

Monthly Newsletter October 15, 2023

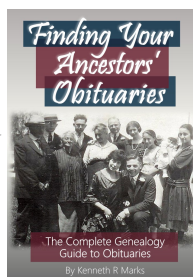


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amzn.to/3JxiiWB](https://amzn.to/3JxiiWB)



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



Articles Published Since Last Issue

- [Ancestry New and Updated Collections – October 1-15, 2023](#)
- [FamilySearch New and Updated Collections – October 1-15, 2023](#)
- [Ancestry New and Updated Collections – September 1-30, 2023](#)
- [FamilySearch New and Updated Collections – September 1-30, 2023](#)
- [16,525 United States High Schools and Colleges with Free Online Yearbooks](#)
- [1,895 Free Western States High School and College Yearbooks Online](#)
- [Free California High School and College Yearbooks Online](#)
- [6,220 Free Mid West States High School and College Yearbooks Online](#)
- [Free Ohio High School and College Yearbooks Online](#)
- [3,570 Free United States Online Tax Records](#)
- [245 Free Western States Online Tax Records](#)
- [675 Free Mid Atlantic States Online Tax Records](#)
- [850 Free New England States High School and College Yearbooks Online](#)
- [2,105 Free Southern States Online Tax Records](#)
- [2,860 Free Online New England States Death Record and Index Collections](#)
- [Free Online Illinois Criminal Records](#)
- [965 Free Online Mid Atlantic States Death Record and Index Collections](#)
- [Free Online New York Death Records and Indexes](#)
- [Free Online Georgia Criminal Records](#)
- [Free Online North Carolina Criminal Records](#)
- [Free Online Pennsylvania Death Records and Indexes](#)
- [Three Very Cool Online Collections from the National Archives](#)
- [8 Reasons You Can't Find Squat About Your Ancestors Online](#)
- [2,205 Free Online Mid West States Death Record and Index Collections](#)
- [Free Online Tennessee Criminal Records](#)
- [The U. S. Federal Non-Population Census Schedules](#)
- [Free Online Michigan Death Records and Indexes](#)
- [Free Online Illinois Death Records and Indexes](#)
- [2,941 Free Online Southern States Death Record and Index Collections](#)
- [How to Access Ancestry's 1,241 Free Collections](#)
- [Free Online Texas Death Records and Indexes](#)
- [Free Online Georgia Death Records and Indexes](#)
- [Free Online Virginia Death Records and Indexes](#)
- [Free Online North Carolina Death Records and Indexes](#)
- [Free Online Tennessee Death Records and Indexes](#)

New From The Newspaper Corner

- [Advantage Archives Adds 650 Thousand Historical Newspaper Pages – September 2023](#)
- [Newspapers dot Com Update – September 2023](#)
- [British Newspaper Archive Adds/Updates 44 Titles – September, 2023](#)
- [GenealogyBank Adds/Updates 27 Titles – October 2023](#)
- [Virginia Chronicle Adds/Updates 24 Newspaper Titles – October, 2023](#)
- [NY State Historical Newspapers Adds/Updates 57 Titles – October, 2023](#)
- [Veridian Adds/Updates 375 Titles – October 2023](#)
- [Nova Scotia Online Historical Newspapers Summary](#)
- [Manitoba Online Historical Newspapers Summary](#)
- [Newfoundland and Labrador Online Historical Newspapers Summary](#)
- [Saskatchewan Online Historical Newspapers Summary](#)
- [NewspaperARCHIVE Update – September 2023](#)
- [Find My Past Adds/Updates 62 Historical Newspaper Titles – September, 2023](#)
- [Chronicling America Updates – September 2023](#)

Quirky Old Newspaper Ads

DOES **LSD**
IN SUGAR CUBES
SPOIL THE TASTE OF COFFEE????

KNOW THE TRUTH

FIVE LEVELS OF CONSCIOUSNESS EXPANSION

HEAR THE FACTS

about **LSD** by
Dr. Timothy Leary, Ph.D.

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Useful Articles from Other Sources

Scanning Old Photos?

- [10 Steps for Scanning Your Genealogy Files and Family Photos](#)

Looking for Middle Names?

- [Caught In Between: Tips for Researching Ancestors' Middle Names](#)

Researching Census Records

- [4 Ways US Census Records Can Fool You](#)

Researching immigrant Ancestors?

- [A Timeline of US Immigration Law for Genealogists](#)

Are You Accurate?

- [5 Ways To Tell If Your Genealogy Research Is Accurate](#)

Polish Ancestors?

- [10 Websites for Polish Genealogy Research](#)

Searching by Name Only?

- [Why Searching for Your Ancestors by Full Name Can Sometimes Be the Worst Way to Find Them](#)

Questions?

- [13 Common Genealogy Questions, Answered](#)

Researching Spanish Language Records?

- [Tips for Reading Civil Registry Records in Spanish](#)

What are Those Symbols on Gravestones?

- [The Hidden Meaning of Grave Marker Symbols Explained](#)

Are You an Undisciplined Researcher?

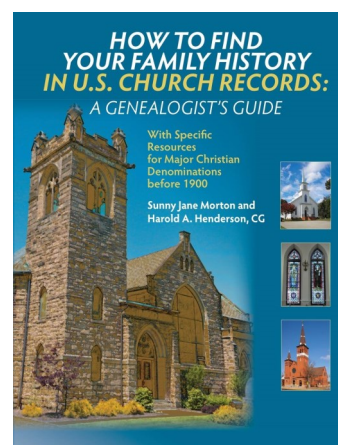
- [Six Tips for Staying Focused While You Research](#)

Trying to Find Your Ancestor's Occupation?

- [The Genealogist's Guide to Occupational Records](#)

WHAT I AM WORKING ON IN OCTOBER

- FINISH ALUMNI RECORDS UPDATE
- DO MORTUARY AND FUNERAL HOMES UPDATE
- FINISH UPDATE FOR DEATH
- FINISH CANADA NEWSPAPER UPDATE
- START BIRTH RECORDS UPDATE



Please send suggestions for new research categories to kenmarksology@gmail.com

Click to Find Out More about this Book of the Month

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Free Online Genealogy Research Toolkits

We specialize in curating and presenting links to Free Online Genealogy Records, Collections, and Indexes by genealogical category. But, not all genealogy-related material fits into a category that can be curated easily, such as scrapbooks, diaries, letters, old manuscripts, local histories, etc. There are archives, libraries, unique document collections, and specialized genealogy websites. Each Toolkit has 60 to 120 links to Free Online Genealogy Related Collections and Archives.


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Unfolding History: Creating An Ancestral Timeline with Newspapers

This article is reprinted with permission from NewspaperArchive/Storied

As family history enthusiasts, we are always on the lookout for unique ways to bring our ancestors' stories to life. One creative and informative method is to use newspapers to craft a timeline of your ancestor's life. Newspapers, with their rich historical content, can provide invaluable insights into the lives and times of our forebears. Let's explore how you can transform old newspapers into a captivating and personalized timeline that sheds light on your ancestor's journey through history.

Start with the Basics

Begin your journey into your ancestor's past by gathering all the relevant information you have about them. This may include birth and death dates, marriage records, and any other significant life events. Having this foundation will help you focus your search and pinpoint specific moments in their life that you want to highlight on your timeline.

Define Your Ancestor's Timeline

It's time to create a rough outline of your ancestor's life events. Divide your timeline into sections, starting with their birth and ending with their death. In between, consider major life events such as marriages, the birth of children, career achievements, and notable milestones.

The Art of Newspaper Clipping

Once you've identified key moments, dive into the newspapers and search for articles, advertisements, and even photographs that relate to your ancestor's life. Look for mentions of their name, family, or any event that you have documented in your timeline. Add notes to your clippings with the newspaper name, date of publication, and page number for easy reference later.

Crafting the Timeline

Now comes the fun part – piecing together your ancestor's life timeline. You can use a large poster board, a digital collage, or even a dedicated scrapbook to bring it all together. Arrange the newspaper clippings in chronological order, ensuring that each event is clearly marked and labeled with the date. Add context to each clipping by including a brief summary or description of its significance.

Adding Depth with Context

To make your timeline truly captivating, include additional context about the historical period in which your ancestor lived. Incorporate newspaper headlines, articles, or advertisements that give insight into the cultural, political, and social context of their time. This will help you and others better understand the world in which your ancestor lived.

On the next page is a list of ideas for types of newspaper clippings you can include to make your timeline more comprehensive and captivating:



Click on the image and Enter TAH10 to receive a 10% discount on Storied Plus and Storied Ultimate.

A Free Version is always available.



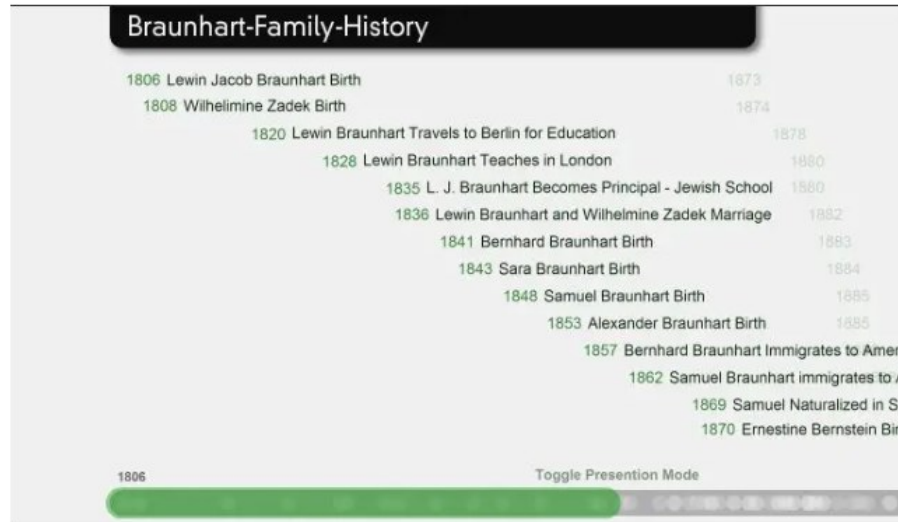
Unfolding History: Creating An Ancestral Timeline with Newspapers

1. **Birth Announcements**: Look for birth announcements or birth notices that include your ancestor's name, birth date, and parents' names. Some even include the name of the hospital, weight of the baby, and home address of the family!
2. **Marriage Announcements**: Include newspaper articles announcing your ancestor's wedding, along with details like the wedding date, venue, and the names of the bride and groom. If you're lucky, you might even uncover attendants in the wedding!
3. **Obituaries**: Obituaries provide valuable information about your ancestor's life and relationships, including their date of death, age, surviving family members, and sometimes even a brief biography. Don't search for just obituaries. There are a variety of death notices in newspapers.
4. **Military Service Records**: Newspaper articles related to your ancestor's military service, such as enlistment, promotions, or notable achievements during wartime.
5. **Community Involvement**: Look for articles about your ancestor's involvement in community organizations, clubs, or civic activities.
6. **Occupational Achievements**: Include news stories about your ancestor's career accomplishments, promotions, or any significant contributions to their field.
7. **Local News and Events**: Incorporate articles about significant local or national events that may have impacted your ancestor's life, such as natural disasters, elections, or cultural events.
8. **Advertisements**: Vintage advertisements can provide insight into the products and services available during your ancestor's time, giving a sense of daily life.
9. **Social Columns**: Society or social columns may mention your ancestor attending parties, gatherings, or other social events, offering a glimpse into their social life.
10. **Sports and Hobbies**: If your ancestor had a passion for sports or hobbies, include articles related to their athletic achievements, club memberships, or interests.
11. **Achievements of Family Members**: Include articles about the accomplishments of your ancestor's siblings, parents, or extended family members, providing a broader family context.
12. **Legal Matters**: Newspaper reports on legal matters, such as court cases, land acquisitions, or wills and probate, can shed light on your ancestor's legal affairs.
13. **Travel Stories**: If your ancestor was an avid traveler, include newspaper articles or travelogues detailing their journeys or vacations. Think about the mode of transportation they might have traveled to get to their destination.
14. **Business Ventures**: Incorporate articles related to any businesses your ancestor owned or operated, including grand openings, advertisements, or notable business events.
15. **Letters to the Editor**: Personal letters or opinions your ancestor may have submitted to the newspaper's editor can provide insight into their views on current events or social issues.
16. **Health and Medical News**: If your ancestor faced health challenges or medical breakthroughs during their lifetime, include relevant articles.
17. **Immigration and Naturalization**: Articles about your ancestor's immigration or naturalization process can be essential in tracing their journey to a new country.
18. **Educational Achievements**: If your ancestor was a student or educator, include articles about their academic achievements, school events, or educational milestones.
19. **Religious Affiliations**: Articles related to your ancestor's religious activities, such as church events or affiliations with religious organizations.
20. **Personal Stories**: Personal anecdotes or stories about your ancestor, whether humorous or heartwarming, can add a unique and personal touch to the timeline.

By including a diverse range of newspaper clippings, you can create a rich and immersive timeline that not only chronicles your ancestor's life but also provides a vivid snapshot of the historical context in which they lived. So, embark on a journey through time, one clipping at a time, to honor and preserve your ancestor's remarkable story.



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 the ability to have text, photos and videos included. Not multi-color like many timeline "makers" but does the job.

The screenshot shows a Timeline JS entry for the year 1820. The entry title is "LEWIN BRAUNHART TRAVELS TO BERLIN FOR EDUCATION". The text below the title reads: "As a fourteen year old boy, Lewin made the journey to Berlin to seek some instruction since he had no general education up to that time. His patron (unknown) told him that a Verein had been formed to instruct Jewish youths in all branches of knowledge. He became a student at the Verein fur Kultur und Wissenschaft der Juden (Association Culture and Science of the Jews). Among the men who directed the Verein were Heinrich Heine, Leopold Zunz, Edward Gans, Moses Moser, Dr. J. Auerbach, Dr. Rubo H. Normann, Ludwig Marcus, Dr. Schonberg, and Dr. Osterreich, One of Braunhart's fellow students was the later world famous Orientalist, Salomon Munk." Below the text is a search bar and a list of names: Frieda Braunh..., Heinz Brau..., Lewin Braunh..., and Heinz Braunh... The timeline axis at the bottom shows years from 1600 to 600 BCE.

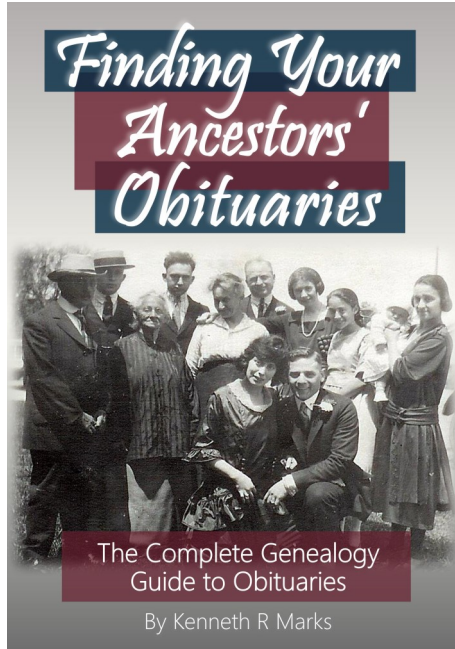
So, is Timeline JS the coolest timeline creator out there? Nope – it is pretty basic. But it is really easy to implement and gets the job done. And as stated earlier, being open-source protects it somewhat in the future.

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!

(By the way, I originally wrote this article over 7 years ago, and guess what? I'm still using Timeline JS!)

New Genealogy Book Details



Just Published - March 6th

"Finding Your Ancestors' Obituaries: The Complete Genealogy Guide to Obituaries"

Available via Amazon at <https://amzn.to/3JxiiWB>

In paperback, eBook, and you get a free PDF as a bonus.

Delve into the fascinating history of obituaries and discover what crucial information they contain, with real-life examples to help you understand their importance. You'll also learn expert techniques for finding and obtaining obituaries in both obituary databases and online newspaper archives, making your research easier than ever before.

But that's not all! With over 10,000 free online obituary databases and 50,000 historical newspaper titles for the United States and Canada in the Appendix, you'll have access to an incredible wealth of resources to aid your research.

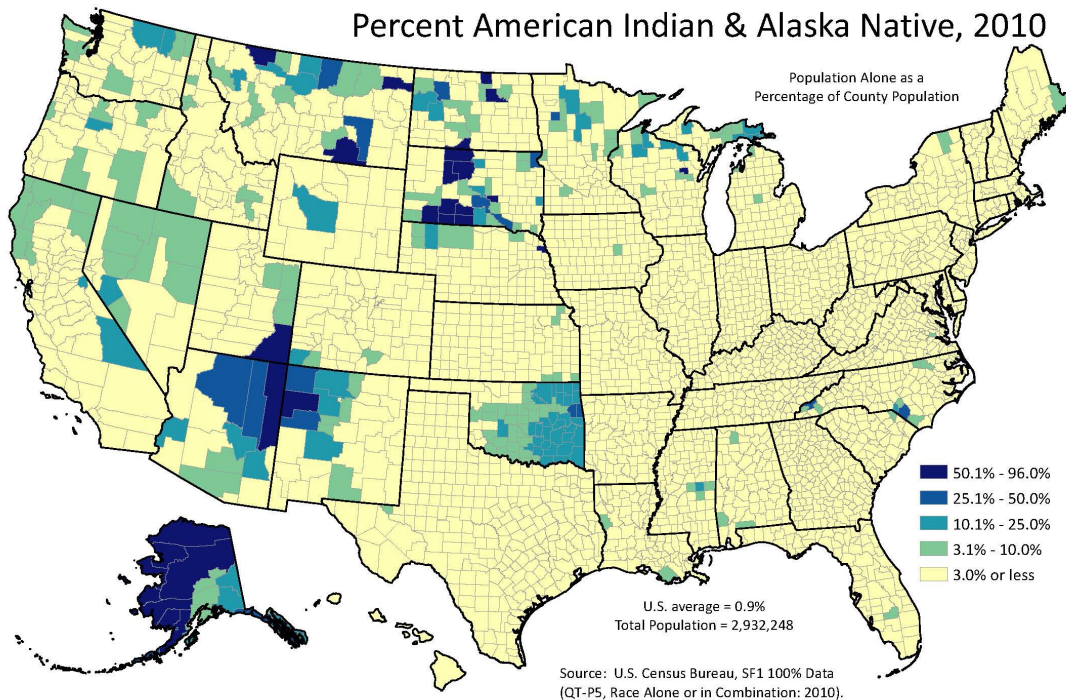
This book isn't just about finding obituaries—it's about using them to gain a deeper understanding of your family's story. With helpful tips on analyzing obituaries and incorporating them into your genealogy research, "Finding Your Ancestors' Obituaries" is an essential part of any genealogy reference collection.

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Introduction	Research Methods
About the Author	Libraries
Why Obituaries?	• Microfilmed Newspapers
Content Overview	• Online Newspapers
	• Online Article Index
Getting Started	• Obituary and/or Death Index
The Moral of the Obituary Story	Newspapers
Terminology	• Online Newspapers
Information Available	• Search Criteria Keywords
History of Obituaries	• Continue Searching After Finding the First Obit
The Future of Obituaries	• Published in the Last 20 Years
The Basics of Obituary Research	• Location of Death
	• Online Indexes
Getting Obituaries	• Smart Browse Techniques
Obituary Formats	• Newspapers in Places Previously Lived
Oddities	• Library and Society Indexes
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Obtain the Obituary	• Searching for Nicknames in Newspapers
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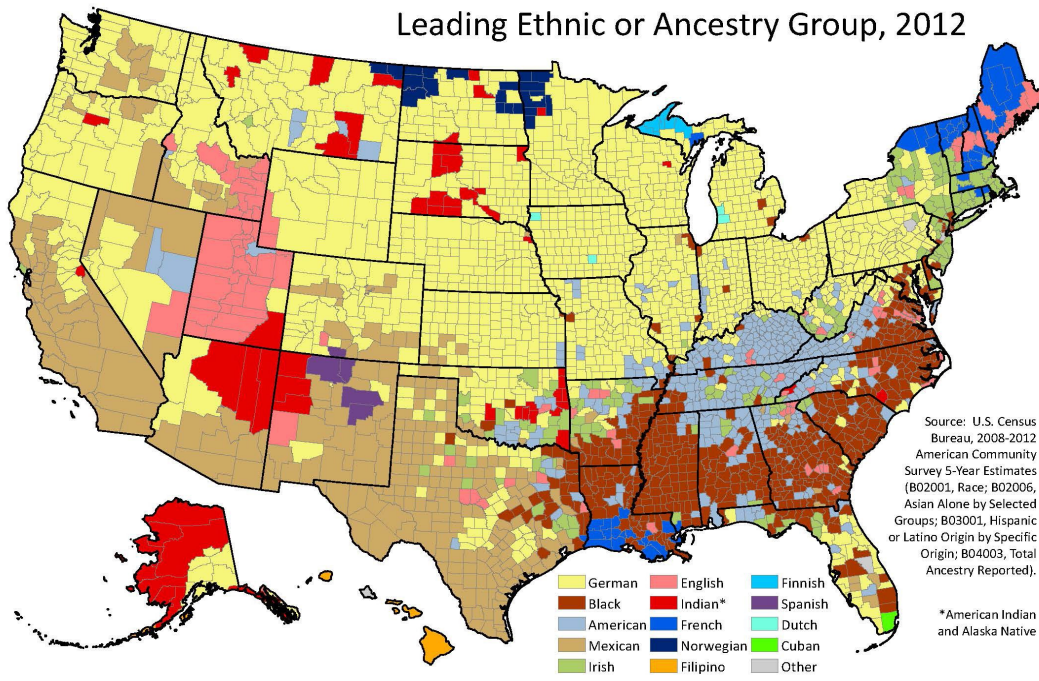
Ethnic Groups in the U.S. Mapped



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Digital Scholarship, Publishing, Preservation



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100 Best Free Online Genealogy Websites

Everyone has their “go to” websites that they use often to find genealogy resources and information. Here is a list of 100 of my favorites; and everyone is Free!

Access Genealogy	Transcribed U.S. genealogy records
Advantage Archives	Digitized U.S. newspapers, over 100 million pages
Afrigenes	African-American Collections
Allen County Public Library Genealogy Center	Genealogy collections and records
American Battle Monuments Commission	U.S. World War I and II burials
American History & Genealogy Project	Transcribed U.S. genealogy records
Ancestry Free Index Collections	Genealogy collections and records
Ancient Faces	Miscellaneous searchable photo database
Atlas of Historical County Boundaries	County boundary changes in U.S. states
Automated Genealogy	Indices to Canadian Censuses
Behind the Name	Histories of thousands of first names and surnames
Billion Graves	Cemetery and Burial records
Canadian Virtual War Memorial	Registry of Canadians who have died serving in uniform
Canadiana	Digitized Canadian journals, books and other publications
CanGenealogy	Links to Canadian Genealogy websites
Castle Garden	Immigration records
Chronicling America	Digitized U.S. newspapers; over 20 million pages
Civil War Soldiers and Sailors Database	Civil War veteran records
Commonwealth War Graves Commission	U.K. World War I and II burials
Cyndi's List	List of links to genealogy related resources
Danish Demographic Database	Danish genealogy collections
David Rumsey's Historical Maps	120,000 world-wide maps
Dawes Rolls	Native American genealogy collections
Dead Fred	Miscellaneous searchable photo database
Death Indexes	Links to death, cemetery, and obituary collections
Digital Commons Collections	College and University collections
Digital Library of Appalachia	Southern and Central Appalachian genealogy collections
Digital Library on American Slavery	African-American Collections
Digital Public Library of America	Search facility for genealogical collections and records
Digitalarkivet	Norwegian genealogy collections
Documenting the American South	Southern states genealogy collections
Elephind	Digitized world-wide newspapers; over 2,300 titles
Ellis Island	Immigration records
FamilySearch	Search facility for genealogical records
FamilySearch Catalog	Genealogical materials; mostly browsing
FamilySearch Wiki	Links and information for collections and records
Federation of Eastern European Family History Societies	Eastern European genealogy collections
FindAGrave	Cemetery and Burial records and tombstone photos
Free BMD	England and Wales birth, marriage, and death records
FreeCEN	UK Census Records
Freedmen's Bureau Online	African-American Collections
FreeREG	UK records from Parish Registers
Fulton History	Over 55 million digitized newspaper pages
Genealogy Trails	Transcribed U.S. genealogy records
Geni	Collaborative Family Tree
GENUKI	United Kingdom and Ireland collection links
German Genealogy Group	Mostly New York records
Google	Genealogy resources search
Google Books	Digitized books
Google News Archive	Digitized U.S. and Canada newspapers; over 2,000 titles



100 Best Free Online Genealogy Websites

Everyone has their “go to” websites that they use often to find genealogy resources and information. Here is a list of 100 of my favorites; and everyone is Free!

Guild of One Name Studies	Worldwide Surname Research
Hathitrust	Digitized books and other printed materials
Historic Map Works	Historic digital map database
Historically Black Colleges and Universities	Primary Resources from HBCU libraries and archives
I Dream of Genealogy	List of links to genealogy related resources
Interment.net	Cemetery and Burial records
Internet Archive	Genealogy records, newspapers and related collections
Irish Genealogy	Variety of church & civil records including vital records
Italian Genealogical Group	New York City records
Jewish Gen	Jewish genealogy records
Jstor	Digital library of journals, books, and primary sources
Kartenmeister	German and Polish locations database
LDS Genealogy	List of links to genealogy related resources
Library and Archives Canada	Canadian genealogy records
Library of Congress Digital Collections	Genealogy collections and records
Linkpendium	List of links to genealogy related resources
Lowcountry Africana	African American Genealogy in SC, GA and FL
Midwest Genealogy Center	Regional genealogy plus railroad pension records
National Archives and Records Administration	Genealogy collections and records
National Archives of Ireland	Irish genealogy collections
National Archives Resources for Genealogists	Links to genealogical records and collections
National Cemetery Administration	Veterans cemetery records
National Library of Australia	Australian genealogy collections
National Library of Ireland	Irish genealogy collections
National Library of Scotland	Scottish genealogy collections
National Library of Wales	Welsh genealogy collections
Nationwide Gravesite Locator	Burial locations of Veterans and family members in VA national cemeteries
New Horizons Genealogy	Transcribed U.S. genealogy records, primarily New England
New York Public Library Digital Collections	Over 900,000 digitized items
Olive Tree Genealogy	Ship passenger lists and other genealogy records
One-Step Webpages by Stephen P. Morse	Links to search genealogical records and collections
PastPerfectOnline Collections	U.S. and Canada digitized museum, library, and archive collections
Patriot and Grave Registry	Revolutionary War grave and patriot information
Reclaim the Records	Genealogy collections and records
RootsWeb.com	Huge genealogy community
Sanborn Maps	Fire Insurance maps that show building details
Smithsonian Digital Library	Miscellaneous collections
The Ancestor Hunt	Links to genealogical records and collections
The Newberry Collections	Chicago-based genealogy library
The Official Land Records Site	Federal land title records from 1788
The Portale Antenati	Italian genealogy collections
U.S. Census Bureau	Miscellaneous census-related collections and information
UK National Archives	UK genealogy collections
US GenWeb	Transcribed U.S. genealogy records
US GenWeb Archives	Transcribed U.S. genealogy records
Veridian Newspapers	Digitized world-wide newspapers, over 85 million pages
Volksbund German War Graves Commission	Germany World War I and II burials
Wie Was Wie	Dutch genealogy collections
WikiTree	Collaborative Family Tree
WorldGenWeb	World-wide genealogy records



The By Location Page

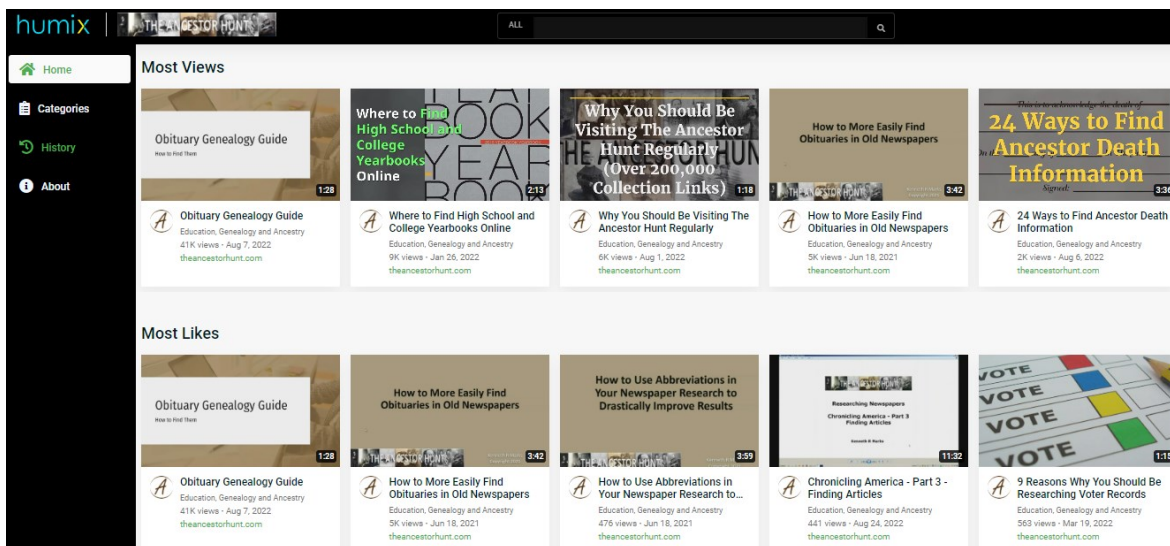
The easiest way to access a particular state's or province's list of collections and categories is via the [BY LOCATION](#) page.

This page has a dropdown for each state or province, with a link to the online collections links for every category available.

Video Channel

There are now over 50 videos. Check them all out at

[The Ancestor Hunt Video Channel](#)



Place Finders

Do you often find yourself wanting or needing to know what county a city is located in or what places might be found in a specific county?

You could do a Google search but what if you had a handy list that included a list of all the cities, other places, and ghost towns that identified their corresponding county along with a list of the counties in a state that listed all of the places in that county?

What is a place? Besides cities and towns, you will find that the names of other places may vary from state to state. Most states have Census Designated Places, Unincorporated communities, Indian Reservations, and ghost towns. Other places may be known as villages, hamlets, historic districts, townships, boroughs, municipalities, and more.


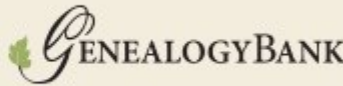
Each state has a list of all the places in the state and their corresponding county. Each place has a link to a page that includes information about that place. The page may include geographical information, historical information, current information about the place and its surroundings, and much more.

Included also for each state, is a Downloadable PDF with two lists: A list of places and their corresponding county, and; A list of counties with the places that are in that county.

Check out [Place Finders](#)

FIND *your* ANCESTORS
Newspapers and more
(1690 to today)

[Search Now](#)





Visiting Cemeteries to Preserve Family History

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As a veteran genealogist, cemeteries are my favorite tourist attraction.

I admit, when most people plan a recreational activity that will be fun for the whole family, cemeteries may not be the first thing that comes to mind. But here's the thing about cemeteries: they are quiet, peaceful, often quite beautiful, *and* a fascinating treasure trove of historical information. Especially if your own ancestors are buried there, there are so many things you can learn from grave markers that you can't learn anywhere else.

I have had the privilege of visiting numerous cemeteries and visiting the graves of many of my ancestors. Unfortunately, as an immigrant and

the child of immigrants, most of my ancestors' graves are located very far away from where I live. With the travel restrictions in place due to COVID-19, many people like me are unable to make the journey.

What we *can* do now, though, is visit websites where cemeteries across the world are documented. MyHeritage has numerous [burial record collections](#) from all over the world, and some of them are linked to projects such as BillionGraves. What's great about BillionGraves is that anyone, anywhere, can volunteer to add priceless family records to the online collection. All you have to do is download the app, take photos of each gravestone, and upload the information to the website.

I am deeply grateful for the opportunity to visit the graves of my ancestors, and when I do, I like to pay it forward. I make an activity of documenting not only my own ancestors' graves, but all the graves in the cemetery, and uploading them to [BillionGraves](#). That way, people who are not able to travel to that cemetery will still be able to "visit" the gravestones of their ancestors.

I believe that visiting a local cemetery could make a perfect family outing for the COVID-19 era. It's all outdoors, it's peaceful, there are no crowds, and you are guaranteed a six-foot social distance from all the people you are visiting! If your own ancestors are buried there, it's a great opportunity to learn more about them and introduce their gravesites to your children. If not, it can still be fascinating to learn more about local history. And if you decide to document some of the stones, it would be an act of community service — providing descendants who live far away with access to priceless information about their ancestors.

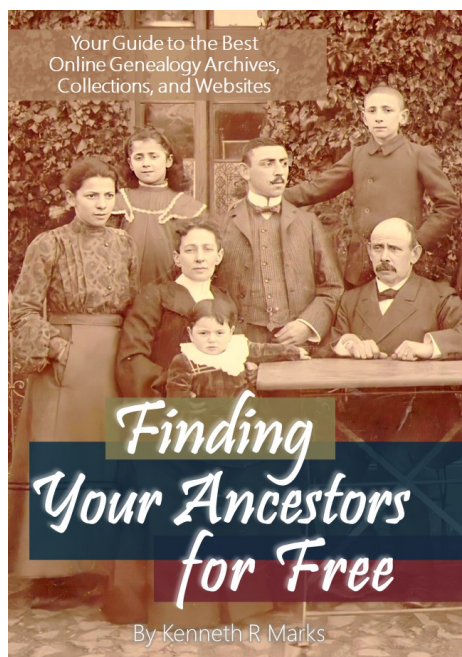
Here are some tips for your cemetery outing:

- **Find a cemetery to visit:** If you have ancestors buried nearby, you might want to visit them. Alternatively, you can find another interesting cemetery to visit: one that is particularly old, for example, or one in your area that hasn't been fully documented.
- **Make sure to bring water, a sunhat, and sunscreen:** Most cemeteries aren't shaded, and it's hot out there!
- **Be respectful of any burials taking place:** If there is a burial in session, be sensitive to the mourners. You may choose to quietly join the service, or to move on to a different area to respect the family's privacy.
- **Make it a treasure hunt:** Look for interesting tidbits: unusual sculptures or inscriptions, particularly old stones, interesting symbols, and the like. If you're aware of any historical figures from local history, keep your eyes peeled for their names.
- **Contribute to documentation efforts:** You can join websites like [BillionGraves](#) and use their systems to document gravestones in your local cemeteries. As mentioned above, this is a wonderful service for people whose ancestors are buried there. But be sure to get permission from the cemetery staff first, as there may be rules against photographing in the cemetery.

Want to find out where your own ancestors are buried before you get started? Search MyHeritage's [death record collections](#) now.



Previous Genealogy Books Details



Published in November, 2022

“Finding Your Ancestors For Free - Your Guide to the Best Online Archives, Collections, and Websites”

Available via Amazon at <https://amzn.to/3GPcbf1>

In paperback, eBook, and you get a free PDF as a bonus.

Introduction

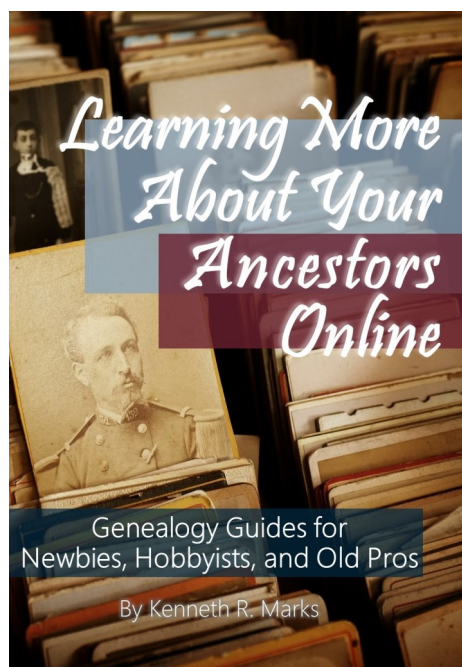
- About the Author
- Getting Started
- The History of Free
- Not All Records are Online
- Free Access to Subscription Databases
- Access to Free Collections for Residents
- Why Isn't Genealogy Always Free?

Nationwide Websites

- Aggregation Sites
- Link Sites
- Library Sites
- Cemetery Sites
- Newspaper Sites
- Miscellaneous Sites

State Websites

Appendix



Published in November, 2021

“Learning More About Your Ancestors Online - Genealogy Guides for Newbies, Hobbyists, and Old Pros”

Available via Amazon at <https://amzn.to/3kUrebJ>

- Introduction
- Birth and marriage
- Death records and information
- General advice about genealogy research
- Immigration, naturalization, travel
- Military
- Miscellaneous records (societies, illnesses)
- Newspaper research
- Occupations
- Photos and physical description
- Residences and other locations
- Schools and yearbooks
- Resources

...and stay tuned for more in 2023. Am writing a book about Researching Historical Newspapers.

And 2024, there are plans for yet another two.....



8 Reasons You Can't Find Squat About Your Ancestors Online

Whether you search online, or offline at libraries, courthouses, or archives, many times our ancestors can be elusive.

Sometimes they just cannot be found. Whether it be a birth date, census entry, or death date – or anything else of interest to us – we just can't seem to "score."

There are lots of reasons why we aren't successful, but many are because of our own limitations – and especially because we are just too limited in our thinking, and sometimes either inexperienced or unwilling to try new things.

Below are just a few reasons why we can't find our ancestors online:

- **They aren't there!** Yes, this is a possibility. I have a great-great aunt, Carrie Marks, who shows up only in one record – the 1880 U.S. Census. She is documented as the daughter of Louis and Caroline Marks, aged 11, born in California. One would think that at age 11, she would have shown up in the 1870 census at age 1, right? Nope – she is not there with the family. Had she not been born yet and the age 11 reference in 1880 was wrong? Was she in a hospital at the time of the census? Unfortunately, there is no 1890 census to help and by that time she could have married and changed her name. Even more worrisome is that since her mother's name was also Carrie – maybe it was a census taker error. Maybe she didn't exist at all. Then again, maybe I just haven't found her yet.
- **Have you expanded your search?** Just searching one or two online sources, such as Ancestry.com or FamilySearch just isn't enough. Yes, these are huge resources, but just as everything isn't online, all the online stuff isn't in their collections either. There are tons of other resources. Thousands of online collections are not named Ancestry or FamilySearch.
- **Do you do only exact searches?** People who write down others' names often write them wrong. And then if there is an index created, it can be mistranscribed or mistyped. There are very few if any documents available online that were written by the ancestor themselves. They are generally recorded by someone else from first or second-hand (or worse) information. So you need to be creative with your name searching by deliberately searching for names misspelled or using wildcard searches. Yes, I said deliberately misspell search terms. You will be surprised at what you will find.
- **Do you combine searches and omit surnames?** For example – if you can't find the surname in a collection – do you search for the husband's first name and the wife's first name also, in a specific geographic area? As an example, since their surname was often mangled, I often searched for husband "Ben" and wife "Jennie" (with a blank surname) in California because that is where they lived. This may have given me quite a few folks who didn't have the correct surname – but all I needed was one! The right one!
- **Have you looked beyond document collections?** Sure census records are popular, and draft cards and naturalization, land, and immigration records too. But how about newspapers? I have found new names of extended family members stated in newspaper obituaries and other articles just as much as finding a family together in a census. Check out the [Newspapers](#) page on this site for much more information regarding searching newspapers. They are a very underrated resource for you to find stuff. Besides you might find out that your great great uncle was an ax murderer! Exciting!
- **Are you aggressive?** Or do you just give up too easily? Sitting around waiting for shaky leaves or smart matches? Have you uploaded your tree to FamilySearch, WikiTree, Ancestry, My Heritage, etc.? Then are you just waiting around for "cousins" to contact you – or the services themselves to shake a leaf on your screen? Ain't gonna cut it. You have to be an aggressive as well as a creative researcher. And get out of the house if you can. Get to libraries, archives, courthouses, and genealogical societies. There is a ton of material that can be accessed that is not digitized or is only available at the institution in a binder somewhere.
- Do you have a research plan? Or do you just search ad hoc, searching broadly for the same thing again and again? What's the old quote? "The definition of Insanity is doing the same thing over and over again and expecting different results." That applies here. Yes, collections change and are updated. But gee – get yourself a plan. Here's an [Example of a Template](#) that Caroline Pointer created for Evernote that you can adopt (with or without Evernote) regarding planning for research. Yes, it seems like a lot of work when you'd rather be surfing for ancestors. But it is time well spent and I assure you that a research plan will make the difference between finding or not finding some ancestors. Guaranteed!
- **They aren't there – Part 2** Really. They aren't there. Nobody wrote stuff down back then. Records weren't kept of births in many countries or local villages and towns. There were no marriage certificates. Gravestones have been buried due to wars and such over time. Babies weren't born in hospitals and there were no mortuaries. Not every family had a Bible that they recorded information in. Men didn't carry around a draft card and there was no Social Security.

So that's it for now. A few reasons why you haven't found some folks. But you can't give up – with a few exceptions – ancestors who have lived any time in the last 200 years or so should be able to be found somewhere – and you are just the person to find them. Right?

All you need to do is PLAN, BE AGGRESSIVE, THINK OUTSIDE THE BOX, and BE PERSISTENT.



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.

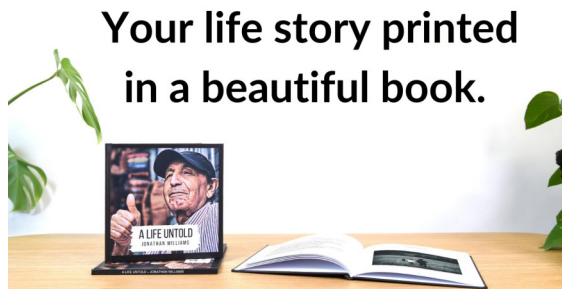
Whoowe is available from the AppStore and Google Play. Info at whoowe.com Try it out for free. Discount coupon for readers coming soon.



StorySpot

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

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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.

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