Ancestry.com Guide

What is Ancestry.com?
Ancestry.com hosts the world’s largest online collection of family historical records. Launched in 1996, Ancestry.com offered a new way to help people grow their family trees online, and today, they have grown exponentially where you can search billions of historical records, millions of family trees and millions in the DNA database. All of this is at your fingertips to explore generations of your family and their stories, and to truly find out who you are and where you came from.

Getting started with Ancestry.com:
Henry Waldinger Memorial Library patrons will have free access to Ancestry.com (Library Edition) from home during the COVID-19 closing, just by using your library card barcode.* Please note that certain features may be unavailable in the Ancestry.com Library Edition such as building a family tree, but you can view them, along with billions of records in census data, vital records, obituaries, photos and more from the U.S. and countries all over the world.

1) To get started, click on this link to access the Library’s Ancestry.com database https://auth.nassaulibrary.org/ancestry/ and enter your 14-digit library barcode number. (Or go to Henry Waldinger Memorial Library website at https://www.valleystreamlibrary.org/ and scroll down to “Temporary Remote Access and Trial Subscriptions Available” in red and click on “ProQuest/Ancestry.”)

2) Click on the green “Begin Searching” tab, and add what you know- names of parents, grandparents, important dates, birth places, locations - every detail helps.

3) Or you can search other categories such as birth, marriage or death certificates, census or voter lists, military records, immigration & travel papers/images, or search Ancestry’s card catalog containing a listing of all record collections.

4) Also on the home page, you can scroll down to see the Quick Links for a look at the public member trees, pictures, city directories or schools, directories & church histories, to name a few. There’s also a listing of the U.S. Census Records that goes all the way back to the 1790’s.

Enjoy exploring your roots! If you wish to delve deeper than what is offered in the library edition, Ancestry offers subscription packages to create your own family trees, and its AncestryDNA service lets you order a DNA sample-collection kit where if used, you can receive a DNA profile of your geographic origins and identify other potential relatives who have taken the test.
Need More Help with Ancestry.com?
On the top of the Ancestry.com Library Edition home page, click on “Learning Center” https://www.ancestrylibrary.com/LearningCenter/ to access their “Tips and Tricks” on how to search from Ancestry’s experts. Alternatively, feel free to e-mail the library at hwmlcontact@hotmail.com, with any questions you may have. Staff will try to reply within 24 hours.

*Please Note: If you don’t have a library card, you can apply for a temporary digital card for access to digital resources at https://www.nassaulibrary.org/coronavirus-information/digital-card-application/