

[Meet the “Four Titans”: the Most Popular Research Resources in the Family History World!](#)

The most popular major resources for conducting family history research are **FamilySearch.org**, **Ancestry.Com**, **My Heritage** and **Find My Past**. Each of them offers unique opportunities to create your own family tree plus network with others worldwide to learn of possible relationships with massive amounts of historical collections of records. The latter three are all subscription based with annual fees but fortunately members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints with a FamilySearch.org account can opt for free memberships in the latter three making these four titans readily available with incredible resources for anybody and everybody in doing their family history pursuits. Together these four popular Internet resources with their free accounts, you have an incredible amount of resources waiting for you to find your ancestors near and far. Each one of them is distinct and justifies the time to explore them more fully than described below. In subsequent postings, I will share on-line tutorials on how to take full advantage of each one of them. **Note:** the annual subscription rates for Ancestry.com is \$199, MyHeritage.com is \$125.99 with their complete subscription package and FindMyPast is \$239.40. But non-members can use all of these resources for free at any of the FamilySearch family history centers as there are 4,600 local facilities in 126 countries. These Family history centers are free and open to the public and staffed by knowledgeable volunteers.

Why not take advantage of these landmark research resources? Read on . . .!

FamilySearch.org is one of the most popular genealogical resources in the world. The site is sponsored by [The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints](#) and is free and available to the public. Since launching in May 1999, more than 150 million people have visited FamilySearch.org to learn more about their family heritage.



Online Records

Visitors to FamilySearch.org can search billions [digital images and indexes](#) of records from all over the world. These records include government and church records for births, marriages, and deaths; censuses; probate records, land records, draft cards; and so forth. Millions of new records are published on a weekly basis.

Many of the records on the FamilySearch website are [indexed](#), making them easier to search. The indexes are created by volunteers. Currently, there over 125,000 active indexers around the world who complete about one million names a day. Anyone can help with this effort, regardless of their age, religion, or technical background; all that is needed is a computer and an Internet connection. The free online application is available in seven languages.

Research Help

FamilySearch.org features several resources to help people learn how to discover their family history. For example, this Wiki is an interactive online encyclopedia for family history research. This site contains research helps, guides, and advice from FamilySearch experts, but is also a place where anyone can share what they know about genealogy. Visitors to the site can search by [geographic area](#) or to get tips and helpful information on climbing their own family trees.

Through FamilySearch [Forums](#), individuals can post questions about their own research and FamilySearch staff or anyone from the genealogical community helps answer them.

Free [online classes](#) available on the FamilySearch website can be taken anytime from the comfort of home.

The length and format of the classes vary by subject, but usually include video of the presenter, a PowerPoint presentation, and class handouts. Many of these classes are taught by experts at the renowned [Family History Library](#) in Salt Lake City, but FamilySearch has also partnered with individual genealogists and facilities like the [Midwest Genealogy Center](#) in Independence, Missouri.

There is free telephone help seven days a week with FamilySearch at 866-406-1830 from 6 am till 10 pm Mountain Time Zone daily except for Monday evenings ending at 6 pm.

Quick Facts

Here are some quick facts about FamilySearch.org:

Source: Family History Department Business Intelligence. Enterprise Data Warehouse As of May 2016

- Searchable Names in Historical Records: 5.39 Billion
- Digital images of historic documents published online: 1.2 Billion
- Indexed records published: 3 year rolling average: 532 Million
- Number of searchable historic record collections online: 2,102 Collections
- Number of digital books: 282,516
- Number of family history centers: 4,925
- Number of digital cameras in operation: 309
- Visits per day: 299,960
- Pages viewed per day: 4.86 Million
- Online indexing volunteers: 918,414
- Registered FamilySearch users: 6.7 Million
- Family Tree contributors Total: 3 Million
- Photos uploaded: 12 Million

- Stories uploaded: 463,730
- Records in the Family Tree: 1.1 Billion

See also

- [Community Trees Project](#)
- [Historical Record Collections](#)

References

1. [Jump up↑ "FamilySearch Website - Church Newsroom."](#) Church Newsroom | Church News - Official Newsroom of the Church . Intellectual Reserve, Inc, n.d. Web. 27 Feb. 2012.

In other languages: [español](#) |

Ancestry.Com

Ancestry.com was founded as the publishing company **The Generations Network** in 1983. The company is now the largest for-profit genealogy company in the world and runs a network of genealogy and family-related websites. 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

Important Reasons for using Ancestry's personal tree feature:

- No-one can change your personal tree since it is not a wiki.
- Trees generate hints for sources, stories, photos, and media which is very important
- Ancestry.com has unique data search engine that is very powerful
- 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

See also

Wikipedia has more about this subject: [Ancestry.com](#)

- [Latter-day Saint Resources at Ancestry.com](#)
- [England, Using Ancestry.com and Ancestry.co.uk for English Research](#)
- [How to use ancestry.com](#)
- [AncestryDNA Shared Matches Category:](#)
- [Major Genealogy Websites](#)

MyHeritage.Com

This is a great system that allows anyone like you and me to create a private site for their family, build their family tree and share family photos. It is easy to use interface, additional features like the free app and breadth of searchable material make MyHeritage a great genealogy search choice with about 9 billion searchable resources and it particularly strong in having access to European continent historical collections. It is a unique place where families meet online, communicate, share, explore and preserve their heritage. Their platform and DNA kits make it easy for anyone, anywhere to embark on a meaningful

journey into their past and treasure their family stories for generations to come. Free technical phone support is available at 800-987-9000

Offers Powerful Searching Technologies

[Smart Matching™](#) - Finds matching profiles in family trees, enabling users to discover new ancestors and relatives, and connect with other users.

[Record Matching](#) - Automatic matches between people and historical records.

[Instant Discoveries™](#) - Unique technology that allows adding a whole new branch to the family tree in one click.

[SuperSearch™](#) - Search engine for exploring billions of historical records.

[Record Detective™](#) - Automatically extends the paper trail from a single historical record to other related records and family tree connections.

[Global Name Translation™](#) - Translates names found in historical records and family trees from one language into another, to facilitate matches between names in different languages.

[Search Connect™](#) - Enables users to easily find others who are looking for the same ancestors or relatives, and get in touch with them.

Family Sites

MyHeritage lets you create your family's own meeting place on the Internet - your family's website. Invite your family members to participate in your site, post your family tree online and share it with family members, share family photos easily, keep track of important family events and more.

Creating a family site takes only a few minutes and doesn't require any technical experience. Sign up to www.myheritage.com and you will be automatically prompted to create your family site.

[Build family trees](#) or [upload GEDCOM files](#) to your Family Site to explore and share your family history.

MyHeritage is private and secure. Family sites have different privacy settings you control. We do not disclose your information to third parties. We don't sell email addresses and we don't spam. You control the emails you receive from us.

Family Tree Builder

You can also download and install [Family Tree Builder](#) - our family tree software for the desktop, which is one of the best genealogy software programs you'll find. It has original, easy-to-use pages that let you grow your family tree visually.

In Family Tree Builder you can add photos and documents to the tree and use our ground-breaking face recognition technology to quickly and easily tag faces in your photos. You can create beautiful charts and reports, view places on the interactive maps and check for Smart Matches with other family trees on MyHeritage. In a few mouse clicks, you can sync your family tree with your family site on the Internet and share it with family and friends!

Use the following link to download Family Tree Builder for free: www.myheritage.com/family-tree-builder

SuperSearch

[SuperSearch](#) is MyHeritage's search engine made specifically for genealogy. SuperSearch includes MyHeritage family trees, photos, and members that are public – altogether more than 9 billion exclusive records from all over the world that, in most cases, are only available on MyHeritage.

SuperSearch also contains the world's largest collection of [historical newspapers](#), [ALL the UK census records from 1841 till 1901 and hundreds of millions of UK birth, marriage and death records](#).

Browse our [Collection Catalog](#) to view all our collections and stay up-to-date with the new records we add regularly.

MyHeritage DNA

The [MyHeritage DNA Kit](#) is an autosomal DNA test for genetic genealogy, designed to discover and identify relatives and ancestors, through DNA matches with MyHeritage's genealogical matching database.

[Testing your DNA](#) with MyHeritage, or [uploading your autosomal DNA](#) raw data from AncestryDNA, FTDNA and 23andMe provides you with two types of results:

An Ethnicity Estimate - Reveals the percentage breakdown of ethnic origins. For more information about the Ancestral Ethnicity feature, please visit: [What is the MyHeritage Ethnicity Estimate?](#)

DNA Matches - Finds relatives based on shared DNA. For further details, please read: [What is DNA Matching?](#)

Find My Past.Com

[Findmypast.co.uk](#) is a family history and genealogy website based in [London, England](#), containing over two billion family history records, with more being added all the time. FindMyPast is effective if you have British, Irish or otherwise European ancestry, but mostly British and Irish family histories. You get hints if the website has more information about the family you're researching.

Their Customer Support team can be contacted several ways

- Complete our contact form below - select 'Preview' once you have completed the form and then 'Contact Us' to send your message
- Live Chat: chat online in real time to our Customer Support team by selecting the Chat option at the bottom of this page
- Send an email to support@findmypast.com
- Call +1 (855) 246-8234

Our Live Chat and telephone support hours are between 7am and 5pm (ET) Monday to Friday. We do our very best to answer calls and Live Chat as quickly as possible.

Primary Collections

The most significant collections are listed below.

Census Collection of England, Wales and Channel Islands (1841 to 1911)

- 1841 England and Wales (full transcript plus images)
- 1851 England and Wales (full transcript* plus high-resolution images)
- 186
- 1 England and Wales (full transcript plus images)
- 1871 England and Wales (transcript plus images)
- 1881 England and Wales (full transcript (free) plus high-resolution images)
- 1891 England and Wales (full transcript plus high-resolution images)
- 1901 England and Wales (full transcript plus high-resolution images)
- 1911 England and Wales (full transcript plus full-colour high-resolution images)

Understanding the Collection:

The indexes at findmypast are based on exactly what was written in the census regardless whether it is right. Every census year is searchable except the 1871 census is not searchable by birthplace. Corrections can be submitted; however, they will not make a change if it does not reflect exactly what is written in the census, even for simple spelling errors of names or place names. When searching the census you should be aware of this. Refer to the [census wiki article](#) for details about the census.

Census Collection of Scotland

- 1841 Scotland (transcript)
- 1851 Scotland (transcript)
- 1861 Scotland (transcript)
- 1871 Scotland (transcript)
- 1881 Scotland (transcript)
- 1891 Scotland (transcript)
- 1901 Scotland (transcript)

Birth, Marriage and Death Index (primarily 1837 to 2006)

- Births, Domestic (1837 to 2005)
- Births, British Overseas (1761 to 2005)
- Births, At Sea (1854 to 1887)
- Baptisms (see also Parish Record Collections)
- Marriages, Domestic (1837 to 2005)
- Marriages, British Overseas (1761 to 2005)
- Marriages, At Sea (1854 to 1883)
- Marriages (see also Parish Record Collections)
- Divorces and Matrimonial Causes (1858 to 1903)
- Deaths, Domestic (1837 to 2005)
- Deaths, British Overseas (1761 to 1994)
- Deaths, At Sea (1854 to 1890)
- Deaths, Military (1914 to 1919, 1939 to 1945)

- Burials (see also Parish Record Collections)

Outgoing Passenger Lists

- Records of ticket-holding passengers embarking or transiting through the UK on long-distance voyages between 1890 and 1960.
- Records of individuals or groups of people leaving for destinations including Australia, Canada, India, New Zealand, South Africa and USA featuring ports such as Boston, Philadelphia and New York.
- Passengers include not only immigrants and emigrants, but also businessmen, diplomats and tourists.
- Images of the passenger lists are available to download, view, save and print.

Electoral Rolls (Living Relative Search)

- Find living relatives in the United Kingdom.
- Living Relatives search includes the latest electoral roll information.
- Telephone data is updated monthly as well as historical director information.

Its History

Formerly named 1837online.com, **findmypast** were the first to put the birth, marriage and death records of England and Wales online, for the purpose of allowing public access to the indexes. Previously, the indexes were only available to search at certain locations in England. This achievement garnered the prestigious Queen's Award for Innovation in 2007.

Findmypast.com was acquired by [brightsolid](#) (formerly Scotland Online) in December 2007 as part of their vision to develop a world class family history resource.

Searching is free on findmypast.com, as is building an online family tree with the innovative Family Tree Explorer software. To view the records you will need to purchase credits, either by buying PayAsYouGo credits or a subscription option.

Since our launch findmypast.com has expanded markedly from just birth, marriage and death records to now include the 1841 through 1911 censuses for England and Wales, an extensive collection of military records, a number of occupations directories and an electoral roll search.

In November 2006 findmypast.com, in association with The National Archives, launched [ancestorsonboard.com](#). Ancestorsonboard contains exclusive, full-colour Passenger Lists for all ships leaving the UK from 1890-1960. These records were previously available only from the National Archives at Kew, London, and weren't indexed, meaning that searching them was notoriously difficult.

In January 2009 findmypast.com, in association with The National Archives, launched [1911census.co.uk](#). 1911census.co.uk is the home of the official release of the 1911 Census of England of Wales, two years ahead of schedule.

External Links

- www.findmypast.com
- www.1911census.co.uk

- www.familytreeexplorer.com

Categories:

- [Major Genealogy Websites](#)
- [Wales](#)