Beginning Your Genealogical Research



Getting Started

Stay organized

- Record source information
- Use genealogy software or forms. Examples:
 - Family Tree Builder (free version available)
 - Legacy Family Tree (free version available)
- Leave room in files for future research

What is a genealogical record?

Any record that gives a:

- Name
- Place
- Date

is useful for family research.

Compile as much information as Possible about your family.

Start with yourself, parents, and grandparents

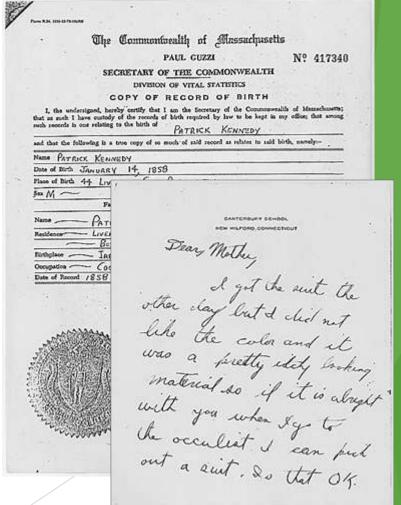


Compile as much information as possible about your family.



Compile as much information as possible about your family.

- Look in family records:
 - Letters
 - Family Bibles
 - Scrapbooks & Photos
 - Diaries & manuscripts
 - School & church records
 - Vital records
 - Military records
 - Newspaper clippings
 - Etc.



As you begin your family research

Remember

- The National Archives maintains only the permanent records of the Federal Government.
- Cities, states, or counties may have birth, marriage, divorce, or death records, and deeds and wills.
- Many government records are not permanently retained or have been destroyed over time
- The majority of records are not available freely through the internet.

As you begin your family research

Remember

- Spelling for names may be inconsistent in records. You may need several records to confirm a piece of information.
- Sometimes people lie or are mistaken
- Location names and land area also change over time
- Your relative may have spoken and read in a non-English language and you will need to search in that language and translate documents
- Be careful when communicating with people from genealogy research or posting information (identity theft, harassment, fraud, etc.)

OCR = Optical Character Resolution software

- Records are transcribed either by people (often volunteers) or OCR
- OCR technology continues to improve, but is not perfect
- Sometimes there are false positive hits or misses for searches when handwriting is irregular, image quality poor, damage on document in areas, etc.
- You might return to the same collection later and search with the same names and find, due to OCR improvements, you now can locate the right records
- System also must index the words and names from the transcription for searching.
- Lots of records are not fully digitized (or searchable) but might still have an index and you can request the full record

Start with the Federal Government

Think of possible ways your ancestors interacted with the Federal Government

- Census
- Military service
- Immigration
- Land warrants
- Court
- Government official
- etc

Principal Records of Genealogical Interest

Census Records



The National Archives and Records Administration (NARA)

- NARA is the nation's record keeper
- NARA preserves important government records for the Executive, Legislative, & Judicial branches
- Federal census records and many other federal collections in Ancestry came from NARA

- Article 1, Section 2, of the Constitution requires the government to conduct a for Federal census every 10 years (beginning in 1790).
- The purpose of the Federal census is to count the population of the United States apportioning representatives to the House of Representatives.
- A variety of other information was collected as part of the census

As you begin your family census search

Remember

- Records keeping practices vary over time. For example:
 - The 1790 Federal census lists only the head of the household.
 - * The 1880 Federal census lists everyone in the household and their relationship to the head of the household.
 - Records are available 72 years after date (Currently up to 1940)

1790–1840 Lists head of household only

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-	Example: Paul Revere, 1810 Census in Suffolk County, Massa	achusetts
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1850-1870

Records everyone in the household, but not the relationship to the head of the household

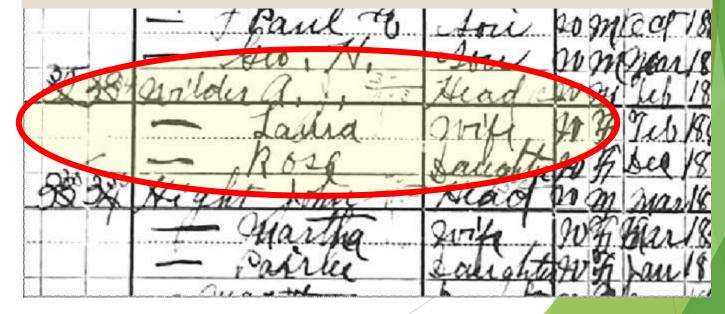
Example: Abraham Lincoln is enumerated on page 140 of the Sangamon County, Illinois, 1860 Census Schedule

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1880-1930

Records everyone in the household and the relationship to the head of the household. Enumeration districts are noted.

Example: Laura Ingalls Wilder is enumerated on page 2A of the Wright County, Missouri, (Enumeration District 152) 1900 Census Schedule



1890

Nearly all of the 1890 census was destroyed as a result of a Department of Commerce fire in 1921.

Non-population schedules, 1850-1880

- Agriculture
 - Farmer name, crops/livestock, value of produce, etc.
- Industry/Manufacturing
 - Business/Owner's name, capital invested, output, business type, etc.
- Mortality
 - Names of those who died in year prior to census
- Social Statistics & Supplemental
 - Cemetery information
 - Nonprofit organizations (includes executive officers' names)
 - Dependent, Defective and Delinquent Classes (homeless, prisoners, insane, etc.)

Many states conducted census in between federal census years

- Census may have been limited to certain areas
- Unlike federal census, state/territory census were inconsistent
 - * Example: Arkansas Sherriff's census 1820's only
- Information in census varies greatly
- Ancestry includes many states/territory census records, but some are only name indexes without the full record
- Some states have not digitized the census and require an inperson visit to the state archives. Try state archive's website.

Records about Military Service



Records about Military Service

Ancestry & Fold3

- Fold3 (400+ military collections) specializes in military records but many collections are duplicated in Ancestry (640+ military collections) while others are different. Search both databases.
- Pre-1917 pension, service, draft card, muster, and other service records for periods/locations
- Military news sources (ex. Pacific Stars and Stripes, 1945-1963)

NARA National Personnel Records Center

- 1917 present
- Service records after 1957 are restricted to military veteran or next-of-kin
- Nearly 100 million veteran records, mostly paper-based

Compiled Military Service Records

Records at NARA pre-WWI

Compiled military service records consist of envelopes containing card abstracts taken from muster rolls, returns, pay vouchers, and other records.

- Pension, Land Bounty, muster roles, and more records are available in Ancestry and Fold3
- Option: Order copies of military pension application files based on Federal (not State or Confederate) service between 1775 and 1903 (before World War I) from NARA
- Full pension application files are not available in Ancestry and have up to 100 pages of supporting documents

Compiled Military Service Records

Records at NARA WWI - on

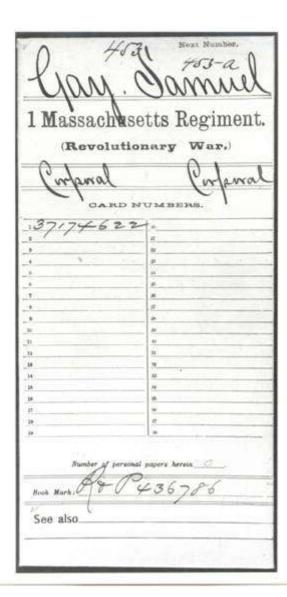
- Official Military Personnel Files are not available publicly online
- Official Military Personnel Files are considered federal records and transferred to NARA 62 years after separation
- Archival records can be ordered by anyone
- More recent records can be ordered by the Veteran or next of kin

Getting Service Records

To locate military records, you need to know as much information as possible about the service member including:

- Dates of service
- Branch of service
- Conflict fought in
- Unit
- Regular or Volunteer
- Officer or enlisted personnel
- Social Security Number

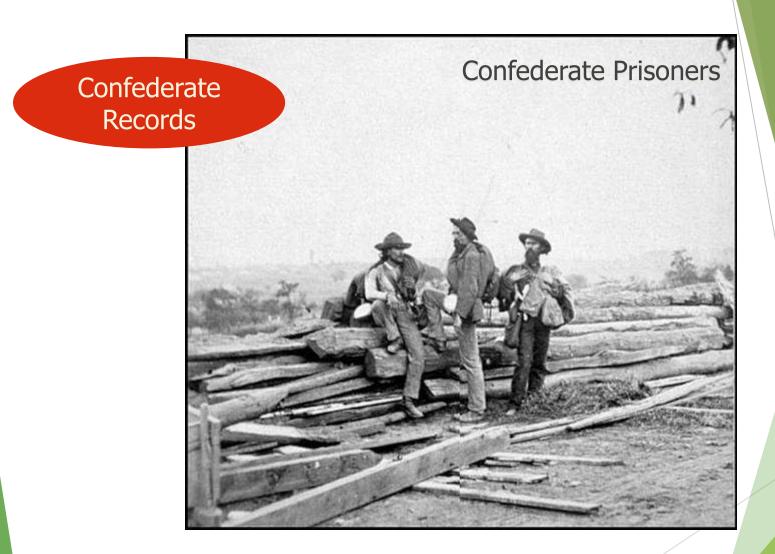
Records about Military Service



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Compiled Military Service Record

Records about Military Service



State military service records may be at the state archive

Historical Newspapers

- ► Local newspapers can provide information and photos in context and expand on your understanding of relationships and places. Example:
 - "C.A. Harsfield can be found at his old stand and wants all your produce" Afro-American Advocate (Coffeyville, Kansas), Sept. 2, 1891
 - * "Mr. and Mrs. Audrey Wilson and children spent Sunday evening with Mr. and Mrs. August Rubson and family new Melvin. The occasion was Mr. Rudson's birthday." The Lake Park News (Lake Park, Iowa), Jan. 25, 1934
- Obituaries and marriage notices
- Diversity people of all backgrounds and beliefs published papers and pamphlets. Example:
 - Baltimore Afro-American, 1890's current
 - Cherokee Phoenix, 1828-1834
 - The Mormon, 1855-1857



El Imparcial, May 14, 1937

Historical Newspapers

- Ancestry's collection is fairly small
- Check with your local library (or school, if applicable) for a newspaper archive database
- State/local libraries, historical or genealogy societies, and universities may have local archival collections online
- ► Library of Congress Chronicling America collection has historic newspaper pages from 1789-1963 and a directory of where to go for more newspapers

Historical Newspapers

- Find out where your ancestor lived
- ➤ Search in the Library of Congress Chronicling America collection or "US Newspaper Directory, 1690 to present" for local newspapers during the time your ancestor lived there (https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov)
- Search the library/archive listed in the directory for the newspaper
- ► If the newspaper is not available online, contact the library/archive (they may charge a fee for retrieving and sending the copy)
- Or, visit the library/archive. The newspaper may be preserved on microfiche if it has not been digitized and you would need to read through the full paper looking for relevant information.

Native Americans



Native Americans

- American Indian tribes did not keep or no longer have written records before contact with Europeans generally
- Not all tribes were federally recognized
- Many people avoided the federal government
- Some Native Americans were incorrectly listed as another race
- Often Native Americans had an honorary name and personal name. After Europeans, a surname was added.
- Tribes might organize around matriarchal lines and kinship terms may not indicate blood relations
- Indian Census were taken from 1885 to 1940, but inconsistently

Native Americans

Enrollment Records RESIDENCE CARENTER BUTTOR Cherokee Nation. Cherokee Roll. TRIBAL EMBOLLMENT OF PARENTS. TRIBAL ENROLLMENT Reference AGE, SEX, SE,000 Year, District. Sogerer Clementy name 61 m 44 180 Cora Sellie Copio may rope & Mense William Ban 20 m 41 1880 " nowally Rall as Clery, Orgens, 0/101 = 1896 " page 244 No 4093 as Clemit Rogers Con Disk No. 9735. Name Win P. Rogers and x children. Residence: Clarenose Okla. Reasons: Brother of mand Lane * 2379 and is admitte ed for same reasons

Will Rogers's

African Americans















Immigration

- More than 95% of Americans descend from individuals who did not live on this continent in the 18th century.
- Major waves
 - ❖ 1600's: Settlers were primarily German, English, Welsh or Dutch
 - By 1800's: Settlers came from around the world, particularly Scandinavia, Ireland, Scotland, England, Turkey, Armenia and China
 - Early to mid-1900's: European wars prompted German, Russian and Polish Jews, and Italians, Greeks and Austro-Hungarians to immigrate
- Census records include birth location for some years

Immigration

- Colonial period thru 1819: Passenger records were not required
- 1820 1893: Passenger lists required, but limited information
- 1893 on: More detailed passenger lists
- Pre-1807: Slaves were listed only as numbers. After 1807, bringing in new slaves was illegal but smuggling continued
- Immigrants also came through Canada and Mexico
- Later immigrants may have naturalization records from applying for citizenship

Passenger Arrival Records (Immigration)

INS Manifest 1907

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Mexico Border Crossing Card Manifest (Immigration)

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Naturalization Records

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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

DECLARATION OF INTENTION

(Invalid for all purposes seven years after the date bereaf)

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I. Dr. Albert Mi	nstein
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Ruberthed and seven to before me in the office of the Clerk of said Court, at Transon, its 5. the 18th, day of January area Denied 1836. Certification No.3a.220742. tron the Countriesor of Immigration and Naturalization showing the lawful entry of the declarant for permanent residence on the date stated above, has been reserved by one. The photograph affixed to the deplease and triplicate become in the declarant.

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U. S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR IMMURRATION AND NATURALIZATION SERVICE Declaration of Intention for Albert Einstein, June 4, 1943

African Americans

Pre-Civil War Records (1790–1860)

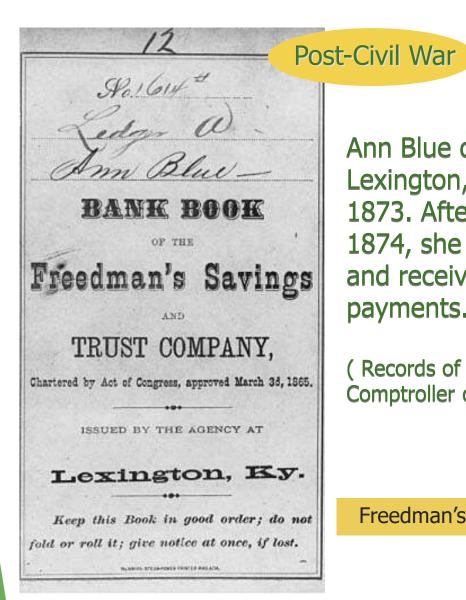
- Very few records exist for African Americans
- Not all African Americans were slaves and may have records
- 1850 and 1860 slave schedules list the slave owner's name and the number of slaves by sex, age, and black or mulatto
- Names of free African Americans may be included in the 1790-1860 Federal censuses, property and probate records, or maifests

African Americans

Post-Civil War Records (1870-on)

- Beginning in 1870, the Federal census listed the names of African Americans including former slaves
- After emancipation, most freed persons stayed in the same area
- Ancestors may be found in Freedmen's Bureau, emancipation records, or military

African Americans



Ann Blue opened this account in Lexington, Kentucky, in August 1873. After the bank's demise in 1874, she sent in this passbook and received \$37.94 in dividend payments.

(Records of the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, RG 101)

Freedman's Savings And Trust File

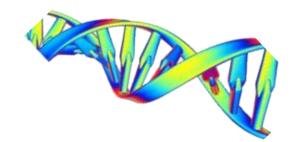
DNA

- ► Half you DNA comes from each parent, but what gets passed down is random
- Testing for personal genealogy started around 2000
- Different types of DNA services
 - Autosomal: Tests look at chromosomes 1–22 and X from both parents (most companies use autosomal)
 - Y-DNA: Tests look at the Y-chromosome inherited father to son (males only)
 - mt-DNA: Tests look at the mitochondria inherited from mother to child to explore the maternal side



DNA

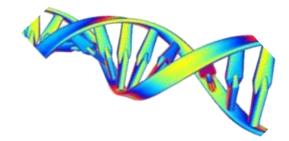
- DNA can
 - Help you find family members with similar DNA strains
 - Identify likely locations of origin for ancestors
- DNA cannot
 - Provide a definitive family tree
 - Match you with family members who used a different testing service
 - Provide definitive health information, although some companies include information on health risks



DNA

When choosing a DNA testing company, consider

- ► PRIVACY!!! DNA testing is largely unregulated. Companies may use your information for other purposes. Read the company privacy policy carefully.
- Data security how well is the company protecting your information from hackers
- What kind of testing is done
- What will you get in the report
- ▶ Do you really want to know the answers some people have uncovered family secrets like adoption or that they are related to undesirable people. Health information may cause unnecessary stress and not actually be valid.



Ancestry Library Edition

Ancestry has billions of records from around the world. You can search unlimitedly from home.

Ancestry Library Edition does not support individual accounts so you will *not* be able to:

- Create a family tree
- Post to message board
- Save documents to an account but you can download files to your computer or email

Get started by going to your Service's library site and sign in for digital resources

- NavyMWRDigitalLibrary.org
- Air Force portal (or local library site possibly)
- MCCS.ent.sirsi.net
- MWRlibrary.Armybiznet.com
- MilitaryOneSource.mil

Ancestry Search tips

- Try changing how you refine your search
- Special search characters
 - Asterisk * matches 0 or more characters (St*ner matches Stoner, Steiner, Stiner, etc.)
 - Question mark ? matches 1 character (St?ner matches Stoner, Stiner, Stener, etc.)
 - Must include at least three letters
- Search "Broad" instead of "Exact"
- Search for other family members if you can't find your direct relative
- Browse census and grave records in the area your ancestor lived in previously – more may be close by and transcription errors resulted in search misses

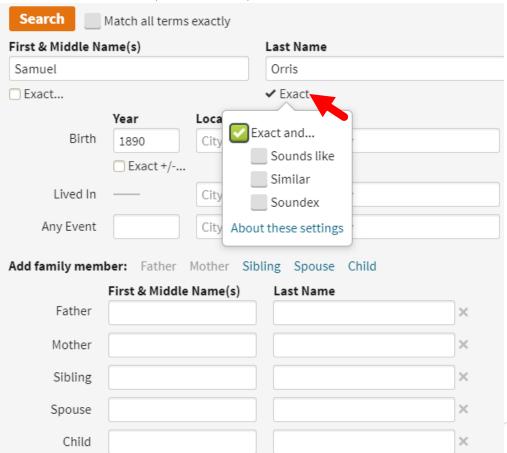
Start with yourself and work backwards

- Collect information from your living family members and documents, then
- Search for relatives in the 1940, recording key data such as location, age, marriage, family members, birthplace



If you don't find your relative...

- Too many record hits to look through
 - Add more information (try different guesses and combinations if you aren't sure)
 - Make the name, location, or dates more "Exact"



If you don't find your relative...

- Looked through records hits and nothing was relevant
 - Remove information (try different combinations)
 - Replace letters with special characters in case there are spelling or transcription errors (Census takers spelled names wrong, ancestors were illiterate, names were anglicized over time, etc.)
 - Use initials instead of first name (some people used initials and nicknames in Census)



How information much is enough?

- No right answer
- ► After census, good sources for verifying/refining information starting with the more recent information:
 - Death records (Findagrave.com, local newspaper obituaries, social security death index, etc.)
 - If applicable, WWI and WWII draft registration cards (even if your relative did not serve, he may have registered)
 - Marriage records (Ancestry has more marriage records than birth)
 - Birth records (Certificates, church christenings, etc.)

Cesar Agustín Peña Y García in the 1940 United States Federal Census



View blank form

Name:	Cesar Agustín Peña Y Gard	ía
Age:	7/12	
Estimated birth year:	abt 1939	
Gender:	Varon (Male)	
Race:	Blanco (White)	
Birthplace:	Puerto Rico	
Marital status:	Soltero (Single)	
Relation to Head of House:	Hijo (Son)	
Home in 1940:	Antón Ruíz, Humacao, Pu Rico	erto
Map of Home in 1940:	View Map	
Sheet Number:	2A	
Attended School or College:	No	
Neighbors:	View others on page	
Household Members:	Name	Age
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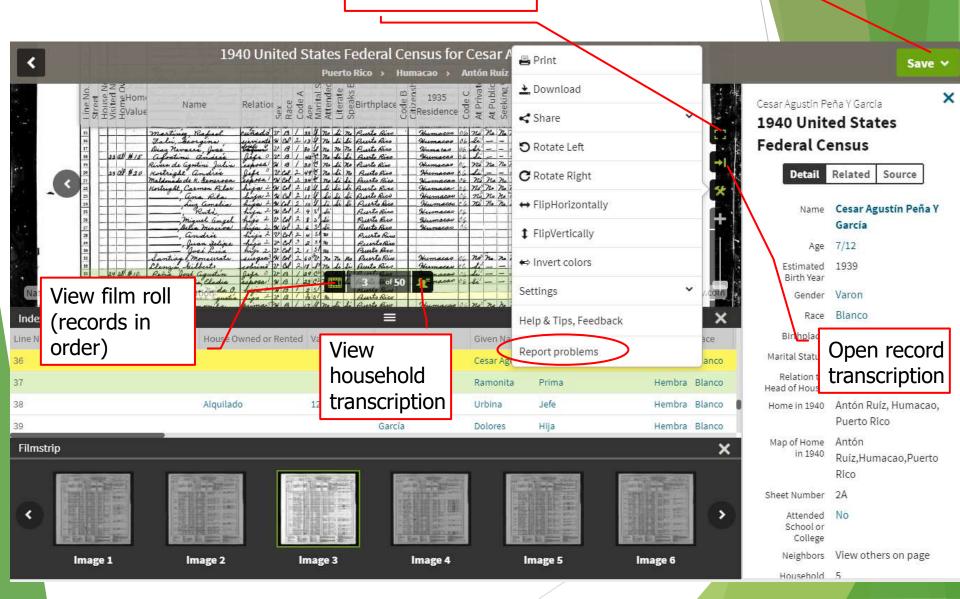
- Yellow highlight is the record you selected
- ► Green highlight is the rest of the household
- ► Hoover mouse over field to see OCR transcription

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Tools

Open image full screen

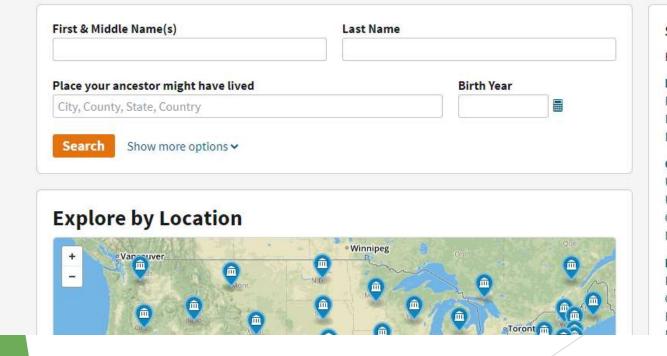
Save to computer or Send email



Basic Search

Start with the home page and search all categories

Search



+ Card Catalog **Special Collections** Historical Records Birth, Marriage & Death Birth, Baptism & Christening Marriage & Divorce Death, Burial, Cemetery & Obituaries Census & Voter Lists U.S. Federal Census Collection UK Census Collection Canadian Census Collection More... **Immigration & Travel** Passenger Lists Citizenship & Naturalization Records Border Crossings & Passports

Refine your results or revise search

Search Filters



Filter by

All Categories

- Family Trees

All Categories	
> Census & Voter Lists	10,000+
> Birth, Marriage & Death	300,000+
> Military	1,381
> Immigration & Emigration	30,000+
> Stories, Memories & Histories	39
> Directories & Member Lists	+000,08
> Court, Land, Wills & Financial	6,000+
➤ Dictionaries, Encyclopedias & Reference	3

Results 1-20 of 491,303

To get better results, add more information such as Birth Info and Death Info—even a guess will help. Edit your search or learn more

U.S., Find A Grave Index, 1600s-Current

DEATH, BURIAL, CEMETERY & OBITUARIES

Name Maria Fernandez

Records

Categories

Birth 16 Feb 1916

Death 9 May 2009

U.S., Find A Grave Index, 1600s-Current

DEATH, BURIAL, CEMETERY & OBITUARIES

Maria Jesus Fernandez

1901 Birth

Death 1999

U.S., Find A Grave Index, 1600s-Current

DEATH, BURIAL, CEMETERY & OBITUARIES

Name Maria Fernandez

Birth 12 Dec 1903 Mexico

Death 3 May 1943 Phoenix, Maricopa

County, Arizona, United States

of America

No record image or only an index

- Look at the source information
- Some records can be purchased or viewed from the original source
- Good way to find new sources to search for information (but may not be free)
- Source information also useful to see if there are areas or time periods not covered, resulting in your relative not being present note for future searches if collection is updated



Source Information

Ancestry.com. New York, New York, Extracted Marriage Index, 1866-1937 [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2014.

Original data: Index to New York City Marriages, 1866-1937. Indices prepared by the Italian Genealogical Group and the German Genealogy Group, and used with permission of the New York City Department of Records/Municipal Archives.



New York City Department of Records

Description

This index is your first step to marriage records from New York City, Kings County (Brooklyn), Manhattan, Queens, the Bronx, and Richmond County (Staten Island). Learn more...

Card Catalog

- Card Catalog lists all collections individually
- Search or use the filtering tools
- Good way to find more exact record results once you know something about your ancestor

Home

Search

Message Boards Learning Center Charts and Forms New Collections

Search over 262,000,000 obituaries from Newspapers.com





Card Catalog

- Sort by "Date Updated" to see if you should run a search again that formerly did not have record hits
- Sort by "Date Added" to see if a new database of interest as been added
- Search "Title" or "Keywords"
- ► Filter by category, time, or location

Card Catalog



Learn more

- Learning Center: Quick start tips & Maps
- Charts & forms blanks for organizing your research
- Message Boards: you can view Ancestry home edition users' posts

Mancestry Library Search Message Boards Learning Center Charts and Forms New Collections Department of ...

Research Aids

Tips and tricks from our experts

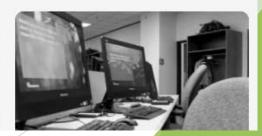
Research Aids

Maps

Looking to jumpstart your research? The experts at Ancestry have assembled a variety of tips and tricks to get your research moving again. Select one of the topics below to help you with your road blocks.

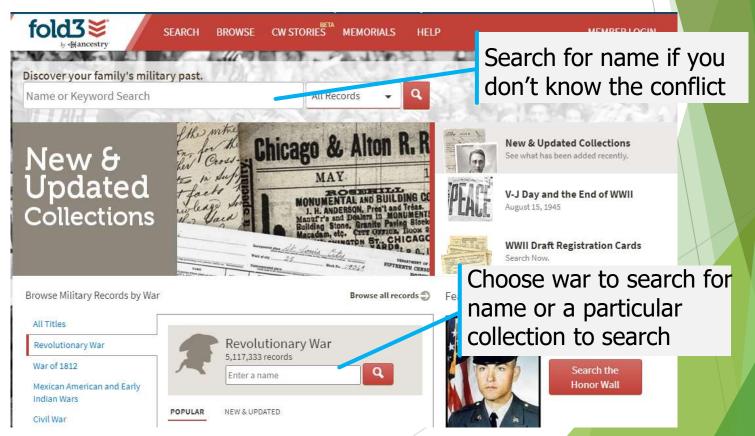




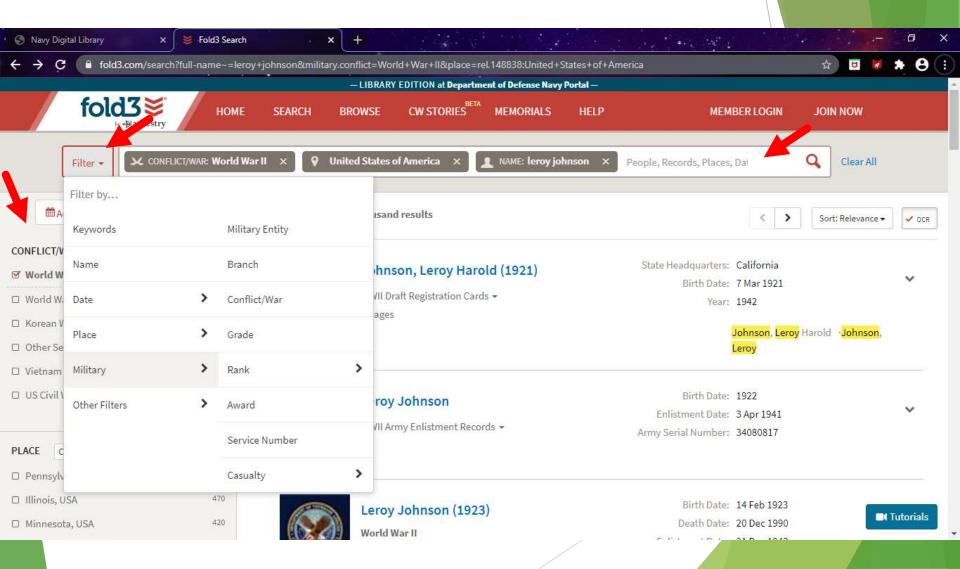


Fold3

- Revolutionary through current conflicts
- Some collections of non-military records such as Census and Social Security Death Index (also in Ancestry)
- ► For recent records, only public information such as casualty and medal of honor lists are available

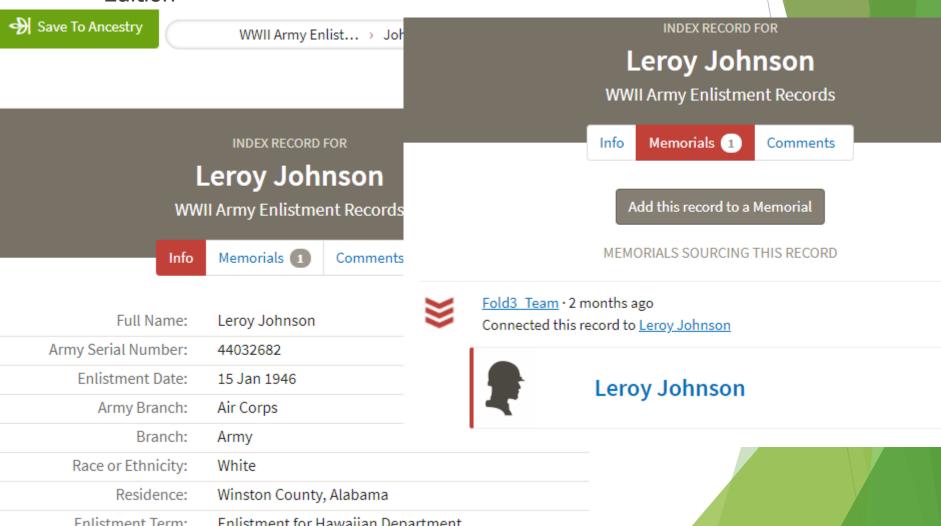


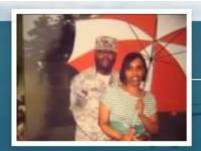
Filter search results or add to search



Memorials

- Memorials may pull together information from multiple sources
- You can view, but not easily create, Memorials in Fold3 Library Edition





Alex French 🖶 🛭 <







Afghanistan War · US Army · **Staff Sergeant**





SUMMARY

FACTS

STORIES

GALLERY







Afghanistan War (2001)

Conflict Period

Afghanistan War

Service End Date

2009

Branch

Army

Rank

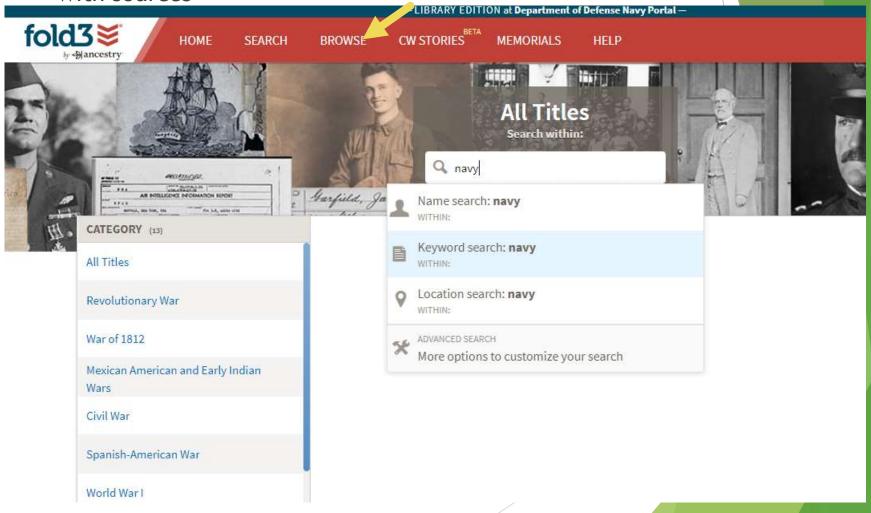
Staff Sergeant

Served For

United States of America

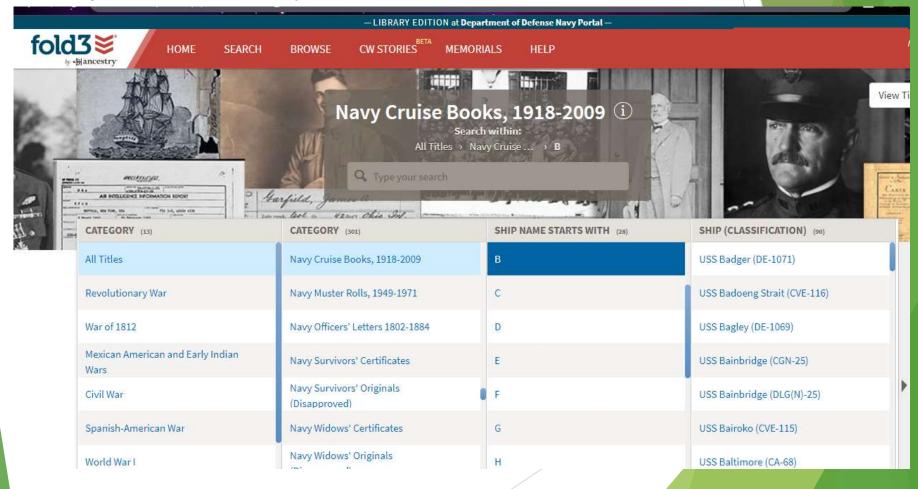
Browse Record Collections

- Search for collection keyword, name, location, or year range
- Easy way to search particular collections once you are familiar with sources

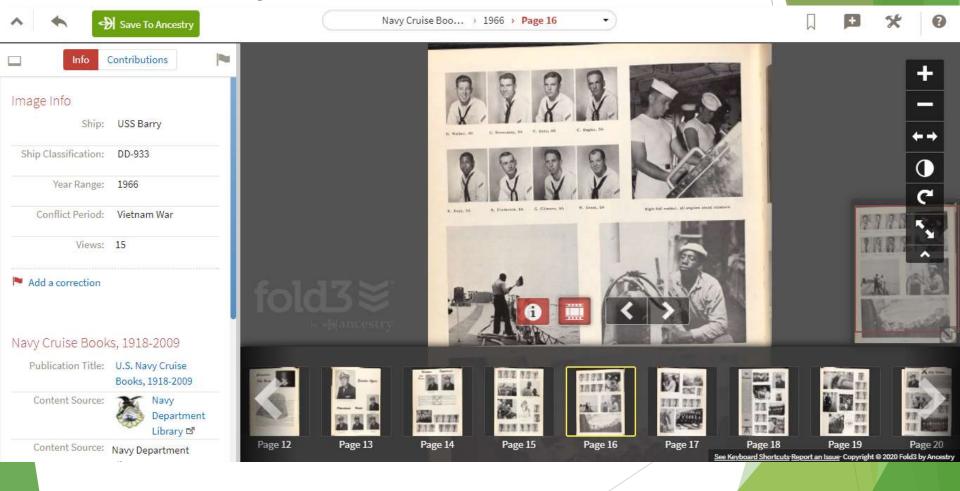


Browse Record Collections

- Browse category and filter until you find desired record collection
- Open records directly from browse or use search box

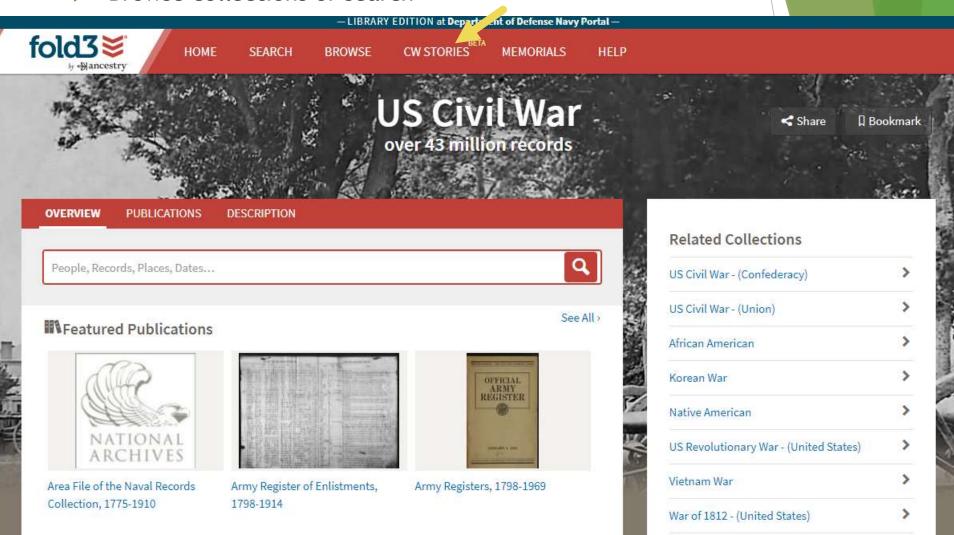


Example: Navy Cruise Book USS Barry



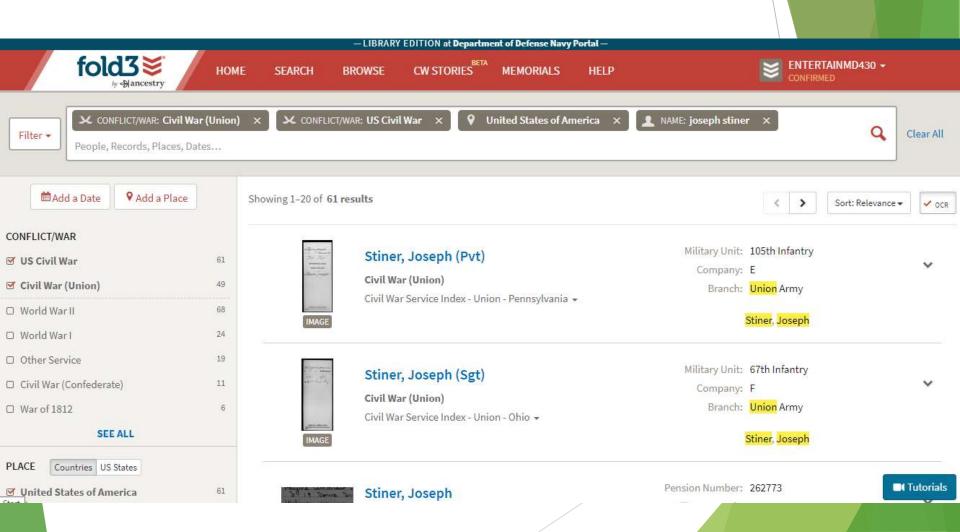
Civil War (CW) Stories

- Pulls together record collections ("publications") for the Civil War
- Browse collections or search



Example: Name search

- ► Fold3 automatically filters results to Civil War collections
- You can filter further, including Union or Confederate



Learn more or get technical help ...



LIBRARY EDITION at Department of Defense Navy Portal

HOME

SEARCH BROWSE

CW STORIES

MEMORIALS

HELP

How can we help you?



Fold3 basics

Getting started at the Fold3 Training Center. Learn the basics: how to search, share, manage account settings and more...



Something's not working

Help with logging in, email confirmations, search failures, viewer problems, or other issues using the site...

More help?

- · Contact us
- Fold3 blog
- Ancestry Academy and Fold3
- Like us on facebook
- Follow us on twitter

Related Pages

- About Fold3
- · Terms and Conditions
- Privacy Statement



Birth Date: 15 Jan 1932

Death Date: 1 Jan 2001

Enlistment Date: 3 Sep 1950

Maria Gomez



Fold3 Training Center

- Brief instructions for using Fold3
- ► Tutorial videos, including link to Ancestry Academy

- LIBRARY EDITION at Department of Defense Navy Portal -



HOME

SEARCH

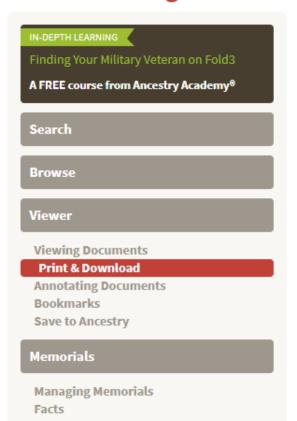
BROWSE

CW STORIES

MEMORIALS

HFI P

Fold3® Training Center



Print and Download

When you find an image or document that you would like to print or download, you can do so from the viewer.

To Save from the Viewer

- 1. Click the **Tools** button in the viewer's toolbar
- 2. Click the Download button
- 3. Choose Entire Page or Select a Region
- 4. Select the file format you would like to download (JPG or PDF)

Save Location

When you save an image, the Viewer automatically saves it in your computer's **Downloads** folder, as specified in your browser. If you use Chrome or Firefox, you can change your browser's settings so that it always asks where to save files. Simply do the following:

Chrome:

1. Select the Menu button (the icon at the top right that looks like three stacked horizontal

Ancestry Academy tutorial videos

6 videos

- https://www.ancestryacademy.com/
- Includes Fold3 and Ancestry topics



START WATCHING

Researching Your Military Ancestors in the US



Civil War Stories 8 videos



Six Steps To Find Your Civil War Veterans and Their Regiments



Fold3 Memorials 11 videos







Other Online Resources

- MWR Digital Library
 - Overdrive ebooks
 - Newspapers
 - Universal Class: Genealogy 101
 - RBdigital Great Courses: Discovering Your Roots, An Introduction to Genealogy
- State Archives websites
- State Genealogical Society websites
- State University Archives websites
- Chronicling America (https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov)
- Cyndi's List (https://www.cyndislist.com/us/): Lots of well-organized information and links
- Find a Grave (https://www.findagrave.com): Searchable free grave index created by volunteers

Question?

For assistance, contact: NGLP@navy.mil