

# Genealogy Websites

This is just a very small sample of what is available on the internet. As you work on the internet you will find many, many more. Remember that when working on the internet, it is VERY easy to “fall down the rabbit hole” of clicking on links and get lost in the excitement of discovery. A couple of points help you focus:

1. Make a short, easy plan to identify what you are looking for and stick to it. *EX: Today I want to find the birth record of my Great Grandfather, Wilhelm Schneider born 1894 in Cincinnati, Ohio.*
2. Cite your source. Make a notation of where, when and how you found the information. Just remember: If I had to look at this document 9-12 months later, what would I need to find it again?

\$ = membership cost associated with this website

## Genealogy Gateway Websites

Websites that are a compilation of links to other websites which fit into a particular category.

### Cyndi's List

[www.cyndislist.com](http://www.cyndislist.com)

A well-known genealogy gateway website and one of the best with over 336,000 well categorized and cross-referenced list of links. Look for the purple button on the left-hand side named “Categories” to help you get started.

### Linkpendium

[www.linkpendium.com](http://www.linkpendium.com)

Not as well known, this website is a valuable source with over 10 billion links categorized by location and surname. Most links are for the United States, but additional links have been added for the United Kingdom and Ireland.

### Iowa GenWeb Project

[iagenweb.org](http://iagenweb.org)

This website is part of the USGenWeb Project, which is focused on providing internet websites for genealogical research in every county of the United States. The URL listed above will connect you to the Iowa GenWeb Project, but from the same location you can find connections to the USGenWeb Project as well as the WorldGenWeb Project, if interested.

## Database Websites

Websites that house database(s) of records. Examples of these include: Census records, Vital records (birth, marriage, death), Land records, Probate records and much, much more.

### FamilySearch

[www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org)

FamilySearch revolutionized genealogy when it began to digitize its vast collection of microfilmed records from around the world and to offer them freely for use by any interested family historian via the

# Genealogy Websites

internet. You do not have to be a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (Mormon Church) to use FamilySearch or to see the images of records you might find there. However, you will need to sign up for a free FamilySearch account to view digitized records.

## **Ancestry (\$)**

[www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com)

Contains a treasure trove of data and a subscription for a short length of time is certainly worthwhile, if the free surname and place search reveals material of interest. There is some material offered for free. You can access these databases by searching the Card Catalog using "free" as a keyword. After entering your search terms and selecting a record to view, you will be asked to create a free account, if you don't already have one, before you can actually see the record.

*Note: before committing to a subscription to Ancestry, check and see if your local public library, historical or genealogical society subscribes to the Ancestry Library Edition. While this will not allow you to search from the comfort of home, you can use their computer and not have to pay a subscription fee.*

## **Fold3 (\$)**

[www.fold3.com](http://www.fold3.com)

This website has access a large number of military related records. There are also millions of documents available on the Revolutionary War through the Iraq and Afghanistan conflicts, newspapers, naturalization documents, African American and Native American collections and much more.

## **Find A Grave**

[www.findagrave.com](http://www.findagrave.com)

You will find listings of grave sites from around the United States and in other countries. Most have photos of headstones included and sometimes other photos are included too.

*Note: Understand that these entries are provided by amateurs and if a relationship or other data is found here, then it may or may not be proven. Consider this as a finding aid and still perform your own research to validate the connection to your family tree.*

## Immigration

These websites focus specifically on the records of those that entered the United States from other countries.

### **Statue of Liberty-Ellis Island Foundation, Inc.**

[www.libertyellisfoundation.org](http://www.libertyellisfoundation.org)

This database contains the records of the 51 million immigrants who entered the United States through Ellis Island from 1892 to 1924. Searches are free, but access to detailed information requires free registrations.

### **Castle Garden**

[www.castlegarden.org](http://www.castlegarden.org)

A database of information on 11 million immigrants from 1820 through 1892, the year Ellis Island opened.

# Genealogy Websites

## Land, Property & Maps

Websites that focus specifically on Land ownership can validate the presence of your ancestor in a specific location

### **U.S. Bureau of Land Management – General Land Office Records**

[www.glorerecords.blm.gov](http://www.glorerecords.blm.gov)

Records for the Public Land States, including image access to more than 5 million Federal land title records issued between 1820 and the present, and images related to survey plats and field notes, dating back to 1810.

### **David Rumsey Map Collection**

[www.davidrumsey.com](http://www.davidrumsey.com)

This collection was started over 30 years ago and contains more than 150,000 maps from the 16<sup>th</sup> through the 21<sup>st</sup> century from around the world.

### **Old Maps Online**

[www.oldmapsonline.org](http://www.oldmapsonline.org)

This website was developed out of a love of history and heritage of old maps. There are over 400,000 maps available for viewing from different time periods.