

GENEALOGY RESOURCES AT LONG BEACH PUBLIC LIBRARY AND ON THE WEB

Access to the Internet is available at the Main Library or any of our 11 neighborhood libraries. Library cardholders can use the Internet up to one hour per day free of charge.

Genealogy reference books are available at the Main Library only (101 Pacific Ave., Long Beach CA 90822 562 570-7500). A volunteer is here to help Wed. & Sat. 1-5

Steps to follow in doing genealogy research:

1. Contact living relatives to find out information about the family. If you've lost track of them try:

Book sources: Phone directories available at the Main Library.

Useful Internet sites:

www.anywho.com - this site is operated by AT&T. You can search by name, or reverse look-up.

www.411locate.com - this site was recommended in the September 2001 PC World magazine. You can also find a person's e-mail address. To investigate public records, credit reports, etc. a fee is charged, usually around \$10. Be aware that some things they charge for are free on other sites.

www.switchboard.com - this is a great site. You can search for people with your last name throughout the United States.

www.infobel.com - have relatives overseas? This directory will hook you up with people all over the world.

2. Find out published information (other than vital records) about relatives living and dead.

Book sources: Search through Readers Guide to Periodicals Literature and the New York Times Personal Name Index, both in the Periodicals section of the Main Library.

Internet Search Engines:

A search engine is an index to what's on the web. Here are two favorites: **www.google.com** and **www.alltheweb.com**. All you have to do is put in the words you want searched or just a person's name. If anything has been published on the web you'll find it. It's also a great way to find web sites. Type in cemeteries, vital records, genealogy and see what you get and compare the two search engines. Don't forget to try the "icons" and "pictures." You may be surprised.

Internet Newspapers

www.onlinenewspapers.com - this site will lead you to newspapers from all over the world. Click on what you want and the newspaper will be displayed. Most archives only go back to the late 1980's. Many sites offer a translation button where you can translate the foreign newspaper into English. Though you can search for free, you'll have to pay to access this information online. However, *if you have a library card you can access major US. newspapers for free at any*

public library in Long Beach by using "Proquest." Also check out www.cemeteryjunction.com, which will lead you right to the obituary section of several newspapers.

Internet Magazines

www.lbpl.org - This is Long Beach Public Library's web site. From your home computer you can log on to the library's magazine database called *Ebsco*. You will need a LBPL library card number to use the site.

Long Beach History Index

www.lbpl.org - Also available through the library's web site is the *Long Beach History Index*. This index stretching from 1881-to date will give you valuable information about local individuals. You can even trace the history of your house by putting your address in the keyword box.

3. Vital Records

Census

All census material is available at the National Archives in Laguna Niguel. Though Long Beach Public Library only has census microfilm for Los Angeles County (1850-1920), we can borrow 1850-1880, 1900 and 1910 census microfilm from the State library for around \$4. You can view the microfilm on the library's microfilm readers. Some census schedules are available online. Check the library's web address www.lbpl.org to access **Heritage Quest** and **Ancestry Plus**. These two sites, available only to those with Long Beach library cards are a tremendous source of information. Other sites to try are www.censuslinks.com and www.usgenweb.org.

Birth, Death, Marriage

www.vitalrec.com - this site tells where to write for vital records and the fees involved. It also includes an index to Vital Records Offices throughout the U.S. and tells what county a city is in.

<http://searches.rootsweb.com> - this valuable site gives you access to much free information, including the Social Security Death Index, California Birth and Death Index and more. It's easy to use and even generates forms for you to fill in to write for further information.

Heritage Quest and **Ancestry Plus** on the library's website, www.lbpl.org, also gives useful information.

4. Obituaries & Cemeteries

An online source to check is www.cemeteryjunction.com, which will give you links to obituaries in newspapers as well as to links to cemeteries. Much of the cemetery data has been transcribed by volunteers.

If the obituary you are looking for is not available online, contact the local public library where the death took place (information available from the Social Security Index or the death certificate). A list of libraries can be found in the *American Library Association Directory* at Long Beach Public Library. Death date should be included when writing to narrow the search. Usually a small fee is involved (here at LBPL we charge \$3).

LBPL has a book in the genealogy section of the Main library called *Cemeteries of the U.S.* that provides addresses to cemeteries throughout the United States.

5. Immigration Lists

Filby's Passenger and Immigration List Index is available at the Main Library at LBPL. Though the list refers to other publications, you can usually obtain a copy of the page you're looking for by contacting the library owning the publication.

The National Archives website www.nara.gov/genealogy lists all available microfilm rolls dealing with immigration. However you need to know when and where your ancestor arrived or you're in for a long search. The National Archives has these microfilm rolls for sale or you can use them at the National Archives in Laguna Niguel.

Numerous web sites will give you information about immigration lists including <http://genealogytoday.com>. The master immigration web site of all, however is the Ellis Island site at www.ellislandrecords.org. You will need to register and secure a password to use this site. It's easy to use and also provides a link to other possible surname variations.

A few more websites to mention are www.cyndislist.com recommended by many as the single best genealogy site on the Internet and www.familysearch.org for the Mormons. Also look at www.heritagebooks.com and **Heritage Quest** to access genealogy books on-line.

Other Genealogy Resource Centers:

Los Angeles Public Library
History and Genealogy Department
630 W. 5th St.
Los Angeles, CA 90071 213 228-7400

Here you will find a great number of city directories from across the United States. These are useful in pinpointing where your relatives may have been living when a census was taken. Several census microfilms are also available.

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints
10741 Santa Monica Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90404 310 474-9990
Perhaps the best site for genealogy research in Southern California.

National Archives/Laguna Niguel
24000 Avila Rd.
Laguna Niguel, CA 949 360-2641
This is the place to go for census and immigration records. You can browse at your leisure through the microfilm following one lead after another.

Huntington Beach Public Library
7111 Talbert Ave.
Huntington Beach, CA 92641 714 842-4481
Large selection of genealogy books.

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ON-LINE GEOGRAPHIC RESOURCES

Library of Congress

<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/gmdhtml/gmdhome.html>

Geographic Names Information

<http://mapping.usgs.gov/www/gnis/gnisform.html>

Historical Maps of the United States

http://www.lib.utexas.edu/Libs/PCL/Map_collection/histus.html

Map and Geographic Information Center: University of Connecticut

http://magic.lib.uconn.edu/cgi-bin/MAGIC_HistList.pl

Historical County Lines

<http://jrshelby.com/genmap/maps.htm>

MapQuest

<http://www.mapquest.com>

Railroad Maps, 1828-1900

<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/gmdhtml/rrhtml/rrhome.html>

1895 United States Atlas

<http://www.livgenmi.com/1895.htm>