

## **Genealogy and Family History – Clearbrook Activities – 24 Jun + 18 Nov 2020**

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### **Websites for building your family tree**

#### **Ancestry.com**

Subscription - This powerful website is home to more than 20 billion records, 100 million family trees and over 16 million DNA profiles. Be sure to check out Ancestry Academy and Ancestry YouTube channel for beginner-friendly tutorials. Many U.S. libraries offer Ancestry Library Edition free to patrons. Owns Newspapers.com and Fold3.com (military records).

#### **Archives.com**

Subscription – A budget-friendly, scaled-down version of Ancestry, its owner. The core historical record collections are for the United States, so this may be a good option for beginning researchers who believe their families have been in the United States for several generations.

#### **FamilySearch.org**

World's best all-free genealogy website, with over 7 billion global, name-searchable records, and billions of additional ones to page through. Learn research skills with the Research Wiki (under the Search tab).

#### **Findmypast.com**

Subscription - If you have roots in the United Kingdom, consider this site to gain access to millions of British and Irish newspapers and census, parish, military, and criminal records.

#### **MyHeritage.com**

Subscription - If you have more recent immigrant origins or are especially interested in finding overseas cousins, consider MyHeritage, home to more than 12.5 billion historical records and DNA testing. This Israeli website is strongest for continental Europe, Scandinavian countries, and Jewish research.

### **Websites for final resting places**

#### **BillionGraves.com**

World's largest GPS-linked cemetery database; the smartphone app can be used to document memorials on-site. Even if a loved one's gravestone is damaged or worn by time, the invaluable information recorded at their final resting place can still be available. (Source: BillionGraves.com)

#### **FindAGrave.com**

Best place on the internet to look for burial and other final disposition information for your family, friends, and famous people. World's largest gravesite collection with over 180 million memorials created by the community since 1995. (Source: FindAGrave.com)

### **Websites for DNA tests**

#### **23andMe**

Best known for its health reports, 23andMe also has an enormous pool of DNA testers: over 10 million. It doesn't have as many tools to help reconstruct your family tree using DNA as AncestryDNA or MyHeritage DNA, but its genetically-oriented Family Tree is unique and helpful.

#### **AncestryDNA**

More than 16 million people have taken DNA tests here, making it a prime place to connect with genetic relatives. Powerful tools help users compare their family trees with each other and figure out how they might be related.

## **Family Tree DNA**

This DNA testing company offers more than the standard autosomal DNA test provided by others. Customers can also choose various levels of Y-DNA testing, to look at paternal-line ancestry (for men only), and mtDNA (mitochondrial) testing, to look at deep maternal ancestry (both women and men can take this test).

## **Living DNA**

The newest of the major genetic genealogy companies, this one is best known for offering the most detailed breakdown for ancestral origins in Britain and Ireland. It doesn't yet have as robust a customer base as the others or robust tools for determining the nature of relationships to genetic matches.

## **MyHeritage**

Marketed widely in Europe, this DNA testing company may be a good option if you're looking for DNA matches who may still live in your ancestral homeland. Online tools help testers compare their family trees and even provide theories about how they may be related.

## **Websites for learning more about genealogy**

### **Cyndi's List**

Consider Cyndi Ingle's free site as your table of contents for online genealogy. You'll find lists of sites dedicated to researching particular places, types of records, ethnic and religious groups, and more. Check out the Beginner's category for guides and tips just for newbies. But also watch for topics you're interested in, like military research or DNA.

### **Family Tree Magazine**

Online and paper magazine printed 6 times per year. Offers abundant tools and how-tos for beginners. Under Free Resources, find downloadable forms, eBooks, cheat sheets, podcasts and more. The cheat sheets can be especially helpful for beginners.

### **Google**

Clues about your ancestors' lives may be as close as your next Google search. In addition to the ability to search for names and places, Google offers several genealogy-friendly tools: Google Books, Google Maps, and Google Earth are just a few.

### **Legacy Family Tree Webinars**

Webinars free during first presentation, then available through subscription. On file: 1365 classes of genealogy education; 5306 pages of instructor handouts.

### **ThoughtCo.com**

Click this free site's Humanities tab, then History & Culture > Genealogy to dive into dozens of free how-to articles covering genealogy research basics, online searching, and sharing and preserving the past. You won't do actual research on this site, but you'll learn a lot.

### **Your DNA Guide**

A hands-on, try-this-now approach to finding answers from DNA testing – whether you've tested already or not. Under Resources, find easy-reading introductions to specific questions you can ask your DNA, such as ethnicity and geographical origins; finding biological relatives; and identifying unknown ancestors on your family tree.

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