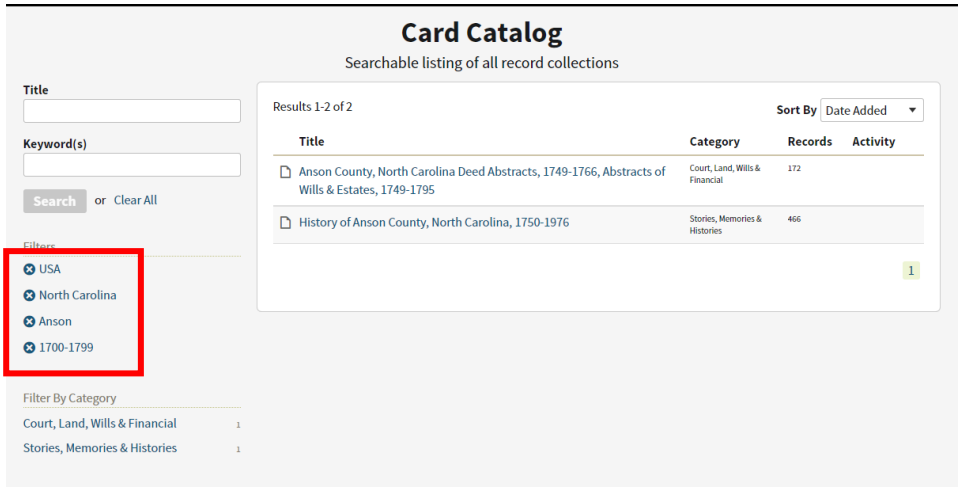
Five Hidden Tools on Ancestry

Here are some of the tools often missed by genealogist but are often overlooked.

Link to the video: https://youtu.be/t99DXctd3wg

1. Search Private Trees – Anyone can search for private trees, but you will not be able to see inside the trees until you get permission from the tree owner.
    - Go to search> Public Member Trees> Private Trees (Right side column)>
    - Search the Ancestors Name.
    - Contact the Tree owner for the results that look promising by clicking on "Contact Tree Owner."
2. Search Card Catalog by Location and Era – Most start their search from the ancestor's search screen. To find additional record and results, start your search from the Card Catalog and then drill down by location and era.
    - From the home page, click on Search tab (top of the screen).
    - Drop down to Card Catalog
    - In the left side column, scroll down to the country you are researching, then the state or province.
    - Choose a decade or century in which you are researching.
    - The results will be a list of records that Ancestry has for that location and era.
    - Note the number of results at the top of the page. You may need to drill down further to the county or town in which you are researching. However, do not forget that your ancestor might be listed in statewide records, so filtering to the county level may filter out possible records.
    - You can also sort by record count to review the record sets that have the most records to help increase your odds of finding your ancestor.
    - Example Shown: You would then pick the record sets you wish to research and search by the ancestor name, using all spelling variations.
    - Use X to remove filter.



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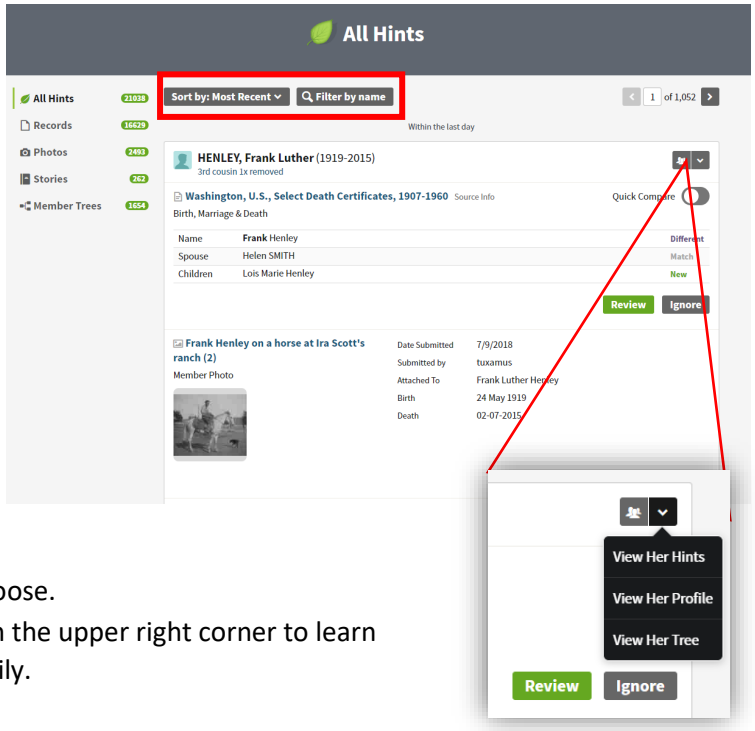
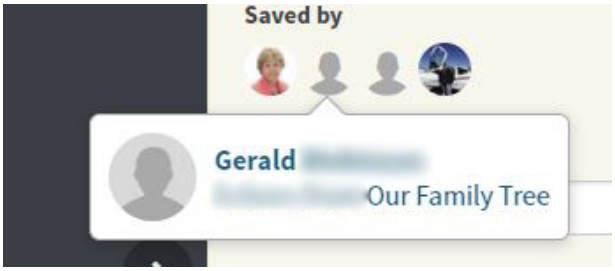
3. All Hints – Using the All Hints feature you can then search by ancestor.
    - Click the Leaf icon in the upper right corner on almost any page.
    - At the bottom of the list click "See all recent hints in…"
    - Choose a tree if you have more than one.
    - Note how many hints in this view.
    - Choose "Filter by Name" and search your target ancestor.
    - Add sort by Last Name if you choose.
    - Also see the dropdown arrow on the upper right corner to learn more about a specific hint's family.



4. See Who Saved Your Images and Documents – Great way to connect!

When you upload documents and images to your public tree, others can see and save your contributions to the world. By looking at who has saved your documents and images in your family tree, it is a great way to find other persons researching the same family lines.

- Go to the profile view of your ancestor.
- Click on Gallery
- Choose an image or document you have uploaded.
- Look at the "Saved by" area.
- Click on the circles to see who saved your images.
- You can contact them directly to collaborate on the family history by clicking on their name.



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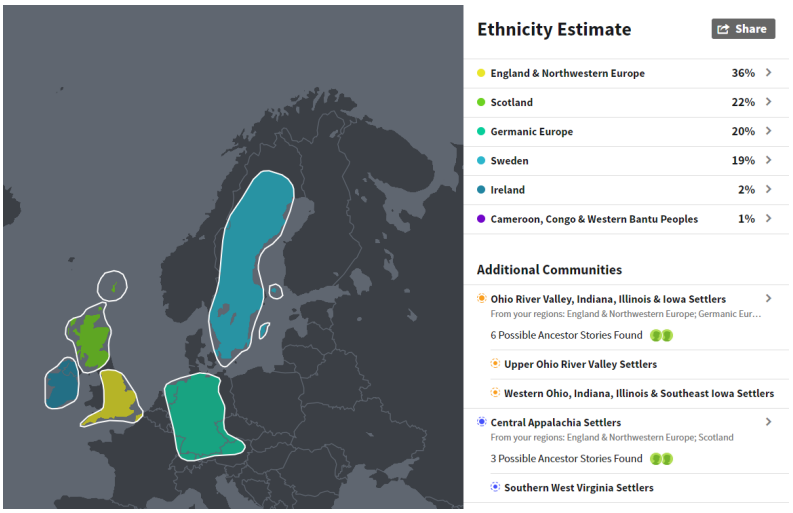
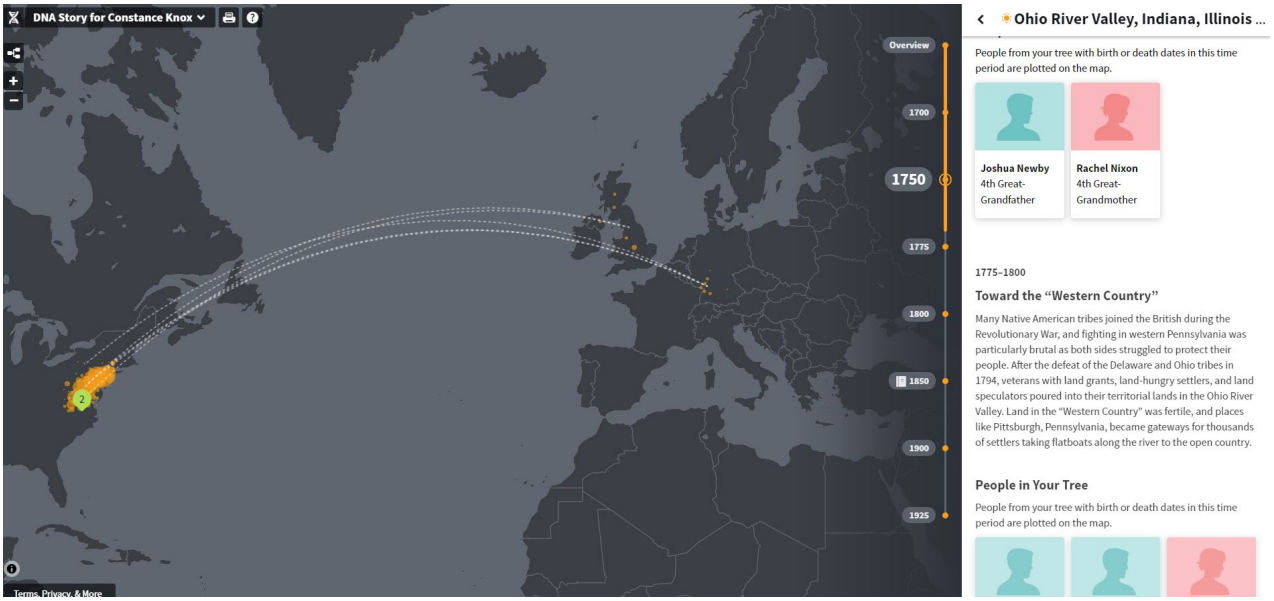
5. Ethnicity Estimates – Additional Communities gives you a migration timeline.
    - Click on DNA Tab>Your DNA Results
    - Click on “Discover Your DNA Story” button in the DNA Story box.
    - On the right-side box labeled Ethnicity Estimate, look for Additional Communities (if available).
    - Click on one of the Additional Communities and a timeline will appear.
    - As you scroll down in the right-side column, the map view will change and animate. Watch the timeline grow with the information in the right-side column.





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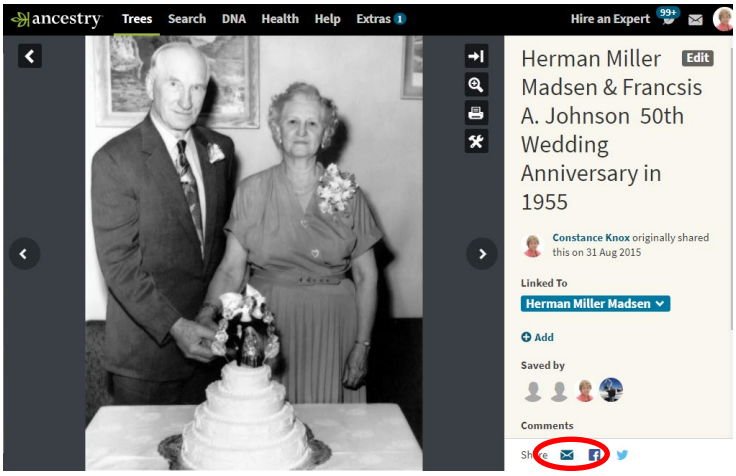
Ancestry's New Features
April-May 2021

Rolling out in April and May 2021 there are several new features and improvements to the Ancestry platform. Below they are the Ancestry new features discussed in this episode on Genealogy TV.

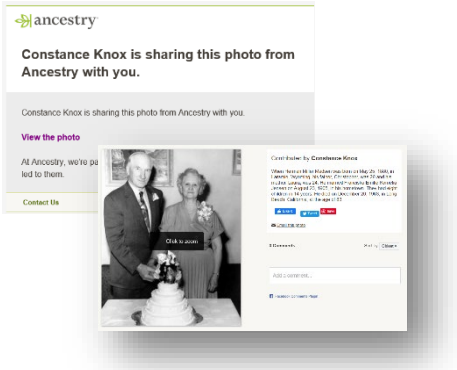
Ancestry Messaging System

Ancestry has been aware for years that they have issues with their messaging system, primarily with speed. However, they did report recently that they are working on bug fixes, response rate, and the monthly update.

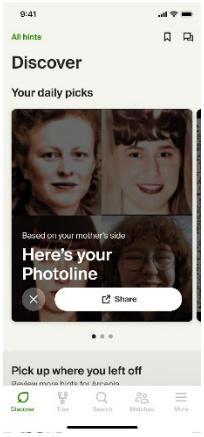
Sending Photos via Email



Ancestry allows you to attach a photo to a message, but with two criteria. One is that it must be of a deceased person. Two, it must have been uploaded to the gallery on that ancestor's profile on Ancestry.com. Simply go to the gallery,



select a photo and at the bottom, click share to an email address. This does not work for documents, just photos.



PhotoLine

Coming soon (possibly May 2021) for mobile app users only. You will be able to compare your own photo to that of your ancestors. Here you can compare yourself with your parent or grandparent of the same sex. Therefore, if you are female, you can compare your image to that of your mother or grandmother.

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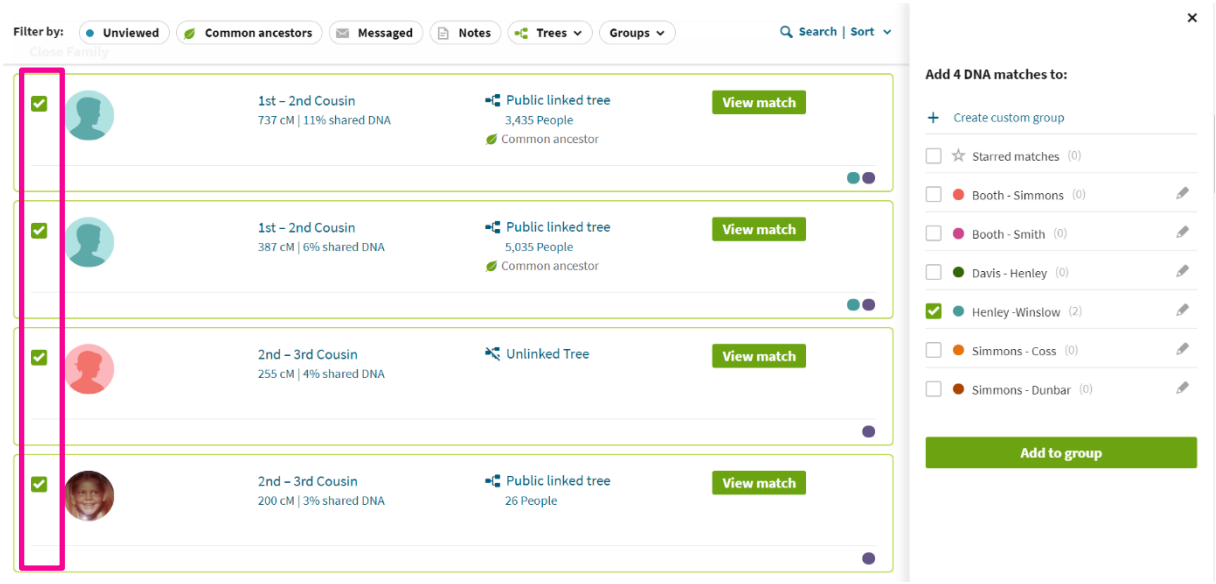
DNA Matches

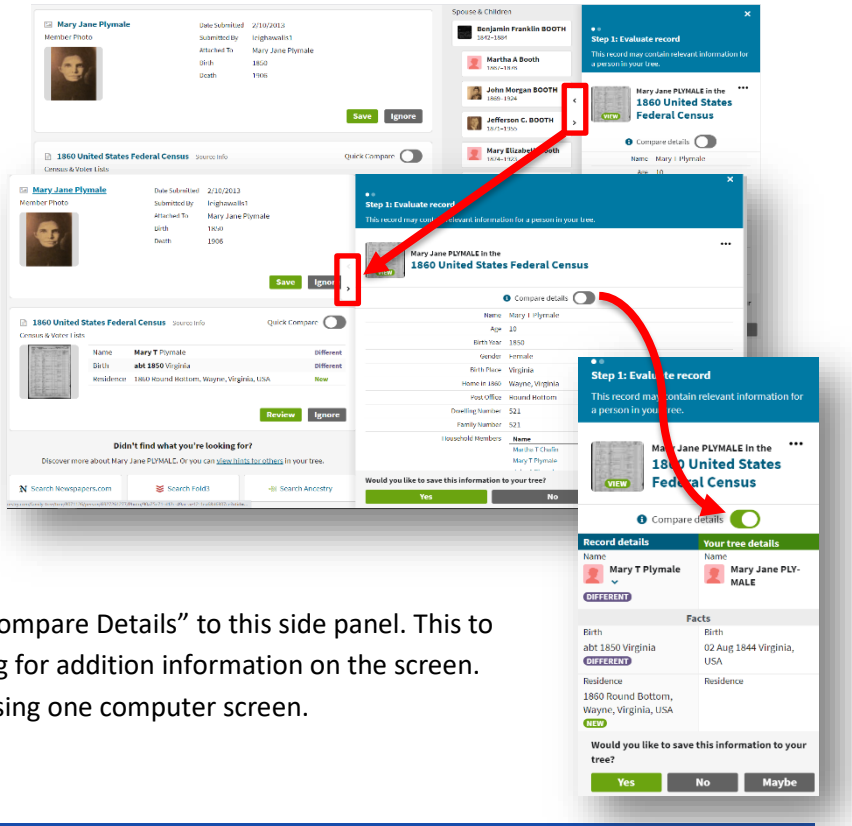
Ancestry has rolled out a new feature that allows for a faster workflow when grouping DNA Matches.



When Grouping your DNA matches, Ancestry has added the ability to bulk your groups without having to edit each individual match. Now you can click the pencil icon on the right side of any cousin match, click "Add to Group" and check multiple cousins at one time to add them to a specific group. See this video more on [Grouping your DNA Cousin Matches on Ancestry]().

Hinting

Ancestry has been working hard to improve the hinting features. The side panel has been a huge improvement. The goal for Ancestry is to help us evaluate the evidence instead of just automatically importing it. As such, they have added a side panel recently and now have added a resizing function of that panel. Clicking the arrows (shown in the red box) allows for expansion of the side panel.



Additionally, Ancestry has added the "Compare Details" to this side panel. This to can be expanded on contracted allowing for addition information on the screen. This is especially helpful for members using one computer screen.

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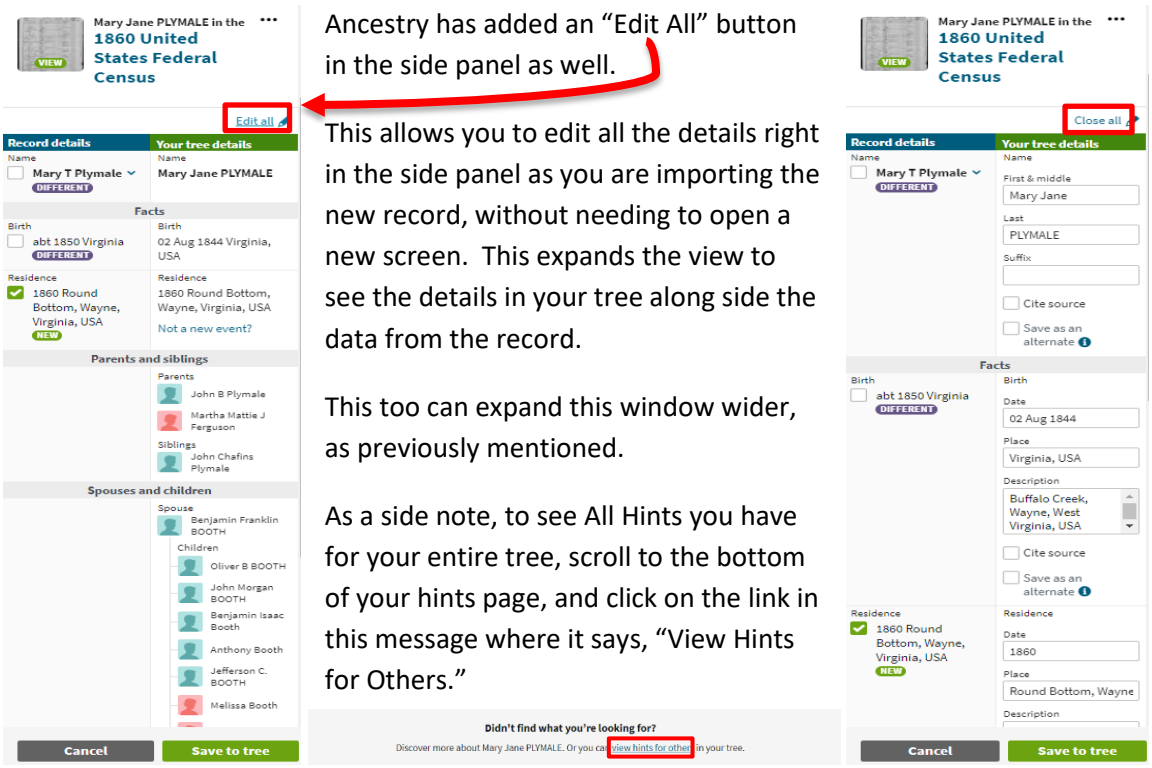


Ancestry has added an "Edit All" button in the side panel as well.

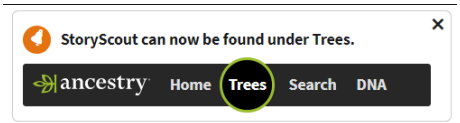
This allows you to edit all the details right in the side panel as you are importing the new record, without needing to open a new screen. This expands the view to see the details in your tree along side the data from the record.

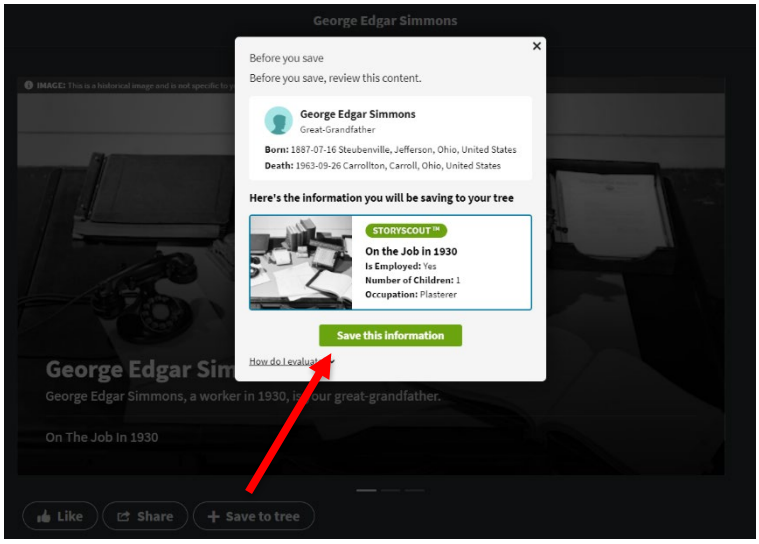
This too can expand this window wider, as previously mentioned.

As a side note, to see All Hints you have for your entire tree, scroll to the bottom of your hints page, and click on the link in this message where it says, "View Hints for Others."

StoryScout™

Now moved under the Trees tab. StoryScout™ is now available in the UK, Australia/New Zealand. It is due to launch in Canada in 2021. Ancestry plans to add more geographic areas in 2022.





For all who have current access to StoryScout™, a new feature has been added to allow you to add stories from StoryScout™ directly into your ancestor's profile.

StoryScout™ has a new feature where you can save a StoryScout™ story directly to the ancestor in your tree.

Clicking the "Save this information" button will send it directly into the timeline of your ancestor's profile in both the Facts and Life Story area.

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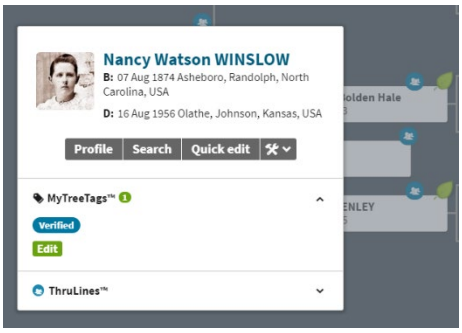
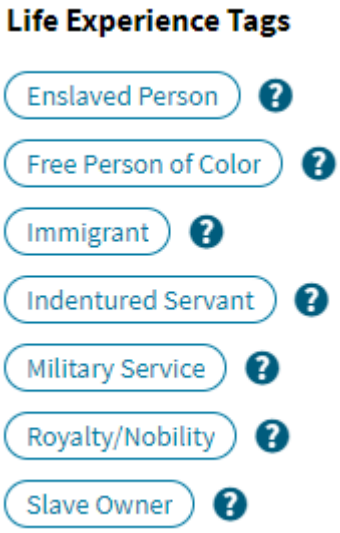
New MyTreeTags™

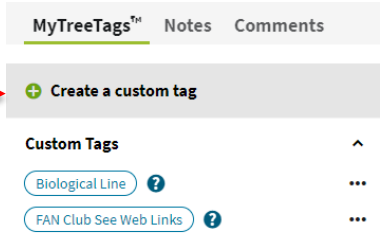
Ancestry has added a section of Tree Tags called Life Experience Tags to help note enslaved, slave owners, military service, royalty and more.



To open MyTreeTags, click on the pencil icon under the ancestors name (in the Profile View or from the Tree View) click on the person, then edit from the mini menu.

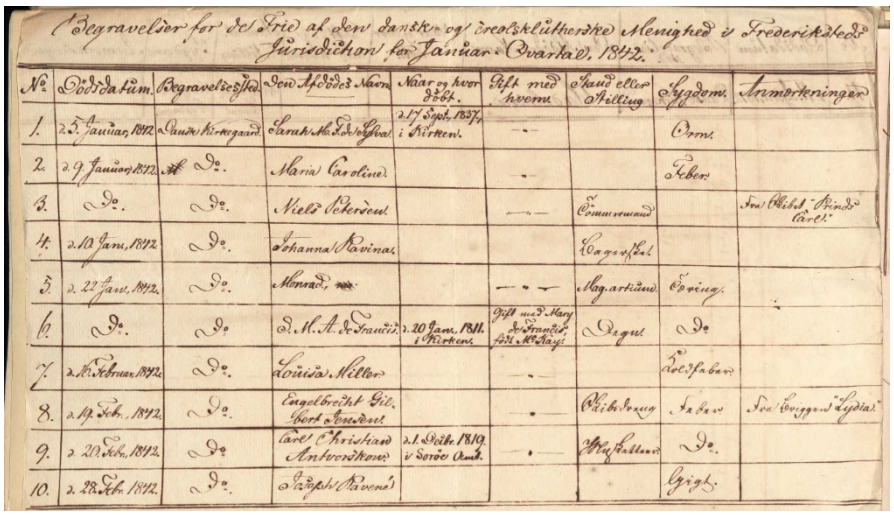


As always you can customize Tree Tags if you don't see a tag that fits.



New Records from the Danish West Indies

New Records from Danish West Indies (U.S. Virgin Islands today) became available for free and enslaved individuals on April 12th, 2021. They include records Danish language records from Enslaved people, 1625-1904, Birth Marriage, and Death Records (1820-1909), and Records and Documents of General Governance, 1755-1916. These records are indexed in English, but images are beautiful handwritten in Danish. [Go here for a Danish to English word list, compliments of FamilySearch.org.]



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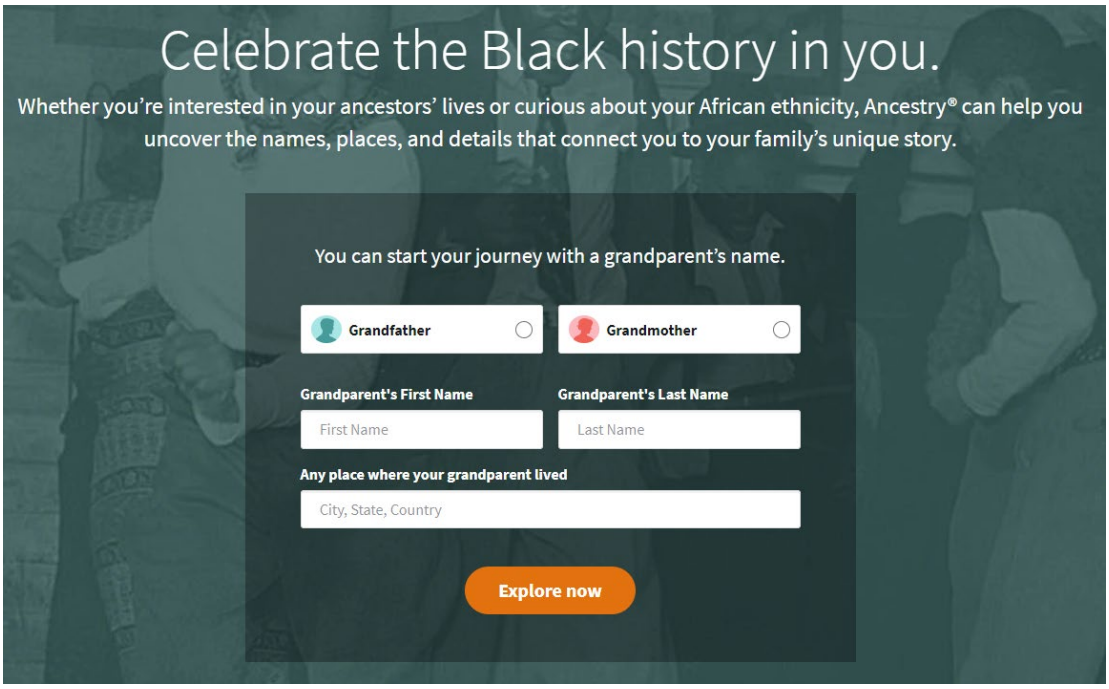
Black History

Ancestry has a great section of their website to help you get started with your African American genealogy. This page is designed for those who are looking for a place to get started. While this is not a new feature at Ancestry, it was mentioned in this episode. This page can be found at https://www.ancestry.com/cs/african-american.

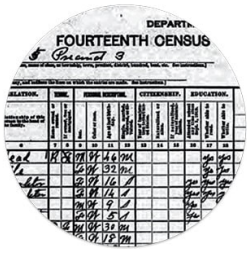


A step-by-step guide to uncovering your family history.

Given the profound effects of slavery and the Civil War on the Black community, African American family history research can pose unique challenges as you follow your family into the 19th century. But that doesn't mean you won't find your ancestors.

Step 1: Family Tree

First things first, create a free family tree on Ancestry®. Start by asking your family members to share memories, details, and documents—then just follow the prompts and fill in the blanks.



Step 2: 1940 Census

The 1940 U.S. Federal Census on Ancestry® is a wonderful, free resource that reveals names, occupations, birthplaces, and more for anyone who was living in America at that time.

Step 3: Work Backwards

Next you'll want to start working backward through time. Take what you've learned and apply it to some of our other record collections—obituaries, marriage records, city directories—from the '30s, '20s, and beyond.

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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

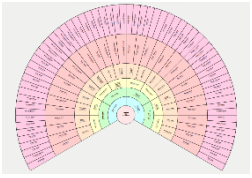
#5 WikiTree

WikiTree.com

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.

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#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
- Phone Support 1-855-246-8234

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#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

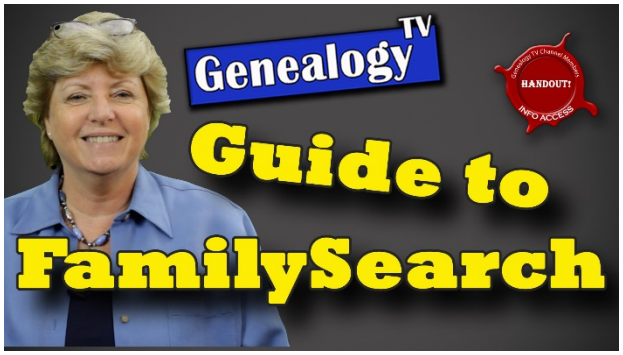
You should know that FamilySearch does not have any DNA services.

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.



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#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.

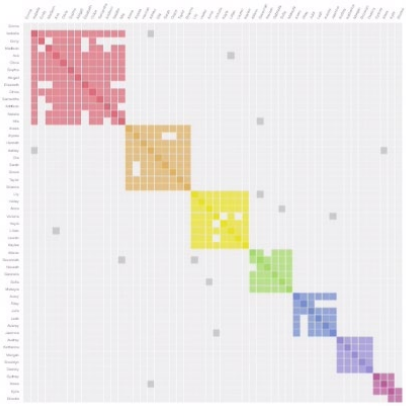
Photo Enhance & Animation

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.

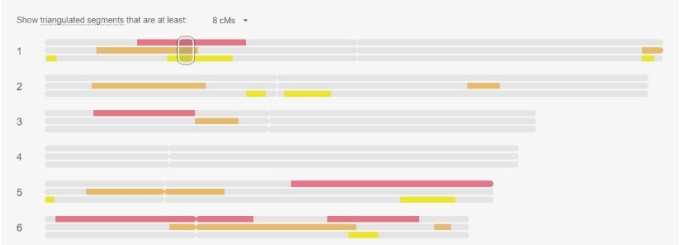
DNA – Yes!

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.

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#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

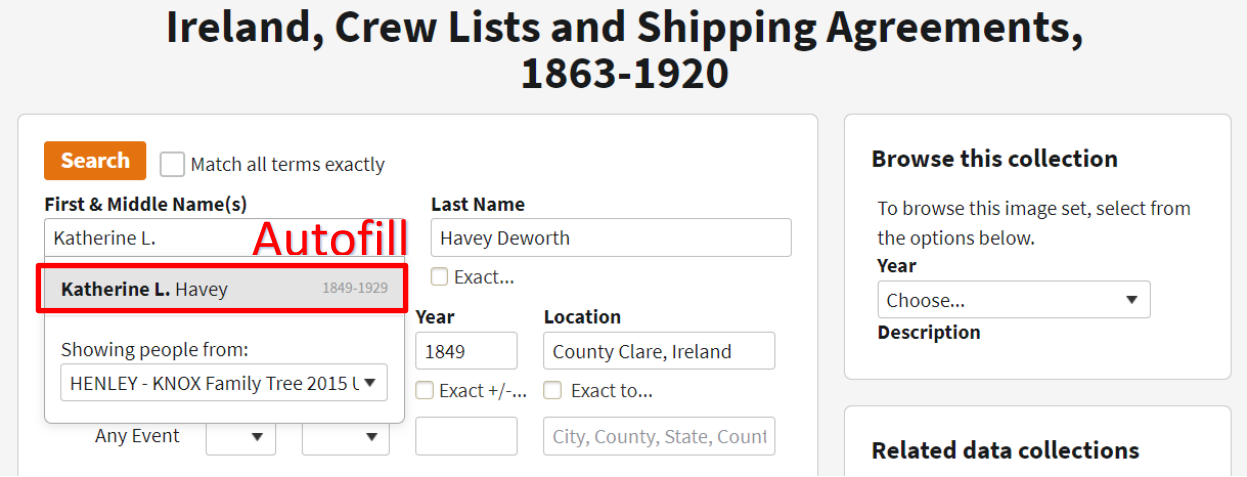
There are several ways to search for the records of your ancestor on Ancestry. There are easy ways and smarter ways that help you dig deeper without too much effort.

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.



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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
Ancestry	13 billion	20 million	100 million	30 billion Records Online	Chat, FAQ, Text & Phone	$24.99 per month or $119 for 6 Months	Yes
MyHeritage	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
FamilySearch	1.36 billion	None	1 World Tree	14 billion Records, Images and Digital Books Online	FS Wiki, Chat, phone worldwide	Free	Always Free
FindMyPast		Uses Living DNA. No. of kits not available.		8 billion	Help Hub, FAQ, Email, & Phone	$129/Year or $50 off Annual Rate	Yes
WikiTree	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.

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Social Security Death Index
Social Security Claims & Applications
Applying for the Original SS-5

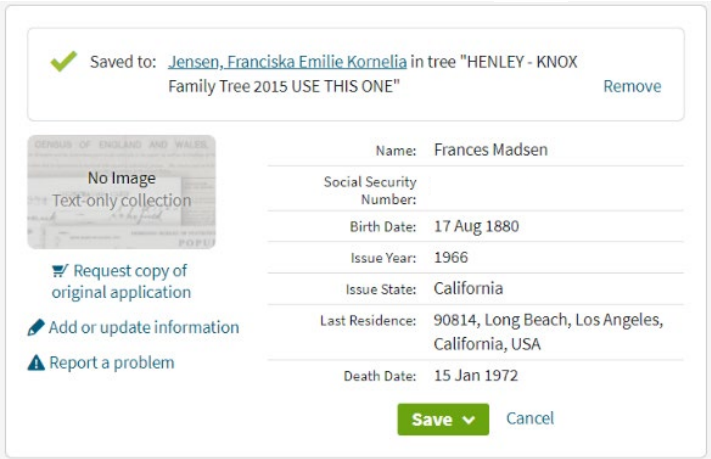
The Social Security Administration was created in 1935. Your ancestors may have filled out an application to apply for a Social Security card shortly thereafter. The Social Security Death Index was created in 1962. While many records are available from 1935 forward, most records are found after 1962. These records are available for genealogical research for free.

The Social Security Death Index and the Social Security Claims and Applications Index can be some of the most important documents that we can find when researching our family history. Applying for the original application (SS -5) is incredibly important when researching our family history as it provides additional information the indexes do not. You will always want to dig to the original records, whenever possible.

When searching for your ancestors using the Social Security records, you will find two record sets. One is the **Social Security Death Index, 1935-2014** and the other is the **Social Security Applications and Claims Index, 1936-2007**. You will want to use both indexes, as they provide a little different information.

Social Security Death Index (SSDI), 1935-2014

The Social Security Death Index (SSDI) can be found in several places and are free to use. They can be found on Ancestry.com, FamilySearch.org, MyHeritage.com, and FindMyPast.com. This is where you will want to start and collect all data found for your ancestor. You will want to note the Social Security Number before moving on to the next step.



Additionally, the Last Residence is not always the last address of your ancestor. It could be that of the person filing the claim or settling the estate. Either way, it may provide clues.

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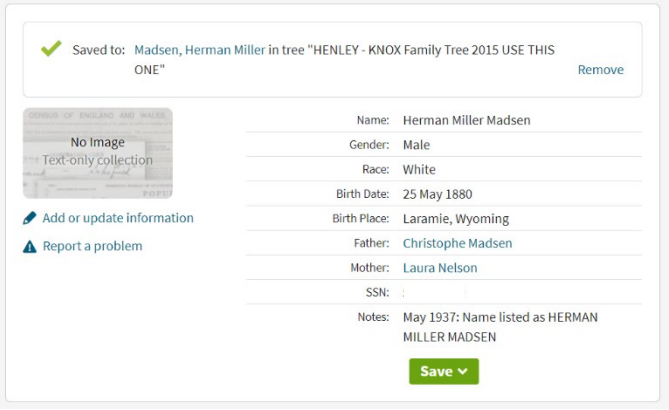
Social Security Claims and Applications Index, 1936 – 2007

This database picks up where the SSDI leaves off. You also want to search this index for additional information. Make sure to match the Social Security numbers from the SSDI. To ensure you have the right person. Only Ancestry has the Social Security Claims and Applications Index. Here you will also want to note the Social Security Number and extra notes at the bottom for variations of the ancestor's name (especially for women).



Where to find the Social Security Death Records

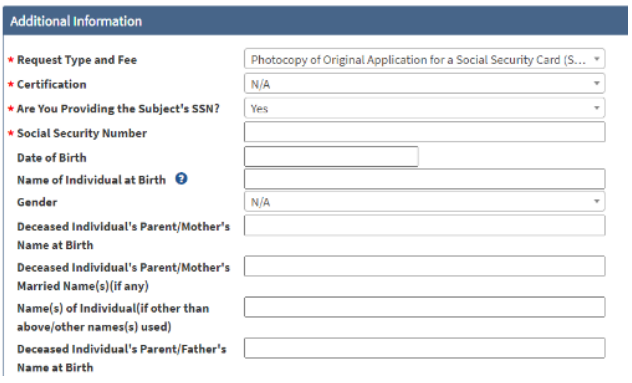
On **Ancestry**, click the Search tab at the top of the home page, drop down to Card Catalog, and do a Keyword search for "SSDI." You will find both record sets. Search for your ancestor after 1935 in both record sets. This direct link may take you there.

On **FamilySearch** go to the Search tab at the top, drop down to records, in the lower right corner search in the "Find a Collection" field for "United States Social Security Death Index." This direct link may take you there.

On **MyHeritage**, login, click Research tab at the top of the page, drop down to Collection Catalog, in the upper right corner search "Social Security Death" and both record sets will pop up. This direct link may take you there.

Applying for the SS-5 (Original Application)

You should apply for the original application your ancestor filled out when they applied for a Social Security card.



- Once there, choose Create Request > Begin > Fill out the form.
- The Agency is the Social Security Administration.
- The Contact Information is your information (not your ancestors).
- Your fees should be about $27, add a description of what you are looking for such as the SS-5 and your ancestor's name. More will be added below.
- Request Type is the "Photocopy of Original Application for a Social Security Card (SS-5) of a Deceased Individual."

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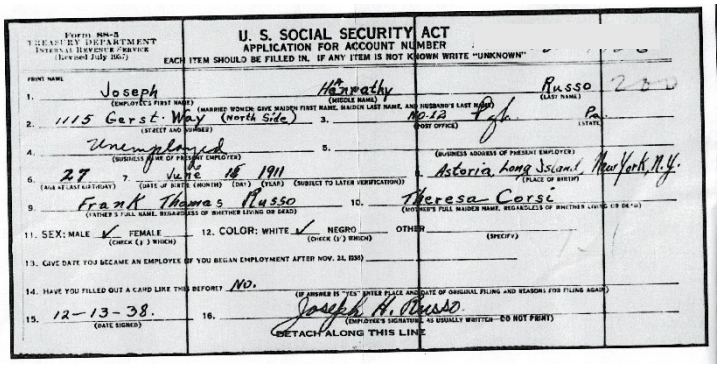
- You will need to provide a Social Security Number and the rest of the information to the best of your ability.
- You can supply any supporting documentation by attaching files. If you have any documentation, I suggest you attach them.


Form SS-5
TREASURY DEPARTMENT
INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE
(Revised July 1957)

U. S. SOCIAL SECURITY ACT
APPLICATION FOR ACCOUNT NUMBER
EACH ITEM SHOULD BE FILLED IN. IF ANY ITEM IS NOT KNOWN WRITE "UNKNOWN"

PRINT NAME
1. Joseph (EMPLOYEE'S FIRST NAME) Henrathy (MIDDLE NAME) Russo (LAST NAME)
2. 1115 Gerst Way (North Side) (STREET AND NUMBER) 3. NO-12 (POST OFFICE) Pa. (STATE)
4. Unemployed (BUSINESS NAME OF PRESENT EMPLOYER) 5. (BUSINESS ADDRESS OF PRESENT EMPLOYER)
6. 27 (AGE AT LAST BIRTHDAY) 7. June 15 1911 (DATE OF BIRTH (MONTH) (DAY) (YEAR) (SUBJECT TO LATER VERIFICATION)) 8. Astoria Long Island New York, N.Y. (PLACE OF BIRTH)
9. Frank Thomas Russo (FATHER'S FULL NAME, REGARDLESS OF WHETHER LIVING OR DEAD) 10. Theresa Corsi (MOTHER'S FULL MAIDEN NAME, REGARDLESS OF WHETHER LIVING OR DEAD)
11. SEX: MALE ✓ FEMALE (CHECK (✓) WHICH) 12. COLOR: WHITE ✓ NEGRO (CHECK (✓) WHICH) OTHER (SPECIFY)
13. GIVE DATE YOU BECAME AN EMPLOYEE (IF YOU BEGAN EMPLOYMENT AFTER NOV. 24, 1936)
14. HAVE YOU FILLED OUT A CARD LIKE THIS BEFORE? NO. (IF ANSWER IS "YES" ENTER PLACE AND DATE OF ORIGINAL FILING AND REASONS FOR FILING AGAIN)
15. 12-13-38. (DATE SIGNED) 16. Joseph H. Russo (EMPLOYEE'S SIGNATURE, AS USUALLY WRITTEN—DO NOT PRINT)
DETACH ALONG THIS LINE

Replies may take several weeks to several months depending on the backlog of requests.

The information found on the SS-5 can add to the facts for your ancestor, especially if their parents are listed.

In most cases you will find:

- Name at the time of application
- Address. (Note: The date of the application pins your ancestor in a place in time.)
- Employer… and address
- Age
- Birthdate
- Place of birth
- Father
- Mother
- Gender
- Ethnicity
- Date of employment
- Have you filled out this card before?
- Date
- Actual Signature (Note the signature for comparison to other records.)

Addition Resources and Links:

- Genealogy TV Video for this Handout
- More about the Social Security Death Administration Records
- Social Security Records on Ancestry
- SSDI on FamilySearch
- Social Security Applications and Claims on MyHeritage
- SSDI on MyHeritage

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Genealogy TV
Trace Your Family Tree For Free!
By Constance H. Knox
FamilySearch
MyHeritage
Ancestry
Find My Past
Easy 5 Step Process!
Begin Your Family History

Start Your Family History for Free: Five Step Process for Beginner Genealogist

Recommendations to Get Started with Your Family Tree *for Free*

April 2020

By Constance Henley Knox

Author's Comment: Please know that this is not sponsored by anyone. The opinions and strategies are that of my own.

What Inspired You to Start This Journey?

As professional genealogists, we're always talking about the "research question" as being the start to every research project. So, what brought you here? What is it that you're curious about? For some it's finding their biological parents. For others, it might be the desire to learn more about a grandparent. For others it might be to prove or disprove family lore.

Whatever your reason for starting your family history… know this, it is one of the most rewarding adventures you'll undertake. You'll discover stories that read like a good book or you'll imagine what it was like living in the past as if you're watching a cinematic adventure. The cool part is that it's real and it's your family… it runs in your DNA! It's made you who you are today.

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About Free Records, What's Free and What is Not?

Typically, U.S. Federal Census records, many items in libraries, and archives are free. However, there are a host of other companies that offer free access to some of their services and or records.

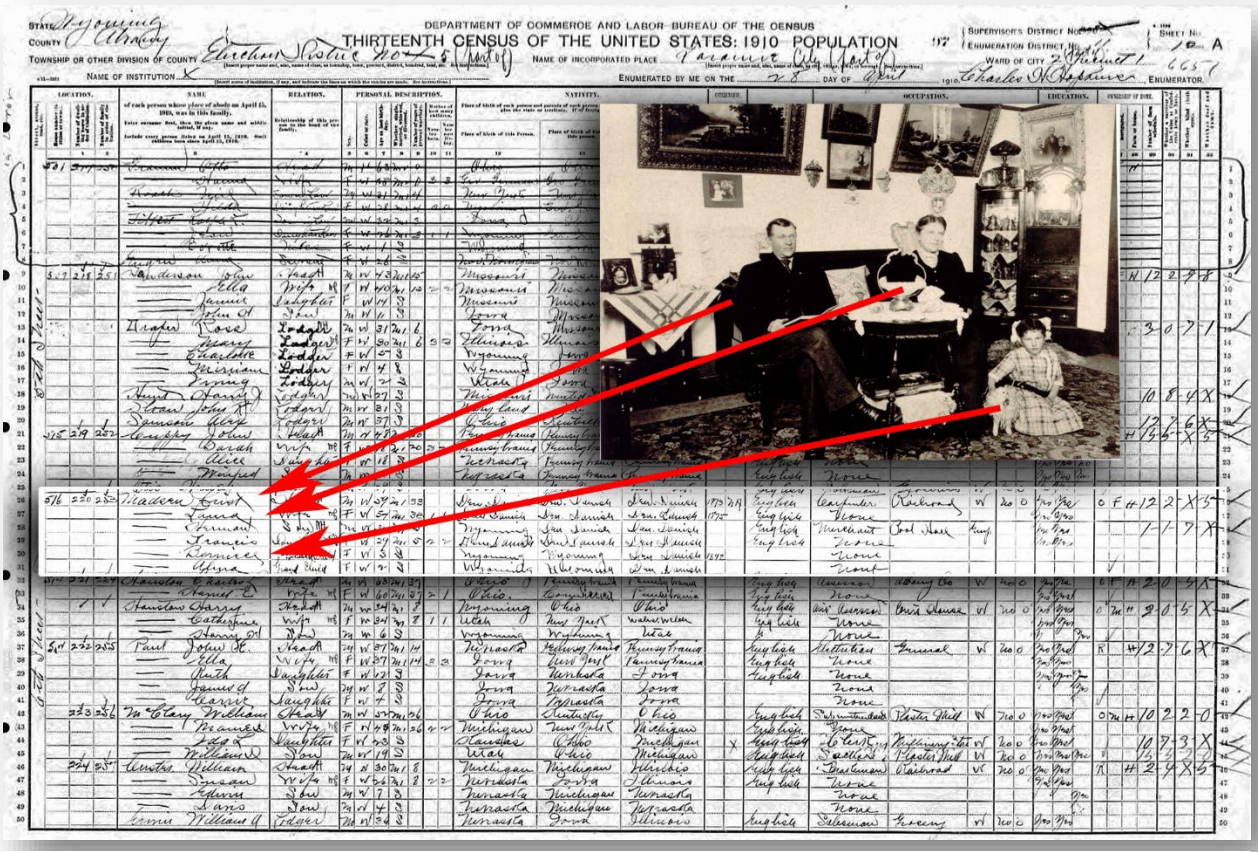

Figure 1 Christopher Madsen Family - 1910 U.S. Census, Laramie, WY. Image from family archives.

72 Year Privacy Act

You should know, due to the 72-Year Privacy Act and concerns over the privacy of living individuals, some records may not be available… yet. The 72-Year Privacy Act was created in 1978 to protect the information of living individuals. At the time it was created, 72 years was the average lifespan of a person. As a result, many census records newer than 72 years, may not be open to the public. For example, as of this writing, the U.S. Census records are only available up through 1940. Therefore, you can access 1790-1940 census schedules today for free. The 1950 U.S. Census will become public on April 1st, 2022.

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Where to Find Free Records

Almost all online genealogy companies have some free records available that you can access right now.

So, what's free and what is not? Well for companies like Ancestry.com, FindMyPast.com, and MyHeritage.com, the general rule is if the company had to pay for rights to the records, then access to those records will be behind a paywall or subscription service.

However, if the company was permitted access to already public records, or the information was obtained by volunteers (like you and me when we add data to our online trees) then that information is available to the public generally for free.

For example, at Ancestry.com, you can search other member trees for free if the member has set their tree to "public." I highly encourage you check them out. But more on that shortly.

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Ready, Set, Go!

Hold on to your hat… I'm going to run through a lot of information to help you find your ancestors for free. Feel free to rewind and watch sections of the accompanying video *"Trace Your Family Tree for Free: Five Step Process for Beginner Genealogists"* again if you need to take notes or missed something, but much of the information is provided for you in this eBook.

You'll be working backwards in every step of the process. Start with yourself, then your parents (if you know them), then your grandparents and so on. You'll also take this approach with each person's life and timeline.

You'll start with death and burial information and work backwards in a person's lifetime. The reason for this is the most information (facts and evidence) you find is in the most recent records.

Get in the habit of reviewing every detail for accuracy. For example on a death certificate, information about the deceased person's parents may not be accurate, as the informant on the death certificate may have been distraught at the time, may not have known the information, or just simply got it wrong. Question everything.

Also know that you'll run into conflicts about dates and the spelling of names. Expect it. Make note of the discrepancies and resolve them once you have all the information. In some cases, you may never resolve the conflict.

Lastly, before we get started, if you want to get the most out of your free options, do these steps in the order as I've presented them and build out as much of your family tree as you can in each step, before moving to the next step.

Having said that, make sure you read this entire eBook before starting. Think of it like a recipe, you always want to read the recipe before you start cooking.

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STEP ONE

BUILD A FREE TREE ON THE ANCESTRY WEBSITE

If you reside or are researching in the U.S., I recommend you **build your free tree on Ancestry.com** as a guest account. Why? Because it is *your* tree and *only you* (and those you assign as contributors) can modify it. *It's your work.*

I recommend that you build your free tree on Ancestry.com and keep it as your *Primary Tree*. Your *Primary Tree* is where you'll always keep the most up-to-date information in your family tree, first and foremost. You might have other trees on other services, but your ***Primary Tree* on Ancestry is the one tree you know is up to date, has all the information you've found, your notes, images and documents.**

Creating a free tree on FamilySearch.org, for example, well that's a collaborative tree...and you're adding to a world tree and it may not be accurate or others may change what information you've entered. Don't get me wrong. FamilySearch is an awesome resource, and we'll discuss why shortly.

Note: Any public user trees, no matter the company, will have errors in it. The information in user trees is only as accurate as the family historian who entered it. Also keep in mind that genealogists of the past, may not have had all the information that is available to us today. Therefore, family historians may have entered information that they knew at the time, leaving us a bread crumb trail to follow.

ANCESTRY Free Trial vs. Guest Account

A **free trial** will expire and you'll need to give them a credit card to secure the "free trial" and then once the free trial is over, your credit card will be charged unless you cancel.

With a "**guest account**", you can use the tree building services without ever paying for it.

To set up a free **Ancestry Guest Account… go here**.

Here is my affiliate link for a **Free Trial at Ancestry.com**. This will give you access to all the records for the duration of the free trial. Typically, the free trial is 14 days. If you're following

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this method, don't exercise the free trial until a later step. See the bonus section in this document as to why.

Per Ancestry's support page "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."

For more information about what you get in your free Ancestry Guest Account… Go Here.

Even if you only know a few things about your family, once you start entering information into your tree on Ancestry, you'll find you know more information than you realized. Now as soon as you do, in a few hours, you may see those little green leaves popping up.

Those are "hints that Ancestry is suggesting that they might have records that match your people. Clicking on those leaves will lead you to records that may or may not match your ancestors. If they do, you can import them or link them to your tree. If they are census records, any free-to-the-public record, or other public member trees, you should have access to those records for free.

Just a tip… Census records will become the backbone of your genealogy! They are wildly valuable.

Chase all the hints you can for free. **Don't get frustrated if Ancestry pops up and says you can't access that record because you don't have a paid subscription**. You'll likely see enough information in the index to know if it looks promising. **You should make a note of the record if it looks like a match, then mark for further investigation later. KEEP A LIST! You'll need it in a later step.**

As you work through the hints you have the choice to "accept" it, "ignore" it, or choose "undecided." No matter what you choose, don't worry about making a mistake, you can always see those hints again, even if you ignored them.

I did an entire video based on Ancestry's own document called…
10 Free Things on Ancestry.com.

- Here's a link to start a Free Guest Account on Ancestry.
- Here's a link to start a FREE TRIAL at Ancestry! (This is a Genealogy TV affiliate link but costs you nothing).
- Here's a link to the **video** 10 Free Things on Ancestry.com**.**
- Here's a link to **Ancestry's documentation** about 10 Free Things To Do On Ancestry.

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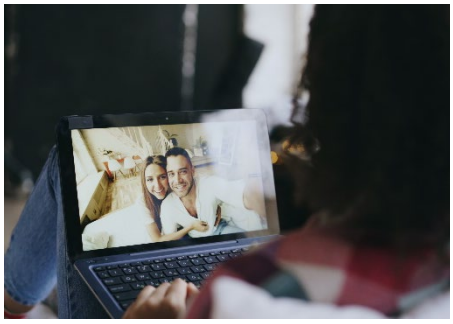
STEP TWO

TALK TO FAMILY!

Get the family to help fill in the blanks in your tree. Collect COPIES of photos and records. (See Step Four for what types of records to collect.) Scan or take pictures of the originals (in good light) with your cell phone or camera... label the files, and file them properly.

Record the conversations on whatever medium you're comfortable with… but do so in a quiet space… and TAKE NOTES. Don't rely on the recordings. The audio may not be clear.

If you can't meet with family in person, you can set up free Skype or Zoom accounts to do video chats. Just be mindful of the technical understanding of those you are interviewing or seek help from other family to help set up video chat sessions. It's not hard - I promise!



Record the sessions either on the Skype or Zoom platform or use screen capture software to record the session. Often web camera software will have a recording option as another alternative.

Make sure you inform all those on the call that the session is being recorded and how you will use that recording. It's the law, not to mention ethical.

While it's not free, consider asking the elder family to take a DNA test. I've done a series of videos on DNA tests and how to use them for your family research.

Here are two links about DNA Research that may be helpful.

- What DNA Test Should You Take? DNA Companies Compared.
- Genealogy TV's DNA Series of Videos
- Ancestry DNA Test Here

Great tips for Interviewing the family can be found in this video called:
12 Tips for Interviewing Family, Part 1 - Learn Genealogy Series, Episode 10
Family Interview, Part 2 (Recording) – Learn Genealogy Series, Episode 11

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STEP THREE

RESEARCH THE WORLD TREE ON FAMILYSEARCH.ORG FOR CLUES

Everything is FREE at FamilySearch, even the records. In this next step, research the world tree and its records at FamilySearch.org. Remember this is a collaborative tree where everyone contributes their data to one huge tree. Here you're looking for clues and records about the ancestors that match those that you've entered in the tree you're building on Ancestry.com.

Remember you're building your *Primary Tree* on Ancestry.com. Right now, you're using FamilySearch.org for clues and finding evidence, records, and images, etc.

You can upload your tree and data on FamilySearch later. For now, look on FamilySearch for information that you didn't find (or didn't have access to) on Ancestry.

You could build a family tree on FamilySearch, but at this stage I don't recommend it. The reason is that on FamilySearch it is not your personal tree, it is one huge collaborative world tree and others can modify it. For some, that can be frustrating. Thus, I recommend you use Ancestry for building your *Primary Tree*. We'll talk about sharing your tree on *FamilySearch* in a later step.

Also know that *all* public trees, on *any* service, are *not* perfect. You will find errors. The trees and the data in them, are only as good as the person who entered it. Therefore, don't assume that just because you found it on a tree at Ancestry, FamilySearch, MyHeritage or any others, that it is the gospel truth. You need to evaluate the evidence for yourself and build your tree based on facts, evidence, and your conclusions (from the evidence).

If you find errors in trees, please be kind. Don't get frustrated with the genealogy companies thinking it's their fault if the data is wrong. It is likely a mistake by people like you and me who mistakenly uploaded the wrong information. Keep an open mind. Consider this, you might be wrong too. So, before you fire off an angry note to another member, take a breath and think twice… again be kind. We're all one big happy genealogical family.

If you want to reach out to another member about errors you found in their tree, take the approach that you've discovered discrepancies between their data and yours... and you'd like to discuss it. This will open a dialog between you and the other member where you can exchange data, ideas, and evidence supporting it. From there you can create your own conclusions. You never know, you may just make a new friend in the process.

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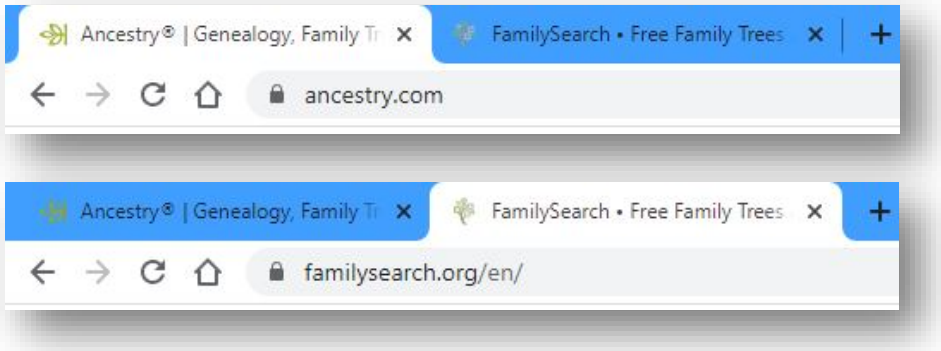
Also know that you may not get a response. This could be because they're no longer active on the account or they've shut off notifications and never received your message. In that case, they won't see your note until they login again. It could be they may have passed away but their account is still online or they just choose not to respond at this time.

The great part about FamilySearch is you might find some of those records that are behind the paywall at *other* subscription services (like birth, marriage, and death records). Occasionally you'll find them for free on FamilySearch. **That's why you were keeping a list of those records you found for further investigation**, from the previous steps. You might just find them elsewhere for free.



While searching in your browser you can keep two tabs open on your computer, one for Ancestry where your tree is located and one for the other service in which you're researching. This way you can hop back and forth from your tree (in one tab) to items you're researching (in other tabs).

One trick I use a lot... is when I'm looking at a list of possible records, instead of just clicking on one of the links, right click and choose "open in a new tab" instead. That way, you can open everything in the list that looks promising in individual tabs and close them out when you're done reviewing each one methodically. By doing it this way, it allows you to preserve your original list that you searched in the first tab on your browser.

When you find something like a record or image that matches your ancestor, download it to your computer. Keep everything filed properly so you can find it again when you need it. Keep good notes and files. That's another set of free videos I have for you.

To learn about filing habits and how to take good notes, I recommend you watch:

- "Research Notes" - Learn Genealogy Series - Episode 6
- "Good Filing from the Start" - Learn Genealogy Series- Episode 3

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STEP FOUR

WHAT RECORDS TO RESEARCH and WHERE TO FIND THEM?

When you're getting started and throughout your genealogical journey, what types of things are you looking for?

START WITH YOUR OWN FILES!

You likely have a ton of documents, images and heirlooms to begin your research. Pull them out, copy them to a digital file and file them in surname folders.

Look at each document for information like birth, marriage, death, divorce, burial, military, religious affiliations, and other family members. Remember to note witnesses as they are often family or close friends.

Records Online

Next, you're searching the various places discussed in the previous steps for:

- **Vital records** (birth, marriage, death, and divorce)
- **Census records** (federal and state)
- **Military records** (indexes or actual records)
- **Religious** (surrounding events like, births, baptismal/christening, burial, marriages, etc.)
- **Evidence of Residence** (in every record you find)

Timeline

These are all great places to start. Along the way you'll start building a timeline of each ancestor's life to give perspective and migration patterns.

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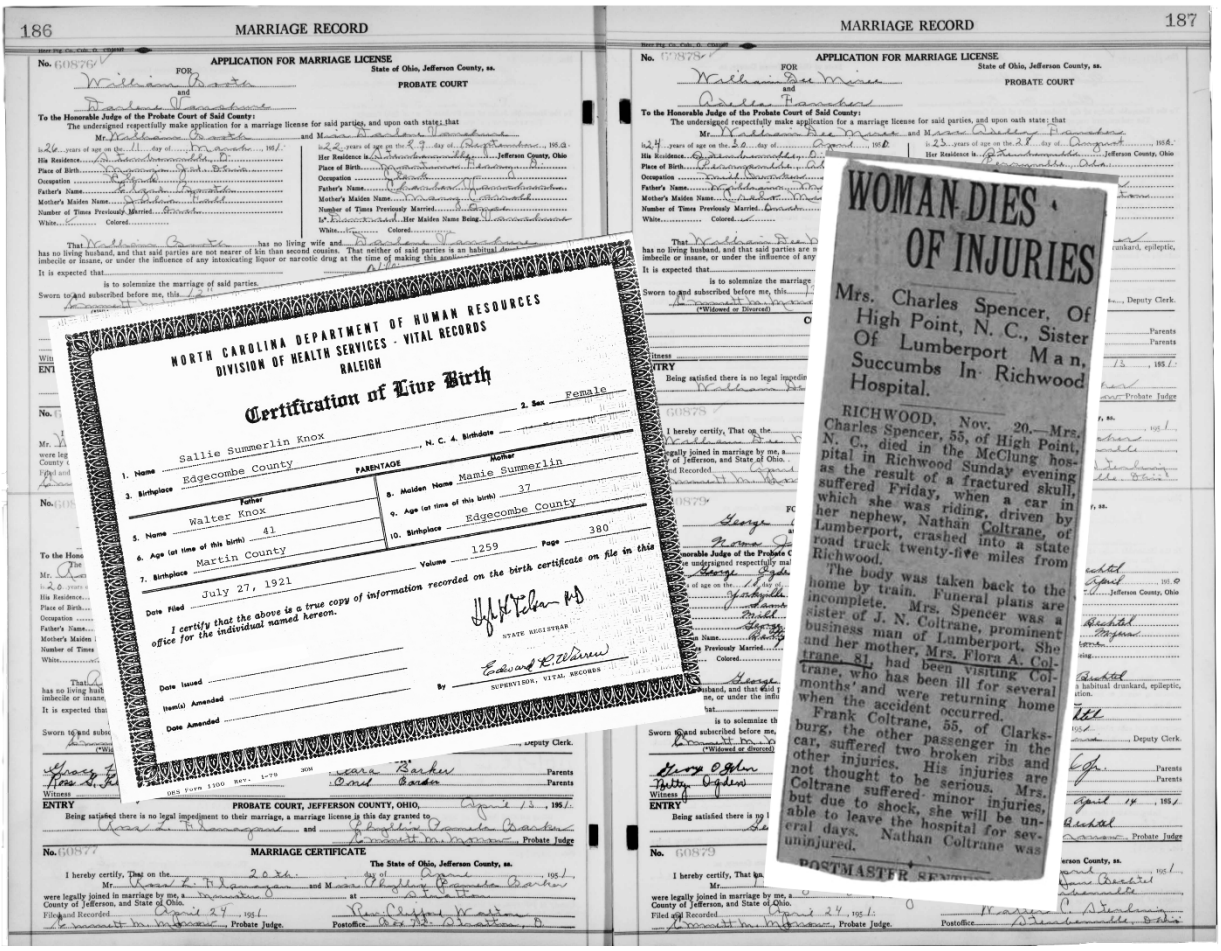
Free Records to find might Include...

- **Census Records** at Ancestry, FamilySearch, MyHeritage and Census.gov to name a few. If you've created a tree at Ancestry, it will be easiest to search it there.
- Look for **Birth, Marriage, Death records** at **FamilySearch first**!
- Also Look for **Evidence of Death**
  - at FindAGrave.com & BillionGraves.com...
  - at Ancestry and FamilySearch.
- **Obituaries & Burial Records** found in
  - Newspapers at Chronicling America (part of the Library of Congress)
  - Find-A-Grave & Billion Graves
- Look for **Evidence of Residence** in
  - Censuses, City Directories and Yearbooks & more...
  - at Ancestry, MyHeritage or FamilySearch.
- Look at other family **Genealogies** at Ancestry, FamilySearch, MyHeritage



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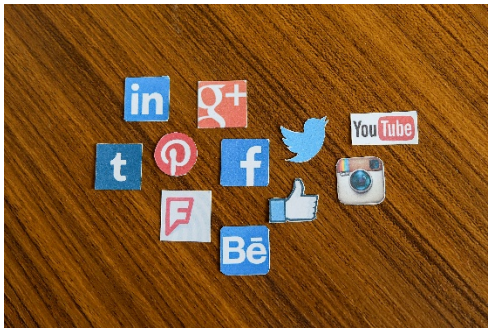
STEP FIVE

SOCIAL MEDIA

Social Media is a great place to find **surname groups, location groups, special interest groups** (like DNA) **history groups, genealogy or historical society pages...** all there to help share information about the families and locations you're searching

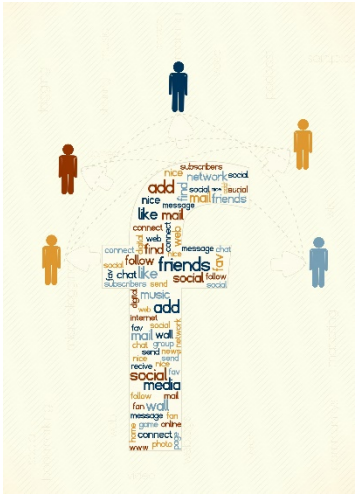
Just go to your favorite social media outlet and search for the surnames or locations you're researching. You might just find a surname group where you can connect with others. I recommend starting with Facebook. That's where I have the most success.



Social media places to look:

- Facebook Genealogy Groups
- Pinterest Family Groups
- Instagram
- Readit
- YouTube
- Blog posts on places like Blogger.com.

Consider starting your own Facebook group to share your family history discoveries with family and friends. You can make them public or private. I have several of these where we share photos, stories and memories.



If you do create a social media page, remember to capture those stories for your family history archives on your computer. Don't rely on Facebook to be your family history archive forever.

They're also a great way to write and share mini articles about your family, complete with pictures. Save these stories in one document, as it might become your genealogy book!

Also, don't forget search your ancestors with Google. You never know where it may lead you.

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BONUS TIPS

Bonus Tip #1

Free Trials

Now that you've come this far and you've created a "**list of records for further investigation**", now is the **time to turn on some free trials**. As a reminder, that list… is the list of records you couldn't access because they were behind the paywall or a subscription was required at Ancestry or other services. Now with a free trial, you should be able to get to those records.

In some cases, you'll have that free trial for 14 days and for some for one month. I suggest that you only use one free trial at a time starting with Ancestry.com. When that free trial is over, you can move on the next service.

When you start most free trials, you'll be required to give them a credit card, although it won't be charged until your free trial expires.

If you choose *not* continue with the subscription, you'll need to cancel it before your free trial ends or it will automatically convert to a paid account and charge your credit card.

In the case of Ancestry.com, you'll have 14 days to use it. Should you decide to cancel within the 14-day Free Trial, you can do so by going to your account and clicking the "cancel" link below your account profile.

Well now that you have your ducks in a row, you can use free trials to explore the services for a few weeks and gather the records you wanted.

Be sure to download those records to your computer during the free trial. If you pause or cancel your subscription, you may not be able to see those records again in your free tree. Once you stop the free trial (without paying for it), the records will remain linked to your ancestors within your family tree. Should you decide to opt-in again (and pay for it this time), the records will be visible again. Typically you'll only get one free trial per company, per email address. Make the most of it.

Know that records you upload to the gallery in the ancestor profiles will remain visible regardless of your subscription status.

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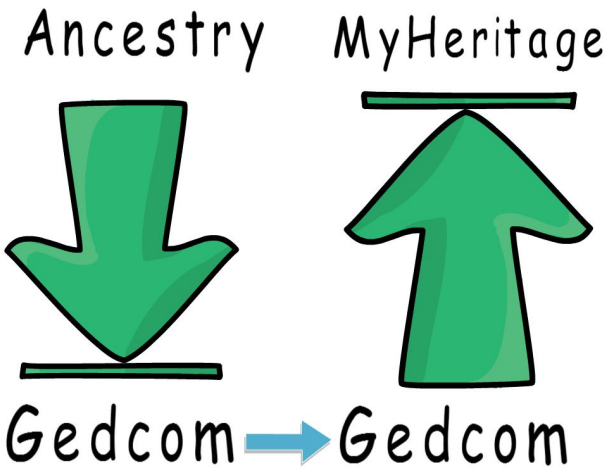
Here are my suggestions for free accounts and FREE TRIALS!

Full disclosure, two of these are the Genealogy TV affiliate links. Should you become a paid member through the Ancestry or the MyHeritage link, Genealogy TV will make a few pennies. I really appreciate you using affiliate links whenever possible. Every little bit helps support the Genealogy TV platform, so that I can continue to bring free educational resources to you. There is no extra cost to you by using affiliate links.

- To get started with a **FREE TRIAL at Ancestry** GO HERE
- **FamilySearch.org is always free.** Just go there and register.
- To get started with a **FREE TRIAL at MyHeritage.com** - Complete Plan

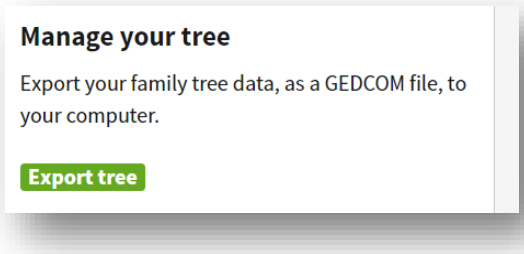
BONUS TIP #2

Download Your Family Data and Upload it to Another Service



Once you've got these previous steps started and have created a foundation of your tree, consider downloading your Gedcom File from Ancestry and upload it to MyHeritage and FamilySearch (for free at the time of this writing).

By doing so, you'll get the hint features for the records on the other services. I estimate that you'll find about 10-15% of the same records on both services. However, you may discover new records, new member trees to explore, and possibly meet some new cousins.



Downloading your Gedcom file from Ancestry is easy. Simply go to the tree settings on Ancestry, click Export Tree, when it's done generating the file, you can click download. Just remember where you saved it. **Don't try to open it.** You'll then use that same file and upload to one of the other services.

- To upload a Gedcom file to FamilySearch.org go here.
- To upload a Gedcom file to registered MyHeritage.com users go here.

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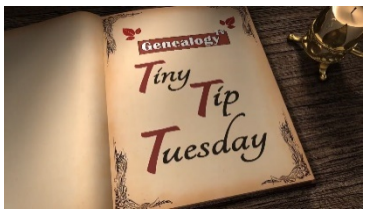
BONUS TIP #3

FREE RESOURCES FROM GENEALOGY TV!

You can always find free educational resources here at Genealogy TV where you'll find multiple platforms to keep you informed.



Free video education on YouTube.com/GenealogyTV!

At Genealogy TV, you'll find free videos on the YouTube channel for beginners to advanced genealogists. There are several programs produced there. Typically, there is a new video every Friday morning. These are usually either a **"footnotes"** or **"In Search of Your Family Tree"**.

- The "footnotes" program is interviews with experts in their field. *"It's called footnotes, because it's in the footnotes where the real sources are!"*
- "In Search of Your Family Tree" is designed to educate you about the records, resources and how to use… various software and navigate websites to aid you in your research.
- "Tiny Tip Tuesday's" comes out… you guessed it… on Tuesday's in a short form video as information becomes available.
- "Genealogy TV Live" is the live show where viewers can ask questions in the chat window. It's just like live television, only it's on YouTube and is specifically designed for live interaction with the audience.

  Times for the live show vary and are promoted to subscribers of the Genealogy TV Newsletter, Facebook page, and the Genealogy TV YouTube Channel in advance.

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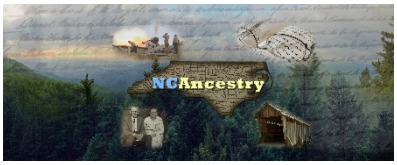
Free resources on [GenealogyTV.org.](GenealogyTV.org)

Here is where everything resides. There is a blog post for every video episode since February of 2018. If there is additional information about each episode, this is where it will be.
Sign Up for the Free Newsletter. Each time there is a new video released, you can be notified by signing up for the newsletter HERE.

Genealogy TV Insiders is group or individual coaching. These are conducted through virtual Zoom meetings and do have a fee. For more information about coaching sessions, go to https://genealogytv.org/insiders/.

DONATIONS are always welcome. You can use your credit card or Paypal account at paypal.me/ConstanceKnox. You do not need to have a Paypal account to use your credit card. I really appreciate it.

Lastly, for **North Carolina researchers**, check out the NCAncestry.com and NC Ancestry on YouTube.



That's a Wrap!

Whew! That was a lot of information to digest. Don't let the project be overwhelming. Take it a little bit at a time. Your ancestors aren't going anywhere. They'll be here when you get back to the project.

I hope that helped inspire you to chase your curiosity. Whatever question you had that brought you to start this genealogical journey… is your first research question… of many to come.

Enjoy the journey!

Connie Knox
A Lifelong Genealogist
Here to help you go further, faster, and factually with your family research!

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From the Video #1 Way to Break Down Brick Walls (Updated 2020)
By Constance Henley Knox

There is no doubt that using the Friends, Associates, and Neighbors[1] (a.k.a. the FAN Club or Cluster Research), helps us tie the family and records together. This helps us confirm that we have the right people, in the right place, with the right records.

To prove our links between family members we must conduct "Reasonably Exhaustive Research."[2] Part of that research is often reviewing the neighbors who lived around our ancestors. This can be found in census records (as one source).

To make the process easier, I have developed a trick to extract data from census records that surround your target ancestors. This will allow you to filter your results to explore specific surnames in a variety of ways within the data set. Thus, allowing you to research the FAN Club of your "Target Ancestor."

Your Target Ancestor is a term I developed to help you stay focused on you mission of your Research Question. Your Research Question should be written down to help you stay on track.

Research Question = Who do you want to know more about, and what is it you want to know?

Remember that Reasonably Exhaustive Research does not stop at the census records. While this exercise is for census records, you should be exploring all records you can find to help prove your lineage and tell the stories of your ancestors.

Step-By-Step Instructions for how to Extract Data from Census Records
(Demonstrated on Ancestry.com)

Step 1
Open a new Excel spreadsheet, name it, and SAVE IT where you will find it again. Do this before anything else. Save it often throughout the process. Excel does not save automatically unless you turn autosave on for cloud saving.

Step 2 Put the Header Information from the Census
This is so you know where you got this information. Include a link to the image in your Excel file.

[1] Created by Elizabeth Shown Mills.
[2] Board for Certification of Genealogist, *Genealogy Standards – Second Edition.* (Nashville, Tennessee: Turner Publishing, 2019), 2.

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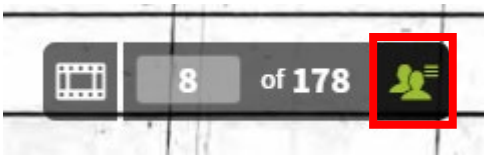
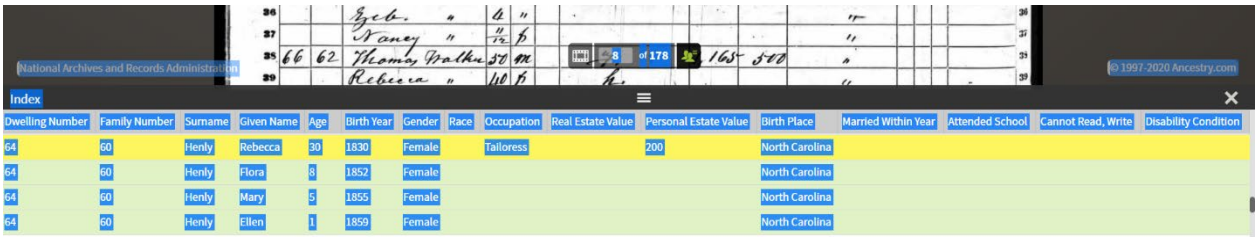
Step 3 Extracting the Data from the Census Record

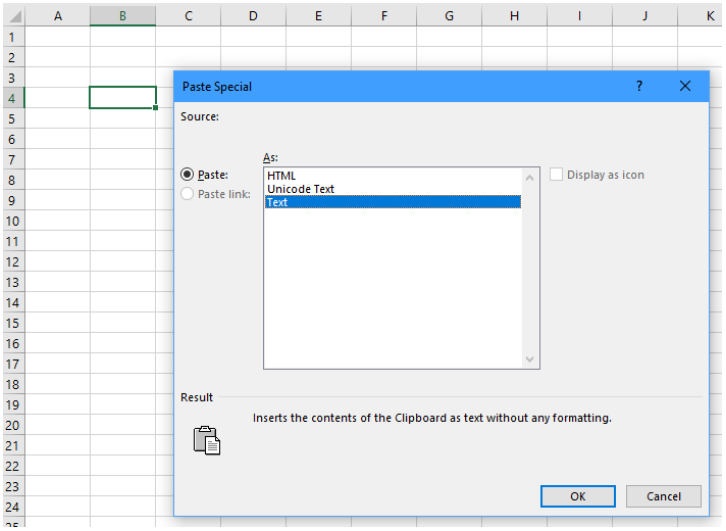
1. On Ancestry.com, **find your "Target Ancestor"** and a census record you want to extract.
2. **Note the image number** you are looking at.
3. Go 5 to 10 pages before your "Target Ancestor."
4. **Click on the people icon** (at the bottom) to open the transcriptions.
5. **Click anywhere in the transcriptions section**.
6. "Select All" data, by holding down the **CTRL** button on the keyboard **+ A** (Windows) or CMD + A (on a Mac). This will highlight everything.



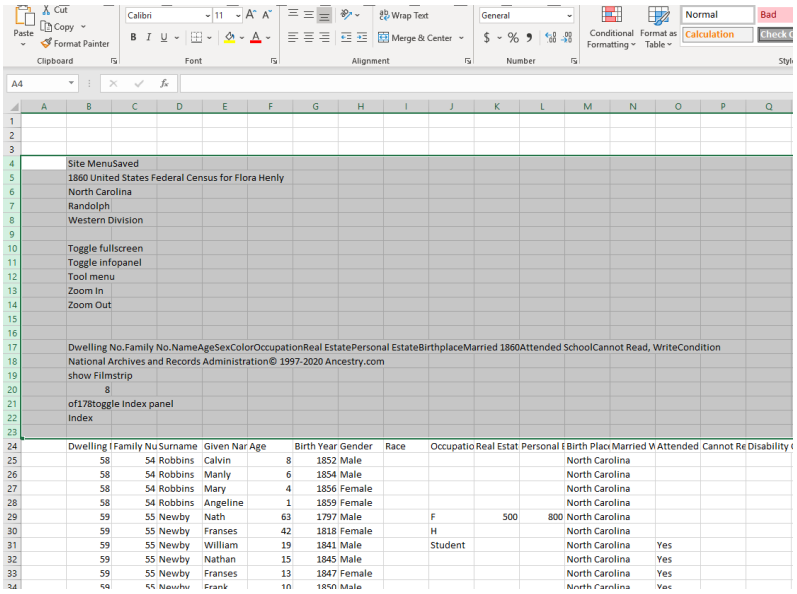


Dwelling Number	Family Number	Surname	Given Name	Age	Birth Year	Gender	Race	Occupation	Real Estate Value	Personal Estate Value	Birth Place	Married Within Year	Attended School	Cannot Read, Write	Disability Condition
64	60	Henly	Rebecca	30	1830	Female		Tailoress		200	North Carolina				
64	60	Henly	Flora	8	1852	Female					North Carolina				
64	60	Henly	Mary	5	1855	Female					North Carolina				
64	60	Henly	Ellen	1	1859	Female					North Carolina				

7. **Copy all the data with CTRL + C** (Windows) or CMD +C (Mac). Or Right Click and choose Copy.
8. **Go to your new Excel spreadsheet**.
9. **Select Cell B4**. (Below the source information you entered in the top rows.)
10. **Right Click** and choose **Paste Special**.
11. When the **Paste Special** box pops up, (shown below) choose **Text**, click **OK**.



12. **Highlight all rows at the top you want to remove, right-click and choose "delete."** This will remove unwanted data and pull up the data in one click. (Remember when you do this, to highlight the rows where the numbers are, not the cells.)



4	Site MenuSaved															
5	1860 United States Federal Census for Flora Henly															
6	North Carolina															
7	Randolph															
8	Western Division															
10	Toggle fullscreen															
11	Toggle infopanel															
12	Tool menu															
13	Zoom In															
14	Zoom Out															
17	Dwelling No.Family No.NameAgeSexColorOccupationReal EstatePersonal EstateBirthplaceMarried 1860Attended SchoolCannot Read, WriteCondition															
18	National Archives and Records Administration© 1997-2020 Ancestry.com															
19	show Filmstrip															
20	8															
21	of178toggle Index panel															
22	Index															
24	Dwelling I	Family Nu	Surname	Given Nar	Age	Birth Year	Gender	Race	Occupatio	Real Estat	Personal E	Birth Plac	Married W	Attended	Cannot Re	Disability
25	58	54	Robbins	Calvin	8	1852	Male					North Carolina				
26	58	54	Robbins	Manly	6	1854	Male					North Carolina				
27	58	54	Robbins	Mary	4	1856	Female					North Carolina				
28	58	54	Robbins	Angeline	1	1859	Female					North Carolina				
29	59	55	Newby	Nath	63	1797	Male		F	500	800	North Carolina				
30	59	55	Newby	Franses	42	1818	Female		H			North Carolina				
31	59	55	Newby	William	19	1841	Male		Student			North Carolina		Yes		
32	59	55	Newby	Nathan	15	1845	Male					North Carolina		Yes		
33	59	55	Newby	Franses	13	1847	Female					North Carolina		Yes		

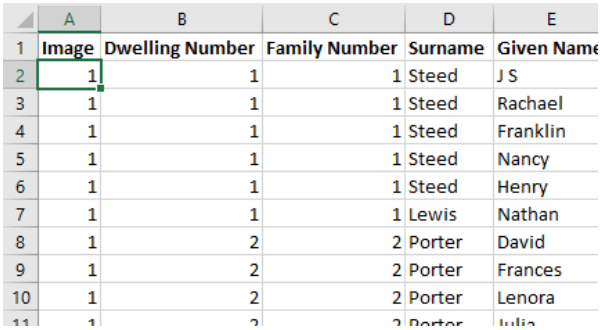
13. In cell A1 type "Image."
14. **In column A, note the image number** from the Ancestry.com's image on all lines pasted in each step.
15. **Drag the first image number** by grabbing the handle in the lower right corner of the cell and drag down for the length of the data to identify this first set of data as being from image 1.
16. **Repeat these steps for 5 to 10 pages on either side of your Target Ancestor, adding them to the bottom starting in the B Column.** This will capture as many neighbors as possible.
17. **Remember to note the image number each time you paste new data** into your spreadsheet. The image numbers are important later.
18. **SAVE EARLY – SAVE OFTEN!**

Step 4 Locking and Formatting the Header Information.

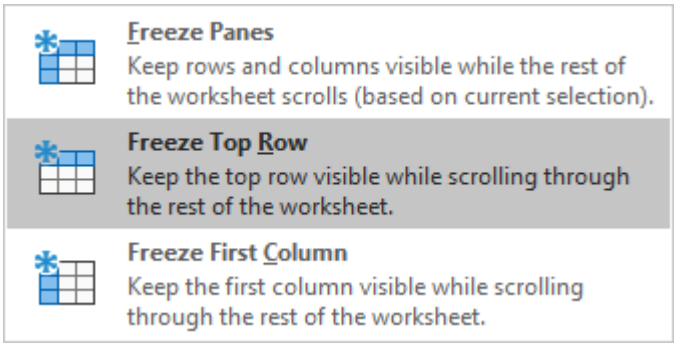
There are two ways, demonstrated in the video, to lock the column header information. One is to use the Freeze Panes option and the other is to use the Split option. There are a variety of ways to use these tools. Below is a recap of what was shown in the video.

To lock just the top row:

1. Select the data cell directly under the first column header on the left side where you want the headers to be locked.
2. Go to the View Tab at the top of Excel.
3. Select Freeze Panes, then select Freeze Top Row.



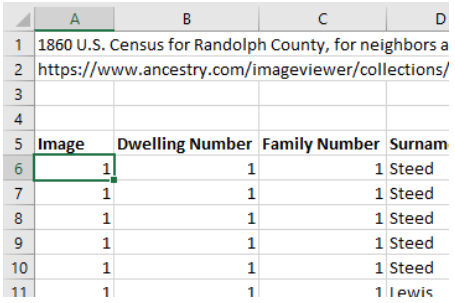
	A	B	C	D	E
1	Image	Dwelling Number	Family Number	Surname	Given Name
2	1	1	1	Steed	J S
3	1	1	1	Steed	Rachael
4	1	1	1	Steed	Franklin
5	1	1	1	Steed	Nancy
6	1	1	1	Steed	Henry
7	1	1	1	Lewis	Nathan
8	1	2	2	Porter	David
9	1	2	2	Porter	Frances
10	1	2	2	Porter	Lenora



4. Choose Unfreeze to remove the previous action from the same area.

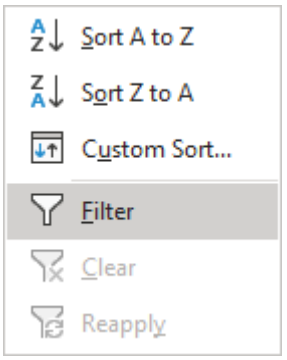
To lock more than just the top row, I use the Split function.

1. Click the cell under the first column header where you want to split to begin.
2. Go to the View Tab and choose Split. This should split the top five rows if you put your curser in cell A6 as shown here.
3. To remove the split, toggle off the Split button again.



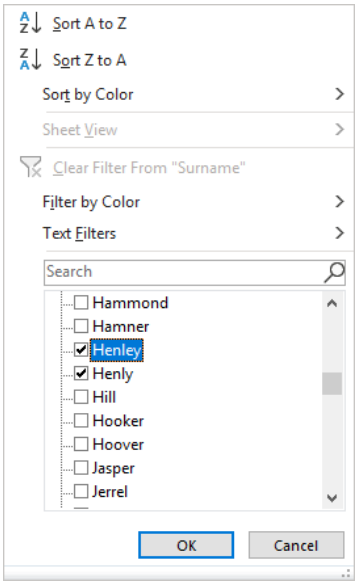
	A	B	C	D
1	1860 U.S. Census for Randolph County, for neighbors a			
2	https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/			
3				
4				
5	Image	Dwelling Number	Family Number	Surnam
6	1	1	1	Steed
7	1	1	1	Steed
8	1	1	1	Steed
9	1	1	1	Steed
10	1	1	1	Steed
11	1	1	1	Lewis

Step 5 Filtering and Using the Spreadsheet.



Now the fun begins. Here is where we filter the columns so that we can research those Target Ancestors and FAN Club members, we are looking for.

1. **Highlight the column headers.**
    a. (Unsplit the view if it gets confusing to see. You can always use the split again once the filters are turned on.)
2. Go to the **Home** Tab and choose **Filter**.
    a. (If you don't see the Filter button, you may need to customize the tools in the ribbon.)
3. Using the down-arrow in each column header, you can now filter by surname or any other column where you set filters.
    a. Uncheck the Select All at the top of the filter box.
    b. Choose the items you want to filter by.
4. NOTE: **REMEMBER TO UNFILTER EVERYTHING BEFORE YOU LEAVE**.
    a. If you do not un-filter each column header, you may forget that it is filtered when you return.
    b. TRICK- To un-filter all columns at one time.
        i. Go to the Data Tab.
        ii. In the Sort & Filter area there is a Clear button that will clear all filters at once.
5. **REMEMBER TO SAVE YOUR DOCUMENT!**



Happy Hunting!

Connie Knox

DNA - When Cousins Marry
Endogamy vs. Pedigree Collapse for Genealogical Research

By Constance Henley Knox

This handout is from the video on Genealogy TV by the same name. I this video I interviewed Diahan Southard to discuss the differences between Pedigree Collapse vs. Endogamy and how we can determine these relationships within our family history.

Definitions

Centimorgans (cM) is a unit of measurement to determine the genetic distance between two relatives. The larger number of cM's, the closer you are related. See the Shared cM Project to see all possible relationships for any given cM's you share with another DNA match.

"Pedigree Collapse describes how reproduction between two individuals who share an ancestor causes the number of distinct ancestors in the family tree of their offspring to be smaller than it could otherwise be." (ISOGG Wiki)

"Endogamy is the practice of marrying within the same ethnic, cultural, social, religious or tribal group. In endogamous populations everyone will descend from the same small gene pool. People will be related to each other in a recent genealogical timeframe on multiple ancestral pathways and the same ancestors will, therefore, appear in many different places on their pedigree chart. Endogamy can be the result of a conscious decision or cultural pressure to marry within the selected group but also occurs as a result of geographical isolation (for example, in island communities)." (ISOGG Wiki)

Diahan Southard says "Endogamy is when you have Pedigree Collapse over and over and over again."

ISOGG - **International Society of Genetic Genealogy**

IBS vs. IBD

IBS means Identical by State (or DNA from the general population).
IBD means Identical by Descent (or DNA from our genetic relationships within our pedigree).

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Determine Endogamy

Look for the longest shared segment. Segments longer than 20 cM's is an indication there is *no* endogamy. If you have a lot of cM's in many smaller segments (less than about 20 cM's), where you cannot find an identifiable long segment, you likely have an endogamous pedigree. Examples of endogamous population are some Jewish, Arcadian, Pacific Islanders or any population that were bound by geographic restrictions, such as an island.

Determine Pedigree Collapse

Look for ancestors that show up in two or more direct family lines. I have found Wikitree's fan chart can help visualize where you have duplicating ancestors in lines, indicating Pedigree Collapse.

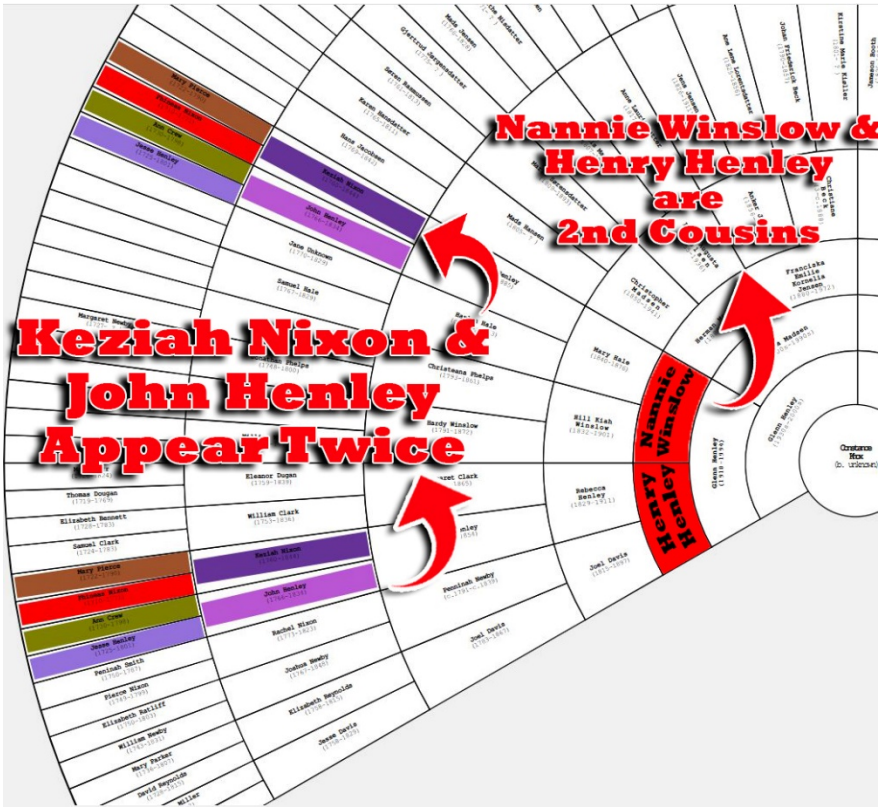
Pedigree Collapse only effects your DNA results if the cousins marrying cousins happens within recent generations. You may also see this when two brothers marry two sisters. There may be other variations too, like a man who has children from two different sisters.

Two Relationships

In some cases, you may find DNA matches may have two different of relationships. Shown in the video, Fred and Fiona were 2nd cousins and 4th cousins. Adding the average cM's for both relationships (using the Shared cM Project) would give you the expected DNA range. Compare the expected DNA range to the reported cM's shown with DNA matches, should be within the expected range.

WikiTree Fan Chart (not mentioned in the video)

Using the WikiTree Fan chart, you can turn on colors to find repeating ancestors. The purple colors show where an ancestral couple repeats in my family. Going down three generations, shows where my great grandparents Henry Henley and Nancy Winslow were 2nd Cousins. As a result, there might be a slight increase in the cM count among the descendants from this couple.



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AncestryDNA

Ancestry uses the Timber Algorithm cuts off the pile-up regions that represents the general population and has no genealogical significance. This helps create better quality DNA matches. You should also know that AncestryDNA no longer shows less than 8 cM's DNA matches to reduce false positives.

MyHeritage

MyHeritage does not use AncestryDNA's Timber algorithm and thus you may see additional smaller cM segments and a slightly higher overall cM count. MyHeritage has an excellent Chromosome browser to help determine the longest segments. Use the One-to-One tool to see the shared segments between you and a DNA match.

Shared cM Project – Briefly mentioned in this video, the Shared cM Project was created by Dr. Blaine Bettinger where he collected the number of centimorgans and calculated the various relationships among the test takers. The results have given us an unbelievably valuable tool that shows us the estimate range of centimorgans for each relationship.

"Do Genealogy" as Diahan says...

Remember to combine traditional genealogy along with DNA research to help prove your lineage.

Diane Southard Your DNA Guide Blog

Part 1 https://www.yourdnaguide.com/ydgblog/2019/7/26/pedigree-collapse-and-genetic-relationships

Part 2 https://www.yourdnaguide.com/ydgblog/2019/7/26/calculating-the-pedigree-collapse-effect-in-your-dna-matches

About Diahan Southard

Your DNA Guide Founder Diahan Southard has been working in the genetic genealogy industry since its infancy. Both before and after earning a degree in microbiology from Brigham Young University, she worked for the Sorenson Molecular Genealogy Foundation, a major pioneer in creating a correlated genetic and genealogical database.

Diahan is the author of Your DNA Guide- The Book, the ultimate step-by-step guide, do-it-yourself DNA manual.

Your DNA Guide Website

Your DNA Guide YouTube Channel

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Connie Recommends These DNA Books

Your DNA Guide- The Book by Diahan Southard

The Family Tree Guide to DNA Testing and Genetic Genealogy by Blaine T. Bettinger

Genetic Genealogy in Practice by Blaine T. Bettinger and Debbie Parker Wayne

Connie Recommends These Other Genealogy TV Videos

Grouping DNA Cousin Matches on Ancestry

AncestryDNA Grouping Cousin Matches: Clarified

Organizing DNA Cousin Matches using Excel Spreadsheets

DNA Playlist on Genealogy TV

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FamilySearch and Ancestry Combined for Genealogy Research

Video Link

About Ancestry and FamilySearch

Ancestry

You should know that Ancestry.com is a paid service where you have individual trees. There are free records and indexes you can view without a subscription. You can also set up a free guest account where you can build a tree. Learn more about what you can do with a free guest account here.

Also, you can sign up for a 14 Free Trial at Ancestry (affiliate link) and see all the records behind the pay wall. This is a good strategy if you find something in the free indexes that warrants further investigation. You can always turn it off before the 14 days expire, to avoid charges to your credit card

FamilySearch

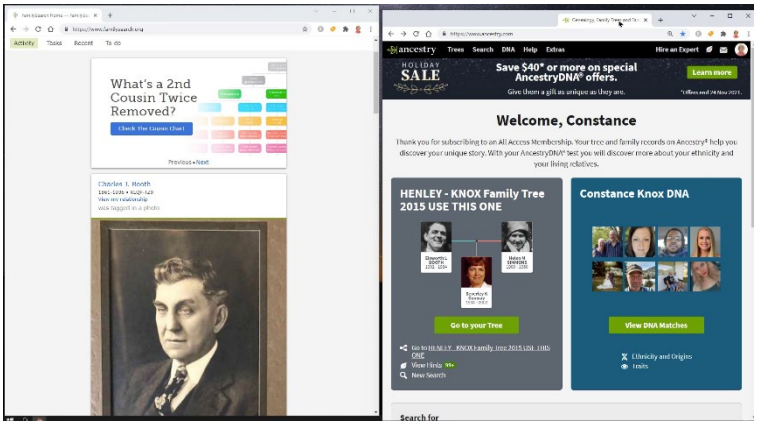
FamilySearch is a free service to everyone to use and uses one giant collaborative world tree. There are no individual trees on FamilySearch. Keep in mind, others working on the tree can change what you add to the tree, with reasons for the change.

Both services have excellent records, some are unique, and some overlap. Therefore, using both together is a very powerful research strategy.

Using Two Screens or Frames

Consider using two screens or two windows (if you are working on one screen) to have both services open at the same time.

Alternatively, you could have two browser tabs open (one for Ancestry.com and one for FamilySearch.org) and bounce back and forth between the two tabs/services as you research.



GenealogyTV.org YouTube.com/GenealogyTV

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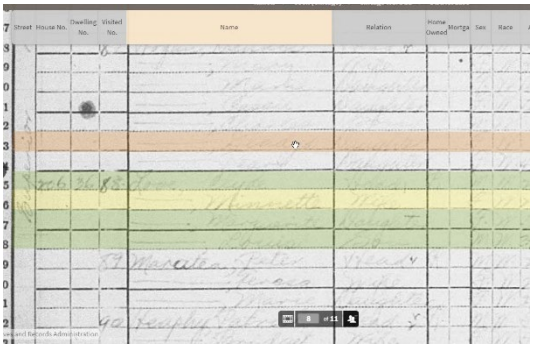
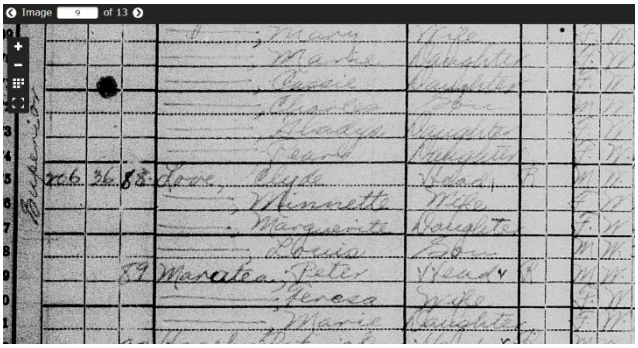
Searching Census Records

You may find that searching census records (or any images) that are hard to read, switching to another service may provide you a better view of the same image. Especially with government records like U.S. Census, I have found this to be helpful. Below is the same image on Ancestry and FamilySearch. Both have image adjustments, so make sure you see the tool icons to help read the images better.





Searching Census on FamilySearch

This is the process I used in the video for looking for a specific image in the U.S. Census on FamilySearch.org. As a reminder from the video, the image on Ancestry was too light, so searching for it on FamilySearch (in this case) gave me a better image.

1. FamilySearch.org > Search > Research Wiki > North America > United States > State > Census (Right side panel) > 1920 > FamilySearch Link > Search Name and an Event Date > Scroll Results to find your person.
2. View the image.
3. Adjust the contrast higher and the brightness lower to increase readability.

Searching Census on Ancestry

While not shown in the video, here is the process for doing the same search on Ancestry from the start. So, if you found a hard to read image on FamilySearch, try switching to Ancestry to see the same image.

1. Search > Census and Voter Lists > Enter Name and an Event Date > Search > Filter to Year (if necessary) > Scroll List > Hover over list for mini view > Click View Image.
2. Tool icon on right will open viewing options.
    1. Use Invert Colors to see a negative view.
    2. Use Enhance Image to add contrast.

Searching Vital Records

Civil Records

Keep in mind that most birth and death certificates were not mandated in the U.S. until about 1909-1912 (depending on the state). Marriage records date back to the mid 1800's (depending on the state). Prior to this time, seek church records.

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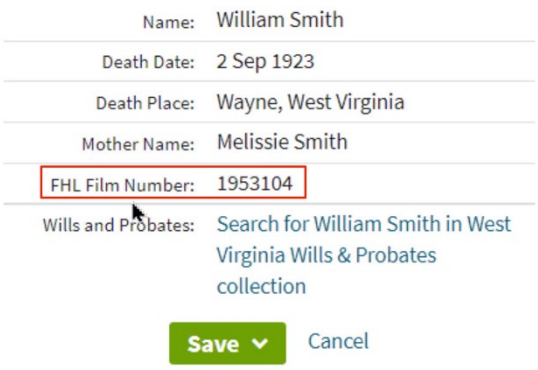
Vital Records on Ancestry

Search Tab > drop down to Birth, Marriage & Death > Search by Name > Filter (left side) to record type > Search by Name > Use Auto Fill if person is already in your tree.



In the video, searching for my ancestor's death records on Ancestry, showed a FHL Film Number. This means Family History Library microfilm number.

Family History Libraries are part of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. These libraries are available for everyone to use, regardless of religion.

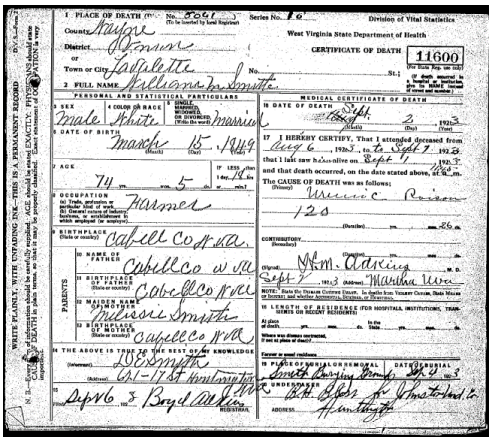
Over the years, the church has microfilmed millions of records and made available on FamilySearch.org for free (also created by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, a.k.a. the Mormons).

Tip: From your ancestor's profile on Ancestry, look at the Member Connect tab other members researching the same person. Then look at their trees > same ancestor > gallery to see if they have uploaded an image of a vital record. You may find the same in leafy hints.

Vital Records on FamilySearch

1. Search > Records > under Find a Collection click on Browse All Collections > in left column under Collection Type choose Birth, Marriage, & Death > Filter (left side) to Location > Review list for possible record sets to review.
2. Search the Record sets by name and event date.

Note: The camera icon indicates the record collection has images.



Death Certificate for William M. Smith 1923

In my experience, I will often find vital records on FamilySearch that I can't find anywhere else.

Tip: From your ancestor's profile on Ancestry, look at the Member Connect tab other members researching the same person. Then look at their trees > same ancestor > gallery to see if they have uploaded an image of a vital record. You may find the same in leafy hints.

3. On FamilySearch, Right-click and "Save as" the image to your computer.

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Search Engines Are Different

Using both Ancestry and FamilySearch to search for the same information will get drastically different results. This is because some of the records they hold are different and because the search engines work differently.

Try doing a search for one of your ancestors using the same exact information (name, event date, event place) to see your results.

This does not mean that all results belong to your ancestor. However, they differences may provide new clues.

On Ancestry

Search > All Collections > Fill in the Fields > Search.

If you use the autofill (for ancestors that are already in your Ancestry tree), consider removing extra data if you are not getting the results you desire. Sometimes too much information can filter out records you need.

On FamilySearch

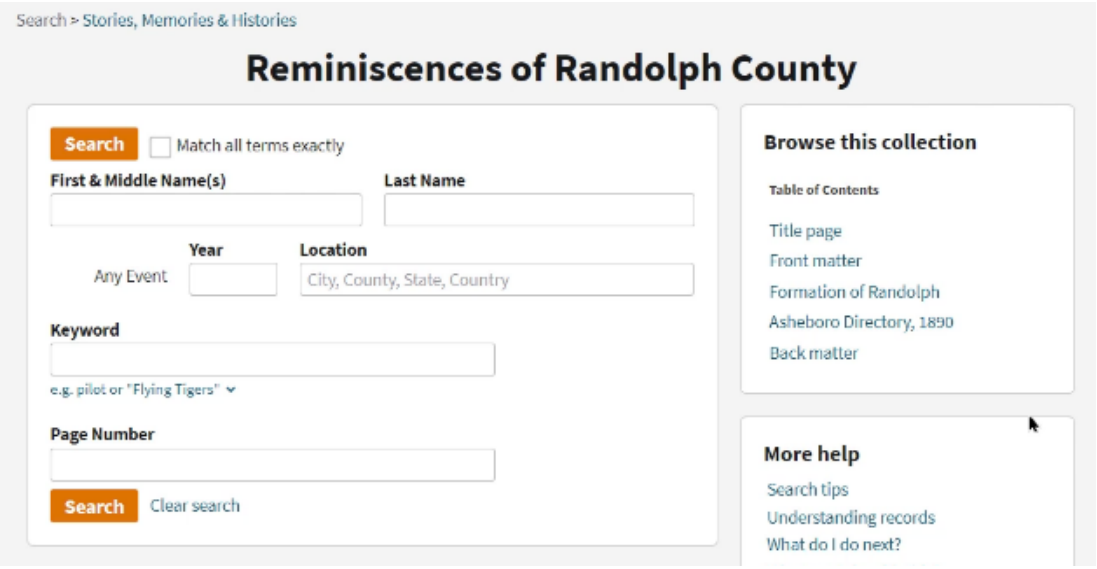
Search tab > All Records > in top search box click More Options > Fill in fields > click Search.

Card Catalogs Title Searches

In this video we did a Title Search and a Keyword Search on both. Below are the steps I took for both of those searches.

On Ancestry – Title Search

Search tab > Card Catalog > Title Search.



In my case I was searching for a book, but you could also search for a record set.

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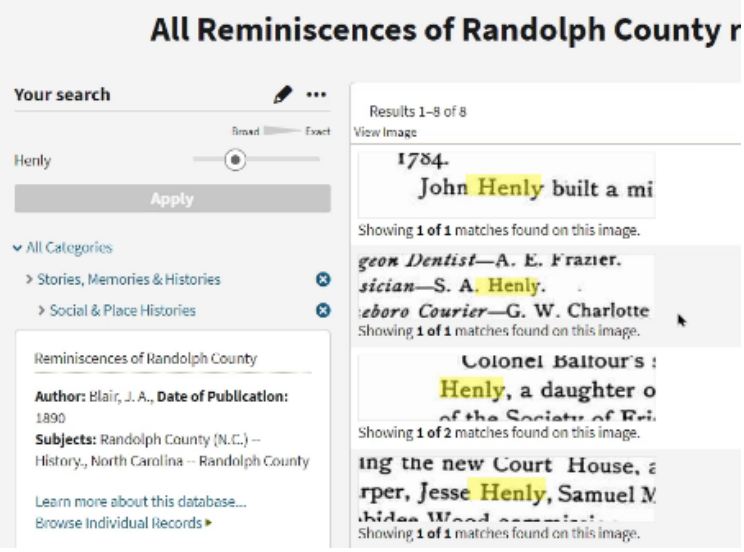
Be mindful that if you are searching for a record set and you don't find what you are looking for, do the same search as a Keyword search instead. Title searches often need an exact title.

Once you click into a record set or book, you may get a search box where you can search for your ancestor's name. Note the quick links on the right side under "Browse this collection."

Be sure to try various spellings of your ancestor because the Optical Character Recognition (OCR) is looking at text and not for various spellings. In my case, I had to change the name from "Henley" to "Henly" to find results.

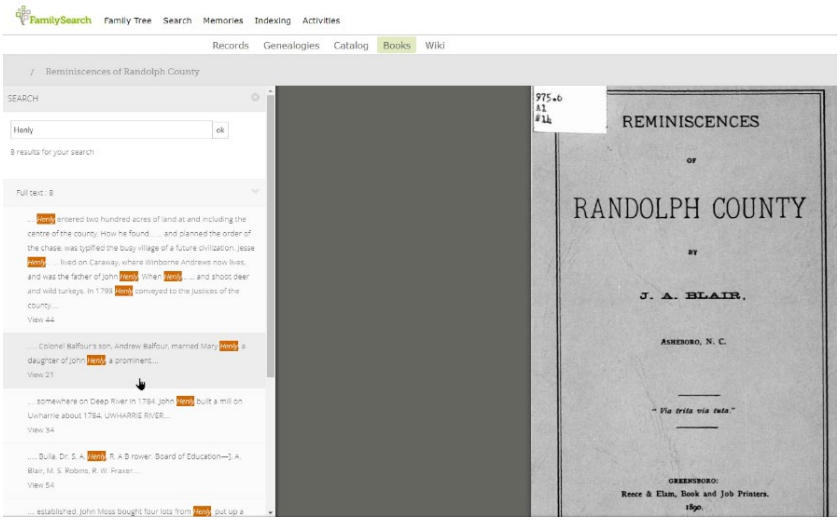


On Family Search - Title Search

Search tab > Card Catalog > Titles > Fill in the Title Field > click Search.

On FamilySearch, if the book is available, click through the link provided to see the images.

Use the search icon at the bottom of the screen to bring up a search box to do an OCR search for your ancestor's name. Just like on Ancestry, you need an exact spelling since this is an OCR search.



Card Catalog Keyword Searches

From the same card catalogs as shown above on either platform, try using keyword searches for the same information.

In my experience, **I have better luck with Keyword searches** as opposed to Title searches on both Ancestry and FamilySearch.

Try various keywords for different results.

Thank You for Supporting Genealogy TV!

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WikiTree

Wiki Tree Video Link

Summary

This video and handout are about the basics of using WikiTree.com. In the video, guest Mindy Silva explains how the WikiTree works and how to get started.

WikiTree has over 27 million ancestor profiles (as of this writing) and is *free* to use, always. It uses a collaborative tree run by a group of very dedicated and fun volunteers known as "WikiTreers."

WikiTree does not have records, but it does allow you to build a tree for free and connect your family to the collaborative tree. Once connected you may find your family tree suddenly expands by several generations in several lines.

WikiTree Honor Code

At some point in your exploration and use of WikiTree, you will be asked to sign the Honor Code. It is simple and designed to keep all users on the same page.

Tags

This is also where you can state the surnames you are researching or specific subjects in the Tags portion of the Honor Code. You can add up to 20 tags.

Getting Started

Set up an account. You can look at some features without signing up, but Mindy suggests you sign up. It is free.

G2G (Genealogist to Genealogist) is the place to go in their forum to get help. Find it by going to the Help menu at the top right of the screen.

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Search for Your Ancestors

To search for your ancestors, you can do so right from the home page as shown. Simply type your Ancestors Name in the green box and hit search. Alternatively, there is a search box at the top from almost anywhere on the WikiTree site.

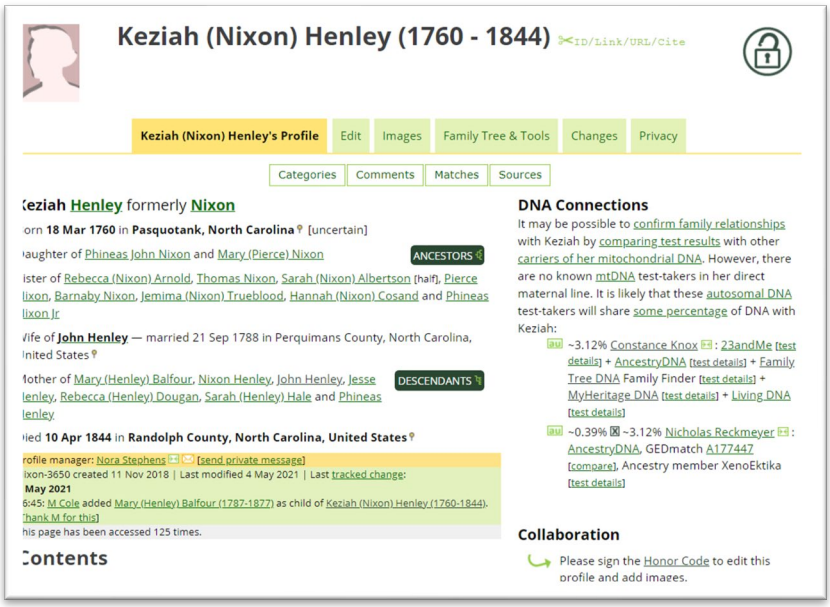
Once the results are shown, you can sort by birth or death dates. Then simply click on the person to see more in the Ancestors Profile.

You may be asked to upgrade your account to the next level to add information to the tree. The upgrade is free. To learn more about benefits of membership, go here.

WikiTree Ancestor ID's

Each ancestor as a WikiTree ID which can help in various search functions throughout the site. You can see it next to the ancestors name and a convenient copy function when you click on the ID

Ancestors Profile



If your ancestors are found in search, there is no need to create a new profile. There is only one profile per ancestor at WikiTree. Anyone can update the profiles like any wiki. You will need to provide record or DNA sources (even if your personal knowledge, is the source) when updating or adding information.

Explore the Edit, Images, Family Tree & Tools, and all tabs across the top of the profile to see what you can do.

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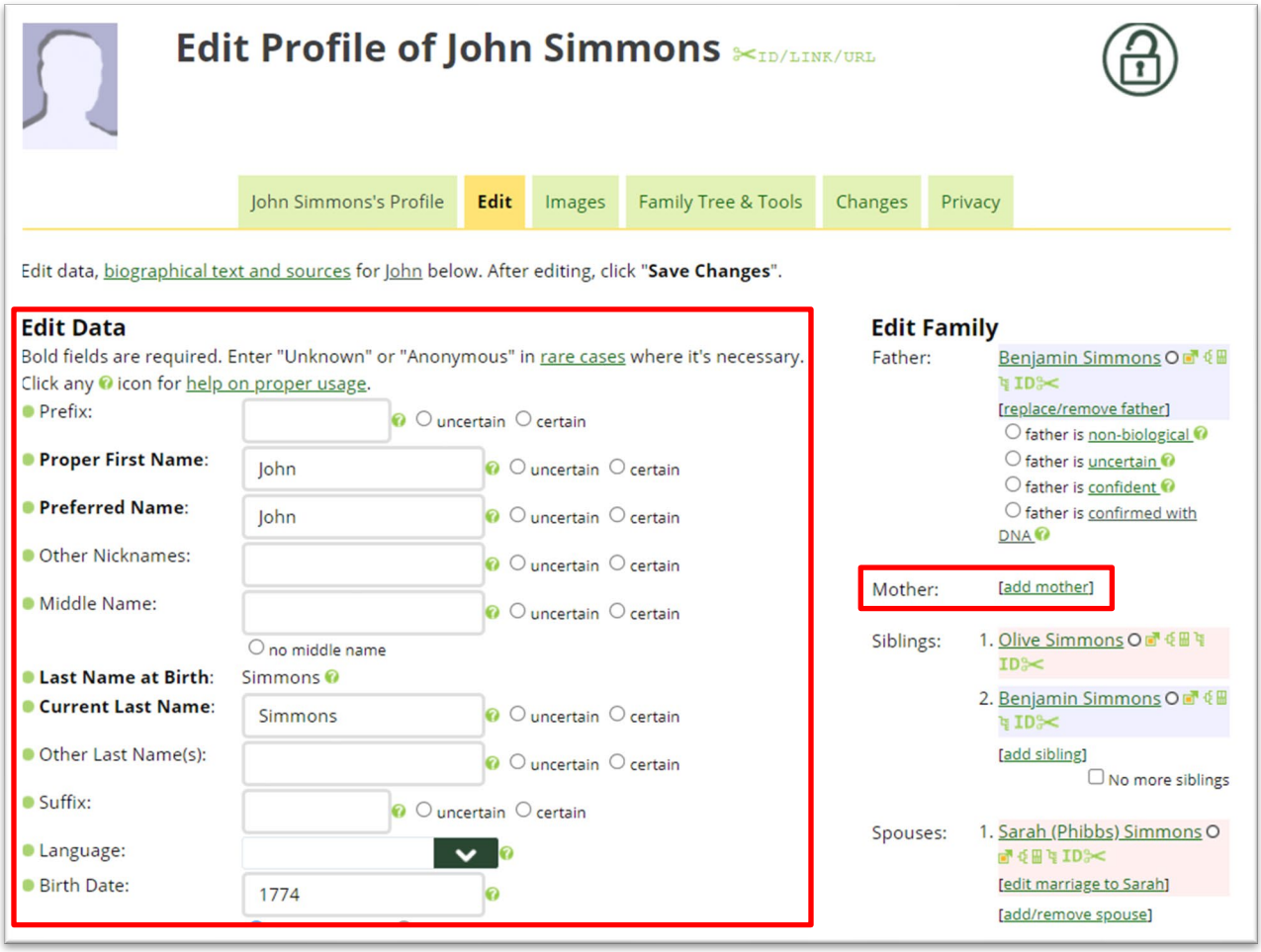
Adding Information

Under the Edit tab (from the profile) is where you can add dates and places, parents and more.



As you add information, you may see a popup screen showing other ancestors in the tree that might be a match. If you see your ancestor in the popup screen, you will want to connect that profile to avoid duplicating the same ancestor in the WikiTree.

Citing Source

WikiTree provides examples of source citations if you want to use them. To find them go to Help (at the top right) and drop down to Sources.

DNA

You can add your DNA kit numbers from other services. WikiTree does not upload DNA but you can make references to where your DNA kits are located.

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Gedcom Uploads

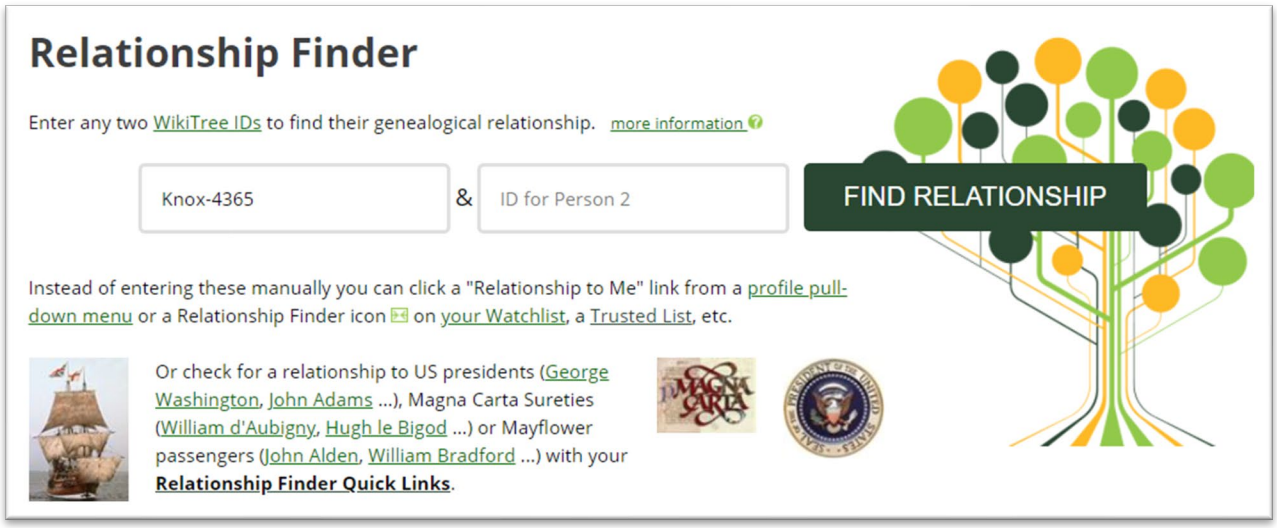
You can upload a Gedcom from another services. You will need to go through each individual one at a time.

Relative Finder

You can find how you are related to anyone in your tree or how any two people are related by going to the Relationship Finder. To get there go to your profile ID in the top menu (like Knox-1234) and click on that to get a menu, then drop down to Relationships.

Alternatively, you can do the same from any other ancestors Profile and click on their Profile ID (like Smith-4567) and drop down to "Relationship to Me."

Another option is to use the Profile ID from any two ancestors to see how they are related to each other.



How to See Sources for a Profile in the WikiTree

Click into a profile, at the bottom is a list of sources. Often you will find link directly to the source.

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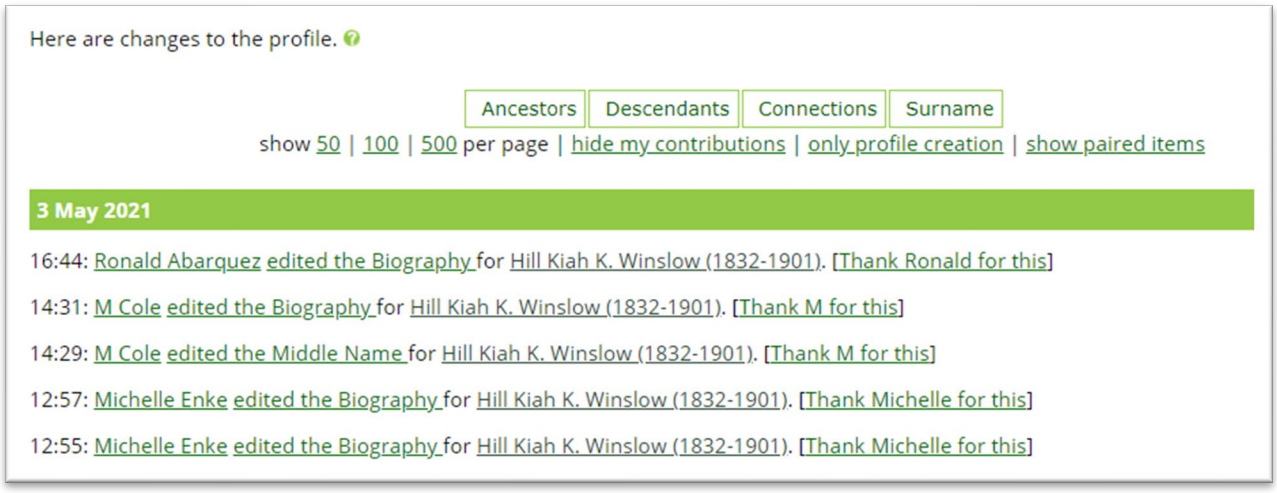
See Changes of All Working on a Profile

Changes are tracked in the Changes tab from any profile. This will help when collaborating with others and to meet new cousins!



Adding Images

In any profile, click on the Add New link. Do not forget to add the source or give credit to who provided the original image.

Projects

You can see special projects on specific subjects by clicking on the Find tab and dropping down to Projects.

Thanks

Special Thanks to Mindy Silva for the interview and help with the WikiTree Challenge (in another episode) where I was the guest.

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