

Bi-Monthly Newsletter September 15, 2021



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Hit a Brick Wall? Need Help?



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Important Notice for Readers

The Ancestor Hunt has undergone a major redesign and a new host as well. Please email me at kenmarksology@gmail.com with any problems that you encounter so that I may fix them readily.

Have You Checked Out These New International Online Newspaper Collections?

- [Imperial Russian Newspapers \(22 titles\)](#) (1702-1918)
- [Independent and Revolutionary Mexican Newspapers \(987 titles\)](#) (1807-1899)
- [Late Qing and Republican-Era Chinese Newspapers \(292 titles\)](#) (1911-1949)
- [Middle Eastern and North African Newspapers \(79 titles\)](#) (1902-1967)

→ Please Note: Hot Links are in [BLUE](#)



Articles Published Since Last Issue

- [FamilySearch New and Updated Collections – September 1-15, 2021](#)
- [1,360 Free Online Naturalization Collections from the Mid West States](#)
- [100 New Free Online Immigration Record Collections Added to Now Total 580](#)
- [Free New York Online Naturalization Records](#)
- [Free Online Georgia Military Records](#)
- [Free Ohio Online Naturalization Records](#)
- [Free Missouri Online Naturalization Records](#)
- [Free Illinois Online Naturalization Records](#)
- [Free Wisconsin Online Naturalization Records](#)
- [Free Minnesota Online Naturalization Records](#)
- [Free Michigan Online Naturalization Records](#)
- [Free Oklahoma Online Naturalization Records](#)
- [Free Indiana Online Naturalization Records](#)
- [Free Nebraska Online Naturalization Records](#)
- [Free Pennsylvania Online Naturalization Records](#)
- [Free North Carolina Online Naturalization Records](#)
- [Free Florida Online Naturalization Records](#)
- [Free Kentucky Online Naturalization Records](#)
- [Free Maine Online Naturalization Records](#)
- [Free West Virginia Online Naturalization Records](#)
- [Free New Jersey Online Naturalization Records](#)
- [Free Online Wisconsin Military Records](#)
- [3,455 Free Online Naturalization Collections for the United States](#)
- [570 Free Online Naturalization Collections from the Western States](#)
- [Free Illinois Online Voter Records](#)
- [Free Indiana Online Voter Records](#)
- [Free Washington Online Naturalization Records](#)
- [Free Oregon Online Naturalization Records](#)
- [Free Arizona Online Naturalization Records](#)
- [Free Colorado Online Naturalization Records](#)
- [Free California Online Naturalization Records](#)
- [660 Free Online Naturalization Collections from the Southern States](#)
- [Free Texas Online Naturalization Records](#)

New From The Newspaper Corner

- [Advantage Archives 1.2 Million Historical Newspaper Pages – August, 2021](#)
- [GenealogyBank Adds/Updates 91 Titles – September, 2021](#)
- [Find My Past Makes 1 Million Pages of British Newspapers Available for Free](#)
- [Huge Collection of 1,380 Free Online Historical Newspaper Titles from Mexico, Russia, China, North Africa, and the Middle East Available from The Global Press Archive](#)
- [Veridian Software – Historical Newspaper Report – September, 2021](#)

Sure census records are great, as are city directories, voting records, naturalization papers, BMD Records, etc. But the biggest and best "Clues Machine" is newspapers. Without question.

If you are looking for cause of death, the first place you look is on the death certificate. But what if there isn't a DC or you can't get one? Never fear - try searching for the deceased for a couple of weeks or a month earlier in the local town newspaper. In smaller towns in the human interest/local news section there may be a reference to a hospitalization or an accident.

Remember when searching for Immigration Records that there is often a second page that contains much more info about the traveling immigrant.

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6 Best Ways to NOT FIND Your Ancestors

Genealogy researching is hard; nobody cooperates; the database you want to research is the next county over; you have names that have thousands of duplicates; the online family trees are all over the place, etc. So you continue to not find your ancestors. In the interests of keeping this losing streak alive, here are 6 ways to continue to not find your ancestors:

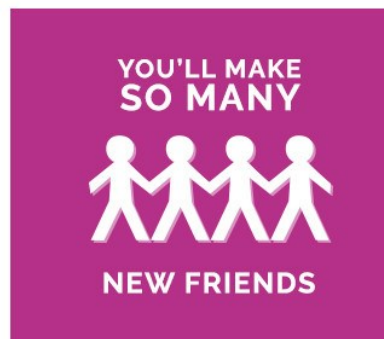
- **Don't interview your older relatives** – I have 2 of them left and what a pain they are. They can't hear you. They suffer from CRS disease (Can't Remember Squat). If you bring a bunch of technology, like voice recorders, smartphones, iPads, laptops – they freak out. Don't bother showing them your old photos because most of the answers will be "I don't remember" or "I don't know." And that is if you can get them to stop crying over all their old friends and close relatives who have died. And make sure you argue with them when they tell you something about somebody that you know is not true. They are probably wrong anyway. They were "there" but their memory is failing so they are probably making stuff up. Make sure you ask them about all the "skeletons in the closet" stories that you heard about them and others. That will really get them to cooperate, because at their age they like nothing better than to tell embarrassing stories about themselves that they forgot about 40 years ago. Yeah – older relatives – what a waste of time. And they will be mad at you afterwards for dredging up old crappy memories.
- **Always do exact searches** – When you are searching online, like FamilySearch or that not free one – Ancestry? Or any other – make sure that you always do exact searches because those are the best. If you have written down that they lived in Georgia, why would you search in South Carolina – that's dumb. And oh yeah – regarding last name spelling – Imagine the census taker in the early 1900's. They show up at the door and ask your great grandmother a bunch of questions. He says – "What's your last name? And she says "Mankiewicz". He says "Huh?" She says "Mankiewicz" and knowing that most people have no clue how to spell it – she starts "M..A..N..." and he writes down the letters one by one. So no mistakes made there. And even if she didn't spell it out for him, he was smart enough to know how to spell it. They paid those census takers a lot of money – so they were smart and also had to have exceptional penmanship to get the job. So you say – what about the data entry of documents into an index? Ever heard of two pass verification or double data entry – problem solved – 99.5% success is pretty darn good. So you say – what about the changing of names at Ellis Island? Don't even get me started on that hocus pocus baloney. Of course they were all changed – nobody could speak English, Duh!
- **Only search online** – Everybody knows that everything is online, so why would you want to go to a library or an archive? You can't take pictures; you have to wear gloves, and forget going to a courthouse – all that dust and crabby people that work there? Not for me. And besides you have to get out of your pajamas, get dressed – shave or put makeup on – no way. And it takes too darn long looking for things one boring page at a time. You can't read half the stuff anyway. Don't get me started with microfilm readers. So 20th century!
- **Don't write down where you got stuff** – all the experts tell you to write down where you found stuff – you know documents and things. Why? You already found it – so why would you write down where you found it? That's dumb. If you were walking down the street and found a twenty dollar bill would you rush home and write down the address of where you found it? Heck no – you'd spend it. Look – I found it – you didn't. If you want to prove me wrong – go find it yourself. That's your problem, not mine. Why? Cause I already found it. That's another "Duh". So you say – for future generations!. Again that's their problem – you'll be dead anyway – what do you care?
- **Copy from every tree you can find** – this is my favorite because it makes it so easy to not find any of the right ancestors. There are tons of already perfect family trees out there – on Ancestry, FamilySearch, WikiTree, My Heritage, and many more. I have always felt that if it is written down and/or published then it has to be correct. So you want to join all these sites and copy all of the trees and merge them with your tree. Then you will have tons of possible ancestors all in one place. What a goldmine of ancestors – most of whom aren't yours.
- **Don't try to find living relatives** – Okay – you have been at this "not finding ancestors" thing for quite awhile. Everybody says that you should try to find "cousins" – not necessarily first cousins, but 2nd, 3rd, removed ones, etc. Have you met my cousins? I don't need more cousins like them. But I digress. Here's the deal – if these so-called cousins were interested in genealogy wouldn't they have already contacted you? And if they haven't, then it means that they don't care. And let me tell you – some of these cousins make this "not finding ancestors" thing an art form. They hide old boxes of ancestor documents and photos in their garages and attics and claim to have no time to look through them. So don't even bother trying to find them and contact them. Keep your not finding ancestors streak alive.

FULL DISCLOSURE – everything written above is intended to be a joke. PLEASE do NOT do any of these things like I said. Meet with your older relatives NOW; don't rely on exact searches; get out of the house and to libraries and archives – that is where you will find some really great stuff; please write down your sources – if not for future generations but for yourself – so you don't have to ask yourself where you found it; be very careful with existing online family trees – use them as clues only and VERIFY!; and yes – try to find other "cousins" – not only will you expand your tree but you will meet some great people who may indeed help you.



Remember - Genealogy for Most is a Hobby!

Nine Reasons to Love Genealogy



www.gouldgenealogy.com

Genealogy & History News

#LoveGenealogy

With complete credit to a fantastic organization in Australia, Gould Genealogy. Follow them at www.gouldgenealogy.com

For about 99% of the genealogy researchers in the world, this exciting research is a hobby. It is supposed to be fun (as hobbies are). If you're not having fun, take a vacation from your research. Go to the beach; go to the mountains. Whatever. Get away from your research and come back with a refreshed mind.

Remember—Have Fun!



Useful Articles from Other Sources

Looking for a Genealogy Event?

- [Remember to Check Out Conference Keeper!](#)

Searching Census Records?

- [26 Tips for Searching Census Records on Genealogy Websites](#)

Looking for Free Stuff?

- [5 Online Genealogy Freebies You're Missing](#)

Getting Ready for the 1950 Census?

- [Check out Marion B. Wood's great example for using the "Unified Census ED Finder" on Steve Morse's One-Step page](#)

If we don't research and write our ancestor's stories, who will?

New Website Navigation

There are 4 Menu Items

[Home](#) [Resources](#) ▾ [Blog](#) [More](#) ▾

The Resources Menu item includes all 20 Categories of Links (e.g., Newspapers, Yearbooks, Directories, etc.), Plus the By Location Feature

The More Menu Item includes: Recent Articles, Quicksheets, Newsletters, Subscribe, About, Contact, and Tools

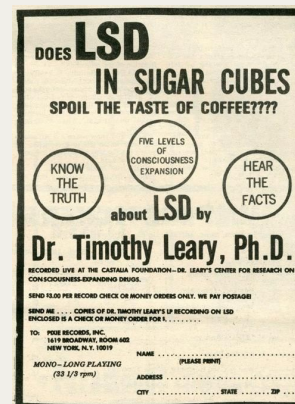
In the Footer, there is a Search bar, Access to Blog Posts and Article Archives, and a New Category feature. Every Blog Post will be assigned at least one category.

Quirky Old Newspaper Ad

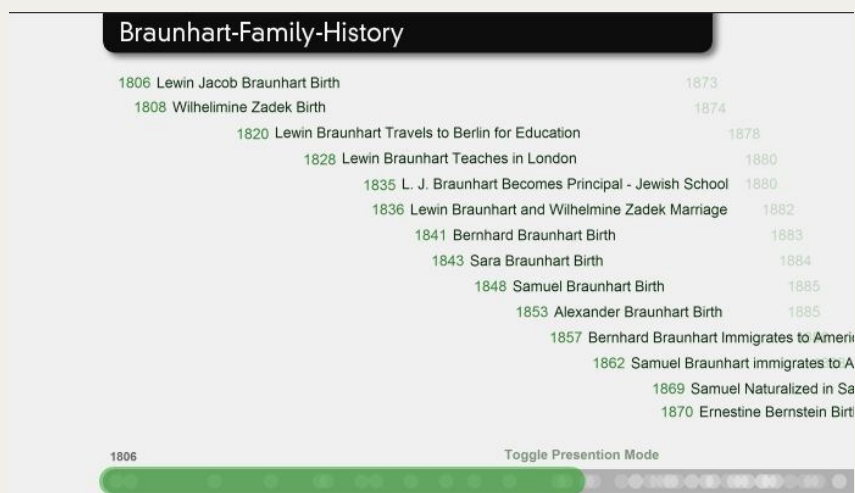
WHAT I AM WORKING ON IN SEPTEMBER

FINISH CEMETERY AND BURIAL RECORDS AND MILITARY RECORDS CATEGORIES

START UPDATE OF PROBATE RECORDS AND WILLS CATEGORY,



A Really Easy, Free Way to Make a Genealogy Timeline



Laying out your ancestors' important events in a visual way is a great way to analyze their lives and compare them to others in your family tree.


Personally I like using timeline software applications as a way to display these events for some branches of my family tree. If you like, it is a visual way to share important events with your own relatives about their ancestors.

I have used many different timeline tools and for me, the one that is the easiest to use and has the most flexibility for the future is [Timeline JS from Northwestern University](#)

Most timeline software tools are either an app, a software program that you download, or a web application. These are terrific and often have a wide variety of features that Timeline JS does not have.

Why do I recommend Timeline JS? Because it is Open Source and not a proprietary program. Other timeline tools may have more features but are susceptible to the underlying software that they rely on. For example, many used to use Flash technology which created problems on smartphones.

Here is a sample from my own tree. It is fairly simple but does have text, photos and videos included. Not multi-color like many timeline "makers" but does the job.



THE BRAUNHART FAMILY

Although the Braunhart family was certainly in existence prior to 1800, the first Braunhart emerged into our recorded history in 1806. Through these 200+ years, exile, emigration, and heartbreak were certainly a part of the family's stories. But there have been geniuses, writers, inventors, and politicians as well as those who had happier lives.

LEWIN JACOB BRAUNHART BIRTH

So, is Timeline JS the coolest timeline creator out there? Nope – it is pretty basic. But it is really easy to implement and gets the job done. And as stated earlier, being open-source protects it somewhat in the future.

Try it out – you might like it. If you still want something "fancy-schmancy" you won't have invested a ton of time with Timeline JS.

And, it is FREE!

45 Reasons to Research Immigration Records

When I first started my ancestor research, after I had gotten over the initial excitement of reviewing census records and interviewing my living relatives, I almost immediately began trying to find my immigrant ancestors and how they got to America. Through free repositories such as Ellis Island and Castle Garden and other sites, as well as records available via subscription sites I plugged away.

After collecting a few records, I began to analyze the contents of those records. There are tons of information included in them, and thorough analysis can lead you to discover familial relationships that are much beyond what ship they arrived in, and on what date they immigrated. My first few records were from the mid-1850's and all that was on the passenger lists were name, age, sex, occupation, and where they were coming from. Make sure that you analyze the hospital/medical detention information for the trip also. Later lists have much more information requested and on the passenger lists, as you can see below.

-
- Name of the Immigrant – to Despite the legend that names were changed at Ellis Island – they certainly were not. But folks did change their name later. Members of my own family changed their Hebrew names to their English/American equivalents – not necessarily at the time of immigration but at some point later. So searching for the Anglicized name may not bear fruit in these cases when searching for their immigration records.
 - Family – families certainly did travel together and sometimes not, and sometimes not on the same ship or in the same year. Other relatives may have been on the same ship – so take a look at all the manifest pages. Just like in census records, a page or two away may be an aunt, a cousin, or other relative.
 - Age
 - Gender
 - Marital Status
 - Occupation
 - Ability to Read and/or Write – also indicates which language they were proficient in.
 - Nationality /Citizenship
 - Race
 - Place of Birth – City/town and country
 - Place of Last Residence – City/town and country
 - Name and Address of Contact for Location from Whence they Came – This is very useful information because it may provide information about a family member in the “old country” that you may know nothing about.
 - Visa – Number and where and when issued.
 - Final Destination – City/Town and State.
 - Whether Going to Visit a Relative or Friend – name and complete address is requested in this entry. Similar to the contact person from whence they came – this entry can also provide terrific clues as to other relatives of the immigrant.
 - Ever Been in Prison, Almshouse, Mental Institution or Supported by Charity?
 - Polygamist?
 - Anarchist?
 - Labor Contract?
 - Physical and Mental Health Condition?
 - Deformed or Crippled?
 - Do You Have a Ticket for Final Destination?
 - Who Paid for Your Passage?
 - How Much Money in Your Possession?
 - Been to The U.S. Before?
 - Height – just one of the physical characteristics requested in the form. In lieu of a lack of a photo for an ancestor – these characteristics provide some clue to what they looked like.
 - Hair Color
 - Eye Color
 - Complexion Type
 - Marks of Identification
 - Name of Ship
 - Port/City of Departure
 - Date of Departure
 - Part of the Vessel for Travel – which deck, for example
 - Port/City of Arrival
 - Date of Arrival
 - For Aircraft – Carrier and Flight Number
 - Purpose for Coming to the U.S.
 - Length of Intended Stay
 - Ever Excluded from U.S., Deported or Arrested?
 - Detained Aliens – Name
 - Detained Aliens – Reason for Detention– usually medical; the form is not shown here but is a separate form
 - Detained Aliens – Final Disposition
 - Detained Aliens – Date of Discharge
 - Detained Aliens – Number of Meals Provided



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Help Your Ancestors Live Forever - Write Your Family History And Write Your Own History While You're At It

One of my goals in my personal genealogy is to make sure that my ancestors are remembered. Many had no descendants, so absolutely no one alive remembers them. That's sad to me, which is why I created a couple of family history websites. But recently I have been seeking even better ways to memorialize their lives. Their stories are important to be documented, which might explain why I am such a fan of newspaper research.

In any case, here are a few tools that I have discovered that provide a unique means to memorialize our ancestors.

And guess what? We need to produce our own autobiographies. We aren't getting any younger and memories do fade.



Whoowe

Produce an online history easily with text, video, and audio from online questions on your phone. You can contribute content in minute or several minute increments.

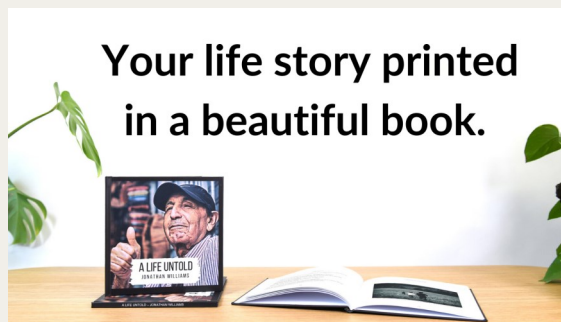
Whoowe is available from the AppStore and Google Play. Info at whoowe.com Try it out for free. Discount coupon for readers coming soon.



StorySpot

Produce an online memorial with text, video, timelines, photos, favorite songs, and audio, and produce an optional book. Great for family reunions also

Available at www.storystop.com. Try it out for free. 25% discount available by using "ANCESTOR" as coupon code.



A Life Untold

Produce an online history easily with text, video, and audio from online questions. Proceed at your own pace, and add questions if you like. Very easy to use.

Available at A Life Untold. Try it out. 10% discount available by using "HUNT as coupon code.

Record Your Autobiography With



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They say the closest you can feel to someone without touching them, is hearing their voice. Produce an online autobiography or memorial with audio; add photos and coordinate with a book.

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Last But Not Least

Newly Completed States with All Categories Created

- [7,885 Free Online New York Collections Available Now in 19 Genealogy Record Categories](#)
- [2,080 Free Online New Hampshire Collections Available Now in 19 Genealogy Record Categories](#)
- [2,429 Free Online Vermont Collections Available Now in 19 Genealogy Record Categories](#)
- [893 Free Online South Dakota Collections Available Now in 19 Genealogy Record Categories](#)
- [760 Free Online Rhode Island Collections Available Now in 19 Genealogy Record Categories](#)
- [2,009 Free Online Washington Collections Available Now in 19 Genealogy Record Categories](#)
- [803 Free Online Wyoming Collections Available Now in 19 Genealogy Record Categories](#)
- [521 Free Online Nevada Collections Available Now in 19 Genealogy Record Categories](#)
- [483 Free Online District of Columbia Collections Available Now in 19 Genealogy Record Categories](#)
- [6,952 Free Online Texas Collections Available Now in 19 Genealogy Record Categories](#)
- [834 Free Online North Dakota Collections Available Now in 19 Genealogy Record Categories](#)
- [975 Free Online New Mexico Collections Available Now in 19 Genealogy Record Categories](#)
- [1,968 Free Online Maryland Collections Available Now in 19 Genealogy Record Categories](#)
- [1,643 Free Online Mississippi Collections Available Now in 19 Genealogy Record Categories](#)
- [4,256 Free Online Kentucky Collections Available Now in 19 Genealogy Record Categories](#)
- [560 Free Online Nova Scotia Collections Available Now in 6 Genealogy Record Categories](#)
- [4,303 Free Online Ontario Collections Available Now in 6 Genealogy Record Categories](#)
- [268 Free Online Newfoundland and Labrador Collections Available Now in 6 Genealogy Record Categories](#)
- [317 Free Online New Brunswick Collections Available Now in 6 Genealogy Record Categories](#)
- [3,010 Free Online Minnesota Collections Available Now in 19 Genealogy Record Categories](#)
- [3,959 Free Online Michigan Collections Available Now in 19 Genealogy Record Categories](#)
- [519 Free Online Manitoba Collections Available Now in 6 Genealogy Record Categories](#)
- [2,057 Free Online Alberta Collections Available Now in 6 Genealogy Record Categories](#)
- [176 Free Online Prince Edward Island Collections Available Now in 6 Genealogy Record Categories](#)
- [2,230 Free Online New Jersey Collections Available Now in 19 Genealogy Record Categories](#)
- [4,735 Free Online Missouri Collections Available Now in 19 Genealogy Record Categories](#)

The Ancestor Hunt Research Link Categories:

- | | |
|-------------------------------|---------------------|
| • Newspapers | • Mortuary Records |
| • Obituaries | • Immigration |
| • BMD Records | • Church Records |
| • Directories | • School Records |
| • Photos | • Voter Lists |
| • Yearbooks | • Coroner Records |
| • Divorce Records | • Probate and Wills |
| • Naturalizations | • Alumni Records |
| • Cemetery and Burial Records | • Birth Records |
| • Marriage Records | • Death Records |

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