

BRITISH COLUMBIA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

UNITED STATES GENEALOGICAL COFFEE CHAT - APRIL 2021

The British Columbia Genealogical Society – Home - <https://www.bcgs.ca/>

BCGS Library Catalogue: Click on icon to take you to the Library Search page. The library has a collection of United States research books on the shelves. For example:

The Palatine Families of New York, Henry Z. Jones Jr. The BCGS Genealogical Library holds the only local collection of these 10 books which are available for research on site.

The Trail of the Black Walnut by G. Elmore Reaman. 971.3 Rea. BCGS Genealogical Library.

MAJOR ONLINE RESOURCES

Ancestry: <https://www.ancestry.com/> or access through www.ancestry.ca/

- **Fold 3 by Ancestry: Military records** <https://www.fold3.com/>
- **Archives Family History** <https://www.archives.com> ????
- **Newspapers.com by Ancestry** <https://www.newspapers.com/>

Family Search: The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints sometimes referred to as the LDS or the Mormon Church <https://www.familysearch.org/>

My Heritage: <https://www.myheritage.com/> MyHeritage is an online genealogy platform with web, mobile, and software products and services that was first developed and popularized by the Israeli company MyHeritage in 2003. [Wikipedia](#)

Find My Past: <https://www.findmypast.com/>

Find a Grave: www.findagrave.com/ Free. The BCGS contributes to this site.

RootsWeb's World Connect Project: My Many Roots and Branches.
<http://wc.rootsweb.ancestry.com/>

American Ancestors is the new name for The New England Historic Genealogical Society. <https://www.americanancestors.org/index.aspx>

NARA – National Archives of the United States

US Civil War Records:

- a. **Ancestry** at www.ancestry.ca/
- b. **NARA - National Archives and Records Administration** at www.archives.gov/genealogy/ or <http://www.itd.nps.gov/cwss/soldiers.cfm>

World War I Resources for Genealogists:
<https://www.archives.gov/research/genealogy/wwi>

DAR – Daughters of the American Revolution - <http://www.dar.org/national-society>

SAR - National Society Sons of the American Revolution – Since 1889 – Inspiring American Patriotism <https://www.sar.org/>

Social Security Death Index – SSDI: <ssdi.rootsweb.ancestry.com/>

ELLIS ISLAND records at <https://www.statueofliberty.org/ellis-island/>

Ellis Island is a federally-owned island in New York Harbor that was the busiest immigrant inspection station in the United States. From 1892 to 1924, nearly 12 million immigrants arriving at the Port of New York and New Jersey were processed there under federal law. [Wikipedia](#)

Passenger Search: <https://heritage.statueofliberty.org/>

One-Step Webpages by Stephen P. Morse at <https://stevemorse.org/>

Also available through [familytree.com](#) <https://www.familytree.com/reviews/one-step-webpages/>

This site contains tools for finding immigration records, census records, vital records, and for dealing with calendars, maps, foreign alphabets, and numerous other applications

The USGenWeb Project - Free genealogy and family history online at

<https://www.usgenweb.org/> The USGenWeb Project is a group of volunteers working together and having fun providing free online genealogy help and information for every U.S. state and county.

Genealogy Bank: <http://www.genealogybank.com/gbnk/obituaries/>

Newspaper Obituaries throughout the US, 1940s and later. This is a subscription site.

Wiki Tree: <https://www.wikitree.com/indexes/person/A/index.html> An alphabetical listing of surnames with trees attached. Use the Family Tree feature.

Ancestral Findings - An online newsletter offering free genealogy lookups for many research records in the United States. <http://www.ancestralfindings.com>

Wikipedia - This is a **list of online newspaper archives** and some magazines and journals.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:List_of_online_newspaper_archives

OTHER RESOURCES ONLINE

California Vital Records Databases 1845 – 1985 at <http://www.vitalsearch-ca.com/gen/ca/vitals/vitalsm.htm>

California State Information File c 1845-c 1985

California Pioneer Index c 1900 – c 1970. Registry 1542 – 1848 **available at BCGS Genealogical Library.**

Vital Statistics Index c 1880 – c 1920

This is a paid site. The Current License Fee Is: **69.95** per year or **29.95** for 90 days for a Premium Membership.

Information and records for many other states are also included

Online Searchable New York Naturalization Records & Indexes

<http://www.germanroots.com/newyork.html>

The Ancestor Hunt - Research Guides - Directory of Historical Newspapers on the Internet Kenneth R Marks' Ancestor Hunt Blog: A list of online U.S. and Canada Newspaper collections <https://www.theancestorhunt.com/newspaper-research-links.html>

XooxleAnswers - professional researchers – Fees charged -

<https://www.xooxleanswers.com/>

-Cyndi's List – Home page - A comprehensive, categorized & cross-referenced list of links that point you to genealogical research sites online. <https://www.cyndislist.com/>

GENEALOGICAL SOCIETIES ie:

California Genealogical Society & Library - **CaliforniaAncestors.org** Check for genealogical societies in whichever state you are researching. ie. Google New Hampshire Genealogical Society and check the websites which are shown.

NEWSPAPER ARCHIVES

- NewspaperArchives – USA - <https://newspaperarchive.com/> Free 7 day trial

-University of Pennsylvania Libraries - Historical Newspapers Online

-Bowling Green State University - U.S. Historical Newspapers

-University of Illinois - Historical Newspapers Online

-Miriam Robbins' Online Historical Newspapers Website - Worldwide links

-Richard Heaton's Index to Digitalised British and Irish Newspapers Online

-Library of Congress - Newspaper Sources on the Web

-International Coalition on Newspapers - Newspaper Digitization Projects

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HOMESTEAD RECORDS

[The United States Bureau of Land Management](#) Once on the main page use the Search feature (upper left corner) for **General Land Office (GLO) Records Automation** and then choose Item Land Patents which will bring you to the search page. Enter the state (if known) and the name.

This is a database on its website of people who have claimed homestead land since the mid-1800's. It is arranged alphabetically by last name and cross-referenced by state. If you find your ancestor's name in the index, you can order their homestead file from the Bureau of Land Management.

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CITY DIRECTORIES LISTS: Author???

Where to look for old city directories that list your ancestors

1. The **public library** in the city or county of interest. Public libraries often collect directories for their own city and county. Start with their online catalogs. However, many libraries don't list each year of the directory they hold. The catalog might list only the earliest year, or give a range of years with no indication of missing volumes. If you don't find what you're looking for in the catalog, contact the library. (Bonus: Some libraries have digitized directories for their area. I recently discovered several Columbus city directories on the website of the Columbus Metropolitan Library.)
 2. **MyHeritage**. More specifically, search the free Compilation of Published Sources on MyHeritage, which contains a variety of types of books in addition to city directories.
 3. **Internet Archive**. Besides hosting the Wayback Machine, Internet Archive has digitized millions of items, including city and county directories. To find them, begin with a basic search of city directory or county directory (For example, Indianapolis city directory or Nassau county directory.)
 4. **Google Books**. Use the same search strategy that you would on Internet Archive. However, be aware that some results may only be a snippet or preview of the full directory.
 5. **Online Historical Directories Website**. This website has links to hundreds of online directories. Also check out Linkpendium and Cyndi's List (note that some of the links on these sites lead to fee-based resources).
 6. **WorldCat**. If the local public library doesn't have the directory you need and you can't find it digitized online, look it up in WorldCat to see what other libraries have it.
- Ancestry.com** Their collection of city directories is massive, but it doesn't include all of the ones that have been published. The local public library and other websites can help you fill in the gaps.

Pre-United States

All of these areas were settled prior to these dates but these are their official formations and when they came under jurisdictional rule.

(Courtesy of Marnie Ingvaldson - BCGS Member)

Delaware Colony (England 1664 - 30 Apr 1707, Great Britain 01 May 1707 - 04 Jul 1776)

Province of Pennsylvania (England 04 Mar 1681 - 30 Apr 1707, Great Britain 01 May 1707 - 04 Jul 1776)

Province of New Jersey (England 08 Sep 1664 - 30 Apr 1707, Great Britain 01 May 1707 - 04 Jul 1776)

Province of Georgia (Great Britain 21 Apr 1732 - 04 Jul 1776)

Connecticut Colony (England 03 Mar 1636 - 30 Apr 1707, Great Britain 01 May 1707 - 04 Jul 1776)

Province of Massachusetts Bay (England 14 May 1692 - 30 Apr 1707, Great Britain 01 May 1707 - 04 Jul 1776)

Province of Maryland (England 20 Jun 1632 - 30 Apr 1707, Great Britain 01 May 1707 - 04 Jul 1776)

Province of Carolina (England 30 Oct 1629 - 30 Apr 1707, Great Britain 01 May 1707 - 1712)

Province of South Carolina (Great Britain 1712 - 04 Jul 1776)

Province of New Hampshire (England 1629 - 30 Apr 1707 Great Britain 01 May 1707 - 04 Jul 1776)

Colony of Virginia (England 14 May 1607 - 30 Apr 1707, Great Britain 01 May 1707 - 04 Jul 1776)

Province of New York (England 1664 - 30 Apr 1707, Great Britain 01 May 1707 - 04 Jul 1776)

Province of North Carolina (Great Britain 1712 - 04 Jul 1776)

Colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations (England 1636 - 30 Apr 1707, Great Britain 01 May 1707 - 04 Jul 1776)

New Netherland (Dutch Republic 1614-1674) contained the areas that would become New York, New Jersey, Delaware, Connecticut and parts of Pennsylvania and Rhode Island. Prior to the establishment of English rule in those colonies they would have been referred to as New Netherland.