

WHETSTONE BROOK GENEALOGY

GENEALOGICAL AND OTHER RESEARCH SERVICES

A-Z Genealogy Resource List for Databases and Websites

The online genealogy resources listed below are ones that I consult regularly, some more than others. They have appeared on various genealogists' lists, including Lisa A Alzo, et al., *Tracing Your Ancestors: Beginner's Guide* (Toronto, Ontario ; Niagara Falls, New York : Moorshead Magazine Ltd., 2014.) An online version of the resources below, with active links, is available to download at <http://bit.ly/GenResource>. The DNA resources at the end are those I have found most helpful in understanding DNA as it relates to genealogy.

Ancestry.com (\$\$ BML, RockPub¹): The largest genealogical service with over 32,000 databases, 16+ billion records, international, includes directories, vital records, Census records, pension file application indexes, family trees, and much more. Online webinars; Youtube channel. AncestryDNA is the largest DNA database. There is a free component called **RootsWeb**, where people can use a message board, access family trees, and it has a good search engine for just the site. Library subscription from library's computers or wi-fi address. (<https://www.ancestry.com/> : accessed 11 January 2017; and <http://home.rootsweb.ancestry.com/> : accessed 11 January 2017).

American Ancestors (\$\$ BML, RockPub): Published by the New England Historic Genealogical Society, "is the most-used genealogical society website in the world. It provides family historians access to more than 1 billion records spanning the U.S. and beyond, including one of the most extensive online collections of early American records, and the largest searchable collection of published genealogical research journals and magazines. Special strengths in [their] content include English, New England (Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont), New York, Pennsylvania, and Virginia materials." Online images; free webinars; consultants. (<https://www.americanancestors.org> : accessed 11 January 2017).

Castle Garden (Free): This site offers access to a database of information on 11 million immigrants who arrived before Ellis Island opened, from 1820 through 1892. This site is available through Stephen Morse's *One Step Webpages* portal below. (<http://castlegarden.org/> : accessed 13 January 2017).

Cyndi's Lists of Genealogy Sites on the Internet (Free): Started in 1996 as a one page website with links by Cyndi Ingle, it is now a portal and has grown to over 329,000 categorized genealogy links. A great place to begin a genealogy search, especially if you are looking for how-to-advice, family pages, geographical information. (<http://www.cyndislist.com> : accessed 13 January 2017).

Ellis Island (Free with registration): The Ellis Island Archive has passenger lists of more than 51 million immigrants, passengers, and crew members who came through Ellis Island and the Port of New York from 1892 to 1957. Free account but limited to how many passenger lists you may keep. Online images. This site is also available through Stephen Morse's *One Step Webpages* below. (<http://www.libertyellisfoundation.org/passenger> : accessed 13 January 2017).

¹ BML=Brooks Memorial Library; RockPub=Rockingham Public Library; \$\$=subscription fees.

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Family Search (*Free with registration*) : Sponsored by the Church of the Latter Day Saints, FS offers users the largest collection of genealogical and historical records in the world. There are 4 billion names; 4,475 family research centers; and 24/7 free support. Also check out the Family History Research Wiki, which is a great jumping off point for any genealogical topic. Each essay has links to online records. Build online family trees, add photos, scanned documents, pedigree views. International in scope with digitized records. Volunteer opportunities to help index records. (<https://familysearch.org/> : accessed 11 January 2017).

Find A Grave (*Free; registration optional*): A cemeteries' database, free, and easy to use with more than 157 million records. Browse by name, date, cemetery, or if an ancestor's gravesite is not found, one can request a volunteer to do a "look-up" in a cemetery for a photo of the memorial, which will be posted to the gravestone entry. Transcribe gravestones to make them searchable. Watch for errors. Online images; volunteer opportunities. (<http://findagrave.com/> : accessed 11 January 2017).

Fold3 (\$\$) : Now owned by Ancestry, Fold3 is a source of primary information for military records. Over 485 million with 3-4 million added each month. All US wars up through casualties for *Operation New Dawn*. Also includes some naturalization petitions, city directories, and an African American collection. Online images. (<https://www.fold3.com/> : accessed 13 January 2017).

GenealogyBank (\$\$): Claims to have over 2 billion records, strong on newspapers with over 134 titles from 30 states. Obituary records back to 1690 and recent to 2017 from all 50 states. Gaps in coverage. Also newspaper announcement for birth, marriage, death, probate, as well as historical books, historical documents, social security index. (<http://www.genealogybank.com/> : accessed 11 January 2017).

Genealogy Research Guides, Tips and Online Records: Basics of Online Genealogy Research for Beginners and Beyond (*Free*). A very complete portal of almost every aspect of genealogical research organized as a pathfinder into the subject. Genealogist Joe Beine is the creator. (<http://researchguides.net/> : accessed 13 January 2017).

Google (*Free*): Use Google powerful search function to search full-text family history books; maps; translation tools; use quotation marks and minus signs to narrow search results; set up Google Alerts; use advanced search to search within time period; language; site or domain; and more. Online images. (<https://www.google.com/>; <https://www.google.com/alerts>; <https://books.google.com/>; https://www.google.com/advanced_search?hl=en&fg=1 : accessed 11 January 2017).

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HeritageQuest (\$\$; *BML, RockPub*): Owned by Ancestry, HQ has US Census; City Directories; 1850 and 1860 Slave Schedules; U.S. Indian Census Rolls; Mortality Schedules; Agricultural and Industrial Schedules; and 1890 Veterans Schedule. It has 28,000 searchable full-text family histories and local history books (there are nearly 5,000 titles containing the place, Windham County, Vermont.). Online images. (<http://www.ancestryheritagequest.com/HQA> : accessed 13 January 2017 through the referring URL at Brooks Memorial Library).

Library of Congress (*Free*): Our national library, the LOC has an immense online presence with its catalog of 38 million books and other printed materials, 3.6 million recordings, 14 million photographs, 5.5 million maps, 8.1 million pieces of sheet music and 70 million manuscripts. Search America's historic newspaper pages from 1789-1924 via the **Chronicling America portal**. This National Digital Newspaper Program (NDNP) project hosted at the Library of Congress and funded by the National Endowment on Humanities now has digitized content from thirty-six states, including Vermont, and over 9 million pages from 1,422 newspapers that may be searched on the website from the years of 1836-1922.

(Online images. (<http://www.loc.gov/library/libarch-digital.html> : accessed 11 January 2017; and <http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/> : accessed 15 January 2017; and the Vermont Digital Newspaper Project web page, which has tips for using CA for genealogical research, <http://library.uvm.edu/vtnp/> : accessed 16 January 2017).

Newspapers.com (\$\$): Claims to have 4,600+ newspapers from the 1700s–2000s with over 230 million pages. Includes newspapers from England, Canada, Australia, Panama, Ireland, and Northern Ireland. Online images. (<https://www.newspapers.com/> : accessed 11 January 2017).

One-Step Webpages (*Free; Registration with Ellis Island required*): This valuable site is the work of one man, Stephen P. Morse, and is a portal to finding immigrant ancestor passenger records who arrived at the following ports: Ellis Island, Castle Garden, Baltimore, Boston, Galveston, Philadelphia, and San Francisco. Other features include search tools for Census records (enumeration districts) and other vital records. Links to Online images. (<http://www.stevemorse.org/> : accessed 21 January 2017).

The USGenWeb Project (*Free*): Run by volunteers, this 20 year portal offers sites for every state and most counties. There are special projects, such as transcriptions of Census records; obituaries; gravestones; military pensions; digital maps. It includes Volumes 1,2,5 [v3 & 4 in process] of the *The Vermont Historical Gazetteer* by Abby Maria Hemenway, and its Index--Vol 2 has all Windham County town histories. (<http://usgenweb.org/> : accessed 13 January 2017).