

## Available Library Databases:

**Ancestry.com Library Edition** (in library use only). Private subscriptions are available to use anywhere.

**HeritageQuest-** available on any computer with your library card go to our website, got under using the library, then click on research & databases- there's an alphabetized list of resources.

**Democrat & Chronicle Archive-**searchable D & C from 1871-2011 & some other historical newspapers from the northeastern U.S. Available from any computer on our research and databases page.

**Historical Newspapers of the Rochester Region** somewhat searchable- "clunky" Available from any computer.

1. For any of the databases above, got to the Brighton Memorial Library website: [www.brightonlibrary.org](http://www.brightonlibrary.org)
2. Click on Using the Library. Select Research and Databases. You will see an alphabetical listing of our databases. Scroll down until you get to the one you want.

## Websites:

**FamilySearch.org-** website, no library card needed. You will need to create a free account to use the site.

**http://www.nygenweb.net/** New York Genealogy sites.

**www.jewishgen.org-** tools for Jewish research, links to searchable databases

**https://fultonsearch.org/** Millions of digitized old newspapers. Sometimes unavailable. When working- lots of papers.

## ***Helpful Things to know***

In the US, women (as well as non-head of household men,) were not listed until the 1850 US Federal Census.

- Dutch Records listed women early- in the 1700s

-English records that list women back before the 1700s usually have a gentry/royal connection

Names are only as good as the person transcribing them- old-fashioned handwriting and faded records can lead to mis-reading of names. Also- names were spelled phonetically- so take that into consideration and do similar sounding name searches. Yerkes- Jerckes, Yerkis, Yurkis, etc.

Census records are only as good as the person who gave the information made them. Some family members may not have really known where Grandpa grew up or how old he was.

Most of the 1890 federal census was destroyed by fire. NY State did an 1892 census, so if you're looking for relatives in NY, that's a good substitute.

Remember that town and county borders change. So if you were looking for someone who lived in the Rochester Area during the late 1700s, they lived in Ontario County, not Monroe (which didn't exist yet.) You can usually find digitized old maps in the Library of Congress (loc.gov) if none are available on libraries or historical societies' websites.

Not all records have been digitized/indexed. For Ex.-Family Search's New York, Civil War Service Records of Union Soldiers, 1861-1865 doesn't list William Y. Hoag as a serviceman. A search of the NY State archives does list him.

SAR/DAR records are documented links to Revolutionary war veterans. If a relative has had an application approved, the lineage or “branch” has been proven.

Keep plugging away. Sometimes information pops up in unexpected places. Google searches and Yahoo searches can turn up leads. A great-great-great grandfather was listed by name on his son’s death record. His name was unusual, but other than a marriage record, he didn’t show up in any census or other records. After searching numerous times on search engines, there was a reference to an article from a magazine put out by the Massachusetts Society for Mayflower descendants that was all about that family. You could write to them and pay for a copy of the article.

Records are being constantly added to the sites and the internet. Just because it’s not there now, doesn’t mean it won’t be in the future. It took about 8 years for a reference to a 4x great-grandfather.

Death Records and Marriage Records may list a person’s parents, birthplace, and other relatives.

Larger libraries may have digitized records to search that are only available via their websites.

Newspapers and obituaries are good places to find information as well.

Newspapers.com- free trials- you can search obituaries and articles from lots of different places. Right now you can still access it through the NYPL.org site if you have a NYPL card (available to any NY resident).

You can set up 30-60 minute appointments with me, librarian Kory Yerkes, at Brighton Memorial Library to help in your research.

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