

# Searching for My Ancestors' Records

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The MyHeritage search engine for historical records provides instant access to billions of records from all over the world.

The screenshot shows the MyHeritage search interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the MyHeritage logo and links for Home, Family tree, Discoveries, Photos, DNA, and Research. The main heading is "Search historical records" with a subtext: "Explore your family history in MyHeritage's database of 16.3 billion historical records". The search form has four input fields: "First and middle name(s)", "Last name", "Year of birth" (with a calendar icon), and "Place" (with an info icon). An orange "Search" button is to the right. Below the fields are buttons for "ADD DETAILS", "Father", "Mother", "Spouse", "Death", and "+ More".

You can run a global search in all collections by specifying a person's first (and middle) name, last name, year of birth, and any place of a life event associated with that person. None of these are mandatory — you can search simply based on what you know. For example, you can search with only a first name and no, and without a surname.

Once you fill in a field, Advanced options will appear that are once you fill in a field, tailored to the specific field you filled in.

The screenshot shows the advanced search options for the "First and middle name(s)" field. The field contains the name "John". The options are: "Match name exactly" (unchecked), "Spelling variations" (checked), "Match initials" (checked), and "Starts with specific letters" (unchecked). There is an "About these settings" link with an info icon.

For example, when typing in the name, advanced options will appear and allow you to specify whether you want an exact match, whether to include spelling variations or, matching initials, and so on.

Below the main fields, you can easily specify additional fields such as the person's father or mother, spouse, other relatives, other life events, and so on. More fields are available under the "+ More" button. Once you select a field and enter a value, this acts as a filter for your search.

Additional filters available under "+ More" include life events, relatives, keywords, and gender. There is also an option to show results from other languages, and match all terms exactly.

Once you choose a life event filter such as Birth or Death, you can specify a date and a place for that event. Dates entered can be partial —, for example, just a year —, or a full, i.e. date, month, and year date.

When you search from the main search form, your results will include findings from all collections. After starting a search from the main search form (i.e. in all collections), search results are returned. The search form will remain docked displayed at the top of the page so you can edit or refine your search at any time by changing, adding, or removing filters.

You can also now edit your search, or narrow down your search to specific categories and collections, using the “NARROW DOWN” panel on the left. If you choose to narrow down the search, we’ll suggest filters that are relevant to the specific collection: for example, such as Arrival year, Origin, and Ship name for Immigration & Travel Records, or Publication title, Publication date, and Publication place for Schools & Universities.

The screenshot shows a search interface with the following elements:

- Search Form:** Fields for "First and middle name(s)" (Barbara), "Last name" (Brady), "Year of birth" (1936), and "Place". A "Search" button is on the right.
- Filters:** Buttons for "ADD DETAILS", "Father", "Mother", "Spouse", "Death", and "+ More". A "Start new search" link is also present.
- NARROW DOWN BY CATEGORY:** A sidebar menu with categories and counts:
  - All Collections
  - Census & Voter Lists: 274
  - Family Trees: 757
  - Birth, Marriage & Death: 802
  - Photos: 25
  - Military: 2
  - Immigration & Travel: 36
  - Newspapers: 359
  - Books & Publications: 591
  - Public Records: 2,021
  - Schools & Universities: 2,869
  - Directories, Guides & References: 365
  - Histories, Memories & Biographies: 12
  - Government, Land, Court & Wills: 15
  - Maps: 18
- Search Results:** A list of results for "Barbara Brady" in "All Collections".
  - Barbara Brady:** MyHeritage Family Trees - Tuttle Brady Family Website, managed by M Tuttle. Birth: 1936 - West Virginia, United States; Death: July 11 2011 - West Virginia, United States; Parents: Elbert Scott Brady, Josephine Brady (born Boone); Siblings: Bulah M Bailey (born Brady), Bernard Brady, Blaine Brady, Blaire Brady, Borden Brady, Brock Brady. "View record" button.
  - Barbara Griffin (born Brady):** MyHeritage Family Trees - Sonnier LaBarre Family History, managed by Morris Sonnier. Birth: 1936; Death: 2009; Parents: Theodore B. Brady, Mildred Brady (born Michel); Siblings: <Private> Brady, <Private> Brady; Partner: <Private> Griffin. "View record" button.
  - Barbara Griffin (born Brady):** Geni World Family Tree. Birth: Oct 19 1936 - LaPlace, LA, United States; Death: Oct 4 2009 - LaPlace, LA, United States; Father: Theodore Brady; Mother: Mildred Brady (Michel).

The search results are displayed as cards. Clicking anywhere on a card will bring you to the record page. You can also click the name of each record, which is underlined, to view the record.

We've made it easy to distinguish between a historical record and a family tree record by showing different icons under the record name. We provide this differentiation because some genealogists place more trust in historical records than they do in family trees.

### Barbara Brady (born Hayes)

 MyHeritage Family Trees - Finding My Family, managed by Stephanie Irwin

Birth July 12 1954  
Death June 15 2001  
Partner <Private> Brady  
Ex-partner <Private> Cameron  
Children <Private> Brady, <Private> Cameron, <Private> Cameron

[View record](#)

### Barbara Brady

 U.S. Yearbooks Name Index, 1890-1979

Birth (implied) Circa 1954  
School Monte Vista High School  
School location Whittier, Los Angeles County, California, United States  
Yearbook year 1969



[View record](#)

Below the search form, we made it simple to browse the different record types that we have to offer, and to visit our recently added record collections.

## Recently added collections

[VIEW ALL](#)

### France, Val-de-Marne, Civil Births

This collection contains civil births in the French department of Val-de-Marne from 1792 to 1900. Civil vital records were collected by government authorities in France starting in 1792. They contain many details such as the name of the child, their birth date, birthplace, and the names of the parents, including the mother's maiden surname.

[Images](#)

709,948 records  
Released on Jan 11, 2022



### France, Val-de-Marne, Civil Deaths

[Images](#)

1,171,403 records  
Released on Jan 11, 2022



### France, Vital Records Index

357,634,212 records  
Released on Dec 7, 2021



### France, Naturalizations

1,749,377 records  
Released on Nov 1, 2021



### France, Censuses of Hérault, 1836-1936

5,924,272 records  
Released on Oct 29, 2021



The Collection Catalog contains a list of all the historical record collections indexed and available on MyHeritage search engine. The catalog is useful for beginners as well as professional users. Next to the name of each collection, it specifies the number of records it contains and the date when it was added or last updated. A special icon appears on collections that are new or recently updated. Some people call this a “card catalog” in reference to the way libraries used to index their inventory on cards in the old days, but our Collection Catalog is digital — it is available online and includes many useful functions.

MyHeritage Home Family tree Discoveries DNA Health Research

Research > Collection Catalog Search for collection or keyword

Collection	Last updated	Number of records
<b>U.S. City Directories</b> Directories Feb 26 2020 545,346,832		
<b>Historical Books - Index of Authors and People Mentioned, 1811-2003</b> Books & Publications Dec 31 2019 494,096,171		
<b>U.S. Yearbooks Name Index, 1890-1979</b> Yearbooks Mar 2 2018 255,384,102		
<b>Sweden Household Examination Books, 1820-1947</b> Nordic Census Feb 5 2021 145,024,445		
<b>MyHeritage Family Trees</b> Family Trees Mar 1 2021 4,147,080,115		

The top of the page may direct you to a few Featured Collections that we wanted to bring to your attention because of their special value. Featured Collections often include content that cannot be found anywhere outside of MyHeritage, and every so often, we'll designate new collections as Featured.

The collections can be sorted by the number of records they contain, the date they were last updated, or by collection name.

You can browse the collections available and move the mouse over the title of any collection to see a concise description of the collection.