

## [Ancestry.Com: Meet One of the Four Titans of Family History Websites](#)

In a previous posting of October 17th, I presented a summary of the power and appropriateness of the four titans of family history websites: **FamilySearch, Ancestry, MyHeritage and Findmypast**. **FamilySearch** has already received an overwhelming amount of editorial coverage in this Facebook group as the beacon for abiding entry-level through professional-level genealogists. In this posting, there are excellent step-by-step web tutorials and videos that can provide invaluable assistance on how to best use Ancestry.com.

Why is there a need for Ancestry.com? There are specific reasons for using Ancestry's personal tree feature:

- No-one can change your personal tree
- Trees generate hints for sources, stories, photos, and media
- Ancestry.com has unique data search engine
- Ancestry.com helps you find relatives who also have trees, photos, sources, and stories about your ancestors
- Your personal tree allows you to transfer data between Ancestry.com and FamilySearch Trees

But there's so much more to consider. Ancestry is the most-used genealogy data subscription site. Anyone can click on the Learning Center tab and then First Steps for a site orientation. Many how-tos in the Family History 101 section are free to use. Once you have a membership (which members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints can obtain for free), you can search digitized records and indexes from around the world. Use the Family Tree tab (if you're a member - or if you're using Ancestry.com at a library) to create your family tree and post photos and stories, which you may share with others. Because of the sheer size of personal family trees posted on Ancestry.com, there is a good possibility that you may be able to link up with others who are working on similar ancestors world-wide. Consider these facts: Ancestry hosts the world's largest online collection of family history records with 20 billion records in 80 countries of origin with 100 million family trees and 13 billion connections. 15+ million people have used their DNA tests. There are 1+ billion searches monthly and 179 million app downloads thus far. Free technical phone support is available at: 800-615-6560

But learning how to use this vast research resource is equally as exciting. Go to their Ancestry Academy at: <https://www.ancestry.com/academy/courses/recommended> and you will be showered with a huge library of video tutorials grouped under useful topics to learn to use Ancestry.com without hesitation. Click on any of these links below and you will be very impressed with the infrastructure of their unique learning modules. Don't let the number of tutorials in parenthesis scare you, their topics are specific and very timely labeled.

- [How Do I...](#) (13)
- [Learn New Skills in 5 Minutes](#) (98)
- [Understanding DNA](#) (16)
- [Military Records](#) (16)
- [Tips and Tricks](#) (80)
- [Location Research](#) (22)
- [Moving From There to Here](#) (3)
- [Feature Courses](#) (6)
- [What You Might Have Missed](#) (7)
- [Find A Grave Tutorials](#) (2)

But seeing is believing! Here's a small teaser of video tutorials that are specific in what they do and cover as found at: <https://www.ancestry.com/academy/courses/recommended>. You will not be disappointed!

Featured Courses (6) >



2:29

What is a Census Record?

Ancestry Academy



51:52

Your Family History Online: Laying the Foundation

Anne Gillespie Mitchell



1:4:10

Beginning Your Search for Irish Ancestors

Eileen M. O'Dair, CGT



42:45

Finding the Females in Your Family Tree

Amy Johnson-Cross, CGTM



1:46:34

Getting Started Right: Documentation for New Genealogists

Thomas W. Jones, PhD, CGP, C...



38:56

Whiskey, Farming and the Choices to Move: Understanding Family

J. Mark Lowe, CGT, FUGA



Getting Started (6) >



23:10

Getting Started on Ancestry: Starting Your Family Tree

Anne Gillespie Mitchell



41:05

Meet the Ancestry App: Your Family Story Anytime, Anywhere

Rain Larson



52:43

DNA 101: An Insider's Scoop on AncestryDNA Testing

Anna Sawyer



1:39

Waiting for DNA Results? Start Your Tree Now!

Ancestry Academy



51:53

Your Family History Online: Laying the Foundation

Anne Gillespie Mitchell



44:56

Learn About Your Ancestors Using the Latest from Ancestry

Anne Gillespie Mitchell



Learn New Skills In 5 Minutes (104) >



1:36

Myth: Ellis Island Name Changes

Ancestry Academy



4:33

Vital Records

Ancestry Academy



2:47

Ancestry's Card Catalog

Ancestry Academy



2:29

What is a Census Record?

Ancestry Academy



3:15

Collateral Genealogy Research

Ancestry Academy



2:54

Do You Have Irish Ancestry?

Ancestry Academy



What You Might Have Missed (7) >



45:33

Who is That Tick Mark? Using Early Census Records

J. Mark Lowe, CGT, FUGA



1:35:18

The Records of Death: Using Probates in Family History

Judy G. Russell, JD, CGT, FUGA



1:04:45

Non-Population Schedules: Your Next Step in Census Research

Deena Coustant



50:17

The Reconstruction Era: Refugees, Claims, and Conscription

Michael L. Strauss, AGP



57:28

The Key to the Courthouse: Unlocking the Past

Jana Sloan Riegler, CGT



33:38

Discovering the History of Your House on Ancestry

Marian Pierre-Louis



Location Research (22) >



1:24:19

The Old Dominion State: Virginia Genealogy Research

Anne Gillespie Mitchell



48:27

German Genealogy: The Basics

Teresa Stutzkamp-McMillan, CGT



1:23:17

Native American Ancestry? Steps to Learn More

Paula Stuart-Warren, CGT, FUGA



1:7:00

Pennsylvania: Genealogical Research in the Keystone State

Michael D. Lacopi, DVM



1:20:58

Tracing French-Canadian Ancestors and Learning Their Stories

David Dumetix, CGTM, CGP



2:25:09

Needles and Threads: Piecing Together African American Families

Deborah A. Abbott, PhD



Moving From There to Here (3) >



38:50

Whiskey, Farming and the Choices to Move: Understanding Family

J. Mark Lowe, CGT, FUGA



56:09

Finding Ethnic Origins and Passenger Arrival Records

Juliana Souza



3:22

U.S. Passports

Ancestry Academy



Need more incentive to get into learning and master the potential of Ancestry's extensive research resources? **The Family History Guide** some straight-forward on-line tutorials that are excellent as primer-level for newcomers. But don't let me generalize this because there are a total of 44 step-by-step tutorials included in the following 7 pull-down menu offerings for learning how to use Ancestry in **The Family History Guide**. The parenthesis indicate the number of tutorials in each pull-down menu.

- Get Started (6)
- Family Tree (6)
- Docs, Stories, Photos (7)
- Research Knowledgebase (10)
- Help (4)
- Technology (4)
- DNA (7)
- Information about the Ancestry App for tablets and smartphones

Here's a sample list of tutorials in their Research Knowledgebase. Note: all of them have "hot" links for you to peruse.

**1: Get Organized** 2: Identify a Line 3: Form a Strategy 4: Search Ancestry Records (AN) 5: Search Ancestry Record Collections (AN) 6: Analyze Search Results (AN) 7: Use Homepage Options (AN) 8: Develop Search Skills 9: Solve Problems 10: Family History Trip

### **Closing Comments**

Do not under estimate the power and usefulness of all of the Four Titans of Family History Research as introduced in the October 17th posting. Fortunately, all members of our Church can register for free membership through their FamilySearch.org account. But non-members can also use all of them for free at any of our 5,100 family history centers in 140 countries throughout the world. See the October 19th posting to learn where and how to find these local family history centers in your locality that are readily available to both our members and the general public.

Already have a Family Tree in FamilySearch.org and don't want to manually create it again in Ancestry? You can import a GEDCOM file into Ancestry or you can import up to four generations to Ancestry at a time directly from your FamilySearch account. But you can also add another four generations to one family ancestor line at a time directly from FamilySearch after that if you desire to import your full pedigree brought in.

**Remember:** V.I.P. assistance is only a mouse click away with these well-organized and throughout on-line tutorials.