

Genealogy: Basics

Deer Park Public Library



Why Research Your Genealogy?

- To preserve or better understand your family's history
- To trace your family's medical history
- To confirm or disprove family stories
- To trace land or other property ownership
- To find birth parents
- Because it's fun!



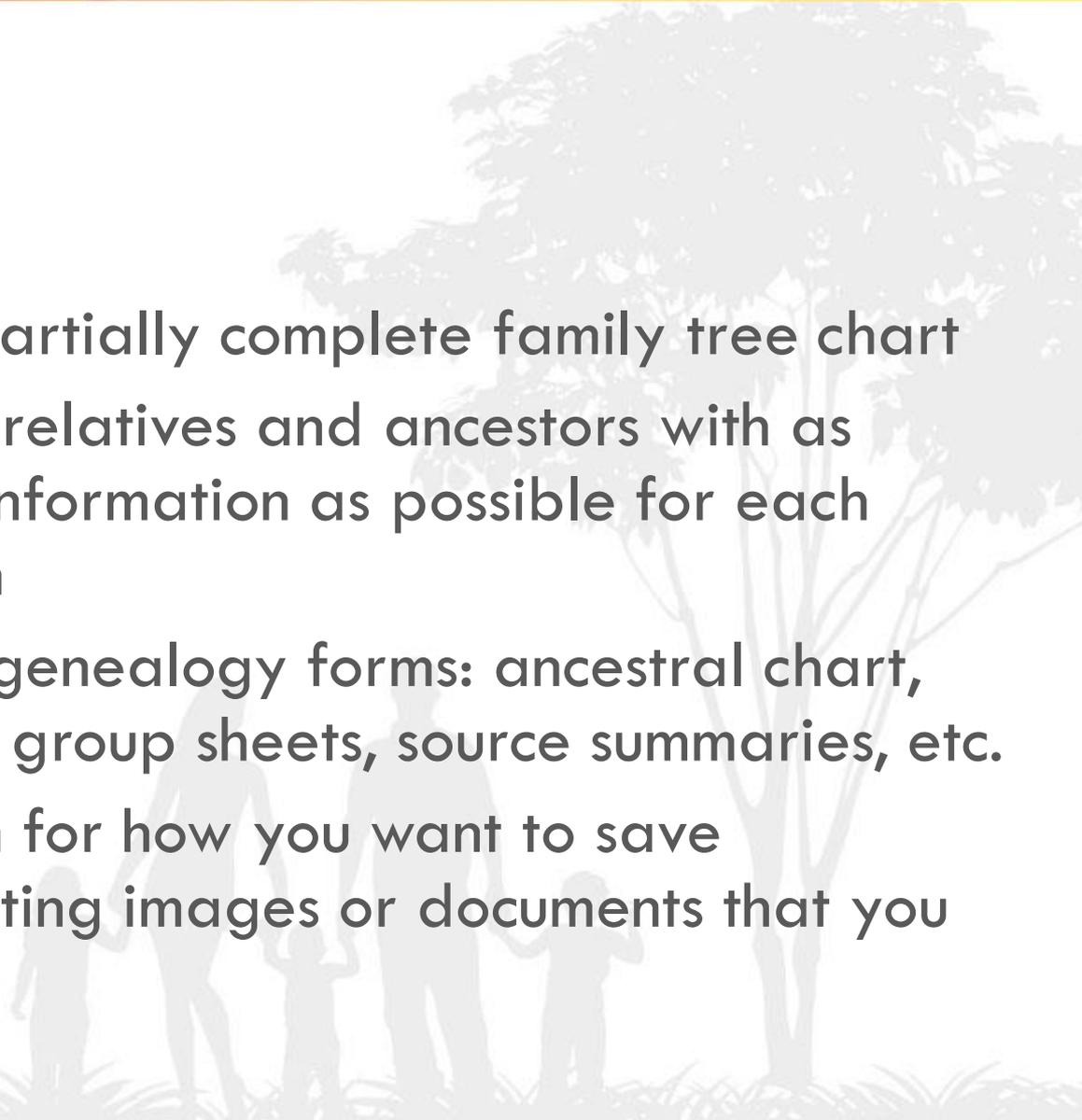
Where do I Start?

- DO attempt to fill out a family tree, starting with yourself and working backwards
 - DO list women in the tree with their maiden names, even if they were married
 - DO interview older family members about your family line
 - DO study any old photos, letters, scrapbooks or family Bibles
 - DON'T start with a famous ancestor and go forward in time
 - DON'T consider someone else's research as being 100% accurate – try to find a source for any information that you use
 - DON'T forget to take notes and to document your sources!
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- The background of the slide features a large, light-colored silhouette of a tree on the right side. At the bottom, there are silhouettes of a family consisting of a man, a woman, and two children, standing together. The overall background is a gradient from red on the left to yellow on the right, with a pattern of semi-transparent circles.

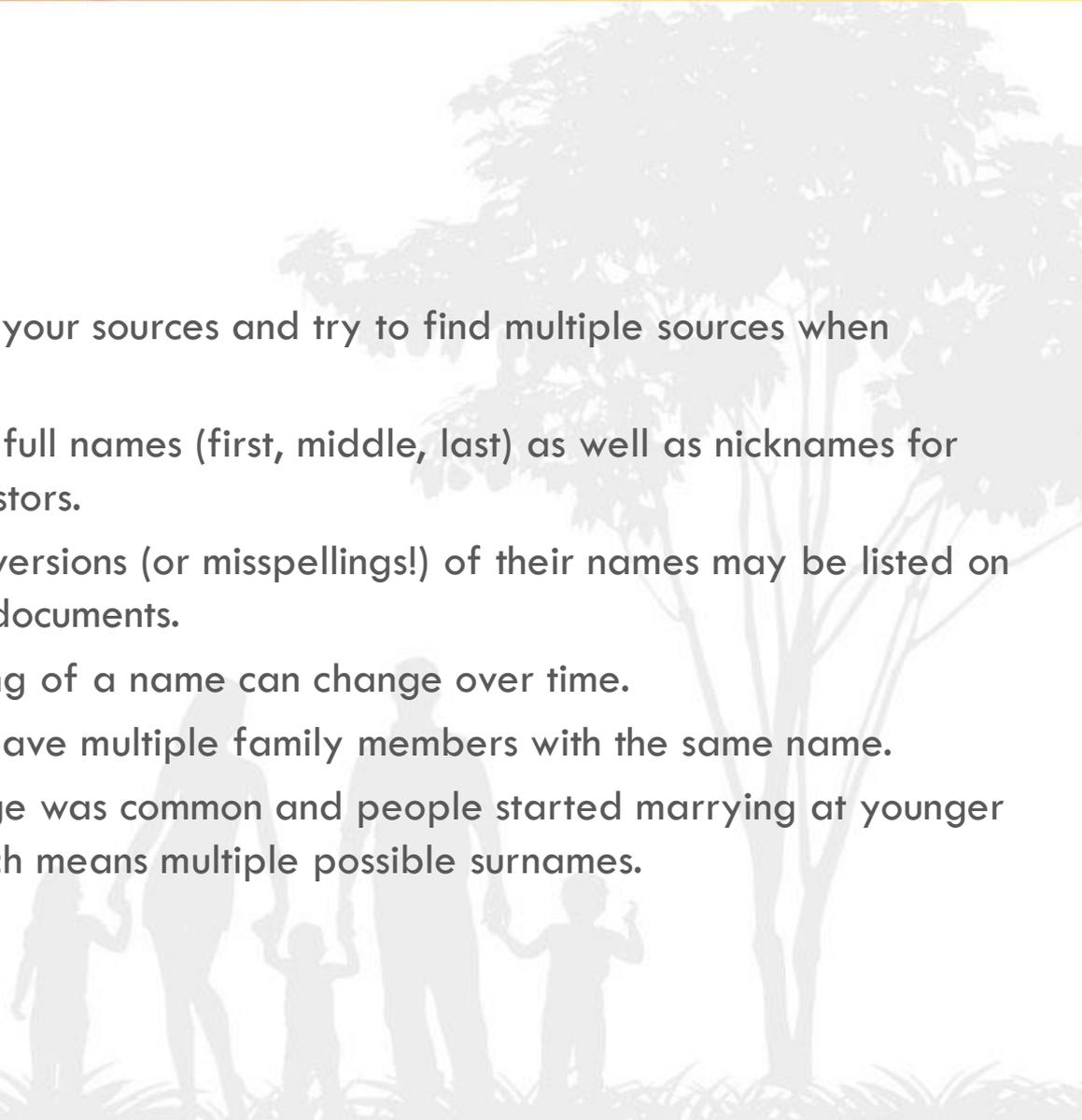
Where To Get Charts and Forms

- Ancestry.com:
<http://www.ancestry.com/download/charts> has ancestral charts, family group sheets and source summaries
- Family Tree Magazine:
<http://www.familytreemagazine.com/FreeForms> has sections on immigration and oral history documentation
- National Archives:
<https://www.archives.gov/research/genealogy/charts-forms>

Essential Tools for Research

- Your partially complete family tree chart
 - List of relatives and ancestors with as much information as possible for each person
 - Blank genealogy forms: ancestral chart, family group sheets, source summaries, etc.
 - A plan for how you want to save interesting images or documents that you find
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- A faint, light-colored background illustration featuring a large, leafy tree on the right side and a group of silhouettes of people (adults and children) standing together on the left side, positioned in front of the tree's base.

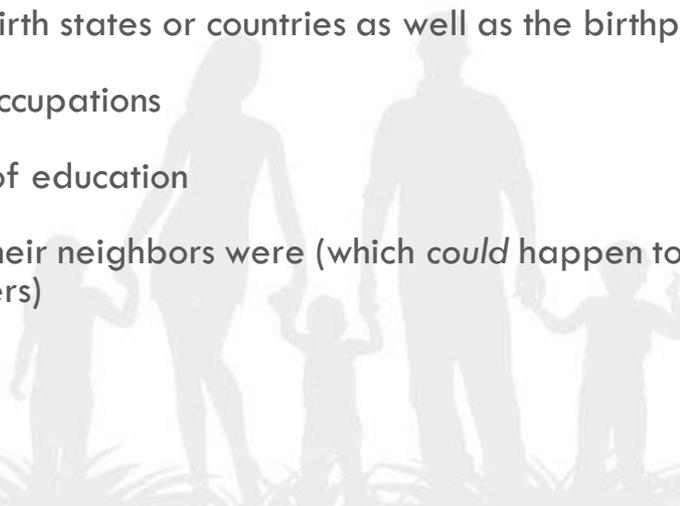
Things to keep in mind:

- Document your sources and try to find multiple sources when possible.
 - Try to get full names (first, middle, last) as well as nicknames for your ancestors.
 - Different versions (or misspellings!) of their names may be listed on different documents.
 - The spelling of a name can change over time.
 - You may have multiple family members with the same name.
 - Remarriage was common and people started marrying at younger ages, which means multiple possible surnames.
- 
- The background of the slide features a light gray silhouette of a family consisting of two adults and three children, standing in a grassy field. To the right of the family is a large, leafy tree. The top of the slide has a decorative header with a red-to-yellow gradient and white circular patterns.

Using the U.S. Census for Genealogy

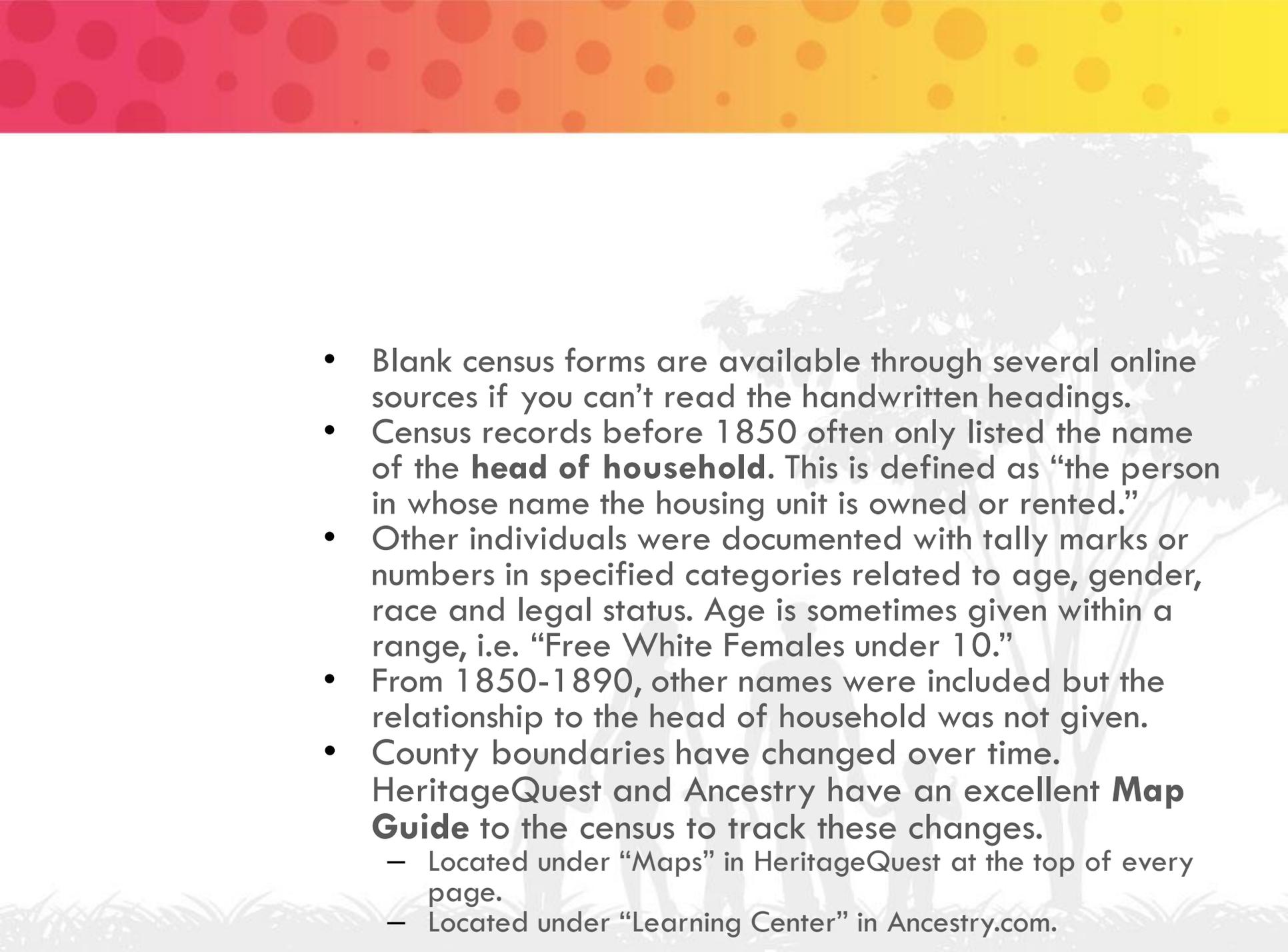
Historical censuses can give you information on:

- Where your ancestors lived
- Marital status and length of marriage at the time of the census
- Who they lived with
- Their ages at the time of the census
- Their birth states or countries as well as the birthplaces of their parents
- Their occupations
- Years of education
- Who their neighbors were (which *could* happen to be other family members)



Things to remember about the Census:

- It was taken once every 10 years, starting in 1790.
- Census data is only available in the aggregate until 72 years after the date the census was taken.
 - So the NEWEST census data including individual people's data is from 1940.
 - The full 1950 US Census will be released in 2022.
- Much of the 1890 Census was destroyed in a fire, so is no longer in existence (some Texas schedules exist, but not all).
- Older censuses were handwritten and volunteers have transcribed them for use in various databases. Human error (in spelling, math, etc.) does occur.

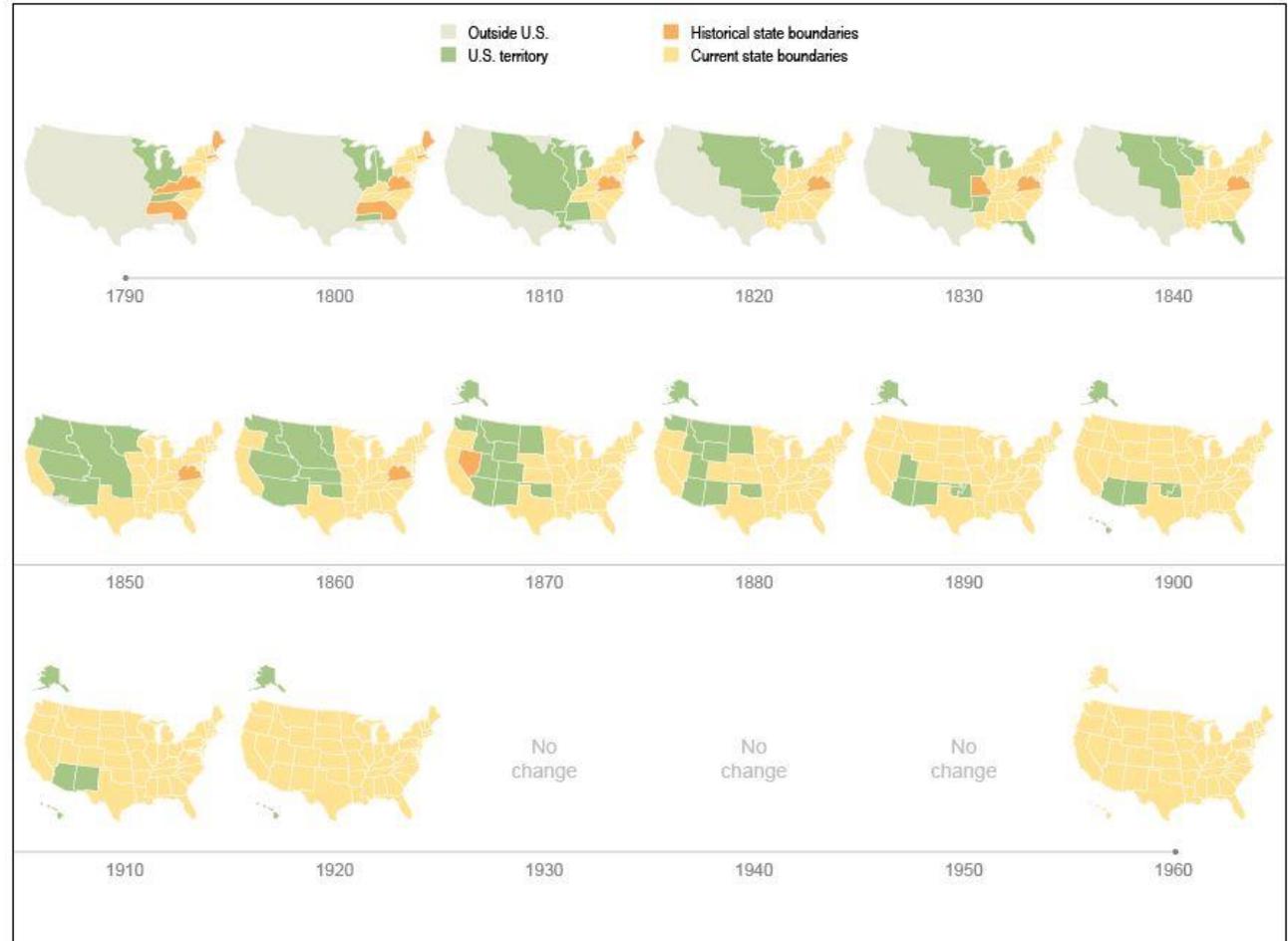
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- Blank census forms are available through several online sources if you can't read the handwritten headings.
 - Census records before 1850 often only listed the name of the **head of household**. This is defined as “the person in whose name the housing unit is owned or rented.”
 - Other individuals were documented with tally marks or numbers in specified categories related to age, gender, race and legal status. Age is sometimes given within a range, i.e. “Free White Females under 10.”
 - From 1850-1890, other names were included but the relationship to the head of household was not given.
 - County boundaries have changed over time. HeritageQuest and Ancestry have an excellent **Map Guide** to the census to track these changes.
 - Located under “Maps” in HeritageQuest at the top of every page.
 - Located under “Learning Center” in Ancestry.com.

U.S. Territory and Statehood Status by Decade, 1790-1960

February 21, 2013

Keep in mind the date that the state where your ancestors lived was admitted to the union.

Frequently there were not consistent records kept in the territories.



Source: <https://www.census.gov/dataviz/visualizations/048/>

Genealogy databases available @ DPPL

Ancestry.com Library Edition

- Available for in-library use only.
- Contains many more data sets than HeritageQuest.
- Library version does not allow patrons to create personal profiles or family trees.
- Allows you to search multiple categories of data sets at one time.

HeritageQuest

- Available for outside use, with internet access and a valid library card.
- Contains the Freedman's Bank Records (Ancestry does not have).
- Contains a different set of local & family history books than Ancestry.
- Requires that you choose which category of data set you want to search (such as censuses, wills and probate, etc.) and search one at a time.

What Search Results Do You See?

- Ancestry attempts to list records in order of relevance.
- You can adjust your search from the “Edit Search” button.
- Ancestry Library Edition categorizes all the records that appear as your search results. You can narrow your search to one category of results by using the limiters on the left side of the page.

All results for Lyndon Baines Johnson

Search Filters: Broad Exact

lyndon baines johnson
ANY: Texas, USA
COLLECTION: All Collections

[Edit Search](#) [New Search](#) [UPDATE](#)

All Categories

- > Census & Voter Lists +5,000
- > Birth, Marriage & Death +5,000
- > Military +5,000
- > Immigration & Emigration +5,000
- > Newspapers & Periodicals +5,000
- Pictures +5,000
- > Stories, Memories & Histories 1,959
- Maps, Atlases & Gazetteers 3,890
- > Directories & Member Lists +5,000
- > Court, Land, Wills & Financial +5,000
- > Dictionaries, Encyclopedias & Reference 357
- Family Trees +5,000

Shortcut Keys ▶

Results 1-20 of 2,746,769

[RECORDS](#) [CATEGORIES](#)

1940 United States Federal Census CENSUS	NAME: Lyndon B Johnson SPOUSE: Claudia Johnson BIRTH: abt 1909 - Texas RESIDENCE: 1935 - Washington, District of Columbia RESIDENCE: Blanco, Texas
U.S., School Yearbooks, 1880-2013 DIRECTORIES	NAME: Lyndon Baines Johnson BIRTH: abt 1952 RESIDENCE: 1972 - Austin, Texas
U.S., School Yearbooks, 1880-2013 DIRECTORIES	NAME: Lyndon Baines Johnson BIRTH: abt 1956 RESIDENCE: 1972 - Johnson, Texas
U.S., School Yearbooks, 1880-2013 DIRECTORIES	NAME: Mrs Lyndon Baines Johnson BIRTH: abt 1945 RESIDENCE: 1965 - Austin, Texas
U.S., School Yearbooks, 1880-2013 DIRECTORIES	NAME: Lyndon Baines Johnson BIRTH: abt 1945 RESIDENCE: 1965 - Austin, Texas
U.S., School Yearbooks, 1880-2013 DIRECTORIES	NAME: Lyndon Baines Johnson BIRTH: abt 1948 RESIDENCE: 1968 - Austin, Texas

If you can't find your ancestor in your results:

- Try searching your ancestor's name a different way
- If you have used dates, try using the approximate dates (+/- __no. of years) rather than exact dates.
- If your search includes a city, consider if the city was incorporated at the time your ancestor lived there. You may have to use only a county name or state in your search.
- If you know the name of another person you think lived in your ancestor's household, try searching his/her name instead.
- Look at the data set that you are trying to search in Ancestry.com: does it cover the years/geographic area that your ancestor lived in?

Is the Information I Want in Ancestry?

HOME SEARCH MESSAGE BOARDS LEARNING CENTER CHARTS AND FORMS NEW COLLECTIONS DEER PARK

Search

First & Middle Name(s) Last Name

Place your ancestor might have lived Birth Year

City, County, State, Country

SEARCH Show more options ▾

Special Collections + CARD CATALOG

- Historical Records
- Birth, Marriage & Death
- Birth, Baptism & Christening
- Marriage & Divorce
- Death, Burial, Cemetery & Obituaries
- Census & Voter Lists
- U.S. Federal Census Collection
- UK Census Collection

Clicking on the “Card Catalog” button on the search screen will let you search which resources are available.

You can search for a type of record that you’re interested in finding for you ancestor, and Ancestry will show you which collections it has that might contain that record.

Card Catalog

Searchable listing of all record collections

Title

Keyword(s) texas probate

SEARCH or Clear All

Filter By Collection

- Birth, Marriage & Death 2
- Stories, Memories & Histories 1
- Wills, Probates, Land, Tax & Criminal 3

Filter By Location

Europe

Results 1-4 of 4

Sort By Popularity ▾

Title	Collection	Records	Activity
<input type="checkbox"/> Tarrant County, Texas, Probate Index, 1800-2012	Wills, Probates, Land, Tax & Criminal	408,124	
<input type="checkbox"/> The annals of the parish of Swainswick (near Bath) : with abstracts of the register, church accounts and overseers' books	Stories, Memories & Histories	193	
<input type="checkbox"/> Texas, Wills and Probate Records, 1833-1974	Wills, Probates, Land, Tax & Criminal	110,918	
<input type="checkbox"/> Texas, Potter County, Probate Index, 1901-2013	Wills, Probates, Land, Tax & Criminal	43,557	

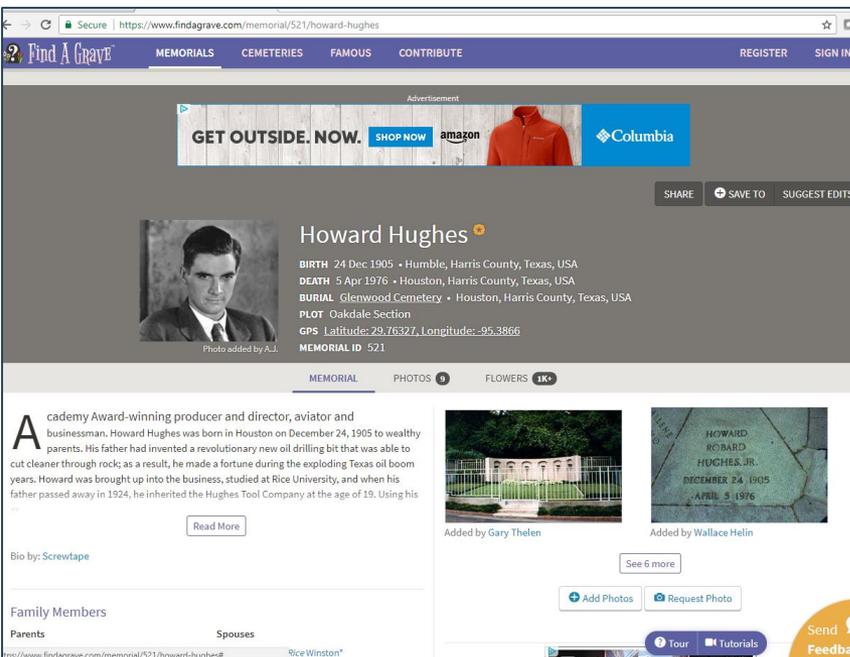
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Things to remember about Family Tree pages:

- You cannot create or change Family Tree pages using Ancestry Library Edition, but you can view trees that members have made public.
- Family Trees are not reviewed by Ancestry.com or any other group after members create them – there can be errors in Family Trees, so verify information that you find here.
- Documents and images that Family Tree creators attached to their trees can be viewed in the “Sources” column in the “Facts” view
- Individuals marked “Private” in Family Trees are presumed to be still living, so you can’t see their names or details about their lives.

What is Find A Grave?

- Includes photos, locations and other information about graves.
- Profiles sometimes include family names, links to other family members pages on the site, biographies, birth and death dates.
- Information is submitted by volunteers.
- Not all graves are included. You can look up a particular cemetery to see what percentage of the graves in that cemetery have been documented.
- Ancestry.com owns the site, but it can be accessed without a subscription.



The screenshot shows a web browser window displaying the Find A Grave website. The URL is <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/521/howard-hughes>. The page features a navigation bar with links for MEMORIALS, CEMETERIES, FAMOUS, CONTRIBUTE, REGISTER, and SIGN IN. Below the navigation bar is an advertisement for Columbia clothing with the text "GET OUTSIDE. NOW." and "SHOP NOW amazon".

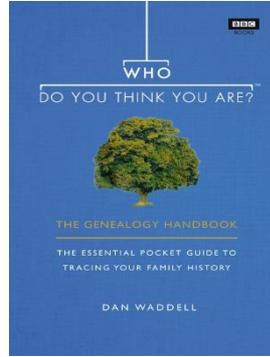
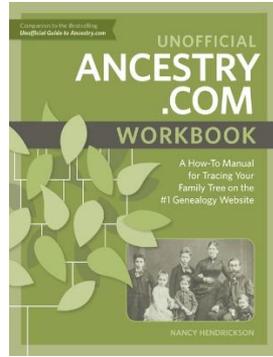
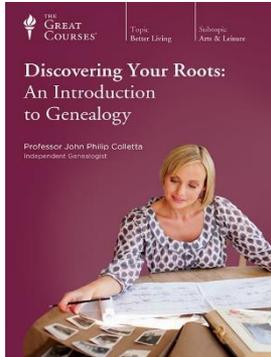
The main content area is a memorial page for Howard Hughes. It includes a portrait photo of a young man and the following information:

- Howard Hughes**
- BIRTH** 24 Dec 1905 • Humble, Harris County, Texas, USA
- DEATH** 5 Apr 1976 • Houston, Harris County, Texas, USA
- BURIAL** Glenwood Cemetery • Houston, Harris County, Texas, USA
- PLOT** Oakdale Section
- GPS** Latitude: 29.76327, Longitude: -95.3866
- MEMORIAL ID** 521

Below the information is a section with tabs for MEMORIAL, PHOTOS (9), and FLOWERS (1K). The PHOTOS tab is active, showing two photos: one of a cemetery gate and one of a gravestone. The gravestone photo is captioned "HOWARD ROBERT HUGHES, JR. DECEMBER 24, 1905 - APRIL 5, 1976" and is noted as "Added by Wallace Helin".

On the left side of the page, there is a biography section starting with "Academy Award-winning producer and director, aviator and businessman. Howard Hughes was born in Houston on December 24, 1905 to wealthy parents. His father had invented a revolutionary new oil drilling bit that was able to cut cleaner through rock; as a result, he made a fortune during the exploding Texas oil boom years. Howard was brought up into the business, studied at Rice University, and when his father passed away in 1924, he inherited the Hughes Tool Company at the age of 19. Using his..." and a "Read More" button. Below the biography is a "Family Members" section with a "Parents" subsection.

Other Resources Available Through DPPL



Ebooks – available through Overdrive with your library card

The screenshot shows a library website interface. At the top, there's a search bar and navigation links like 'Home' and 'View Catalog'. Below that, a sidebar lists various categories like 'Browse Catalog' and 'Related Products'. The main content area displays the 'Genealogy Basics' course, including a thumbnail image of a family portrait, an 'Enroll Now' button, and a 'Details' section with course information like 'Learning Type: Instructor-Led Course', 'Hours: 24', and 'Duration of Access: 0 weeks'.

Online course, available through Gale Courses with your library card



Family Tree Magazine – available through RB Digital (formerly Zinio) with your library card