

Using the Internet to Research Your Family History

Genealogy or family history research is one of the most popular hobbies in the world. At one time, to research your family, you needed to visit the places where your ancestors lived and conduct research at the local libraries, historical societies, and courthouses to find the information you needed.

With the advent of the computer and development of the Internet, genealogical research has gotten a little easier. Today there are hundreds of thousands of Web pages devoted to genealogy.

But keep one fact in mind: you will not find your complete family history using only online resources. The Internet is only a tool to assist you in finding the actual documentation that you need to document your family history.

The Internet provides three services to the family history researcher:

- Access to indexes and compilation notes in reference materials.
- Access to scanned images or actual full-text of sources.
- Help in identifying and communicating with other genealogy researchers, including family members.

Remember to start today and cite your sources!

Tips To Get Started

1. Write down everything you know about yourself, your own family, and your parents' families.
2. Test your own knowledge of your family tree by filling out a pedigree chart that includes you, your parents, and as many generations beyond them as possible. Include their full names as well as dates and places for their births, marriages, and deaths.
3. Talk to your oldest living family members to mine their memories for family history information. Each relative is likely to remember parts of the family story that others have forgotten, so be thorough!
4. Evaluate the resources already available in your family by going through your own attic and by asking relatives to do the same. Look for family heirlooms, old photographs, and official documents. These may help you to uncover more family information, and such documents are an excellent way to verify dates or places that family members have given you in oral interviews.
5. After evaluating what you have, set a specific research objective (e.g., find grandfather's enlistment date). The next step will be to search records online or to visit a library or archive that has the information you are looking for.

Town of Saratoga

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**LDS Family
History Work**

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Genealogy Websites

Rootsweb.com	Oldest and largest free genealogy site
USGenWeb.com	Free genealogy websites for every county and state in US
Ancestry.com	Numerous databases, some free, some by subscription (census, obits, vital records, immigration, newspaper, etc)
Genealogy.com	Many databases, resources, tips, some free, some by subscription
Familysearch.org	Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter Day Saints free online search of millions of names
Cyndislist.com	over 251,000 links to genealogy sites
Nehgs.org	New England Historic & Genealogical Society [NEHGS]
Newenglandancestors.com	Numerous databases of early settlers, newspapers, maps, vital records and more for New England, operated by NEHGS
enews@nehgs.org	Electronic Newsletter of New England Historic and Genealogical Society [free]
Eogn.com	Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter [free]
Nysl.nysed.gov/	New York State Library - large collection of family genealogies, local histories, DAR records, church records, census records, early newspapers on film, city directories, and other materials
Nysl.nysed.gov/nysnp	NYS newspaper project lists all old newspapers & where to find them
Linkpendium.com/ genealogy/USA/NY/	Genealogy & Family History links - 350 links for Saratoga County alone
EllisIsland.org	Passenger arrival records, forms, links
Immigrantships.net	Passenger arrival records [free]
1930census.com	General reference for US federal census
genforum.com	Largest online area for people to share surname and local history information
MyFamily.com	Place to post your family tree, news, photos to share with others
Mapquest.com	For maps to & about places your ancestors lived & were buried
Google.com	Powerful search engine
history.rays-place.com/ ny/index.htm	NY & county histories, connections to census records & more
archives.gov/genealogy/ genealogysearch.org/ free/forms.htm	National Archives has census, military, immigration, naturalization and land records Download free forms
gloreCORDS.blm.gov	Bureau of Land Management has all federal land patent records online, including 19 th century homestead act records
rootsweb.com/ %7Etnki_n/bdate2.htm	Birth date calculator from known age & date of death

Saratoga County

Rootsweb.com/~nysarato/	Has many databases: cemetery, census, church, Revolutionary war, tax lists, school graduates, newspapers, etc.
saratoga.5points.net	Saratoga County Archival Record Index
Brooksidemuseum.org	Online database of photographs, objects, manuscripts and books at the Saratoga County Historical Society's Brookside Museum in Ballston Spa
NYSarato-L@rootsweb.com	The Rootsweb Mail List for Saratoga County for posts pertaining to Saratoga County families and places
NYSarato-L-request@ rootsweb.com	To join the Saratoga County Mail List, put the single word <i>subscribe</i> in both the message subject and body and send