

# **THE FRUGAL GENEALOGIST**

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# SESSION OUTLINE

- Libraries
- Internet research
- Local genealogical, historical societies
- Social media

# THE LIBRARY IS YOUR FRIEND

- City, county, university libraries
- Your own, where ancestors settled
- Genealogy
- Resources vary
- Some resources for patrons (cardholders) only

# **LIBRARY WEBSITES MIGHT HAVE**

- Newspaper index
- Obituary index, obituaries
- Marriage index
- Cemetery transcriptions
- Genealogy links

# ON SITE RESOURCES

- Genealogy room
- Subscriptions
- Genealogy books
- Specialized indices
- Newspapers on microfilm
- Local and regional records

# **LIBRARY VS SUBSCRIPTION ANCESTRY - BOTH**

- Create and edit family trees
- Provide hints and links to records
- Census, military, and immigration records, city directories, yearbooks, past addresses, photos, maps
- Upload pictures to your family tree

# **ANCESTRY SUBSCRIPTION**

- Add ancestry records to your family tree
- See and download from others' family trees
- Download pictures, documents, stories from trees and other sources
- Communicate with other researchers
- DNA connections

# **ANCESTRY LIBRARY EDITION**

- Uncluttered search screen
- Easy for beginners to use
- Searching is clear and straightforward
- Documents, can be saved on flash drive or printed while onsite
- During COVID, some libraries made ancestry available on line for patrons only

# HERITAGEQUEST

- Library subscription available online to library patrons
- Census records (uses ancestry index)
- Books still in copyright
- Download books one page at a time

# FINDING LIBRARIES

- Libweb.com - links to local library Web sites throughout U.S.
- Also use social media to identify
- Chronicling America (LoC) provides index of sources for newspaper holdings--print and microfilm

# **FREE INTERNET SOURCES**

- Cyndi's List
- Familysearch.org
- Findagrave.com
- Rootsweb.com
- Usгенweb sites
- Immigration records

# CYNDISLIST.COM

- Genealogical research portal
- Categorized, cross-referenced index
- “Card catalog” to genealogical collection in Internet library
- Index of free and fee-based sites
- Links to state libraries, archives, genealogical and historical societies

# GENEALOGY WEBSITES

- Set up free account
- Username/password
- Paid sites – most offer
  - ✓ Limited access free  
(searching, indexes)
  - ✓ Free viewing times

# **FAMILY SEARCH.ORG**

- Limited search engine (difficult to restrict)
- Catalog digitized collections browsable, but not indexed for searching
  - ✓ Can see digitized collections
  - ✓ Search by location, then topic
  - ✓ Tedious browsing searching

# FAMILYSEARCH CATALOG

- **Catalog** of genealogical materials
- Books, online materials, microfilm, microfiche, and publications
- Not all digitized
- Goal of increased digital access
- Start search with location (state, county)

# FINDAGRAVE.COM

- Over 238 million grave records
- Links to parents and spouse
  - ✓ Children, siblings
- Pictures (up to five)
- Sponsor memorial
- Owned by ancestry.com

# USGENWEB.ORG

- By state, then county
- Some counties up for adoption
- Free online resources
- Resources vary
- Over 3000 website links
- Maintained by volunteers

# WORLDGENWEB.ORG

- Resources vary
- Maintained by volunteers
- Structured landing page for each country
- Links and recommended sites for research
- Genealogical and historical records by country

# **IMMIGRATION RECORDS**

- **Castle Garden – 1830 to 1892**
- **Ellis Island – 1892 to 1954**
- **Major fire Ellis Island 6-13-1897**
  - ✓ Consumed all Castle Garden admin records from 1855-1890
  - ✓ Most of Barge Office records
  - ✓ First six years of Ellis Island records

# ONE-STEP SEARCH STEVE MORSE.ORG/

- Search multiple immigration sites with one search (can use soundex)
- Other genealogy-related searches
- Some for-fee sections (ancestry.com)
- Connect to Ellis Island site to see documents for NYC entries

# RANDYMAJORS.ORG

- Historical US maps
- Search place name by dates for jurisdictional information
- World boundary maps
- Time zones, area codes
- Climate information

# VITAL RECORDS - PUBLIC

|                          |           |
|--------------------------|-----------|
| ➤ Census records (law)   | 72 years  |
| ➤ Military records (law) | 62 years  |
| ➤ Death certificates     | 50 years  |
| ➤ Birth certificates     | 105 years |
| ➤ Marriage records       | Public    |
| ➤ Probated wills         | Public    |
| ➤ Deeds                  | Public    |

# U.S. CENSUS RECORDS

- Search for free:
  - ✓ Familysearch.org
  - ✓ Heritagequest (uses ancestry indexing)
  - ✓ National Archives
- Began 1790, then every 10 years
- Some states had own census
- Some special schedules

# FEDERAL CENSUS

- 1790-1840 head of household
- 1850-1870 all names
- 1880 (and after) relationships
- 1890 destroyed
- 1900-1950

# **BMD VITAL RECORDS**

- Birth, marriage, and death records
- In general, U.S. states began keeping in early 1900s
- Usually full name, date and place of event
- Many contain much more information
- Only primary for the event itself
- Always examine original document

# VITALREC.COM

- Vital records - most important records for genealogists
- Information - obtain vital records (usually for fee)
- Links to state/county resources for obtaining records
- Order at county/town level if possible (faster and cheaper)

# DEATH CERTIFICATE INFO

- Date/Place of birth and death
- Cause of death
- Marital status
- Date/Place of burial
- Parents, spouse name
- Name of informant

# DEATHINDEXES.COM

- Portal – links to sources
- Online searchable death indexes and records by state and county
- Death notices and registers, obituaries, wills and probate
- County/town record option
- Info about searching SSDI

# **SS DEATH INDEX (SSDI)**

- 1962 - Feb 2014
- 1962 – 1980 incomplete
- 1980 forward more complete
- Death place is place of last benefit!! Not place of death

# LEARNWEBSKILLS.COM

- Website for genealogical documentation for DAR applicants
- Free and open to public
- Record links by state to:
  - ✓ Birth records
  - ✓ Death records
  - ✓ Marriage records
  - ✓ Wills and probate records

# LEGACY.COM

- World-wide cooperative effort of major newspapers ~ funeral homes
- Obituaries from 2000; be sure to set for correct date range
- Default date is three days
- E-mail notification for deaths

# OBITUARIES

- Funeral homes
- Newspapers
- Library sites
- Google search: recent: name + obituary

# CREATIVE SEARCHING

- Genealogy + husband/wife names
- Cemetery transcriptions
- Advantages of using google (or other search engines)
- Use of quotes
- Ads

# **THEANCESTORHUNT.COM**

- How-tos, reference guides
- Newspaper links
- Birth, marriage, death links
- Yearbooks, city directories links
- Church records links
- Historic photo collections links

# CHRONICLING AMERICA

- National Endowment of Humanities (NEH) - Library of Congress project
- Historic newspapers 1789-1924, some more recent
- Newspaper directory 1690-present
- Excellent search engine

# ARCHIVE.ORG

- Non-profit library – books, movies, software, music, and more
- County and family history books
- Census copies
- *Wayback Machine*: archived websites
- Digital library card (openlibrary.org) – electronic borrowing of books

# **\$UBSCRIPTION \$ITES**

- Mailing list – free access times
- Free parts of paid sites
  - ✓ Search
  - ✓ Indexes
  - ✓ Genealogybank.com – free access to SSDI records

# GENEALOGY SOCIETIES

- Marriage, divorce index/records
- Wills, land index/records
- Maps
- County cemetery index
- Cemetery books
- Items for purchase

# **SOCIAL MEDIA**

- Over 16,700 genealogy-related and history-related Facebook links pdf, last update January 2021
- Subscription site look-ups
- Connect with family (pictures, stories)
- Find resources for research