



## Larimer County Genealogical Society

Research · Learning · Fellowship

### 2020 POPULAR GENEALOGY WEBSITES

There are over five million worldwide websites dedicated to genealogy research. Most of these websites are dedicated to family surnames. There are over 5,000 websites dedicated to genealogy societies of all types and locations across the world. Over 500 websites are dedicated to online databases. We've listed below the most popular free and subscription genealogy websites that most genealogists use for their research.

#### FREE GENEALOGY WEBSITES

[www.familysearch.org/](http://www.familysearch.org/) This is the official web site of the Family History Library. This free site contains over four billion worldwide records and growing weekly. It's expected to be the largest database site within 10 years. They are digitizing their microfilm records and are available under the Research tab. They also have extensive records in their International Genealogical Index and Pedigree Resource File.

[www.usgenweb.org](http://www.usgenweb.org) This website contains databases and information for each state and county. The state page has a good overview of information relative to that specific state. To further your search, choose the county in which you are researching that includes many cemeteries and cemetery lists. Lots of local links and contacts for volunteers are a valuable research aid.

[www.worldgenweb.org](http://www.worldgenweb.org) This is the worldwide version of USGenWeb. It's a good starting point for research in other countries. Select the continent, country, and province or region. Depending on the country, many research databases or recommendations in that country are offered. Search Ancestry's worldwide database indexes as an alternative.

[www.rootsweb.ancestry.com](http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com) This site is probably one of the largest FREE genealogy sites. World Connect shows information on families that thousands of people have submitted. Many genealogy societies and family associations use their FREE website.

[www.cyndislist.com](http://www.cyndislist.com) This most important site categorizes various websites by subject. A major starting point to assist a researcher in locating websites that direct them to their ancestors.

[www.google.com](http://www.google.com) This is the world's most popular search engine. Search for a specific individual or genealogy for a specific area. Use special characters to widen or narrow search results. Example: "Larimer County, CO genealogy." Users can even search for images and books of ancestors.

[www.castlegarden.org](http://www.castlegarden.org) and [www.ellisland.org](http://www.ellisland.org) These websites are used for immigration records for those who arrived at Castle Garden between 1855-1891 or Ellis Island between 1892-1954. Castle Garden has only an index. If an ancestor is located there, it's necessary to access the original passenger lists elsewhere such as Ancestry.com, National Archives facility, or on FamilySearch.com.

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[www.findmypast.com/mocavo-info](http://www.findmypast.com/mocavo-info) A free sister site to FindMyPast, which contains millions of free genealogy records, family trees, wikis, and a free message board. They offer a Silver and Gold subscription service with more genealogy records from their FindMyPast website.

<http://stevemorse.org> Steve Morse's easy to use One Step website is an important aid in finding ancestors at many different immigration ports and other records. His website allows different types of searches to be made besides giving many tips on research.

[www.glorerecords.blm.gov](http://www.glorerecords.blm.gov). You can search for homestead property purchased by individuals and land warrants given to military personnel and others. You can view and print the original deed as signed by the President of the U.S.

[www.findagrave.com](http://www.findagrave.com) or [www.billiongraves.com](http://www.billiongraves.com) Over 25 million grave records and growing searchable by surname. In addition to dates, etc., many include a picture of the tombstone or ancestor photos. You can also search for a cemetery by name.

[www.deathindexes.com](http://www.deathindexes.com). Another directory of online death indexes listed by state.

[www.linkpendium.com/genealogy/USA](http://www.linkpendium.com/genealogy/USA) This site, much like Cyndi's List has links to various genealogy websites. Thousands of links are added each week. Arranged by surnames or by state.

[www.archives.gov/research/genealogy](http://www.archives.gov/research/genealogy) The National Archives contains census, military, passenger, and regional records from seven states available to the public at their Broomfield facility. Please call 303-604-4760 for location and hours. Has Ancestry.com & Fold.com and regional databases in their genealogy room. Also has local classes.

[www.wwiimemorial.com](http://www.wwiimemorial.com) This is a free National World War II memorial website dedicated to all the veterans of this major war. Many veterans have been listed in the registry along with photos. Any reader can add their veteran's name and biography to this popular military website. There are many military unit websites available also.

### SUBSCRIPTION WEBSITES

All subscription websites have free indexes to review, but charge a fee for downloading the images. Many of these websites offer a free two week trial subscription.

[www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com) Contains the complete U.S. censuses with four different schedules and well as the largest collection of worldwide records. Available to individuals, many libraries for free, and FHCs for free. They have over 20 billion records in 32,750 worldwide databases covering 80 countries, 100 million family trees, 250 million photos and documents, and have nine worldwide subscription websites. Offers a Library Edition at our libraries in Fort Collins and Loveland.

Researchers can purchase either monthly (\$30/\$45) or annual subscriptions (\$189 to \$399) for either the U.S., Worldwide, or All Access editions. They have the largest DNA user base with over 16 million autosomal DNA testing users. Offers a free trial.

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[www.myheritage.com](http://www.myheritage.com) This popular English and U.S. website has access to over 11 billion U.S. and international records on BMD, church, census, military, and other records plus 49 million family trees and over 199 million photos. The annual subscription rate varies from \$139 to \$299 per year, but other plans are available. They also operate [worldvitalrecords.com](http://worldvitalrecords.com) and a genealogy DNA testing lab with health reports from [Promethease.com](http://Promethease.com). Has over 6,600 record collections from seven continents. Offers a Library edition at many libraries including our Fort Collins Library with access via your library card. Offers a free trial.

[www.fold3.com](http://www.fold3.com) A popular website by Ancestry.com focusing on military records from the National Archives in US and UK and Library of Congress besides state records. They have over 610 record collections with 550 million documents and photos available. Fees \$80 annually, but offers discounted plans. Available for free at Family History Centers. Offers a 7 day free trial.

[www.findmypast.com](http://www.findmypast.com) This site has many images and two billion records of the U.K. countries and U.S. of all the different popular collections. Annual or monthly subscriptions available from \$14 per month to \$180 annually. Has free 14 day free trial.

[www.genealogybank.com](http://www.genealogybank.com) Another emerging site that adds thousands of images every day. Contains over 11,000 historic newspapers from 1690 to today and over 250 million obituaries. Also online historic books of 1749-1900 and more. Fees range from \$20 monthly to \$70 for a year. Operated by Newsbank.com. Offers a 7 day free trial.

[www.godfrey.org](http://www.godfrey.org) This website includes many donated bible records, over 4,000 biographies, and subscriptions range from \$40 to \$60. Users can also enter as a guest to view the data bases. Also available for free at the Family History Centers.

[www.americanancestors.org](http://www.americanancestors.org). This website has many documents on the original colonies. Access all their databases for \$95 per year. Membership includes 250+ million records with 1.4 billion names on AmericanAncestors.org, quarterly subscriptions to *American Ancestors*, and *The Register*, free admission to our library including special collections and manuscripts, online courses, and our weekly e-newsletter *The Weekly Genealogist* and more.

[www.archives.com](http://www.archives.com) Another genealogy website (formerly [genealogyarchives.com](http://genealogyarchives.com)) and part of Ancestry.com that focuses on many government vital records in the United States. They have over 11.6 billion records in 658 record collections available for a monthly fee of \$10. Free trial.

[www.newspaperarchive.com](http://www.newspaperarchive.com) This website includes over tens of millions of worldwide newspaper pages from 1607 to the present. It is free at most libraries in many U.S. cities. Fees range from \$20 per month to \$140 annually. Part of Myheritage.com.

[www.vitalrec.com](http://www.vitalrec.com) or [www.vitalchek.com](http://www.vitalchek.com) Need a vital record at different counties in the U.S. They have agreements with all U.S. counties to obtain the vital records. Fees vary, but they charge an average of \$20 to \$30 per vital record from any county in the U.S.

[http://services.dar.org/public/dar\\_research/search/?tab\\_id=0](http://services.dar.org/public/dar_research/search/?tab_id=0) Daughters of American Revolution has a library with many records comprised of RW patriots that anyone can search. There is a

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minimum \$15 fee for making copies up to 10 records. For more info on additional copies, please visit their webpage at <https://www.dar.org/library/services/search-services>.

<https://sarpatriots.sar.org/> Sons of American Revolution has a similar research service on RW patriots. They also charge a fee for making copies.

### POPULAR NEWSLETTER/BLOGS

[www.eogn.com](http://www.eogn.com) World famous genealogist Dick Eastman has this free daily online newsletter that also includes a blog section for readers to reply with their comments. Dick focuses on technology, genealogy news, and current events. He also has a weekly Plus Edition that he charges a nominal fee for more in depth articles written by him and other famous genealogists.

<http://legalgenealogist.com/blog/> Legal genealogist Judy Russell's popular daily legal blog discusses many legal issues facing the genealogy community. It's free.

### MESSAGE BOARDS

There are several message boards to make contact with lost cousins or other researchers interested in the same surnames. These popular message boards are divided by surnames of different spellings, topics, and locations. Additionally, there are many message boards connected to many military unit websites that are operated by veterans or their families.

<http://boards.ancestry.com/> or <http://boards.rootsweb.com/> The world's largest online genealogy community with over 25 million posts on more than 198,000 message boards.

[www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/roots-l/](http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/roots-l/) This is a free email list service to receive any replies on Ancestry or Rootsweb message boards. The mailing lists are divided by surnames or locations. Users can belong to as many as required.

<http://genforum.genealogy.com/index.html> The sister site of Ancestry.com includes their own popular free message board worth reviewing and using.

### FREE OR LOW COST VOLUNTEER RESEARCH SERVICES

If you need free or low cost research services, there is a network of volunteers who will do research in their area. USGenWeb also offers research volunteers at the updated [www.raogk.org](http://www.raogk.org) or [www.usgenweb.org](http://www.usgenweb.org) websites. Look for the volunteers in each county. Another volunteer resource is the local genealogy societies.

Enjoy researching your ancestors! Visit our society website for local databases or our Facebook page for the latest news and events noted below!

Larimer County Genealogical Society  
Website: [www.lcgsco.org](http://www.lcgsco.org)

Society Facebook Page for all ages  
Website: [www.facebook.com/lcgsco](http://www.facebook.com/lcgsco)