

WHETSTONE BROOK GENEALOGY

GENEALOGICAL AND OTHER RESEARCH SERVICES

A-Z Genealogy Resource List for Databases and Websites

The Ancestor Hunt (*Free*): Maintained by blogger-genealogist who compiles lists of helpful links, Kenneth Marks is passionate about sharing his techniques and tools for better genealogical research. One of these is maintaining links to free newspaper research sites. As of March 2019 he has compiled approximately 30,500 links to free newspapers. He also offers for free, many shorter lessons and longer webinar tutorials on newspaper research and other genealogical topics. (<http://www.theancestorhunt.com> : accessed 2019).

Ancestry.com (\$\$ *BML, RockPub*¹): 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 with over 15 million samples. There is a free app for both iOS and Android, which allows you to create family trees and view DNA matches. Library subscription from library's computers or wi-fi address. (<https://www.ancestry.com/> . Also check out **HeritageQuest**, owned by Ancestry; some duplication; 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.). **Fold3** (\$\$), also owned by Ancestry. Primary focus is military records. 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. <https://www.fold3.com/>. All accessed 2019.

Antenati, Gli Archivi per la ricerca Anagrafica (*Free*): Ancestors, Archives for Genealogical Research. Digitalization efforts have thus far scanned nearly 90 million images, and over 1.2 million registries, from 60 provincial archives stretching back to the Napoleonic era of the early 19th century. Since the digitization effort is in collaboration with FamilySearch.org, many records may also be found there. All records are in Italian. (<http://antenati.san.beniculturali.it/en> : accessed 2019).

American Ancestors (\$\$ *BML, RockPub, DoverFree*.): 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." Special online collections, such as, the Wyner Family Jewish Heritage Center (JHC) is a destination for exploring and preserving the histories of Jewish families and institutions in New England and beyond; free webinars; free genealogy templates; DNA consultants; chat with genealogist Tuesday afternoons; New services include free American Ancestors, build or import your family tree, with hints from the databases. (<https://www.americanancestors.org> : accessed 2019).

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

BillionGraves (\$\$): More international than *FindAGrave*, BG claims to be the largest GPS site for cemeteries. Family trees may be created on this site as well. Includes private cemeteries that may have been documented in county histories. (<http://billiongraves.com> : accessed 2019)

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 also available through Stephen Morse's *One Step Webpages* portal below. (<http://castlegarden.org/> : accessed 2019).

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 337,000 links in 221 categories, which consist of Directories, Eastern Europe, Ellis Island, Ships and Passenger Lists, Handwriting and Script, Family Bibles, to name just a few. 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 2019).

Ellis Island (*Free with registration*): The Ellis Island Archive has passenger lists of more than 65 million immigrants, passengers, and crew members who came through Ellis Island and the Port of New York from 1892 to 1957. Free account allows users to retain passenger but this is limited. Online images. This site is also available through Stephen Morse's *One Step Webpages* below. (<http://www.libertyellisfoundation.org/passenger> : accessed 2019).

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. Build online family trees, add photos, scanned documents, pedigree views. International in scope with digitized records. Volunteer opportunities to help index records. **Brooks Memorial Library** is an affiliate library, which means users through the library's computers or Wi-fi signal can access "locked" records  only available at Family History Centers. (<https://familysearch.org/> : accessed 2019)

Family History Research Wiki (*Free, with registration*): Part of the familysearch.org web site, the Family History Research Wiki, which is a great jumping off point for any genealogical topic, especially useful for essays on nations and what is available genealogically. Each essay has links to online records. (https://familysearch.org/wiki/en/Main_Page : accessed 2019).

FindAGrave (*Free; registration optional*): A free cemeteries' database since 1995 with more than 170 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. Contribute photos of your ancestors' gravestones and transcribe them to make the entries searchable. iOS app and Android app available to search and post while in cemetery. Online images. Be careful of errors in family relationships. (<http://findagrave.com/> : accessed 2019).

FindMyPast (\$\$) is online genealogical portal based in the United Kingdom, with its focus in England, Ireland, Australia and other UK countries. FMP hosts over 4 billion searchable records as directory and historical record images and indexes. There are hundreds of collections that include England and Wales Births 1837-2006 (133 million records) British and Irish Roots Collection (90 million records), England and Wales Electoral Registers, (108 million records.); Australian Electoral Rolls (12 million records), to name a few of the larger collections. You can pick a monthly or annual payment subscription. (<http://findmypast.com> : accessed 2019)

GenealogyBank.com (\$\$): The company has production center in Chester, Vermont. They claim over 1 billion records, 9000 newspapers from all 50 states spanning a time period of 1690 to present, and the largest obituaries collection with 220 million obituaries and death records. GB also offers collections of government documents, the Social Security Death Index, marriage records, passenger lists, and a one search option for the US Census, 1790-1940. (<https://genealogybank.com> : accessed 2019.)

Genealogy Research Guides (*Free*). A portal of almost every aspect of genealogical research organized as a pathfinder into the subject, providing “Tips and Online Records: Basics of Online Genealogy Research for Beginners and Beyond.” Genealogist Joe Beine is the creator, and also posts to a blog, *Genealogy Roots Blog*, <https://genrootsblog.blogspot.com/>, and Twitter, <https://twitter.com/fairangels>. (<http://researchguides.net/> : accessed 2019.)

General Records Office [United Kingdom]. (*Free*) : The General Register Office is part of the UK Passport Office, which oversees civil registration in England and Wales. They maintain the national archive of all births, marriages and deaths dating back to 1837. Birth certificates may be ordered. Account registration is necessary. (<https://www.gro.gov.uk> : accessed 2019)

Google Books (*Free*): Google’s powerful search function can search full-text family history books; maps; translation tools; etc. Search within books for keywords, chapter headings, indexes. View full-text, Preview, Snippet, and no preview. Limited view of books not in public domain. <https://books.google.com/> : accessed 2019.)

HathiTrust Digital Library (*Free*): HathiTrust is a partnership of academic & research institutions, offering a collection of millions of titles digitized from libraries around the world. Search under author, title, subject, keyword. Under “Full View” read the scanned pages. They are searchable and the entire book or specific pages may be downloaded as pdfs. (<https://www.hathitrust.org/> : accessed 2019.)

Irish Genealogy.ie (*Free*) There are two sections this web site, which include images: 1. Civil records: The years covered by the release of the historic **Indexes** to the Civil Records of Births, Marriages and Deaths (Births: 1864 to 1916; Marriages: 1845² to 1941; Deaths: 1864 to 1966. **Register images** of the Civil Records are: Births: 1864 to 1916, Marriages: 1870 to 1941, Deaths: 1878³ to 1966. 2. Religious records: Various parishes including: Dublin, Kerry, Carlow, Cork, Ross, and others. Check back often as more records become available. (<https://www.irishgenealogy.ie/> : accessed 2019)

Library of Congress - Chronicling America(*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>; and <http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/> : accessed 2019;) and the Vermont Digital Newspaper Project web page, which has tips for using CA for genealogical research, <http://library.uvm.edu/vtnp/> : accessed 2019).

Library and Archives of Canada (*Free*): A first stop for anyone doing Canadian genealogical research, the LAC collection includes national, provincial/territorial, county and city directories, primarily of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Many Library and Archives Canada records have been indexed by name, which are accessible free through Ancestors Search. Links abound out to genealogical societies, religious archives, and university research centers. Consultations with genealogical staff may be done by Skype. (<http://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/discover/genealogy/Pages/introduction.aspx> : accessed 2019).

Linkpendium (*Free*): A large portal to over 10 million resources and 2.8 million indexed genealogy web pages through “The Family Discoverer” search engine. Linkpendium also has a Surname Directory that brings links to resources for families worldwide under variations of your family name. Browse to Windham County,

² non-Roman Catholic Marriages are recorded from 1845, Roman Catholic Marriages are recorded from 1864.

³ Records of marriages dating back to 1845 and deaths dating back to 1864 will be included in future updates to the records available on the website.

Vermont to see the linked resources. Full of tips on how to effectively use this resource. (<http://www.linkpendium.com/> : accessed 2019.)

MyHeritage (Free). An Israeli company that has growth in Europe, the Middle East and Africa. Includes over 9.6 billion records, 102 million family trees. DNA testing available and as of June 2019 genetic health reports are available. (<http://myheritage.com> : accessed 2019)

National Archives of Ireland-Genealogy Site (*Free*) Established in 1988 from the combination of the Public Record Office of Ireland and the State Paper Office, the NAI and its online catalogue contain over 2 million entries. The “Genealogy Site” contains the following records: the Census Records for 1901 and 1911, Census survivals for 1821-51, Census Search forms for 1841-51, the Tithe Applotment⁴ Books from 1823 to 1837, the Soldiers’ Wills from 1914 to 1917, and the Calendars of Wills and Administrations from 1858 to 1922. (<http://genealogy.nationalarchives.ie/> : accessed 2019)

Newspapers.com (\$\$; *Vermont Newspapers FREE*) : Owned by Ancestry.com, Newspapers.com claims to be the largest online newspaper archive with 494 million pages of historical newspapers, 11,800+ newspapers from the 1700s–2000s and millions of additional pages added every month. Enhanced “Publishers Extra” gives additional content. Powerful OCR (optical character recognition) searching can locate news events, obituaries, legal notices, marriage/divorce records, passenger lists, birth announcements, and results can be limited by geographic area and/or time period. Articles maybe clipped, downloaded or saved. Searches may be saved and the “Save/Notify” button on the search results page lets you save a search that you want to try again later. Saving a search also sets a notification for that search. Through a partnership with the Vermont State Archives and Records Administration (VSARA) early Vermont newspapers that are no longer subject to copyright restrictions are available online for free to Vermont residents through the MyVermont.gov state portal. Account required . (<https://secure.vermont.gov/myvermont> : accessed 2019.)

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, New Orleans, Canada, Philadelphia, and San Francisco. Accounts required at Ellis Island to view records. Other features include search tools for Census records (enumeration districts) and other vital records. Links to Online images. (<http://www.stevemorse.org/> : accessed 2019).

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. Records for Vermont include Volumes 1, 3,4,5 of *The Vermont Historical Gazetteer* by Abby Maria Hemenway, and its Index. Volume 5 has all early Windham County town histories. Volume 2 is available via the HathiTrust (<http://usgenweb.org/> : accessed 2019).

WorldGenWebProject (Free): Established in 1996, the WorldGenWeb Project is a non-profit, volunteer based organization dedicated to providing genealogical and historical records and resources for world-wide access. It depends solely on volunteers for which they actively recruit. “This site provides a clearly structured landing page for each country in the world: key information, crucial links and a recommended site for further in-depth research.” Click on the WorldGenWeb Country Index. (<http://www.worldgenweb.org/index.php> : accessed 2019)

⁴ the action or an instance of apportioning a property tax between those taxed; the assessment of the rate of such a tax.