

Getting the Most from Ancestry.com

Lisa Parry Arnold

larnold@ancestry.com

Home Page

- Great tools right from the home page include:
 - Drop-down menus
 - Customizable home pages (switch places with search box or your family tree; highlight frequently used collections, etc.)



Record Collections

- Statistics – 6 billion records
- Census Collection
 - Census records document a person in a place and time with their family, family relationships, ages, birthplaces, and occupations
 - Only place online to find images and indexes for all publicly available U.S., UK, and Canada Census
 - US Census – 1790-1930
 - UK Census – 1841-1901
 - Census of Canada – 1851-1916
 - Selected U.S. State Censuses also available
 - Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Florida, Wisconsin, New Jersey, Illinois, Washington, Alabama, and more
- Immigration Collection
 - Immigration records capture a person as they are traveling to a new country and contain information about who they were traveling with, ages, birthplaces, how much money they had when they came to the country
 - U.S. Passenger Arrival Lists from 100 different ports, covering 1820-1960
 - Also on Ancestry.com:
 - UK Incoming Passenger Lists
 - Canadian Passenger Lists
 - U.S./Canada & U.S./Mexico Border Crossings
 - Hamburg Passenger Lists

- Naturalization Records
 - ~10 million records right now – continuing to work on the collection
 - Records provide significant details often including exact birthdates and birth locations, family relationships, physical descriptions
- Passport Applications
 - Sometimes have photographs of the individual
- Military Records
 - WWI Draft Registration Cards
 - Every American male between the ages of 18-45 were required to register for the draft in 1917-18, whether they ended up serving in the military or not. That's over 24 million men documented
 - Information includes full name, birth location, exact birthdates, employer, physical description, and often a signature
 - WWII Draft Cards & Army Enlistment Records
 - Currently working on Old Man's Draft – men who were 45-64 when the draft began in 1962. Other WWII draft cards are not currently released to the public
 - Other collections
 - Civil War Service Records & Pension Index
 - Revolutionary War Records
 - Veterans Gravesites
 - U.S. Marine Corps Muster Rolls
- Birth, Marriage and Death Records (Vital Records or BMD)
 - U.S. - Collection quantity and time frame vary by state
 - SSDI, Obituary Collection, California, Texas, Ohio, North Carolina, Tennessee, Missouri, Florida, Indiana, Georgia and more
 - UK – BMD Index (Birth, Marriage, Death) 1837-2005, London Marriages 1754-1921
- Other records
 - Family trees submitted by other members (25 million)
 - Historical newspapers
 - Photos and postcards
 - Directories and member lists
 - Court records
 - Family and local histories
 - Much more

How do I find my ancestors?

- Card Catalog - Powerful tool that helps you easily identify specific databases on Ancestry.com
 - Can search by title or keyword
 - Can filter down by:
 - Location
 - Record type
 - Date range
 - Language

Ancestry Card Catalog

Search Titles

Title

Keyword(s)

or

Filter Titles

FILTER BY COLLECTION

Census & Voter Lists 420

Birth, Marriage & Death 1000+

Military 913

Immigration & Emigration 284

Newspapers & Periodicals 1000+

Pictures 18

Stories, Memories & Histories 1000+

Maps, Atlases & Gazetteers 110

Directories & Member Lists 1000+

Court, Land, Wills & Financial 984

Reference Materials & Finding Aids 1000+

Family Trees 9

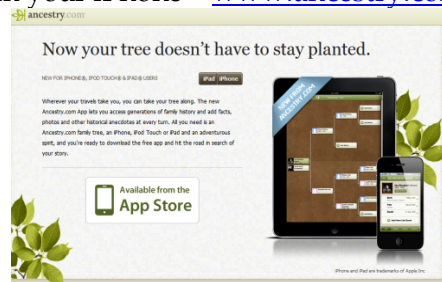
Matches 1-25 of 27,072 Sort By Popularity 1 2 11

| Title | Collection | Size | Activity |
|---|--------------------------|-------------|----------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Public Member Trees | Family Trees | 110,041 | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1920 United States Federal Census | Census & Voter Lists | 107,406,900 | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1930 United States Federal Census | Census & Voter Lists | 124,450,859 | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1900 United States Federal Census | Census & Voter Lists | 77,277,541 | UPDATED |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1880 United States Federal Census | Census & Voter Lists | 50,475,325 | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1910 United States Federal Census | Census & Voter Lists | 93,399,001 | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1870 United States Federal Census | Census & Voter Lists | 40,325,362 | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> England & Wales, FreeBMD Marriage Index, 1837-1983 | Birth, Marriage & Death | 38,485,032 | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1901 England Census | Census & Voter Lists | 30,580,800 | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Social Security Death Index | Birth, Marriage & Death | 83,313,026 | UPDATED |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1860 United States Federal Census | Census & Voter Lists | 27,483,658 | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1850 United States Federal Census | Census & Voter Lists | 20,053,649 | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1891 England Census | Census & Voter Lists | 27,096,333 | UPDATED |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1841 England Census | Census & Voter Lists | 14,726,531 | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> England & Wales, FreeBMD Birth Index, 1837-1983 | Birth, Marriage & Death | 69,692,018 | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1861 England Census | Census & Voter Lists | 18,459,883 | UPDATED |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1881 England Census | Census & Voter Lists | 24,766,872 | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> New York Passenger Lists, 1820-1957 | Immigration & Emigration | 82,888,519 | UPDATED |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1851 England Census | Census & Voter Lists | 16,424,800 | |

- Searching Ancestry.com
 - Option 1 – Dive in and start searching (Manual)
 - Option 2 – Start an online tree and let Ancestry.com help (Automatic)
 - Member trees are a GREAT way to SEARCH Ancestry.com
 - Can provide a more detailed search – because it's using your ancestor's search criteria in the context of his/her family
 - Searches take into account parents, spouses, siblings, children
 - Offer Ancestry Hints – let technology find the low hanging fruit, so you can spend your time on the fun part
 - You can search "manually" through the trees – and the tree will pre-populate your search box

Ancestry.com Member Trees

- Other Benefits of Member Trees
 - Organize your family history information
 - Upload digitized family photos and documents from personal collections
 - Access records you've already found on Ancestry.com
 - Share your tree with family
 - Connect with other Ancestry.com users working on the same family lines as you
 - Gateway to building family history books / posters with ease
 - Allow you to access your tree from anywhere you have Internet access
 - Secure back up for your family history information
 - Access your member tree from your iPhone – www.ancestry.com/iPhone



Other Tips

- What can you learn from database descriptions?
 - Source information
 - Data coverage
 - Search tips
 - Next steps
- Enhanced Image Page
 - View index and image at the same time
 - Add / augment index (different spellings, maiden names, birthplaces)
 - Connect with other people who have added to this record

Learning Resources

- Webinars (Online Seminars)
Scheduled and pre-recorded topics on topics like:
 - Getting Started
 - Search
 - Family Tree Maker 2011
 - New York Research
 - German Research
 - Italian Research
 - Much more