Ancestry Library Edition

Ancestry.com is one of the largest online databases for genealogical research. Ancestry is usually available only in our libraries, but is now available from home until the end of April 2020.

- Ancestry recommends starting your search by clicking on the search tab at the top of the page.

Begin by clicking on the **Search** tab in the top menu.

- Take a look at the search screen; notice the resources on the right hand side of the page. It is possible to search each source individually or by category by clicking on the tabs; **Historical Records**, **Stories & Publications** or **Photos & Maps**.

- From this screen you could also chose to do an **Advanced Search**. This search type helps to narrow down the criteria being searched.

- After looking at a record you can return to the search results by using the browser’s back button; or Ancestry provides a way back on each search page. You can always get back to the home page by clicking on home tab at the top of the Ancestry page.

- If you scroll down the page you will see that you can also search the database for state specific resources. You can choose a state by either by clicking on the name or the picture of the state.
• You can find blank Census forms by clicking on the **Charts and Forms** tab that is at the top of every Ancestry page. Ancestry has a variety of genealogical forms to help with your research. The blank Census forms can be found by scrolling down the page. There are blank forms for each year of Census reports in Ancestry.
1. **Sample Name Search** in Historical Records

Click **Search** tab at the top of the screen; Click **Historical Records** tab. Use the first name: **Harry** and last name: **Houdini**.

Leave the "**exact matches only**" box unchecked. If you check the exact match search box, this type of search will remain in effect until you uncheck the box; even if you begin a new search for a different person. This may affect your results.

You can use wild cards if you are unsure of spelling. The ? replaces one letter in a word; an * replaces up to five letters. But you need to use at least 3 characters before you can use an asterix.

Click **Search**.

To narrow this search to only Census Records, click **Census & Voter Lists**.

Click View Image to look at the page from the **1920 Census**.
A. Census Records

The first result is the 1920 census; the second result is the 1880 census. Click view image to look at the actual page from the census.

Use the magnifying glass to zoom in to the document. Harry Houdini, and his wife Beatrice are listed at the bottom of this page.
When you are looking at Census data, if you are having trouble reading the information, you can also magnify the viewing screen using the pull down menu. The page will not print that large, but you can print blank census forms and write the information in by hand.

**B. Military Records**

Returning to the search results, examine the military records next.

The first result is World War I Draft Registration Cards, 1917-1918: Harry Handeuff (sic) Houdini. Again, click View Image to see the actual draft card.

Harry Houdini's WWI Draft Card. For the question: "Has person lost arm, leg, hand, eye, or is he obviously physically disqualified?" it is written, "Weak Left Hand."
Harry Houdini's 1913 Passport Application. Occupation listed as "Performer."

The third result in the Immigration & Emigration list is New York Passenger Lists, 1820-1957.

Click View Passenger List to see the names of everyone on that ship.

Click View image(s) of the ship to see a photograph of the ship Harry & his wife traveled on during a return trip from Europe.
2. Sample Search in Specific Collections

To get to this search screen begin by clicking on the Search tab in the top menu.

Take a look at the search screen; notice the resources on the right hand side of the page. You can choose a database by clicking on a selection from Browse Records list on the right-hand side of the screen.

It is possible to search each source individually or as group; such as military.

Scroll down the page.

You can also check to see if some other genealogist might have done some research on your family by going to Trees & Community. Click on: Ancestry World Tree

A. Sample Search in Photos &
1. Under Photos & Maps,
2. Click on: U.S. School Yearbooks.

3. Choose California from the list of states at the bottom of the page.

4. This will take you to a page listing cities in California for which digitized yearbooks are available. Choose Mill Valley.
5. When you click on Tamalpais High School, you may view either the 1932 or the 1939 yearbook, in its entirety.

SAVING YOUR INFORMATION

You can save your research by printing a copy of the records (free at the Library catalog work stations), saving to a flash drive (available only on certain Library computers) or by emailing the document to yourself. If using your own computer you can save to your computer.