Presentation By John Beaumont

Genealogy and Your

Family History

Class Two:
Searching

Some Images in This Presentation Were Created Using ChatGPT

What's Ahead: Getting Started

In this class, we will cover:

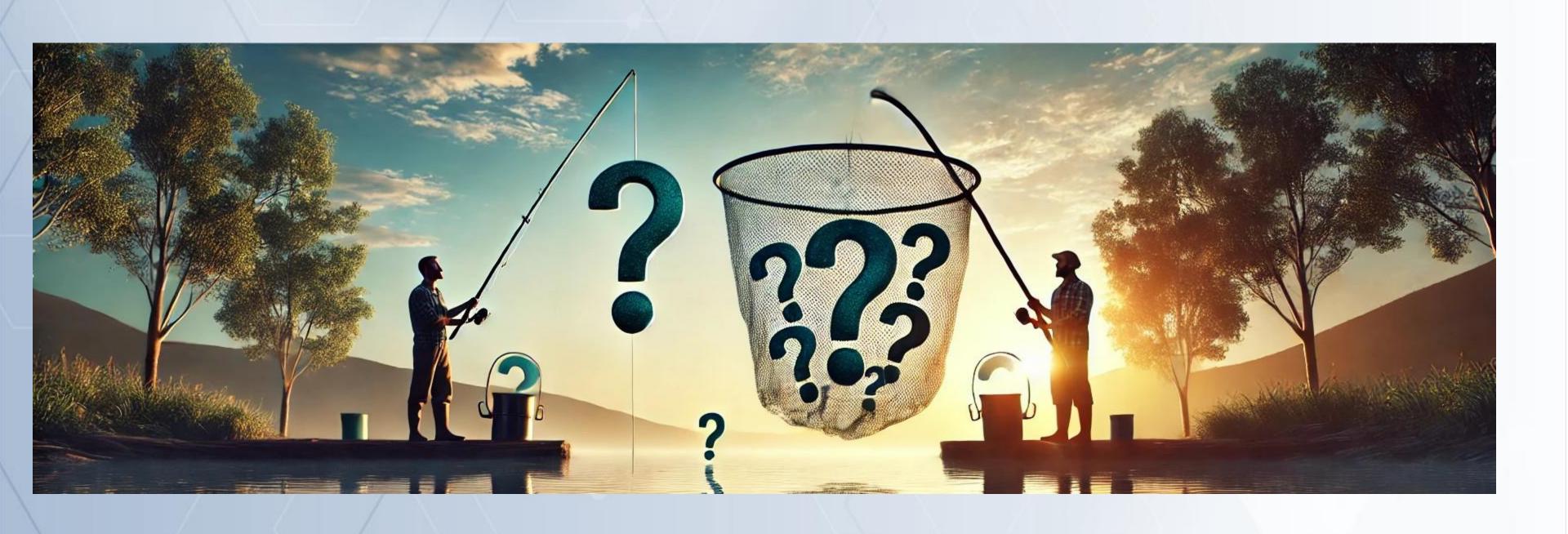
- Search Strategies
- Search Sources
- Family Search Case Study birth records
- Family Search Case Study census records
- Ancestry Search Tips the catalog

Search Strategy



How Do You Search

Do You Bait A Hook or Cast A Net?



Every Search Starts With A Question



Do not search randomly – have a question you are trying to answer (write down the question).

If your search does not have a focus, then you will be all over the place and probably miss essential records.

Some examples:

- Where was [name] who was married to [name] on [date] born
- Who was the mother of [name]
- When and where did [name] immigrate to the USA
- Who were the children of [name] and [name] who married on [date][location]

Search Methodology

QUESTION: What are you trying to find out?

Modify based

on results

PLAN:

SEARCH:

DOCUMENT:

BACKGROUND: What facts do you have which will help your search?

SOURCES: Which sources will assist in answering your question?

What is the availability and location of the sources?

Execute your search plan.

Cite and document your results, both positive and negative.

Search Strategies and Techniques

Start with broad search, then "focus in," using more parameters.

Be careful with "exact" searches (most searches default to "similar" or "sounds like").

Use wildcards. Typically, "*" for multiple characters, "?" for single characters.

Use nicknames, married names, and abbreviated names.

If you can't find someone, try looking for their family or relatives (FAN Network).

Variations and Name Changes

Some children are given their stepfather's last name while in his household and revert to the given name later.

Families often reused the names of children who died.

Naming conventions often lead to multiple people with the same name (later slide).

Check phonetic spellings – reading and writing skills lead to misspellings

Look for native language translations and translation variations

Consider cultural or religious naming patterns (Christian first names)

Consider social "renaming" – anglicizing immigrants names.

Inaccuracies and Estimates

Document the facts you know are accurate and will assist your search.

Some parameters may be estimates, perhaps a date range for birth or death, a state rather than a city.

There are errors, omissions, lies, and guesses in numerous "official" records.

Many family trees online are incorrect. As a rule, the more people in the tree, the less accurate it is.

Family lore (e.g., great-grandfather was at the Alamo) often turns out to be incorrect

Watch out for intentional inaccuracies.

Understand primary and secondary sources (covered in later class)

Date Formats and Record Handling:

The dates of 10/12/1845 are 10th December in Europe and 12th October in the USA. To avoid confusion, the genealogical convention for recording dates is dd mmm yyyy (12 Oct 1845).

The baptism date may not have any bearing on the birth date.

UK and US calendars changed in 1752

Dates were not that important in many people's lives

Some records deliberately round up or round down

Family Names

Many countries have naming conventions that may lead to multiple closely related people with the same family name in the same place at the same time. Christian name groupings can help identify families.

- The first son was named after the paternal grandfather
- The second son was named after the maternal grandfather
- The third son was named after the father
- The fourth son was named after the oldest paternal uncle
- The fifth was named after the second oldest paternal uncle or the oldest maternal uncle
- The first daughter was named after the maternal grandmother
- The second daughter was named after the paternal grandmother
- The third daughter was named after the mother
- The fourth daughter was named after the oldest maternal aunt
- The fifth was named after the second oldest maternal aunt or the oldest paternal aunt

(https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/England_Personal_Names)

Family Names – My Example

In this 1841 census example, three Bousfield brothers from the same small village have a son called Stephen born around the same time. Their grandfather was called Stephen.

76					
View Record	Stephen Bousfield	abt 1831	Westmorland, England	Orton, Westmorland	
View Record	Stephen Bousfield	abt 1839	Westmorland, England	Orton, Westmorland	
View Record	Stephen Bousfield	abt 1834	Westmorland, England	Orton, Westmorland	

Household Members	Age
William Bousfield	45
Nancy Bousfield	45
Stephen Bousfield	10

Household Members	Age		
John Bousfield	50		
Margaret Bousfield	40		
Elizabeth Bousfield	11		
Agnes Bousfield	9		
Sarah Bousfield	6		
Stephen Bousfield	2		
Stephen Bousileiu			

Household Members	Age
Robert Bousfield	35
Agnes Bousfield	30
Stephen Bousfield	7
Mary Bousfield	4

How would you determine his father if you had a relative called Stephen Bousfield, born between 1830 – 1840 in the Village of Orton, Westmorland?



Transcription Errors

Street Address

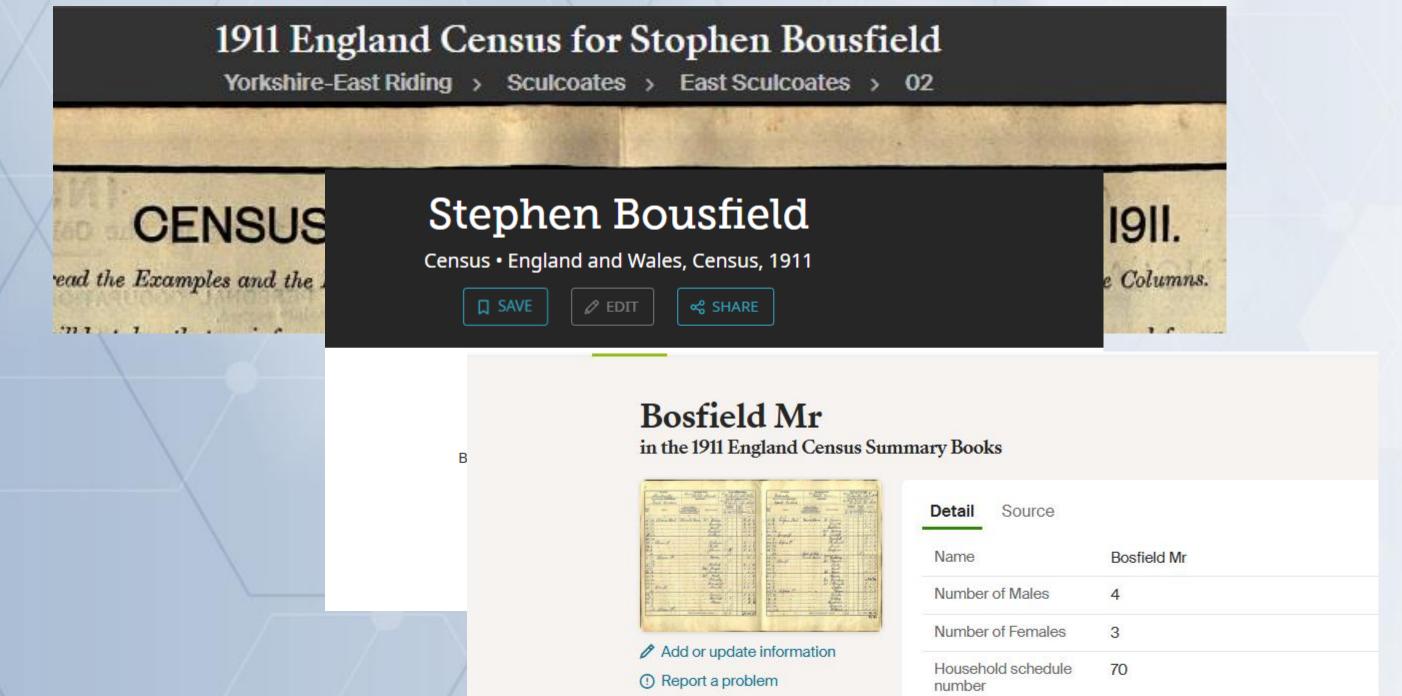
Ecclesiastical parish

Civil parish

72 Alicia Street

Sculcoates Christ Church

Sculcoates



What Leads to Transcription Errors?

Transcription Problems

Human Challenges:

- Poor handwriting or stylized scripts.
- Illiteracy leading to verbal information being misrecorded.
- Fatigue or inattention of transcribers.

Document Quality:

- Aging, fading, or damage to historical documents.
- Poor-quality microfilm or digitization.
- Old languages like Latin

Language and Cultural Factors:

- Phonetic spellings of names.
- Foreign names misinterpreted by officials.
- Local dialects and abbreviations.

Lack of Standardization:

- Inconsistent spelling of names and places.
- Changing conventions over time (e.g., name anglicizations).

Limitations in Modern Digitization:

- Al tools (like OCR) struggling with cursive or faded text.
- Unfamiliar characters, symbols, or document layouts.
- Transcribers unfamiliar with content and context

Intentional or Accidental Changes:

- Simplifications or modifications to names.
- Name changed due to social situations
- Skipped or combined entries due to human error.

Transcription Solutions

Explore the Original Document:

- Verify the record by viewing the scanned image.
- Review neighboring records for context.
- Familiarize yourself with the document layout and handwriting styles.

Cross-Reference Multiple Sources:

- Use different genealogy platforms to compare records.
- Look for supporting documents, such as marriage or death records.

Use Wildcards:

- Search with symbols like `*` (multiple characters) or `?` (single character).
- Example: "John*" for "Johnson" or "Johnston."

Broaden Search Criteria:

- Search by first names, locations, or approximate ages.
- Turn off exact match filters for broader results.

Use Alternate Spellings:

- Think phonetically (e.g., "Kathryn" vs. "Catherine").
- Consider regional spelling variations.

Leverage Historical Context:

- Study regional dialects and naming conventions.
- Understand name changes or anglicizations.

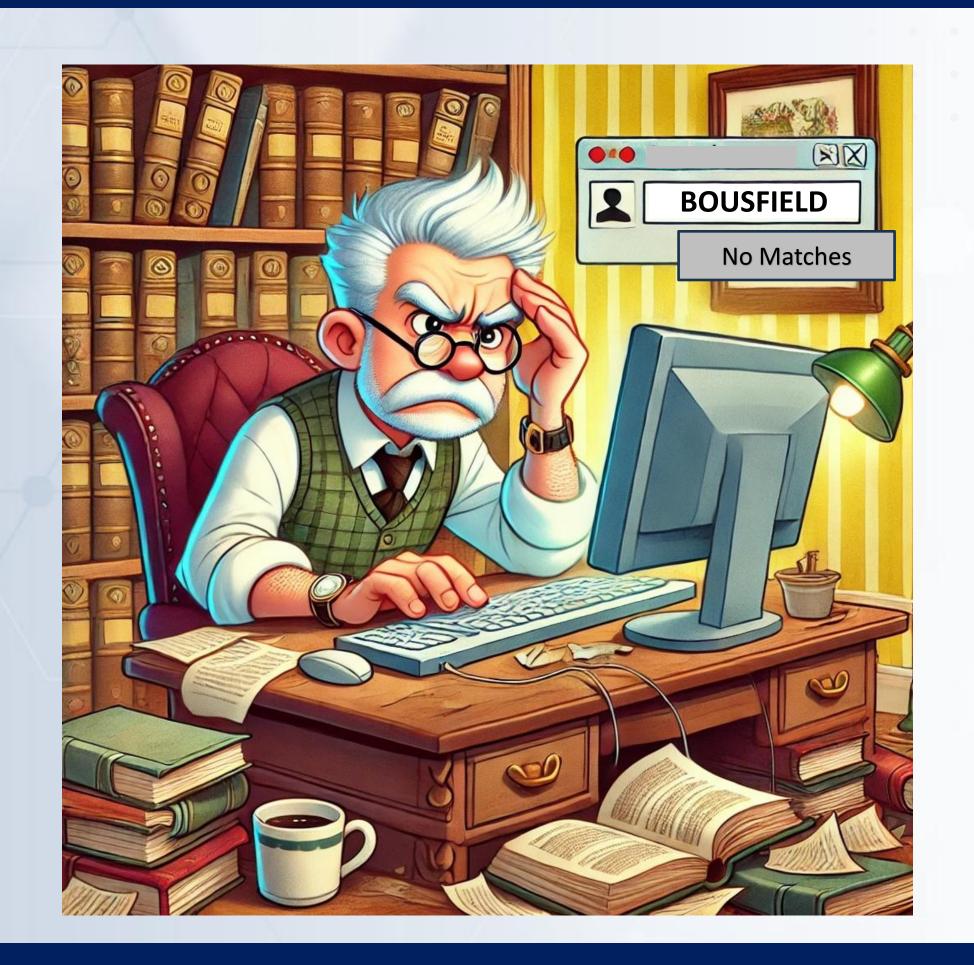
Seek Help from Community Resources:

- Use genealogy forums and message boards.
- Review family trees shared by other researchers.

Don't Get Frustrated

Inevitable but [usually] Surmountable:

- Something that all family historians deal with daily.
- Transcription errors are a natural part of working with historical records due to human and technological limitations.
- Patience, persistence, and creativity in your research strategies are key to overcoming these challenges.
- Don't get frustrated.

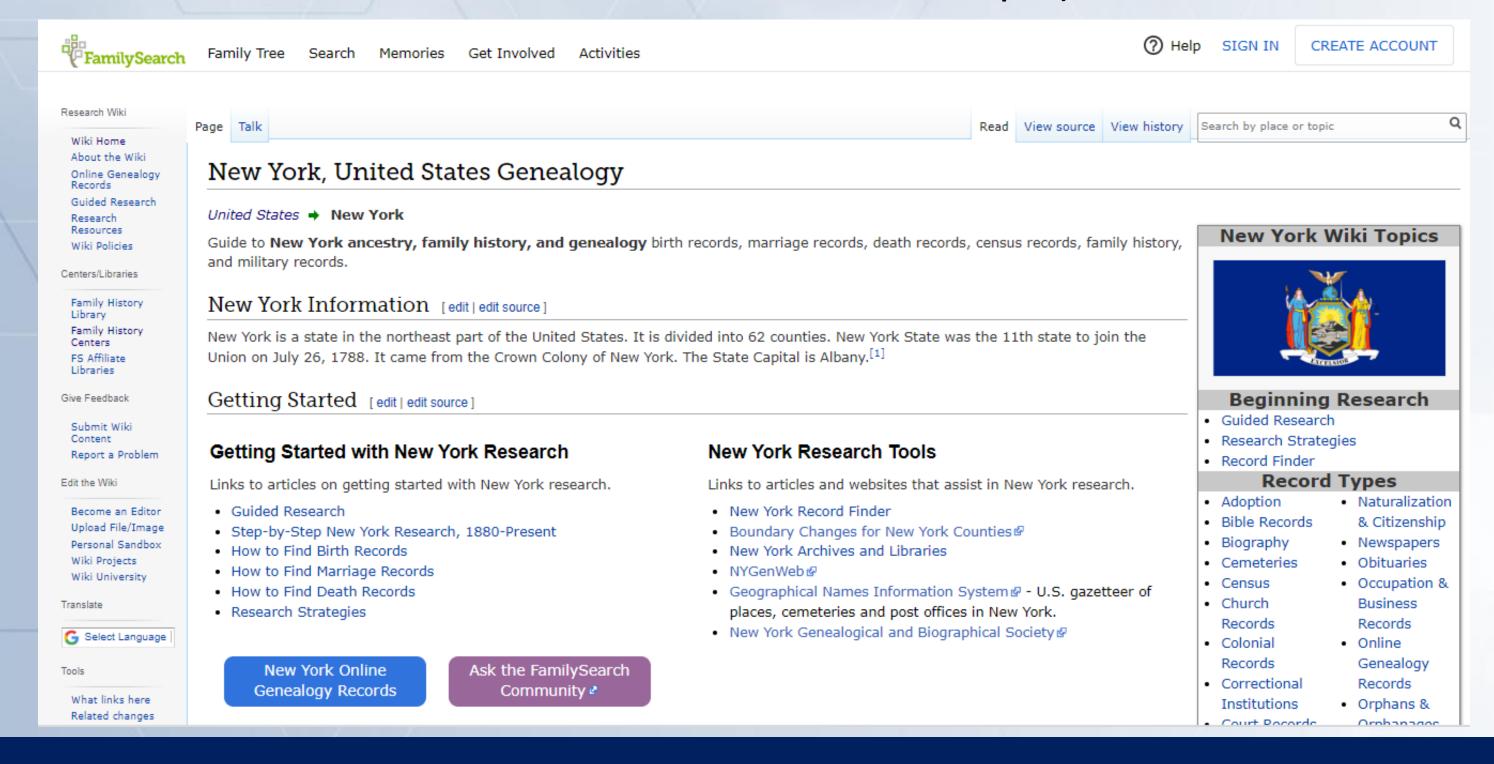


Finding Sources



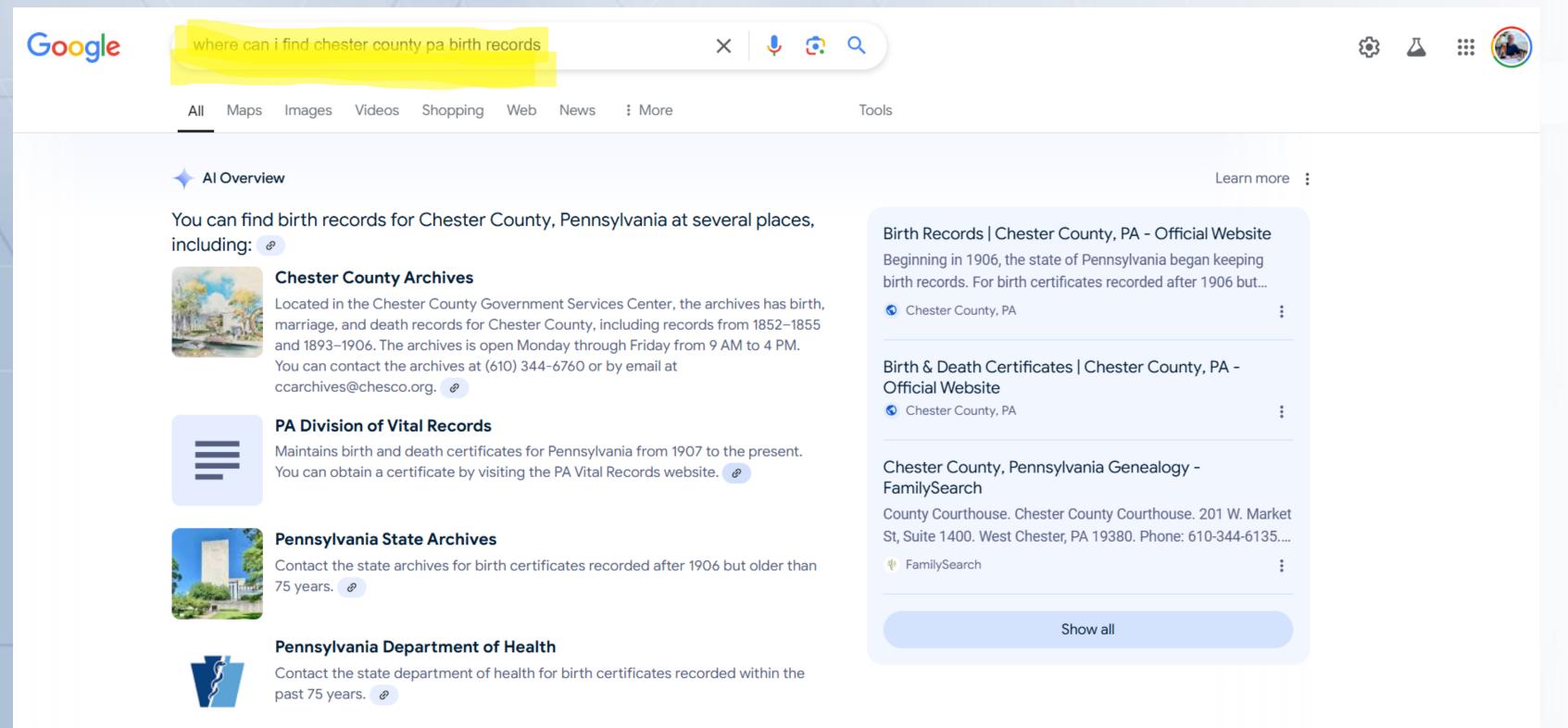
Family Search Wiki

The **Family Search Wiki** is particularly helpful in suggesting **where** to search for records by state and country (other sites have research guides, too, https://www.genuki.org.uk/ for UK & Ireland, for example).



Google/Bing

A Traditional Search Engine Such as Google or Bing are Great Resources For Finding Sources.



A Conversation with AI (ChatGPT)

A Conversation With an LLM, Such As ChatGPT, Will Provide Directions.

where can I find a city directory for Ashville NC?

Prompt



You can find Asheville, NC, city directories through several online and local resources:

1. Online Resources:

- Ancestry.com: Offers Asheville city directories (subscription required).
- FamilySearch.org: Free access to digitized city directories.
- **DigitalNC.org**: Provides free access to North Carolina city directories.
- Internet Archive (Archive.org): Has digitized Asheville city directories available for free download.

2. Local Libraries and Archives:

- Pack Memorial Library (Buncombe County Public Libraries): Houses local historical records, including city directories. Contact their reference desk for specific years.
- Western Regional Archives (part of the State Archives of North Carolina): Located in Asheville,
 this archive holds local directories and other historical records.

These options should help you locate Asheville city directories quickly, whether online or locally in Asheville.

I asked ChatGPT to shorten the answer – it was originally much more detailed

Social Sites & Family History Groups



Search & Research Log

You should document your search plan in your Research Log.

DATE 17 April 2022

RESEARCH GOAL

Identify the parents of John Beaumont (husband of Julia and father of Ida) who was born circa 1827 in England and lived in Conneaut, Erie, Pennsylvania in 1860.

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SOURCE	PURPOSE OF SEARCH	RESULTS/FINDINGS/NOTES					
[original search for the head of household] "1860 United States Federal Census," database with images ancestrylibrary.com (https://www.ancestrylibrary.com: accessed 17 March 2022), search for John Beaumont, born between 1820 and 1830.	Examine the original census page image to see if there are any neighbors or family members that would help identify the parents of John Beaumont						
"Erie County, Pennsylvania Genealogy," research Wiki familysearch.com (https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/Erie_County,_Pennsylvania_Genealogy: accessed 17 March 2022).	Look for marriage record sources for John and Julia, which may name John's parents.						
"1850 United States Federal Census," database with images ancestrylibrary.com (https://www.ancestrylibrary.com: accessed 17 March 2022), search for John Beaumont born 1827 +/- 2 years, Erie Pennsylvania.	Locate John with his parents. He may be in his parent's household.						
"U.S., Newspapers.com Obituary Index, 1800s-current," database index ancestrylibrary.com (https://www.ancestrylibrary.com: accessed 17 March 2022), search for John Beaumont born 1827, lived in Conneaut, Erie, Pennsylvania.	John's obituary may name his parents.						
"England, Select Births and Christenings, 1538-1975," database index ancestrylibrary.com (https://www.ancestrylibrary.com: accessed 18 March 2022), search for John Beaumont born 1827, father: Thomas Beaumont, Mother: Alice. And, search for Thomas Beaumont born 1830, father: Thomas Beaumont, Mother: Alice.	Based on 1850 and 1860 census information find if there are birth records for John (1827) and Thomas (1830) for parents Thomas and Alice Beaumont in England.						

Search & Research Log

DATE 17 April 2022

RESEARCH GOAL

Identify the parents of John Beaumont (husband of Julia and father of Ida) who was born circa 1827 in England and lived in Conneaut, Erie, Pennsylvania in 1860.

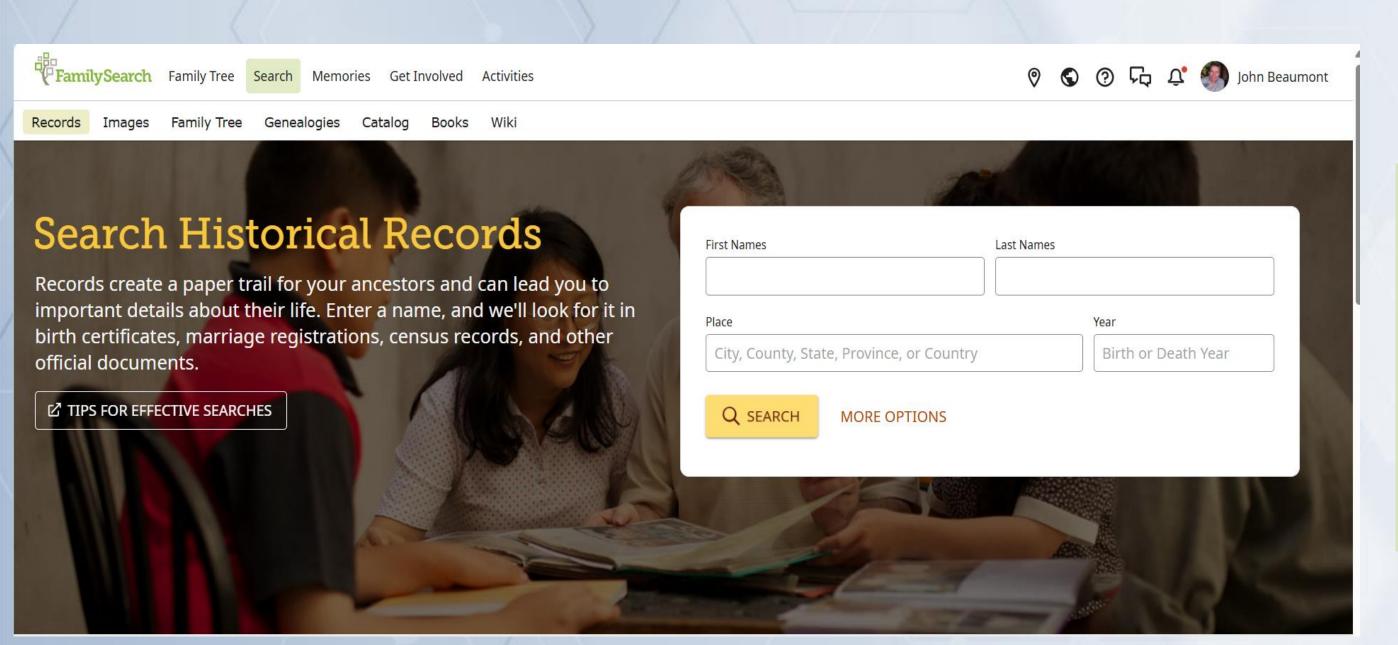
Research Plan

Resea	rch Plan	Search Results		
SOURCE	PURPOSE OF SEARCH	RESULTS/FINDINGS/NOTES		
[original search for the head of household] "1860 United States Federal Census," database with images ancestrylibrary.com (https://www.ancestrylibrary.com: accessed 17 March 2022), search for John Beaumont, born between 1820 and 1830.	Examine the original census page image to see if there are any neighbors or family members that would help identify the parents of John Beaumont	Named on the same census page (two dwellings prior), Thomas Beaumont Snr, aged 67, farmer, born England; Alice Beaumont, aged 70, born England; Thomas Beaumont, aged 30.		
"Erie County, Pennsylvania Genealogy," research Wiki familysearch.com (https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/Erie_County,_Pen nsylvania_Genealogy: accessed 17 March 2022).	Look for marriage record sources for John and Julia, which may name John's parents.	Marriage records for Erie County did not begin until 1885. State records did not start until 1905. No records are available.		
"1850 United States Federal Census," database with images ancestrylibrary.com (https://www.ancestrylibrary.com: accessed 17 March 2022), search for John Beaumont born 1827 +/- 2 years, Erie Pennsylvania.	Locate John with his parents. He may be in his parent's household.	Iohn Beaumont, aged 24 found in the same township of Conneaut, Erie, Pennsylvania. He is in the home of Thomas Beaumont, aged 57, a farmer born in England, Eliza [Alice] Beaumont, aged 61, born in England, and Thomas, aged 24 born in England. This appears to be the same family that are neighbors to John in the 1860 census.		
		Based on the 1850 and 1860 censuses, it is possible that John's parents were Thomas and Alice Beaumont, and he had a brother called Thomas.		
"U.S., Newspapers.com Obituary Index, 1800s-current," database index ancestrylibrary.com (https://www.ancestrylibrary.com: accessed 17 March 2022), search for John Beaumont born 1827, lived in Conneaut, Erie, Pennsylvania.	John's obituary may name his parents.	A record that is possibly John's obituary is found but is at Newspaper.com. Subscription needed. Index: Name: John Beaumont, Death Age: 62, Birth Date: abt 1827, Residence Place: Wellsburg, Erie County, Obituary Date: 25 Jul 1889, Obituary Place: Conneautville, Pennsylvania, USA, Newspaper Title: The Conneautville Courier.		
		Look for other sources for this newspaper or consider subscription.		

Exercise



Using FamilySearch

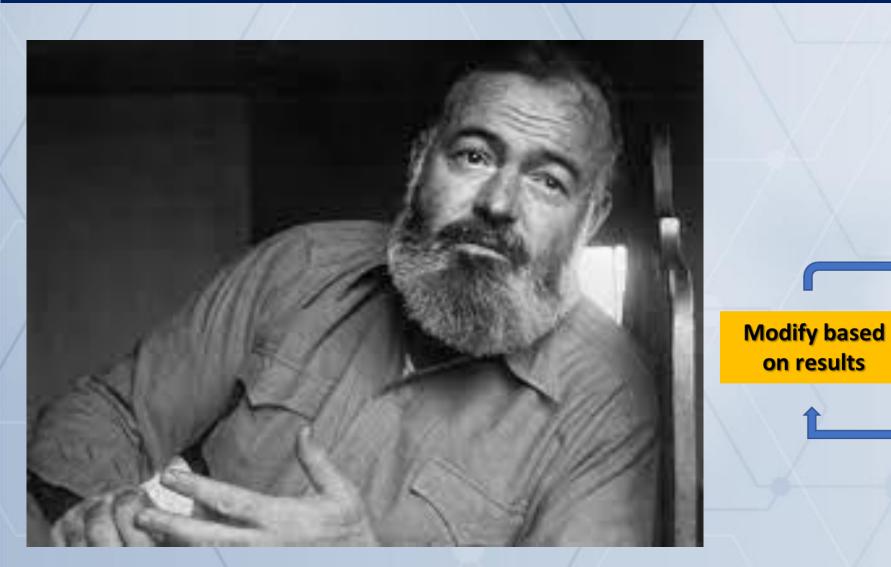


Things to remember.

Explore the collections.
Read "Using this collection" notes.
Nearly every family tree has errors.
Not all records have images.
Not all images are indexed.
Some images are available at FHS.
Use the Wiki.

Does everyone have access to FamilySearch? WiFi:

on results



QUESTION: What was the name of Ernest Hemingway's mother?

BACKGROUND: Ernest was born around 1900 in Chicago; his mother's first

name was Grace.

SOURCES: Birth/baptism records,

PLAN: Source records are available on FamilySearch

Execute your search plan. **SEARCH:**

DOCUMENT: Cite and document your results, both positive and negative.

Ernest Hemingway

Question: "What was Ernest Hemingway's mother's last name?"



We Have Two Possible Names, Hall and Halt.

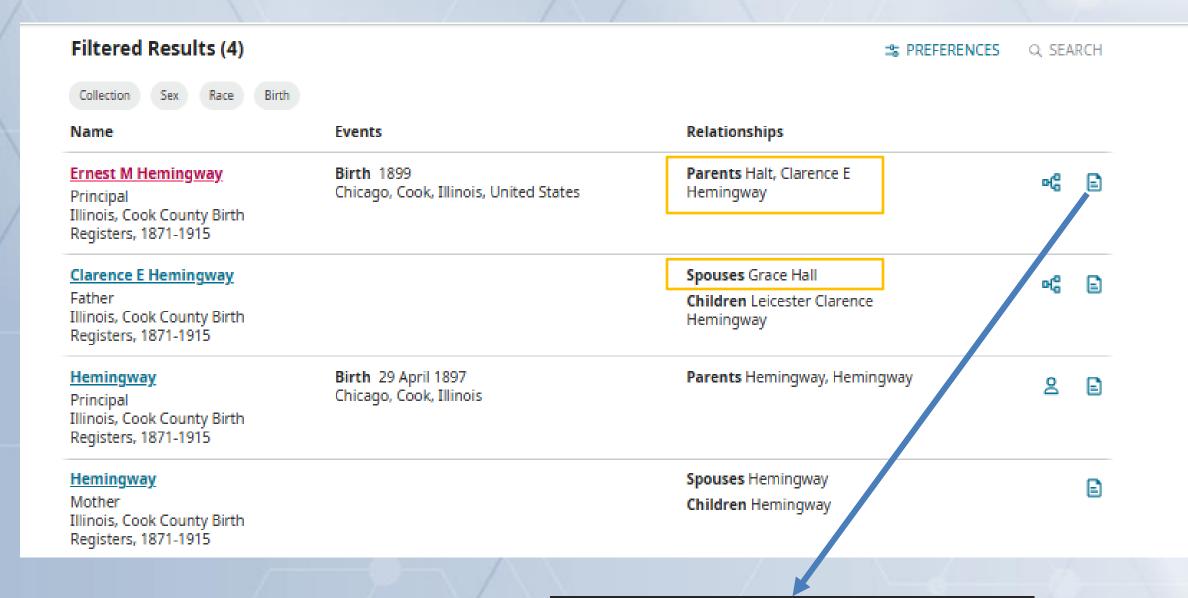


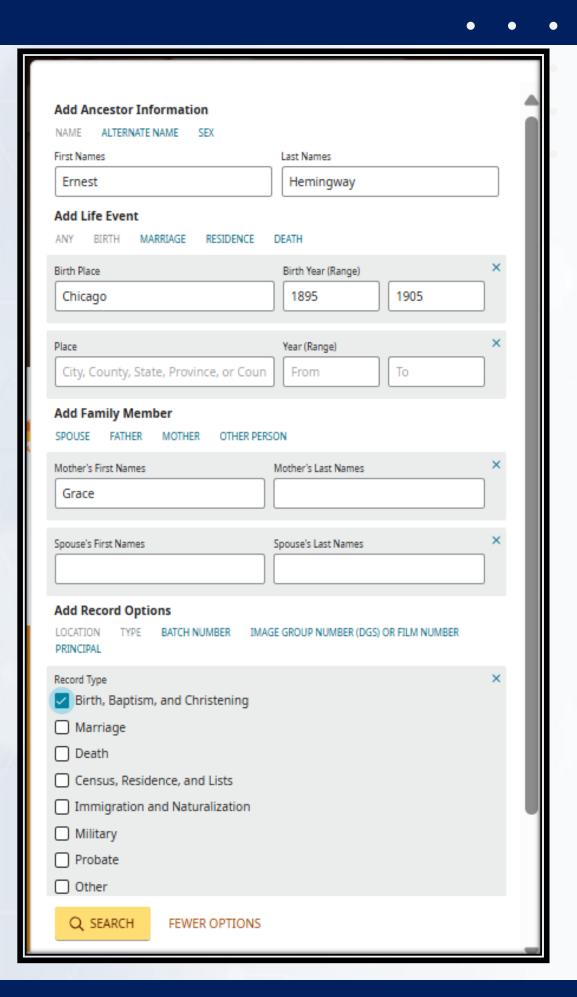


Image Available

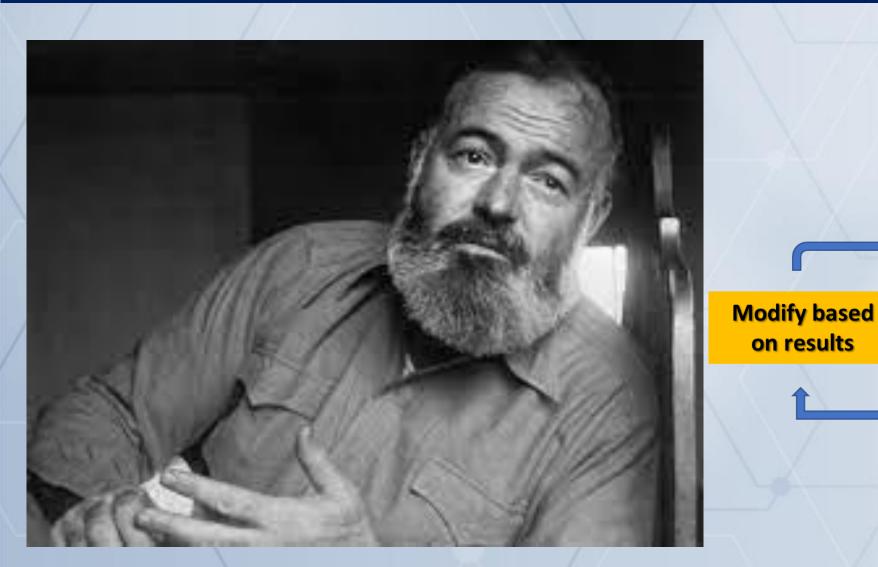
To view these images do one of the following:

- Access the site at a FamilySearch center.
- Access the site at a FamilySearch affiliate library.

CLOSE



on results



QUESTION: Where did Ernest Hemingway Live in 1900?

BACKGROUND: Ernest was born in 1899 in Chicago; his father's name was

Clarence, and his mother was called Grace

SOURCES: 1900 US Federal Census,

Source records are available on FamilySearch PLAN:

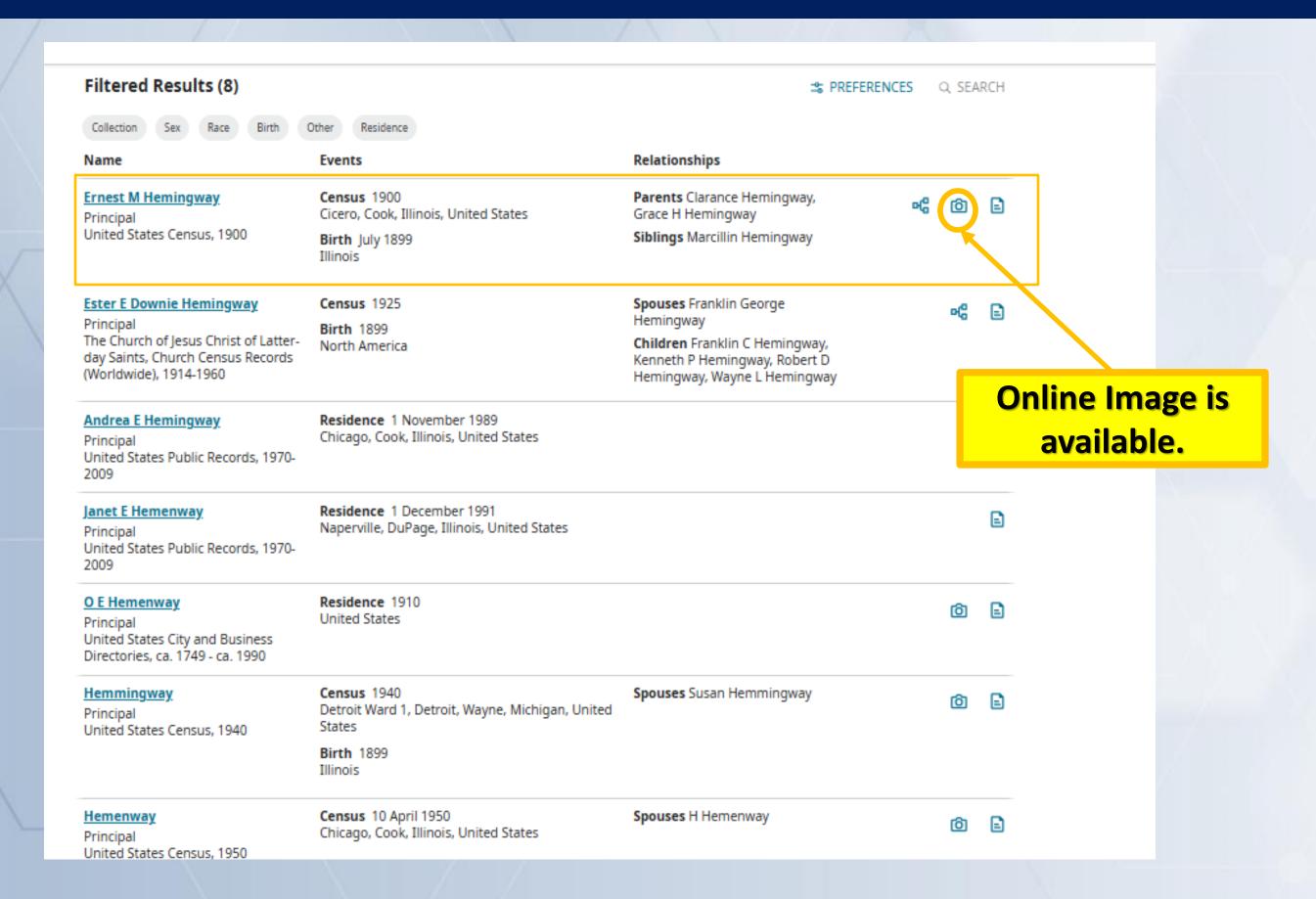
SEARCH: Execute your search plan.

DOCUMENT: Cite and document your results, both positive and negative.

Ernest Hemingway

Question: "Where Did Ernest Hemingway Live in 1900?"

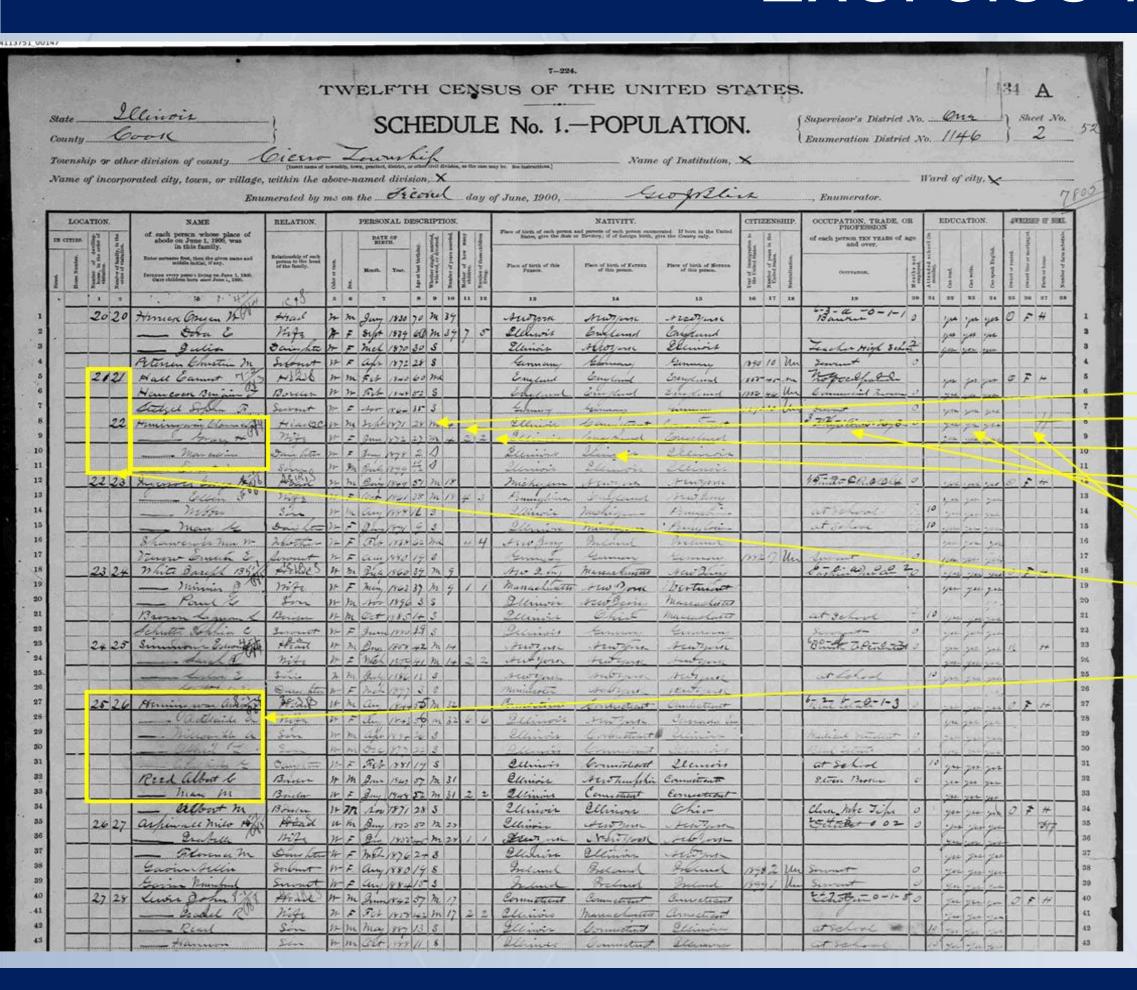
Don't use **GOOGLE** or any other search engine



First Names
Ernest
Last Names
Hemingway
Add Life Event
ANY BIRTH MARRIAGE RESIDENCE DEATH
Birth Place X
Chicago
Birth Year (Range)
1899
Add Family Member SPOUSE FATHER MOTHER OTHER PERSON
Father's First Names X
Father's Last Names
Mother's First Names X
Grace
Mother's Last Names
Add Record Options LOCATION TYPE BATCH NUMBER
IMAGE GROUP NUMBER (DGS) OR FILM NUMBER PRINCIPAL
Country or Location ×
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☐ Death ✓ Census, Residence, and Lists

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Associated Image – 1900 census Cicero Township, Cook Co. Illinois

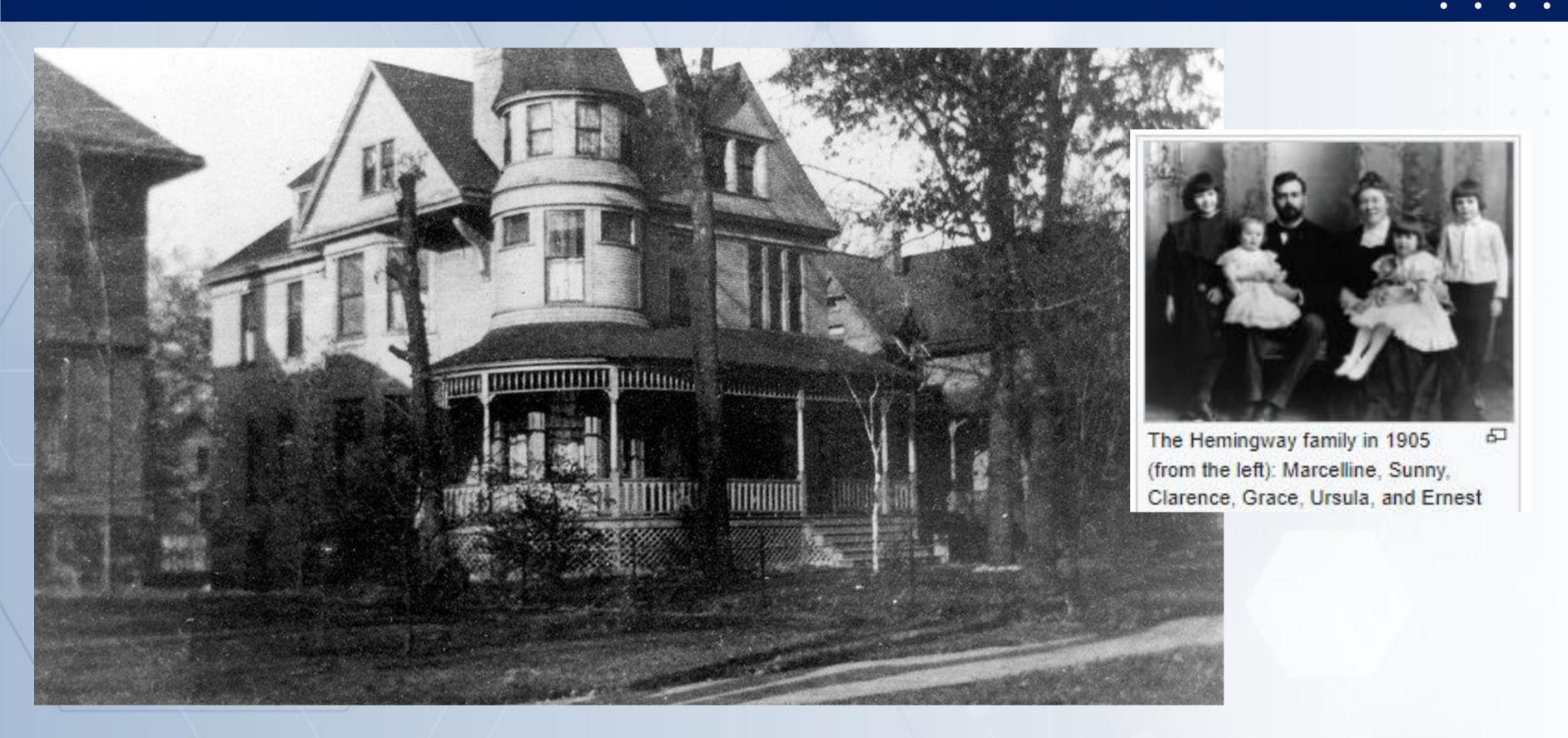


Searching – Be Detailed

What else can this one page tell us?

Look for more information and examine every record in detail.

- Age & year of birth
- Number of years married
- Number of children
- Where born & where parents were born
- Occupation
- Education
- Home ownership
- Shares the home with Earnest Hall (Maternal Grandfather) the homeowner.
- There is also another Hemingway family on the same street are they related
- Location



Question: "Where Did Ernest Hemingway Live in 1900?"

He lived in the home of his maternal grandfather

Ancestry Demo

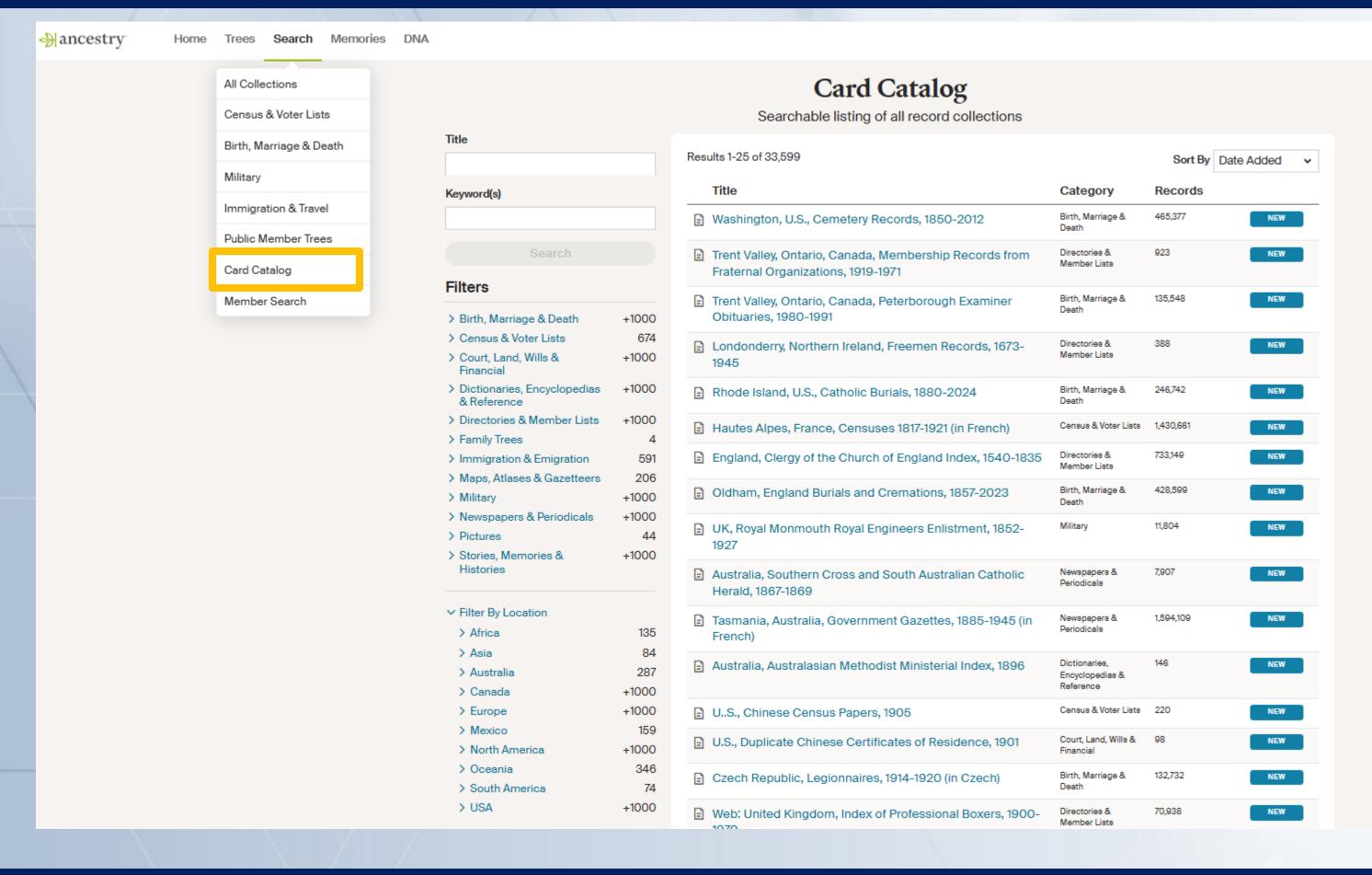


Searching Catalogs



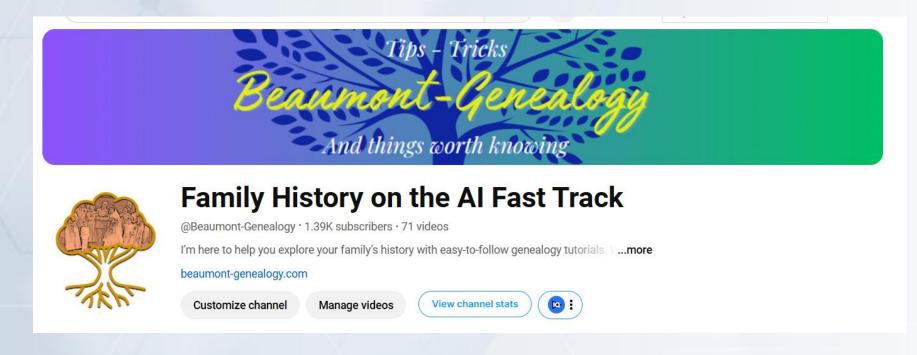
Video on my YouTube Channel: https://www.youtube.com/@Beaumont-Genealogy/videos

Searching Catalogs



Thank you for Attending





My YouTube Channel:

https://www.youtube.com/@Beaumont-Genealogy/videos

My Genealogy Website: (for this Presentation)

https://www.beaumont-genealogy.com/classes

My Email:

John.Beaumont@Outlook.com