

## Secret Gems on Ancestry

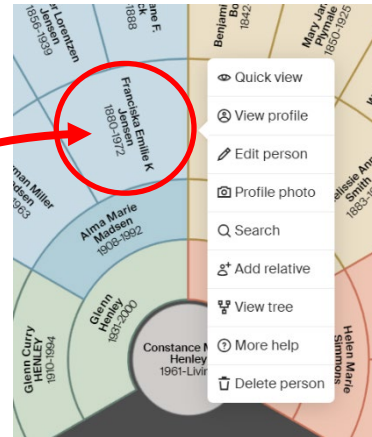
### [Video Link](#)

Over the years Ancestry has made some significant updates. Along the way some of our favorite tools have been buried as well as some new tools may be hard to find. Here are seven secret hidden gems you may want to know about for your family history research.

### Right Click Menus (Tree View)

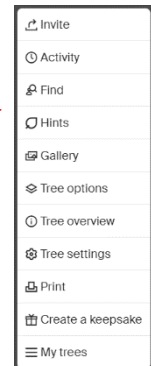
#### Right Click a Person

It is simple, yet often overlooked. Ancestry recently added a right-click menu within the newest tree views. Of these options, View Tree takes you not to the Home Person (typically you) but centers the tree around the person over which you right clicked making them the focus person. Notice the path at the bottom of the screen. Use this to jump back quickly to the previous person you viewed.



#### Right Click in a Blank Space

If you notice, right clicking over a blank space in the tree view gives you a different menu than if you were to right click over a person. Use these menus to quickly navigate to various platform resources on the tree.



## Message Boards

While the message boards are not as popular as they used to be, they may contain valuable information and might another place to search. You can search any key words that you think fit your research question. Use surnames, locations, and subjects to narrow the results. You can use all three (**surname**, **location**, and **subject**). For example, I searched for Henley's in Randolph County, North Carolina, Quakers.

### Search the Boards

Names or keywords


[Advanced Search](#)

### How to Find the Message Boards

From the **Tree view**, **right click over any person** (not blank space), click **More Help**, in the side panel click **Ancestry Community**, under the collaboration column at the bottom is **Message Boards**. Search by subject, location, and or surname.

From the Message Board page, if you scroll down you can filter by categories too.



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



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

**Explore** (from Ancestors profile) **Use with caution.** This gives context to what was happening during your ancestor's life and also provides a feed of media that members have uploaded that have similar or matching data as your ancestor. I say "Use with Caution" because this feed can be misleading. Do not be confused thinking this is specifically about your ancestor.

## Explore BETA

Explore the times your ancestors lived in from the **Ancestry community**

New York, New York, USA  
1882

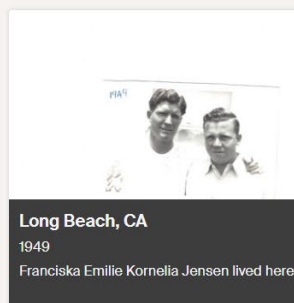
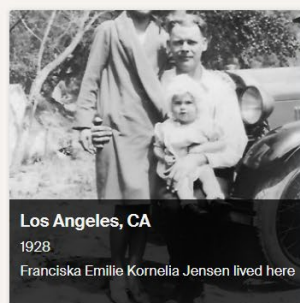
Kolding, Vejle, Denmark  
1880

Inglewood, Los Angeles, Calif...  
1972

Long Beach, Los Angeles, Cal...  
1972

Laramie,  
18

### Media from 1875-1977



## Ask Ancestry AI

In the Ancestors Profile, in Life Story tab is a new feature. This can be fun. In your ancestor's timeline you may see a beta feature called **Ask Ancestry AI**. Clicking on this AI feature will pull up some AI generated information that may shed light on your ancestor's life.

Clicking on the **Ask Ancestry AI** button will bring up a **side panel with further details**.

Note that this information is created from information found on the internet. Thus, its accuracy may need to be verified. Unfortunately, the one problem with Artificial Intelligence is it is not intelligent enough to cite its sources.

17 AUG 1880

**Birth** Edit

17 Aug 1880 • Kolding, Vejle, Denmark

**BETA** What was Kolding, Vejle, Denmark like when Franciska Emilie was born? 🔍 Ask Ancestry AI

**Ancestry AI** BETA ×

Powered by artificial intelligence

**What was Kolding, Vejle, Denmark like when Franciska Emilie was born?**

**Introduction:**

In 1880, Kolding and Vejle were vibrant towns located in Denmark. These towns were known for their rich history, picturesque landscapes, and bustling industries. Let's explore what life was like in Kolding and Vejle during this time period.

- Economic and Industrial Growth:**  
Kolding and Vejle experienced significant economic growth in the late 19th century. The towns were known for their thriving textile industries, with numerous factories producing fabrics and clothing. This industrial boom brought employment opportunities and attracted workers from various backgrounds, contributing to the towns' cultural diversity.
- Cultural and Social Life:**  
In 1880, Kolding and Vejle were centers of cultural and social activities. The towns boasted theaters, music halls, and art galleries, providing entertainment for

## Free Charts & Forms

Most of these are an “old-school” way of doing genealogy. Why get these? They are a great way to help you read the headers on the columns of census records.

They are great for emailing your family to get them to fill in the blanks or take some to your next family reunion.

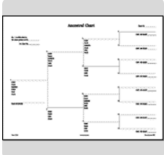
There are lots of free forms on this page. These are printable pdf version of **pedigree charts, family group sheets, research templates** and more. To find them go to the ? icon in the upper right corner of the Ancestry screen. Click **Support Center, type “Charts and Forms”** in the search box. The first result will lead you to a list of forms as well as census forms. .

### Charts and Forms

#### Ancestral Chart

An ancestor chart records the ancestors from whom you directly descend--those for whom you intend to compile a complete and correct family unit. It shows at a glance the progress you have made towards this goal and what remains to be done.

[Download Form](#)



#### Census Forms

**US Census Forms**  
Allows you to read column headings and record information from the US Census.


**UK Census Forms**  
Allows you to read column headings and record information from the UK Census.

**Canadian Census Forms**  
Allows you to read column headings and record information from the Canadian Census.

#### Research Calendar

The research calendar gives an account of every record source you have searched and serves as a reminder of what you have already done and where you have found pertinent information.

[Download Form](#)



#### Research Extract

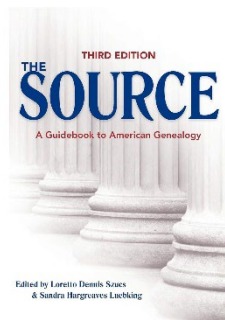
You must have Acrobat Reader installed on your computer to view these forms.

If you do not have Acrobat Reader installed you can [download it for free now.](#)

Here is a link to take you directly to the [charts and forms page](#). You will need a PDF reader to download these. Here is a [link to a free Adobe reader](#).

## Two Major Books Online for Free

These were two of the gold standard books for learning genealogy research before the advent of Google, Ancestry, or the FamilySearch Wiki was created. They still are a valuable resource with two different purposes.

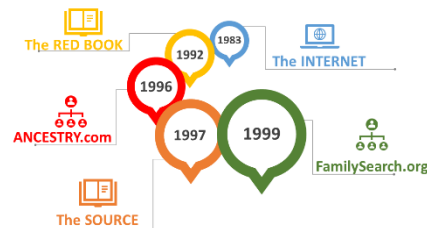


### The Source Book

The Source Book originally written in 1997 is [digitized and available on Ancestry.com](#).

The Source book is organized by record type and subjects.

To purchase a hardcover copy is available here [The Source on Amazon](#) (affiliate link)



## The Red Book

The Red Book was originally published in 1992 and is full various record resources organized by location in the United States. The 2004 edition of the [here on Ancestry](#).

[The 2004 revision is available in print and Kindle versions on Amazon](#) (affiliate link)

