

# Ancestry.com for Classroom Learning

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*Our mission is to help everyone discover, preserve and share their family history.*

Ancestry.com is the world's largest online resource for family history. From its very beginning as a publishing company (then known as Ancestry) in 1983, we have been a leader in the genealogy and family history market. Since our pioneering move to the internet in 1996, Ancestry.com has been the clear leader in family history research. Studies show that most individuals have a deep desire to understand who they are and from where they came. We strive to make our service valuable to individuals ranging from the most experienced family historians to those taking their first steps towards satisfying their curiosity about their family stories. The foundation of our service is an extensive collection of billions of historical records that we have digitized, indexed and put online since 1996. We are proud that we have made records more accessible and research easier, faster and more enjoyable for millions of individuals everywhere.

In becoming the world's largest online resource for family historians, Ancestry.com has also become the largest online publisher of international and local historical documents. Images of original and primary records have become key elements in discovering and understanding the history of civilization and events that are studied in the classrooms around the world.

## **Ancestry.com Content: Key Points**

- More than 40 countries (many in their native language) are represented in the more than 12 billion records at Ancestry.com. Presently records from the United States and other English speaking countries comprise the largest portion of our content, followed by Europe and the Scandinavian countries. On average, two million records are added to Ancestry.com every day.
- Images of documents invite critical thinking and in-depth research by presenting the facts in their original and unaltered form. The use of original records enhances the researcher's ability to analyze and organize what is found and to better manage and communicate findings through oral and written observations and reports.
- The many narratives, oral histories, and county and community histories at Ancestry.com provide first-hand accounts and unique perspectives of history. Digitized abstracts and indexes on the site are also very useful in cases where actual images of the original document are not available.
- A single query in a search box at Ancestry.com explores more than 28,000 plus database (or 12 billion records) to bring back answers and clues to stories behind all the names and dates.
- Coverage of historical records at Ancestry.com spans from the late 1300's to 2008 - with some gaps where records are not available.
- Ancestry.com does not alter or edit any original or primary documents therefore the student will find stories of kings and presidents mixed in with common laborers. The stories of paupers, farmers, and store keepers are all there along with those of leaders of industry, politicians, famous actors, sports figures and other celebrities.

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## Content Useful in Demographic Studies

Beyond personal history, content at Ancestry.com can be especially useful in the study of demographics. An overview of economic conditions, health issues, family and cultural structures, education and migration patterns and the way people interacted with their federal and local governments over the years can be seen in many of the record collections at Ancestry.com.

## Census Records

A large number of federal, state and special census collections that are unique in their ability to track the general population, communities and individuals include the following:

- U.S. Federal Census, 1790 to 1940
- U.S. Manufacturing and Agriculture Census Schedules (1850-1880?)
- U.S. Mortality Schedules (1850-1880)
- U.S. 1890 Veterans Schedules
- U.S. 1880 Schedules of Defective, Dependent and Delinquent Classes
- State and Territorial Censuses (which may be more informative than U.S. schedules in some states and in some years).
- Australia Census, 1828 to 1841(check years)
- Canada Census, 1851 to 1921
- Mexico Census, 1930
- United Kingdom Census, 1841 to 1911
- City Directories (published annually in most cities sometimes fill gaps between census years)

## Migration and Immigration

The study of movement of individuals and large groups of people is a topic that is of keen interest to demographers, genealogists, historians and in a surprising number other studies. Immigration studies explore national growth and change. Despite the common belief that immigrants moved to follow their dreams, the study of people migrating was not the pleasant story often described in text books. For many, the move to foreign shores was a forced migration in chains. Over the centuries the necessity to leave the homeland was also caused by widespread famine, economic upheavals, religious persecution, to avoid military drafts or prison, or to avoid starvation. The following immigration-related records offer snapshots of lives and life-changing journeys.

## Selected Passenger Lists

- Incoming Passenger Lists for New York, Boston, Philadelphia, New Orleans and all other available U.S. ports, and foreign airplane arrivals, 1820-1957
- U.S. Detroit Border Crossing, 1905-1957
- U.S. Canadian Border Crossing, 1895-1956
- U.S. Mexico Border Crossing, 1903-1957

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- Canadian Passenger Lists, 1865-1935
- Hamburg Passenger Lists, 1850-1954
- U.K. Incoming Passenger List, 1878-1960
- Seattle Passenger & Crew List, 1882-1957
- New Orleans, LA, Slave Manifests, 1807-1860
- *Titanic* Survivors, 1912

## **Selected Naturalization Records**

- U.S. Naturalization Indexes 1791-1992
- U.S. Selected Naturalization Records, 1791-1992
- Naturalizations in American & the West Indies, 1740-1782

## **Other Selected Immigration-related Records**

- Canadian Immigrants, 1780-1906
- Chinese Exclusion Records, 1882-1960
- Great Migration Begins: Immigrants to New England, 1620-33
- Jewish Transmigration Bureau Deposit Cards, 1939-1950
- Lithuania Internal Passports, 1919-1940
- Pennsylvania Quakers Arrival in Philadelphia, 1682-1790
- Scandinavian Immigrants in NY, 1630-1674
- Swiss Immigrants in the 17<sup>th</sup> Century
- U.S. Passport Applications, 1795-192
- Ships images and descriptions (over 1,000 ship images)

## **Selected Vital Records**

Vital Records (birth, marriage and death records) may vary in content from place to place and from year to year, yet they are valued by family historians for the biographical information and clues they contain. Ancestry.com has an ever-growing collection of birth, marriage and death records that is international in scope. The collection of over 3,000 titles includes indexes and images. Following is just a sampling of this robust collection on the site.

- California birth, marriage and death indexes (perhaps date spans should be added to these US collections?)
- Florida Divorce records, 1927-2001
- Ohio births, marriage and death indexes
- Texas birth and death indexes (some images)
- England & Wales, (?)1837-1915 and 1915-2005
- England Marriage Index, 1538-1940
- Marne, France death records, 1547-1907

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- Wellenstein, Luxembourg, birth & death, 1802-1893

## **Selected death information at Ancestry.com**

- Find A Grave photographs
- U.S., Department of Veterans Affairs BIRLS Death File, 1850-2010
- U.S. Veterans Gravesites, ca.1775-2006
- New York, Death Newspaper Extracts, 1801-1890 (Barber Collection)
- Ohio Obituary Index, 1830s-2011, Rutherford B. Hayes Presidential Center - database

## **Vital Records in Religious Collections**

- Some vital records are included in the Jewish Family History Collection at Ancestry.com
- England Christenings, 1530-1906
- Paris, France Marriage Banns, 1860-1902
- Drouin Collection (Canada), 1621-1967
- Swedish Parish Records, 1661-1895

## **Military**

The military collection at Ancestry.com includes over 1,000 titles from U.S. and international conflicts. Records of U. S. personnel cover the time period from colonial skirmishes up to and including Vietnam. The following is a sampling of the records found under the military collection on Ancestry.com.

- Selected Early American Military and Military-Related Records
  - Revolutionary War Military Service Records, 1775-1783
  - U.S. Sons of the American Revolution Membership Applications, 1889-1970
  - U.S. Revolutionary War Pension and Bounty-Land Warrant Application Files, 1800-1900
  - U.S. Army, Register of Enlistments, 1798-1914
  - Index to the Compiled Military Service Records for the Volunteer Soldiers Who Served During the War of 1812
- Selected Civil War Records
  - U.S. Union Soldiers Compiled Service Records, 1861-1865
  - U.S. Civil War Pension Index: General Index to Pension Files, 1861-1934
  - U.S. Civil War Draft Registrations Records, 1863-1865
  - U.S. Colored Troops Military Service Records, 1861-1865
  - U.S. Civil War Soldier Records and Profiles, 1861-1865
  - Civil War Prisoner of War Records, 1861-1865
  - U.S. Confederate Pensions, 1884-1958
- Selected WWI Records
  - U.S. Draft Registration Cards (24 million men between the years of 1917-1918)
  - Stars & Stripes Newspapers, WWI edition 1918-1919

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- British Army WWI Service Records, 1914-1920
- Canada. Soldiers of the First World War, 1914-1918
- England, The National Roll of the Great War, 1914-1918
- UK. Soldiers Died in the Great War, 1914-1919
- Germany, World War I Casualty Lists, 1914-1917
- Bavarian State Archives. Department IV, War Archive, *1914-1918*.
- Selected WWII Records
  - U.S. World War II Draft Registration Cards, 1942
  - U.S. WWII Draft Cards Young Men, 1940-1947
  - U.S. World War II Army Enlistment Records, 1938-1946
  - U.S. World War II Navy Muster Rolls, 1938-1949
  - U.S. Rosters of World War II Dead, 1939-1945
  - U.S. World War II Navy, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard Casualties, 1941-1945
  - U.S. WWII Jewish Servicemen Cards, 1942-1947
  - U.S. World War II Prisoners of War, 1941-1946
  - Japanese Americans Relocated During World War II
  - U.K. Army Roll of Honour, 1939-1945
  - U.K. British Prisoners of War, 1939-1945
  - WWII United News Newsreel, 1942-1946 (UK)
  - WWII United News Newsreel, 1942-1946 (US)
  - World War II Prisoners of the Japanese File
  - Holocaust: Survivor List from the files of World Jewish Congress
- Other Selected Military Collections
  - U.S., Adjutant General Military Records, 1631-1976
  - U.S., Headstone Applications for Military Veterans, 1925-1963
  - U.S. Marine Corps Muster Rolls, 1798-1958
  - U.S. Army, Register of Enlistments, 1798-1914
  - U.S. Navy Cruise Books, 1918-2009
  - U.S., Navy Casualties Books, 1776-1941
  - Canada. British Regimental Registers of Service, 1756-1900
  - Canada. War Graves Registers (Circumstances of Casualty), 1914-1948
  - UK, Commonwealth War Graves, 1914-1921 and 1939-1947
  - World War II and Korean Conflict Veterans Interred Overseas
  - WWI, WWII, and Korean War Casualty Listings
  - U.S. American Red Cross Nurse Files, 1916-1959

## Public Member Trees

Public Member Trees at Ancestry.com contain family trees submitted to Ancestry by users who have indicated that their tree can be viewed by all Ancestry members. Ancestry.com public member trees may include names, dates, photographs, documents and clues to family relationships that may not be found elsewhere.

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- 50 million trees have been created on Ancestry.com
- Over 175 million photos, documents and stories in the trees

## Occupations

Occupational records add interest and a deeper understanding of personalities and communities. The following example focuses only on the railroad industry and represents only a sampling of what Ancestry.com has to offer. When searching the card catalog for occupation, you may need to use the occupation term or the name of employer/company.

- California, Railroad Employment Records, 1862-1937
- Southwestern business directory; including principal towns on Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railroad, Chicago, Kansas and Nebraska
- The Ohio Railroad
- U.K. Railway Employment Records, 1833-1956
- U.S., Northern Pacific Railway Company Personnel Files, 1890-1960
- England, Great Western Railway Magazine: 1838-1943

## Cultural, Ethnic and Religious Groups

Besides using the larger and more generally inclusive records such as census records, there are also some unique collections that apply to certain segments of the population. Ancestry.com is rich in cultural and ethnic collections. A few examples of the titles that are available include the following collections.

### Selected African American Sources

- Register of U. S. Colored Troop Deaths During the Civil War, 1862-1865
- Danish West Indies, Slave Records, 1672-1917
- Negro Newspapers from the Library of Congress, 1829-1947
- St. Croix, V.I. Free Colored Censuses, 1815-1832
- U.S. Interviews with Former Slaves, 1936-1938
- U.S. Freeman's Bureau Records, 1865-1878
- Slave Owner Petitions, 1862-1863
- Slave Emancipation Records, 1851-1863
- History of the Underground Railroad as it was conducted by the Anti-Slavery League

### Selected Native American Sources

Note: Native American research may require the user to reference the name of the tribe rather than the term Native American. Tribal history does not necessarily recognize traditional government boundaries. Records may fall under more than one state or country. Here is a sampling of some of the titles.

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- U.S. Native American Enrollment Cards for the Five Civilized Tribes, 1898-1914
- U.S. Citizenship Case Files in Indian Territory, 1896-1897
- Georgia Cherokee Land Lottery, 1832
- Dawes Commission Index, 1898-1914

## Selected Jewish Sources

The Jewish Family History Collection on Ancestry.com is an international collection made available through such key partnerships with JewishGen, the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (JDC), the American Jewish Historical Society and The Miriam Weiner Routes to Roots Foundation, Inc. To locate the collection, click on “Search” on the Ancestry.com home page, scroll down to the right corner of the page and click the “Jewish Family History” link. Here is a very small sampling of some of these titles.

- *A history of the Jews in the United States*
- U.S. Industrial Removal Office Records, 1899-1922
- Hungary: Jewish Census, 1848
- Munich, Vienna and Barcelona Jewish Displaced Persons and Refugee Cards, 1943-1959
- Jewish Given Name Variations
- New York Hebrew Orphan Asylum Records, 1860-1934

## Selected Fraternal and Organization Records

- Order Sons of Italy (OSIA) in America’s monthly newspaper, 1953-1995 (assorted other OSIA records)
- Massachusetts, Mason Membership Cards, 1733-1990
- Sons of Utah Pioneers Membership Applications
- Kansas, Grand Army of the Republic Post Reports, 1880-1940

## Selected Maps, Gazetteers, Photographs, Post Cards and Catalogs

- U.S. Indexed Early Land Ownership and Township Plats, 1785-1898
- U.S. Indexed County Land Ownership Maps, 1860-1918
- U.S. and World Atlases, 1822-1923
- U.S. Enumeration District Maps and Descriptions, 1940
- Lippincott’s Gazetteer of the World, 1913
- Meyers Gazetteer of the German Empire
- Ireland, Ordnance Survey, 1824 - 1846
- Ireland Topographical Dictionary, 1837
- Scotland Gazetteer
- U.K. Revised New Series Maps, 1896-1904
- The Imperial Gazetteer of England and Wales, 1872
- U.S. Civil War Photos, 1860-1865
- Ireland, Lawrence Collection of photographs, 1870 – 1910
- New York, Cartes-de-visite, 1860-1865

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- U.S. War and Conflict Images, 1765-1970
- U.S. Panoramic Photos, 1851-1991
- Library of Congress Photo Collection, 1840-2000
- General Photographs of the Bureau of Ships, 1914-1946
- Professional Baseball Players, 1876-2004.
- U.S. Historical Postcards
- Italy Historical Postcards
- Germany & Austria Historical Postcards
- Public Member Photos & Scanned Documents
- Historic Catalogs of Sears, Roebuck and Co., 1896-1993

## Selected Criminal Records

- England & Wales, Criminal Registers, 1791-1892
- U.K. Licenses of Parole for Female Convicts, 1853-1871 and 1883-1887
- Fort Smith, Arkansas, Criminal Case Files, 1866-1900
- Leavenworth, Kansas, U.S. Penitentiary, Name Index to Inmate Case Files, 1895-1936
- New South Wales, Australia, Gaol Description and Entrance Books, 1818-1930
- Alabama, Convict Records, 1886-1952

## Additional Resources from Ancestry.com:

- Learning Centers
  - URL for US Learning Centers are located at <http://www.ancestry.com/cs/HelpAndAdviceUS>
  - The middle of the page is a button called Research Guides. This will take you to a library of tips. All of this may be printed and used in the classroom. You can access all the “Learning Centers” or “Help and Advice” from our other countries, by going to the bottom of the page on the right is a box called “visit our other sites” and then uses the pull down box to select the country of choice to their Learning Centers.
  - The learning centers are the best way to follow our blogs or you can go to <http://blogs.ancestry.com/ancestry/>. This is a great way to learn about new content or tips on using the site.
  - Here is the quick link to all of our blank forms that can be printed and use in the classroom. That URL is <http://www.ancestry.com/download/charts#ancchart>.
  
- [Ancestry-reference-desk.com](http://ancestry-reference-desk.com) was designed for librarians and their patrons. This is a great resource for institutions from searching tips as well as in-depth information about collection or subject matter.

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Ancestry Library Team also has 19 Lesson plans written to U.S. state standards available at no cost. Just drop us a note at [alt@ancestry.com](mailto:alt@ancestry.com). Here is the list of the lesson plans:

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- 1940 Census Lesson
- The Census and the Constitution
- The Census and the Depression
- Autobiography
- Biography
- Immigration Over Time
- Civil War
- Military Lesson (Civil War)
- Personal Side of War (American Revolutionary War)
- War of 1812 – Privateers
- Mobilization for War (WWI)
- Battles (WWII)
- Local History is Your Community History
- Historical Crime
- Haunted House
- Suffrage Movement
- How Life Influences Art
- African American Congressmen Lesson
- Trail of Tears Lesson