

It's Not on Ancestry! Now What?

We often get stuck in the mindset that everything is on Ancestry. It's Not.

Focus on one branch of the family at a time and identify questions that you hope to answer.

National Records:

- Federal Censuses
- Immigration records
- Military records

Local Records:

- State censuses – only 9 states had no state census
- Vital records – birth, marriage, death
- Courthouse – land, and court records; wills and probate
- Church records – baptism, confirmation, marriage, death
- Cemeteries and Funeral Homes
- Newspapers
- History and Culture – County histories and church histories
- Maps and City Directories

Mega Sites:

- **ancestry.com** - \$\$ Library Edition - free at PPLC libraries
- **newspapers.com** - \$\$ Library Edition - free from home with a PPLC library card through the Largo Library website
- **myheritage.com** - \$\$ free at Hillsborough libraries
- **findmypast.com** - \$\$ free at Largo library
- **familysearch.org** - free site
Check the FamilySearch wiki for your areas of research.
- **findagrave.com** - free site
- **cyndislist.com** - free compilation of genealogy sites

- Many subscription sites offer a free trial. Or, buy one month and research like crazy and cancel.

- Get to know the records on each site for your areas of research. Check back often for new databases.

- Take advantage of website compilations like *Family Tree Magazine's* annual "101 Best Genealogy Websites" and cyndislist.com

Brick and mortar repositories:

- Public libraries
- State and local historical and genealogical libraries
- Museums
- University libraries
- Presidential libraries
- Courthouses and courthouse archives

- Google to find these repositories – remember to use italics around search terms: “Pinellas County” + “historical society.” Experiment with search terms.

- Access WorldCat.org to find books about your areas of research like county histories. Once you find a book you would like, contact your local public library to see if it’s available via Interlibrary Loan.

- Some books in the public domain (published before 1926) have been digitized in their entirety and are available online on sites such as Google Books. Google the “book title.”

- If you wish to own an out-of-print book, watch Amazon and E bay.

Facebook:

Search Facebook for dedicated pages on any genealogy topic such as:

- Surnames: “Crowleys United Around the World”
- Heritage: “Scottish Genealogy”
- Regional: “Tampa Bay History Center”
- DNA: “Genetic Genealogy Tips and Techniques,”
or “Ontario Canada DNA Matchfinder”

Conclusion:

As you locate the records for your areas of research. Keep notes in a folder or notebook. You’ll thank yourself the next time you’re researching in those areas.