Using websites for family history

Silicon Valley Computer Genealogy Group

13 September 2014

Start with personal genealogy database software

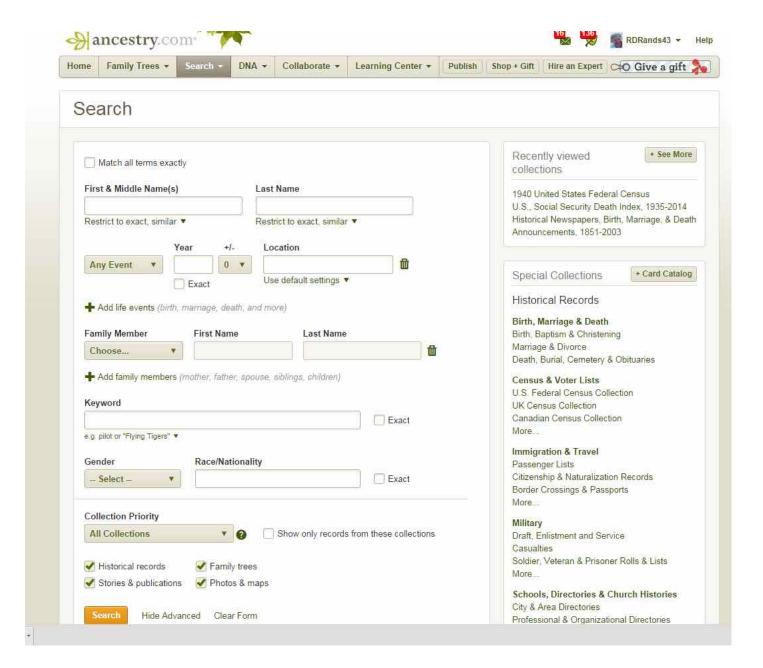
- PC or Mac or whatever
- Read 9/ 2014 PastFinder
- Try them out first free trials
- Read reviews online
- Talk to experienced users
- Ancestral Quest, Legacy, RootsMagic free at Family History Centers
- Personal Ancestral File still works

Build a framework

- In your database software OR on paper/ pencil
- Census: Fill out Census Analysis Worksheet download: svcgg.org/ documents/ census_analysis_forms.pdf

Fill in worksheets with multipurpose sites you know





Search documents from the time







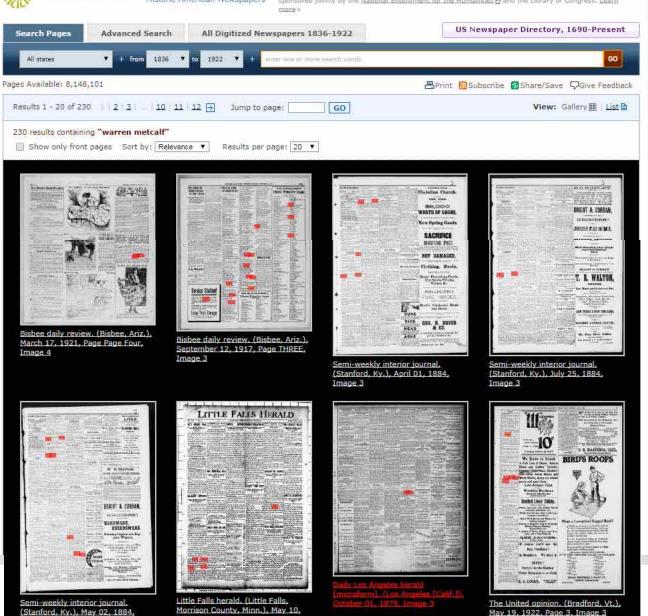
Home Search Dates About Log in Titles

California Digital Newspaper Collection > Los Angeles Herald > 1 October 1879

Select an article in the document viewer.	Issue 🍁 📑 📦	
	my Proposes Transfers.	NOTICE
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Search America's historic newspaper pages from 1836-1922 or use the U.S. Newspaper Directory to find information about American newspapers published between 1690-present, Chronicling America is sponsored jointly by the National Endowment for the Humanities of and the Library of Congress, Learn



1918, Image 1

Image 3

May 19, 1922, Page 3, Image 3

List what you know

- Family stories
- Family records
- Preliminary findings
- History and culture

Then search the web

- Cyndi'sList.com (specific affiliations?)
- GenWeb and other regional sites
- Historical/ genealogical society sites
- Global and targeted general web searches (Bing, Google)
- Search Google Books (books.google.com) for family names, family books; view the truncated book samples; find in libraries or buy if they look interesting
- Look in cemetery sites (FindaGrave.com, Interment.net, BillionGraves.com) (check out information)
- Look at online trees for **clues** (don't trust the information)

And when you've done all of that...

- Try websites that are new to you
- Do global searches as well as targeted searches
- Historical/ genealogical society sites
- Try subscription sites at a Family History Center portal
 - Fold3.com and government sites
 - Pension files
 - Military service
 - Other wild and crazy unexpected documents
 - Bunches of others

Websites on the FHC portal

- 19th Century British Library Newspapers digital
- NewspaperArchive.com
- Alexander Street Press, American Civil War
- Ancestry.com
- **ArkivDigital** (Sweden)
- Find My Past.com and .co.uk (includes 1911 British Census)
- Fold3.com
- HeritageQuestOnline.com
- Historic Map Works Library Edition
- Legacy Stories
- Origins.net
- **Paper Trail** (westward migration)
- World Vital Records

Then venture forth, if you want

- Numerous new genealogy websites every week –
 use free trials, but be cautious
- Try some established sites that you haven't checked
- Read reviews
 - Some blogger recommendations
 - Family Tree Magazine
 - PastFinder and other genealogy publications