

Finding Your Family History



Twinsburg Public Library
Cost: \$1:00 Updated: 9/2011

GATHERING INFORMATION

Step 1 What do you know? Record prior knowledge that you have about any of your family members to get started.

Step 2 What do you want to know? Record your essential questions. What knowledge or information about your past do you want to come away from this project possessing?

Step 3 Interview your immediate family to help you start your family tree. The more thorough you are in this step, the better you will do in later steps. Be sure to properly cite your sources.

Write down everything you know about yourself and your family members. Locate and organize sources that may provide important information.

SUGGESTED QUESTIONS:

Prepare a list of interview questions.

- What is your full name?
- When and where were you born?
- Who were your brothers and sisters?
- When and where were they born?
- Whom did they marry?
- Are they still living? (Get addresses.)
- How did you meet your spouse?
- When and where were you married?
- What is your spouse's full name and birth information?
- What are your parents' full names?
- When and where were they born?
- When and where did they marry?
- When and where were did they die?
- Where are they buried?

Step 4 Interview your extended Family. You will interview as many extended family members as possible. Refer to the “suggested questions”. Contact relatives by phone, mail, email, or in person. If you are corresponding by mail, enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope and a page of questions with space left for answers.

NOTE: If someone in your family has done some research, please make use of it!

Step 5 Online Research There are a great number of on line sources to aid in your research, but they are only helpful if you have completed steps 1 through 4. On the positive side, the internet has made it much easier to find and share family history information. Information obtained from these resources should be used with CAUTION, treated as clues for gathering the vital records and other documentation necessary for verifying the relationships.

TUTORIAL: <http://www.learnwebskills.com/family/intro.html://>

ANCESTRY.COM: <http://www.ancestry.com>

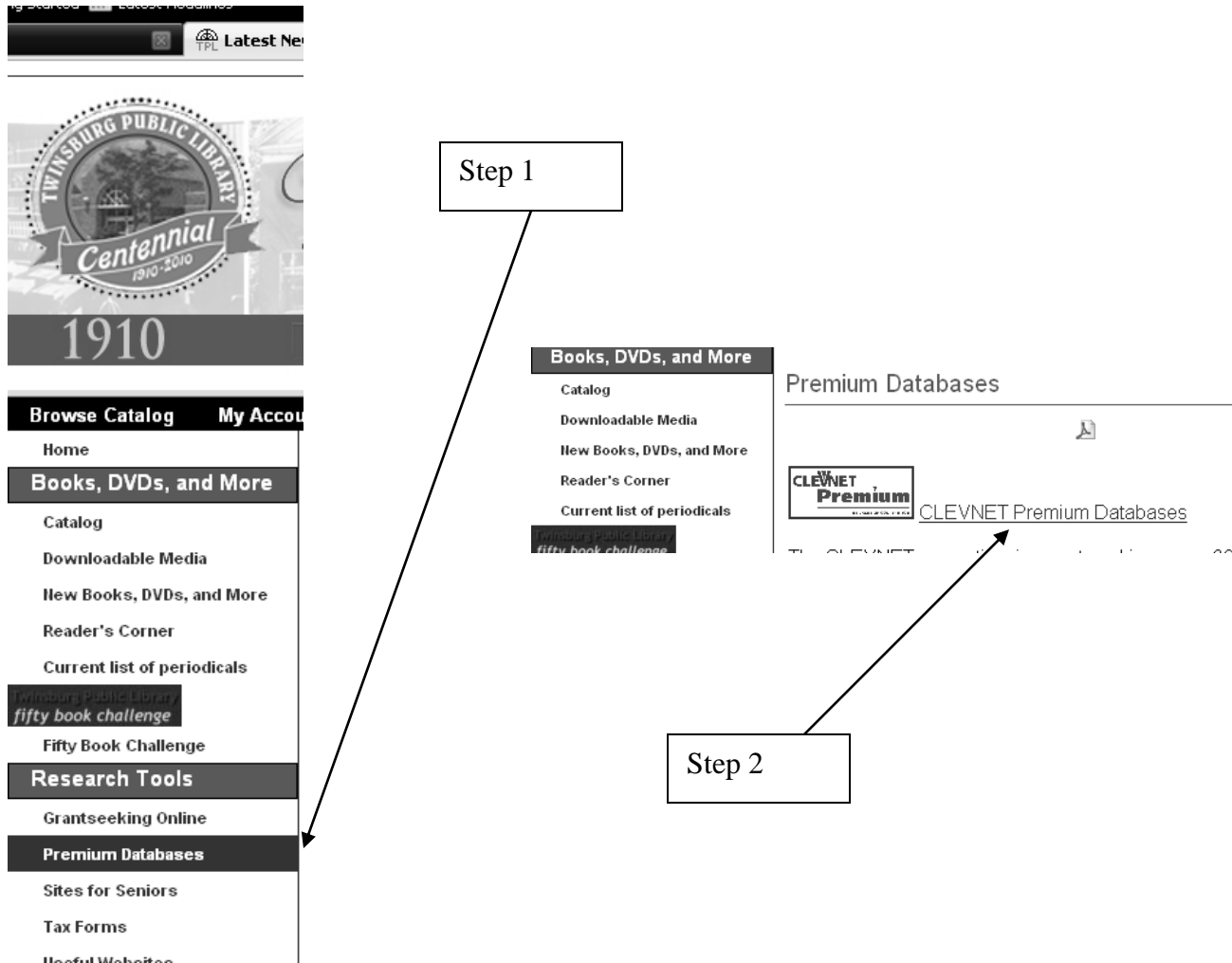
ANCESTRY.COM VIDEOS: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xpxeaKhTOlc>

ANCESTRY.COM COMMUNITY: <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/>

LOCAL RESOURCES: <http://www.austintxgensoc.org/resources/index.php>

VITAL RECORDS: <http://www.worldvitalrecords.com/>

Databases Available at the Twinsburg Public Library for Genealogical Research



Please Note:

The CLEVNET consortium is a partnership among 30 member libraries in Northeast Ohio. In addition to sharing physical resources, the CLEVNET libraries share digital resources known as “Premium Databases.”

Cleveland Public Library, which spearheads CLEVNET, provides access to these databases by topic and in alphabetical order. Click here to view the list. Some databases are accessible from home. Have your library card handy — you may have to enter the number to gain home access.

Genealogy – CLEVNET Premium Databases

[Akron Beacon Journal](#)

Full text coverage from 02/27/1997 to present. Founded in 1839, the Akron Beacon Journal is a four-time Pulitzer Prize-winning newspaper that serves readers in Summit, Medina, Portage, Stark and Wayne counties.

[America's Newspapers](#)

Full text access to several national newspapers including the Cleveland *Plain Dealer*, *Columbus Dispatch*, *Cincinnati Post*, and more.

**[Ancestry Library Edition \(In-Library Use Only\)](#)

Ancestry Library Edition provides easy access to more than 4,000 genealogy databases with a single search. Coverage focuses primarily on the United States and the United Kingdom, although other areas are covered. Databases include the complete U.S. Census & Index (1790-1930), vital, church, court, and immigration records. The Map Center contains more than 1,000 historical maps. Other notable collections include *Daughters of the American Revolution Lineage Books*; *Social Security Death Index* (updated monthly); *WWI Draft Registration Cards*; *Federal Slave Narratives*; and a strong Civil War collection. Databases are updated continuously as new information becomes available.

[Chicago Tribune](#)

Full text coverage from 02/27/1997 to present. The Chicago Tribune is a major daily newspaper based in Chicago, Illinois, United States, and the flagship publication of the Tribune Company. Formerly self-styled as the "World's Greatest Newspaper", it remains the most read daily newspaper of the Chicago metropolitan area and the Great Lakes region and is currently the eighth largest newspaper in America by circulation.

[Cincinnati Post](#)

Full text access to all content from 1990 to the present.

[Cleveland Necrology File](#)

The Cleveland Necrology File contains local cemetery records and newspaper death notices for the following years: 1833, 1847-1848, 1850-1975. A more complete description of the file's contents can be found in the about section of the database. For necrology information after 1975, please use the Cleveland News Index.

[Cleveland News Index](#)

(Cleveland Public Library) -- The online Cleveland News Index lists citation information for local news stories, feature articles and reviews from The Plain Dealer (1983-June 1999), Cleveland Magazine (1983-present), Northern Ohio Live (Sept. 1990-June 2009), and Ohio Magazine (Oct. 1990 -present). Obituaries from the Plain Dealer and the Cleveland Press are included from 1976 to the present. Please note that this index does not provide full text access to these sources.



Genealogy – CLEVNET Premium Databases Cont'd.

[HeritageQuest Online](#)

HeritageQuest features the U. S. Census, 1790-1930 (1850-60 Slave Census Schedules not included), The Periodical Source Index (PERSI), A digitized collection of more than 25,000 family and local history books, Records from the Revolutionary War Era Pension and Bounty-Land Warrant Application Files and Freedman's Bank Records (1865-1874).

[Miami Herald](#)

Full text access to all content from 02/27/1997 to present.

[Ohio Historical Society Searchable Databases](#)

This collection of searchable databases (many of which were created under the Ohio Vital Information for Libraries Center, a grant-funded project of OHS supported by the State Library of Ohio and OPLIN) includes: Online Documents, Online Research Tools, Online Services, and On-location Services.

[Philadelphia Inquirer](#)

Full text access to all content from 02/27/1997 to present.

[Plain Dealer](#)

Full text access to all content from 1991 to the present

[Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps for Ohio](#)

A treasure trove of information, detailed maps at building level for more than 400 Ohio communities from 1868 to the 1960s. Negotiating the site may require some practice. Try the 1024 x 768 pixel size. Use a city and street name or city and building's name where possible to search in keyword or limit your search by date.

[Toledo Blade](#)

Full text access to all content from 1997 to the present.

[USA Today](#)

Full text coverage from 02/01/2002 to present. Provides comprehensive coverage of news from all 50 states. Contains four sections on news, money, sports, and life. USA Today was founded in 1982 with the goal of providing a national newspaper in the U.S. market, where generally only a single local newspaper and/or a metropolitan daily's state/regional edition was available.

[Washington Post](#)

Full text access to all content from 01/01/2003 to present.



Genealogy – CLEVNET Premium Databases

- [Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps](#) 



Search for in Full Record 

Browse **City/County**

Sanborn Historic Maps are large scale street plans produced by the Sanborn Fire Insurance company from 1867 to 1970. These maps are heavily used in both public and academic libraries by a wide range of researchers including local historians to locate and identify buildings and neighborhoods, urban historians to study the growth of towns and cities, and environmentalists concerned about impact of new developments.

Collection Size: Records: 40,035, Online Images/Media: 40,033

Let's do this: type Twinsburg in the search box!

OK...now...let's click on "Useful Websites" on the T.P.L's website, followed by the Genealogy link!

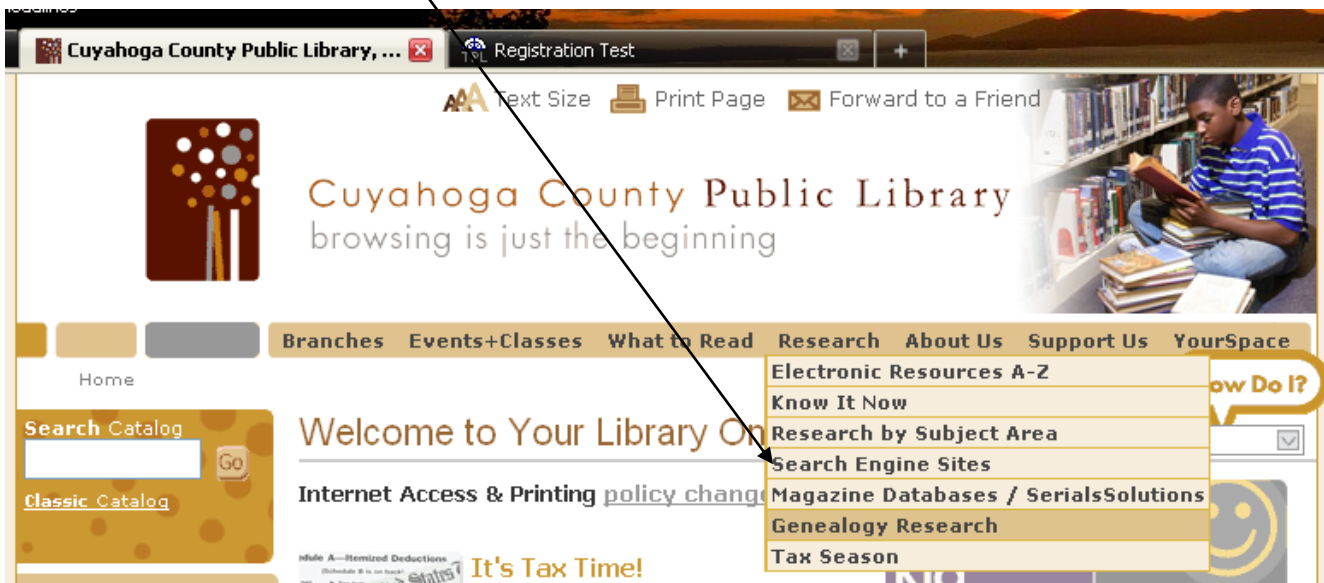
A screenshot of the Twinsburg Public Library website's navigation menu. The menu is divided into two columns. The left column contains several categories, with "Useful Websites" highlighted in a dark blue box. A box labeled "Step 1" has an arrow pointing to this "Useful Websites" box. The right column lists various resource links, with "Genealogy" highlighted in a light blue box. A box labeled "Step 2" has an arrow pointing to the "Genealogy" link. At the top of the page, there is a red banner for a "fifty book challenge" and a "Fifty Book Challenge" link. Other links in the right column include "Cooking & Food", "Cultural Heritage", "Did You Know? - Business Source Premier", "Employment/Career Resources", "Entertainment", "Government", "History", "Home and Garden", "Legal Information", "Library Links", "Literature", "Medicine and Health", "Newspapers and Magazines", "Reference Sites & Search Engines", "Sports", "Stock Tools", "Teacher Tools", and "Travel".

Wow....look at all the links...something for you to do on your spare time! But for today, let's checkout Ellis Island's site!

- Genealogy**
- Local Resources**
 - [Cleveland Memory Project](#)
 - [Cleveland News Index](#)
 - [Portage County Records](#)
 - [Property Record Links for Northeast Ohio](#)
 - [Summit County Ohio](#)
 - [Summit County Chapter of Ohio Genealogical Society](#)
 - [Western Reserve Historical Society](#)
- State Resources**
 - [Ohio Genealogical Society](#)
 - [Ohio Historical Society](#)
 - [State Library of Ohio](#)
 - [Ohio Memory Project](#)
 - [Ohio State & Local Government Search](#)
- National Resources**
 - [Ellis Island](#)
 - [Library of Congress](#)

Step 1

You can also visit: Cuyahoga County Public Library at: <http://www.cuyahogalibrary.org/> and click on: Research...then Genealogy Research.



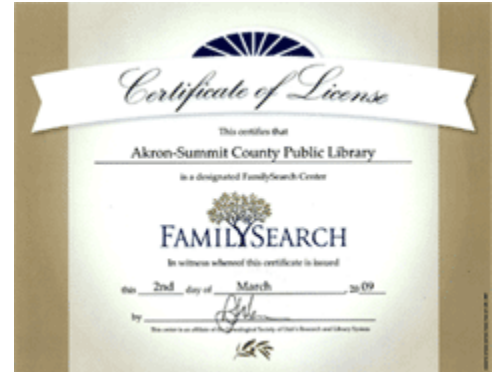
Also try [Cuyahoga County, Ohio Genealogical Records Information](#)

Family History Library - The largest collection of free *family history*, *family tree* and *genealogy* ... Justice Center 1st Floor, 1200 Ontario Street, Cleveland, Below is a list of online resources for *Cuyahoga County Family Trees*

<http://www.myohiogenealogy.com/oh-county-cuyahoga.html>

Family History Center Affiliate

The Akron-Summit County Public Library is an Affiliate Library of the Family History Center of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. This affiliate status allows ASCPL to borrow microfilm for library patrons directly from the Genealogical Society of Utah. Many resources held by the library in Salt Lake City have been microfilmed and are available for loan for a small fee. The holdings of the Family History Center Library may be searched via their website: www.familysearch.org.



The cost to borrow a reel of microfilm for four weeks is \$5.50. For more information, please contact the Special Collections Division at 330.643.9030 or speccollections@akronlibrary.org.

Another Society to assist in your family history is:

<http://www.acorn.net/gen/>

Summit County Chapter Ohio Genealogical Society

Chartered 1971

This site is devoted to researching your family history. It is maintained by the Summit County Chapter of the Ohio Genealogical Society. The chapter offers informative programs in 10 monthly meetings a year. There are no meetings in August and December. See Chapter Information below. The society publishes a printed newsletter called *The Highpoint* and an e-mail newsletter *SummitOGS Report* for members only. A five-generation chart file also is maintained.