

GETTING FROM THEN TO NOW LOCATING PEOPLE IN THE LAST CENTURY

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It is the goal of many of us to get from 1900, forward to today. To do this we use a variety of sources and sites. We do the entire family group so we don't miss any clues. We find our family group in 1900. Who died first? Find their vital information. Death certificates, obituary, anything else? Where are their children listed as living in the obituary? Do you get daughters married names? Move family forward from 1910, census, keep circling all of the clues and databases. Pretty soon you'll be in 2017!

US SEARCHES TO LOCATE THE DEAD

Census work – you decide what your starting point is. There are a number of databases you can use.

If researching a man check both WWI and WWII draft registrations.

Vital record availability: Use www.vitalrec.com to learn more about the state you want to order a vital record from. You can order the certificate on line but will pay approximately double of what it costs to order from the state directly. [I usually pick the paper route because it is SO much cheaper.]

Funeral Homes: <http://www.funeralhomes.com/> Or <http://www.funeralhomesguide.com>

Online Searchable Death Indexes for the USA <http://www.germanroots.com/deathrecords.html>
All states listed.

Google Searches

See the Google Search Operators refresher sheet.

SOCIAL SECURITY DEATH INDEX

Steve Morse's website:

Searching the Social Security Death Index (SSDI) in One Step:

<https://stevemorse.org/ssdi/ssdi.html>

Decoding the Security Numbers in One Step: <https://stevemorse.org/ssn/ssn.html>

Social Security Death Master File, free: <http://ssdmf.info/>

Social Security Death Index also is known as SSDI.

SS-5 (\$) : <https://www.ssa.gov/foia/>

Social Security Death Index at FamilySearch [1962-November 30, 2013]:

<https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/1202535>

Ancestry's link [1935-2014]: <https://search.ancestry.com/search/db.aspx?dbid=3693>

OBITUARIES

Newsbank: America's Obituaries & Death Notices – **accessed through your local public library log on.** Starting year of many papers about 2000; previous years very spotty.

Ancestry's United States Obituary Collection (Go to Card Catalog > Birth, Marriage, Death > United States Obituary Collection) or <https://www.ancestry.com/search/obit/?us&dbid=7545>. They index all the names in the obit, not just the decedent.

Cyndi's List: <https://www.cyndislist.com/obituaries/> (copy/paste into browser if needed)

Free Obituaries Online http://www3.sympatico.ca/bkinnon/obit_linksxxx.htm (This one has links to state and Canadian province and other international links)

Genealogybank is adding content quickly: <https://www.genealogybank.com/> See what is available for each state when you visit the site. [Scroll down on the page.]

Legacy.com <http://www.legacy.com/>

“Newspapers as early as February 2001.” This site also has SSDI listings updated weekly.

Library of Congress has many newspapers before 1923, but not all states are listed there yet:

<https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/>

National Obituary Archive: <http://www.nationalobituaryarchive.com/Obituary/>

NewspaperArchive.com (\$\$): <https://newspaperarchive.com/> It appears the most of this database is available through a subscription to FindMyPast.com

Obituary Daily Times: <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~obituary/> - [Currently Unavailable]

Input your surname; you will get a place for the newspaper, newspaper name, and date of obituary.

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Now try to locate the obituary with this information. This database is indexed by Ancestry's search engine.

Online Historical Newspapers Website: <https://sites.google.com/site/onlinenewspapersite/Home>
Google [Your county of interest] Public Library - Using your favorite search engine, look up the county/state library where your person died. Many times a librarian on staff will pull the obituary for you at little or no cost. Libraries are usually willing to email a scanned copy or they will put a hard copy in the mail. That hard copy might come with a fee.

CEMETERY LISTINGS

Billion Graves <https://billiongraves.com/> (This one is new but growing fast. Also smartphone app.)

Department of Veterans Affairs <https://gravelocator.cem.va.gov/> (Military burials)

Find a Grave - transcriptions of cemeteries; many photos <https://www.findagrave.com/>

Funeral.net - <http://www.funeralnet.com/index.php> (might have to copy/paste)

Rootsweb [**Currently Unavailable**]: <http://userdb.rootsweb.ancestry.com/cemeteries/>

US GenWeb Tombstone Transcription Project: <http://www.usgw-tombstones.org/>

DATABASES OF USE TO YOUR SEARCH

Ancestry: www.ancestry.com (\$\$ and Free); use free at public library or Family History Centers

Family History Library: <https://familysearch.org/>

Fold3 has a lot of valuable information on their site: <https://www.fold3.com/>

Rootsweb [**Currently unavailable**]- totally free: <http://home.rootsweb.ancestry.com/>

STATE AND COUNTY RESEARCH

Ancestry.com, U.S. Public Records Index, Volume 1 (1950 to 1993 era):
<https://search.ancestry.com/search/db.aspx?dbid=1788>

Ancestry.com, U.S. Public Records Index, Volume 2 (1950 to 1993 era):
<https://search.ancestry.com/search/db.aspx?dbid=1732>

Many libraries own collections of city directories for their community. You might need to request a lookup (and send a donation for their trouble) to help you with your case. Sometimes people

didn't participate in the census. You can follow them in the city directories (or old phone books) till they no longer appear. OR, perhaps a widow is listed and her husband's date of death is listed as well. Yes, this really happened.

Ancestry.com, as well as Fold3, have a growing database of city directories.

United States Online Historical Directories:

<https://sites.google.com/site/onlinedirectorysite/Home/usa>

Probate & estates look for online indexes and records at the county level.

National Center for State Courts: <http://www.ncsc.org/Information-and-Resources/Browse-by-State/State-Court-Websites.aspx>

Virtual Chase: <https://virtualchase.justia.com/legal-research/>

Oregon, Multnomah County Probate Index, 1852-1939: <http://gfo.org/resources/indexes/vital-records/multnomah-county-probates.html>

Washington Digital Archives: <https://digitalarchives.wa.gov/>

County level clerks, circuit courts, etc. have lots of deeds, civil and criminal cases either on file or indexed.

County real estate tax assessment offices' online records.

County and state court online docket and judgment records.

VITAL RECORDS STATE INFORMATION

See Toolbox for the links to state research facilities to expand your research.

Lawson Research Toolbox (state by state): <https://lawsonresearch.net/index-by-state/>

There are thousands of links made available here. Use the Google search box to find your state of interest. [On right side of page.]

If you discover other links not listed in the Toolbox, please let me know so that they can be added!

HIRE A RESEARCHER

It might become necessary for you to hire a researcher to do some footwork for you.

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Association of Professional Genealogists at <https://www.apgen.org/>

Board of Certification for Genealogists: <http://www.bcgcertification.org/>

ICAPGen: <https://www.icapgen.org/find-an-ag-professional/by-accreditation-region/>

Ask for references from other professional colleagues.

WHERE LIVING PEOPLE MIGHT BE LOCATED

Steve Morse has some great stuff on his website, and it's very useful. Strongly encourage you to familiarize yourself with the site. And if you locate a site that needs indexing, contact Steve and he might put it on his future to-do list.

You need to locate a person but have no real idea how old they might be. Using the most unusual name in the family, run the Veromi search located just below the search results at this link.

Steve Morse: <https://stevemorse.org/birthday/privateeye.html>

Zabasearch Advanced Search: <http://www.zabasearch.com/advanced.php>

Information on this site is dated, IMO. BUT, it seems that once someone has their name published on this website they seem to stay there. Sometimes old numbers become unlisted and this is a great resource. Sometimes those old numbers are ported to being cell phone numbers.

SuperPages (no state requirement): <http://wp.superpages.com/>

Dex White Pages: <http://whitepages.dexknows.com/>

White Pages: <https://www.whitepages.com/>

Doing reverse searches using phone numbers or addresses sometimes get hits.

*Using the online people search databases *might* help you locate a person. The most accurate site that I'm currently aware of is Lexis-Nexis Accurint and you will have to have an attorney access that for you. Expect to pay a fee for this service.*

Property check: Check to see when a piece of property last sold to try: <https://www.zillow.com/> Search the county/ city of the address and see if they give you online access to the deeds or indexes for the property. Or call the county clerk's office and see if they can give you dates over the phone (some can, others cannot). The biggest problem would be if the people you seek are renters.

SOCIAL NETWORKING

Classmates.com (\$\$): <http://www.classmates.com>

Facebook: www.Facebook.com

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/>

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com>

Each of these social networking sites can help you locate living people. They have each proven useful.

FEDERAL / STATE / COUNTY INMATES

Lawson Research Services, Jails: <https://lawsonresearch.net/forensic-toolbox/jails-federal-state-county/>

Federal Bureau of Prisons: <https://www.bop.gov/inmateloc/>

State

Free Inmate Locator: <http://www.theinmatelocator.com/>

Make sure to check both civil and criminal as well as probation and parole, to the extent available.

LAST RESORTS

Property Tax Listings

Voter's registration: You need to know where they are living to find out if they've registered to vote. In Washington State, you can view the state voter database here:

<http://www.soundpolitics.com/voterlookup.html>

Department of Motor Vehicles: If you have their full name, date of birth, and perhaps last address they might be able to help.

Secretary of State (Google your state of interest) or other agencies where one files business and sales tax paperwork. You might locate someone you're seeking that is an officer of an organization or a member of the board of directors for a company or non-profit.

[State] Division of Corporations

REFERENCE BOOKS

Greenwood, Val, *The Researcher's Guide to American Genealogy 3rd Edition* Baltimore, Maryland: Genealogical Publishing Co., Inc., 2000

Hinckley, Kathleen W., *Locating Lost Family Members & Friends: Modern Genealogical Research Techniques for Locating the People of Your Past and Present* Cincinnati, Ohio: Betterway Publishers, 1999.

Hinckley, Kathleen W. *Tracking Twentieth Century Ancestors*. In *The Source: A Guidebook of American Genealogy*. Loretto Dennis Szucs and Sandra Hargreaves Luebking, editors. Salt Lake City: Ancestry Publishing, 1997. [page 210]

Tillman, Norma Mott, *How to Find Almost Anyone, Anywhere* Nashville, Tennessee: Rutledge Hill Press, 1994.

There are many, many books written on this subject. Check your local public library for other options.

FURTHERING YOUR EDUCATION, MAKING YOU A BETTER RESEARCHER

Power Searching With Google: <http://www.powersearchingwithgoogle.com/>

Highly recommend this **online course**. You'll learn a lot from how to do a "site:" specific search to how to find photos online that match a photo you have. Yes, Google can do that!

SOFTWARE

Genealogy program: Use what you're comfortable with. Make lots of notes in the program for yourself. You're building on clues.

GenSmarts: a nice tool that is no longer being updated. It's referred to as "artificial intelligence." The program checks what you have with what's available out in cyberspace. It also lists items you'll have to write for. I use it to make sure I've not missed any database that could further my search.

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