

Intermediate Genealogy – Course Notes

How to begin:

1. Do your homework!
Find out any and all information available to you from sources at hand – family documents, discussions with family members, old address books, photos, clippings, scrapbooks and yearbooks.
2. Write out what you find – or type it up in a document... Or use a family tree option. This is the beginning of your family tree.
3. Formulate the questions that have come up from your basic research –
Are there people you are having trouble finding successfully?
Are there locales or groups you want to connect with?
What is your central question or drive to collect your genealogy?

Organization is the key to successful research. Pre-planning, noting down facts, and keeping organizational charts or family data sheets (online or on paper) help you make sense of your family tree.

Online family data sheets can be found through many sources, for example:

Ancestry – printable sheet

<https://www.ancestrycdn.com/aainstcommons/11113/pdf/charts/anchart-9488474a.pdf>

FamilyEcho online tree – free service

<https://familyecho.com/#edit:START>

Family Search tree – free subscription allows tree building

<https://www.familysearch.org/tree/overview>

Documentation

When you get serious about your genealogy research, you will want to document each person as thoroughly as possible. Documentation moves you from family history into true genealogy.

Being able to check known data against new data can help you to organize finds into:

Perfect matches – two or more points of reference tally with existing data, and have no conflicting data

Possible matches – one or more points of reference tally with existing data, but some data does not agree with what you have

Potential matches – has significant variance from known data, but there are one or more points of reference that are suggestive of a match.

As you build more and more data, and gather more source material, these matches help develop a more accurate family tree.

Primary and secondary sources of information:

<https://files.nc.gov/ncdoa/documents/files/Sample%20Guide%20C-List%20of%20Primary%20Sources%20vs.%20Secondary%20Sources%20for%20Genealogical%20Documents.pdf>

A Primary source is one recorded at the time of the event. It is a firsthand or contemporaneous account of the information. That doesn't mean there may not be errors!

A Secondary source is one that records events after the fact. It is a secondhand account of the information recorded.

A Tertiary source is one that is compiled from other records, such as an encyclopedia.

When you have multiple sources and multiple types of sources that agree, it is more likely that the event is documented correctly.

Information that is single-sourced is more likely to have some kind of error.

What is Proof? The Genealogical Proof Standard

Stahle, Tyler S. (2016) *The Genealogical Proof Standard*

- Part 1 – Retrieved from <https://www.familysearch.org/blog/en/genealogicalproofstandardpart1/>
- Part 2 – Retrieved from <https://www.familysearch.org/blog/en/genealogicalproofstandardpart2/>
- Part 3 – Retrieved from <https://www.familysearch.org/blog/en/genealogicalproofstandardpart3/>

Part one outlines the five essential steps for accurate research:

1. A Reasonably exhaustive search has been completed.
2. Each statement of fact has a complete and accurate source citation.
3. The evidence is reliable and has been skillfully correlated and interpreted.
4. Any contradictory evidence has been resolved.
5. The conclusion has been soundly reasoned and coherently written.

You may not be able to completely resolve contradictory records but finding multiple resources that support a finding can help lead you to the more supportable conclusion.

Part two outlines details of how to cite information you have found and how to correctly interpret its reliability.

Part three outlines how to compile and write up your conclusions into a genealogy. Sometimes, writing out the story will help you better understand your own work.

Resources on writing up your genealogy that you can find at the library include:

- | | |
|-----------|--|
| 808.0669 | Carson, Dina C., Publish your family history: a step-by-step guide to writing the stories of your ancestors / by Dina C. Carson. |
| 808.066 | Spence, Linda., Legacy: a step-by-step guide to writing personal history / Linda Spence. |
| 929.1 | Polking, Kirk., Writing family histories and memoirs / Kirk Polking. |
| 929.1 | Kemphorne, Charley., For all time: a complete guide to writing your family history / Charley Kemphorne. |
| R 808.066 | Fulford, D. G., One memory at a time: inspiration and advice for writing your family story / D.G. Fulford. |

Your online Genealogy Profile

Most people who work on their genealogy beyond a couple of generations will find that joining one or more of the available online genealogy resources is helpful, perhaps inevitable.

When creating an online presence, you should always take stock of what you want to present to the world.

When you create a profile, many people will be able to access this information. Genealogy is a shared activity, that brings you into relationships and potential relationships. So, you may want to do some of the following:

- 1 Create an email identity associated just with your genealogy research. Most of the major paid and free email providers have options to create sub accounts related to an initial email address. You can see this wikihow article on creating additional accounts: <https://www.wikihow.com/Create-Additional-Email-Addresses-in-Gmail-and-Yahoo>

Creating an additional account means you can easily locate everything associated with your genealogy research, plus it separates those correspondents from your personal or business email.

- 2 Be aware of social engineering – there are people out there that do nothing but try and trick people into revealing information that allows the gathering of data that can lead to passwords, getting you to click dangerous links, etc.

Combat this by always taking a moment before clicking that link - Read about Social engineering here: <https://usa.kaspersky.com/resource-center/threats/how-to-avoid-social-engineering-attacks>

Keep your devices updated – do your OS updates regularly and pay attention to legitimate alerts on your devices. Not sure it's legit? Don't click that link, go to the supposed site in your normal way, and see if there is matching information.

The potential for giving away too much personal information is one reason most people who do family trees online keep a privacy setting on any living members of that family tree. Your cousin may not appreciate that random strangers can now see their date of birth...

It is hard to unring a bell, and it's just as hard to truly delete something from the internet.

How far back can you go?

In general, most people are able to identify about 3-5 generations. That might not seem like a lot – but, your parents, grandparents and great-grandparents may be as far as you can go on one or both sides, at least at first.

Why? Once you go back a couple of generations, you will likely be going outside the US, and once you go to non-English-speaking areas, you may find the types of records are different, not as complete, or there are not as many that are available digitally. If you don't read the language, it will be a barrier to getting to and understanding the records.

In the US, census records for dates before 1850 will not have very much identifying information, except for landowners. 1850 is the first census that includes names of women and children.

Some of us may be lucky enough to get to 10-15 generations. Once you get back to the 16th century records get extremely scarce, mostly documenting only those who owned property, and then not necessarily very regularly.

One of the issues you may encounter is the need to use specialized databases to complete your research. Some may be free, others may be subscription databases.

The following sites may help you to further research into African American, Hispanic, and Native American Ancestry.

1. Powell, K. (2017). *How to Research Hispanic Ancestry Introduction to Hispanic Genealogy*. Retrieved from <https://www.thoughtco.com/how-to-research-hispanic-ancestry-1420597>.
2. Woodtor, D. P. (n.d.). *African American Genealogy An Online Interactive Guide for Beginners*. Retrieved from <http://www.afrigenes.com/guide/>. (note this site has an outdated certificate, so you may need to push through a warning page to reach it.)
3. Carter, K. (n.d.). *Wantabes and Outalucks: Searching for Indian Ancestors in Federal Records*. Retrieved from <http://warriornation.ning.com/forum/topics/wantabes-and-outalucks-searching-for-indian-ancestors-in-federal->.

Hispanic research is expanding online now, large numbers of records are being added. One of the best places to start is to find the locale of your family from the US side and work backwards from there. FamilySearch and Ancestry are good places to start. Genealogy bank and NARA are also useful. It is currently difficult to enter Mexico, and hard to do research there right now. Alternately, border towns with Hispanic genealogy societies may have specific family history books that can help.

Reading those documents

As we go back in time, documents are less likely to be typed or transcribed fully, and you will find yourself reading materials that are handwritten. There are resources for assisting you to decipher older handwriting scripts, common abbreviations, and archaic words.

If you are researching Hispanic Genealogy, this list of terms can be helpful:

<https://www.thoughtco.com/latin-genealogical-word-list-1422735>

As can this article on naming conventions

<https://www.thoughtco.com/hispanic-surnames-meanings-and-origins-1422407>

Ancestry.com provides this useful tip sheet for deciphering handwriting

<https://support.ancestry.com/s/article/Tips-for-Reading-Old-Handwriting>

I find that using online Palmer and Spencerian script samples can help with deciphering handwriting also. If I get stuck, I try copying the writing myself – sometimes this leads to a breakthrough.

Palmer Handwriting

https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Palmer_Method_alphabet.jpg



This is a streamlined version that most US schoolchildren were taught up to the 1990s.

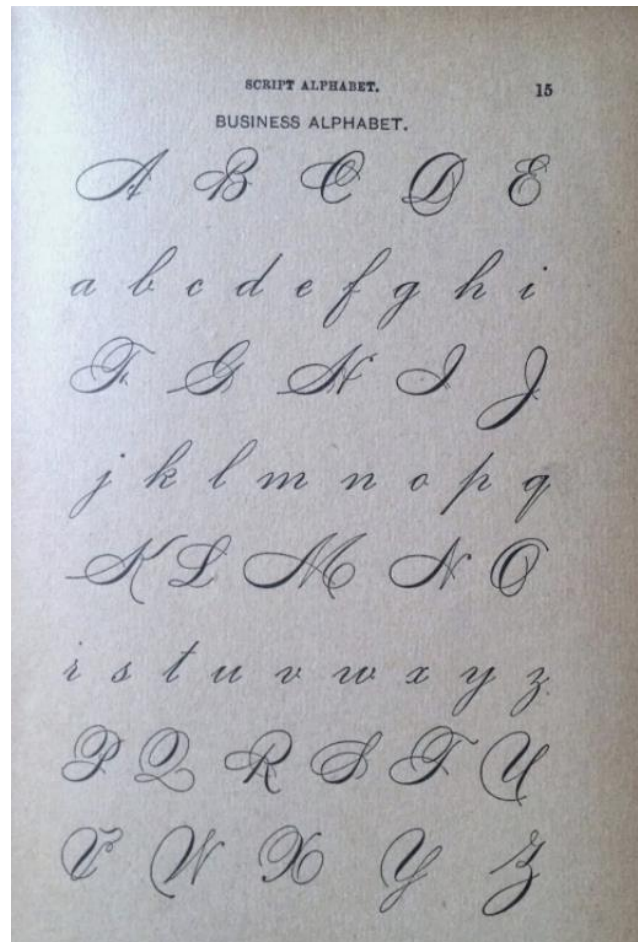
Spencerian Handwriting

<https://www.paperseahorse.com/blogs/news/the-story-of-spencerian-script>



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This is an embellished handwriting that was more popular before 1900 and has a lot of opportunity for individuality and embellishment.



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For German writing, you may want to visit this site, dedicated to older handwriting and printed typefaces.

<https://germangirlinamerica.com/old-german-cursive-alphabet-and-typefaces/>

| | | | | |
|------|------|------|------|------|
| A a, | B b, | C c, | D d, | E e, |
| A a, | B b, | C c, | D d, | E e, |

| | | | | |
|------|------|------|----------|------|
| F f, | G g, | H h, | I J i j, | K k, |
| F f, | G g, | H h, | I J i j, | K k, |

| | | | | |
|------|------|------|------|------|
| L l, | M m, | N n, | O o, | P p, |
| L l, | M m, | N n, | O o, | P p, |

| | | | | |
|------|------|------|------|------|
| Q q, | R r, | S s, | T t, | U u, |
| Q q, | R r, | S s, | T t, | U u, |

| | | | | |
|------|------|------|------|------|
| V v, | W w, | X x, | Y y, | Z z, |
| V v, | W w, | X x, | Y y, | Z z, |

| | | | | | | | | |
|----|----|----|----|-----|----|----|----|----|
| ch | ck | ss | sz | sch | sp | st | th | tz |
| ch | ck | ss | sz | sch | sp | st | th | tz |

American Ancestors – Specialized databases

Databases of the New England Historic Genealogical Society. Highlights include full-text access to the New England Historical and Genealogical Register (1847-1994), and New England state vital records and index resources. Sponsored by the Conejo Valley Genealogical Society.

Access this resource from the Thousand Oaks Library website – tolibrary.org by clicking on our Virtual Library

<https://research.tolibrary.org/az.php?a=all&s=154645>

From within the library, the session will just connect, if you are doing this from home, you will see a pop up asking for your library card number and PIN.



Important Note











When you are in the supported part of the website, you will still see a “Log In” button at the upper right – **do not click it**, you are already logged in.

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What can you do in American Ancestors?

Use the Search function – The drop down menu shows available resources. Not all of them are included in the Library subscription.

Search All Databases *1.4 billion names from all around the world*

| | |
|--|--|
|  Advanced Search |  Court, land and probate records |
|  Vital records (incl. Bible, cemetery, church and SSDI) |  Military records |
|  Journals and periodicals |  Genealogies, bios, heraldry, local histories |
|  Census, tax and voter lists |  Great Migration study project |
|  Immigration records |  Atlases, maps and reference materials |

Browse Databases A to Z

~~**Special Interest Databases** *Search external databases*~~

| | |
|--|---|
| ◆ 19th century newspaper database | ◆ Irish Newspaper Archive |
| ◆ Oxford Dictionary of Family Names in Britain and Ireland | ◆ Genealogy Quebec (limited simultaneous users) |
| ◆ Marquis biographies online | |

Articles, Guides & Study Projects

| | |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| ◆ New England & New York town guides | ◆ Early New England Families study project |
| ◆ Online articles archive | ◆ Western Massachusetts Families in 1790 study project |
| ◆ The Great Migration study project | ◆ Early Vermont Settlers to 1784 study project |

Library Catalog *Learn what the library has in its collections of books, manuscripts, and more*

Digital Book & Manuscript Collections
View genealogies, local histories, letters, diaries, and more from the NEHGS Library and Jewish Heritage Center holdings.

The top options, under “Search All” are available

The second area, “Special Interest Databases – external” are **not** available

The third area, under “Articles, Guides & Study Projects” are available

The Library Catalog is available

The Digital Books and Manuscripts Collections are visible, but many may be restricted.

“**Browse Databases A to Z**” is available to search the highly specialized databases of the NEHGS.

You can browse or search for specific areas of the collection, for instance for Mayflower descendants



Database List A-Z

AmericanAncestors.org by the New England Historic Genealogical Society is one of the most widely used online genealogical resources in the world. Browse hundreds of unique searchable online databases, offering more than 1.4 billion searchable records.

Search by database name

13 databases [Reset filters](#)

Databases

- ☐ all databases
- ☐ only databases with images
- ☐ only my favorite databases
- ☐ only free databases

Results per page 20 50 100

| | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Mayflower Quarterly, The |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Mayflower Descendant, The |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Mayflower Families Fifth Generation Descendants, 1700-1880 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | General Society of Mayflower Descendants Membership Applications, 1620-1920 |

For example, if your research suggests that you are a member of a Mayflower family, you can search the membership applications to see a digital copy of the application of your family member.

Search Database [★Favorite](#)

General Society of Mayflower Descendants Membership Applications, 1620-1920

☐ Exact Search ☐ Soundex [Search](#)

First Name Last Name

Years From To Record Type

Location ☐ Exact Location

Volume Page

Gen Member Number Supplement Number

Generation

Family Members (Father/Mother/Spouse) Any Last Name

[+ Add family members +](#)

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For example, my family includes a Constance Hopkins. I've heard she is a Mayflower descendant, so I search for her name and find the following:



35 million
Mayflower descendants
in the world. Are you one?
Join us.

| Name | Events | Relationship |
|--|---|--------------|
| Constance HOPKINS  General Society of Mayflower Descendants Membership Applications, 1620-1920 View Image | VOLUME : Hopkins, Stephen PAGE : 536:1 | |
| Constance HOPKINS  General Society of Mayflower Descendants Membership Applications, 1620-1920 View Image | VOLUME : Hopkins, Stephen PAGE : 538:1 | |
| Constance HOPKINS  General Society of Mayflower Descendants Membership Applications, 1620-1920 View Image | VOLUME : Hopkins, Stephen PAGE : 556:1 | |
| Constance HOPKINS  General Society of Mayflower Descendants Membership Applications, 1620-1920 View Image | VOLUME : Hopkins, Stephen PAGE : 562:1 | |
| Constance HOPKINS  General Society of Mayflower Descendants Membership Applications, 1620-1920 View Image | VOLUME : Hopkins, Stephen PAGE : 563:1 | |
| Constance HOPKINS  General Society of Mayflower Descendants Membership Applications, 1620-1920 | VOLUME : Hopkins, Stephen PAGE : 567:1 | |

NOTE: If the links on this page fail, or if you get a login screen when you click to view, simply close the page, and reopen it from the Virtual Library link. It should open correctly the second time.

The error screen below shows a real blocked resource.

[View Cart](#) [Enter Promo](#) [Apply](#)

Log In To Your Account:

Enter your Email Address and Password below to log in to your account:

Login Information

Email Address Required

Password Required

[Forgot Password?](#)

Login

Not Registered Yet?

Click below to register for a new account

Register

Guest Registration

Sign Up

If you get any other type of error screen, it is probably just a glitch. Try closing the page and restarting your session. Some browsers (FireFox, IE) may be more prone to failures.

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Going from the search results in the Mayflower Descendants database, If I click “View Image” I can see a digital copy of the entire application.

General No. 3637- State No. 105

California
Society of Mayflower Descendants

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP
OF

(Applicant must not write on this page.)

THE MAYFLOWER PASSENGERS
from whom descent has been proved.

(Each application should begin with one of the following names. Credit will be given for parents, wives or children on the Mayflower without filing additional papers.)

John Alden*
Isaac Allerton†
John Billington†
William Brewster†
Peter Brown
James Chilton†
Francis Cooke†
Edward Dory
Francis Eaton†
Edward Feltner†
Dr. Samuel Fuller
Stephen Hopkins†
John Howland†
Lucy Priest
Thomas Rogers†
Henry Simon
George Soule
Myles Standish
Richard Warren
William White†
Edward Winslow

*Includes descent from William and Alice Mullins and their daughter Abigail.
†Includes descent from wife or child on the Mayflower.
‡Includes descent from John Tilley and his daughter Elizabeth.

Received by State Society November 21 1912 ✓
Approved by State Historian November 21 1912 ✓
Received for examination by Historian General Nov 27 1912
Approved by Historian General Dec 6 1912
Elected by State Society Dec 23 1912
Notified of Election Dec 26 1912
Received by Historian General for filing 1912
Deceased 19
Resigned 19
Dropped 19

[THE FOLLOWING FORM OF ACKNOWLEDGMENT IS REQUIRED.]

STATE OF California
COUNTY OF San Francisco

Personally appeared Albert D. Whitcomb
of the within and foregoing application and statement, and made oath that the statements therein contained are true to the best of his knowledge and belief, before me.

Official Signature, Harriet T. Hobart
NOTARY PUBLIC, in and for the City and County of San Francisco, State of California.

Approved by the State Historian, Frank Russell, 1912
Approved by the Historian General, Frank Russell, 1912
Elected by the State Society, John Russell, 1912

Scrolling down from the search form, you can also link through to the established family trees of Mayflower passengers, but these family trees are not viewable with the library subscription.

The other menus may be limited to members, or on a cost basis.

American Ancestors
by NEW ENGLAND HISTORIC GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

SEARCH - SERVICES - LEARN - LIBRARY - EVENTS - NEWS - BOOKSTORE -

JOIN/RENEW

Services – you can link to these, but they are not free with the subscription

Learn – is articles that are available to read with this subscription.

Library – is available

Events – shows events, but there may be associated costs

News – articles only available with additional login account

Bookstore – items available for purchase

Online Assistance You Can Get For Free

Family Search Assistance Resources

Family Search is a free online service related to Ancestry.com, which anyone can use by creating a free account by filling in the online form:

Note that the form asks if you are a Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints member – if you click the (i) button, the site will tell you this is because:

“Some collection owners have granted family history centers and church members access to their records in exchange for preservation services provided by the Church.”

There is now free training available from FamilySearch RootsTech, see them at <https://www.familysearch.org/rootstech/rtc2021>

Using FamilySearch is fairly similar to using Ancestry Library Edition, and accesses a lot of the same records, but they are presented in different views, and work off a central family tree that the user creates.

Some differences are that in viewing census results, the person you are searching is not highlighted in the result, and when you hover over the census columns the text view of handwritten entries does not exist. This can make it more difficult to use and interpret.

The FamilySearch Library in Los Angeles

https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Los_Angeles_FamilySearch_Library#Los_Angeles_California_FamilySearch_Library

The Library now offers live assistance online, research requests and training

Other Resources

How to get unstuck? Try variant names, try adding or omitting initials. If the person is female, try using original surname as well as married name. Try varying the year of birth or location of birth. If you know parent's or sibling's names, try locating those – sometimes a spelling error will be revealed by finding a family member.

Cyndi's list <https://www.cyndislist.com/us/> and Random Acts of Genealogical Kindness <https://raogk.org/> online may help you to resolve some mysteries.

Newspaper and Obituary Resources

Using NewsBank Resources

America's News

HeritageHub

To access either of these databases with your Thousand Oaks Library card, go to:

<https://www.tolibrary.org/virtual-library/research>

America's News is a resource for digital newspapers, from the Virtual Library, when you click the link, it will ask you to provide your library card number and PIN.

If you want to see the coverage, you can click on the source list and see a list of all newspapers searched, and the date ranges covered.

1-20 of 248 Sources

Enter any keyword to refine sources

| Source Name | Dates | Location | Type | Format | Language |
|--|----------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------|--------|----------|
| Adobe Press (Nipomo, CA) | 2001 - 2016 | USA - CA - Arroyo Grande | Newspaper | Text | English |
| Alameda Journal (CA) | 2001 - Current | USA - CA - Alameda | Newspaper | Text | English |
| Alameda Times-Star (CA) | 2001 - 2016 | USA - CA - Oakland | Newspaper | Text | English |
| Anaheim Examiner (CA) | 2009 - 2016 | USA - CA - Anaheim | Web-Only Source | Text | English |
| Anderson Valley Post (CA) | 2006 - 2014 | USA - CA - Anderson | Newspaper | Text | English |
| Antioch News (CA) | 2017 - 2021 | USA - CA - Antioch | Newspaper | Text | English |
| Appeal-Democrat (Marysville - Yuba City, CA) | 1999 - Current | USA - CA - Marysville | Newspaper | Text | English |
| Apple Valley Review (CA) | 2017 - Current | USA - CA - Victorville, Apple Valley | Newspaper | Text | English |
| Argus, The (Fremont-Newark, CA) | 2001 - Current | USA - CA - Fremont | Newspaper | Text | English |
| Associated Press State Wire: California (CA) | 2010 - Current | USA - CA | Newswire | Text | English |
| Auburn Journal, The (CA) | 2004 - Current | USA - CA - Auburn | Newspaper | Text | English |

The oldest dates for these resources tend to start in the mid-1990s and go to the present.

Heritage Hub is a resource for obituaries and death notices, it will not show other types of news articles about a person. Some of the resources are more current, same range as America's News, but there are also older records, some go back to the 1800s.

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| <input type="checkbox"/> Source Name | <input type="checkbox"/> Dates | <input type="checkbox"/> Location | <input type="checkbox"/> Type | <input type="checkbox"/> Format | <input type="checkbox"/> Language |
|--|--------------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Martinez News-Gazette (CA) | 2009 - Current | USA - CA - Martinez | Newspaper | Text | English |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Record, The (Martinez-Pleasant Hill, CA) | 2002 - Current | USA - CA - Martinez, Pleasant Hill | Newspaper | Text | English |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Appeal-Democrat (Marysville - Yuba City, CA) | 1999 - Current | USA - CA - Marysville | Newspaper | Text | English |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prospector, The: Yuba College (Marysville, CA) | 2012 | USA - CA - Marysville | Web-Only Source | Text | English |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Weekly California Express | 1857 - 1859 | USA - CA - Marysville | Newspaper | Image | English |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mendocino Beacon (CA) | 2001 - Current | USA - CA - Mendocino | Newspaper | Text | English |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Merced Sun-Star | 1932 - 2001 | USA - CA - Merced | Newspaper | Image | English |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Merced Sun-Star, The: Blogs (CA) | 2010 - 2017 | USA - CA - Merced | Blog | Text | English |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Merced Sun-Star, The: Video Transcripts (CA) | 2019 - Current | USA - CA - Merced | Transcript | Text | English |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Merced Sun-Star, The (CA) | 2001 - Current | USA - CA - Merced | Newspaper | Text | English |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mill Valley Herald (CA) | 2009 - Current | USA - CA - Mill Valley | Newspaper | Text | English |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fremont Bulletin (Milpitas, CA) | 2007 - 2016 | USA - CA - Milpitas | Newspaper | Text | English |

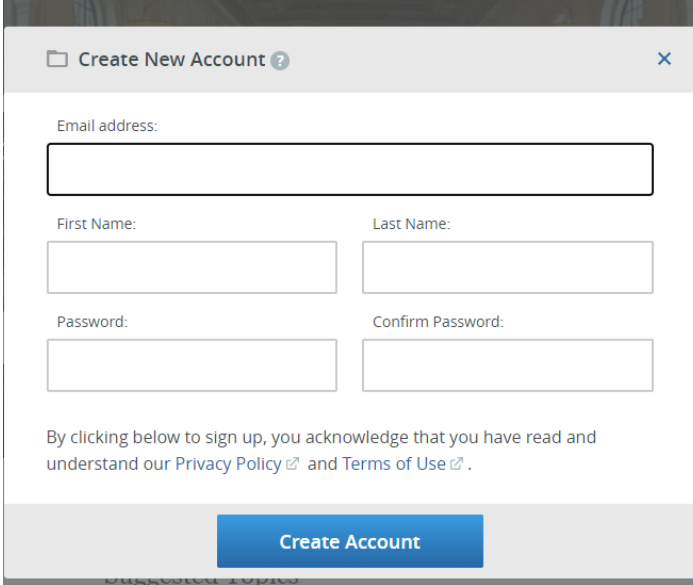
Sign up for a free NewsBank account to create a Personal Folder. Personal Folders allow users to save / organize / share articles, save custom searches, and create customizable email alerts.

Sign into your account at any time by hovering over Session Folder (near the top of every page) and clicking on “Sign In to My Folder” in the drop-down menu. Don’t have a folder yet? Hover over “Session Folder” and select “Create a Personal Folder” (in the drop-down menu) to register for a free account.

NewsBank provides a comprehensive collection of reliable news sources covering a wide array of topics and issues.

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To create a personal folder, you will need to complete a simple form, and then click “Create Account”

A screenshot of a web form titled "Create New Account" with a question mark icon and a close button (X). The form contains four input fields: "Email address:" (a single line), "First Name:" (a single line), "Last Name:" (a single line), "Password:" (a single line), and "Confirm Password:" (a single line). Below the fields is a line of text: "By clicking below to sign up, you acknowledge that you have read and understand our [Privacy Policy](#) and [Terms of Use](#) .". At the bottom is a blue button labeled "Create Account".

After signing into your account, click on the Save Search icon on any Search Results page to save the search for future use, or click on the Create Alert icon to receive an email notification whenever new results that match the search criteria become available.

Patrons can access and add to their Personal Folders using any **NewsBank** database, including *Black Life in America*, *America's News*, and *HeritageHub*.

These resources can help fill in obituaries that are indexed in Ancestry Library Edition, but cannot be viewed without an additional subscription.

Adding DNA to your research

DNA can be a useful tool, especially if you are stuck, or trying to locate lost family members, or were adopted or had an adopted ancestor. It is somewhat expensive, but there are often discounts around the end of the year. If you want to pursue DNA linking, you really need a paid subscription account at one of the genealogy services. Think it through first, once the DNA genie is out of the bottle, it can't be put back.

If you find you are interested in DNA testing, I recommend you read some of the current articles about the process prior to making a decision and selecting a test company. Science News has an extensive review of the DNA testing processes.

<https://www.sciencenews.org/article/consumer-genetic-testing-dna-genome>

Here are some articles on how to select a DNA test option:

Genetics Digest offers this review done in 2021

https://geneticsdigest.com/best_ancestry_genealogy_dna_test/index_oct15_var.html?clid=EAlalQobChMI6Lv5Ta8wIVsyitBh26JQyzEAAYASAAEgLGm_D_BwE

The NY Times offered this review of 2021 options

<https://www.nytimes.com/wirecutter/reviews/best-dna-test/>

PC Magazine had this October 2021 review

<https://www.pcmag.com/picks/the-best-dna-testing-kits>

Consumer Reports February 2021 review

<https://www.consumerreports.org/genetic-testing/genetic-testing-kit-read-this-before-you-buy-a7760054746/>

This somewhat older review gives you more information about the types of DNA testing and what they mean

<https://thegenealogyreporter.com/dna-tests-for-genealogy/>

It is important to remember with all these possibilities that DNA is good for showing specific types of genetic relationships and can be a good way of finding your way if you hit a wall in your research. DNA does not reveal all.

Most of the ethnicity matches are based on comparison pools, so as time passes, you may find more detail or changes reported in your genetic profile, as there are more data to compare.

Linking your DNA test with your personal genealogy account will help you link with other family members and keep track of updates.