Trish Fields   E-Mail: trishgensearch@gmail.com

Working With Different Genealogy Programs : Ancestry.com

What is Ancestry.com - database of genealogy information

      A. Census record - 1790 thru 1940

      B. Some Death, Marriage and Birth Records - either index or digital scans

      C. Some Military Records - Indexed (scanned images on Fold3.com)

      D. Some Court Records

      E. Some Newspaper records

      F. Other Records

1. How to get started working with Ancestry.com

      A . Decide where, when and what do you want to pay to do research on Ancestry.com

      B.   How do I use Ancestry.com for research but not subscribe

            (1) Access Ancestry.com from some County Libraries, College & University Libraries, Family History Centers, Some Genealogy Societies and Archives at no cost to you.

            (2) Doing research this way, check with the source to find out what their requirements are. Ex: may need to get Library Card, may need to sign in, may have to use their computers for Access or just to connect to their network using your computer

      C. Accessing Ancestry.com by subscribing to it

            (1) Sometimes Ancestry.com offers 14 Day Free Trial use - you still subscribe and give a credit card information which they will charge a 1-yr subscription after the 14 days unless you notify them you are not interested. It becomes your responsibility to notify them.

            (2) Subscribing involves filling out a form online, picking a login and password, and giving a credit card information

2.   Menu options :

      A.   Home - initial page that is displayed when you first go into Ancestry.com

      B. Trees - Family trees with information that individuals have added

          CAUTION!!!! they may contain accurate or non-accurate information

C. Search - menu option to search information(records) that Ancestry has

D. DNA - tells of offers for DNA testing

E. Help - same as any other help menu

F. Extras - has Apps, Photo Books & Posters - send to a different website, ProGenealogist - hire professional help

Ancestry Academy - courses on genealogy - some FREE and some you would pay for

3. Records accessed by searching with Information entered by you

A. Begin with as much specific information as you have, this will return fewer, more relevant records

B. Change information to less specific to receive larger range of information

C. Enter different spellings for names to receive more results

D. Enter limited information for example last name and location to receive more results from your search

4. How to save information once you have found it

A. Save to your computer:

(1). scanned image - click on SAVE button on upper right side of image, click save to your computer, then another widow will come, click on file, click on make a copy, then tell it where you want to save the file to

(2). text record - there are a couple of ways to save these

a. hi-light the information and copy and paste into notepad, WordPad, Evernote or Microsoft word

b. use Snipping Tool (Windows program) to copy - this lets you copy the record as displayed and also the source

NOTE If using a computer at facility, save file down to a flash drive

B. Save to your Family Tree on Ancestry - click this option and follow menu options

NOTE This option is not available to you unless you have a subscription to Ancestry.com

C. Save by printing a copy of the image or record - also print copy of source

Note Facilities may charge for printouts

D. Using Pen & Paper and writing down all the information and source

Ancestry.com may not have the information you are looking for but that does not mean the information does not exist only that you will need to check other sources. Ancestry.com is always adding information to their database so recheck Ancestry.com from time to time.   Ancestry.com is just one of the resources for locating genealogy information.

Using Fold3

Fold3 is a subsidiary company of Ancestry.com

Fold3 is an excellent resource for Military Records - they have digital scan copies of many Military Records and Records relating to the Military.

Begin with a search, and like all other search engines the more information you give the fewer, more related records you will fine. If that does not yield what you are looking for, limit the amount of information for a broader return of records.

Example: enter First and Last Name, time era you are interested in and enter your search.

There is an excellent video course on Ancestry Academy on Fold3 and Newspapers.com both of these are free courses.

Once you find a document you want to save down to your computer - click on the tools icon at the top of the page, select download, select which type of file you would like to save it as (jpg or pdf) once you have selected type of file a window will open with the document and you can save it to the location you want to place the file.

You can also save those records down to your family tree IF you have one setup on Ancestry.com or if you have edit privileges on someone else's tree.

This program may be available at County libraries, Archival Libraries, College & University Libraries, Family History Centers, Some Genealogy/Historical Societies and Archives at no cost, just limited by the facilities requirements.