QUICK TIPS

My Favorite Things on Ancestry.com

Census Records

Ancestry uses the *Interactive Image Viewer* where the person of interest is highlighted in yellow and the household in green.

Suggested Records

Using the information from the record transcription, Ancestry searches for other records that may pertain to the same person. The suggestions system also looks at people in trees to which this record has been saved to see if there are additional records saved to those people. These records are displayed to aid you in finding other records that may help you in your research. The displayed names may or may not be the person you are looking for so you will have to check.

U.S. City Directories, 1821-1995

This database is a collection of directories for U.S. cities and counties. Generally, a city directory will contain an alphabetical list of citizens, listing the names of the heads of households, their addresses, and occupational information. Sometimes a wife's name will be listed in parentheses or italics following the husband. Other helpful information might include death dates for individuals who had been listed in the previous year's directory, names of partners in firms, and forwarding addresses or post offices for people who had moved to another town.

Online Family Trees

This database, found on the *Search* dropdown menu under *Public Member Trees*, contains family trees submitted to Ancestry by users who have indicated that their trees can be viewed by all Ancestry members. These trees can change over time as users edit, remove, or otherwise modify the data in their trees. Not all are correct but many have sources you may not be aware of and you can collaborate with the tree owners.

Public Member Photos and Scanned Documents

To repeat the oft-used cliché, "A picture is worth a thousand words," photographic images capture the essence of people, places, and things and are among the most desirable of family history treasures. You may also find vital documents for your ancestors that are in the possession of another Ancestry user.

DNA Testing

Ancestry has a DNA service that is extremely helpful in ancestral research. To receive the full benefits of this feature, make sure you have a family tree on Ancestry connected to your DNA results.

A Few Words About the 1950 U.S. Census

Ancestry developed a kind of artificial intelligence- handwriting recognition that was able to read the 1950 U.S. Census in nine days. Ancestry then partnered with FamilySearch to have indexers make any needed corrections in the census. In comparison, 1940 U.S. Census, when it was released in 2012, took over nine months to index.

Cheryl Fugal, March 2023