

Tips for Researching on Ancestry

Accessing Ancestry.com

- ▶ Without a membership, you can access the databases on Ancestry from a public library or a FamilySearch Center
- ▶ Without a membership, you can research, but NOT build a tree on the site
- ▶ With a membership, you can research and build your own tree
- ▶ Your tree on Ancestry can be public or private
 - ▶ Public allows you to interact with others with similar research interests
 - ▶ Private allows you to research without others seeing your research/tree
 - ▶ This option is found in your tree settings
- ▶ Church of Jesus Christ members can have a free account on Ancestry because of a partnership between Ancestry and FamilySearch. To set this up, go to: www.familysearch.org/partneraccess

Starting a Search from a Person Page in FamilySearch

- From a person's page, you can go to the Search Records Tool Box on the right hand side
- Click on Ancestry
- This will open up Ancestry in another tab and prefill the search fields for you

Pansy Elizabeth Ferguson
27 August 1912 – 5 December 1989 • KWB8-FG5

VIEW TREE VIEW RELATIONSHIP FOLLOW

About Details Sources (34) Collaborate (3) Memories (75) Time Line Ordinances

Vitals

Detail View

Name • 29 Sources Pansy Elizabeth Ferguson	Sex • 26 Sources Female
Birth • 13 Sources 27 August 1912 Brittany, Ascension, Louisiana, United States	Christening + ADD
Death • 6 Sources 5 December 1989 Brittany, Ascension, Louisiana, United States	Burial • 3 Sources 1989 Gonzales, Ascension, Louisiana, United States

Other Information

Research Help

Search Records

- FamilySearch
- Ancestry**
- Findmypast
- MyHeritage
- Geneanet
- Fileae
- Google

Narrowing Down Your Search on Ancestry

- ▶ After filling in search fields, you can narrow down your results to specific categories
- ▶ What are you looking for:
 - ▶ Family members - try Census Records
 - ▶ Photos - Try Pictures
 - ▶ Army service - Try Military Records
 - ▶ Father's Name - Try Birth Records
 - ▶ Spouse - Try Marriage Records
- ▶ Filter by Location and Year

Filters

- > Census & voter lists
- > Birth, marriage & death
- > Military
- > Immigration & emigration
- > Newspapers & periodicals
- > Pictures
- > Stories, memories & histories
- > Directories & member lists
- > Court, land, wills & financial
- > Dictionaries, encyclopedias & reference
- > Family trees
- ▼ Record location
 - > North America
 - > Europe
 - > Oceania
 - > Asia
 - > Africa
 - > South America
- ▼ Record date
 - > 1500
 - > 1800
 - > 1900
 - > 2000

Utilizing Others' Research: How to find "Good Fruit" in Family Trees

- ▶ All Family Trees on Ancestry aren't the same - - how to know which have "good fruit"
 - ▶ Look to see how many Records and Sources the tree has - usually, the more, the better
 - ▶ Look at the sources listed and see if they are accurate
 - ▶ If the only source is "Ancestry Family Trees", they just copied someone else's information - BEWARE
 - ▶ Finding a tree that has collected documents and sources such as census records, birth and death records, etc is a great resource. They have a good start to your research and can save you a lot of time in your research.

Pansy Elizabeth Ferguson (Richardson) from tree

Birth 27 Aug 1912 Brittany, Ascension, Louisiana, USA
 Residence 1930 Ascension, Louisiana, USA
 Marriage 10 Sep 1938 Brittany, Ascension, Louisiana, USA
 Death 5 Dec 1989 Brittany, Ascension, Louisiana, USA

680 People 4 Records 15 Sources

Pansy Elizabeth Ferguson from tree

Birth 27 Aug 1912 Brittany, Ascension, Louisiana, USA
 Marriage 29 Nov 1939 Brittany, Ascension, Louisiana, USA
 Residence 1950 Ascension, Louisiana, USA
 Death 5 Dec 1989 Brittany, Ascension, Louisiana, USA

848 People 1 Record 4 Sources

Sources

Ancestry Sources

- 1920 United States Federal Census
- 1930 United States Federal Census
- Ancestry Family Trees
- U.S., Social Security Death Index, 1935-Current
- Web: Louisiana, Find A Grave Index, 1700-2012

A hidden gem for finding parents and birth information for someone

- ▶ Social Security Applications are a treasure when searching for a person's parent information and birth information.
- ▶ Social Security began in August 1935; anyone who passed away before then, would not have a social security record
- ▶ Groups such as public servants - police, fireman, teachers as well as farmers, do not participate in Social Security...they have different retirement savings plans - so if those were their only careers, they most likely will not have social security records
- ▶ The record collection dates from 1935-2014
- ▶ From the Ancestry main page click:
 - ▶ Search > Card Catalog > Keyword "social security" > US, Social Security Applications and Claims Index > Fill in Vital info and Search
- ▶ Social Security applications are most often filled out by the person or a parent, therefore, the information is usually complete and accurate - so a trusted source