

# 10 Essential Free Resources for Your Genealogy

## 1. FamilySearch

[FamilySearch.org](http://FamilySearch.org) has more than 4 billion searchable records from around the world. For some collections, you will need to create a free account to view. The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints runs FamilySearch, but you do not need to be Mormon to use it.

## 2. Ancestry's Free Collections

Ancestry has numerous collections that are open to the public at <http://search.ancestry.com/search/group/freeindexacom>. Do a search and when you click to see a result, you'll be prompted to create a free account.

## 3. FindAGrave

With more than 141 million records available for free, you shouldn't ignore [FindAGrave.com](http://FindAGrave.com). Note: don't fill in all of the dates, as not all records include them.

## 4. BillionGraves

[BillionGraves.com](http://BillionGraves.com) doesn't have a billion records, but it's worth checking out the millions it does have. Free to search and view results; additional features with a paid account.

## 5. GenWeb

GenWeb is a volunteer effort to make records available for free. Coverage varies by location. For the US, go to [USGenWeb.org](http://USGenWeb.org) and explore both the state and the county pages. Outside the US, go to [WorldGenWeb.org](http://WorldGenWeb.org).

## 6. RootsWeb

[RootsWeb.com](http://RootsWeb.com) is a mix of all types of free resources: websites, email lists, and trees. It is owned by Ancestry. You can explore the resources individually or do a search of all of them from the main page. (Just be sure to search in the "Search RootsWeb.com" section.)

## 7. Google Books

Google Books – [books.google.com](http://books.google.com) – has an enormous collection of digitized books, many of which are full-text searchable. Excellent source for county histories, annual reports, unit histories, etc.

## 8. Internet Archive

Internet Archive at [archive.org](http://archive.org) is best known for the Wayback Machine, which allows people to find websites that no longer exist. But it also has millions of digitized books, audio files, etc.

## 9. Digital Public Library of America

The Digital Public Library of America at [dp.la](http://dp.la) is a partnership of more than 1,600 libraries across the US and has more than 11 million digitized items.

## 10. Your Local Public Library

Even if you don't live where your ancestors were from, you can still find excellent resources at your local public library. Many offer access to sites such as Ancestry, FindMyPast, Fold3, HeritageQuest, and Newspapers.com – all for the low price of having a library card!