

## [Proposed 500% Fee Increases for U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services: Here Are Four Alternatives for Accurately Locating International Family Roots](#)

The U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) which is part of the Department Homeland Security (DHS) is proposing a nearly 500% **increase** in fees for record searches and records provided through its **Genealogy** Program. A search to determine what records are held would **increase** from \$65 to \$240, and for copies of **paper** records from \$65 to \$385. Click [here](#) for details.

This pricing increase is outrageous. But that's not all the bad news. For example, a one year, all-access subscription to **Ancestry**, arguably the biggest genealogy repository in the world costs \$389. For that, you get 24-hour-a-day access to billions of records from all over the world for as many ancestors as you're willing to search. Department of Homeland Security's proposal can eventually cost more than one and a half times that for one family member's immigration record. Click [here](#) for more insight to this DHS proposal.

Genealogy has been and will continue to be one of the largest crowdsourcing history programs in the world. Those of us who collect our families' history contribute to the historical record on many levels -- local, regional, national and global, do have other alternatives to obtaining information for establishing their international roots outside of the USA. The dilemma is accurate records are needed to establish the specific geographical fixes for ones ancestors. U.S. Citizenship and Immigration records can be important but there are four work-arounds to firmly establish your heritage family roots of origin that can be significant less expensive than what the DHS is proposing.

### **First Alternative to U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services for Locating International Records**

If you are not positive about the location of your immigrate ancestors, it is highly recommended that you do your U.S. research first so you know more about their specific location(s) from the other continents. Hopefully the previous two vital record postings of December 27th, [We All Need Records of our Ancestors for Accurate Genealogical Accountability](#), and 29th, [Free Websites for Vital Records: They Do Exist!!!](#), offer reasonably inexpensive options for obtaining vital records. And at more affordable pricings. The most comprehensive vital records will be from each state's vital records. Don't let their cost have you hesitating since they are the most abundant collections of vital records available. But also don't neglect the free websites as well since they are readily available on-line to peruse on your computer at your convenience.

### **Second Alternative for Locating International Records**

Be thankful our Church has working agreements for its members to use **Ancestry**, **MyHeritage** and **Findmypast** for free and for non-members, they can use them all for free at any of its 5,200+ stake family history centers worldwide. But the proposed pricing increases for U.S. Citizenship and Services records is going to limit people from exploring their roots. If you are not sure what the potential is for **FamilySearch**, **Ancestry**, **MyHeritage** and **Findmypast** for locating your ancestor's international records, go to this series of postings listed below as the *Titans of Website Research Resources* and you will not be disappointed.

- [FamilySearch: Meet the Most Important Member of the Four Titans of Family History Research Websites: or see October 24 posting](#)
- [Findmypast: Meet One of the Four Titans of Family History Research Websites: or see October 22 posting](#)
- [MyHeritage.Com: Meet One of the Four Titans of Family History Research Websites: or see October 21 posting](#)
- [Ancestry.Com: Meet One of the Four Titans of Family History Websites: Ancestry.Com: or see October 20 posting](#)

- [Meet the “Four Titans”: the Most Popular Research Resources in the Family History World!](#): or see *October 17 posting*

These four Titans are incredible resources to use. If you need hands-on tutorials to maximize how you use these incredible websites, consider using the following URL’s.

- **FamilySearch**: <https://www.thefhguide.com/project-4-discover-an.html> with 10 levels of step-by-step tutorials. There’s also free telephone technical support available at 1-800-406-1830
- **Ancestry**: <https://www.thefhguide.com/project-4-discover-mh.html> with 7 levels of step-by-step tutorials. There’s also free telephone technical support available at 1-(800) 615-6560
- **My Heritage**: <https://www.thefhguide.com/project-4-discover-mh.html> with 7 levels of step-by-step tutorials. There’s also telephone technical support available at: 1-(800) 987-9000
- **Findmypast**: <https://www.thefhguide.com/project-4-discover-fmp.html> with 7 levels of step-by-step tutorials. There’s also telephone technical support at: +1-(855) 246-8234

### Third Alternative for Locating International Records

FamilySearch offers online records for nearly every country that could be a quick fix, especially if you have completed your US genealogy. For example, go to the “Research Wiki” in FamilySearch.org at [https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Main\\_Page](https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Main_Page) and type in this search bar the specific name of the country along “Online Genealogy Records” which will appear as **<Poland Online Genealogy Records>**. Below is what will appear which contains a lot resources to peruse which I find very helpful with its links for instant information as example for Poland. Just about every country in this world has a similar online website on FamilySearch if you follow my search instructions above. The records will not just be vital records but a host of many, many other types of records.

#### Poland Online Records

**Guide to Poland Online Genealogy Records for researching ancestry, family history and genealogy:** birth, marriage, death, census, church, military, immigration, and naturalization records.

#### Poland Online Genealogy Records

This chart shows links to countrywide collections. To find links to collections for lower jurisdictions (such as a county, town, or parish), go to [Locating Online Databases](#).

Ancestry.com, FindMyPast.com, and MyHeritage.com can be searched free of charge at your local [family history center](#) or the [Family History Library](#) in Salt Lake City, Utah.

#### Church Records

- [Eastern Prussian Provinces, Germany \(Poland\), Selected Civil Vitals, 1874-1945](#), index and images, incomplete.
- [Poland, Evangelical Church Books, 1700-2005](#) — images
- [AGAD](#), parish registers for the part of Poland now in the Ukraine
- [Digitized records from the various archives in Poland](#), index. Click [here](#) for instructions.
- [Geneteka database](#) Church Registers Indexing Project.

#### Gazetteers

- [Kartenmeister](#) German/Polish Place Name Conversion

#### Jewish Records

- [JewishGen Poland Database](#) (Some content requires free registration.)
- [Jewish Records Indexing](#) Index and images.
- [Poland, Jewish Records Indexing-Poland, Births, 1550-1993](#), index

- [Polish State Archives](#) Digitized records from the Polish State Archives. Click [here](#) for instructions.
- [Polish Genealogical Society Church Records Database](#), index and images.
- [Poland, Roman Catholic Church Books, 1600-1950](#), (\$), index (in Polish)
- [Poland, Częstochowa Roman Catholic Church Books, 1873-1948](#) Images only
- [Poland, Gliwice Roman Catholic Church Books, 1599-1976](#) Images only
- [Poland, Lublin Roman Catholic Church Books, 1784-1964](#) Images and index
- [Poland, Radom Roman Catholic Church Books, 1587-1966](#) Images and index
- [Poland, Tarnow Roman Catholic Diocese Church Books, 1612-1900](#) Name index only
- [Poland, Jewish Records Indexing-Poland, Births, 1550-1993](#), index
- [Poland, Jewish Records Indexing-Poland, Deaths, 1808-1942](#), index
- [Poland, Jewish Records Indexing-Poland, Marriages, 1798-1939](#), index
- [Poznan marriage indexing project](#), index
  
- [British Nationals Born Overseas 1818-2005](#), index and images.
- [British Armed Forces and Overseas Births and Baptisms](#), index and images, (\$)
- [British Nationals Married Overseas 1818-2005](#), index and images,
- [British Armed Forces and Overseas Banns and Marriages](#), index and images, (\$)
- [British Nationals Died Overseas 1818-2005](#), index and images.
- [British Armed Forces and Overseas Deaths and Burials](#), index and images, (\$)

#### Compiled Genealogies

- [Poland, Jewish Records Indexing-Poland, Deaths, 1808-1942](#), index
- [Poland, Jewish Records Indexing-Poland, Marriages, 1798-1939](#), index
- [Poland, Jewish Prisoners of War Registration Cards, 1939-1945](#), index
- [Holocaust: Records from Ten Ghettos](#), index
- [Poland, Business Directories, 1926, 1930, 1932 and 1935](#), index
- [Poland, Martyred Jewish Physicians, 1939-1945](#), index
- [Poland, Jewish Children Survivors of the Holocaust, 1945](#), index

#### Military Records

- [Gazet Beskid, Polish soldiers of the last war buried in France](#), index
- [Haller's Army Index Database Search](#), index

#### Periodicals

- [PERiodical Source Index](#), index and images, (\$)

#### Political Victims

- [Indeks Represjonowanych](#)– Searchable database of people who were persecuted, killed or repatriated during Soviet rule of Poland.

- [GEDCOM Index, Poland](#)

### Emigration

- [19th Century Polish Immigrants to USA, 1834-1897](#), index

*Available through Polish Archives and Societies*

- [Geneszkacz wyszukiwarka nazwisk w bazach PTG](#), index. A service of Polish Genealogical Society (Polish Genealogical Association). Includes a parish registers indexing project, a public registers indexing project, Polish Declarations of Admiration and Friendship for the United States, the list of casualties of the Polish Army, killed in action or died from wounds from the years 1918-1920, and an index of soldiers of the Polish Legions from the years 1918-1920.
- [All Galicia Database](#)
- [Polish State Archives](#) Images only
- [Geneteka](#) Images and indexes

### Poland Wiki Topics



### Beginning Research

- [Research Strategies](#)
- [Record Finder](#)
- [Finding Town of Origin](#)

### Record Types

- [Cemeteries](#)
- [Genealogies](#)
- [Census](#)
- [Heraldry](#)
- [Jewish Records](#)

- [Church Directories](#)
- [Church Records](#)
- [Civil Registration](#)
  - [Austrian](#)
  - [Prussian](#)
  - [Russian](#)
- [Court Records](#)
- [Directories](#)
- [Emigration & Immigration](#)
- [Land & Property](#)
- [Military Records](#)
- [Nobility](#)
- Online Records
- [Periodicals](#)
- [Population](#)
- [Probate Records](#)
- [Religious Records](#)
- [Town Genealogies](#)

### Poland Background

- [Biography](#)
- [Church History](#)
- [Finding Aids](#)
- [For Further Reading](#)
- [Gazetteers](#)
- [Historical Geography](#)
- [History](#)
- [Languages](#)
- [Letter Writing Guide](#)
- [Maps](#)
- [Names](#)
- [Personal](#)
- [Polish Word List](#)
- [Social Life and Customs](#)

### Ethnicity

- [Minorities](#)

### Local Research Resources

- [Archives and Libraries](#)
- [Societies](#)
- [Family History Centers](#)

### Moderator

The FamilySearch [moderator](#) for Poland is [Pysnaks](#)

## Fourth Alternative for Locating International Records

There are nearly 60 countries on this Facebook group researched thus far with specific information about where in each country including their vital records that are not posted online but available for you

to pursue. These selected countries are listed below. Each link provides a wealth of links to find vital records along with a wealth of information about each country. If there are other countries that you need posted, please write a comment on the Facebook group and your wish will be my command for any of the following continents: Africa, Europe, Asia, South America, North America, Australia, Atlantic Ocean Islands, Pacific Ocean Islands and the Indian Ocean.

- [Important Websites for Namibia](#) or see November 15 posting
- [The Republic of Botswana: Important Websites for Genealogy](#): or see November 5 posting
- [Angola: The Immigration Origins of U.S. Slavery](#): or see October 31 posting
- [Important Websites for The Democratic Republic of the Congo Genealogy](#): or see October 29 posting
- [Important Websites for Ghana Genealogy](#): or see October 12 posting
- [Native American Genealogy](#): or see October 10 posting
- [Important Websites for Vietnam Genealogy](#): or see September 30 posting
- [Important Websites for Indonesia](#): or see September 29 posting
- [Important Websites for Jordan](#): or see September 14 posting
- [Important Websites for Israel](#): or see September 13 posting
- [Important Websites for Egypt](#): or see September 12 posting
- [Important Websites for South Africa](#): or see September 12 posting
- [Important Websites for Philippines](#): or see September 8 posting
- [Important Websites for El Salvador](#): or see September 7 posting
- [Important Websites for Guatemala](#): or see September 6 posting
- [Important Websites for South Korea](#): or see September 5 posting
- [Important Websites for Romania](#): or see September 1 posting
- [Important Websites for Argentina](#): or see August 31 posting
- [Important Websites for Chile](#): or see August 30 posting
- [Important Websites for African Americans](#): or see August 28 posting
- [Important Websites for Peru](#): or see August 27 posting
- [Important Websites for Croatia](#): or see August 22 posting
- [Important Websites for Belgium](#): or see August 17 posting
- [Important Websites for Portugal](#): or see August 17 posting
- [Important Websites for Greece](#): or see August 16 posting
- [Important Websites for Finland Genealogy](#): or see August 14 posting
- [Important Websites for Jewish Genealogy](#): or see August 13 posting
- [Important Websites for Austria](#): or see August 13 posting
- [Important Websites for Slovakia](#): or see August 12 posting
- [Important Websites for Wales](#): or see August 11 posting
- [Important Websites for Tonga](#): or see August 10 posting
- [Important Websites for Samoa](#): or see August 10 posting
- [Important Websites for Fiji](#): or see August 10 posting
- [Important Websites for China](#): or see August 9 posting
- [Important Websites for The Netherlands](#): or see August 9 posting
- [Important Websites for Spain](#): or see August 9 posting
- [Important Websites for Czech Republic](#): or see August 8 posting
- [Important Websites for Norway](#): or see August 8 posting
- [Important Websites for Hungary](#): or see August 8 posting
- [Important Websites for Slovenia](#): or see August 7 posting
- [Important Websites for Italy](#): or see August 7 posting
- [Important Websites for India](#): or see August 6 posting
- [Important Websites for Sweden](#): or see August 6 posting
- [Important Websites for Switzerland](#): or see August 3 posting
- [Important Websites for Brazil](#): or see August 3 posting
- [Important Websites for New Zealand](#): or see August 3 posting
- [Key Websites for Australia](#): or see August 2 posting



- [Important Websites for Ukraine:](#) *or see August 1 posting*
- [Important Websites for Russia:](#) *or see July 31 posting*
- [Important Websites for France:](#) *or see July 30 posting*
- [Important Websites for Japan:](#) *or see July 29 posting*
- [Important Websites for Canada:](#) *or see July 28 posting*
- [Important Websites for Denmark:](#) *or see July 28 posting*
- [Important Websites for Ireland:](#) *or see July 27 posting*
- [Important Websites for Mexico:](#) *or see July 25 posting*
- [Important German Genealogy Resources:](#) *or see July 25 posting*
- [Important United States Genealogy Research and Resource Tools:](#) *or see July 24 posting*
- [Important Websites for Scotland:](#) *or see July 24 posting*
- [Important Websites for England:](#) *or see July 23 posting*
- [Important Polish Genealogy Research and Resource Tools:](#) *or July 23 posting*

## **Closing Comments**

Records are essential for you to seek out in order to verify the authenticity of your family history research. While it may be cumbersome to find records of some of your ancestors, a bit expensive and time consuming, vital records are essential in that they provide a picturesque profile of your ancestors. Sometimes they will have spelling errors but it is important to do the research to validate the corrections ultimately. The more records you can obtain, the better your results will be. Whenever possible, your vital records could also be supplemented by church records, cemetery records, land records, last will and testament records, divorce records, census records, military records, newspaper obituaries and other available records. These multi-record results will bring you peace and happiness knowing that your ancestors now have an accurate account of their mortal lives. Yes, we are all one large family here on earth, but let's not lose any of our ancestors because we didn't verify their existence as comprehensive as was possible. The Lord will provide assistance. Pondering, fasting and praying can be game-changers in finding success in your genealogical pursuits. The "Spirit of Elijah" is a powerful force that I can not deny in my many moments of frustration and anguish when challenging research successes were finally achieved. If you don't have goals in your research endeavors, chances are you may not achieve what needs to be accomplished in your life-time. Again, check your patriarchal blessings for guidelines of what the Lord is expecting of you. And then don't disappoint the Lord, your ancestors and/or yourself.