Researching Your Family History

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What is Genealogy?

• Family history
• Names, dates, places
• Creating a family tree
What is Genealogy?

• It isn’t all about facts!!!
• Tell the stories.
• What did they do?
  – Everyday life
  – During famous events
• Where did they do it?
• What was going on around them?
  – World War II dad’s dog would always bring home steaks and butter.
Getting Started

• What do you already know?
  – Write down the names, dates, etc. you know already, create a timeline

• Who can you ask?
  – Talk to parents, relatives, kids, longtime friends
  – Look at old pictures

• Family reunions, etc.
  – Make it a project and share, share, share

• Write it down
How do I record what I know?

• Just start with paper
• Write down details, date, who you talked to, document where you got the information
• Forms on websites and software
• Use Word, Publisher, etc. to make your own
Free genealogy forms

• Bailey’s Free Genealogy Forms
  http://www.cs.williams.edu/~bailey/genealogy/

• Family Tree Magazine Free forms
  http://www.familytreemagazine.com/freeforms

• On Ancestry
  http://www.ancestry.com/download/charts#ancchart

Or just google free genealogy forms!
How do you spell that name?

• Never assume spelling
  – Fidishun, Fidishin, Fedyshyn, Fedishun (in a news paper)
  – Sometimes misspellings in index Cassie was Chesne

• Try alternate spellings

• Use wildcards (? And *) to search if necessary
Conflicting facts

• Look at critically at sources
• Look for a second or third confirmation
  – Ex. Is this the right census record, conversation with someone in family to confirm other facts, people, etc.
  – Beware of people with the same name and the same place
  – Don’t always assume someone’s tree on the web is correct
Ancestry Library Edition
(Available for in library use at the Abington Township or Jenkintown Library)
Ancestry

http://www.ancestry.com

- Brief Search
- Advanced Search
- Narrowing search using sliders
- Card Catalog
- Can save, print, or send info you find
- Leaning Opportunities
  - On the site
  - Ancestry YouTube channel
- Some Ancestry records are free, you can also search and get records elsewhere
Searching Ancestry
A very general search...
Narrowing your search...
Anna Conway with spouse search
Ann and Edward Conway in PA
Links to Census Records

All 1930 United States Federal Census results for Anna Conway

1930 United States Federal Census

The 1930 Census contains records for approximately 123 million Americans. The census gives us a glimpse into the lives of Americans in 1930, and contains information about a household’s family...

Learn more about this database... Browse Individual Records

Shortcut Keys

1-2 of 2

View Record | Name | Parent or spouse names | Home in 1930 (City, County, State) | Birth Year | Birthplace | Relation to Head of House | View Image
--- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | ---
Anna Conway | Edward | Dunmore, Lackawanna, Pennsylvania | abt 1896 | Pennsylvania | Wife | |
Annie Conway | Edward | Bethlehem, Northampton, Pennsylvania | abt 1898 | Pennsylvania | Wife | |
All U.S. City Directories, 1822-1995 results for Anna Conway

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>View Record</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Residence Year</th>
<th>Residence Place</th>
<th>Spouse</th>
<th>View Images</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>View Record</td>
<td>Anna Conway</td>
<td>1926</td>
<td>Scranton, Pennsylvania</td>
<td>Edward Conway</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>View Record</td>
<td>Anna Conway</td>
<td>1947</td>
<td>Bethlehem, Pennsylvania</td>
<td>Edward E Conway</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>View Record</td>
<td>Anna C Conway</td>
<td>1936</td>
<td>Scranton, Pennsylvania</td>
<td>Edward J Conway</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>View Record</td>
<td>Anna C Conway</td>
<td>1942</td>
<td>Scranton, Pennsylvania</td>
<td>Edward J Conway</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>View Record</td>
<td>Anna C Conway</td>
<td>1932</td>
<td>Scranton, Pennsylvania</td>
<td>Edward J Conway</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>View Record</td>
<td>Anna C Conway</td>
<td>1931</td>
<td>Scranton, Pennsylvania</td>
<td>Edward J Conway</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>View Record</td>
<td>Anna Conway</td>
<td>1929</td>
<td>Scranton, Pennsylvania</td>
<td>Edward Conway</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>View Record</td>
<td>Anna Conway</td>
<td>1929</td>
<td>Scranton, Pennsylvania</td>
<td>Edward J Conway</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>View Record</td>
<td>Anna C Conway</td>
<td>1951</td>
<td>Scranton, Pennsylvania</td>
<td>Edward J Conway</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>View Record</td>
<td>Anna Conway</td>
<td>1943</td>
<td>Bethlehem, Pennsylvania</td>
<td>Edward E Conway</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>View Record</td>
<td>Anna Conway</td>
<td>1925</td>
<td>Scranton, Pennsylvania</td>
<td>Edward Conway</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
City Directory
Census

• Where people lived
• Age, marital status, children
• Where they and their parents were born
• Naturalization, literacy, language
• Employment
• Every 10 years Federal Census
About the census

• Calculating ages, when was the census taken?
• Who would they have talked to?
  – Communication issues with non-English speakers
  – If tried so many times could speak to a neighbor
• 1940 census (and as we go forward) additional information on certain people at bottom of page
• Get blank forms at
  [http://www.ancestry.com/download/forms#uscensus](http://www.ancestry.com/download/forms#uscensus)
1890 Census

• The 1890 federal population census was badly damaged in a fire in 1921, and then later destroyed. Less than 1% of the total census survived.

• For some other options check
  http://www.genealogybranches.com/1890census.html
  – Ex. Northampton County PA census 1890
    • http://www.bethlehempaonline.com/beth1890/communities.html
**Sample census record**

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR—BUREAU OF THE CENSUS
THIRTEENTH CENSUS OF THE UNITED STATES: 1910—POPULATION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>NAME</strong></th>
<th><strong>SEX</strong></th>
<th><strong>AGE</strong></th>
<th><strong>COLOR</strong></th>
<th><strong>RELIGION</strong></th>
<th><strong>NATIVITY</strong></th>
<th><strong>Marry.</strong></th>
<th><strong>Occupation</strong></th>
<th><strong>Farm.</strong></th>
<th><strong>Value of Real Estate</strong></th>
<th><strong>Val. of Personal Property</strong></th>
<th><strong>Total Value of Real and Personal Property</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Smith John</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>White</td>
<td>Protestant</td>
<td>American</td>
<td>Single</td>
<td>Farmer</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>2000</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>2500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brown Jane</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>White</td>
<td>Catholic</td>
<td>Irish</td>
<td>Married</td>
<td>Teacher</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>1500</td>
<td>700</td>
<td>2200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Davis James</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>Black</td>
<td>Methodist</td>
<td>Jamaican</td>
<td>Married</td>
<td>Engineer</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>2500</td>
<td>1200</td>
<td>3700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lee Mary</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>Asian</td>
<td>Buddhist</td>
<td>Korean</td>
<td>Single</td>
<td>Nurse</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>1000</td>
<td>1500</td>
<td>2500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Johnson Mike</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>White</td>
<td>Catholic</td>
<td>American</td>
<td>Single</td>
<td>Worker</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>1500</td>
<td>800</td>
<td>2300</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Notes:**
- **State:** Louisiana
- **County:** New Orleans
- **Township or Other Division of County:** City
- **Enumeration District No.:** 120
- **Supervisor's District No.:** 12
- **Sheet No.:** B
- **Page No.:** 101
Blank 1930 census form

[Image of a blank 1930 census form]

The 1930 United States Federal Census form is used to collect demographic information about residents of the United States. It includes fields for name, race, age, sex, marital status, occupation, and more. This form is part of the historical records available for research and genealogy.
Blank 1940 census form

1940 Federal Census

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LOCATION</th>
<th>HOUSEHOLD DATA</th>
<th>RELATION</th>
<th>PERSONAL DESCRIPTION</th>
<th>EDUCATION</th>
<th>PLACE OF BIRTH</th>
<th>RESIDENCE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>April 1, 1940</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

PERSONS 14 YEARS OLD AND OVER - EMPLOYMENT STATUS

- Occupation
- Industry
- Employer

- Salary
- Hours Worked
- Yearly Income

- Employment Status
- Occupation
- Industry
- Employer
State Censuses

• Many states have their own census. This one is an Alabama record.
Other records to look for

• Birth certificates
• Baptismal information
• Marriage Records
• Social Security Death Index
• Death certificates-PA Now on Ancestry
• Obituaries (sometimes you can find on Google)
• Naturalization records
• Ship passenger records
• Property records
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Sex</th>
<th>Album of Emigration</th>
<th>Country of Origin</th>
<th>Last Permanent Residence</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mrs. Brunnell</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>France</td>
<td>France</td>
<td>New York</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. Barratt</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>France</td>
<td>France</td>
<td>Chicago</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. Blount</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>France</td>
<td>France</td>
<td>New York</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. Browne</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>England</td>
<td>England</td>
<td>New York</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. Connell</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>Scotland</td>
<td>Scotland</td>
<td>New York</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. Dalley</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>New York</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. Drueck</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>France</td>
<td>France</td>
<td>New York</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. Edwards</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>France</td>
<td>France</td>
<td>New York</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mrs. Fairbie</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>France</td>
<td>France</td>
<td>New York</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. Garfield</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>France</td>
<td>France</td>
<td>New York</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. Hill</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>France</td>
<td>France</td>
<td>New York</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. James</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>England</td>
<td>England</td>
<td>New York</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. Johnson</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>Scotland</td>
<td>Scotland</td>
<td>New York</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. King</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>New York</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. Little</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>France</td>
<td>France</td>
<td>New York</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. Martin</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>France</td>
<td>France</td>
<td>New York</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. Newton</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>France</td>
<td>France</td>
<td>New York</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. Park</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>England</td>
<td>England</td>
<td>New York</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. Smith</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>Scotland</td>
<td>Scotland</td>
<td>New York</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. Thomas</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>New York</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
PA Birth and Death Records

• January 1, 1906, birth and death records began to be recorded at the state level in Pennsylvania, now being made available online, searchable and viewable through Ancestry.com

• For more detail on PA records
  – http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/genealogy/3183/vital_statistics/387291
PHMC > Archives > Research Online > Vital Statistics Records

VITAL STATISTICS RECORDS

BIRTH AND DEATH RECORDS

On January 1, 1906, the newly established Pennsylvania Department of Health officially began to issue birth and death certificates. Prior to 1906, Pennsylvania births and deaths were recorded only sporadically by the counties and some cities such as Philadelphia and Pittsburgh. Genealogists must rely on county records or nongovernmental sources such as church registers, gravestone inscriptions and newspapers to obtain data for this earlier period. The State Archives holds the following birth and death records:

Birth Certificates, 1906-1910
Death Certificates, 1906-1965


- 1906-1910 Birth Indexes
- 1906-1965 Death Indexes
- To request uncertified copies of 1906-1910 birth certificates and 1906-1965 death certificates, use the Vital Records Request Form (PDF)
- To request certified copies of birth or death certificates, 1906-present, contact the Division of Vital Records
- To request copies of post-1910 birth records or post-1965 death records, contact the Division of Vital

RELATED RESOURCES

Birth Indices
Census Records
County and Municipal Records
Coal Miners
Death Indices
Indentured Servants
Naturalization and Immigration
Naturalizations, PA Supreme Court
Prison Records
Ships' Passenger Lists
Vital Statistics
## Birth Certificate Example

**Place of Birth:**
- County of: Schuylkill
- Township of: Tred
- Borough of: St. Clair
- City of: St. Clair

**Commonwealth of Pennsylvania**

**Certificate of Birth**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Full Name of Child</th>
<th>Sex of Child</th>
<th>Date of Birth</th>
<th>Age at Last Birthday</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jessie Agnes Thorne</td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>July 5, 1901</td>
<td>8 months</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Father:**
- Full Name: Samuel Thorne
- Residence: St. Clair, Pa.
- Color: White
- Birthplace: St. Clair, Pa.
- Occupation: Plasterer

**Mother:**
- Full Name: Mary J. Byrd
- Residence: St. Clair, Pa.
- Color: White

**Number of Child of this Mother:** 8

**Certificate of Attending Physician or Midwife:**

I hereby certify that I attended the birth of this child, and that it occurred on July 5, 1901, at 10 a.m. W.M.

(Signature: Joe Morris)

(Physician or Midwife: St. Clair, Pa.)

Given name added from a supplemental report: Thorne, 1901

Address:Filed 8-12, 1901

Registrar: H. W."
Social Security records
Military Records

- Draft registration records
# Veteran burial cards

**Department of Veterans’ Affairs**

**Schuylkill County**

**Pennsylvania**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Legal Residence at Time of Death</th>
<th>Date of Birth</th>
<th>Date of Death</th>
<th>Date of Burial</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Veteran of</th>
<th>WWII</th>
<th>War</th>
<th>Date of Service</th>
<th>Place of Burial</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>7-18-1941 New Cumberland, PA.</td>
<td>9-3-1945 IGMR, PA.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Our Lady of Dawn Cemetery</td>
<td>Shenandoah, PA.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location of Grave in Cemetery</th>
<th>Headstone (County)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Edward Boxtier</td>
<td>Shenandoah PA 17976</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Information Given by</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Payment Made to</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Warrant No.</th>
<th>Funeral Director</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mrs. Isabel Leon (Wife)</td>
<td>1-27-1984</td>
<td>Isabel Leon</td>
<td></td>
<td>6-80 SEIDERS</td>
<td>Joseph Kavalauskas Funeral Home</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| | |
| | 1601-03 S. Second Street Phila., PA. 19148 |
Once you have some military info

- Request actual military records
  - http://www.archives.gov/veterans/
- Web sites of units
- Other resources on the Archives Veterans site
  - List of war casualties, etc.
- Fold3-online subscription database of military records
Due to 1973 fire

• Many Army and Air Force records lost
  – Army Personnel discharged November 1, 1912 to January 1, 1960 80%
  – Air Force Personnel discharged September 25, 1947 to January 1, 1964 (with names alphabetically after Hubbard, James E.) 75%

• You can still get some records such as last pay vouchers even for these people
Cemeteries and Cemetery Lists

• Can be a first place to get birth and death dates
• Visit the location of your ancestor’s burial or see if it is online.
• Some online sources:
  • USGenWeb county pages list cemeteries
    – http://usgenweb.org/
  • Find a Grave
    – http://www.findagrave.com/
• Google the name of the cemetery
Newspapers

• Facts about ancestors (birth, marriage announcements, obituaries)
• Fun facts about ancestors- “facebook of the day” (Mary hosted a Party, Tom attended a ninth birthday party)
• Understand local (or national) events that would effect your ancestor
Newspapers

- Historical Newspapers
- Public Libraries
  - Local libraries may have back issues or microfilm
- PA Power Library from your local library
  - Newspaper Source plus (Philadelphia papers into the 90s)
  - AP images
- Chronicling America: Historic American Newspapers
  - http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/
- Tom Tryniski’s web site http://fultonhistory.com/Fulton.html
Maps

• Sometimes Google works (not Google Maps) but Google the original name of the place

• Genealogical Map of PA Counties
  – [link](http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/gateway/PTARGS_0_2_26141_3183_387340_43/http://pubcontent.state.pa.us/publishedcontent/publish/cop_environment/phmc/communities/extranet/archivalprograms/mapslandrecsucontent/securedpennsylvania_genealogical_map_of_the_counties.pdf)

• USGenWeb has maps at county levels
  – [link](http://usgenweb.org/)

• Maps on Ancestry/FamilySearch
Use Google Maps to virtually visit places your ancestors lived
FamilySearch
https://familysearch.org/
Ellis Island

http://www.libertyellisfoundation.org/
Welcome to The USGenWeb Project! We are a group of volunteers working together to provide free genealogy websites for genealogical research in every county and every state of the United States. This Project is non-commercial and fully committed to free genealogy access for everyone.

Organisation is by county and state, and this website provides you with links to all the state genealogy websites which, in turn, provide gateways to the counties. The USGenWeb Project also sponsors Important Special Projects at the national level and this website provides an entry point to all of those pages, as well.

Clicking on a State Link (on the left) will take you to the State’s website. Clicking on the tabs above will take you to additional information and links. You can also use the drop down menu in the upper left hand comer which will also take you to the State’s website of your choice.

All of the volunteers who make up The USGenWeb Project are very proud of this endeavor and hope that you will find their hard work both beneficial and rewarding. Thank you for visiting!

The USGenWeb Project Team

Many USGenWeb state and county sites are hosted on RootsWeb sites. That server is undergoing problems and sites will be unavailable until RootsWeb's problems are resolved. Please watch for updated information posted at www.rootsweb.ancestry.com. We apologize for this inconvenience and request your patience. Thank you.

Celebrating in 2016 the 20th Anniversary of The USGenWeb Project! Look for us at the 2016 NGS Conference - Booth 431!
HeritageQuest
(available online through some libraries)
Facebook groups, YouTube, etc.
Findmypast
Cyndi’s List

http://www.cyndislist.com/
One Step Web Pages by Steve Morse

http://www.stevemorse.org

One-Step Webpages by Stephen P. Morse

This site contains tools for finding immigration records, census records, vital records, and for dealing with calendars, maps, foreign alphabets, and numerous other applications. Some of these tools fetch data from other websites but do so in more versatile ways than the search tools provided on those websites.

Public Appearances  List of Lectures

About this Website and how to use it

Ellis Island Search Forms and Ship Arrivals

- Ellis Island Gold Form (1892-1924): Preferred Form for Searching for Ellis Island Passengers in One Step
- Ellis Island White Form (1892–1937): Form for Searching for Ellis Island Passengers beyond 1924 in One Step
- Ellis Island Manifests (aka Microfilms) (1892–1957): Direct Access to Ellis Island Manifests in One Step
- Ellis Island Ship Lists (1932–1957): Searching for Ships in the Ellis Island Microfilms in One Step


- All N.Y. Passengers (1820–1897): Searching for Ellis Island and Castle Garden Passengers in One Step
- All NY Passengers (1820–1897): Direct Access to Ellis Island and Castle Garden Manifests in One Step
- All NY Ship Lists (1820–1957): Searching for Ships in the Ellis Island and Castle Garden Microfilms in One Step

- Ship Pictures: Obtaining Pictures of Passenger Ships in One Step
- Ships & Ellis: Obtaining Details on Ships and Ellis in One Step
- NARA/FR Roll Numbers: Obtaining NARA and FR Roll Numbers for NY Ship Arrivals in One Step

- AncestryLibrary.com/AncestryInstitute.com: Using Ancestry from a Library or Institute in One Step

- Castle Garden Years (1903–1913) plus other New York Arrivals
- All NY Passengers (1820–1897): Direct Access to Ellis Island and Castle Garden Passengers in One Step
- All NY Ship Lists (1820–1957): Searching for Ships in the Ellis Island and Castle Garden Microfilms in One Step
Montgomery County Resources

- Ogontz School Archives at PSU Abington
- W. &M. Herkness Real Estate Records
  - [https://www.libraries.psu.edu/psul/digital/herkness.html](https://www.libraries.psu.edu/psul/digital/herkness.html)
- PA Genweb Montgomery County
- Montgomery County-Norristown Public Library Genealogy Resources page
Not Everything is Online

• Keep in mind that only a small amount of material is online
  – Visit Historical Societies (Old York Road Historical Society)
  – Visit Historical locations, etc. where your family lived
  – Visit old hometowns, visit libraries there
  – Check out the local library
    • Abington Township Public Library
    • Jenkintown Library
DNA Genealogy

• Who does it?
  – Ancestry
  – National Geographic Society
  – Among others

• Confirm the nationality, ethnic heritage, etc.

• Find relatives you may not know or have lost track of
Have fun and find your ancestors!

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