

101 Best Genealogy Websites (According to Family Tree Magazine)

MEGA DATA SITES

[Access Genealogy](http://www.accessgenealogy.com/)

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

This links portal also features a variety of useful databases, especially if you're researching American Indian ancestors – for example, it has easy-to-search versions of the 1880 Cherokee census and the Dawes Rolls (19th-century enrollment records of Cherokee, Chickasaw, Choctaw, Creek and Seminole – click Index and Database of Indian Rolls.) A national cemetery database search of more than 35,000 names is a recent addition.

[Ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com)

<http://www.ancestry.com>

This ever-expanding data collection comes the closest to realizing the dream of being able to do real genealogy in your pajamas. With a dazzling array of databases at your fingertips, including images and every-name indexes for every extant US federal census, Ancestry.com is easily worth the \$155.40 cost of the annual US Deluxe membership. Especially if you have ancestors in the British Isles, where the coverage is most thorough, consider an upgrade to the \$299.40 World Deluxe package, which unlocks the rest of Ancestry.com's nearly 25,000 databases. Even penny-pinchers can benefit from the free user-submitted pedigree files in Ancestry World Tree.

[Family Search](http://www.familysearch.org)

<http://www.familysearch.org>

For a peek at what's in the works from the Internet home of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints' vast family history resources—and a chance to put in your two cents—check out FamilySearch Labs at labs.familysearch.org and labs.familysearch.org/blog. While you wait for new ideas to emerge from the lab, continue to enjoy FamilySearch's free access to the transcribed 1880 US, 1881 British Isles and 1881 Canadian censuses; vital-records indexes for Scandinavia and Mexico; the US Social Security Death Index; the International Genealogical Index (IGI); user-submitted family trees in Ancestral File and Pedigree Resource File; the Family History Library catalog; and research guides.

[Footnote](#)

<http://www.footnote.com>

Through a contract with the National Archives and Records Administration, this private site is digitizing and offering paid access to Civil War pension index cards, Southerners' property claims against the US Army, and naturalization records for New York, Pennsylvania and Massachusetts, among other records. Subscriptions cost \$59.95 per year or \$7.95 per month, or purchase a single image for \$1.95.

[GenealogyBank](#)

<http://www.genealogybank.com>

This new player among nationwide data sites emphasizes historical newspapers. The site draws upon more than a half-million editions of 1,300 newspapers dating from 1690 to 1977, as well as 24 million obituaries from 1977 on. A \$19.95 per month or \$119.95 per year subscription also buys access to more than 11,700 pre-1900 books and other printed items, plus more than 115,000 historical documents spanning 1789 to 1980. The latter include all the American State Papers (1789 to 1838) and genealogical content from the US Serial Set (1817 to 1980).

[HeritageQuest Online](#)

<http://www.heritagequestonline.com>

You can't subscribe to this site, but your library or other such institution can—visit it to use HeritageQuest on site and ask if you can get access from home through the library's Web site. Dig into the complete US census, 20,000 family history books, the *Periodical Source Index* to 1.9 million genealogy journal and magazine articles, Revolutionary War pension and bounty-land application files, and Freedman's Bank depositor registers.

[MyTrees.com](#)

<http://www.mytrees.com>

This site's own Ancestry Archive boasts 233 million names in pedigree files, or you can search a combination of databases, on and off the site, totaling 1 billion names with one click. Don't want to pay the \$15 monthly fee? Submit your own family tree files and earn free access.

[National Archives and Records Administration](#)

<http://www.archives.gov>

OK, we admit it's not the easiest or most-intuitive Web site around. But the archives' online home is a must-visit destination for US genealogists—even if only for the lessons on how to access its treasures in Washington, DC, and regional facilities. Its [Access to Archival Databases](#) searches more than 85 million electronic records. Popular data sets include 9.2 million WWII Army enlistment files and 604,596 arrivals in the Port of New

York during the Irish famine, 1846 to 1851. The [Archival Research Catalog](#) contains more than 124,000 digitized maps, photos and documents—among them WWII casualty lists and the Dawes Rolls of American Indians.

[RootsWeb](#)

<http://www.rootsweb.com>

New at this biggest free genealogy site are an improved mailing-list search engine and a more-robust server for the WorldConnect pedigree files, which now number more than 480 million names in 400,000 trees. The message boards—shared with RootsWeb sister site Ancestry.com, as are the family trees—recently surpassed 18 million posts.

[USGenWeb](#)

<http://www.usgenweb.org>

With sites for every state and most counties within those states, the volunteer-run USGenWeb remains a superb starting place for researching ancestors across America. You can most efficiently search its zillions of user-submitted transcriptions and other files via the (somewhat hidden) [basic](#) and [advanced](#) search pages.

[World Vital Records](#)

<http://www.worldvitalrecords.com>

An attempt to apply the user-edited [Wikipedia](#) concept to genealogy, this site aims to make a Web page for every deceased person and every location in the world. In the meantime, for \$49.95 a year you get Everton Publishers' pedigree and family group sheets collection, a mixed bag of vital records and nearly 1 million pages from small-town newspapers. Much of the content is free, so see what you can get before paying up.

INTERNATIONAL AND IMMIGRATION DESTINATIONS

[Access to Archives](#)

<http://www.a2a.org.uk>

A guide for where to look rather than an actual storehouse of sources, "A2A" will point you to your British ancestors' records among 9.2 million items in 411 repositories. The cataloged records date from the eighth century to today.

[Automated Genealogy](#)

<http://www.automatedgenealogy.com>

This free census-transcription site keeps getting better, with the 1901 Canadian census now indexed and linked to images at Library and Archives Canada <www.collectionscanada.ca>. The 1906 census of the Northwest Provinces and the 1911 Canada-wide census are almost complete.

[Canadian Genealogy Centre](http://www.genealogy.gc.ca)

<http://www.genealogy.gc.ca>

Passenger lists are coming aboard at this Library and Archives Canada site, which already boasts various censuses, western land grants, WWI service files and divorce records (1841 to 1968).

[CastleGarden.org](http://www.castlegarden.org)

<http://www.castlegarden.org>

Ellis Island's precursor, Castle Garden, was America's first official immigration center. You can find early New York arrivals among more than 10 million records covering 1830 through 1892; another 2 million records, dating back to 1820, await transcribing.

[Danish Demographic Database](http://ddd.dda.dk/ddd_en.htm)

http://ddd.dda.dk/ddd_en.htm

Find your Danish emigrants in a database of 394,000 police records from 1868 to 1908, and in census records from 1769 to 1921—11.7 million names in all. The growing index to probates now covers Thisted, Viborg, Aalborg and Randers counties.

[Digitalarkivet](http://digitalarkivet.uib.no)

<http://digitalarkivet.uib.no>

Norway's digital archive provides the nation's past, starting with censuses (1801, 1865, 1875, 1900), emigrant registers, tax lists, probate indexes and military rolls. Now webmasters are working to digitize all 11,000 parish registers—that's 1.85 million pages.

[DocumentsOnline](http://www.documentsonline.nationalarchives.gov.uk)

<http://www.documentsonline.nationalarchives.gov.uk>

Searching this collection of digitized records from Britain's national archives is free; viewing an image costs about \$7. You'll find more than a million Prerogative Court of Canterbury wills covering 1384 to 1858, Royal Navy service records, petitions from the time of Henry III to James I, the *Domesday Book*, even Victorian Prisoners Photograph Albums.

[Ellis Island](http://www.ellisland.org)

<http://www.ellisland.org>

Some 17 million newcomers to America passed through the port of New York between 1892 and 1924, and you can search for them in this milestone database of 25 million records. View manifest images free online, or order prints starting at \$25.

[Family History Online](http://www.familyhistoryonline.net)

<http://www.familyhistoryonline.net>

The British Federation of Family History Societies has compiled more than 66 million records including parish registers, memorial inscriptions, censuses and, most recently, several thousand gravestone photographs. Searching is free and viewing your finds costs pennies, with a minimum deposit of about \$10.

[Federation of Eastern European Family History Societies](http://www.feehfs.org)

<http://www.feehfs.org>

Conquer the challenges of Eastern European research with the tips and databases collected here, including the [American Historical Society of Germans from Russia's new Save Our Ancestral Records](#) database of obituaries www.ahsgrsoar.org. And don't miss the data from this side of the Atlantic, such as the index of newspaper records extracted to replace those lost in the 1906 San Francisco earthquake.

[FindMyPast.com](http://www.findmypast.com)

<http://www.findmypast.com>

This site—called 1837online.com until 2006—formerly focused on the civil-registration indexes of births, marriages and deaths in England and Wales (begun in 1837). But its scope has broadened to include the 1841, 1861, 1871 and 1891 British censuses, military records and, most recently, outbound passenger lists from the UK. Eventually the emigration records will cover departures up to 1960; those from 1890 to 1919 are already online. Various per-unit subscription plans range from about \$14 for 90 days to \$200 a year.

[FreeBMD](http://freebmd.rootsweb.com)

<http://freebmd.rootsweb.com>

This volunteer-staffed site includes not only transcriptions of nearly 131 million birth, marriage and death records from England and Wales, but also images of many of those records. Affiliated sites are now tackling [censuses](#) and parish registers, with more than 1.7 million church records to date at www.freereg.org.uk.

[Genlias](http://www.genlias.nl/en)

<http://www.genlias.nl/en>

Dutch genealogists have it good: This free treasure trove of 9.4 million records from the civil register—the most important source for Dutch genealogical research—documents 39.2 million people going back to 1811.

[Genline](#)

<http://www.genline.com>

Swedish researchers willing to pay—Genline starts at about \$29 for 20 days—can forget scrolling microfilm and browse more than 16 million pages of church records, the most valuable Swedish genealogy resource.

[GENUKI](#)

<http://www.genuki.org.uk>

Let this favorite of *Family Tree Magazine* readers (in our fifth-anniversary poll) lead you through the intricacies of UK and Irish research, with tips, FAQs, user-contributed databases, maps, newsgroups and bulletin boards.

[Images Canada](#)

<http://www.imagescanada.ca/index-e.html>

This Library and Archives Canada site searches more than 65,000 images in collections across the country, or you can follow a predesigned Image Trail or view a Photo Essay.

[Immigrant Ships Transcribers Guild](#)

<http://www.immigrantships.net>

If you're stymied by the Ellis Island and Castle Garden sites, turn to this *Family Tree Magazine* reader favorite, where volunteers have transcribed passenger lists from a variety of ports totaling 3.4 million entries.

[Institute of Migration](#)

http://www.migrationinstitute.fi/index_e.php

Finnish records here include passenger lists (318,000 records), passports (197,000), farm names (227,000) and North American Finns (146,000 people). You can search emigrants for free; full access costs about \$40 for a year.

[JewishGen](#)

<http://www.jewishgen.org>

The widest-reaching online Jewish genealogy network offers the Family Finder database of 400,000 surnames and towns, ShtetLinks for 250-plus communities, the ShtetlSeeker database of Central and Eastern European town names and the Family Tree of the Jewish People, with data on more than 3 million individuals.

[Origins Network](#)

<http://www.originsnetwork.com>

Total access to this umbrella site for Irish, British and Scottish data runs about \$92 annually. Irish researchers might find that a bargain, since Irish Origins www.irishorigins.com includes the Griffith's Valuation tax enumeration, the 1851 Dublin city census and a wills index covering 1484

to 1858. [British Origins](#) has the 1841 and 1871 censuses, plus indexes to marriages (1538 to 1840) and wills. No need to pony up for the free [Scots Origins](#), which taps FamilySearch's IGI (see page XX). The Origins Network also recently redesigned the [Burke's Peerage](#) site, though access requires a separate subscription.

[Programme de Recherche en Demographie Historique](#)

<http://www.genealogy.umontreal.ca/en>

Quebec researchers, *commencez ici!* This 759,400-record database draws largely from 153 parishes' registers spanning 1621 to 1799, plus 45,000 burial records from 1800 to 1850. You can search for free, but results cost about \$19 for 150 records.

[ScotlandsPeople](#)

<http://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk>

Search 50 million records at this official site, including banns and marriages (1553 to 1931), deaths (1855 to 1956), births and baptisms (1553 to 1854) and censuses. The wills and testaments (1513 to 1901) database is free; others cost about \$11 for 30 "page credits." The sibling [Scottish Archive Network](#) adds a wealth of digitized historical documents.

[TheShipsList](#)

<http://www.theshipslist.com>

Another excellent place to find immigrant arrivals, TheShipsList serves up 2,000-plus free pages of passenger lists and other ocean-crossing info.

[WorldGenWeb](#)

<http://worldgenweb.org>

Though spottier than USGenWeb, this international version of the volunteer genealogy site is nonetheless a worthwhile starting place for foreign family history, with more than 400 sites under its umbrella.

STATE AND REGIONAL RESOURCES

[Alabama Department of Archives and History](#)

<http://www.archives.state.al.us>

Your Alabama Civil War soldier awaits in a database here, along with online files of WWI servicemen, photos and 1867 voter rolls for a growing list of counties: It now includes Wilcox, Winston, Walker, Tuscaloosa, Tallapoosa, Talladega, Sumter, St. Clair, Shelby, Russell and Pike. The [Local Government Records Microfilm Database](#) will tell you where to look next.

[Archives of Maryland Online](http://www.aomol.net/html)

<http://www.aomol.net/html>

Since last we looked, the hidden treasures at the Maryland archives have been brought out from behind cumbersome URLs and revealed in this online trove of 471,000 historical documents. These range from especially rich collections of city directories and probate records to land, military and early Maryland resources.

[Arizona Genealogy Birth and Death Certificates](http://genealogy.az.gov)

<http://genealogy.az.gov>

We wish other states would follow Arizona's example of posting searchable indexes to birth (1887 to 1931) and death (1878 to 1956) certificates, linked to PDFs of the originals.

[Colorado's Historic Newspaper Collection](http://www.cdphheritage.org/collection/chnc.cfm)

<http://www.cdphheritage.org/collection/chnc.cfm>

This collaborative project aims to create a statewide historical newspaper database, spanning 1859 to 1923 and a total of 1,639,000 pages—all fully indexed. You can view articles individually or in context.

[Digital Library of Georgia](http://dlg.galileo.usg.edu)

<http://dlg.galileo.usg.edu>

Discover your Georgia roots, y'all, in this gateway to 500,000 digital images, documents and films from 60 institutions and 100 government agencies. Finds here include 50,000 aerial photos, the New Georgia Encyclopedia, books, manuscripts and newspapers.

[Florida Memory Project](http://www.floridamemory.com/collections)

<http://www.floridamemory.com/collections>

Besides more than 130,000 images in the [Florida Photographic Collection](#), this handsome site serves up such genealogical morsels as digitized Spanish land grants, 13,000 Confederate pension applications and WWI service cards.

[Illinois State Archives](http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/archives/archives.html)

<http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/archives/archives.html>

It's hard to top this collection of indexes and databases for Illinois research. Besides a wealth of military and veterans' files, the statewide marriage index (1763 to 1900) and dual death indexes (pre-1916 and 1916 to 1950) are essential tools, as is the Illinois Regional Archives Depositories (IRAD) index for locating other records in the Land of Lincoln.

[Kansas State Historical Society](http://www.kshs.org/genealogists)
<http://www.kshs.org/genealogists>

Highlights of this Jayhawk history resource are a searchable index to the 1895 [Kansas census](#), plus the [Kansas Biographical Names Index](#). The guides to researching your Kansas kin also are top-notch.

[Kentucky Historical Society](http://www.history.ky.gov)
<http://www.history.ky.gov>

Browse the Kentuckiana Digital Library, search the online catalog and statewide virtual library, then see where your Kentucky cousins wound up in the cemetery records database. It's all a pleasure at this spectacularly good-looking site.

[Library of Virginia](http://www.lva.lib.va.us)
<http://www.lva.lib.va.us>

This site is a must for anyone with Confederate soldier kin, whether or not from Virginia, for its ability to search names published in *Confederate Veteran* magazine between 1893 and 1932. You also can find ancestors in 6,000 scanned family Bible records, the death register index (1853 to 1896), wills and administrations (to 1800) and Confederate pension applications.

[Louisiana State Archives Confederate Pension Applications Index](http://www400.sos.louisiana.gov/archives/gen/cpa-alpha.htm)
<http://www400.sos.louisiana.gov/archives/gen/cpa-alpha.htm>

This index covers more than 49,000 names from pension applications submitted to Louisiana's Board of Pension Commissioners.

[Maine State Archives](http://www.maine.gov/portal/facts_history/genealogy.html)
http://www.maine.gov/portal/facts_history/genealogy.html

Online indexes for marriages (1892 to 1996), deaths (1960 to 1996) and Revolutionary War land grant and pension applications are just for starters. The [archival database](#) will tell you whether your Maine ancestors' records are available in the state archives—in which case you can order them online—or at other state agencies.

[Massachusetts Archives](http://www.sec.state.ma.us/arc/arcidx.htm)
<http://www.sec.state.ma.us/arc/arcidx.htm>

Center stage here goes to the database of birth and death indexes (1841 to 1910), searchable by first and last names, year and location. Each entry gives the original certificate's location. The other star attraction—even if you don't have Massachusetts kin—is the ongoing project to transcribe more than 1 million records of immigrants who arrived via Boston from 1848 to 1891.

[Minnesota Historical Society](http://www.mnhs.org/genealogy/)

<http://www.mnhs.org/genealogy/>

Even Paul Bunyan would be hard-pressed to get his arms around all these indexes to deaths (1904 to 2001), births (1900 to 1934), [place names](#), microfilmed newspapers, [digitized photos](#), Sanborn insurance maps, and even a directory of Gopher State photographers who may have captured your kin.

[Missouri State Archives](http://www.sos.mo.gov/archives/resources/resources.asp)

<http://www.sos.mo.gov/archives/resources/resources.asp>

Show me the records, including 185,000 pre-1910 births and deaths, a death-certificate database (1910 to 1956), naturalization records (1816 to 1955), court papers and land patents. You're really in luck, though, if you want Missouri military records: 576,000 in all, from the War of 1812 through World War I, many linked to images of the originals.

[Nevada State Library and Archives](http://dmla.clan.lib.nv.us/docs/nsia/archives/)

<http://dmla.clan.lib.nv.us/docs/nsia/archives/>

No need for subscription census sites if you've got ancestors in Nevada, the first state to post all its federal census data—310,000 entries total from 1860 through 1920 (minus the missing 1890 census)—online, with powerful search tools to boot.

[New Jersey State Library](http://www.njstatelib.org/NJ_Information/Digital_Collections/)

http://www.njstatelib.org/NJ_Information/Digital_Collections/

The Garden State library's site is especially worth harvesting for Revolutionary War and Civil War records, as well as the history of African-Americans in New Jersey.

[New York State Civil War Soldier Database](http://iarchives.nysed.gov/CivilWarWeb/search.jsp)

<http://iarchives.nysed.gov/CivilWarWeb/search.jsp>

This database of more than 360,000 New York soldiers encompasses those who donned Union blue in state volunteer and US sharpshooter units, as well as three regiments of US Colored Troops.

[NewEnglandAncestors.org](http://www.newenglandancestors.org)

<http://www.newenglandancestors.org>

Membership does have its privileges if you're researching your family tree in New England. A \$75 annual fee lets you scour more than 110 million names from the New England Historic Genealogical Society's resources, including censuses, vital records, church records, voter and tax lists, Sanborn maps, the Great Migration study of immigrants between 1620 and 1633, newspapers from Colonial days to 1920, and *The New England Historical and Genealogical Register* from its inception in 1847 through 2001.

[North Dakota Institute for Regional Studies](http://www.lib.ndsu.nodak.edu/ndirs/bio&genealogy/)

<http://www.lib.ndsu.nodak.edu/ndirs/bio&genealogy/>

Researchers in both North and South Dakota will appreciate the Dakota Territory 1885 census here. You'll also find naturalization records, a biography index and a database of obituaries from the *Fargo Forum* newspaper.

[Ohio Historical Society](http://www.ohiohistory.org/resource/archlib/)

<http://www.ohiohistory.org/resource/archlib/>

New here is an online index to records from the state's boys and girls industrial schools (1858 to 1915). It joins such databases as the [Ohio Death Certificate Index](#) (1913 to 1944) and the roster of Ohioans in the War of 1812. You also can search the society's 230,000-item library catalog or jump over to [Ohio Memory](#), a digital history drawing on 26,000 primary sources from 330 repositories.

[Online Archive of California](http://www.oac.cdlib.org/)

<http://www.oac.cdlib.org/>

Drawing on materials from a variety of California museums, historical societies and archives, this compilation encompasses more than 120,000 images; 50,000 pages of documents, letters and oral histories; and 8,000 guides to collections.

[Oregon State Archives Genealogy Records](http://arcweb.sos.state.or.us/banners/genealogy.htm)

<http://arcweb.sos.state.or.us/banners/genealogy.htm>

The Oregon Historical Records Index searches more than a half-million entries in documents at the state archives. If your ancestors' records aren't there, the Oregon Historical County Records Guide or the Provisional and Territorial Records Guide can probably tell you where in the state's 36 counties to look.

[Pennsylvania State Archives](http://www.digitalarchives.state.pa.us/archive.asp)

<http://www.digitalarchives.state.pa.us/archive.asp>

The Quaker State's archives belie Pennsylvania's pacifistic founders with some 1.5 million online military records. Databases include the Revolutionary War Military Abstract Card File, Militia Officers Index Cards (1775 to 1800), Civil War Veterans' Card File and World War I Service Medal Application Cards.

[Texas State Library & Archives Commission](http://www.tsl.state.tx.us/arc/)

<http://www.tsl.state.tx.us/arc/>

Delve deep into the heart of Texas history with databases of 54,634 Confederate pension applications (1899 to 1975), Texas Adjutant General Service Records (1836 to 1935), the Index to Republic Claims (1835 to 1846) and more.

[Utah History Research Center Index Search](#)

<http://www.historyresearch.utah.gov/indexes/>

Search this index to more than 250,000 1905-to-1954 death certificates (with later years in the works), and your results now link to digital images of the originals. Various county and court records are also searchable here, including some births, divorces and probate files. There's a wealth of [digital photos](#), too.

[Washington State Digital Archives](#)

<http://www.digitalarchives.wa.gov/default.aspx>

The nation's first archives dedicated specifically to electronic preservation of records, this site keeps adding to its already amazing array of databases. Newly online are the state's 1910 census and an image-linked index to pre-1930 marriage records. That brings the total of records online to 20.7 million—and counting.

[Western History and Genealogy](#)

<http://www.history.denverlibrary.org/research/genealogy.html>

The Denver Public Library is your host for a variety of obituary databases, a guide to Colorado place names, indexes to Centennial State pioneers, the 1887 Denver city directory, military records (including Nebraska Civil War records) and the [Western History Photography Collection](#) of more than 120,000 historical images.

[Western States Marriage Records Index](#)

<http://abish.byui.edu/specialcollections/westernstates/search.cfm>

Now the aegis of the Idaho Falls Regional Family History Center, this project has posted more than 490,000 marriage records to date, with more added daily (notably New Mexico records from the 1700s). You'll find most pre-1900 marriages for Arizona, Idaho and Nevada, plus significant numbers from California, western Colorado, Montana, Oregon, Utah, eastern Washington and Wyoming.

[Wisconsin Historical Society](#)

<http://www.wisconsinhistory.org/genealogy/>

Milk these Dairy State databases for all they're worth: more than 150,000 obituaries and biographical sketches; 1 million-plus births, 400,000 deaths and 1 million marriages in the Pre-1907 Vital Records Index; 1,000 articles, memoirs, interviews and other primary sources on early Wisconsin history; Civil War rosters; vintage images; and 16,000 historical and biographical articles.

WEB TOOLS

Cyndi's List

<http://www.cyndislist.com>

This classic collection of links continues to grow—with 264,800 links in 180-plus categories at last count—and remains our favorite stop to find family history sites.

Diigo

<http://www.diigo.com>

This nifty gizmo lets you add sticky notes to Web pages to mark your family history finds, then you can share your discoveries and notes with other researchers.

Lost Cousins

<http://www.lostcousins.com>

A fascinating new application of technology to genealogy, Lost Cousins takes your relatives from FamilySearch's 1880 US, 1881 Canadian and 1881 British census transcriptions and matches them to other researchers investigating the same folks. The catch: Only a subscriber can initiate contact with a "lost cousin," though there's no charge to register or reply to a message.

MyHeritage

<http://www.myheritage.com>

The face-recognition gimmick will get you here—which celebrities look like they belong in your family tree? But don't overlook the MyHeritage Research free genealogy search engine, which looks for your ancestors (with spelling variations) in hundreds of key genealogy databases. And try the free, visually oriented Family Tree Builder genealogy software that runs in 12 languages.

One-Step Web Pages by Stephen P. Morse

<http://www.stevemorse.org>

Cut to the chase in a few dozen genealogy database sites, including Ellis Island, CastleGarden.org, Automated Genealogy and several SSDI destinations. This Web magician's clever set of tools let you search them in a single step.

Roots Television

<http://www.rootstelevision.com>

Who needs YouTube when we've got Roots Television, the Internet TV channel for genealogists? Programs include how-to footage, lectures, storytellers' recollections, tips from leading researchers and even some genealogy humor.

[Tribal Pages](#)

<http://www.tribalpages.com>

Not just another place to share pedigrees, this free site lets you share, document, chart and illustrate your family tree online. To date, TribalPages has more than 100,000 trees and a database of more than 80 million names and 1 million photos.

[WeRelate](#)

<http://www.werelate.org>

This “wiki” project, which has allied itself with the [Allen County Public Library’s genealogy department](#), lets you scour 6 million genealogy-related Web pages, create and collaborate on pages, and build an online tree using Family Tree Explorer—all for free.

[WorldCat](#)

<http://www.worldcat.org>

Search the catalogs of 10,000-plus libraries worldwide—more than 1 billion items, all told—from your Web browser’s toolbar with WorldCat’s free plug-in.

HISTORY HAVENS

[CivilWar.com](#)

<http://www.civilwar.com>

We’ll overlook the pop-up ads in order to tap this site’s wealth of battle maps, detailed timeline, 5,500 photos and searchable text of the *Official Record* (*OR* for short), the account of the Civil War from the commanders on the ground.

[eHistory](#)

<http://www.ehistory.osu.edu>

Another spot to search the [OR](#), this Ohio State University site also offers timelines, more than 100,000 pages of historical information, biographies and thousands of maps and old photos.

[Library of Congress](#)

<http://www.loc.gov>

Besides offering the library’s online [catalog](#) of almost every book in existence and the [National Union Catalog of Manuscript Collections](#) from 1986 to date, this site excels at making history come to life. Its [American Memory Project](#) collects more than 9 million treasures from our past and exhibits many of them online. For still more images, see the [Prints and Photographs Online Catalog](#).

Making of American: [Michigan](#) & [Cornell](#)

<http://quod.lib.umich.edu/m/moagrp/>

<http://library5.library.cornell.edu/moa/>

This dual site continues to serve up a rich swath of US history with digitized version of thousands of 19th-century publications. Between the two portals, holdings total 4.7 million pages in 13,000 volumes. Cornell's portion offers yet another searchable version of the Civil War *OR*.

[New York Public Library Digital](#)

<http://www.nypl.org/digital/>

A recent winner for Best Research Site at the annual Best of the Web awards, the New York Public Library's digital incarnation includes more than a half-million manuscripts and books, historical maps, vintage posters, rare prints, photographs and printed ephemera.

[The Oregon Trail](#)

<http://www.isu.edu/~trinmich/oregontrail.html>

Bring to life the journey of hundreds of thousands Americans who went West on the Oregon Trail. If you don't have Oregon-bound ancestors, try the companion sites covering the [Gold Rush](#) and "[trailblazers](#)" such as Meriwether Lewis and William Clark's Corps of Discovery.

[OurTimeLines.com](#)

<http://www.ourtimelines.com>

We love the color-coded timelines of world events this site generates for ancestors' lifetimes. You also can insert up to 10 personal events, such as schooling, marriages, employment and military service, and create a list of famous people born the same year as your ancestor.

GEOGRAPHICAL AIDS

[Getty Thesaurus of Geographic Names Online](#)

http://www.getty.edu/research/conducting_research/vocabularies/tgn

Turn to this gazetteer for its flexible search and ability to tell you what any of the 912,000 places in its database *used* to be called.

[Global Gazetteer](#)

<http://www.fallingrain.com/world/>

Now with links to satellite images, this site covers a whopping 2.8 million cities, past and present, around the globe. Each entry includes population within seven kilometers, nearby places, altitude, topographic maps and local weather.

[Ireland's History in Maps](#)

<http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~irlkik/ihm/iremaps.htm>

This site uses geography to trace the history of Ireland's residents from the BC era to the 1840s.

[Ordnance Survey](#)

<http://www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/oswebsite/getamap/>

Find and map any place in the UK simply by entering its name, postal code or National Grid reference. The resulting maps are detailed and easy to save or print.

[Perry-Castaneda Library Map Collection](#)

<http://www.lib.utexas.edu/maps/>

Unmatched for old maps, this also is an excellent place to look for current cartography. Where else, though, would you find a map of Central Europe in 1812, an automotive map of Aiken, SC, in 1919 and a 1910 "Milk Map" of San Francisco?

[USGS Geographic Names Information System \(GNIS\)](#)

<http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gnispublic>

Don't be put off by the new home page for these government geographic tools: You still can search for nearly 2 million names of US places—inhabited or not—including old and variant names. Once you've found an ancestral locale, mapping options include the customizable USGS The National Map viewer, Google Maps, TopoZone and TerraFly.

[World Gazetteer](#)

<http://www.world-gazetteer.com>

Though this site doesn't include as many places as Global Gazetteer, the accompanying info for each city is even more useful, including census population data for the past 40 years and name variants. Links make it easy to download GoogleEarth data.

SPECIALIZED RESEARCH RESOURCES

[AfriGeneas](#)

<http://afrigeneas.com>

Besides valuable tips for researching your African-American ancestors, AfriGeneas adds dozens of forums, census records, slave data, a collection of 14,692 death records and a 48,730-name surname index.

[Bureau of Land Management General Land Office Records](#)

<http://www.glorerecords.blm.gov/>

New to this essential site for land-records research: Survey plats, the official survey documentation the federal government used when transferring a land title to an individual. Images of "serial patents"—land

titles issued between 1908 and the mid-1960s—are also here; document images related to survey plats back to 1810 are being added state by state. That’s all in addition to images of more than 2 million federal land title records for eastern public-land states from 1820 to 1908.

[Cemetery Surveys Inc.](#)

<http://www.cemeterysurveysinc.com>

When a transcription isn’t enough, try this collection of more than 170,000 gravestone photos, most from the southeastern United States. North Carolina, Tennessee and Georgia researchers also should check the thousands of county court documents from those states.

[Civil War Soldiers & Sailors System](#)

<http://www.itd.nps.gov/cwss/>

Start your Civil War ancestor search here, with the easy-to-use database of 6.3 million soldier names. Another click takes you to the basics about your ancestors’ regiment or descriptions of 364 significant battles.

[DeadFred](#)

<http://www.deadfred.com>

Find your old family photos or reunite others with their pictures in this site containing nearly 70,000 images (including a selection of school yearbooks) and 14,000 surnames.

[Family Tree DNA](#)

<http://www.familytreedna.com>

This leading DNA-testing company also boasts the most test-results databases and surname studies, with more than 140,000 records online. That includes more than 4,000 surname projects and nearly 100,000 Y-DNA records in its [Ysearch](#), the largest worldwide public Y-DNA database. You can even test to see how closely your Y-DNA matches Thomas Jefferson’s.

[Find a Grave](#)

<http://www.findagrave.com>

Search 15 million grave records, find a cemetery or browse by location at this *Family Tree Magazine* reader favorite.

[Nationwide Gravesite Locator](#)

http://gravelocator.cem.va.gov/j2ee/servlet/NGL_v1

Search for burial locations of veterans and their dependents in Department of Veterans Affairs National Cemeteries, state veterans cemeteries and other Department of the Interior and military cemeteries. For service members buried overseas, turn to the companion site for the [American Battle Monuments Commission](#), which encompasses 24 overseas military cemeteries with 125,000 American war dead, plus

Tablets of the Missing memorializing more than 94,000 members of the US military.

[Sorenson Molecular Genealogy Foundation](#)

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

Get started in the fast-changing frontier of genetic genealogy at the site for this volunteer project, which combines DNA data with genealogical info—billed as the foremost collection of genetic genealogy data in the world. You can search by test results or surname in two databases of DNA profiles and family trees from around the world: The Y-chromosome search contains 17,000 samples, and the mitochondrial database includes 15,000 samples.

BLOGS

[Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter](#)

<http://blog.eogn.com/>

Why do we have the feeling our first-ever 101 Best Web Sites blogs category won't be our last—or that next time we'll find even more worthy entries? This one, updated almost daily by the knowledgeable Dick Eastman, is a good place to start. It's packed with genealogy news and product reviews, and you can jump from here to the reader-created [Encyclopedia of Genealogy](#)

[Family Matters](#)

<http://moultriecreek.us/family/>

When you need genealogical tech support, turn to Denise Olson's blog, where she solves problems and shares "ways for home users and family researchers to take advantage of the latest technology."

[The Genealogue](#)

<http://www.genealogue.com>

For a cheekier personal update on the genealogy universe, try this blog, which includes postings such as "Top 10 Signs Your Ancestors Were Irish" and "Top 10 Ways to Make Money From Genealogy."

[The Practical Archivist](#)

<http://practicalarchivist.blogspot.com/>

You'll quickly get addicted to this blog of "archiving tips and geeky tidbits for genealogists, history buffs and keepers of the family photo album. Plus reviews of entertaining history and tricks for improving your Google IQ."

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