



Climb Your Family Tree: Genealogy Resources

Subscription Resources @ WNPL

Ancestry (<https://www.ancestry.com> by paid subscription, or available for free at WNPL at <https://www.wnpl.info/all-databases/>) Ancestry is the ultimate genealogy subscription service, with one-stop searching through millions of records and thousands of databases globally. WNPL's Ancestry subscription requires users to be at the Warren-Newport Public Library, but all users have unlimited access while here.

Chicago Tribune & Tribune Historical Archive (available for free by remote access with a WNPL card at <https://www.wnpl.info/all-databases/>; freely available to all on WNPL computers) The Chicago Tribune is an excellent resource for local history and local records like birth, marriage, and death notices. The Chicago Tribune database covers all full text and paid notices from the paper, from 1985 to present. The Tribune Historical Archive contains text the Tribune from 1849-1984, including scanned copies of most front pages and reproductions of articles and notices (including some ads). Both databases can be used for free at WNPL or from home with your WNPL card.

Record Information Service (available for free by remote access with a WNPL card at <https://www.wnpl.info/all-databases/>; freely available to all on WNPL computers) Record Information Service provides individual Illinois county searches for major records like probate, property transfers, and court cases. Through Record Information Service, search state-wide for records through Check Illinois. This is an outstanding resource for finding personal and family information across Illinois.

Free Internet Resources

Central & South America Genealogy Resources from Cyndi's List

<https://www.cyndislist.com/central-and-south-america/> Cyndi's list is the original Internet genealogy clearinghouse, with specialized links for people researching family histories from Central & South America.

Chronicling America <https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/> The Library of Congress site for old newspapers. Old newspapers can be a treasure trove of information for the genealogist.

Cyndi's List <https://www.cyndislist.com> Cyndi's List is the closest thing to an index of genealogy on the Internet that exists. It has links to over 300,000 sites.

Ellis Island <https://heritage.statueofliberty.org/passenger> If you family arrived in the US via New York, Ellis Island will have a record of their arrival. This database offers a list of passengers from every ship that entered the Port of New York between 1892 & 1924. Ship manifests include

personal information like place of last residence, occupation, family members in the United States and the residence before arriving in United States. Searching the database is free but requires sign-up.

Family Search <https://www.familysearch.org> This site is run by the Family History Library in Salt Lake City. It is free, but if you sign up for a free account, you will have access to more data. Check out the site's Wiki for information of all genealogical topics under the sun.

Finding Burial Sites: Billion Graves and Find-a-Grave <https://billiongraves.com/> and <https://www.findagrave.com> When looking for burials and headstones, try these sites. There is quite a bit of overlap but cross-referencing both databases is key. The data comes from researchers all over the country, who post pictures of the headstones, and sometimes other information as well.

Genealogy Center at Allen County Public Library

<http://www.genealogycenter.org/Databases/FreeDatabases.aspx> The Allen County Public Library in Fort Wayne, Indiana, is a public library that has an outstanding genealogy collection and includes fantastic guides for working on genealogies for various backgrounds and ethnicities.

National Archives African-American Genealogy Resources

<https://www.archives.gov/research/alic/reference/ethnic-heritage#african> This page lists resources from the around the country, including step-by-step guides for getting started and where to search for records. One of the best resources is the Afro-American Historical and Genealogical Society, with charts and forms for new genealogists.

National Archives Ethnic Histories and Genealogy Resources

<https://www.archives.gov/research/alic/reference/ethnic-heritage> Like the African-American resources listed above, the National Archives includes an index of genealogy resources for families with varied ethnic backgrounds. These resources are especially helpful for working across language barriers and navigating different country's vital records.

RootsWeb <https://www.rootsweb.com> One of the oldest genealogy internet sites, it is now sponsored by Ancestry (so expect to see ads for Ancestry). The message boards are a terrific way to contact others researching families and/or locations of interest to you.

Stephen Morse <https://stevemorse.org/> Stephen Morse is a genealogist who shares his resources and tools with the genealogy community. He created this website to make it easier to search many of the more technical sites from one location. This site is especially useful for researching passenger lists from US ports.

Note: Individual US states, as well as countries around the globe, will frequently have their own collections of archives and vital records available online. Don't forget to Google the country or state of residence, and search for any available online resources. Remember, no single genealogy site or service can search *all* records – your best practice is to search across multiple resources.

If you need assistance, please contact the Adult Services Desk at 847-244-5150 and press 4, or email us at askus@wnpl.info.