Ancestry, the world-leading direct-to-consumer family history research platform, provides individuals with historical records, search features, and family tree building to aid in discovering ancestors and their lives. This is augmented by the world's largest pool of DNA tests to link you to living relatives.

Who/What is Ancestry
- A for-profit company formed in 1983 and currently owned by the Blackstone Group and other partners.
- Over $1 billion in annual revenue: subscriptions, DNA kits, ProGenealogists [starting at $3,500], heritage tourism, Ancestry swag, etc.
- 60 billion records from 88 countries and growing; added 84,347,114 records last month
- More than 25 million DNA kits
- More than 3 million subscribers

Ancestry Trees and Views
- Unlimited trees, public and private
- Import GEDCOM or build in place
- Invite friends and family to view or collaborate
- Trees are user-built – Beware of others' data, many errors
- View horizontal, vertical, fan, or list (All People)
  - Vertical view – direct ancestors and collateral relatives
  - Fan and list - direct ancestors
  - Fan to 4 generations, 7 with Pro Tools
  - List – alphabetic; access filters and tags
- View tree of others in your tree, any view [right click on person in tree, view tree]
- Tree Activity
  - Tasks – Only visible to tree collaborators
  - Changes – Chronology of changes and "connected changes"
  - Viewers – People who viewed tree in last 7 days
- Tree People
  - Show/Hide parents/siblings/children
  - Add DNA matches, through ThruLines™ (beta), or ThruLines™
  - DNA tester
  - Potential DNA match
  - Hints
- Tree person
  - Prioritized person – up to 10
  - Additional options (3 dots)
  - MyTreeTags™
  - View person's tree
  - Comments

- MyTreeTags™
  - Universal tags – Ancestry defined
  - Custom tags – you define
  - 20 tags per person
  - Searchable!
- Add DNA matches – Beta
  - Uses ThruLines™
  - Be careful, relies on other people's data
  - Build your own trees for matches
- Tree menu
  - Tree viewing options
  - Tree settings – public versus private, and not searchable
- Ancestor's profile page
  - Basic information – name, birth, death, relationship to home person
  - Notes – private
  - Comments – public
  - Notes/Comments – open notes/comments/tags pane
  - Tools drop-down
  - Search button – searches open person
  - Edit drop-down
    - Edit relationships – parent/child and spousal
  - Merge duplicate people
    - Verify they are the same person
    - Review information; make changes; merge
  - Gallery
    - Uploaded and saved media (not Ancestry files)
    - Ancestry Terms of Service
      - Grants Ancestry the right to use your uploaded media as they want

Ancestry Hints
- On trees as leaves (goes to profile page; on profile page in list
- Review the record page
- Review the image, if available
  - More information
  - Possible transcription errors
  - FAN club (friends, associates, neighbors)
  - Review document instructions, notes, etc. to better understand document and data
  - Enter any corrected or additional information
  - Verify hints, not all pertain to your person
  - Use hints as finding aids to original (or other) documents
  - Use Search function to find additional records

Ancestry Records
- Card Catalog
  - See new record collections – sort by date added
  - Search collections by name

- Search strategies
  - Input known or estimated information
  - Broad search then narrow
  - Narrow search then broaden
  - Switch between the two
  - Ultimate goal – original records
- Search public members' trees for hints
- Member search
- Search by research interest
  - Name
  - Location
  - Year
- Download records
  - Image – jpg file
  - Pdf file
    - Image and source information
    - Citation information

Ancestry Pro Tools
- An addon subscription, $10 per month
  - Tree checker
  - Enhanced shared matches
  - Smart filters
  - Charts & reports
  - Tree mapper
  - Tree insights
- Many features found in genealogy software
- Can turn it on and off

Ancestry subscriptions
- All auto renewing
- US Discovery – US records
- World Explorer – US and international records
- All Access – All Ancestry records, plus Fold3®, Newspapers.com™ Publisher Extra®
  - 4 additional accounts
    - Consider sharing this subscription

Tips
- Don't use Ancestry as your ultimate genealogical repository
- Copy all records (including photos) to your computer
  - Back up everything, multiple places
- Use online trees as hints
  - Verify of others
- Search narrowly, then broaden
- Use Ancestry records as finding aids
- Remember variant spellings

- Periodically rerun searches and check hints
- Search collateral relatives, e.g., siblings
- Don't just rely on Ancestry® hints; Search
- Ancestry® Pro Tools – Turn on when needed, monthly subscription

Resources:
- *Ancestry*, "Ancestry Academy" - https://www.ancestryacademy.com/browse
- *Ancestry,* Ancestry® Blog - https://www.ancestry.com/c/ancestry-blog
- *Ancestry*, MyTreeTags™ - https://support.ancestry.com/s/article/MyTreeTags
- *Family Tree Magazine*, "Ancestry.com: Tips and Tricks for Beginners" - https://familytreemagazine.com/websites/ancestry-help/best-ancestry-tips-tricks/
- *Family Tree Magazine*, "Ancestry.com Search Tips: Your Ultimate Guide" - https://familytreemagazine.com/websites/ancestry-help/ancestry-search-tips/
- Lisa Lisson, *Are You My Cousin? Genealogy*, "How to Use Ancestry's New MyTrees Tags Tool" - https://lisalisson.com/mytree-tags-tool/

Video:
- Aimee Cross, *Ancestry.com Guide* - https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLCOHvB5d5XvlHnXHnuiupvlpaUYp6FiAC
- Crista Cowan, *YouTube, Ancestry*, "Ancestry® Pro Tools: Taking Your Family Tree to the Next Level | Ancestry®," 15 Nov 2024 - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4LoF3DNJggQ
- Ancestry Curiosity Center, Education - https://www.ancestry.com/c/discover/education
- Crista Cowan, *YouTube, Ancestry*, "Use MyTreeTags™ to Make Discoveries" - https://www.youtube.com/shorts/2Nn9ygMlf1o
- Crista Cowan, *YouTube, Ancestry*, "Clean Up Your Family Tree: Fix Common Mistakes, Tips & Tricks Virtual Event" - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qVhGVNXI2-M