

Using the Internet in Your Genealogical Search

REMEMBER: Everything is NOT available online

AFTER you've looked at the records you own and have talked with close relatives and have borrowed resources they own.....

AFTER you've filled out pedigree charts & family group sheets showing what you THINK you know ...

AFTER you've obtained current birth, marriage and death records for modern day relatives

AFTER you've chosen a genealogy software package to help in recording your information: names, dates, documents, photos, and other media, and sources, sources and more sources

THEN, if you're lucky enough to live near the area where your ancestors lived, I would visit local archives, libraries, cemeteries and courthouses and AFTER those are exhausted, I would begin my online research.

The Germantown Library: <http://www.germantown-library.org/>

The Collierville Library: <http://www.collierville.com/library-home>

The Tennessee Genealogical Society: <http://www.tngs.org>

And the Germantown Regional History & Genealogy Center all have resources that you can use for free.

Germantown residents and Tennessee Genealogical Society members can use their Germantown Library card to access some resources from home for free.

Collierville residents can access some of their library's resources from home for free.

Resources to get you started:

Ancestry.com	http://www.ancestry.com
Family Search	http://familysearch.org
Rootsweb	http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/
USGENWEB	http://www.usgenweb.org/
Genforum	http://genforum.genealogy.com/
Cyndi's List	http://www.cyndislist.com/
Footnote	http://www.footnote.com/
Ellis Island	http://www.ellisland.org/
Castle Garden	http://www.castlegarden.org/
Steve Morse	http://www.stevemorse.org/
Find A Grave	http://www.findagrave.com/
Death Indexes	http://www.deathindexes.com/

If you're looking at information written by someone else, and it's not a scanned copy of an historical primary source, you MUST PROVE that the information is correct. There is a LOT of very bad "research" posted online.

Read blogs; listen to podcasts; subscribe to mailing lists; contact people researching the same families. Attend classes (MANY offered here at the Tennessee Genealogical Society).

Revisit websites often, as new information is being added daily.

Know the geography and the history of the area in which you're researching, including county formation information and war participation patterns for the area.

Use maps and land office records [<http://www.glorerecords.blm.gov/>]

Stay organized, saving your favorites/bookmarks in an orderly manner (maybe by surname or state or topic).

*Germantown Regional History and
Genealogy Center [GRHGC]
7779 Poplar Pike
Germantown, TN*

*Monday 10 AM - 2 PM
Tuesday 10 AM - 4 PM
Wednesday Closed
Thursday 10 AM - 4 PM
Friday Closed
Saturday 9 AM - 5 PM
901-757-8480*

*Tennessee Genealogical Society
Located in the GRHGC Building
Open 10 AM - 2 PM Tue & Thur
901-754-4300*