

Top Free Genealogy Websites

Top Free Websites

The internet offers many fantastic resources for researching your family tree. We've compiled a list of our top free websites for genealogical research.

We've separated them by category:

- Records & Databases
- Books & Newspapers
- Archives & Repositories
- Reference & Learning
- DNA & Family Trees
- Websites about Websites

A list for each category is below, including our honorable mentions.

Records & Databases

Find A Grave: A crowdsourced, searchable memorial and cemetery database.

BillionGraves: A burial database created specifically with the genealogical community in mind. Every entry has a photo and GPS location.

Bureau of Land Management's General Land Office: A database (including record images) of over five million Federal land title records issued between 1788 and the present.

Online Searchable Death Indexes and Records: A directory of websites containing various death records, as well as, obituaries, wills and probate records, and cemetery burials.

One-Step Webpages: A website by Steve Morse with numerous tools for finding immigration, census, vital, and other records, and for working with calendars, maps, foreign alphabets, and more.

Honorable Mentions

- [Allen County Public Library's PERiodical Source Index \(PERSI\)](#)
- [David Rumsey Map Collections](#)
- [American Battle Monuments Commission](#)
- [U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs' Nationwide Gravesite Locator](#)
- [Daughters of the American Revolution Ancestor Database](#)



Visit the [PPLD Regional History and Genealogy website](#) to explore our databases and reference collection, contact our specialized staff, and sign up for classes.

Books & Newspapers

Google Books: A full-text searchable index of millions of books, magazines, and newspapers. Many titles can be read fully online or downloaded.

WorldCat: Connects you to the collections and services of more than 10,000 libraries worldwide. Find genealogical materials near you or request them through PPLD's Interlibrary Loan service.

FamilySearch Digital Library: Contains over half a million free digitized books, family histories, maps, yearbooks, biographies, local histories, and more.

Chronicling America: Part of the Library of Congress's website, Chronicling America is a U.S. newspaper database and newspaper directory.

Colorado Historic Newspapers Collection: A service of the Colorado State Library, the Colorado Historic Newspapers Collection (CHNC) currently includes more than 4.2 million digitized pages, representing more than 745 individual newspaper titles published in Colorado from 1859 to 2023.

Honorable Mentions

- [Internet Archive](#)
- [Project Gutenberg](#)
- [Open Library](#)
- [HathiTrust Digital Library](#)
- [Digital Public Library of America](#)
- [Morse Institute Library](#)

Archives & Repositories

National Archives: Search for Federal records in the [NARA catalog](#) and [Archival Database](#). Also visit the [History Hub](#), a research support community for genealogists and historians where you can ask research questions and search other users' queries.

State Archives: A directory compiled by the National Archives including contact information and websites for state archives and historical societies.

Where to Write for Vital

Records: Hosted by the CDC's National Center for Health Statistics, this directory includes details for contacting the agencies that provide vital records, by state.

ArchiveGrid: Search archival collections from over 1,400 archival institutions to discover primary source materials held in archives, libraries, museums, and historical societies across the U.S.

Honorable Mention

- [Library of Congress Local History & Genealogy Guides](#)

Reference & Learning

FamilySearch Research Wiki:

A free, online genealogical guide containing links to genealogy databases, websites, and articles outlining research strategies and guidance for different record types, locations, and historical events.

Atlas of Historical Boundaries:

This online atlas uses virtual maps to demonstrate the creation - and subsequent changes in the size, shape, and location - of every county in the United States.

The Legal Genealogist:

This blog explains basic and advanced legal concepts and terminology. Search the blog to see if a topic of interest has already been covered and, if not, submit a question for the blog.

ConferenceKeeper: An online calendar of genealogy conferences, events, classes, volunteer opportunities, scholarships, certificate programs, and more.

Honorable Mentions

- [Random Acts of Genealogical Kindness](#)
- [United States Census Bureau](#)
- [RootsTech](#)

DNA & Family Trees

GEDmatch: A website built for genetic genealogy research. Allows users to upload DNA data, analyze results, and compare DNA with other users.

WikiTree: Users can upload and export GEDCOM files to this free, shared, and collaborative family tree. WikiTree integrates with DNA test results and GEDmatch.

Geni: With the goal of building a single, definitive online family tree, Geni invites collaboration and sharing of photos, videos, and records.

FamilyTreeDNA: Upload your DNA data for free to trace both maternal and paternal lineages. Specializes in Y-DNA and mtDNA testing.

Honorable Mentions

- [FamilySearch](#)
- [Ancestry](#)
- [MyHeritage](#)

TOP TIPS



DISCLAIMER: Please make yourself familiar with relevant privacy issues before sharing personal information, such as DNA test results, online.

Websites about Websites

Cyndi's List: A cross-referenced list of links to genealogical resources online. Search or browse by category.

The USGenWeb Project: A network of state-specific genealogy websites. Includes a variety of unique U.S. state and county resources: photos, maps, transcriptions, historical documents, helpful links, and more.

Linkpendium: A resource directory to genealogical information online covering U.S. states and counties. Search by keyword, limit by city, county, or surname, or browse localities and surnames alphabetically.