

Introduction to Genealogy

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Laying a Foundation – today's agenda

- Benefits of genealogy & getting started
- Genealogy software and how to access for free and from home
- Genealogy Resources
 - Las Vegas FamilySearch Center
 - Genealogy conferences
 - Genealogy groups in Clark County
 - Genealogy TV shows



“Why should you do genealogy” by genealogist Aimee Cross

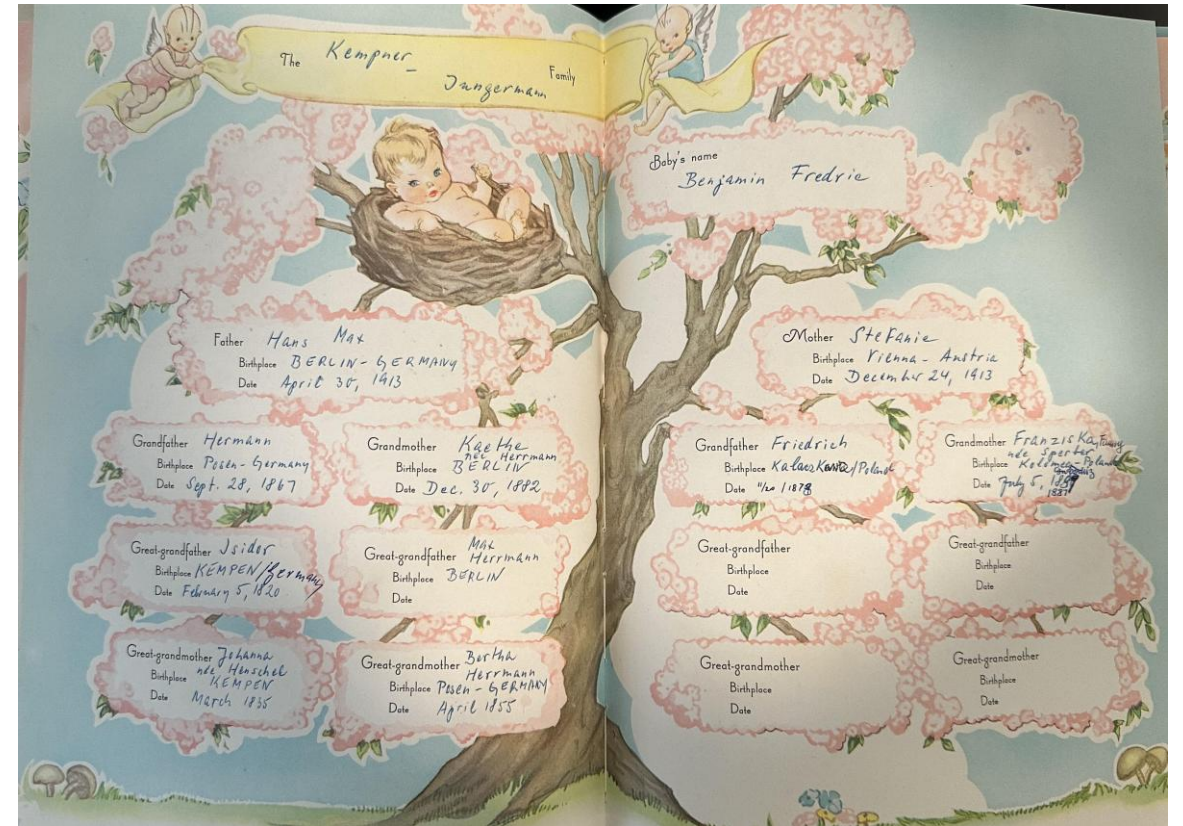
- Aimee Cross is a professional genealogist.
- She has posted 170+ videos on genealogy topics
- She almost 20K followers to her YouTube channel

Benefits of learning your family history



To watch the video again, click [here](#).





How I got started...

My family tree size:

- ~15 people – before taking OLLI class in 2015
- 450+ names now

A Getting Started checklist

As You Begin:

- Fill out a pedigree chart showing multiple generations
- Fill out a family group sheet for each couple/family
- Gather your home sources
- Talk to relatives and ask for genealogy information
- Organize your paper and digital file folders

Home Sources:

- Family Bible
- Old family photographs
- Birth certificates
- Baptism and confirmation certificates
- Marriage certificates
- Military records
- Death certificates
- Diaries and journals
- Newspaper clippings
- Scrapbooks and wedding albums
- School report cards and yearbooks
- Wills

Relatives to Interview

- Siblings, cousins, aunts, uncles, parents, grandparents
- Make a list of questions to ask

A pedigree chart form from the National Genealogical Society, designed to track four generations of a family. It includes fields for names, birth dates, death dates, and relationships across four generations.

A Family Group Sheet form from the National Genealogical Society. It is used to record information about a specific couple and their children, including names, birth dates, and marriage dates.



A sample Certificate of Birth document from the Department of Public Health. It contains fields for the child's name, date and place of birth, and the names of the parents.

A Marriage Certificate document with a decorative border. It includes fields for the names of the bride and groom, their dates and places of birth, and the date and place of the marriage.

A Registration Card document for a marriage. It contains detailed information about the couple, including their names, addresses, and the date and place of the marriage. The card is numbered 853 and 74498.

A Certificate of Death document with a decorative border. It includes fields for the name of the deceased, their date and place of birth, and the date and place of death.

Records Checklist

BUSINESS AND EMPLOYMENT

- apprentice and indenture records
- company newsletters
- doctors' and midwives' journals
- insurance records
- merchants' account books
- patents
- professional licenses
- railroad, mining and factory records
- records of professional organizations
- Social Security applications (SS5)

CEMETERY AND FUNERAL HOME

- burial records
- grave-relocation records
- tombstone inscriptions

DIRECTORIES

- biographical
- city
- occupational/professional
- telephone

CENSUSES

- agriculture schedules (1850–1880)
- American Indian
- Civil War veterans schedules (1890)
- defective, dependent and delinquent (DDD) schedules (1880)
- federal censuses (1790–1940)
- manufacturing/industry schedules (1810–1820, 1850–1880)
- mortality schedules (1850–1880)
- school censuses
- slave schedules (1850, 1860)
- social statistics schedules (1850–1880)
- state/territorial and local censuses

CHURCH

- baptism and christening records
- confirmation records
- congregational histories
- marriage banns
- meeting minutes
- membership, admission and removal records
- ministers' journals

COURT

- adoption records
- bastardy cases
- coroners' files
- criminal records
- custody papers
- estate inventories
- guardianship papers
- insanity/commitment orders
- licenses and permits
- marriage bonds, licenses and certificates
- military discharges
- minute books
- name changes
- naturalizations
- property foreclosures
- voter registrations
- wills

IMMIGRATION

- alien registration cards
- citizenship papers
- passenger lists
- passports and passport applications

HOME SOURCES

- baby books
- baptism and confirmation certificates
- birth certificates
- checkbooks and bank statements
- death records
- diaries and journals
- family Bibles
- funeral/memorial cards
- heirlooms and artifacts
- letters and postcards
- medical records
- photographs
- prayer cards
- recipe books
- school report cards
- scrapbooks
- wedding albums
- wills
- yearbooks

INSTITUTIONAL

- almshouses
- fraternal associations
- hospitals
- orphanages
- police registers
- prisons
- schools
- work-farms

LAND AND PROPERTY

- deeds
- grants and patents
- homestead records
- mortgages and leases
- plat maps
- surveys
- tax rolls
- warrants

MILITARY

- draft records
- pension applications
- records of relocation and internment camps
- service records

VITAL

- amended birth certificates
- birth certificates
- delayed birth certificates
- death certificates
- marriage licenses and certificates
- stillbirth certificates
- divorce/annulment decrees

NEWSPAPERS

- birth announcements
- classified advertisements
- engagement, marriage and anniversary announcements
- ethnic newspapers
- family reunion announcements
- immigrant ship notices
- gossip and advice columns
- legal notices
- local news
- obituaries/death notices
- runaway notices (slaves, indentured servants, wives)
- unclaimed-mail notices

PUBLISHED SOURCES

- compiled genealogies
- genealogical periodicals
- local histories
- record abstracts and transcriptions



Family Group Sheet

A pedigree chart only shows your ancestors.
No aunts, uncles, or cousins.

A Family Group Sheet outlines a nuclear
family: husband, wife and kids.



NATIONAL GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY		Family Group Sheet	
Name and/or Date		Place	
Husband:			
Born:			
Married:			
Died:			
Buried:			
Other Marriage:			
Husband's Father:		Husband's Mother:	
Wife:			
Born:			
Died:			
Buried:			
Other Marriage:			
Wife's Father:		Wife's Mother:	
1st Child: Male: <input type="checkbox"/> Female: <input type="checkbox"/>			
Born:			
Died:			
Buried:			
Spouse:		Date of Marriage:	
2nd Child: Male: <input type="checkbox"/> Female: <input type="checkbox"/>			
Born:			
Died:			
Buried:			
Spouse:		Date of Marriage:	
3rd Child: Male: <input type="checkbox"/> Female: <input type="checkbox"/>			

Surnames were frequently changed at Ellis Island

A) True

B) False



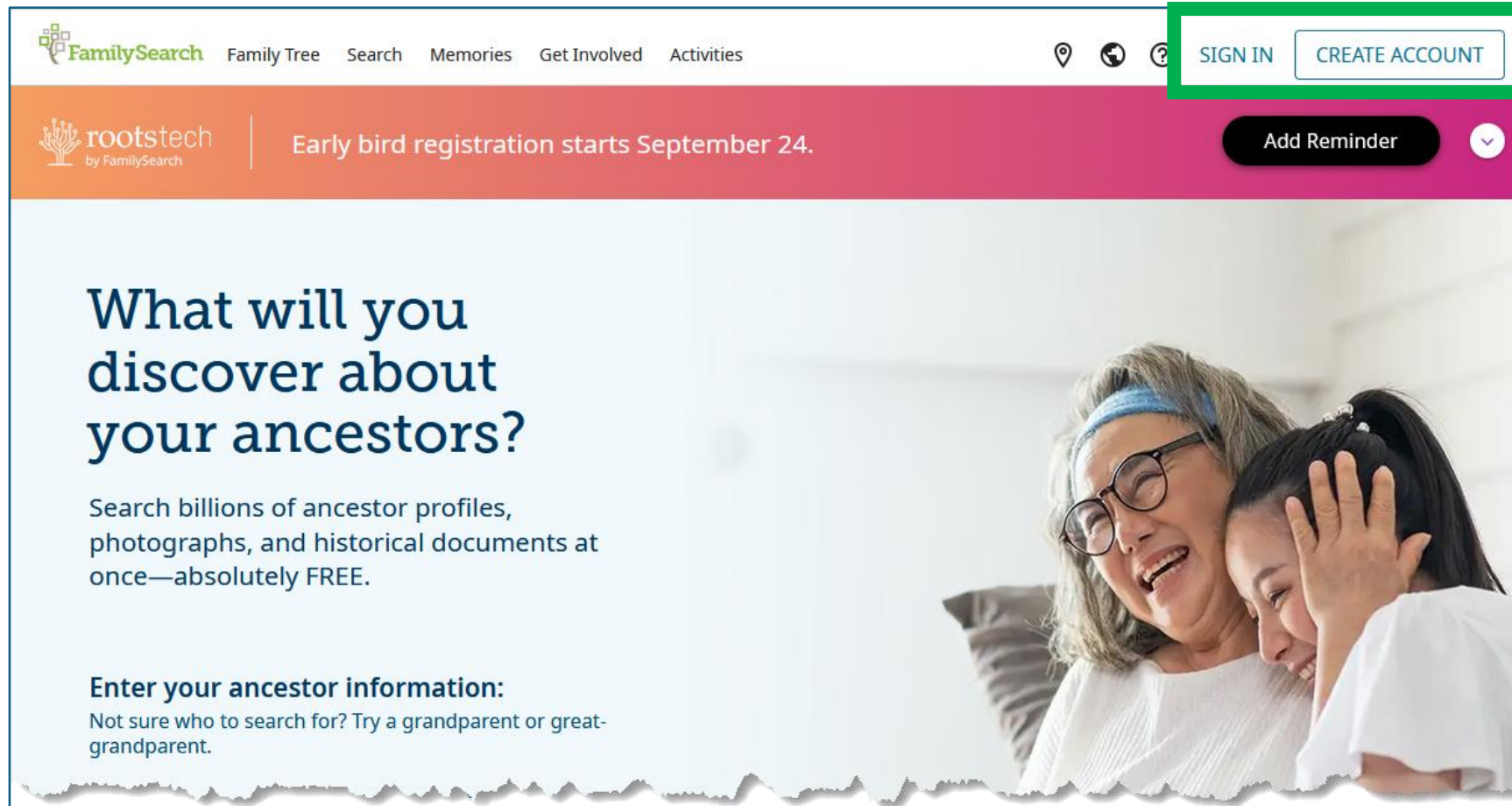
There are many different types of genealogy websites

Type of site	Example sites
Mainstream	FamilySearch.org, Ancestry.com, MyHeritage.com
Census	US National Archives, UK Census Online
Military	Fold3, American Battle Monuments Commission
Cemetery	Find A Grave, Billion Graves
Obituary	Legacy.com, GenealogyBank.com
Immigration & Naturalization	Ellis Island, Castle Garden
Ethnic	JewishGen.org, AfricanAncestry.com
Regional & country-specific	Genuki (UK & Ireland), DigitalArkivet (Norway)
Newspapers	Newspapers.com, OldNews.com, Chronicling America
DNA	23andMe, Family Tree DNA, Ancestry, MyHeritage



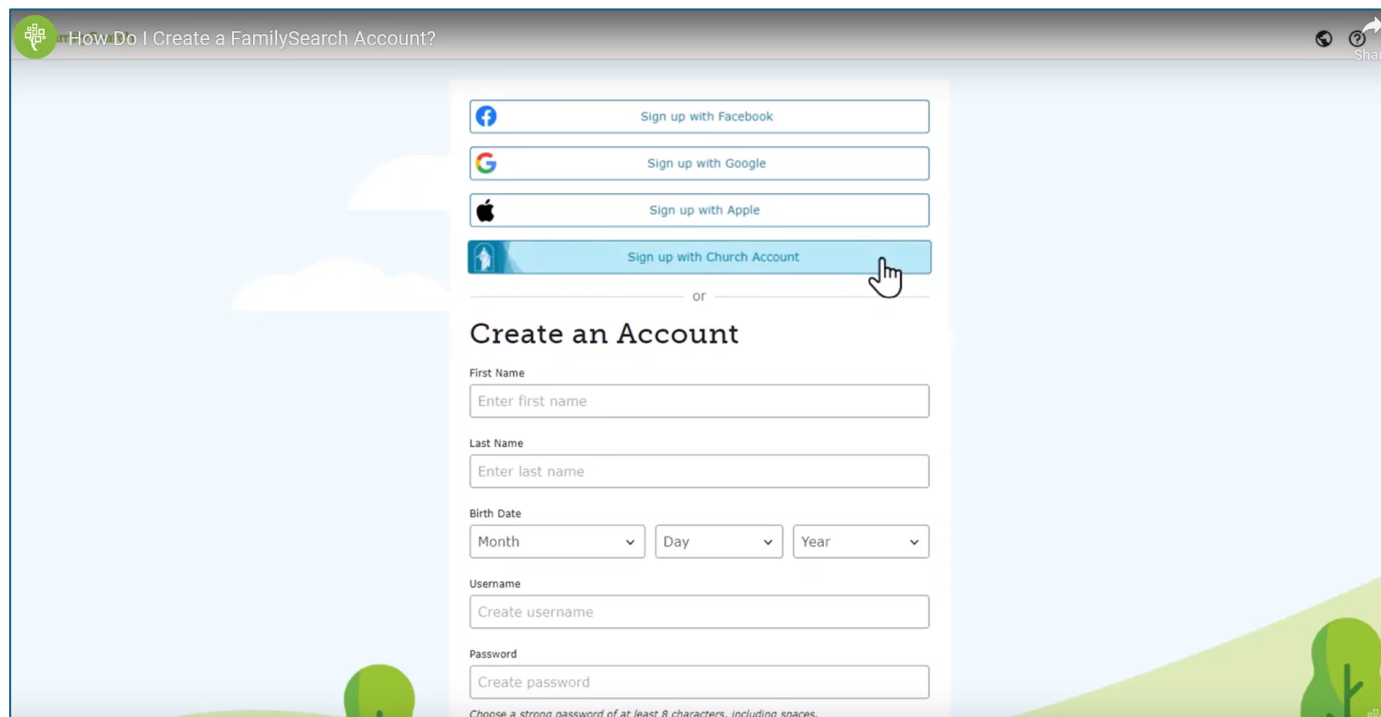
A good starting point = FamilySearch.org – getting a free id

1. Go to familysearch.org
2. Click on “CREATE ACCOUNT”



FamilySearch.org – getting a free id

3. Sign in with Facebook, Google, Apple, Church Account or create a username and password
4. Choose Recovery Option: email or mobile number
5. Click “I agree..” and “DONE”
6. Keep an eye on your email or phone for an activation message.
7. Record your username and password!



^ Create a username and password

First Name
Ben

Last Name
Kempner

Birth Date
December 27 1951

Username
benkempner

Password
●●●●●●●●

Password Strength: Weak

Recovery and Communication Options
Please provide a mobile number or email address. It will be used to help you recover your username, reset your password, and for system notifications. You can edit these options in Settings.

Recovery Option
 Email Mobile Number

Email
Enter email

Please send me messages with discoveries about my ancestors, FamilySearch updates, and information about events.
 I want to add my Church of Jesus Christ membership information to enable Church features.
 I agree to the [Terms of Use](#) and have read the [Privacy Notice](#).

DONE



What are the major things that FamilySearch.org provides?

1

Global collaborative **family tree**

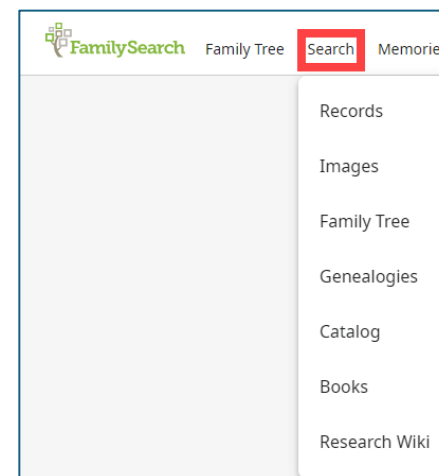
- One family tree for the whole world – everyone's family either is in the tree or can be added.
- You may find your relatives already in the tree!
- Privacy: you can't see records of living people unless you created the record.



2

Extensive **search** capabilities

- 13.16 Billion searchable names in historical records!
- 601K digital books online



3

Research **Wiki**

- Wealth of information – links to databases, websites, other resources, research strategies and genealogical guidance



Where should you put your family tree?

- ✓ Global online tree
- ✓ Desktop software
- ✓ Individual online tree



Recommendation - where to put your tree

It's an individual choice!

- Factors to consider:
 - Privacy
 - Cost
 - Desire to collaborate & share

What I did:

- Started with FamilySearch
- Quickly moved to Ancestry – my primary tree
- I also have my tree on MyHeritage.com
 - Increases opportunity for collaboration
 - More hints
 - Increases DNA matches

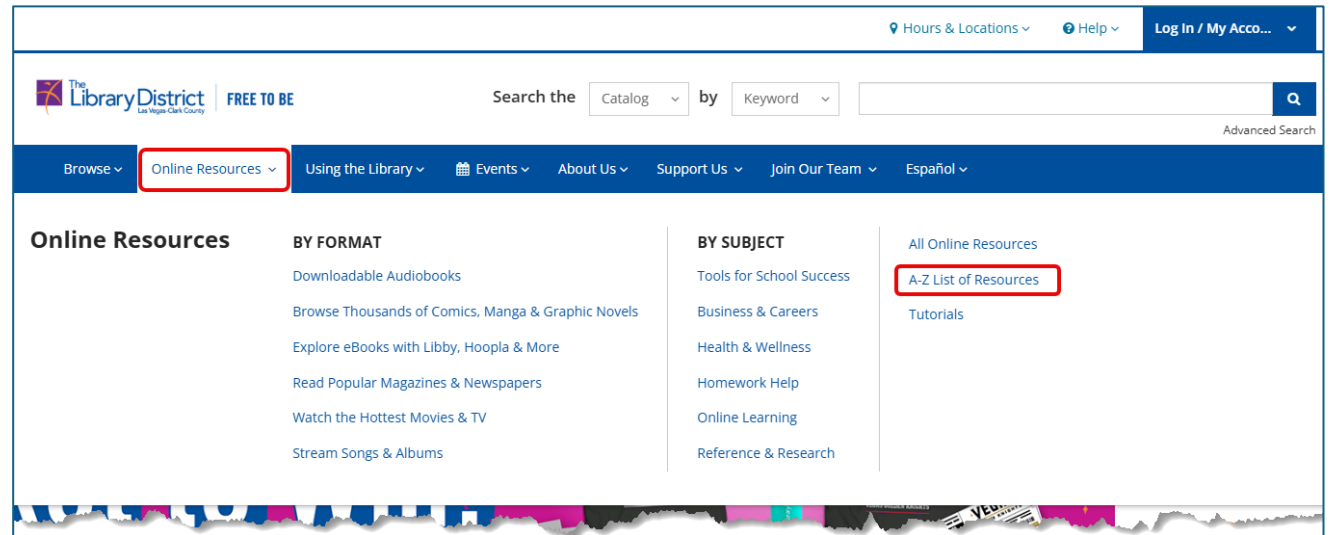


Accessing genealogy software for free at...

- Las Vegas FamilySearch Center
- Las Vegas libraries – LV library card available to anyone in Clark County (<https://lvcclld.org/>). You can access genealogy websites from home.
- Henderson residents: Ancestry.com available in the Paseo Verde Library

To see all the genealogy sites available through the Clark County LV Libraries:

1. Go to <https://lvcclld.org/> - you will be asked for your Library Card Number and PIN
2. Go to Online Resources and then click on “A-Z List of Resources”
 - African American Heritage
 - America’s Obituaries & Death Notices
 - Ancestry Library Edition
 - Chronicling America
 - Fold3 Library Edition
 - HeritageQuest Online
 - Las Vegas Review-Journal (historical)
 - MyHeritage Library Edition
 - NewspaperARCHIVE



Different types of accounts



- ✓ Registered guest account – free from any location – limited functionality
- ✓ Library Edition – free from any location (with LV library card) – can search most records
- ✓ Paid subscription – different fee-based subscription plans – full functionality



Which of the following is *not* a recommended place to build your family tree?

- A) FamilySearch.org
- B) A desktop software like RootsMagic
- C) A social media profile
- D) Ancestry.com

Genealogy Research Locations



“World’s largest genealogy library”

Family History Library in Salt Lake City

- 45 staff
- 550 volunteers
- 1.4M+ rolls microfilm
- 600K+ books
- 550 computers



FamilySearch Centers

- 15 larger Centers in the U.S.
 - Computers, scanners, classes, 1:1 assistance, access to premium websites
- 4700+ smaller centers in 134 countries
 - Computers w/limited facilities

Las Vegas FamilySearch Center

509 S. 9th Street



Resources – Las Vegas FamilySearch Center

- Individual personalized research assistance
- Genealogical records available only in the FamilySearch Library system
- State-of-the-art classroom
- Weekly classes
- 65 computer stations
- Wide variety of digitizing equipment
- Video recording studio for filming and preserving family stories
- Elevator, parking lot
- Everything is free





Premium websites available for free use at the Las Vegas FamilySearch Center

- Ancestry
- MyHeritage
- Findmypast
- Fold 3
- 19th Century British Library Newspapers
- British Newspaper Archive
- ArkivDigital (Swedish historical records)
- GenealogyBank (historical newspapers)
- Irish Ancestors
- And more...

Genealogy conferences provide an excellent learning opportunity



RootsTech, sponsored by FamilySearch, is the largest, offering in-person and virtual sessions for genealogy experts worldwide.



NGS Family History Conference is a premier annual event for genealogists and hobbyists.



The International Association of Jewish Genealogy Societies hosts an annual worldwide conference.

RootsTech is educational and fun!

- World's largest family history and technology conference
- Held annually in-person in Salt Lake City, Utah (fee) and online for free:
<https://www.familysearch.org/en/rootstech/registration/online/>
- Open to everyone, from beginners to professional genealogists



Features and benefits of RootsTech



Key Features

Over 380 classes and sessions (in-person & virtual)

Hands-on workshops

Access to cutting-edge genealogy technology



Exhibit Hall

Interact with experts from FamilySearch, MyHeritage, Ancestry and many other companies



General Sessions

Renowned speakers from various fields

Entertainment

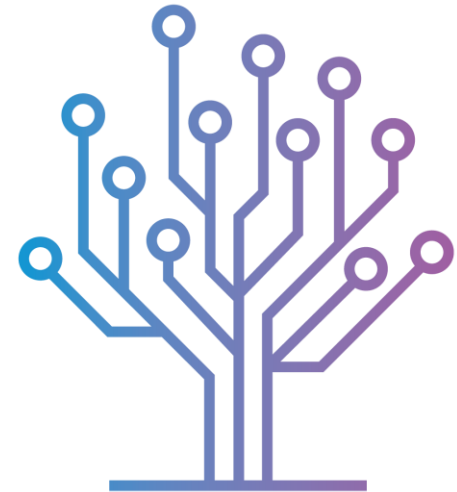


Resources

Free access to recorded sessions and materials post-conference

Website:

<https://www.familysearch.org/en/rootstech/library>





A few of the 386 classes...

- Effective Searches on FamilySearch.org
- 7 Essential Tips for Starting German Genealogy
- Beginning Irish Research
- Boosting Your Family History Discoveries with MyHeritage DNA
- What's New at Ancestry
- Climbing Your Branch of the FamilySearch Family Tree
- Resources to Find Enslaved African American Ancestors
- Looking for Dutch Ancestors
- Using FamilySearch for Jewish Research
- Getting the Most Out of United States Census Records
- An Introduction to Scandinavian Church Records
- Researching Your Revolutionary War Ancestors



David Allen Lambert – Chief Genealogist – New England Historic Genealogical Society - [replay](#)



Welcome to RootsTech - [replay](#)



MyHeritage speaker – Gal Zrihen - [replay](#)



General Session – Adassa and Chad Truman - [replay](#)

Genealogy Societies are a great way to build your knowledge



Clark County Nevada
Genealogical Society

Monthly meetings – usually 3rd Saturday
Lunch & Learn meetings + other events
Meeting location – Paseo Verde Library, Henderson
Website: ccngs.org
Contact: contactus@ccngs.org



Jewish Genealogy Society
of Southern Nevada

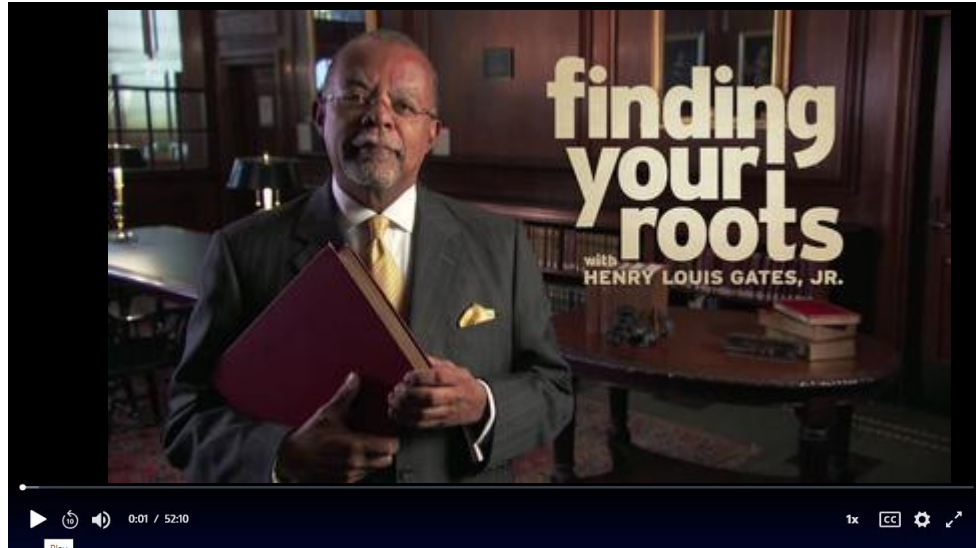
Monthly meetings – usually 3rd Sunday
Meeting location – Las Vegas FamilySearch Center – 509 S. 9th St.
Website: jgssn.org
Contact: info@jgssn.org



Nevada African American
Genealogical Society

Monthly meetings – usually 2nd Saturday
Meeting location – Las Vegas FamilySearch Center – 509 S. 9th St.
Website: nv-aags.com
Contact: karsew4u@aol.com

Genealogy TV Shows are educational and interesting



To watch the Courtney Cox videos again, click [here](#) and [here](#).





What can you do at the Las Vegas FamilySearch Center?

- A) Get individualized help with your family research
- B) Scan your photos, slides, videos, documents
- C) Take on-site, Zoom & online classes
- D) All of the above



Which website is known for having a single, shared family tree for everyone?

- A) MyHeritage.com
- B) Ancestry.com
- C) FamilySearch.org
- D) Findmypast.com

Things to do

- Get a FamilySearch.org id
- Find and organize your family records
- Start a pedigree chart
- Think about where you'd want to keep your family tree
- Try accessing free software through a library





Questions?