

HOW TO FIND YOUR FAMILY HISTORY & CULTURAL ROOTS: An Online Guide

(October 2004 version)

by

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For generations, our ancestors have left a trail of public, private and religious records across the map of the world. Now, more and more of us are trekking along this trail to find the inspirations and aspirations that brought our families to the place we call *home*. Along the way, we're discovering the remarkable sacrifices our ancestors made for the sake of *family*, and we're building new traditions of *family reunion* across time and distance. It's a wonderful educational experience we can share with our children and grandchildren – especially, now that they're teaching us how to use computers. Hopefully, it will surprise and delight current and future generations of your family.

STEP 1 – Start with just one name – yours, an ancestor's, or a family surname

Go online to Google, www.google.com, or Yahoo!, www.yahoo.com, and type a single name, or a family name, in the SEARCH box (like this: “Patrick O'Reagan” or “O'Reagan family” – using quotation marks helps narrow the results). You may get a direct hit (that's how I found my great grandfather, Patrick O'Reagan, whose 19th-century story was put on the Internet by a middle school class in Baxter Springs, Cherokee County, Kansas).

You can also keep going back to Google and Yahoo! to add other subjects. Just place an “and” between the words (as in: O'Reagan *and* Kansas, or O'Reagan *and* Ireland, or O'Reagan *and* shipwrecked).

To build a larger list of ancestors to search for, ask all living family members to recall nicknames, original spellings of names, forgotten first names, maiden names, and so on. Don't be surprised to discover wildly inconsistent spellings. In census and immigration records, for instance, you can easily find your family name spelled three or four different ways.

For a long time, I couldn't find my great-great-grandfather, Archibald Anderson, in the census records – until I tried “Archie Anderson,” the nickname he used in reporting his household information to the local census takers. This unlocked a wealth of records.

Most importantly, don't be discouraged if you don't find an ancestor right away. Sometimes, you just have to keep telling yourself: *If I'm here, they're there – somewhere in the historical records.*

(Tip: if you need language-translation help with Internet web sites, try the “Language Tools” on Google's homepage. It provides quick, automatic translations of whole web pages into English, French, German, Spanish and Portuguese.)

STEP 2 – Search the large genealogy databases

You can now search over two billion names – and often view original documents such as U.S. Census records – at the major family history sites. These include:

- www.rootsweb.com, the oldest free genealogy site; it’s now affiliated with Ancestry.com and also hosts the AOL Golden Gate Genealogy Forum;
- www.ancestry.com, part of the www.myfamily.com group of web sites; they maintain the largest databases and are emerging as one of the “must see and use” groups; try the SEARCH and MESSAGE BOARDS; or, see their all-USA site at www.familyhistory.com, especially the 124 million name index to the recently-opened 1930 U.S. Census;
- www.genealogy.com, now affiliated with Ancestry.com, this site has the most complete indexes to the 1910 and 1900 U.S. Census; it also has a great “Family & Local Histories” collection called Heritage Quest, which reproduces old county histories and rare books online;
- www.familysearch.org, the LDS site, physically based in Salt Lake City, Utah, gives extensive help on a *free*, non-denominational basis; start with the “Search Records” section;
- www.genealogyregister.com, pc/mac friendly; try the SURNAME SEARCH, which will give you numerous possible leads to other sites;
- www.kindredtrails.com, an easy-to-use assembly of links to all the major genealogy sites, both free and commercial; the “Resources” section gives easy access to sites on a state-by state basis;
- www.genhomepage.com, another large subject compilation, like Cyndi’s List, which can also redirect you to name-search services;
- www.accessgenealogy.com, an easy-to-navigate gateway to many records and databases; it has a strong specialty in Native American history.

Give them all a try until you find the ones you like. They’re all user-friendly. They all have “how to” guides, family message boards (a distant cousin may already be working on your family history), and they all provide pointers to other large databases, such as census, immigration, and military service records. (*Please Note:* full access to original documents on some of these web sites requires a monthly or annual fee; however, most offer a 14-day free trial before you have to make a commitment. Alternatively, free access is available at many public libraries and some schools. Ask the librarians, for instance, about using *Ancestry Plus.*)

STEP 3 – Explore the mega-gateways to family history and cultural roots

- ***Cyndi’s List.*** If you do nothing else, go online to www.cyndislist.com, and find your cultural roots by state, country, or region of the world, or by topic, ranging from Adoption to Lands and Deeds, Recipes and Cookbooks, Prisons and Outlaws, Religion and Churches, Wills and Probates, and everything in between.

This is genealogist Cyndi Howells' amazing site of over 235,000 links. The U.S. is listed in detail at www.cyndislist.com/usa.htm. Cyndi's List is one of the most important family history sites on the Internet and one of the safest.

- **The LDS (Mormon) Library.** Go to www.familysearch.org, or on foot to the many LDS (Mormon) Family History Centers around the country. They have the largest private collection of genealogical resources in the world, which they willingly share on a non-denominational basis. (This is how my self-described "senior-seventies-something" mother started our family history – before she bought a computer and went online!) For locations in the United States and Canada, call toll-free 800-346-6044. Or, see: www.genhomepage.com/fhc, or, www.familysearch.org (click "Family History Library System," then, "nearest family history center" at the bottom).
- **The GenWeb Projects.** Go to www.usgenweb.org/, the all-volunteer USGenWeb Project, and www.rootsweb.com/~usgenweb/, the USGenWeb Archives Project. Both sites are rapidly building substantial guides to "original" family history sources, state-by-state, and county-by-county. They'll take you into every corner of every state – and into just about every census record and cemetery in existence. On a global basis, look at www.worldgenweb.org/, the World GenWeb Project. Here, again, pick a continent, or region of the world, and start exploring.
- **The Tinney Family Gateway.** Or, go to www.academic-genealogy.com, a large, user-friendly, gateway to genealogy resources built by the Chris & Tom Tinney family. It's organized by worldwide geographic regions; and, its comprehensive list of libraries, archives, museums and cultural institutions is especially helpful at www.academic-genealogy.com/librariesmuseums.htm. It also includes archival and knowledge management resources for the "genealogy" of business at www.academic-genealogy.com/archives.htm#business.
- **The National Genealogical Society.** Go to www.ngsgenealogy.org/edu.htm for professional step-by-step training from the National Genealogical Society. It has both introductory and advanced "home study" courses, and excellent books, periodicals and CDs in its bookstore at www.ngsgenealogy.org/bookstore.
- **History Gateways.** If you want to understand the reasons why – political, economic, social, religious, cultural – your family moved half way around the world to America, and what they found when they got here, try these great sites:
 - www.lib.washington.edu/subject/history/web.html, History on the Web sites at the University of Washington Libraries;
 - www.cyndislist.com/historic.htm, Historical Events & People Worldwide section of Cyndi's List;
 - www.fordham.edu/halsall, sites by era, culture, and gender on Paul Halsall's Sourcebooks Project, currently hosted by Fordham University;
 - www.ukans.edu/history/VL/, WWW-Virtual Library (History), currently hosted by the University of Kansas;
 - www.digitalhistory.uh.edu/, Digital History site hosted by the University of Houston.

- **Local and Regional Libraries and Archives.** Or, go online – or on foot – to your local public library, historical society, genealogical society, state archives or state library (they often have special History and Genealogy Rooms), or even a U.S. National Archives Regional Center (NARA), or Presidential Library. Some public libraries, such as Denver Public Library (one of my favorites), have great online genealogy and history sites, denverlibrary.org/whg/index.html.

You'll find over 18,000 libraries listed at: Libdex, the Library Index, www.libdex.com/country/USA.html, which includes university, K-12, public, county, state, regional, business, law, and medical libraries. Alternatively, try www.publiclibraries.com, or, Cyndi's List, www.cyndislist.com/lib-state.htm; or, the U.S. National Archives, www.archives.gov/facilities, for the locations of its forty regional archives facilities and affiliated libraries.

Ask the librarians and archivists for help. They know the records and books better than anyone and are always very helpful when it comes to family history. They've also got numerous "how to" books on genealogy and family history.

Many public libraries now have computers available for online research, or to look at large databases on CDs (such as: census records and passenger lists).

(Tip: Be sure to bring your reading glasses, or a magnifying glass. A lot of our original public records, such as the recently opened 1930 U.S. Census, were handwritten by folks who came from a lot of different backgrounds and educational systems. Add to that the vagaries and scratches of microfilm and microfiche and you've sometimes got the makings of a forensic mystery.)

- **U.S. National Archives, Library of Congress, and Smithsonian Institution.** Last, but definitely not least, be sure to go online, or on foot, to these national treasures:

U.S. National Archives. Go to www.archives.gov (click Research Room), for the largest collections of immigration, military service, and census records in the world. The main National Archives facilities are in the Washington D.C. area, but it also has over 40 regional centers and presidential libraries, as well. They're listed at www.archives.gov/facilities.

Library of Congress. Go to www.loc.gov, for the resources of the largest library in the world; and, www.loc.gov/rr/genealogy/ for the Local History & Genealogy Reading Room.

Look, especially, at memory.loc.gov/, the American Memory site, which already contains over 7 million digital items. You can even "Chat with a Librarian" online, www.loc.gov/rr/askalib/chat-memory.html, 2 pm to 4 pm, EST, Monday to Friday.

See also, international.loc.gov/intldl/intldlhome.html, LOC's marvelous Global Gateway to World Cultures with numerous links, databases, cybercasts, and other resources in every corner of the world.

Smithsonian Institution Archives. The main access to the Archives of our nation's treasure box is www.si.edu/archives/start.htm; see the Research Collections site at www.si.edu/archives/resources.htm. See also: the *Archives of American Art* at the Smithsonian, artarchives.si.edu/start.htm.

STEP 4 – Look for your specific ethnic and cultural roots

- **NATIVE AMERICAN TRIBAL AND FAMILY HISTORY** – An extensive state-by-state, tribe-by-tribe, topical guide is located on the Native American Genealogy site at www.accessgenealogy.com/native. More web sites, mailing lists, and publications are compiled at www.cyndislist.com/native.htm.
Specific tribal culture, history, genealogy and electronic texts sites are located at www.hanksville.org/NAresources/, WWW-Virtual Library (American Indians).
For the voluminous original resources available in the National Archives, see: www.archives.gov/research_room/genealogy/research_topics/native_american_records.html. This collection contains everything from Indian Census records, 1885-1940, to the Records of the Bureau of Indian Affairs.
For historical context, see the University of Washington Libraries' Native American History site at www.lib.washington.edu/subject/History/tm/native.html. It has an excellent series of links to all the regions and tribes in U.S. history.
- **AFRICAN-AMERICAN FAMILY HISTORY** – a great web site inspired by Alex Haley's groundbreaking effort to discover his *Roots* is located at www.afrigeneas.com. See also: the Smithsonian's African-American History & Culture at www.si.edu/resource/faq/nmah/afroam.htm; the Canada-based members.shaw.ca/justgen/afa.htm; the extensive African-American section of *Cyndi's List*, www.cyndislist.com/african.htm; the U.S. National Archives online research guide to using federal records and photograph collections at: www.archives.gov/research_room/genealogy/research_topics/african_american_research.html; and, ccharity.com, Christine's Genealogy Website.
For extensive documentary and photographic resources on African history, see: Paul Halsall's Internet African History Sourcebook at Fordham University, www.fordham.edu/halsall/africa/africasbook.html; and, WWW-Virtual Library (African-American History), vlib.iue.it/history/USA/african-american.html.
Another great "must see" collection of resource material is the University of California, Berkeley Libraries' African and African-American Collection at www.lib.berkeley.edu/Collections/Africana/.
Many local libraries are also developing substantial African-American heritage collections. See, for instance, the Africana Center within the City of San Jose/San Jose State University's Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Library at www.sjpl.lib.ca.us/research/special/chc/africana_index.htm; the Oakland (CA) Public Library's African American Museum and Library at Oakland, www.oaklandlibrary.org/AAMLO/index.html; the comprehensive Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture at the New York Public Library at www.nypl.org/research/sc/sc.html; Genealogy Pathfinder for African-American History at the Atlanta-Fulton Public Library System ("The People's University"), www.af.public.lib.ga.us/bibresources/genealogy/pathfinder_aa.html; the St. Louis Public Library at www.slpl.lib.mo.us/libsrc/afindex.htm; the Vivian G. Harsh Research Collection of Afro-American History and Literature at the Chicago Public Library at www.chipublib.org/002branches/woodson/wnharsh.html; or, Blair-Caldwell African-American Research Library at the Denver Public Library, www.aarl.denverlibrary.org/.

- **AFRICAN FAMILY HISTORY** – relies heavily on oral traditions in the absence of written records. A good starting point is Columbia University Libraries’ Guide to Research on Africa at www.columbia.edu/cu/lweb/indiv/africa/joebib.html.

The official WWW-Virtual Library (Africa) site is also housed at Columbia, www.columbia.edu/cu/lweb/indiv/africa/cuvl/. Given the broad movement of African population groups and borders over the years, a regional “search” on this site (Southern Africa, Eastern Africa, West Africa, North Africa, Central Africa, Indian Ocean) is a sensible way to begin. See also: the African and African American Collections at University of California, Berkeley Libraries, www.lib.berkeley.edu/Collections/Africana/. Some African ancestral groups with immigrant populations in the U.S., include:

Moroccan family history: www.ambafrance-ma.org/mediatheque/repertoire.cfm, French language resources; www.jewishgen.org/SefardSIG/morocco.htm, Jewish genealogy in Morocco; and, www.morocco-today.info, English language news.

Egyptian family history: www.libdex.com/country/Egypt.html, the Libdex guide to libraries and archives in Egypt; nile.enal.sci.eg/, the Egyptian National Agricultural Library; www.darelkotob.org/, the National Library and Archives of Egypt; and, www.jewishgen.org/sefardsig/egypt.HTM, the Sephardic web sites.

Tunisian Family History: www.al-bab.com/arab/countries/tunisia.htm, the Arab Gateway (Tunisia).

Algerian family History: www.al-bab.com/arab/countries/algeria.htm, the Arab Gateway (Algeria).

Ethiopian family history: www.ies-ethiopia.org/indexn.htm, the Institute of Ethiopian Studies at Addis Ababa University.

Somali family history: www.indiana.edu/~libarchm/somalia.html, a BBC (British Broadcasting Corporation) Collection, now at Indiana University.

Sudanese family history: Columbia University’s African Studies site for Sudan, www.columbia.edu/cu/lweb/indiv/africa/cuvl/Sudan.html.

Ghanan family history: www.geocities.com/ghanagenweb/, the Ghana GenWeb.

Nigerian family history: www2.hu-berlin.de/orient/nae/, National Archives of Nigeria, hosted by the Centre for Modern Oriental Studies, Berlin.

South African family history: www.national.archives.gov.za/, genealogical research at the National Archives of South Africa.

- **CANADIAN FAMILY HISTORY** – start the at Toronto Public Library site, http://vrl.tpl.toronto.on.ca/guides/04guides_f.html, “Genealogy” and “History.” Try the bilingual Canada GenWeb, www.rootsweb.com/~canwgv/html/e-index.html. Also, try Mary’s Genealogy Treasures (formerly Lethbridge’s Family History Center) at www.telusplanet.net/public/mtoll/.

The Library and Archives of Canada, www.archives.ca/08/08_e.html, is the primary repository of original records. See also: the excellent Canadian Genealogy Centre at www.genealogy.gc.ca/index_e.html.

For French-Canadian resources and perspective, see the Quebec Family History Society, www.cam.org/~qfhs/; and, the Marionopolis College in Montreal site at www2.marianopolis.edu/quebechistory/.

- **HISPANIC/LATINO FAMILY HISTORY** – www.cyndislist.com/hispanic.htm is a very large list of sites for Mexico and all of the countries of Central America, South America, and the Caribbean. Other good starting points are:
 - www.elanillo.com, the comprehensive Anillo de Genealogía Hispana (Hispanic Genealogy Ring), a Spanish-language site with extensive links to archives and libraries in Spain and the Hispanic Americas;
 - www.loc.gov/rr/genealogy/bib_guid/hispanic/, the Library of Congress, Hispanic Local History & Genealogy Bibliography and Guide; and, <http://www.loc.gov/rr/hispanic/explore.html>, additional Library of Congress Internet Resources;
 - archives.gov/facilities/ca/laguna_niguel/naturalization_records.html, U.S. National Archives Naturalization records held in Laguna Niguel, California.
 - www.cyndislist.com/hispanic.htm#GenWeb, for every country that's part of the World GenWeb Project;
 - lanic.utexas.edu/las.html, WWW-Virtual Library (Latin America Studies) site, in English/Spanish/Portuguese, hosted by the University of Texas;
 - lal.tulane.edu/, the Latin American Library at Tulane University's Howard-Milton Memorial Library;
 - www.hispanicgen.org (click Links), the Colorado Society of Hispanic Genealogy, which focuses on family histories of the American Southwest;
 - www.lasculturas.com (click on Genealogy), which is broadly inclusive of modern Latino/Hispanic culture;
 - www.familysearch.org (click "Search," "Research Helps," "Latin America Research Outline,"), for the LDS guide to resources and research strategies;
 - lib.nmsu.edu/subject/bord/laguia/, La Guia, Internet Resources for Latin America, a comprehensive list of links compiled at New Mexico State University Library;
 - www.library.ci.corpus-christi.tx.us/localhistory.htm, the Local History & Genealogy Section of the Corpus Christi Public Library is a good example of how many public libraries are working to develop their Hispanic family history resources in the context of local and regional history;
 - www.hispanicsociety.org/, The Hispanic Society of America has a special collection of rare books and manuscripts at its Library in New York.
 - crm.cr.nps.gov/issue.cfm?volume=20&number=11, the informative National Park Service Cultural Resource guide (in PDF);
 - www.somosprimos.com and <http://members.aol.com/shhar/>, the Society of Hispanic Historical and Ancestral Research (SHHAR).

Mexican family history: www.rootsweb.com/~mexwgv, guide to the Mexico GenWeb; vlib.iue.it/history/americas/mexico.html, WWW-Virtual Library – History of Mexico site; lanic.utexas.edu/la/mexico/, the WWW-Virtual Library – Mexico; also, lanic.utexas.edu/la/mexico/academic/index.html, Mexican Academic Research Resources; www.cyndislist.com/hispanic.htm, a rich collection of links on Hispanic/Latino culture, including Mexico, at Cyndi’s List; www.familysearch.org/Eng/Search/RG/frameset_rg.asp?Dest=E&JurisI=316, the LDS guides to Catholic Church records in Mexico; and, an example of the emerging local and regional sites, www.rootsweb.com/~mexcoahu/links.html, the Coahuila, Mexico GenWeb, which offers advice about vital records.

An excellent published guide for tracing individual families back to Mexican roots is: John P. Schmal and Donna S. Morales, *Mexican-American Genealogical Research: Following the Paper Trail to Mexico* (Bowie, Maryland: Heritage Books, 2002), available through the Mexican Cultural Institute/Instituto Cultural Mexicano of Los Angeles (213-624-3660), or www.heritagebooks.com (item no. S2139). It reproduces numerous images of original documents, so that you get a good sense of what you’re looking for.

For Spanish-language archives and library resources and a broad selection of multilingual historical collections, see:

- bibliol.bibliog.unam.mx/bib/biblioteca.html, Biblioteca Nacional de México (National Library of Mexico);
- www.cnca.gob.mx/cnca/buena/biblioteca/, Biblioteca de México (Consejo Nacional para la Cultura y las Artes);
- www.agn.gob.mx/indice.html, Archivo General de la Nación (National Archives of Mexico);
- biblio.colmex.mx/, Biblioteca Daniel Cosío Villegas de El Colegio de México;
- lanic.utexas.edu/la/mexico/usmex/, U.S. – Mexico Border resources in academic and cultural institutions;
- archives.gov/research_room/genealogy/immigrant_arrivals/mexican_border_crossings.html, U.S. National Archives records on Mexican Border Crossings;
- www.usc.edu/isd/archives/ethnicstudies/mex_main.html, the University of Southern California Library’s Mexican American Research Guide; and, www.usc.edu/isd/archives/arc/libraries/boeckmann/, the Boeckmann Center for Iberian and Latin American Studies at USC;
- www.library.ucla.edu/libraries/yrl/colls/latinamerica/, the UCLA Library Collections and Internet Resources in Latin American Studies; and, www.library.ucla.edu/yrl/reference/guides/latin250b.html, the UCLA Young Library Latin American Studies reference guide;
- www.lib.panam.edu/info/speccoll/finding.html, University of Texas – Pan American University, Lower Rio Grande Valley Historical Collection;
- www.tulane.edu/~latinlib/lalhome.html, Latin American Library at Tulane University (New Orleans), one of the largest collections of material outside of Mexico;

- learning.berkeley.edu/Courses/AS102Sum97/resources.html, a comprehensive University of California, Berkeley, course site and resource list on the complex history of the U.S.-Mexico Border;
- www.digitalhistory.uh.edu/mexican_voices/mexican_voices.cfm, the Digital History project at the University of Houston;
- www.tempe.gov/museum/albums.htm, a look at how the City of Tempe, Arizona, is putting together its Hispanic heritage, particularly as it relates to Northern Mexico, in the form of family albums;
- www.lapl.org/central/mexicana.html, describes the extensive Mexicana resources of the Los Angeles Public Library (Resumen de la Colección Mexicana en la Biblioteca Pública de Los Angeles);
- ancestry.com/search/rectype/inddb/3947a.htm, Mexican Parish Records, 1751-1880 (this is a subscription site).

Salvadoran family history: vlib.iue.it/history/americas/Salvador/index.html, El Salvador WWW-Virtual Library; and, www.rootsweb.com/~slvwgw/, El Salvador GenWeb.

Nicaraguan family history: vlib.iue.it/history/americas/Nicaragua/index.html, Nicaragua WWW-Virtual Library site.

Costa Rican family history: vlib.iue.it/history/americas/CostaRica/, the WWW-VL History (Costa Rica) site.

Honduran family history: vlib.iue.it/history/americas/Honduras/index.html, the WWW-VL History (Honduras) site.

Panamanian family history: vlib.iue.it/history/americas/Panama/index.html, the WWW-VL History (Panama) site.

Guatemalan family history: vlib.iue.it/history/americas/Guatemala/index.html, the WWW-VL History (Guatemala) site.

Brazilian family history: <http://www.clionet.uffj.br/hbrindex/>, Brazil WWW-Virtual Library; <http://lanic.utexas.edu/la/brazil/>, the lanic (Latin American Network Information Center) site; www.arquivonacional.gov.br/, the Brazilian National Archives; and, www.rootsweb.com/~brawgw/, the Brazil GenWeb.

Chilean family history: vlib.iue.it/history/americas/Chile/index.html, the Chile WWW-Virtual Library; www.rootsweb.com/~chlwgw/, the Chile GenWeb.

Peruvian family history: www.rootsweb.com/~perwgw/, the Peruvian GenWeb; and, vlib.iue.it/history/americas/Peru/index.html, the WWW-VL History (Peru) site.

Ecuadorian family history: vlib.iue.it/history/americas/Ecuador/index.html, the WWW-VL History (Ecuador) site.

Argentine family history: vlib.iue.it/history/americas/Argentina/index.html, the WWW-VL History (Argentina) site.

Cuban family history: www.cubagenweb.org, a U.S.–based overview with an index to the 9-volume *Historia de la Familias Cubanas*; and, the University of Miami, Otto G. Richter Library, Cuban Heritage Collection, which is partly digitized, www.library.miami.edu/umcuban/cuban.html; and, the University of Miami Library’s extensive guide to Cuba and Cuban Americans on the Internet, www.library.miami.edu/netguides/cubanet.html#archives.

Puerto Rican family history: www.rootsweb.com/~prhgs, the Puerto Rican Hispanic Genealogical Society; and, www.rootsweb.com/~prwgv/, the Puerto Rico GenWeb (in Spanish).

- **ASIAN & PACIFIC FAMILY HISTORY** – descending from some of the largest population groups in the world. A sizable challenge made easier by a strong sense of ancestry. There’s a very rich compilation of genealogical and cultural resources at www.cyndislist.com/asia.htm. For historical and cultural perspective, see:
 - www.fordham.edu/halsall/eastasia/eastasiasbook.html, Paul Halsall’s voluminous Internet East Asian History Sourcebook, currently housed at Fordham University;
 - <http://coombs.anu.edu.au/WWWVL-AsianStudies.html>, the enormous Asian Studies WWW-Virtual Library at the Australian National University; it covers the Middle East to the Pacific Islands;
 - www.iias.nl/wwwvl/southeast.html, the WWW-Virtual Library (Southeast Asia) for Cambodia, Indonesia, Vietnam, Laos, Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore, and the Philippines;
 - www.slavweb.com/eng/Russia/feast-e.html, Far Eastern Russia;
 - coombs.anu.edu.au/WWWVLPacific/VLPacific1.html, on the tiny islands in the vast Pacific and Indian Oceans.

Chinese family history: see vlib.iue.it/history/asia/China/index.html, the WWW-Virtual Library History of China site for an overview. On the Chinese immigration experience, see: uscis.gov/graphics/aboutus/history/tools.html, the extensive U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service history site; and, groups.haas.berkeley.edu/iber/casefiles, the new cooperative effort of IBER (Institute of Business and Economic Research) at the University of California, Berkeley, and the U.S. National Archives Regional Center (San Bruno). See also:

- www.archives.gov/facilities/finding_aids/chinese_immigration.html, Chinese Immigration and Chinese in the U.S. records in the U.S. National Archives;
- www.nlc.gov.cn/english.htm, the Center of Local Chronicles and Genealogy at the National Library of China (Beijing);
- sun.sino.uni-heidelberg.de/igcs/, the WWW-Virtual Library (Internet Guide for China Studies), hosted by Heidelberg University;
- sun.sino.uni-heidelberg.de/igcs/igguides.htm, the WWW-Virtual Library (East Asia), covering Hong Kong, Tibet, Taiwan, Malaysia and Singapore;
- www.rootsweb.com/~chnwgv/, the China GenWeb Project;
- www.chsa.org/resources/resource_links.htm, the Chinese Historical Society of America (San Francisco), Resource and Reference Lists.

Japanese family history: see Carolyn Brady's Japanese American Family History Resources at www.carolynbrady.com/jagenealogy.html; the Japan GenWeb site at www.rootsweb.com/~jpnwggw/; and, the "remember we're all cousins" Distant Cousin site at www.distantcousin.com/links/ethnic/japan.html.

For historical perspective, see: the WWW-Virtual Library (History of Japan), www.ukans.edu/history/VL/east_asia/japan.html, at the University of Kansas.

See also: the WWW-Virtual Library (Japan), jguide.stanford.edu/, hosted by Stanford University; and, the Japanese American History Archives at www.amacord.com/fillmore/museum/jt/jaha/jaha.html.

Vietnamese family history: www.genealogytoolbox.com/vietnam.html; and, coombs.anu.edu.au/WWWVL-Vietnam.html, the WWW-Virtual Library (Vietnam), hosted by the Australian National University.

Korean family history: www.usc.edu/isd/libraries/collections/korean_heritage, at the University of Southern California Library; the WWW-Virtual Library sites at the Duke University Library, www.duke.edu/~myhan/s-sk.html (South Korea), and www.duke.edu/~myhan/s-nk.html (North Korea); and the Helm's Genealogy Toolbox site at www.genealogytoolbox.com/korearepublic.html.

Hmong/Laotian family history: www.hmongnet.org, Asian Studies WWW-Virtual Library; www.hmongcenter.org/, the Hmong Cultural Center (St. Paul, Minnesota); and, www.hmongnet.org/hmong-au/ozintro.htm, a comprehensive Australia-based site about the dispersion of the Hmong people around the world. See also: www.rootsweb.com/~laowggw/, the Laos GenWeb project.

Cambodian family history: www.ias.nl/wwwvl/southeas/cambodia.html, the Cambodian WWW-VL, and, www.rootsweb.com/~khwggw/, the Cambodia GenWeb.

Thai family history: www.rootsweb.com/~thawggw/, the Thai GenWeb; and, www.nectec.or.th/WWW-VL-Thailand.html, the Thailand WWW-Virtual Library.

Filipino family history: www.filipinolinks.com/home/genealogy.html; and, www.geocities.com/Heartland/Ranch/9121/, the Philippines GenWeb guide.

For historical and cultural perspective, see: the WWW-Virtual Library (Philippines), www.ias.nl/wwwvl/southeas/philippi.html. On immigration to the U.S., see: opmanong.ssc.hawaii.edu/filipino/labor.html, at the University of Hawaii; and, www.seattleu.edu/lemlib/web_archives/Filipino/history.html, Filipino American Resources compiled at Seattle University.

Indian family history: www.india.com.ar/ is the extensive WWW-Virtual Library (India) link to one of the world's largest population groups.

For Indian history, see: www.ukans.edu/kansas/india/india.html, hosted by the University of Kansas. See also: Paul Halsall's comprehensive Internet Indian History Sourcebook, www.fordham.edu/halsall/india/indiasbook.html.

Pakistani family history: www.clas.ufl.edu/users/gthursby/pak, the WWW-Virtual Library link; the graphic www.harappa.com/; and, the relatively new National Library of Pakistan at www.nlp.gov.pk/html/resources.htm.

Australian and New Zealander family history: a wide-ranging *Australasian* site at home.vicnet.net.au/~AGWeb/agweb.htm; the New Zealand GenWeb at www.rootsweb.com/~nzlwgw/; Australia GenWeb at www.australiagenweb.org/.

- **EUROPEAN FAMILY HISTORY** – over 75% of the U.S. population has roots in these ancestral groups. Some of the following sites are multi-lingual:
 - For Western Europe, start with www.cyndislist.com/westeuro.htm. It covers every country from Austria to Iceland, with Liechtenstein, Andorra, the Vatican, and San Marino in between;
 - For Eastern Europe, start with www.cyndislist.com/easteuro.htm. It covers every country from Russia to Austria (again), including the Baltic States, the Balkan States, Greece, Turkey, and Armenia.

For historical context, see: Paul Halsall's documentary and photographic Internet History Sourcebooks (Ancient, Medieval, Modern), currently housed at Fordham University, www.fordham.edu/halsall/.

For a great collection of European documents (originally begun in Herbert Hoover's post-WWI war relief effort), see: www-hoover.stanford.edu/hila/. This is the site of the Library and Archives of the Hoover Institution on War, Revolution and Peace at Stanford University.

See also: The European University Institute's WWW-Virtual Library (EUI European History Project) at <http://vlib.iue.it/>. It's currently building the largest online "European" library, country-by-country and topic-by-topic.

Irish/English/Scottish/Welsh family history: Many of our ancestors immigrated through Ellis Island, www.ellislandrecords.org/, and other East Coast ports. See the immigration records held by the National Archives at www.archives.gov (Research Room – Genealogy – Research Topics – Immigration Records).

Comprehensive sites touching the family histories of all these cultures are:

- www.genuki.org.uk/big, the UK-based site that includes England, Republic of Ireland, Northern Ireland, Wales, Scotland, the Channel Islands, and Isle of Man. It has extensive information on topics such as Heraldry, Land and Property, Handwriting, Medical Records, Social Life and Customs;
- www.genealogylinks.net/uk (All-UK and Ireland, England, Scotland and Wales) has extensive links to the Ancestry.com library of databases;
- www.cyndislist.com/uksites.htm (United Kingdom & Ireland), the vast compilation of sites at Cyndi's List;
- www.britishlibrary.net/family.html, an extensive list of family history sites compiled by the British Library.

Irish family history: for historical perspective on the second largest ancestral group in America (39 million according to the U.S. Census Bureau, Detailed Ancestry Groups). See also:

- www.nationalarchives.ie/index.html, the National Archives of Ireland (An Chartlann Náisiúnta) in Dublin has a genealogy service available;
- www.irelandgenweb.com/, Ireland GenWeb for the Republic of Ireland;
- www.rootsweb.com/~nirwgg/, Northern Ireland GenWeb;
- www.genuki.org.uk/big/irl/, the GenUK site for Ireland;
- larkspirit.com/history/, Irish History on the Web;
- vlib.iue.it/history/europe/eire/index.html, the large WWW-Virtual Library (History of Ireland).

English family history: for this third largest ancestral group in America (33 million according to the U.S. Census Bureau), the England GenWeb Project offers county-by-county resources at www.rootsweb.com/~engwgg/. See also: Olive Tree's "English to America" at olivetreegenealogy.com/ships/englishousa.shtml.

Look at the Family Records Centre, managed jointly by the General Register Office (GRO) and the Public Record Office (PRO), the principal government record keepers, at <http://www.familyrecords.gov.uk/frc/default.htm>.

For historical context, see: the WWW-Virtual Library (History of the United Kingdom) at vlib.iue.it/history/europe/uk/uk.html.

See also: www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/, the National Archives; and, the Bodleian Library at Oxford University at www.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/. Oxford is the oldest university in the English-speaking world.

Scottish family history: see the National Archives of Scotland at www.nas.gov.uk. See also: www.ancestralscotland.com; or, www.scotsorigins.com; and, the Scotland GenWeb at www.scotlandgenweb.org/. For the history of Scotland, see the WWW-Virtual Library at vlib.iue.it/history/europe/scotland.html.

Welsh family history: For historical context, see: the WWW-VL (Wales); vlib.iue.it/history/europe/wales.html; the BBC's excellent History of Wales site at www.bbc.co.uk/wales/history/davies/; Powys Heritage, history.powys.org.uk/; and, the Cardiff University Centre for Welsh American Studies site at www.cf.ac.uk/cymraeg/cymryamerica/CUCAPC.html.

Dutch family history: www.godutch.com/genealogy/roots.htm; and the Netherlands/Dutch GenWeb at www.rootsweb.com/~nldwgg/. See also: home.planet.nl/~nijs0104/www-vl-neth/index.html, the WWW-Virtual Library (Dutch History); Holland Ring, www.thehollandring.com/holland.shtml.

German family history: This is the largest single ancestral group in the United States (approximately 58 million according to the U.S. Census Bureau – Detailed Ancestry Groups). For a good overview, see: the Germans in America site at the Library of Congress, www.loc.gov/rr/european/imde/germany.html; and, the German Studies Web, www.dartmouth.edu/~wess/, at Dartmouth College.

For German family and cultural history links, see:

- www.cyndislist.com/germany.htm, a very large listing of online sites and resources, as well as printed materials;
- www.rootsweb.com/~wggerman/, the Germany GenWeb with direct links to all the neighboring countries;
- <http://wilson.lib.umn.edu/reference/ger-gene.html>, German and German-American sites recommended by the University of Minnesota Libraries;
- www.genealogienetz.de/genealogy.html, bilingual, Germany-based site;
- www.genealogywisconsin.com/ (German Genealogy), many helpful links;
- daddezio.com/germgen.html, German Heritage and Genealogy.

For the many ways to explore the complexity of German history, see: www.phil.uni-erlangen.de/~p1ges/heidelberg/gh/gh.html, the WWW-Virtual Library; www.loc.gov/rr/european/coll/germ.html, the German Collections at the Library of Congress (use with the catalog SEARCH function); www.germanheritage.com/, the German-American History & Heritage site; and, library.byu.edu/~rdh/eurodocs/germany.html, the History of Germany Primary Documents Project housed at Brigham Young University.

French family history: see the extensive section in Cyndi's List for France at www.cyndislist.com/france.htm.

For original records, see:

- www.francogene.com and www.afgs.org, for Franco-American and French-Canadian family history;
- www.francegenweb.org/fgwstart.htm, France GenWeb;
- www.bnf.fr/, the Bibliothèque Nationale (National Library);
- www.archivesnationales.culture.gouv.fr/chan/, Centre historiques des Archives Nationales (National Archives).

For the broad sweep of French history, see: the WWW-Virtual Library site at www.library.pitt.edu/subject_guides/westeuropean/wwwes/france.nhp.html; the WWW-Virtual Library: History of France site at www.revues.org/vlib/; also, the History of France primary document project hosted by Brigham Young University, library.byu.edu/~rdh/eurodocs/france.html.

Belgian family history: the RootsWeb Project at belgium.rootsweb.com/; and, www.genealogylinks.net/europe/belg.htm.

Luxembourger family history: try <http://www.eskimo.com/~lisanne/amlux.htm>; and, www.rootsweb.com/~luxwgv/.

Swiss family history: www.bar.admin.ch/bar/engine/Home, the Swiss Federal Archives; and, www.rootsweb.com/~chewgw/, the Switzerland GenWeb.

Spanish family history: www.cyndislist.com/spain.htm is the largest listing for the Iberian Peninsula. See also: the WWW-Virtual Library (Spanish History), <http://vlib.iue.it/hist-spain/Index.html>; and, the Spanish-language Spain GenWeb, www.genealogia-es.com/.

Portuguese family history: www.cyndislist.com/portugal.htm, Cyndi's List for Portugal; genealogia.sapo.pt/home/, a multilingual, Portugal-based site. See also: vlib.iue.it/history/europe/portugal.html, the WWW-VL History of Portugal; and, home.pacifier.com/~kcardoz/azoresindex.html, the Azores GenWeb project.

Basque family history: on Basques in the United States, especially Nevada and Idaho, see: www.library.unr.edu/depts/basqlib/genealogy.html, the Basque Studies Library at the University of Nevada, Reno.

Italian and Sicilian family history: www.italiangen.org, (you've got to love the music on this site). See also: Italian Heritage and Genealogy at daddezio.com/; the Italy GenWeb at www.rootsweb.com/~itawgw/; the Sicily GenWeb at www.rootsweb.com/~itawgw/prov/15/sicily.htm; the extensive WWW-Virtual Library (History) at vlib.iue.it/hist-italy/Index.html; and, for more historical context, the History of Italy – Primary Documents Project at Brigham Young University Library, www.lib.byu.edu/~rdh/eurodocs/italy.html.

Austrian and Hungarian family history: for centuries, the history of these two countries and cultures was intertwined. See: the WWW-Virtual Library: Austria at vlib.iue.it/history/europe/austria.html; and, WWW-Virtual Library: Hungary at vlib.iue.it/history/europe/hungary.html.

For Austrian family history records, see: the Austrian State Archives at www.oesta.gv.at/engdiv/geneal.htm; and, the Austria GenWeb project at www.rootsweb.com/~autwgg/.

For Hungarian family history records, see: the Hungary GenWeb Project at www.rootsweb.com/~wghungar/; and, Alex Glendinning's Hungarian Pages at user.itl.net/~glen/Hungarianintro.html.

Croatian family history: www.rootsweb.com/~hrvwgw/, the Croatia GenWeb; and, www.croatia-in-english.com/gen. See also: WWW-Virtual Library (History of Croatia) at vlib.iue.it/history/europe/croatia.html; the CroLinks history list, www.crolinks.com/; and, www.feeffhs.org/cro/cghs-gcg.html, Adam Eterovich's Croatian Heritage site.

Slovenian family history: www.rootsweb.com/~svnwgw/, the Slovenian GenWeb; and, www.sloveniangenealogy.org/, the Slovenian Genealogy Society.

Serbian-Montenegrin family history: www.genealogylinks.net/europe/sm.htm; and, www.rootsweb.com/~serwgg/, the Serbia GenWeb. See also: the WWW-Virtual Library at vlib.iue.it/history/europe/yugoslavia.html.

Greek family history: www.rootsweb.com/~grcwgg/, Greece GenWeb guide; Cyndi's List for Greece at www.cyndislist.com/greece.htm; the Greek Heritage and Genealogy site at daddezio.com/grekgen.html. For historical context, see: vlib.iue.it/history/europe/greece.html, WWW-Virtual Library Greece/History.

Turkish family history: freepages.history.rootsweb.com/~byzantium/Links.html, the Istanbul GenWeb is a good starting point. See also: Paul Stirling's Turkish Village site at lucy.ukc.ac.uk/TVillage/StirlingContents.html; and the WWW-Virtual Library for Turkey at vlib.iue.it/history/asia/Turkey/index.html.

Polish family history: www.polishroots.com and www.pgasa.org, the Polish Genealogical Society of America; and, www.pgsctne.org/. See also: the Polish GenWeb site at: www.rootsweb.com/~polwgv/polandgen.html; the WWW-Virtual Library for Poland at historicus.umk.pl/vl/; and the Polish State Archives network at www.archiwa.gov.pl/mapa/index.eng.html.

Lithuanian family history: a good starting point is the WWW-VL: Lithuania vlib.iue.it/history/europe/lithuania.html. See also: the Lithuanian Global Genealogy Society at www.lithuaniangenealogy.org/.

Latvian family history: www.rootsweb.com/~lvawgv/index.html, the Latvian GenWeb project.

Estonian family history: start at the Estonian GenWeb page at www.fortunecity.com/meltingpot/estonia/200/genweb.html.

Russian/Ukrainian/Belarusian/Siberian family history: starting points on this complex group of cultures are: the WWW-Virtual Library (Russian History Index), vlib.iue.it/hist-russia/Index.html; and, the Hoover Institution Library and Archives at Stanford University, www-hoover.stanford.edu/hila/collectionsp.htm,

See also: the Russia GenWeb, www.rootsweb.com/~ruswgv/ (especially, “Useful Links”) for European Russia; and, the Russia-based www.mtu-net.ru/rrr.

See also: the Russia-based www.mtu-net.ru/rrr/ukraine.htm for the Ukraine and Belarus; www.rootsweb.com/~ukrwgv/ for the Ukraine GenWeb guide; and, www.cyndislist.com/germruss.htm for Germans from Russia.

Armenian family history: www.rootsweb.com/~armwgv/, the Armenia GenWeb; and, www.armenianhistory.info/glossary.htm, the Armenian Glossary.

Czech & Slovakian family history: www.iarerelative.com/czech, with its wonderful musical interlude; and, the National Czech & Slovak Museum (Cedar Rapids, Iowa), <http://www.ncsml.org/>.

Scandinavian family history: so many descendants in the heartland of America. See: www.cyndislist.com/scan.htm, for an extensive list of links for Finland, Sweden, Denmark, Norway, Iceland and Greenland. See also: www.rootsweb.com/~wipolk/ancestors.htm, part of the Wisconsin GenWeb.

Danish family history: www.genealogylinks.net/europe/den.htm, part of *Ancestry.com*; *My Danish Roots* at www.mydanishroots.com; and, the Canada-based, www.telusplanet.net/public/mtoll/denmark.htm.

Swedish family history: the Swedish Immigration Research Center at Augustana College, www.augustana.edu/administration/swenson; and, the American Swedish Institute at www.americanswedishinst.org/genealogy.htm.

Norwegian family history: see Cyndi’s List at www.cyndislist.com/norway.htm; Ancestors from Norway at homepages.rootsweb.com/~norway/index.html; and, World GenWeb’s www.rootsweb.com/~wgnorway. For historical perspective, see: Norway.org at www.norway.org/culture/page.cfm?id=64.

Finnish family history: www.rootsweb.com/~finwgv/, Finland GenWeb; and, vlib.iue.it/hist-finland/Index.html, the WWW-VL History of Finland.

Romani/Romany (Gypsy, Irish Traveller) family history: some of the “Unique Peoples & Cultures” in Cyndi’s List, www.cyndislist.com/peoples.htm#Gypsies; and, <http://educate.si.edu/migrations/gyp/gypstart.html>, part of the Smithsonian Institution’s Immigrations in History site.

- **MIDDLE EASTERN FAMILY HISTORY** – www.cyndislist.com/mideast.htm covers over twenty different countries and cultures of the region in great detail. See also:
 - www.library.cornell.edu/colldev/mideast/, Cornell University collections;
 - www.rootsweb.com/~mdeastgw/index.html, the Middle East GenWeb;
 - www.fordham.edu/halsall/islam/islamsbook.html, Paul Halsall’s Internet Islamic History Sourcebook, at Fordham University;
 - www.columbia.edu/cu/lweb/indiv/mideast/cuvm/, the WWW-Virtual Library (Middle East Studies), hosted at Columbia University.

Lebanese family history: www.rootsweb.com/~lbnwgv/ the Lebanese GenWeb.

Palestinian family history: www.rootsweb.com/~mdeastgw/palestine.html, the Palestinian GenWeb; www.ku.edu/history/VL/near_east/palestine.html, the WWW-Virtual Library (History of Palestine); and, the Arab Gateway (Palestine), www.al-bab.com/arab/countries/palestine.htm.

Jordanian family history: www.ku.edu/history/VL/near_east/jordan.html, the WWW-Virtual Library (History of Jordan).

Yemeni Family History: www.al-bab.com/arab/countries/palestine.htm, the Yemen Gateway.

Saudi Arabian Family History: www.al-bab.com/arab/countries/saudi.htm, the Saudi Arabia Gateway.

Syrian family History: <http://www.al-bab.com/arab/countries/syria.htm>, the Syria Gateway.

Iraqi family history: vlib.iue.it/history/asia/Iraq/index.html, the WWW-Virtual Library (History of Iraq); and, Columbia University’s Middle East Studies (Iraq) at www.columbia.edu/cu/lweb/indiv/mideast/cuvm/Iraq.html.

Iranian family history: www.rootsweb.com/~mdeastgw/iran.html, the Iran GenWeb; www.columbia.edu/cu/lweb/indiv/mideast/cuvm/Iran.html at Columbia University; www.libdex.com/country/Iran.html, including the National Library of Iran; and, the WWW-Virtual Library (Iran) at www.irvl.net/.

Afghan family history: www.icarp.org/afghan.html, the WWW-Virtual Library (Afghanistan); and, www.ku.edu/history/VL/middle_east/afghanistan.html, WWW-Virtual Library (History of Afghanistan).

Kurdish family history: elements of Kurdish history and culture are found in the family history sites for Turkey, Iraq, Iran and Syria. See also: the InfoPlease site at www.infoplease.com/ce6/world/A0828382.html.

- **JEWISH FAMILY HISTORY** – for some of the oldest recorded genealogy in the world, see: www.cjh.org/family, the Jewish History Genealogy Institute, New York; www.rootsweb.com/~isrwgw/, the extensive resources of the Israel GenWeb; and, www.jewishgen.org/databases/, the Jewish GenWeb. See also:
 - www.cyndislist.com/jewish.htm, the extensive guide in Cyndi’s List;
 - www.fordham.edu/halsall/jewish/jewishbook.html, Paul Halsall’s Internet Jewish History Sourcebook at Fordham University;
 - www.orthohelp.com/geneal/sefardim.htm, on Sephardic Genealogy;
 - www.temple.edu/feinsteinctr/fcrelated.html, the Feinstein Center American Jewish History at Temple University.

Step 5 – Find original family history records (state-by-state & special area*)

The largest collections of original documents and vital records related to family history are usually found in government records depositories in state capitals and county seats. Sometimes, you’ll find them in the “archives” and “special collections” of private institutions. For current statistics, important addresses, phone numbers, and curious facts about each state, see www.50states.com/. For an overview of genealogical resources and history, state-by-state, see: www.rootsweb.com/roots-l/usa.html, the Roots-L Project. For anything you want to know about U.S. History, see: www.ukans.edu/history/VL/USA/index.html, the WWW-VL (History of United States), hosted by the University of Kansas, and, memory.loc.gov/, the American Memory Project of the Library of Congress.

- **Alabama – Montgomery – Camellia State, Cotton State**
www.archives.state.al.us/ge.html, Alabama Department of History & Archives
ph.state.al.us/chs/VitalRecords/VRECORDS.HTML, Vital Records
www.rootsweb.com/~algenweb/societies.html, Alabama GenWeb
www.rootsweb.com/~usgenweb/al/alfiles.htm, Alabama USGenWeb Archives
www.alabamagenealogy.org/archives.htm, Alabama genealogy.org
www.lib.ua.edu/libraries/hoole/digital/genealogy.shtml, Univ. of Alabama
www.bplonline.org/sou/, Birmingham Public Library, Genealogy
www.publiclibraries.com/alabama.htm, Alabama public libraries
- **Alaska – Juneau – The Last Frontier, Land of the Midnight Sun**
www.rootsweb.com/roots-l/USA/ak.html, Alaska Roots-L guide
www.hss.state.ak.us/dph/bvs/, Vital Statistics
www.library.state.ak.us/hist/, Alaska State Library, Historical Collections
www.lib.uaa.alaska.edu/archives/, University of Alaska, Anchorage
www.rootsweb.com/~usgenweb/ak/akfiles.htm, Alaska USGenWeb Archives
www.akgenweb.org/, Alaska GenWeb
lexicon.ci.anchorage.ak.us/, Anchorage Municipal Libraries
www.mnh.si.edu/arctic/html/research.html, Artic Studies Centre, Smithsonian

www.alaskanative.net/, Alaska Native Heritage Center
www.ldb.org/vl/cp/index.htm, WWW-Virtual Library – Circumpolar peoples
www.wengereskimodb.uaf.edu/welcome.html, Hubert Wenger Eskimo Database
www.publiclibraries.com/alaska.htm, Alaska public libraries

- **American Samoa* – Pago Pago, Island of Tutuila**
www.ashpo.org/samoalinks.htm , Historic Preservation Office
www.asg-gov.com/, official government site of American Samoa
www.rootsweb.com/~samoawgw/, American Samoa GenWeb
www.cyndislist.com/territor.htm#Samoa, Cyndi's List – American Samoa
- **Arizona – Phoenix – Grand Canyon State**
www.dlapr.lib.az.us/, Arizona State Library & Archives
www.hs.state.az.us/vitalrcd/index.htm, Vital Records
www.rootsweb.com/~azgenweb/, Arizona GenWeb
www.rootsweb.com/~usgenweb/az/azfiles.html, Arizona USGenWeb Archives
www.asu.edu/lib/archives/arizona.htm, Arizona State University, Arizona Collection
www.nau.edu/library/speccoll/index.html, Northern Arizona University, Special Coll.
www.library.arizona.edu/swetc/projects.html, University of Arizona Library, E-texts
ahs.dreamteamtech.com/, Arizona Historical Society, Library & Archives
www.phoenixpubliclibrary.org/index.jsp, Phoenix Public Library
www.lib.ci.tucson.az.us/, Tuscon-Pima Public Library
www.yumalibrary.org/, Yuma County Library
www.publiclibraries.com/arizona.htm, Arizona public libraries
- **Arkansas – Little Rock – The Natural State, Razorback State**
www.ark-ives.com/, Arkansas History Commission, Archives
www.healthyarizona.com/certificates/certificates.html, Vital Records
www.argenweb.net/, Arkansas GenWeb
www.rootsweb.com/~usgenweb/ar/arfiles.htm, Arkansas USGenWeb Archives
www.rootsweb.com/roots-l/USA/ar.html, Arkansas Roots-L
www.laman.net/genealogy.html, Laman Public Library, Genealogy Resources
www.cals.lib.ar.us/, Central Arkansas Library System
arkstar.asl.lib.ar.us/, Arkansas Libraries online
www.publiclibraries.com/arkansas.htm, Arkansas public libraries
- **California – Sacramento – Golden State**
www.ss.ca.gov/archives/archives.htm, California State Archives
www.library.ca.gov/html/genealogy.cfm, California State Library
www.rootsweb.com/roots-l/USA/ca/index.html, California Roots-L
www.dhs.cahwnet.gov/hisp/chs/OVR/Ordercert.htm, Vital Records
www.academic-genealogy.com/californiastateinformation.htm, Tinney family guide
www.cyndislist.com/ca.htm, Cyndi's List for California
www.cagenweb.com/, California GenWeb
www.rootsweb.com/~usgenweb/ca/cafiles.htm, California USGenWeb Archives
www.californiahistoricalsociety.org/, California Historical Society
www.calgensoc.org/, California Genealogical Society and Library
www.lapl.org/, Los Angeles Public Library

- sfpl4.sfpl.org/webroot/librarylocations/sfhistory/sfhistory.htm, SF Public Library
www.sfgenealogy.com/sf/index.htm, San Francisco Genealogy
zpub.com/sf/history/, San Francisco History Index
www.fresnolibrary.org/calif/index.html, Fresno County Public Library, CA History
www.sandiego.gov/public-library/, San Diego Public Library, History and Gen.
www.saclibrary.org/, Sacramento Public Library
www.sjlibrary.org/, San Jose Public Library / San Jose State University
www.monterey.org/library/cahist.html, Monterey Public Lib. Calif. History Room
www.co.marin.ca.us/depts/lb/main/crm/kentmain.html, Marin County Lib., Calif. Room
www-hoover.stanford.edu/hila/, Hoover Institution Library & Archives
digarc.usc.edu:8089/cispubsearch/index.jsp, USC Digital Archive
www.oac.cdlib.org/, Online Archive of California
www.cdlib.org/, California Digital Library, University of California
www.publiclibraries.com/california.htm, California public libraries
- **Colorado – Denver – Centennial State**
www.colorado.gov/dpa/doit/archives/, Colorado State Archives
www.coloradohistory.org/, Colorado Historical Society – Library
www.denver.lib.co.us/ebranch/, Denver Public Library – Resources – Genealogy
www.cdphe.state.co.us/hs/certs.asp, Vital Records – Genealogy
www.rootsweb.com/~cogenweb/comain.htm, Colorado GenWeb (bi-lingual)
www.rootsweb.com/~usgenweb/co/cofiles.htm, Colorado USGenWeb Archives
www.rootsweb.com/roots-l/USA/co.html, Colorado Roots-L
www.cyndislist.com/co.htm, Cyndi's List, Colorado
www.aclin.org/, Colorado Virtual Library
www.archives.gov/facilities/co/denver.html, National Archives – Denver
ucblibraries.colorado.edu/govpubs/gd/cub.htm, Univ. of Colorado Libraries – Gen.
lib.colostate.edu/research/history/, Colorado State Univ. Lib. – History Resources
www.publiclibraries.com/colorado.htm, Colorado public libraries
 - **Connecticut – Hartford – Constitution State, Nutmeg State**
www.chs.org/library/geneal.htm, Connecticut Historical Society
www.dph.state.ct.us/OPPE/hpvital.htm, Vital Records
www.cslib.org/handg.htm, Connecticut State Library and Archives
www.rootsweb.com/~ctgenweb/, Connecticut GenWeb
www.accessgenealogy.com/connecticut/index.htm, Access Genealogy site
wilson.ctstateu.edu/lib/archives/polish/, Connecticut Polish American Archives
www.publiclibraries.com/connecticut.htm, Connecticut public libraries
 - **Delaware – Dover – First State, Diamond State**
www.state.de.us/sos/dpa/, Delaware Public Archives
delaware.gov/egov/Portal.nsf/egovernment/certificates, Vital Statistics
www.hsd.org/gengd.htm, Delaware Historical Society
www.degenweb.org/, Delaware GenWeb
www.lib.de.us/, Delaware Digital Library
www.hagley.lib.de.us/catalog.html, Hagley Museum and Library
www.publiclibraries.com/delaware.htm, Delaware public libraries

- **District of Columbia – The Nation’s Capital**
dclibrary.org/washingtoniana/collection.html, Martin Luther King, Jr., Library
dchealth.dc.gov/services/vital_records/index.shtm, Vital Records
www.rootsweb.com/roots-l/USA/dc.html, District of Columbia RootsWeb guide
www.rootsweb.com/~dcgenweb/, District of Columbia GenWeb
www.publiclibraries.com/dc.htm, District of Columbia public libraries
- **Florida – Tallahassee – Sunshine State**
dlis.dos.state.fl.us/barm/fsa.html, Florida State Archives
www.doh.state.fl.us/planning_eval/vital_statistics/, Vital Records
dlis.dos.state.fl.us/stlib/flcoll.html, Florida State Library, Florida Collection
www.rootsweb.com/~flgenweb/, Florida GenWeb
www.rootsweb.com/~usgenweb/fl/flfiles.htm, Florida USGenWeb Archives
web.uflib.ufl.edu/spec/pkyonge/, University of Florida, Library of Florida History
www.fsu.edu/~library/, Florida State University Libraries
www.publiclibraries.com/florida.htm, Florida public libraries
- **Georgia – Atlanta – Empire State of the South, Peach State**
www.sos.state.ga.us/archives/ci/geneal.htm, Georgia State Archives
health.state.ga.us/programs/vitalrecords/index.asp, Vital Records
www.gagensociety.org/links.htm, Georgia Genealogical Society
www.rootsweb.com/~gagenweb/, Georgia GenWeb
www.publiclibraries.com/georgia.htm, Georgia public libraries
- **Guam* – Hagåtña or Agana – ‘Where America’s New Millennium Begins’**
ns.gov.gu/, Guam government, genealogy
www.guam-online.com/people/people.htm, Guam Online
www.micronesiagenweb.org/~guam/, Guam GenWeb
- **Hawaii – Honolulu – Aloha State**
www.hawaii.gov/health/vital-records, Vital Records
www.rootsweb.com/~higenweb/links.htm, Hawaii GenWeb
www.rootsweb.com/~usgenweb/hi/hifiles.htm, Hawaii USGenWeb Archives
www.rootsweb.com/roots-l/USA/hi.html, Hawaii Roots-L
www.publiclibraries.com/hawaii.htm, Hawaii public libraries
- **Idaho – Boise – Gem State**
www2.state.id.us/dhw/vital_stats/appmenu.html, Vital Records
idahohistory.net/research.html, Idaho Historical Society
www.rootsweb.com/~idgenweb/, Idaho GenWeb
www.rootsweb.com/~usgenweb/id/idfiles.htm, Idaho USGenWeb Archives
www.rootsweb.com/roots-l/USA/id.html, Idaho Roots-L
www.lili.org/isl/resources.htm, Idaho State Library
www.boisepubliclibrary.org/Ref/resources_idaho.shtml, Boise Public, Idaho Room
www.lib.uidaho.edu/special-collections/, Univ. of Idaho, Special Coll. & Archives
www.publiclibraries.com/idaho.htm, Idaho public libraries

- **Illinois – Springfield – Prairie State**
www.sos.state.il.us/departments/archives/services.html, Illinois State Archives
www.rootsweb.com/~ilsgs/index.html, Illinois Genealogical Society
www.idph.state.il.us/vital/vitalhome.htm, Vital Records
www.ilgenweb.com/, Illinois GenWeb
www.rootsweb.com/roots-l/USA/il.html, Illinois Roots-L
www.chipublib.org/001hwlc/sshgenealogy.html, Chicago Public Library
www.newberry.org/nl/newberryhome.html, The Newberry Library – Genealogy
www.chicagohs.org/, Chicago Historical Society
www.rootsweb.com/~ilsgs/, Illinois State Genealogical Society
www.publiclibraries.com/illinois.htm, Illinois public libraries
- **Indiana – Indianapolis – Hoosier State**
www.in.gov/icpr/archives/family/, Indiana State Archives
www.state.in.us/isdh/bdcertifs/bdcert.html, Vital Records
home.att.net/~Local_History/IN_History.htm, Indiana Local History
www.ingenweb.org/, Indiana GenWeb
www.rootsweb.com/~usgenweb/in/infiles.htm, Indiana USGenWeb Archives
www.indiana.edu/~libsalc/history/, Indiana University Libraries – History Resources
www.statelib.lib.in.us/www/isl/whoweare/genealogy.html, Indiana State Library
www.acpl.lib.in.us/genealogy/, Allen County Public Library
www.publiclibraries.com/indiana.htm, Indiana public libraries
- **Iowa – Des Moines – Hawkeye State**
www.idph.state.ia.us/eh/health_statistics.asp, Vital Records
www.iowahistory.org/archives/index.html, Iowa State Historical Society
www.rootsweb.com/roots-l/USA/ia.html, Iowa Roots-L
www.iagenweb.org/, Iowa GenWeb
www.rootsweb.com/~usgenweb/ia/iafiles.htm, Iowa USGenWeb Archives
www.lib.iastate.edu/collections/eresourc/history.html, Iowa State Univ., e-library
www.iowagenealogy.org/, Iowa Genealogical Society
www.pldminfo.org/Search/genealogy.htm, Public Library of Des Moines
www.cyndislist.com/ia.htm, Cyndi's List – Iowa
www.lib.uiowa.edu/iwa/collections.html, Iowa Women's Archives, Univ. of Iowa Lib.
www.publiclibraries.com/iowa.htm, Iowa public libraries
- **Kansas – Topeka – Sunflower State**
www.kdhe.state.ks.us/vital/index.html, Vital Statistics
skyways.lib.ks.us/genweb/, Kansas GenWeb Project
skyways.lib.ks.us/kansas/, Blue Skyways, Kansas State Library
www.kshs.org/genealogists/index.htm, Kansas State Historical Society
www.rootsweb.com/~usgenweb/ks/ksfiles.htm, Kansas USGenWeb Archives
www.rootsweb.com/roots-l/USA/ks.html, Kansas Roots-L
www.kckpl.lib.ks.us/kscoll/Kscoll2.htm, Kansas City Public Library, Kansas Coll
www.dodgecity.net/kgs/, Kansas Genealogical Society
www.publiclibraries.com/kansas.htm, Kansas public libraries

- Kentucky – Frankfort – Bluegrass State**
www.kdla.ky.gov/, Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives
publichealth.state.ky.us/vital.htm, Vital Statistics
www.kygs.org/archives/archives.htm, Kentucky Genealogical Society
history.ky.gov/, Kentucky Historical Society
www.kygenweb.net/index.html, Kentucky GenWeb (where the concept began in 1996)
www.publiclibraries.com/kentucky.htm, Kentucky public libraries
- Louisiana – Baton Rouge – Pelican State**
oph.dhh.state.la.us/recordsstatistics/vitalrecords/, Vital Records
www.sec.state.la.us/archives/archives/archives-index.htm, Louisiana State Arch.
nutrias.org/~nopl/lama/louarch.htm, Archives and Manuscripts Association
www.notarialarchives.org/, New Orleans Notarial Archives
nutrias.org/~nopl/spec/specalist.htm, New Orleans Public Library, City Archives
www.publiclibraries.com/louisiana.htm, Louisiana public libraries
- Maine – Augusta – Pine Tree State**
www.state.me.us/sos/arc/geneology/, Maine State Archives
www.state.me.us/dhs/faq.htm#certificates, Vital Records
www.rootsweb.com/~megenweb/, Maine GenWeb
www.publiclibraries.com/maine.htm, Maine public libraries
- Maryland – Annapolis – Old Line State, Free State**
mdpublichealth.org/vsa/html/apps.html, Vital Records
www.mdarchives.state.md.us/msa/refserv/html/vitalrec.html, MD State Archives
www.epfl.net/subjects/subjectguide.cfm?cid=73&sid=12, Enoch Pratt Library
www.mdarchives.state.md.us/msa/refserv/genealogy/html/genstart.html, St. Arch.
www.mdgenweb.org/, Maryland GenWeb
www.bcplonline.org/info/history/, Baltimore County Public Library, History & Gen.
www.mdhs.org/explore/library/research/genealogy.html, MD Historical Soc. Lib.
www.publiclibraries.com/maryland.htm, Maryland public libraries
- Massachusetts – Boston – Bay State, Old Colony**
www.mass-doc.com/vitals_research.htm, Vital Records
www.state.ma.us/sec/arc/arcgen/genidx.htm, State Archives
www.rootsweb.com/~magenweb/, Massachusetts GenWeb
www.rootsweb.com/~usgenweb/ma/mafiles.htm, Massachusetts USGenWeb Archives
www.bpl.org/research/socsci/genealogy.htm, Boston Public Library, Genealogy
www.state.ma.us/lib/genealogy/genelett.htm, State Library – Genealogy
www.publiclibraries.com/massachusetts.htm, Maryland public libraries
- Michigan – Lansing – Great Lakes State, Wolverine State**
www.michigan.gov/mdch/0,1607,7-132-4645---,00.html, Vital Records
www.michigan.gov/hal/0,1607,7-160-17449_18635---,00.html, MI State Archives
www.rootsweb.com/~migenweb/, Michigan GenWeb
www.detroit.lib.mi.us/Special_Collections/special_collections.htm, Detroit Pub Lib
www.publiclibraries.com/michigan.htm, Michigan public libraries

- Minnesota – St. Paul – North Star State, Land of 10,000 Lakes**
www.rootsweb.com/~mngenweb/, Minnesota GenWeb
www.mpls.lib.mn.us/genealogy.asp, Minneapolis Public Library
www.mnhs.org/library/tips/family/family.html, Minnesota Historical Society
www.mnhs.org/library/findaids/00260.html, Minnesota Ethnic History Project
wilson.lib.umn.edu/reference/genealogy.html, University of Minnesota
www.mnhs.org/library/collections/archives/search.html, State Archives
www.mngs.org/, Minnesota Genealogical Society
www.health.state.mn.us/divs/chs/osr/index.html, Vital Records
www.rootsweb.com/~usgenweb/mn/mnfiles.htm, Minnesota USGenWeb Archives
www.publiclibraries.com/minnesota.htm, Minnesota public libraries
- Mississippi – Jackson – Magnolia State**
www.mdah.state.ms.us/arlib/find.html, Mississippi State Archives & Library
www.msdh.state.ms.us/phs/index.htm, Vital Records
www.rootsweb.com/~msgenweb/, Mississippi GenWeb
www.rootsweb.com/roots-l/USA/ms.html, Mississippi Roots-L
www.publiclibraries.com/mississippi.htm, Mississippi public libraries
- Missouri – Jefferson City – Show Me State**
www.sos.state.mo.us/archives/resources/resources.asp, Missouri State Archives
www.slpl.lib.mo.us/library.htm, St. Louis Public Library
www.rootsweb.com/~mogenweb/mo.htm, Missouri GenWeb
www.rootsweb.com/roots-l/USA/mo.html, Missouri Roots-L
www.health.state.mo.us/BirthAndDeathRecords/BirthAndDeathRecords.html, V-R
www.publiclibraries.com/missouri.htm, Missouri public libraries
- Montana – Helena – Treasure State**
www.rootsweb.com/~usgenweb/mt/mtfiles.htm, Montana USGenWeb Archives
www.libdex.com/country/USA-Montana.html, Libdex library guide
www.rootsweb.com/~mtgenweb/?sourceid=00228464116636121850, MT GenWeb
www.his.state.mt.us/departments/collections/index.htm, MT Historical Society
www.rootsweb.com/roots-l/USA/mt.html, Montana Roots-L
www.publiclibraries.com/montana.htm, Montana public libraries
- Nebraska – Lincoln – Cornhusker State**
www.hhs.state.ne.us/ced/cedindex.htm, Vital Records
www.rootsweb.com/~negenweb/, Nebraska GenWeb
www.rootsweb.com/~usgenweb/ne/nefiles.htm, Nebraska USGenWeb Archives
www.nlc.state.ne.us/nelib/nelib.html, Nebraska Library Commission
www.omahahistory.org/, Douglas County Historical Society
www.rootsweb.com/roots-l/USA/ne/index.html, Nebraska Roots-L
www.unl.edu/libr/lib/spec/subjects.html, University of Nebraska, Lincoln – Archives
www.rootsweb.com/~nesgs/, Nebraska State Genealogical Society
www.nde.state.ne.us/ss/nehist.html, Nebraska History Resources
www.publiclibraries.com/nebraska.htm, Nebraska public libraries

- **Nevada – Reno – Silver State, Sagebrush State, Battle Born State**
www.rootsweb.com/~nvgenweb/index.htm, Nevada GenWeb
health2k.state.nv.us/Forms/formindex.htm, Vital Statistics
dmla.clan.lib.nv.us/docs/nsla/services/genealres.htm, NV State Library & Archives
www.library.unr.edu/depts/basqlib/genealogy.html, University of Nevada, Reno
www.rootsweb.com/~usgenweb/nv/nvfiles.htm, Nevada USGenWeb Archives
www.rootsweb.com/roots-l/USA/nv/, Nevada Roots-L
www.lvcld.org/special_collections/index.htm, Las Vegas/Clark County Library
www.publiclibraries.com/nevada.htm, Nevada public libraries
- **New Hampshire – Concord – Granite State**
www.state.nh.us/nhsl/history/index.html, New Hampshire State Library
nhsog.org/resource.htm, New Hampshire Society of Genealogists
www.sos.nh.gov/vitalrecords/, Vital Records
www.rootsweb.com/roots-l/USA/nh/index.html, New Hampshire Roots-L
www.publiclibraries.com/newhampshire.htm, New Hampshire public libraries
- **New Jersey – Trenton – Garden State**
www.state.nj.us/health/vital/vital.htm, Vital Statistics
www.njstatelib.org/, New Jersey State Library
www.state.nj.us/state/darm/links/guideor.html, New Jersey State Archives
www.rootsweb.com/~njgenweb/subindex.htm, New Jersey GenWeb
www.libraries.rutgers.edu/rul/libs/scua/genealogy/genealogy.shtml, Rutgers Univ.
www.publiclibraries.com/newjersey.htm, New Jersey public libraries
- **New Mexico – Santa Fe – Land of Enchantment**
www.nmcpr.state.nm.us/archives/ancestors.htm, State Records Center & Archives
dohewbs2.health.state.nm.us/VitalRec/Vital%20Records.htm, Vital Records
www.santafelibrary.org/, Santa Fe Public Library
www.rootsweb.com/~nmgenweb/, New Mexico GenWeb
www.rootsweb.com/roots-l/USA/nm/index.html, New Mexico Roots-L
elibrary.unm.edu/oanm/, University of New Mexico, Online Archive of New Mexico
www.rootsweb.com/~usgenweb/nm/nmfiles.htm, New Mexico USGenWeb
www.publiclibraries.com/newmexico.htm, New Mexico public libraries
- **New York – Albany – Empire State**
www.cyndislist.com/ny.htm, Cyndi's List for New York
www.rootsweb.com/~nygenweb/, New York GenWeb
www.nygbs.org/, New York Genealogical & Biographical Society
www.rootsweb.com/~usgenweb/ny/nyfiles.htm, New York USGenWeb Archives
www.health.state.ny.us/nysdoh/consumer/vr.htm, Vital Records
www.nypl.org/research/chss/lhg/research.html, New York Public Library
www.archives.nysed.gov/aindex.shtml, State Archives
www.archives.gov/facilities/ny/new_york_city.html, National Archives – New York
www.rootsweb.com/roots-l/USA/ny/index.html, New York Roots-L
www.publiclibraries.com/newyork.htm, New York public libraries

- **North Carolina – Raleigh – Tar Heel State, Old North State**
www.ah.dcr.state.nc.us/sections/archives/arch/default.htm, NC State Archives
statelibrary.dcr.state.nc.us/iss/gr/genealog.htm, North Carolina State Library
vitalrecords.dhhs.state.nc.us/vr/holdings/genealogy.html, Vital Records
www.rootsweb.com/~ncgenweb/, North Carolina GenWeb
statelibrary.dcr.state.nc.us/nc/cover.htm, State Lib. of North Carolina, Encyclopedia
www.publiclibraries.com/northcarolina.htm, North Carolina public libraries
- **North Dakota – Bismarck – Peace Garden State**
www.vitalnd.com/, Vital Records
www.state.nd.us/hist/sal/gen.htm, North Dakota State Archives & Library
www.rootsweb.com/~ndgenweb/, North Dakota GenWeb
www.rootsweb.com/~usgenweb/nd/ndfiles.htm, North Dakota USGenWeb Archives
www.rootsweb.com/roots-l/USA/nd.html, North Dakota Roots-L
www.publiclibraries.com/northdakota.htm, North Dakota public libraries
- **Northern Mariana Islands* – Saipan**
www.gksoft.com/govt/en/mp.html, Northern Mariana Islands
- **Ohio – Columbus – Buckeye State**
www.ohiohistory.org/resource/archlib/index.html, Ohio Historical Society
www.odh.state.oh.us/VitStats/vsmain1.htm, Vital Records
www.scioto.org/OHGenWeb/, Ohio GenWeb
www.rootsweb.com/~usgenweb/oh/ohfiles.htm, Ohio USGenWeb Archives
www.cpl.org/libraryresources.asp?FormMode=Exhibit&ID=6, Cleveland Public Lib.
www.jungclas.com/gensite/hamilton/, Cincinnati & Hamilton County
www.rootsweb.com/roots-l/USA/oh.html, Ohio Roots-L
www.publiclibraries.com/ohio.htm, Ohio public libraries
- **Oklahoma – Oklahoma City – Sooner State**
www.rootsweb.com/~okgenweb/index.htm, Oklahoma GenWeb
www.rootsweb.com/~usgenweb/ok/okfiles.htm, Oklahoma USGenWeb Archives
www.odl.state.ok.us/oar/archives/collections.htm, Oklahoma State Archives
www.rootsweb.com/roots-l/USA/ok.html, Oklahoma Roots-L
www.publiclibraries.com/oklahoma.htm, Oklahoma public libraries
- **Oregon – Salem – Beaver State**
arcweb.sos.state.or.us/banners/genealogy.htm, Oregon State Archives
www.ohs.org/collections/library/research-collection-indices.cfm, Oregon Hist. Soc.
www.rootsweb.com/~orgenweb/, Oregon GenWeb
www.rootsweb.com/~usgenweb/or/orfiles.htm, Oregon USGenWeb Archives
www.ohd.hr.state.or.us/chs/, Vital Records
www.osl.state.or.us/home/gen/wvgs.html, Oregon State Library
www.rootsweb.com/roots-l/USA/or.html, Oregon Roots-L
www.multcolib.org/train/jumpstart/family/index.html, Multnomah Co. Lib., Family
www.publiclibraries.com/oregon.htm, Oregon public libraries

- **Pennsylvania – Harrisburg – Keystone State**
www.balchinstitute.org/, Balch Institute for Ethnic Studies, Historical Soc. of PA
www.hsp.org/, Historical Society of Pennsylvania
www.pagenweb.org/, Pennsylvania GenWeb
www.rootsweb.com/roots-l/USA/pa/, Pennsylvania Roots-L
www.library.phila.gov/ssh/genealogy/guidelist.htm, Free Library of Philadelphia
www.phmc.state.pa.us/bah/dam/faq.htm, Pennsylvania State Archives
www.rootsweb.com/~usgenweb/pa/pafiles.htm, Pennsylvania USGenWeb Archives
www.publiclibraries.com/pennsylvania.htm, Pennsylvania public libraries
- **Puerto Rico* – San Juan**
www.gobierno.pr/, official government site (in Spanish)
www.rootsweb.com/~prsanjua/, Puerto Rico GenWeb
www.rootsweb.com/~census/states/puertorico/, USGenWeb Census Project
welcome.topuertorico.org/history.shtml, Puerto Rico history
home.coqui.net/jalmeyda/biblioteca.htm, Biblioteca Virtual de P.R
- **Rhode Island – Providence – Little Rhody, Ocean State**
www.state.ri.us/rihrab/direct.html, Rhode Island Historical Records
www.rihs.org/, Rhode Island Historical Society – Library
www.rootsweb.com/~rigenweb/, Rhode Island GenWeb
www.rootsweb.com/roots-l/USA/ri.html, Rhode Island Roots-L
www.uri.edu/library/, University of Rhode Island Library
users.ids.net/~ricon/rigs.html, Rhode Island Genealogical Society
www.brown.edu/Facilities/Haffenreffer/, Haffenreffer Museum, Brown University
www.provlib.org/accessinfo/ricollect/ricollect.htm, Providence Public Library
www.publiclibraries.com/rhodeisland.htm, Rhode Island public libraries
- **South Carolina – Columbia – Palmetto State**
www.state.sc.us/scdah/research.htm, South Carolina State Archives
www.schistory.org/, South Carolina Historical Society
www.scdhec.net/vr/, Vital Records
www.geocities.com/Heartland/Hills/3837/, South Carolina GenWeb
www.rootsweb.com/roots-l/USA/sc.html, South Carolina Roots-L
www.scgen.org/, South Carolina Genealogical Society
www.ccpl.org/, Charleston County Library
www.sc.edu/library/, University of South Carolina Libraries
www.publiclibraries.com/southcarolina.htm, South Carolina public libraries
- **South Dakota – Pierre – Coyote State, Mount Rushmore State**
www.sdhhistory.org/arc_gen.htm, South Dakota State Archives
www.state.sd.us/doh/VitalRec/Vital.htm, Vital Records
www.rootsweb.com/~sdgenweb/, South Dakota GenWeb
www.rootsweb.com/~usgenweb/sd/sdfiles.htm, SD USGenWeb Archives
dwdlib.sdln.net/genealogical_resources.htm, Deadwood Public Library
www.rootsweb.com/roots-l/USA/sd.html, South Dakota Roots-L

www.rootsweb.com/~sdgenweb/gensoc/sdgensoc.html, SD Genealogical Society
www3.sdstate.edu/Academics/Library/index.cfm, SD State Univ. Library
www.usd.edu/library/, University of South Dakota Library
www.siouxland.lib.sd.us/library/subpage.asp?ID=174, Siouxland Libraries
www.publiclibraries.com/southdakota.htm, South Dakota public libraries

- **Tennessee – Nashville – Volunteer State**

www.state.tn.us/sos/statelib/pubsvs/intro.htm, Tennessee State Library & Archives
tennesseeencyclopedia.net/catsearch.htm, Tennessee Historical Soc. Encyclopedia
www.tngenweb.org/, Tennessee GenWeb
www.rootsweb.com/~usgenweb/tn/tnfiles.htm, Tennessee USGenWeb Archives
www2.state.tn.us/health/vr/, Vital Records
www.rootsweb.com/roots-l/USA/tn/index.html, Tennessee Roots-L
www.lib.utk.edu/spcoll/, University of Tennessee Library Special Collections
www.library.vanderbilt.edu/speccol/, Vanderbilt University Library Special Coll.
www.memphislibrary.lib.tn.us/history/guigen.htm, Memphis Pub. Lib. History Dept.
www.publiclibraries.com/tennessee.htm, Tennessee public libraries

- **Texas – Austin – Lone Star State**

www.tsl.state.tx.us/arc/genfirst.html, Texas State Library & Archives – Genealogy
www.tdh.state.tx.us/bvs/default.htm, Vital Statistics
www.rootsweb.com/~txgenweb/, Texas GenWeb
www.rootsweb.com/~usgenweb/tx/txfiles.htm, Texas USGenWeb Archives
www.tsha.utexas.edu/handbook/online/, Texas State Hist. Assoc. Handbook of Texas
www.lib.utexas.edu/maps/, Univ of Texas, Perry-Castañeda Library Map Collection
www.lib.utexas.edu/benson/, Univ. of Texas, Benson Latin American Collection
www.hrc.utexas.edu/collections/guide/, Univ. of Texas, Ransom Humanities Res. Ctr.
www.smu.edu/cul/degolyer/collections.html, SMU, DeGolyer Lib, Collections
libraryweb.utep.edu/special/special.cfm, U. of Texas at El Paso – Special Collections
www.hpl.lib.tx.us/clayton/, Houston Public Lib, Clayton Library for Genealogy
info.lib.uh.edu/sca/collections/findingaids.html, Univ. of Houston Lib, Spec. Coll.
www.angelo.edu/services/library/wtxcoll/, Angelo St. Univ. West Texas Collection
http://library.tamu.edu/vgn/portal/tamulib/content/renderer/0,2174,1724_32721,0,0.html, Texas A&M University Libraries Special Collections & University Archives
www.rattler.tamucc.edu/dept/special/sp_title.html, Texas A&M – Corpus Christi
www.library.ttu.edu/ul/rat.php, Texas Tech University Lib, Special Collections
www.library.ci.corpus-christi.tx.us/localhistory.htm, Corpus Christi Public Libraries
www.sanantonio.gov/library/texana/, San Antonio Public Library – Texana
www.fortworthlibrary.org/genlhst.htm, Fort Worth Public Library
dallaslibrary.org/dallas-history.htm, Dallas Public Library, History
www.youseemore.com/Alice/about.asp?p=9, Alice Public Lib, Texas History Room
www.gvpl.ca/collections/researchcollections.htm, Victoria Pub. Lib, Research Coll
www.waco-texas.com/city_depts/libraryservices/genealogy.htm, Waco Pub. Lib.
library.ci.lubbock.tx.us/genealogy/index.htm, Lubbock PL, Genealogy & Family History
www.rootsweb.com/roots-l/USA/tx/index.html, Texas Roots-L
www.publiclibraries.com/texas.htm, Texas public libraries

- Utah – Salt Lake City – Beehive State**
www.rootsweb.com/~utgenweb/, Utah GenWeb
www.rootsweb.com/~usgenweb/ut/utfiles.htm, Utah USGenWeb Archives
hlunix.hl.state.ut.us/bvr/html/certificates.html, Vital Records
www.familysearch.org/Eng/Library/FHL/frameset_library.asp, LDS (Church of Latter Day Saints) Family History Library & List of Family History Centers
archives.utah.gov/referenc/genres.htm, Utah State Archives
history.utah.gov/library/familyhist.html, Utah Historical Society
www.lib.utah.edu/spc/wam/division.html, U. of Utah Library – Western Americana
hbllmedia.lib.byu.edu/subs/listAllGuides.pl, Brigham Young Univ. Lib. Res. Guides
www.rootsweb.com/roots-l/USA/ut.html, Utah Roots-L
pioneer.utah.gov/, Utah State Library – Public Pioneer Online
www.media.utah.edu/UHE/UHEindex.html, Utah Encyclopedia
www.publiclibraries.com/utah.htm, Utah public libraries
- Vermont – Montpelier – Green Mountain State**
www.healthyvermonters.info/hs/vital/vitalhome.shtml, Vital Records
vermont-archives.org/genealogy/gene.html, Vermont State Archives
www.rootsweb.com/roots-l/USA/vt.html, Vermont Roots-L
dol.state.vt.us/, Vermont Automated Libraries System
www.publiclibraries.com/vermont.htm, Vermont public libraries
- Virginia – Richmond – Old Dominion State**
www.vdh.state.va.us/vitalrec/index.asp, Vital Records
www.rootsweb.com/~vagenweb/, Virginia GenWeb
www.rootsweb.com/~usgenweb/va/vafiles.htm, Virginia USGenWeb Archives
www.rootsweb.com/roots-l/USA/va.html, Virginia Roots-L
www.publiclibraries.com/virginia.htm, Virginia public libraries
- Virgin Islands* – Charlotte Amalie, St. Thomas**
www.rootsweb.com/~caribgw/cgw_archive/index.html, Caribbean GenWeb
vitalrec.com/vi.html, Vital Records
www.rootsweb.com/~usvi/, U.S. Virgin Islands GenWeb (Danish, too)
- Washington – Olympia – Evergreen State**
www.cyndislist.com/wa-local.htm, Cyndi's List for Washington
www.lib.washington.edu/subject/History/tm/geneal.html, U. of Washington Lib.
www.lib.washington.edu/specialcoll/, University of Washington, Suzzallo & Allen Libraries, Special Collections
www.rootsweb.com/~usgenweb/wa/wafiles.htm, Washington USGenWeb Archives
www.rootsweb.com/~wagenweb/, Washington State GenWeb
www.doh.wa.gov/EHSPHL/CHS/cert.htm, Vital Records
www.secstate.wa.gov/archives/, Washington State Archives
www.wsulibs.wsu.edu/holland/masc/masc.htm#ref, Washington State University Library, Special Collections and Archives
www.spl.org/default.asp?pageID=collection_specialcollections, Seattle Public Library, Special Collections (new Central Library opened May 2004)

198.1.37.9/research/genealogy/, Spokane Public Library – Genealogy
www.seattlehistory.org/col_res.cfm, MOHAI (Seattle’s Mus. of History and Industry)
www.tpl.lib.wa.us/v2/NWRoom/nwroom.htm, Tacoma Pub. Lib., Northwest Room
www.rootsweb.com/roots-1/USA/wa.html, Washington Roots-L
www.archives.gov/facilities/wa/seattle.html, National Archives -- Seattle
www.publiclibraries.com/washington.htm, Washington public libraries

- **West Virginia – Charleston – Mountain State**

www.wvdhhr.org/bph/oehp/hsc/vr/birtcert.htm, Vital Registration
www.rootsweb.com/~wvgenweb/, West Virginia GenWeb
www.rootsweb.com/~usgenweb/wv/wyfiles.htm, West Virginia USGenWeb
www.wvculture.org/history/genealog.html, West Virginia State Archives
www.rootsweb.com/roots-1/USA/wv.html, West Virginia Roots-L
www.publiclibraries.com/westvirginia.htm, West Virginia public libraries

- **Wisconsin – Madison – Badger State**

www.rootsweb.com/~wigenweb/, Wisconsin GenWeb
www.rootsweb.com/~usgenweb/wi/wifiles.htm, Wisconsin USGenWeb Archives
www.wisconsinhistory.org/, Wisconsin Historical Society – Archives – Genealogy
www.dhfs.state.wi.us/vitalrecords/index.htm, Vital Records
www.mpl.org/Files/Great/bookmark.cfm?Category=12, Milwaukee Public Library
www.co.brown.wi.us/Library/history-genealogy/index.shtml, Brown County Library
www.rootsweb.com/roots-1/USA/wi.html, Wisconsin Roots-L
www.publiclibraries.com/wisconsin.htm, Wisconsin public libraries

- **Wyoming – Cheyenne – Equality State, Cowboy State**

www.rootsweb.com/~usgenweb/wy/wyfiles.htm, Wyoming USGenWeb Archives
www.rootsweb.com/~wygenweb/, Wyoming GenWeb
wyoarchives.state.wy.us/, Wyoming State Archives
wdhfs.state.wy.us/vital_records/certificate.htm, Vital Records
wyshs.org/, Wyoming State Historical Society – Western Trails Project
www.bbhc.org/hmrl/archive.cfm, Buffalo Bill Historical Center – Archives
www.publiclibraries.com/wyoming.htm, Wyoming public libraries

Step 6 – Check different types of original records

At some point in your search – whether online or on foot – you’ll start finding hard copies of “original records,” many of them handwritten. Some of the largest collections of these oft-forgotten messages from your ancestors are in:

- **U.S. Census records** – these are among the most revealing records you can use in trying to put together your family history. They’re the equivalent of a snapshot of who was living under every household roof in America, every ten years, from 1790 to 1930 (the most recently available census). They include, to varying degrees: name, date of birth/age, relationship, race, gender, home value, years married, arrival in U.S., each person’s birth state or country, each parent’s birth state or country, education, veteran’s status, occupation, industry or agriculture.

It's an extraordinary experience to see in these records how our parents, grandparents, great-grandparents, and beyond, were clustered in nuclear and extended family units, and sometimes in transition to blended families. (This is how I discovered numerous ancestors I didn't know I had, and learned that a large part of our family had actually come to America from Scotland and Northern Ireland, and not from Sweden as was often repeated in our family's oral tradition.)

These records also sometimes explain the cycles of a family's financial fortunes. (In the case of my own family, I discovered that we had transitioned from being nineteenth-century Pennsylvania dairy farmers to being twentieth-century wholesale "rose-growers" and "horticulturalists" – unfortunately, not too long before the Great Depression.) It takes time to wade through all the listings of families – and to realize that other people have carried the same name as you. But, it's well worth the effort when you get to the right census page – as you surely will – and realize that you're sitting at the dinner table of a great family reunion.

For access and research advice about census records, see: the U.S. National Archives at www.archives.gov (Where is? – Genealogy); the U.S. Census Bureau at www.census.gov/genealogy/www; the Census Online site at www.census-online.com, a user-friendly, map-based presentation that gives access state-by-state and county-by-county (full access requires a fee); and, of course, the always helpful Cyndi's List, www.cyndislist.com/census.htm.

Beyond these, www.ancestry.com and www.familyhistory.com currently have exclusive indexes (full access requires a fee) to the 124 million names on the 1930 Census and to the 1920 Census. Another site, www.genealogy.com, has indexes to the 1910 and 1900 census records (full access requires a fee). In other words, you'll probably need to use several sources to move through time in these records.

Many public libraries, incidentally, offer *free* access to Ancestry Plus indexes and the census records. Full access is also *free* at any U.S. National Archives facility, many university libraries, and the LDS Family History Centers. The U.S. National Archives has several good guides to the U.S. Census records available for purchase at www.archives.gov/publications/index.html. Another excellent overview, currently available in bookstores, is: Loretto Dennis Szucs and Matthew Wright, *Finding Answers in U.S. Census Records*, Orem, UT, Ancestry Publishing, 2002 (also available at www.ancestry.com). It has a state-by-state list of archives that currently hold microfilm copies of the U.S. Census.

- ***Immigration and Naturalization records*** – Ellis Island, the gateway to America in New York Harbor for 12 million immigrants, is a moving experience at www.ellislandrecords.org and www.ellisland.com. Approximately 100 million Americans can trace their ancestors back to a passage through this immigration center. The index to the first site can lead you to a handwritten ship manifest and even a photo of the ship that your ancestors arrived on.

One challenge is the spelling of names, many of which were changed or abbreviated during the process of translating dozens of languages and dialects. Figuring out the various spellings of your family's given names and surnames may be the key to finding your ancestors. (I've found this to be true several times in tracing my own nineteenth-century Irish and Scottish ancestors.) This same

tendency to change the spelling of names, and sometimes date of birth, continues beyond Ellis Island and is further reflected in census and military service records.

It's also important to realize that Ellis Island was only one of many ports of entry for immigrants to the United States that extended from Boston to New Orleans to Seattle. Angel Island in San Francisco Bay, for instance, was the point of entry for many Asian immigrants, especially the Chinese, to America. On this "Ellis Island of the West," see: www.angelisland.org/immigr02.html.

The best introductions to all of the immigration and naturalization records are: Cyndis's List, Ports of Entry, at www.cyndislist.com/portsentry.htm; the U.S. National Archives at www.gov.org (Research Room – Genealogy – Research Topics – Immigration Records); and, the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services research site at uscis.gov/graphics/aboutus/history/tools.html. You'll find extensive reference to ship arrivals, including those in Hawaii, and to Canadian and Mexican border crossings. These sites also lead you to the naturalization records kept by the U. S. government.

Another good gateway to immigration history is the University of Minnesota's Immigration History Research Center at <http://www.ihrc.umn.edu/>.

- **Military Service records** – these date back to the Revolutionary War, and are among the most extensive, emotional, yet frustrating (because some are lost), records of America's "greatest generation." Most twentieth-century military service records are held by the National Archives at the National Personnel Records Center in St. Louis, Missouri. Unfortunately, a disastrous fire in 1973 destroyed a large percentage of pre-1960 U.S. Army personnel records. Nevertheless, if your immediate relative's medical information is vital to you, it's possible to reconstruct it from some National Academy of Sciences records now held as surrogate files in these military service collections.

Start at www.archives.gov (Research Room – Veterans' Service Records – and keep clicking). Next of kin can order military service records online. It takes about five minutes; you print out and fax a signature sheet to St. Louis. Some records are in other locations and can be obtained through use of a mail-in form (Standard Form 180 for post-1917 records). You can print it out from this same web site. For further information about the St. Louis facility, call: 314-538-2050.

To put military service records in perspective, see the detailed unit histories and resources for each armed service at: www.history.navy.mil (Navy); www.airforcehistory.hq.af.mil (Air Force); www.history.usmc.mil (Marine Corps); and, www.army.mil/cmh-pg (Army). For sites related to the Vietnam War era, see also: <http://www.mystae.com/reflections/vietnam/vnlinks.html>.

- **Social Security Death Index records** – you can reach this site, which currently holds over 70 million records, at ssdi.genealogy.rootsweb.com/cgi-bin/ssdi.cgi. For a fee, you can obtain a copy of the original Social Security application form your ancestor filled out. For help with this, see: RootsWeb's "lessons" at <http://www.rootsweb.com/~rwguide/lesson10.htm>, which also includes details about the records of the U.S. Railroad Retirement Board and its pension system. See also: www.rrb.gov/geneal.html.

- ***Agricultural History records*** – so many of our families came from farms and ranches, we almost always find agricultural history in our search for family history. The National Agricultural Library offers an extensive list of links to agricultural web sites around the country at www.nal.usda.gov/ref/aghist.htm. The American Local History Network's site at www.alhn.org/topic/topic/ag.html also offers an eclectic range of sources.
- ***Land History records*** – sometimes homesteading and land ownership records are the key to unlocking family history. It's complicated because geographic and political boundaries were fluid for much of American history.

Some starting points for searching these records are: the Bureau of Land Management's General Land Office Records at www.gloreCORDS.blm.gov/; Cyndi's List – Land Records, Deeds, Homesteads, www.cyndislist.com/land.htm; Linda Davenport, <http://homepages.rootsweb.com/~haas/land/index.html>, especially if you're wondering about terms like "metes and bounds"; more is available at Direct Line's users.rcn.com/deeds/landref.htm.

For Canadian land records (Western Land Grants, 1870-1930), see the Canadian National Archives at www.archives.ca/02/020111_e.html.
- ***Wills and Probates*** – a great deal of family history is revealed in the wills people wrote and the probate proceedings their estates went through. A good starting point to see the wide range of resources for this topic, especially for the U.S. is: www.cyndislist.com/wills.htm. Equally helpful along these same lines is: www.cyndislist.com/cemetery.htm, on the topic of Cemeteries and Funeral Homes.
- ***City and County directories*** – sometimes, as families moved from place to place across America, their home addresses, businesses, farms, and occasionally their biographies were listed in city and county directories and histories. Local libraries are still the greatest source for finding these resources, but now many can be obtained online and on CDs. Some of the useful sources for these are: www.cyndislist.com/citydir.htm; uscitydirectories.com/; and, for county histories, www.higginsonbooks.com/, and genealogycds.com.
- ***Women's History records*** – one of the challenges in doing family history is the change of women's surnames with marriage. A good source to solving this is: Sharon Debartolo Carmack's *Discovering Your Female Ancestors*, Cincinnati: Betterway Books, 1998. Important sources of original records to look for are the Vital Records kept in state and county archives and public health files. See especially, www.vitalrec.com/ and Cyndi's List, cyndislist.com/usvital.htm.

Some of the *online* sites that address the historical context are:

 - www.lib.washington.edu/subject/History/tm/women.html, the History of Women site at the University of Washington's Libraries;
 - www.mtsu.edu/~kmiddlet/history/women.html, The American Women's History Research Guide at Middle Tennessee State University;
 - www.library.wisc.edu/libraries/WomensStudies/hist.htm, the Women's History Resources guide at the University of Wisconsin Libraries;

- www.iisg.nl/~womhist/vivalink.html#about, the WWW-Virtual Library Women's History site based in the Netherlands;
 - www.fordham.edu/halsall/women/womensbook.html, Paul Halsall's Internet Women's History Sourcebook, currently housed at Fordham University. It has a large collection of electronic texts that offer a worldwide perspective.
- ***Orphan and Adoption records*** – this is one of the important emerging areas of family history that has a high degree of emotion attached to it. Many of us are discovering our historical connections to orphans and adopted members of our families. See, for instance, Ellen Herman's Adoption History Project, sponsored in large part by the National Science Foundation and based at the University of Oregon, darkwing.uoregon.edu/~adoption. On the history of orphans, see www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/orphan/index.html, a fine PBS program on "Orphan Trains." See also: www.cyndislist.com/orphans.htm, Cyndi's List of orphan sites, and, www.cyndislist.com/adoption.htm, Cyndi's List of adoption sites. Another good place to start is RootsWeb's Adoption and Orphan Research (Guide No. 31), www.rootsweb.com/~rwwguide/lesson31.htm?rc=locale%7e&us=0&o_xid=0039218725&o_lid=0039218725.
 - ***History of Money and Finance*** – The value of money, interest rates, and even the concept of "value," whether expressed in land, minerals, crops, or investments, have often inspired great movements of humanity in search of opportunity. To look at this history and figure out what your ancestors faced, see the lists of sites and reverse calculators at www.cyndislist.com/money.htm#General, and the interesting questions posed by Economic History Services at www.eh.net/hmit/. See also: the web site and links of the National Numismatics Collection at the National Museum of American History, which is part of the Smithsonian Institution, americanhistory.si.edu/csr/cadnnc.htm.

Step 7 – Searching on foot ... the 'pebble in the pool' approach

Today, there is a sequence of things our children learn in the social science curriculum of our educational system at the elementary, middle school, and high school levels: self-identity and self-esteem, family, community, state, and nation. So, start your search close to home. Visit your local community library, county museum, county historical society, or county records office.

Then, go a little further to your state archives, state library, or state historical society (often at the state capital). Most of the public and private libraries and archives in the U.S. are listed at these sites: www.libdex.com/country/USA.html, Libdex; www.academic-genealogy.com/librariesmuseums.htm, the Tinney gateway site; and, www.cyndislist.com/lib-state.htm, Cyndi's List.

These are great field trips where you'll often find original documents, artifacts, and photos related to your family, or to the environment in which they lived. Be prepared though: sometimes seeing "originals," which were created or handled by your ancestors, can be a powerful emotional experience.

Next, plan a visit to our national archives, libraries, and museums. They're all accessible online, but are even more fun to visit in person. They include:

- **National Archives of the United States (NARA)** – the main facilities are in Washington, D.C. and College Park, Maryland. “Our nation’s record keeper” organizes U.S. government records according to every agency, department, or commission that ever existed (well almost). To access these records, see: www.archives.gov (Where is?/Genealogy, or, Research Room).
Or, go to the nearest National Archives Regional Center, Presidential Library, or affiliated library. Over forty are listed at www.archives.gov/facilities. They all have original records and research rooms equipped with microforms from other locations. It’s fun to imagine your family history being safeguarded in the same place as copies of the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution.
For an extensive alphabetical Guide to Federal Records held by the National Archives, see: www.archives.gov/research_room/federal_records_guide/. It includes hundreds of “record groups” created since the founding of our nation.
Also, the National Archives has compiled “100 Milestone Documents of American History,” from the Lee Resolution and Declaration of Independence to the Truman Doctrine of 1947. These are all documents that have affected our families’ histories. You can view them at www.ourdocuments.gov/.
- **The Library of Congress.** Don’t forget to look here, too. This is the largest library in the world. If it’s in print, it’s probably here. The Library also has extensive manuscript collections and family papers – just in case you’re related to one of twenty-three American presidents. The handwritten copy of Lincoln’s Gettysburg Address is located here. Go to www.loc.gov (click “Find It/Research Centers” – “Local History & Genealogy”).
- **The Smithsonian Institution.** “America’s treasure house for learning,” sometimes called the “nation’s attic” at www.si.edu. It’s worth a family trip to visit this “family” of museums and see everything from the *Spirit of St. Louis*, to Dorothy’s shoes, to Kermit the Frog, to Julia Child’s Kitchen. Their artifacts, documents, photographs, and numismatics depict every era of our nation’s history.

Step 8 – Saving what you find

Look for genealogy software, or online storage programs. Or, use the tried and true method – paper and folders (whenever possible, try to use acid-free materials to store your original documents and photos). Most major online family history sites offer software, such as: Family Tree Maker (www.genealogy.com), Ancestry Family Tree (www.ancestry.com), Personal Ancestral File from the LDS (www.familysearch.org), and the mac-friendly Reunion (www.leisterpro.com).

If you feel more comfortable with a paper format, try Emily Croom’s *Unpuzzling Your Past*, 4th edition, Cincinnati: F & W Publications, 2001. It has numerous forms to guide you. The same publisher has a large array of online resources, family history books, and software, at www.familytreemagazine.com, and a “super search” function at www.familytreemagazine.com/search/. Or, try:

- Elizabeth Powell Crowe, *Genealogy Online*, 7th Edition (New York: Osborne/McGraw-Hill, 2003) – the best-seller;

- Loretto Dennis Szucs and Sandra Hargraves Luebking, editors, *The Source: A Guidebook of American Genealogy* (Salt Lake City: Ancestry.com, 1997) – available as a CD at 800-262-3787;
- Everton Publishers, *The Handybook for Genealogists: United States of America*, tenth edition (Draper, Utah: Everton, 2002) – a complete state-by-state listing of resources.

Step 9 – Some final navigation and lingo tips

Don't be shy. Please *ask* any reference librarian, archivist, or museum curator for assistance – they're all amazingly helpful. Check out their online guide to the Internet at www.iii.org. Also, just so you know: *libraries* are organized according to “subject,” and usually refer to any original records or manuscripts they have as Special Collections; *archives* are organized according to “who created the record” (provenance) and typically refer to their collections as Record Groups.

(*Tip*: If you need language-translation help with web-sites, try Google's free, automatic-translation Language Tools at www.google.com. The translations are literal, but very helpful. For additional help with individual historical documents, see: the 67-languages capability of e-transcriptum.net/.)

Look Back – Plan Ahead

Apologies if your ancestors aren't listed here. But don't worry, they're probably just a click or two away when you do a SEARCH on their names and locations at www.google.com, or www.yahoo.com, or check Cyndi's List, www.cyndislist.com. If you need Vital Records (birth, death, marriage, divorce, adoption), don't forget www.vitalrec.com (U.S.), and www.vitalrec.com/links2.html (Other Countries).

Good luck with your search. Don't be surprised by what you find. And just remember, *if you're here, your ancestors are there – somewhere in the records*.

If you need more help, have comments or additions for this guide, please feel free to call or write me directly. It's a work in progress.

* * * * *

Once you look back at your family history, plan ahead for your legacy. Family history is often a reflection of the hopes and dreams, great plans, opportunities taken, and fortunes gained – and sometimes lost – of all of our families. Use what you learn to carry your family vision and values forward to future generations of your family. That's the best legacy of all.

With best wishes to you and your family,

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By way of acknowledgement, this family history guide is dedicated to all the genealogists, archivists, librarians, and historians who've preserved those messages in bottles our ancestors sent us 'way back when' – and especially, to Cyndi Howells, founder of *Cyndi's List*, and to Jeff Murphy, late co-founder of the USGenWeb (as the Kentucky GenWeb says, it was "conceived in the hearts and minds of Kentucky researchers," www.kygenweb.net/index.html).

Finally, the site selections, opinions, and recommendations expressed in this guide are those of the author alone, and do not constitute an endorsement or guarantee of any kind by Wells Fargo & Company, or any of its subsidiaries or affiliates. This guide is provided, *free and gratis*, as an educational tool for anyone interested in finding their family history. Please feel free to reproduce it for any personal or educational projects; but please do not reproduce it for any commercial purposes. The author has no financial connection to any online site, government agency, company, organization, institution, research consortium, or group listed in this guide, except for Wells Fargo & Company, where he is employed as Chief Historian.

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