

Finding Ancestors

Some of My Sources

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Check out <https://www.suncitylhgc.com/resources>

Ask Your Family

- Living relatives: Let everyone in your family know that you're interested in genealogy and could they contribute to your family tree.
- Bibles – Birth, Death, Marriage notes in family bibles.
- Photos includes sketches and photographs. I digitize everything and back it up.
- Other
 - Books, chronicles, letters, news articles, ...
 - Ahnenpass (German ancestors living from mid-1930s – early 1940s)

Internet Sources

- Family Search.com: A more reliable source of family information. **One tree for everyone.**
 - Week in Salt Lake City at Ancestor Seekers Salt Lake City Research Trip.
<https://ancestorseekers.com/>
 - Sacramento Family History Center for classes, scanning, research:
[https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/Sacramento California FamilySearch Center](https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/Sacramento_California_FamilySearch_Center)
 - Be an ancestor contributor to FamilySearch.
- Ancestry.com: Huge source of information. A tree for each contributor, so there's lots of copying of sometimes erroneous information. Check everything. A subscription is expensive, but you can purchase during a sale.
 - Ancestry DNA: Very useful for adding cousins. <https://www.ancestry.com/dna/>
 - Ancestry ThruLines for finding cousins from common ancestors. Must have a tree on Ancestry.
- DNA and Genetic Genealogy helps connect you with cousins and ancestors.
<https://www.suncitylhgc.com/dna>
- Immigration records
 - Castle Garden immigration station 1855 to 1890. Then temporary until January 1, 1892.
 - Ellis Island, 1892 to 1954, largest and most active immigration station.
 - General: <https://www.statueofliberty.org/>
 - Search Ellis Island records: <https://heritage.statueofliberty.org/passenger>
- Ship Manifests. Good sources are Ancestry, FamilySearch, MyHeritage, Ellis Island.
- HathiTrust.org Digital Library. Log in with your partner institution. Download books, papers, ...
- People Finders:
 - Person's name, allowing for variations, add some restrictions, e.g., death date, wife's first name,...
 - LinkedIn.com, spokeo.com, beenverified.com, fastpeoplesearch.com, etc.
- If your ancestor is creative, see Patents: <https://patents.justia.com/inventor/>
- Facebook search for relationships.
- German Emigration Center, Bremerhaven (Deutsches Auswandererhaus).
 - <https://dah-bremerhaven.de/>

- German Ancestors: Online or Church-related in Germany.
 - <https://www.ortsfamilienbuecher.de/>
 - Visits to church-related data centers in Germany.
 - <https://www.suncitylhgc.com/foreign>

Census Records contain a snapshot of the nation that's valuable for family history and US history.

- 1850, June 1st. Was the first US census that listed every free household member by name.
- 1890, the 11th census, was badly damaged by a fire in 1921.
- 1900, June 1st, included month and year of birth, how long married, how long in US, etc.
- 1910, April 15th. was the first to be enumerated by April 15th.
- 1920, January 5th, 48 states plus territories.
- 1950, April 1st. Most recent. Included sample lines with additional questions.
- **Census Tips and Notes:**
 - See <https://www.suncitylhgc.com/census>
 - Start with most current year and work backwards.
 - Enumerators wrote down what was given and no proof was needed. Only the 1940 census tells us who answered the questions.
 - Note that township, city, county boundaries have changed over the years.
 - Misspellings happen. Try not to use **Exact** in your searches. Try wild card searching (*, ?) – see Ancestry **Wild Card** help
 - Beware of transcription errors, enumerator bias, enumerator error, respondent error.
 - Be sure to evaluate, verify, browse surrounding pages, compare and learn about abbreviations used. There is no 'continued on next page' notice, so one family can be on two pages.
 - Everything is as it was on the census day: age, marriage, ...

Obituaries can provide generations of genealogy information

- FindAGrave, <https://www.findagrave.com/> is free and owned by Ancestry.
- BillionGraves, <https://billiongraves.com/> - both free and subscription (\$60/year).
- Websites, Newspapers.com, Funeral Homes, Legacy.com, ...
- See <https://www.suncitylhgc.com/graves>

Roots Tech is sponsored every year in spring by Family Search.

- Lots of educational classes which are kept for three years.
- Easy to connect with relatives. (One month limit).

Long Term Storage of Digital Files

- Backup – make copies on several different devices after a work session. Store media in fireproof, waterproof locations. Consider a Faraday cage for sunspot flares.
- Use remote storage such as a bank safety deposit box. Keep it updated.
- Use redundant storage devices such as RAID.
- Consider both PC programs and remote (Ancestry, MyHeritage,...) trees.