

# The Good, The Bad, & The Ugly of Recording and Organizing Your Genealogy Research on the Web

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# Agenda

- Why post genealogy online?
- Where would I put my research?
- Good, Bad, Ugly of several major websites
  - Ancestry.com
  - FamilySearch.org
  - MyHeritage.com / Geni.com
  - WikiTree.com

*Just the highlights! Your mileage may vary.*

- Shaky Leaf Syndrome – Whatever comes along to research
- Research Methodology

# Why Keep Your Genealogy Online?

1. Good for finding relatives and get hints for your research.
2. To supplement DNA tests and research
3. To share Photographs and documents
4. To backup your research

## Some Websites for Keeping Your Tree Online

- [Ancestry.com](https://www.ancestry.com) (\$) Been in busy 32 years; major website for 16 yrs
- [FamilySearch.org](https://www.familysearch.org) (Free) [Utah Genealogical Society founded in 1894;] Major website 16 yrs)
- [MyHeritage.com](https://www.myheritage.com) (Partially Free) Founded in Israel; acquired [Geni.com](https://www.geni.com) (Facebook App) and [FamilyLink.com](https://www.familylink.com) and several others; has agreement with [NewspaperArchive.com](https://www.newspaperarchive.com)(\$\$)
- [WikiTree.com](https://www.wikitree.com) (Free) 7 yrs; Websites only no records

# Geeks - Post Your Own

- Export GEDCOM (Genealogical format that is flattened representation of your tree) from your software (Family Tree Maker, Roots Magic, Legacy, etc.)
- Import into program to convert to HTML (markup language of the web) Ged2X, Ged2Web, others (See Cyndislist.com)
- Place on Rootweb or your own website at a hosting company
- <NOT RECOMMENDED FOR NON-TECHIES>



**Ancestry.com**

CAPE SABLE

STATE OF

# Good – Ancestry.com

- Lots of databases and record images
- No limit to online tree; Multiple trees
- Living people kept private
- Can make entire trees private
- Trees are yours. (Not shared)
- DNA tests tied to trees
- Sync to Family Tree Maker software
- Place for Photos and Stories



# Bad – Ancestry.com

- ‘Matches’ to other trees can be merged; Which leads to entire trees of information matched to others. (No original sources)
- Footnotes can be too generic
- Others can add your photographs and documents to their trees.
- Cost will likely to continue to rise



# Ugly – Ancestry.com

- In merging it's very easy to get relationship pointers duplicated. (Two fathers, two mothers)  
Difficult to delete those errors.
- Family Tree Maker sync can get 'wedged'. Also difficult to fix.



**FamilySearch.org**

# Good – FamilySearch.com

- Lots of databases and record images
- No limit to size of online tree; Multiple trees
- Living people kept private
- Can make entire trees private
- Sync to Roots Magic & others
- Place for Photos and Stories
- Footnotes good.
- **FREE! Not likely to change.**

# Bad – FamilySearch.org

- ‘Matches’ to other trees can be merged; Which leads to entire trees of information matched to others. (No original sources)
- Your tree is shared with others. If you have a disagreement with another person the data can swap back and forth.
- Others can add your photographs and documents to their trees.

# Ugly – FamilySearch.com

- In merging it's very easy to get relationship pointers duplicated. (Two fathers, two mothers) Hard to delete those errors. [Merging 2 people gives the child 4 parent relationships for instance.]
- Roots Magic sync can get 'wedged'. Also difficult to fix.

# MyHeritage / Geni - Good

- Geni now owned by MyHeritage.com
- Fantastic agreement with NewspaperArchive.com (Saves you \$\$\$)
- Good citations
- Expanding their Influence

# MyHeritage / Geni - Bad

- No records repository
- No research notes
- Cost (9.95/month)

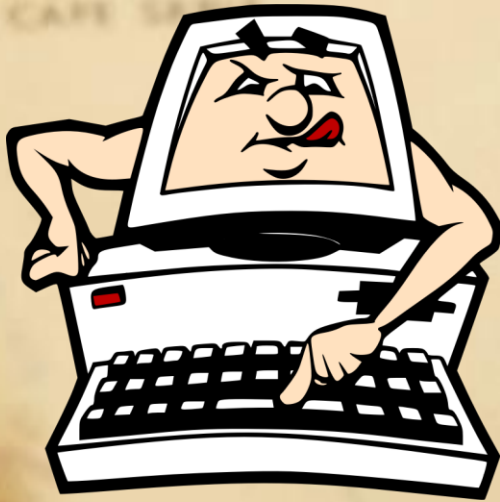


# MyHeritage / Geni - Ugly

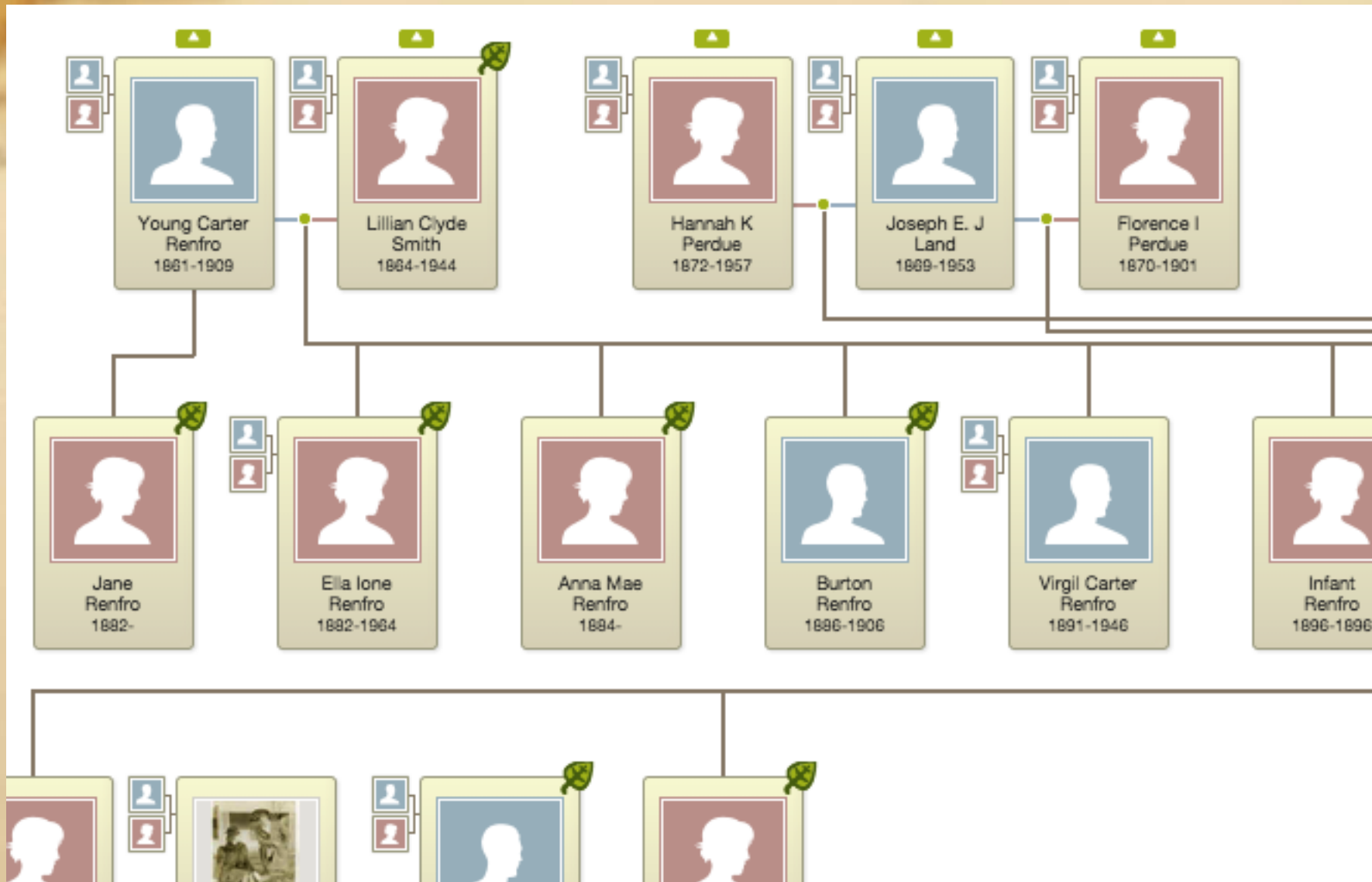
- Can be tied to Facebook
- No research notes
- Cost (9.95/month)

# “Shaky Leaf” Syndrome

<Computer is leading you>



# Ancestry.com – Shaky Leaves



# MyHeritage.com



Home

Family tree

Discoveries

Photos

Apps

Research

## Record Matches ?

By collections

By people

1,047 matches in 34 collections (1,046 pending matches)

All trees

1-20 of 34 collections [Filtering options](#) (59 more matches not listed)

Sort by

### Collections



#### Geni World Family Tree

Family Trees

Review 246 matches

246 pending



#### FamilySearch Family Tree

Family Trees

Review 218 matches

218 pending



#### WikiTree FREE

Other family trees

Review 77 matches

77 pending



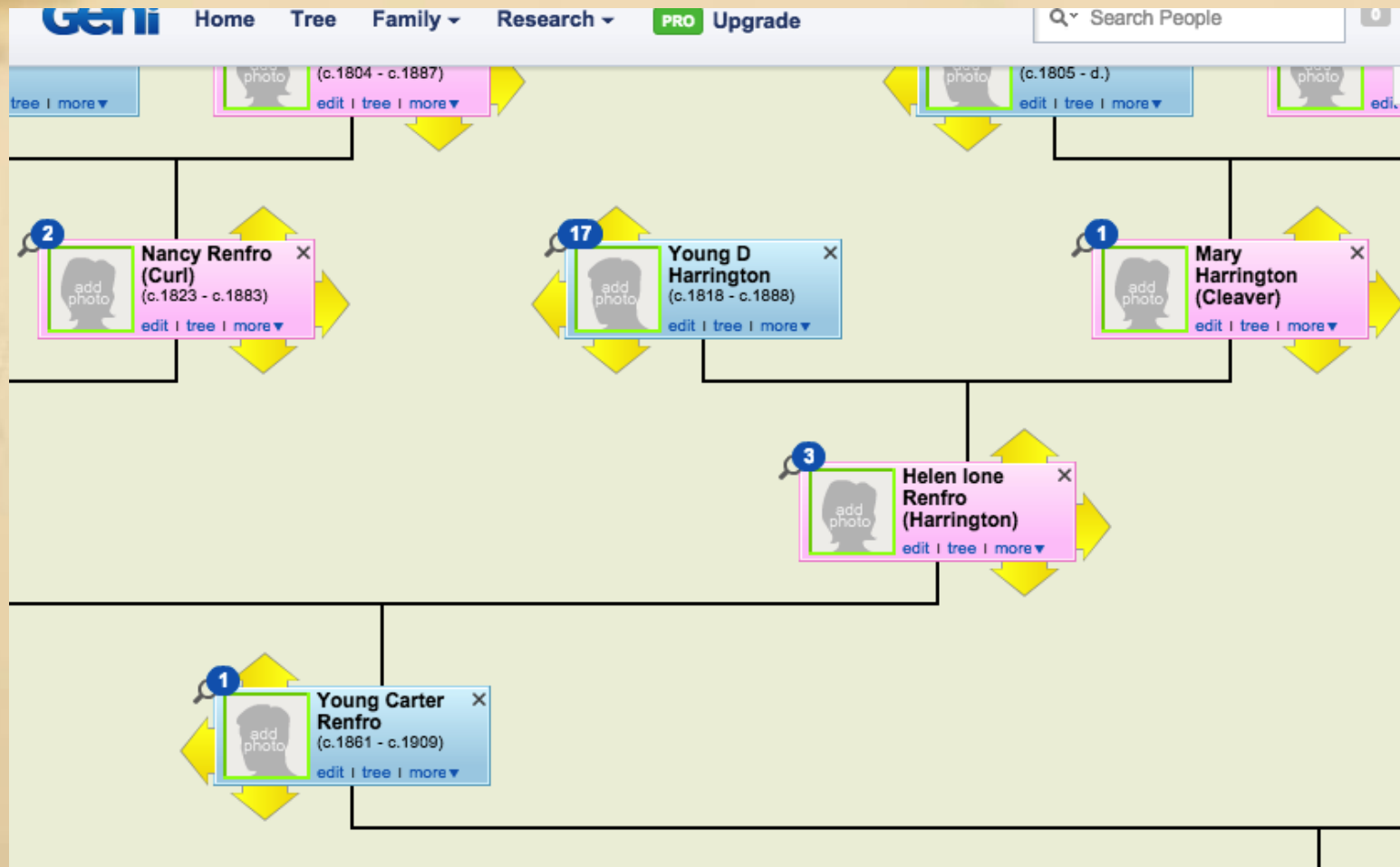
#### 1910 United States Federal Census

U.S. Census

Review 65 matches

65 pending

# Geni.com – Blue Circles



# FamilySearch.org – Record Hints

The screenshot displays the FamilySearch.org website interface. At the top, the navigation bar includes the FamilySearch logo and links for Family Tree, Memories, Search, and Indexing. Below this, a secondary navigation bar contains icons for TREE, PERSON, FIND, LISTS, and WHAT'S NEW. A third bar shows the 'Landscape' view and other icons. The main content area features a family tree with several individual profiles. On the right, a 'Record Hints' sidebar is open, displaying a list of suggested records for 'Claud Galloway'.

**FamilySearch** Family Tree Memories Search Indexing

TREE PERSON FIND LISTS WHAT'S NEW

Landscape

**Cloyd William Loafman**  
1915-2007 • LJL2-W7J  
Marriage: 12 February 1938  
, Sulphur Springs, Hopkins Co...

**Winnie Francis Galloway**  
1917-2012 • LJL2-W4X

Children

1893-Deceased • LJL2-8V7

**Susie E Loafman**  
1893-Deceas... • LJL2-8KQ

Children

**Claud Galloway**  
1879-Deceased • LJL2-Z93

**Ida Galloway**  
1886-Deceas... • LJL2-ZSB

Children

**Albert Clifton Steele Sr.**  
1901-1961 • LHVK-6LQ  
Marriage: 17 November 1920  
Denison, Grayson, Texas, Unit...


**Dovie Mae Snodgrass**  
1901-1984 • 9NH1-N5S

Children

**Record Hints**  
**Claud Galloway**

- Claud J Galloway**  
United States Census, 1930
- Claud J Galloway**  
United States Census, 1940
- Claud Galloway**  
Texas, Marriages, 1837-1973
- Jackson Claude Galloway**  
Texas, Deaths, 1890-1976
- Clay Galloway**  
United States Census, 1900

Show Details



# Research Methodology



# Professionals use GPS

- Genealogical Proof Standard

<http://www.bcgcertification.org/resources/standard.html>

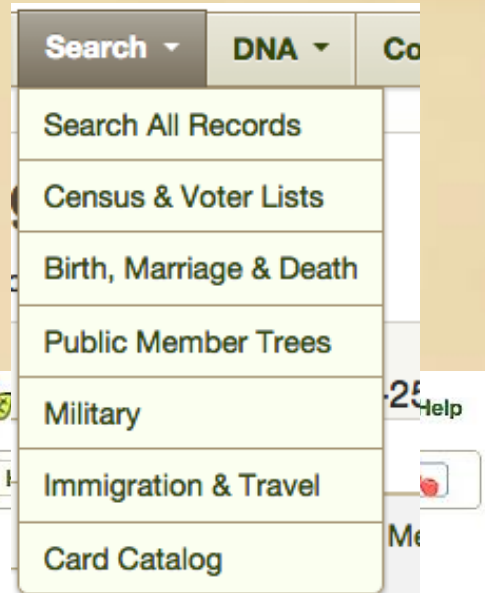
- Reasonably exhaustive search
- Complete and accurate citation of sources
- Analysis and correlation of the collected information
- Resolution of conflicting evidence
- Soundly reasoned, coherently written conclusion

# How to Apply to Online Searches

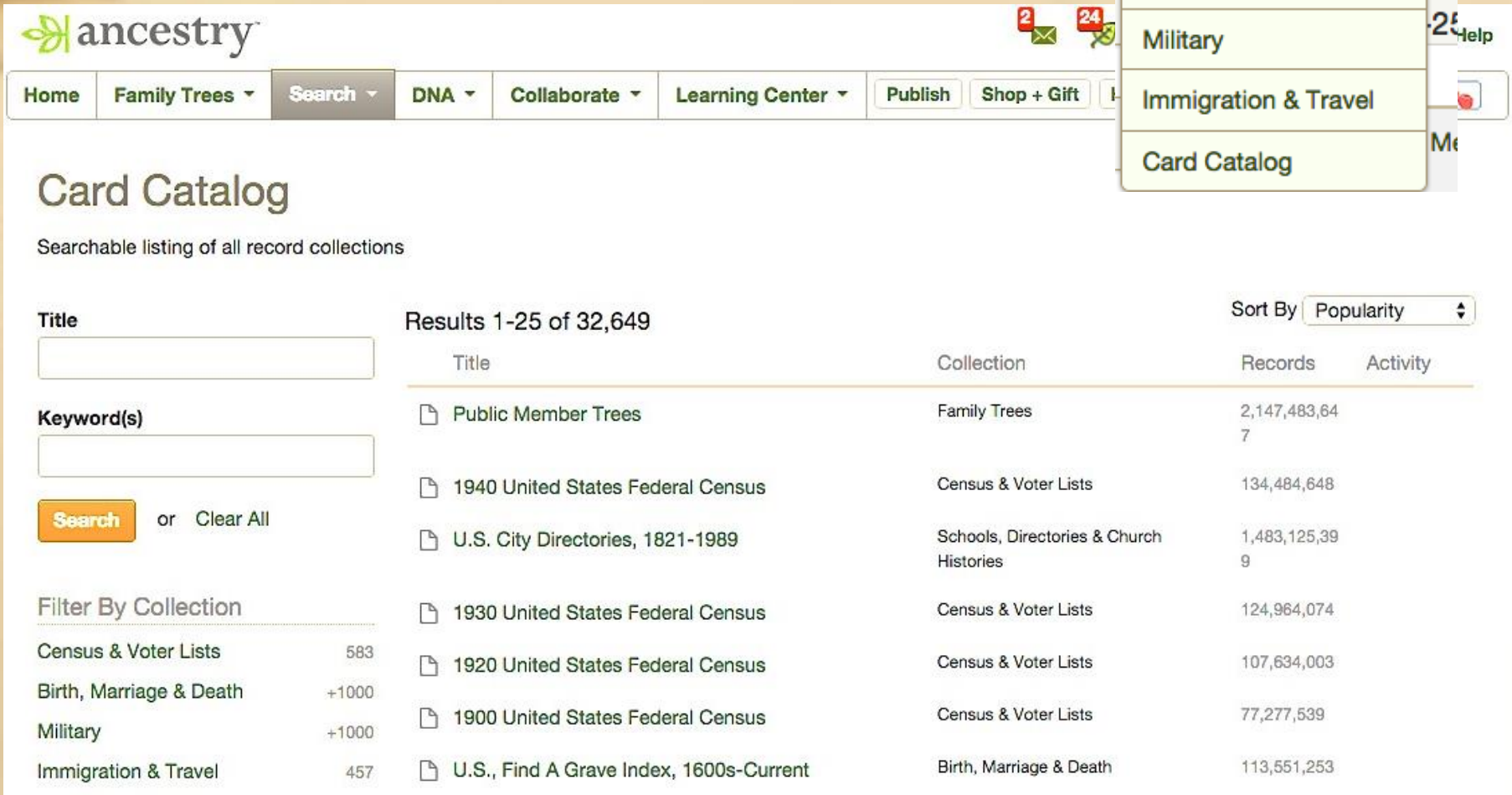
- Focus Your Search
- Record Your Citations & Research
- Brainstorm Your Next Tasks

# Focus Your Search

- [Ancestry.com](#) Search->Card Catalog



A dropdown menu from the Ancestry.com search bar. The menu is open, showing several options. The 'Card Catalog' option is highlighted in yellow. Other options include 'Search All Records', 'Census & Voter Lists', 'Birth, Marriage & Death', 'Public Member Trees', 'Military', and 'Immigration & Travel'. The menu is positioned over the top right of the page.



The Ancestry.com Card Catalog page. The page features a search bar with a 'Search' button and a 'Clear All' link. Below the search bar is a 'Filter By Collection' section with a list of collections and their record counts. The main content area displays a table of search results, sorted by popularity. The table has columns for 'Title', 'Collection', 'Records', and 'Activity'. The results list includes 'Public Member Trees', '1940 United States Federal Census', 'U.S. City Directories, 1821-1989', '1930 United States Federal Census', '1920 United States Federal Census', '1900 United States Federal Census', and 'U.S., Find A Grave Index, 1600s-Current'.

ancestry

Home Family Trees Search DNA Collaborate Learning Center Publish Shop + Gift

## Card Catalog

Searchable listing of all record collections

Title

Keyword(s)

or

Filter By Collection

Census & Voter Lists	583
Birth, Marriage & Death	+1000
Military	+1000
Immigration & Travel	457

Results 1-25 of 32,649

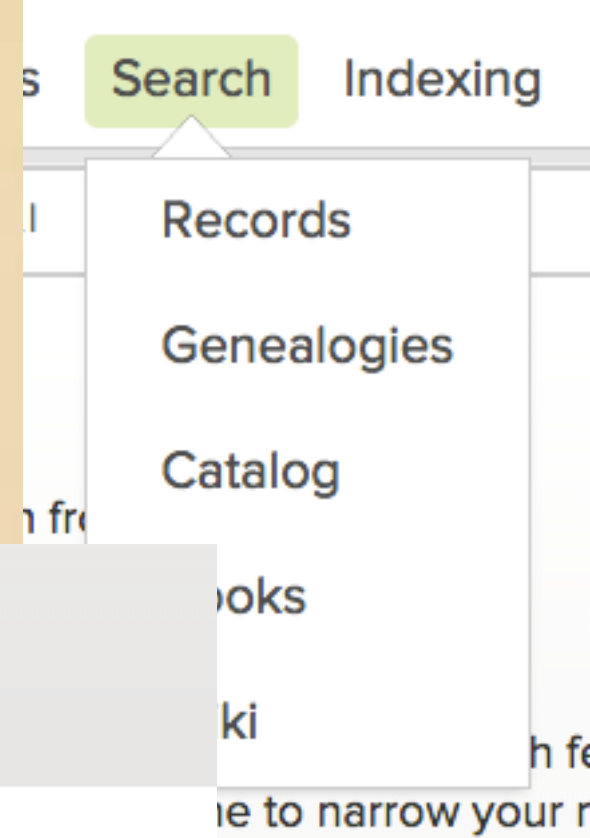
Sort By Popularity

Title	Collection	Records	Activity
<input type="checkbox"/> Public Member Trees	Family Trees	2,147,483,647	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1940 United States Federal Census	Census & Voter Lists	134,484,648	
<input type="checkbox"/> U.S. City Directories, 1821-1989	Schools, Directories & Church Histories	1,483,125,399	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1930 United States Federal Census	Census & Voter Lists	124,964,074	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1920 United States Federal Census	Census & Voter Lists	107,634,003	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900 United States Federal Census	Census & Voter Lists	77,277,539	
<input type="checkbox"/> U.S., Find A Grave Index, 1600s-Current	Birth, Marriage & Death	113,551,253	

# Focus Your Search

- [FamilySearch.org](https://www.familysearch.org)


Search->Records



[Search](#) [Reset](#)

[Browse All Published Collections](#)

## Research By Location

<a href="#">International Genealogical Index (IGI)</a>	892,761,439	legacy
 <a href="#">Iowa State Census, 1885</a>	1,737,228	25 Jan 2011

# Record Your Search

- [Ancestry.com](#) Shoebox

[Home->Shoebox](#)

My Shoebox			<a href="#">See more</a>
Record	Date Added	Name(S)	
Selected U.S. Federal Census Non-Population Schedules, 1850-1880	19 Jan 2015	Virgil C Renfro	
U.S., World War I Draft Registration Cards, 1917-1918	18 Jan 2015	William Wade Renfro	
Texas, Birth Certificates, 1903-1932	18 Jan 2015	Gilbert Steele	

This is not adequate to record the Who, What, When, Why, and Where of your research!

# Record Your Search - [Ancestry.com](https://www.ancestry.com) Shoebox

## Virgil C Renfro in the Selected U.S. Federal Census Non-Population Schedules, 1850-1880

Save

✓ Saved to [Renfro, Virgil Curl](#) in tree "jeristeedirectancestors" [Remove](#)

✓ You've saved this record to your [shoebox](#). [Remove](#)



[View](#)

Name: Virgil C Renfro

Location: Beat 4, Cherokee, Texas, USA

Enumeration Date: Dec 1870

Schedule Type: Agriculture

Line Number: 10

[Save](#) ▾

 [Add alternate information](#)

 [Report issue](#)



[Write](#)

[Make a Contribution](#)

[Find others who](#)  
[in Public Member](#)

### Source Citation

Census Year: 1870; Census Place: *Beat 4, Cherokee, Texas*

### Source Information

Ancestry.com. *Selected U.S. Federal Census Non-Population Schedules, 1850-1880* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2010.



# Record Your Search

FamilySearch.org

- Home >-Name
- Source Box
  - Folders

Jeri J Steele ▾

Settings

Source Box

Sign Out

## My Source Box

[+ Create Source](#)

[↓ Move ▾](#)

[Home \(501\)](#)

[All \(650\)](#)

My Folders

[+ New Folder](#)

[COULTER \(9\)](#)

[Geeks \(0\)](#)

[Havens \(3\)](#)

[Kirkpatrick \(40\)](#)

- [Willie B Stewart Davis, "Find A Grave Index"](#)
- [Charles Anderson Mason, "Find A Grave Index"](#)
- [TX Smth Co Bk Cem, Vol I](#)
- [TX Smth Co Bk Cem, Vol V](#)
- [TX Smth Co BK Obits](#)
- [Bk 1: Cemetery Photos](#)
- [V C Renfro in household of Nancy Carl, "United States Census, 1860"](#)
- [Herman Lunn Wooten, "Texas, Birth Certificates, 1903-1935"](#)
- [Clayton Herman Wooten in entry for Herman Lunn Wooten, "Texas, Birth Certificates, 1903-1935"](#)



# FamilySearch.org

- Source Box Entry (No notes)

The screenshot shows a user interface for creating or managing sources. At the top, there are two buttons: a blue "Create Source" button with a plus icon and a grey "Move" button with a download icon and a dropdown arrow. Below these is a list of source entries. The first entry is for "Willie B Stewart Davis, 'Find A Grave Index'". It includes a "View" link, a "Copy" link, a "Remove" link, and an "Attached To" indicator with a zero in a blue circle. The entry also shows a "url" field with the value "https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:QVKH-WC2H" and a "Citation" field with the text: "Find A Grave Index," index, FamilySearch (https://familysearch.org/pal:/MM9.1.1/QVKH-WC2H : accessed 1 May 2015), Willie B Stewart Davis, 1962; Burial, Corsicana, Navarro, Texas, United States of America, Oakwood Cemetery; citing record ID 35964685, Find a Grave, http://www.findagrave.com.

Create Source  Move ▼

Willie B Stewart Davis, "Find A Grave Index" Close

View | Copy | [Remove](#) | Attached To 0

url  
<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:QVKH-WC2H>

Citation  
"Find A Grave Index," index, FamilySearch (<https://familysearch.org/pal:/MM9.1.1/QVKH-WC2H> : accessed 1 May 2015), Willie B Stewart Davis, 1962; Burial, Corsicana, Navarro, Texas, United States of America, Oakwood Cemetery; citing record ID 35964685, Find a Grave, <http://www.findagrave.com>.

Charles Anderson Mason, "Find A Grave Index"

# Geni.com

The screenshot displays the Geni.com website interface. At the top left is the Geni logo. Navigation links include 'Home', 'Tree', 'Family', 'Research', and 'PRO Upgrade'. The 'Family' dropdown menu is open, listing options: Lists, Photos, Videos, Calendar, Map, Statistics, Timeline, Last Names Index, Share Your Tree, and Free Family Tree Chart. Below the menu, a family tree diagram is partially visible. A blue box highlights a person's profile with the name 'eele' and '(deceased)', and a green box highlights an 'add photo' button. A yellow arrow points from the 'add photo' button to the profile. To the right, another profile is highlighted with a pink box and a blue circle containing the number '3', also with an 'add photo' button highlighted in green.

# Software that Supports Recording Research Tasks

- Roots Magic
- Family Tree Maker
- The Master Genealogist
- And others

# Research Log

## Research Log Entry

Date of your search

Oct 1990



Reference number



WebTags (0)

What were you trying to find?

Mention of Hiram Kirkpatrick in LDS Records

What source did you check?

"International Genealogical Index (IGI)," database, FamilySearch (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/2:1:9MN5-6D8> ; accessed 2015-05-01), entry for Hiram Kirkpatrick. Family History Library , Microfilm : 1059340

Where did you check (repository and call#)?

LDS Church, Richardson, TX

What were the results of your search?

Found Hiram Kirkpatrick listed with wife Ann Adeline Duncan;  
"International Genealogical Index (IGI)," database, FamilySearch (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/2:1:9MN5-6D8> ; accessed 2015-05-01), entry for Hiram Kirkpatrick. Family History Library , Microfilm : 1059340  
Parent of Mary L.D. Kirkpatrick 9MN5-6D3 Hiram Kirkpatrick 9MN5-6D8,  
Marty M. Kirkpatrick 9MN5-1Q1  
Amandy T. Kirkpatrick 9MN5-G3W Hiram 9MN5-G3G

# Timeline

## Robert Kirkpatrick Timeline

Subject\* Robert Kirkpatrick

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Father\*

Mother\*

---

Birth\* cir \_\_\_\_ 1748

Residence: \_\_\_\_ 1768

Marriage\* 04 Aug 1768

Daughter: cir \_\_\_\_ 1770

Event-Misc: \_\_\_\_ 1770

Daughter: cir \_\_\_\_ 1773

Daughter: cir \_\_\_\_ 1776

Son: cir \_\_\_\_ 1781

Son: cir \_\_\_\_ 1781

Son: cir \_\_\_\_ 1783

Son: cir \_\_\_\_ 1784

Son: cir \_\_\_\_ 1790

Son: cir \_\_\_\_ 1792

Death\* bef 23 Mar 1803

Probate\* 23 Mar 1803

Probate: 22 Jun 1803

New Jersey.

Mendham, Morris County, New Jersey; No other records have been found concerning Robert in New Jersey other than the marriage records.

**Elizabeth Guering** (1748-1815); Mendham, Morris County, New Jersey.

**Susannah Kirkpatrick** (1770- )

Guilford County, North Carolina; a petition to open Deep River for fishing.

**Lydia Kirkpatrick** (1773-1850); Burke County, North Carolina.

**Mary Kirkpatrick** (1776- )

**Lewis Kirkpatrick** (1781-1850); Wilkes County, North Carolina.

**John Kirkpatrick** (1781- ); Wilkes County, North Carolina.

**Edward Kirkpatrick** (1783-1858); Wilkes County, North Carolina.

**Daniel Kirkpatrick** (1784-1877); Wilkes County, North Carolina.

**Martin Kirkpatrick** (1790- ); Wilkes County, North Carolina.

**Robert Kirkpatrick** (1792- ); Knox County, Tennessee.

Roane County, Tennessee.

Roane County, Tennessee; Elizabeth Kirkpatrick and Solomon Geron entered bonds as administrators of Robert's estate.

Roane County, Tennessee; Inventory filed says, "The true inventory of the estate of Robert Kirkpatrick deceased, VIZ: One mair, five cows and calves, two cows and yearlings, four two year old steers, four yearlings, one three year old stear, ten head of sheep, fifteen head of hogs, c

# Some Websites for Keeping Your Tree Online

- [Ancestry.com](http://Ancestry.com) (\$) Been in busy 32 years; major website for 16 yrs
- [FamilySearch.org](http://FamilySearch.org) (Free) [Utah Genealogical Society founded in 1894;] Major website 16 yrs)
- [MyHeritage.com](http://MyHeritage.com) (Partially Free) Founded in Israel; acquired [Geni.com](http://Geni.com) (Facebook App) and [FamilyLink.com](http://FamilyLink.com) and several others; has agreement with [NewspaperArchive.com](http://NewspaperArchive.com)(\$\$)
- [WikiTree.com](http://WikiTree.com) (Free) 7 yrs; Websites only no records



**Questions  
& Comments**

**Jeri J. Steele  
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