

## #442 Family History Treasure Hunt Supplement

*The following tips were provided by 4-H judges as a supplement to the project book.*

Computers and the Internet are playing an ever-expanding role in family history research. Although online research does not usually eliminate the need to visit traditional repositories (such as courthouses, libraries, and cemeteries), it is a valuable finding aid. **WARNING: Most information found online must be verified.** However, there are some “primary sources” online, such as census images and death certificates in limited areas.

Your public library is most likely a valuable resource. Some online databases require a paid subscription to access them at home, but many libraries maintain a subscription. It’s best to check in your community to see if your library has a subscription. The services most widely used are *Heritage Quest* and *Ancestry.com*. Your librarian will be able to assist you with these.

Ask your librarian about reference or how-to manuals for genealogy. The periodical section may have magazines such as *Family Tree Magazine* or *Everton’s Genealogical Helper*. These publications frequently list helpful websites. It is impossible to maintain an exhaustive list of useful genealogical websites, which are constantly being added, renamed, or revised.

While networking with local genealogists is beneficial, some students find scheduling or travel to a genealogy meeting difficult. If you have access to the Internet, there is a wealth of information available there. The following list is only a sampling of what you may find useful.

### **Websites Providing FREE Instruction on Genealogy**

<http://www.genealogy.com/university.html> Genealogy Learning Center offers how-to articles, genealogy classes and other resources that will assist you with digging into your family’s past.

<https://blog.dearmyrtle.com/> Provides practical, down-to-earth advice for family historians.

<http://www.genealogytoday.com> Offers tips on getting started and getting organized.

<http://www.honoringourancestors.com> This site encourages novice to pro researchers in their roots quest.

<https://www.familytree.com/> Offers reviews, articles, surname research, and genealogy advice. Genealogy tips for the beginner to the advanced researcher.

<http://www.genealogyguys.com> Listen to podcasts covering a wide range of topics.



### **Sites Where Donations of Information are Welcome**

<http://www.findagrave.com> This is a free website where burials are listed. It is searchable by location or by name. It is easy to add your names of interest to the database.

<http://werelate.org> WeRelate is a free public-service wiki for genealogy sponsored by the Foundation for On-Line Genealogy, Inc. in partnership with the Allen County Public Library.

<http://usgwarchives.net> This site is run by 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.

Organization 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 tables above will take you to additional information and links. The information found varies widely and is dependent upon volunteer contributions.

<http://www.geni.com> is a website rapidly growing in popularity. There, you may enter your own family tree and share it with others who you invite to view or add information. Distant cousins living far away may help you expand the tree by adding their vital statistics or pictures. Your tree may be kept private or available to share you choose. It is a safe repository for your family data and will be there even if your personal computer crashes.

### **Primary Records**

Some primary records are available online. Census records are chief among these. The images may be found on *Heritage Quest* or *Ancestry.com*. Ask your librarian about availability to these databases.

<http://www.sos.mo.gov/archives/resources/deathcertificates> This database is maintained by Missouri State Archives. If your relative died in Missouri between 1910 and 1957, you may find, view, and print a copy of their death certificate from this site.