmark Census	FREE
1880 United States Federal Census	FREE
1881 Channel Islands Census	FREE INDEX
1881 England Census	FREE INDEX
1881 Isle of Man Census	FREE INDEX
1881 Wales Census	FREE INDEX
1890 Denmark Census	FREE
1891 New South Wales, Australia Census	FREE INDEX
1901 Denmark Census	FREE
1901 New South Wales, Australia Census	FREE INDEX
1930 Mexico National Census	FREE
1940 United States Federal Census	FREE
1950 United States Federal Census	FREE UPDATED
A Huguenot family in the XVI century : the memoirs of Philippe de Mornay, sieur du Plessis Marly	FREE
A List of Emigrants from England to America, 1682-1692, 1718-1759	FREE INDEX
A history and lineage of descendents of a Scottish family by the name of Sinclair	FREE
Aberystwyth, Wales, Indexes to Crew Lists, 1850-1914	FREE NEW
Abraham Lincoln Papers	FREE
Adams County Colorado, U.S. Marriage License Index, 1960-2010	FREE

## Free Country Indexes or Records

There are thousands of free-to-search records from around the world, too many to name. Many of them are indexes with enough information for you to confirm your family.

Some of the indexes include (in no particular order) are: **Denmark, Wales, England, Australia, France, Germany, Russia, Austria, Belarus, Belgium, Brazil, Moldova, Scotland, Romania, Hungary, Ireland, Canada, Israel, Italy, Poland, Lithuania, Netherlands, New Zealand, Tasmania, Ukraine, Iceland, Portugal, Slovakia and Switzerland....** just to name a few. There are many more.

## Chasing Hints

Chasing hints from any ancestor's profile, you can see thumbnails of many of the records and member added images along with some details. You will need a paid subscription to drill in and see them closer, but at least there is a hint of what is there. You might find it somewhere else, like Find-A-Grave, FamilySearch, Geneanet, National, State, and Local Archives, etc.

**Headstone**  
Member photo  
Date submitted: 4/22/2012  
Submitted by: [Redacted]  
Attached to: George W SIMMONS  
Birth: 1852  
Death: 24 July 1928  
View Ignore

**George Simmons**  
Member photo  
Date submitted: 5/25/2019  
Submitted by: [Redacted]  
Attached to: George Washington Simmons  
Birth: July 1850  
Death: 24 Jul 1928  
View Ignore

## Find-A-Grave

If you find a reference to a record on Ancestry to Find-A-Grave, you often can't click through... but you can go to [Find-A-Grave.com](https://www.findagrave.com) and search for the same information you found on Ancestry. *Find-A-Grave is free to use.*

## Searching Member Trees or Not!

This information is useful should you decide to start a free trial, and that is connecting with other members who are researching the same ancestors. While you can search for other member trees and see some details, contacting other members is not allowed with the free guest account.

Ancestry says you can "initiate a message" to anyone on their platform under the free guest account, it can't be done by searching the members or from the Member Connect page, I tried.

**Member Connect for George W Simmons**  
Recent Activity Connections Suggested Connections

3 possible connections researching George W Simmons.

Upgrade to a paid Ancestry membership and stay current with everything being discovered about George W Simmons. Learn about other members researching George W Simmons, see the research they've done and find out the moment they make new discoveries.  
[View subscription options now](#)

George Washington Simmons

Name	George Washington Simmons	15 Sources
Alternates	George Simmons	1 Source
	G W Simmons	1 Source
	G W Simmons	1 Source
Birth	date in 1850 in Wheeling, Ohio, West Virginia, USA	11 Sources
Death	date in 1928 in Lake City, Columbia, Florida, USA	4 Sources

George Washington Simmons has 10 more timeline events, 18 records, and 33 photos

## Searching Public and Private Trees

Below are two options for researching public and private trees. This may provide clues, but ultimately you will need a paid subscription if you wish to contact other members.

With your free guest account...

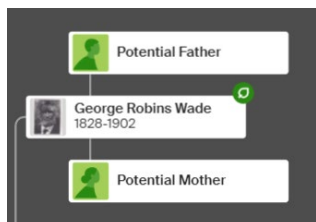
You can search other member PUBLIC trees by:

- Search Tab
- *Public* Member Trees
- Search for a specific ancestor
- Then View All will give some details but there is no way to contact the public member.

You can search other members PRIVATE trees for free:

- Search Tab
- Public Member Trees
- On the right side there is a link to searching *PRIVATE* trees. Click Private Trees
- Search for your ancestor.
- In the results, there is a “Contact the Tree Owner” link, but it does not work for free guest accounts.

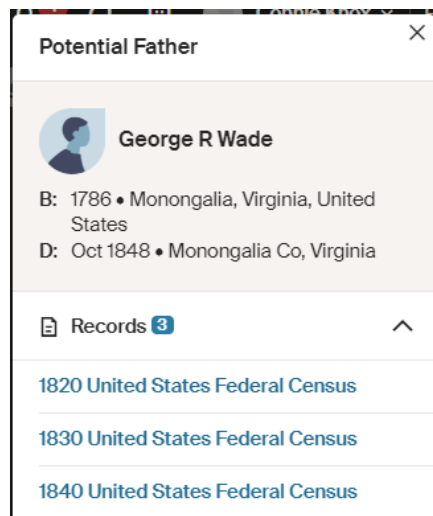
## Potential Ancestors



Ancestry will provide you with potential ancestor hints. In some cases, it will show you what the records are, but they may not be part of the free records you can search.

A strategy would be to go to FamilySearch and look for those same records.

If you can find the records elsewhere, you can verify the family connects and feel confident in adding the Potential Ancestor to your Ancestry tree.





**Tip:** Use the **Weblink Source** to add a hyperlink to the records you find on FamilySearch or other locations. On Ancestry in the ancestor profile view, in the center Source column, click on Add+ then Weblink. Copy the URL from the other source and put it into the weblink field, name and save. At the bottom of the Source column, you'll see the weblink you just added.

## FamilySearch

On FamilySearch you have access to all the U.S. Census records as well as many of the vital records for free. Use FamilySearch as another free research tool for more records and hints.

## More Strategies

### Your "Go To" Tree

No matter where you put your family tree, decide the one place where your "go to" tree is located. Use that as your main tree where everything resides.

### Start a Free Trial

You might find your research is at a point where you want to turn on a Free Trial to get as much as you can that is behind the paywall. Here is an affiliate link for a [14 Free Trial](#) if you wish to start an account.

### Canceling a Free Trial

To cancel a Free Trial (not a free guest account) [go here](#).

### AncestryDNA

If you have taken or are thinking of taking a DNA test, a free guest account is part of the DNA kit cost. [Here is an affiliate link, should you wish to take a DNA test.](#)