



This worksheet is designed to help you get started researching your genealogy for free. In just a few minutes you can be searching and finding new insightful information.

To begin, think of a person to research and consider a few basic questions.

When were they born? Did they have a big or small family? Did they live in a house, an apartment or on a farm? Were they born in America or did they immigrate to USA? How did they make a living? Was English their native language?

Searching publicly available census records can answer these and many other questions. The United States Federal census is conducted every 10 years and the most recent year that is publicly available in 1940. Other available State and Federal censuses go back as far as the 1700's.

Our "get-started census" page contains links to several census databases and in just a few minutes and a few clicks you can be seeing some search results at no cost.

www.ancestrypaths.com/get-started/census/

If this is your first census search it may be helpful to start with the 1940 census via Familysearch.org which is the first link on our get-started page. Links to earlier years are also provided.

If you need a little more assistance, a fully detailed step by step example of a search can be found at:

www.ancestrypaths.com/get-started/census/familysearch/

Wish you all the best luck in your research.



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Individual Genealogy Research Form:

First & Last Name: _____

Census Observations: _____ Census year _____

City & State: _____

Address: _____

Country of birth: _____

Other household members: _____

Other insights: _____

Vital Records: _____ Location & Date _____

Birth: _____

Death: _____ age: _____

Marriage: _____ age: _____

Spouse: _____

Children: _____

Immigration: _____

Level of Education: _____

Military Service: _____

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Birth and death records can be obtained from a variety of sources including city and state offices, church records, newspaper obituaries, and social security records.

For Cleveland Ohio we are fortunate and many records are available for free on-line.

The Cleveland Public Library has a necrology database with obituary records covering about 1850's to 1970's that can be searched for free.

www.ancestrypaths.com/get-started/obituary/cpl-necrology/

The social security death index (SSDI) can be searched on-line for free and can provide some basic information including birth and death date.

Our site includes an overview of the social security database including tips on different ways to search.

www.ancestrypaths.com/get-started/ssdi/

Tip: Keep in mind that SS system was started in 1937 and as such limits the scope of coverage.

If you can't find your relative by using a first name and last name search consider using a site like Fold3 that allows you to browse SSDI by last name. Another approach is to search the SSDI by birth year and birth date. Links for each are included on our site.

Military Records are good source of information for those who directly served but items such as WWII Draft records can also be insightful for those who did not serve but were obligated to register. Our site provides links to both.

www.ancestrypaths.com/military-records/

Our website includes a large variety of other sources including immigration records and Native American resources. Our site index is a great place to start.

<http://www.ancestrypaths.com/site-index/>

Phone a Friend: One of the best ways to begin researching your family history is to call a parent or relative. Also visit your local library or their website. Libraries typically have insight into local genealogy resources and free online access to services such as Ancestry.com.

Wish you best of luck researching your family history.



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Parents

Grandparents

Great Grandparents

