

# How do I find People and Missing Vital Information using Free Web Sites?

## The Goal is find Vitals (Births, Marriages and Deaths) to fill-in a Pedigree Chart

**Please Note:** Often I start by asking the client to fill-in a Pedigree Chart. Some know great grandparents. Usually there are missing vitals, mostly dates and places. Then I ask: Who do you want to start with? Personally, when I find my family vitals and other information, I copy and paste the vitals to my database. Often for Censuses, I copy and paste the people that the person lived with. I update my database to include an audit trail to the source(s). I try hard to be consistent. I want the readers – current and future to be able to find the source records. I try to verify all vitals that were given to me as oral history.

1. For people who lived in the USA, I start with **US Censuses** and US databases. I search **Ancestry Library (henceforth Ancestry)** for US Censuses at my local library. Nominal Censuses start in 1850. The 1940 Census is the latest. I do not search 1890 because most of the records were destroyed.
2. For USA immigrants, Censuses often identify whether the individual was Naturalized (Na) or an Alien (AI).
3. If the US Census identifies a Naturalized Citizen, I search **Ancestry's New Collections** to search for the Naturalization Declaration Petition and Petition Forms. (I prefer the Petition Form.) The forms have a wealth of information from birth (locale and date), to children's Given Names and birth date, and to arrival date, place etc.
4. For male Aliens in the US, I search **Ancestry WWI and WWII Draft Registration Cards**.
5. For US immigrants especially for those who are aliens and who have an arrival year in the US Census, I search for: **Passenger Manifests for various Ports in Ancestry; Transcripts in Castle Garden; Images in Ellis Island; and Transcripts in the Massachusetts Archives for Boston arrivals. FamilySearch.org identifies other arrival databases.**
6. For US immigrants, if there could be multiple versions of the same Surname, I search using Steve Morse's templates. (His software requires Ancestry to be open.)
7. For people who lived in the USA, I also search **Ancestry's Social Security Databases**.
8. If it looks like the person was born or married in Massachusetts before 1920, I search **Ancestry, FamilySearch.org and AmericanAncestors.org. The goal is to find Registers where Names, Places and Deaths are recorded.** Marriage images contain parents' names often the mothers' maiden surnames and sometimes both the officiating person's name and address. Ancestry's Indexes for Massachusetts stop in the 1950s. (**Hint: Marriage records facilitate working backwards.**)
9. For the US deaths, I search **Ancestry's Find a Grave and the Billion Graves** web site. Also, I search for local cemetery sites.
10. For Canadians, Newfoundlanders, British, Scots, and Irish, I search their Censuses in **Ancestry and in Library and Archives Canada**. For Canadians who lived in 1901 and/or 1911. I search the **Automated Census of Canada** for ease in copying and pasting. Ancestry, FamilySearch and FamilySearch.org/Search/Collection/List/ are other favorites.
11. For Canadians from Atlantic Canada, I search for the current Links document for the Province in **Joe's Free Web Sites on the Friends of Irish Research web Site (www.friendsofirishtresearch.org)**. I search the **Novascotiagenealogy.com web site for births, marriages and deaths! FamilySearch has a database for Canada Marriages,1661 – 1949**. It shows the source record. **FamilySearch has a database for the Nova Scotia, Antigonish Catholic Diocese, 1823 - 1905**. Only 46 parishes in the 7 Counties participated.
12. For US Irish Aliens, Canadian Irish immigrants, and Newfoundland Irish immigrants, I search records in the **Information Wanted web page** (31,000+ Boston Pilot Advertisements) on the Boston College Web Site.
13. For Roman Catholic Irish, I search **Ancestry's Ireland, Catholic Parish Registers**. There are over 25 million records.
14. For Protestant Irish, I search **Irishgenealogy.ie**. Remember that most of the damaged records in the Revolt were Protestant records. I search **PRONI (Public Records of Northern Ireland) and Genuki (United Kingdom and Ireland Genealogy)**.
15. For Irish born after 1864, I search **Ancestry for Civil Registration** records(Birth Record Substitutes).
16. For Irish males born before 1864, I search the Surname in Property records in **Griffiths Valuation and the Tithe Applotment databases (AskAboutIreland.ie/Search/ Irish Genealogy/)**. I especially like the maps.
17. For some Irish people, I search the **Census of Ireland 1901 and of 1911**.
18. The British Isles, I search the **UK and Ireland Genealogy (Genuki)** web site. (Some Genuki records are not validated.)
19. If I have an idea of when the person died, in all of the above, I work backward from that date. If I have an idea when the person was born, in all of the above, I work forward and backward from that date.
20. If I can determine a Country, I search **Ancestry and FamilySearch** for the precise location. I search for the combination of Country, Locality and the person's surname. I have searched only for unique Given names, like Unity.