

Searching Your Family Tree Online

ONLINE vs. TRADITIONAL GENEALOGY?

Pros:

- All you need is a computer and an Internet connection.
- No time or travel constraints.
- Constantly growing library of information.
- People connections – other researchers, new found cousins
- Everyone can access it.

Problems:

- PC's make people forget!
- Accuracy
 - No verification, lack of citations (What's the source??)
 - Number of people from the original document/source
- Constant change in the Internet
- What sites to use? Be selective.
- Everyone can access it.

Tips:

- **Be Organized**
 - Software – try it then buy it
 - Use standard forms
 - Recording keeping is essential
 - Remember how to use a pencil
 - Citations
 - File names
- **Paper vs. Digital**
 - Searching – use your traditional searching techniques and skills
 - Think creatively
 - Don't assume its not there

- **Authority**
 - Sources given?
 - Dates make sense?
 - Are there typos?

Beginning the Search

- **Genealogy Pathfinder** from Internet Public Library
<http://www.ipl.org/div/pf/entry/48476>
- **Beginner's Guide to Family History Research** by Desmond Walls Allen and Carolyn Earle Billingsley
<http://www.arkansasresearch.com/guide.html>
- **Starting Genealogy and Family History Research** – National Archives
<http://www.archives.gov/genealogy/about-research.html>
- **Genealogy Toolbox** – surname search across the Internet
<http://www.genealogytoolbox.com>

Forms

- **Family Tree Magazine Online**
<http://www.familytreemagazine.com/forms/download.html>
- **Ancestry Free Genealogy Forms**
<http://tinyurl.com/2lvvey>

Software

- **Family Tree Builder** –new free genealogy software program
<http://www.myheritage.com/FP/Company/genealogy.php>
- **Family Tree Maker** – free starter edition
<http://tinyurl.com/3x4pr9>

- **PAF** – Personal Ancestral File – basic version free

<http://www.familysearch.org/>

- **Legacy Family Tree**

<http://www.legacyfamilytree.com>

- Earlier versions of Legacy:

<http://www.legacyfamilytree.com/helpDownloadVersion5.asp>

Louis Kessler's Genealogy Software Links – more than you'll ever need

<http://www.lkessler.com/gplinks.shtml>

Big 10

RootsWeb - began in the mid 1980's at the Rand Corp. Became rootsweb.com in 1995. Might be the first online genealogy site?

<http://www.rootsweb.com/>

- Surnames
- Mailing Lists
- State and County Websites
- World Connect
- US GENWeb – including [Onondaga](#) County
- Free Web Pages
- Volunteer Projects
- [SSDI](#) <http://ssdi.genealogy.rootsweb.com/cgi-bin/ssdi.cgi>
- More....

Cyndi's List – index to resources online with more than 264,800 links

<http://www.cyndislist.com/>

National Archives

<http://www.archives.gov/>

- Passenger arrival records from 1820 – present on microfilm
- Military service records, including pension and land bounty applications
 - [Soldiers and Sailors System](#) <http://www.itd.nps.gov/cwss/index.html>

\$Ancestry.com

- Fee based
- Largest genealogy site online
- Available at the library
- Census
- Immigration lists
- City Directories

\$Heritage Quest Online –

- Census images and indexes
- PERSI Index
- Images of 20,000 books
- Revolutionary War records
- Freedman's Bank – 1865-1874

\$Godfrey Library – <http://www.godfreylibrary.org>

\$35/year

- Premium databases, including:
 - NewspaperARCHIVE Elite
 - America's Obituaries (Newsbank)
 - 19th Century Newspaper Collection
 - African American 19th Century Collection

LDS – Latter Day Saints

<http://familysearch.com>

- IGI – International Genealogical Index
- 1880 US Census

Stephen P. Morse – One-Step Guide

<http://www.stevemorse.org/>

- Ellis Island, Castle Garden and more immigration
- SSDI
- NYC Vital Records
- More...

Fulton History – free searchable NYS newspapers

<http://www.fultonhistory.com/>

- 109 Newspaper Titles
- Only available search for the Syracuse Daily Courier 1856-1898, Syracuse Evening Telegram 1898-1922

Ellis Island – American Family Immigration Center

<http://www.ellisland.org/>

- [Castle Garden](http://www.castlegarden.org) <http://www.castlegarden.org>

Northern New York Historical Newspapers –

<http://news.nynln.net/>

- 22 NY newspapers – searchable

\$NewspaperArchive.com

<http://www.newspaperarchive.com>

- 668 Cities
- Bulk of the Syracuse historical newspapers

New and Fun

Family Roots Radio

<http://familyrootsradio.com>

60 minute weekly broadcast. Topics, questions, and experts.

Buy An Ancestor –

<http://www.fulkerson.org/ancestors/buyanancestor.html>

For those of you who feel doing all this work just isn't such a great idea!