

Ancestry/Family Tree Resources By Tom Kreuzer

Learn About resources to research, document, share, and publish your family's history. Genealogy is a small part of family history concerned with only tracing lineages or family trees. Family history is a fuller story or biography of a single family over several generations. The study draws on oral history for the recent period and archival records for the period beyond living memory.

I am going to be jumping around a lot today which is the same way most research goes. Ask questions at any time.

Ancestry.com

Ancestry <https://www.ancestry.com/> #1 web site

- Expensive \$200-\$500 per year for US, World, or All Access account. Free 14 day trial (must provide credit card).
- Comprehensive records, with more than 100 million family trees.
- Easy to navigate website with more ancestry search options than competitors.
- Anyone can search free public member trees with limited info. Demo - Search Titus Kreuzer - Show Census.
- Learning Center with tutorials, videos, articles, webinars and blogs.
- Active online community with a member directory, online forum, message boards and social media.
- Android and Apple iOS mobile app.
- Free templates to help you keep track of research, sources, charts, etc.
- Can hire one of their professional genealogists to do expert research for you.
- My Shoebox tool lets you store records you find but wish to review at a later time.
- AncestryDNA testing. Discover your genetic ethnicity and find new family connections with their dynamic list of DNA matches. I did my parents. It then suggests matches based on the DNA.

MyHeritage Family Tree

MyHeritage <https://www.myheritage.com/> #2 web site

- \$129-\$299 per year. Free 14 day trial. Free account (limit of 250 people in tree online).
- Make Free "MyHeritage Family Tree Builder" software (Windows or Mac). #1 choice used by millions worldwide including myself. I use a free account on my PC to manage 400+ people. With a paid account you can sync to web site and share.
- Smart Matching technology uses algorithms to match your family tree to hundreds of millions of profiles in other family trees.
- Face Recognition technology: when you upload a photo, the face recognition tool scans each face and finds any possible matches already in their database.
- Great photo services like enhance, colorize, and animate. I have converted over a 1,000 over the last several years when they have free access. Demo...
- Megadex tool: with one click you can search the world's top genealogy sources with name spelling variations.

Free Resources

- FamilySearch <https://www.familysearch.org/> - Church of Latter Day Saints genealogy database website over 1 billion records. Tons of learning resources.
- National Archives <https://www.archives.gov/research/genealogy>
 - Census Records 1790–1940 every 10 years (1950 released this year) Name, Age, Address, Parents' birthplace(s), Year of immigration (if relevant), Occupation, Value of home, and more. Demo...
 - Military Service Records
 - Immigration and Naturalization Records
- Find a Grave <https://www.findagrave.com/> – Collection of 210+ million memorials, many with photos or text.
- Library of Congress <https://www.loc.gov/> - Images, city directories, county histories, newspapers, and offers historical materials of all kinds.
- USGenWeb Project <http://www.usgenweb.org/> - Free county/state historical and genealogical resources. By volunteers of local and state genealogical societies throughout the United States.
- Cyndi's List <https://www.cyndislist.com/> - Free cross-referenced index contains extensive lists of online genealogy resources.
- Yearbooks High school and College – most are free.
- I share photos with family and friends using Google Photos.

Tips & Tricks

- Check with your relatives if they have already started collecting information that they can share with you. This can save you a ton of time, but verify everything.
- Set a Goal for what info you want to collect.
 - Select a family line for example.
 - Don't boil the ocean!
 - You will get pulled in many different directions as you collect info. Stay on track.
- Talk to older relatives NOW before it is too late!
 - Prepare questions to ask.
 - Record the interviews (a smartphone video works best).
 - Ask if they have photos or videos to share. Digitize NOW and everything you can get your hands on.
 - Get several people together, they feed off of each other and forget they are being recorded.
- CAUTION, assume all information isn't accurate until YOU verify it from multiple sources. Even then, document the differences and sources. Names, family trees, census records, dates, ages, and other info are not perfect, which is very confusing about what is right. Some information can change over time. Example: My grandmother was born with a last name of Mueller then changed to Miller during WW I.
- Document your information sources and values. This is the #1 sin of every beginning genealogist.
- Not all research can be done online!
- A DNA test can help fill in distant or lost relatives.
- Every genealogist does genealogy differently for different reasons, yours is as right as anyone else's.
- Sharing Your Information with others. Make sure to limit who can see info from living people.
- Publish Your Information!!
 - Everything from a book, a word document that you have put in a binder, or a PDF document.
 - Others are interested in your family history as well, although don't have the time, tools, skill sets or other reasons to do the research, but would like to know about their family.
 - GREAT Christmas gifts to your kids, parent, grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins

Additional Links and Information

Carondelet Tech Help Resources: <https://carondeletvillage.org/tech-help-resources/>
Questions or comments can be sent to TCKreuzer@gmail.com