

# Access SFPL Genealogy Databases

Ancestry • MyHeritage • HeritageHub

Daniel Matsumoto  
SFPL eResources Librarian

# Get Free SFPL Card

- Register at any SF Library location.
- Start process online and receive card at any SF Library location.
- Bring official photo ID and proof of California residency.

**THE BEST THINGS IN LIFE  
ARE FREE.**



# Go to SFPL.org

The screenshot shows the homepage of the San Francisco Public Library website. At the top, there is a navigation bar with language options (English, Español, 中文), a login link for 'My SFPL', and links for 'Kids', 'Teens', and 'Get a Library Card'. Below this is a main menu with four categories: 'Books & Media', 'Research & Learn', 'Events & Exhibits', and 'Support & Services'. The San Francisco Public Library logo is on the left. A search bar is prominently displayed, with a dropdown menu set to 'Books, Movies & More' and a search icon. Below the search bar is a blue banner for 'Library Locations & Hours'. The main content area features three promotional cards: 1) 'ONE CITY ONE BOOK Everybody Reads' for the book 'THE CHINESE GROOVE' by Kathryn Ma, with a photo of the author. 2) 'CELEBRATE AANHPI Heritage Month' with a colorful graphic and text about cultural programming. 3) 'GET HEARD Submit a Recording' for 'Bay Beats', a platform for diverse sounds. A 'Chat with us' button is in the bottom right corner.

English | Español | 中文

Log In / My SFPL Kids | Teens | Get a Library Card

Books & Media Research & Learn Events & Exhibits Support & Services

San Francisco Public Library

Search Books, Movies & More ex. title, author or keyword

Library Locations & Hours >

ONE CITY ONE BOOK  
San Francisco Reads  
Together, we read.  
**THE CHINESE GROOVE**  
A NOVEL  
**KATHRYN MA**

ONE CITY ONE BOOK  
**Everybody Reads**  
Don't miss our biggest book club of the year on May 4, featuring author Kathryn Ma.

**Weaving Stories**  
ASIAN AMERICAN, NATIVE HAWAIIAN & PACIFIC ISLANDER HERITAGE  
Weaving Culture by Nancy Horn

CELEBRATE  
**AANHPI Heritage Month**  
Celebrate with Us! Enjoy Asian American, Native Hawaiian & Pacific Islander cultural programming throughout the month of May.

**bay beats**

GET HEARD  
**Submit a Recording**  
Bay Beats is a free platform featuring the exciting and diverse sounds of the Bay Area.

Chat with us

# Research & Learn > Articles & Databases

The screenshot displays the San Francisco Public Library website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with language options (English, Español, 中文), a login link (Log In / My SFPL), and links for Kids, Teens, and Get a Library Card. Below this is a main menu with four categories: Books & Media, Research & Learn (highlighted with a red arrow), Events & Exhibits, and Support & Services. The Research & Learn dropdown menu is open, showing several options: Articles & Databases (highlighted with a red box), SF Digital Collections, eLearning, eMagazines & eNews, Business and Finance Resources, Jobs and Careers Resources, Online High School Diploma, and See All. A 'Reserve a Computer' button is also visible. Below the menu, there are three promotional banners: 'ONECITY ONEBOOK Everybody Reads' featuring author Kathryn Ma, 'CELEBRATE AANHPI Heritage Month' with cultural programming, and 'GET HEARD Submit a Recording' for the Bay Beats platform. A 'Chat with US' button is located in the bottom right corner.

# Articles & Databases

The screenshot displays the San Francisco Public Library website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with language options (English, Español, 中文), a 'Log In / My SFPL' dropdown, and links for 'Kids', 'Teens', and 'Get a Library Card'. Below this is a main menu with icons and text for 'Books & Media', 'Research & Learn', 'Events & Exhibits', and 'Support & Services'. The San Francisco Public Library logo is on the left. A search bar is prominently featured, with a dropdown menu set to 'Books, Movies & More' and a search input field containing the placeholder text 'ex. title, author or keyword'. Below the search bar is a blue bar with a 'Library Locations & Hours' link. The main content area shows a breadcrumb trail 'Home > Articles & Databases' and '1 - 10 of 224 results'. On the left, there are filters for 'Filter by Letter' (a grid of letters A-Z) and a 'Topic' dropdown menu currently set to '- Any -'. A 'Search by Keyword' button is also present. The search results list includes a highlighted entry for 'African American Heritage (ProQuest)' with a yellow 'NEW' badge, labeled as 'FULL TEXT'. The description for this entry reads: 'Search essential historical records for African Americans — including federal census, marriage and cohabitation records, military draft and service records, registers of enslaved and freed persons of color, Freedman's Bank and more.' The topic tags for this entry are 'African American, History & Genealogy'. A 'Chat with US' button is located in the bottom right corner of the results area.

AA English | Español | 中文 Log In / My SFPL Kids | Teens | Get a Library Card

Books & Media Research & Learn Events & Exhibits Support & Services

San Francisco Public Library Search Books, Movies & More ex. title, author or keyword

Library Locations & Hours

Home > Articles & Databases 1 - 10 of 224 results

Filter by Letter  
A B C D E F G H I J K L  
M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y  
Z

Topic  
- Any -

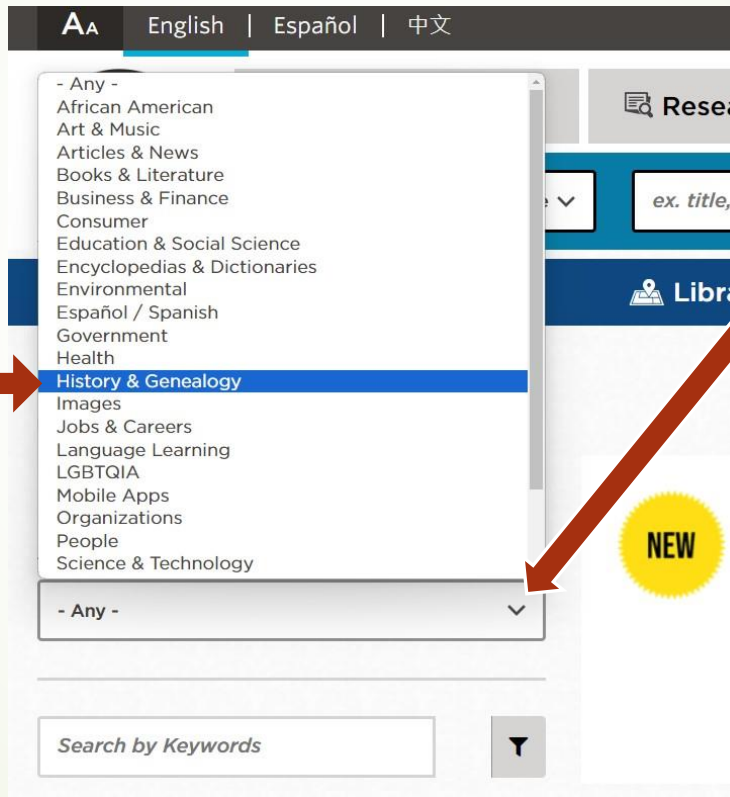
Search by Keyword

**NEW** African American Heritage (ProQuest)  
FULL TEXT  
Search essential historical records for African Americans — including federal census, marriage and cohabitation records, military draft and service records, registers of enslaved and freed persons of color, Freedman's Bank and more.

African American, History & Genealogy

Chat with US

# Articles & Databases



The topic filter will be on the left side of the page.

# Ancestry Library Edition



## Ancestry Library Edition (ProQuest)

FULL TEXT  
Pre-1790 present

**Ancestry Library Edition is only accessible on computers at the Main Library and Branches.**

Genealogical and historical research resources. Includes census, military, court, land, probate, church records, directories, passenger lists and more. To learn the differences between *Ancestry Library Edition* and *Ancestry.com*, please see our [FAQ](#).

- [How do I use Ancestry Library Edition?](#) (YouTube)
- [Ancestry Library Edition Search Tips](#)

**Related:** [HeritageQuest Online](#), [Fold3 Library Edition](#), [MyHeritage Library Edition](#), [My China Roots](#) and [HeritageHub Obituaries & Death Notices](#)

History & Genealogy, African American

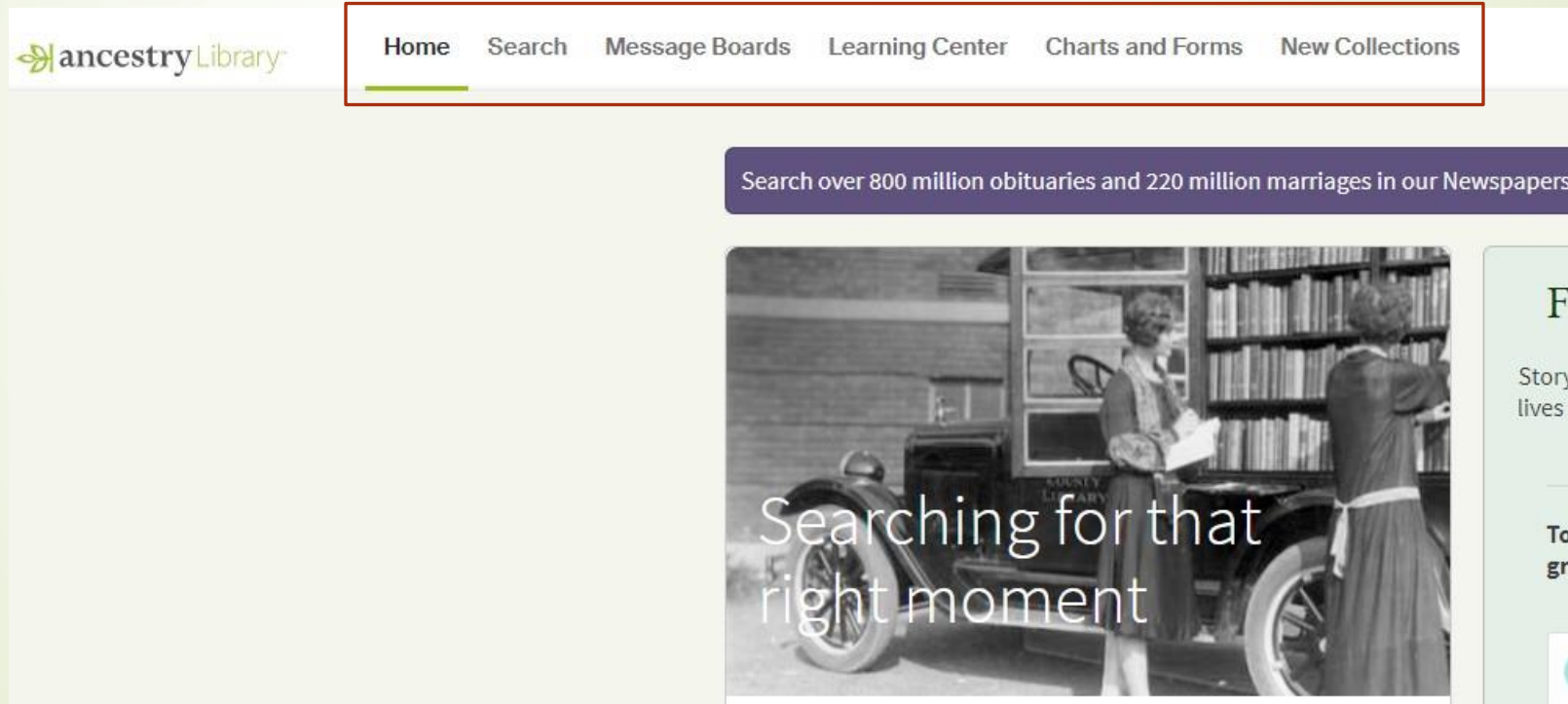
Main Library, Anza, Bayview/Linda Brooks-Burton, Bernal Heights, Chinatown/Him Mark Lai, Eureka Valley/Harvey Milk Memorial, Excelsior, Glen Park, Golden Gate Valley, Ingleside, Marina, Merced, Mission, Mission Bay, Noe Valley/Sally Brunn, North Beach, Ocean View, Ortega, Park, Parkside, Portola, Potrero, Presidio, Richmond/Senator Milton Marks, Sunset, Treasure Island, Visitacion Valley, West Portal, Western Addition, Virtual Library, Bookmobiles / Mobile Outreach

Click “Ancestry Library Edition” text to access on computers at Main Library or Branches.

# Ancestry Library – Getting Started

Learning Center (good place to start)

- Research Guides
- Maps



Use navigation menu at the top of the page.



# Ancestry Library – Getting Started

## Family history search. Simplified.

StoryScout® can bring the fascinating details of your ancestors' lives directly to you, and put you on a path to start making your own family discoveries.

To find your family's stories, start with a grandparent. \*

Grandfather

Grandmother

First Name \*

Last Name \*

First Name

Last Name

Place your ancestor might have lived \*

City, County, State, Country

 Find your stories

Use the search form to do a quick search.

# Ancestry Library – Key Collections

## SEARCH CENSUS



Find ancestors in the complete set of U.S. Federal Census images from 1790-1950, including name indexes.

[Search Now](#)

## SEARCH VITALS



When did those significant life changing events happen in your ancestors life? Search our Vital Records to find out.

[Search Now](#)

## SEARCH MILITARY



Did your ancestors serve in the Military? Our collection of military records holds the answers.

[Search Now](#)

## SEARCH IMMIGRATION



When did your ancestors arrive in the U.S.? And how did they get here? Search our passenger lists and other immigration records to learn more.

[Search Now](#)

Choose a specific collection to search.



Ronald Takaki, local academic historian & author

# Ancestry Library – Example Search

ancestryLibrary Search Message Boards Learning Center Cha

## Search

First & Middle Name(s) Last Name

Ronald Takaki

Exact...  Exact...

Place your ancestor might have lived Birth Year

California, USA

Exact to...

**Search** Show more options ▾



Ronald Takaki



# Ancestry Library – Example Search

**All results for Ronald Takaki**

Your search ✎ ⋮ 1-20 of 582 🔍 Browse by collection

Ronald Takaki  
Any: California, USA  
Focus: United States ▼  
Apply

Broad ▶ Exact

**Filters**

- > Census & voter lists 23
- > Birth, marriage & death 70
- > Military 8
- > Immigration & emigration 37
- > Directories & member lists 425
- > Court, land, wills & financial 19
- > Family trees

Record location

- > North America 566
- > Oceania 11
- > Asia 4
- > Europe 1

Record date

- > 1800 5
- > 1900 421
- > 2000 76

**Results:**

Source	Name	Child	Relatives	Birth	Death	Residence
U.S., Newspapers.com™ Obituary Index, 1800s-current Death, burial, cemetery & obituaries	Ronald Takaki	Takaki	T Yoy	abt 1939	Abt 2009 Berkeley	Berkeley, California
California, U.S., Marriage Index, 1960-1985 Marriage & divorce <a href="#">View</a>	Ronald C Takaki	Robin A Hollis		abt 1958	2 Feb 1980 Orange	
U.S., Newspapers.com™ Obituary Index, 1800s-current Death, burial, cemetery & obituaries	Ronald Takaki	Troy		abt 1939	Abt 2009 Berkeley, Alameda, California, USA	Hawaii, USA
U.S., Find a Grave® Index, 1600s-Current Death, burial, cemetery & obituaries	Dr Ronald Toshiyuki Takaki			12 Apr 1939 Honolulu, Honolulu County, Hawaii, United States of America	26 May 2009 Berkeley, Alameda County, California, United States of America	



# MyHeritage – Getting Started

EBSCO

Sign In

Enter your 14-digit library card number with no spaces

21223999999999

Sign In

Or



Sign in with Google



Sign in with Cognac



# MyHeritage – Getting Started

EBSCO

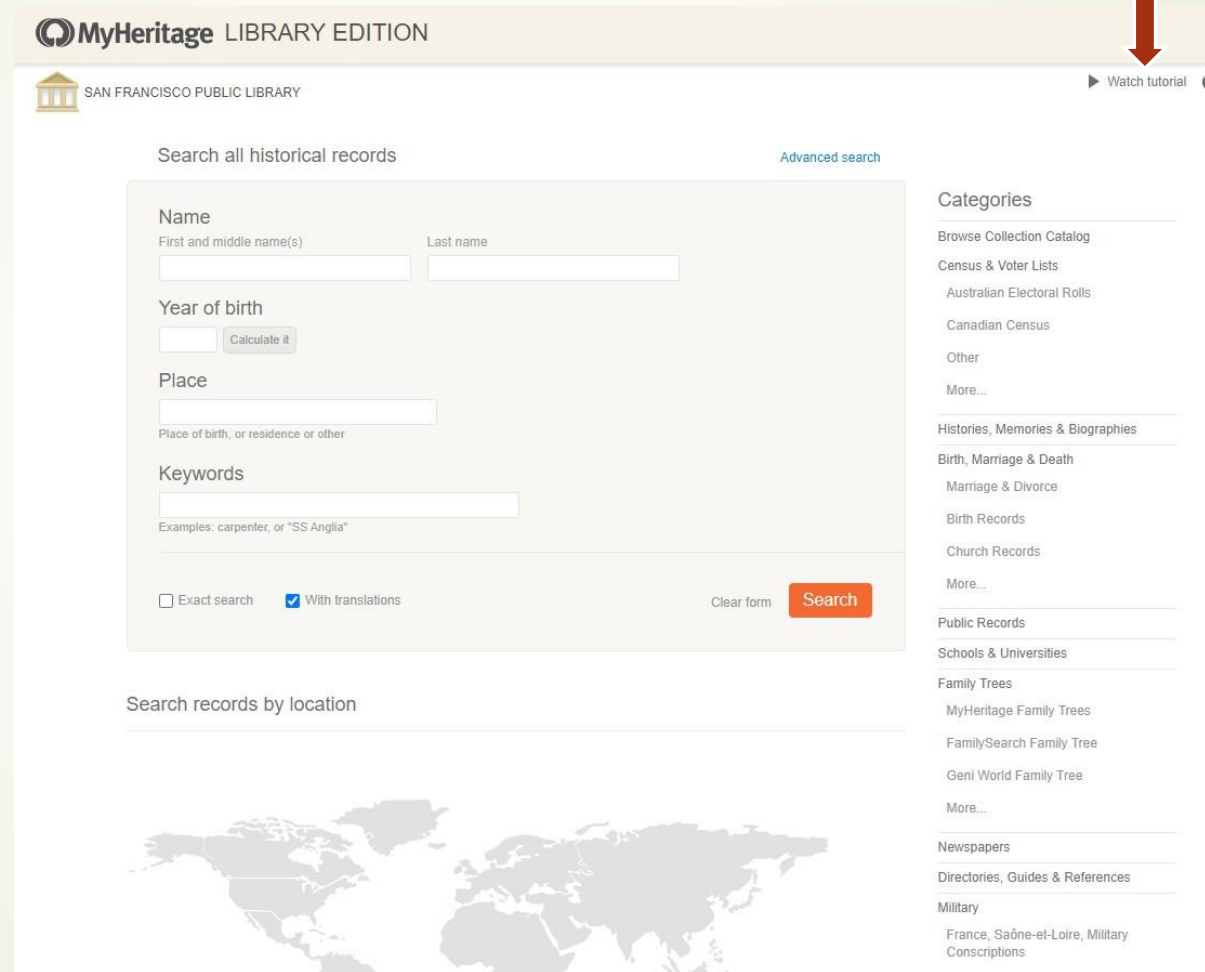
Select Resource

SAN FRANCISCO PUBLIC LIBRARY



MyHeritage Library Edition

# MyHeritage – Getting Started



**MyHeritage** LIBRARY EDITION

SAN FRANCISCO PUBLIC LIBRARY

▶ Watch tutorial

Search all historical records [Advanced search](#)

**Name**  
First and middle name(s) Last name


**Year of birth**

**Place**  
  
Place of birth, or residence or other

**Keywords**  
  
Examples: carpenter, or "SS Anglia"

Exact search  With translations

Search records by location



**Categories**

- Browse Collection Catalog
- Census & Voter Lists
  - Australian Electoral Rolls
  - Canadian Census
  - Other
  - More...
- Histories, Memories & Biographies
- Birth, Marriage & Death
  - Marriage & Divorce
  - Birth Records
  - Church Records
  - More...
- Public Records
- Schools & Universities
- Family Trees
  - MyHeritage Family Trees
  - FamilySearch Family Tree
  - Geni World Family Tree
  - More...
- Newspapers
- Directories, Guides & References
- Military
  - France, Saône-et-Loire, Military Conscriptons

Click the “Watch tutorial” link to learn more about MyHeritage.



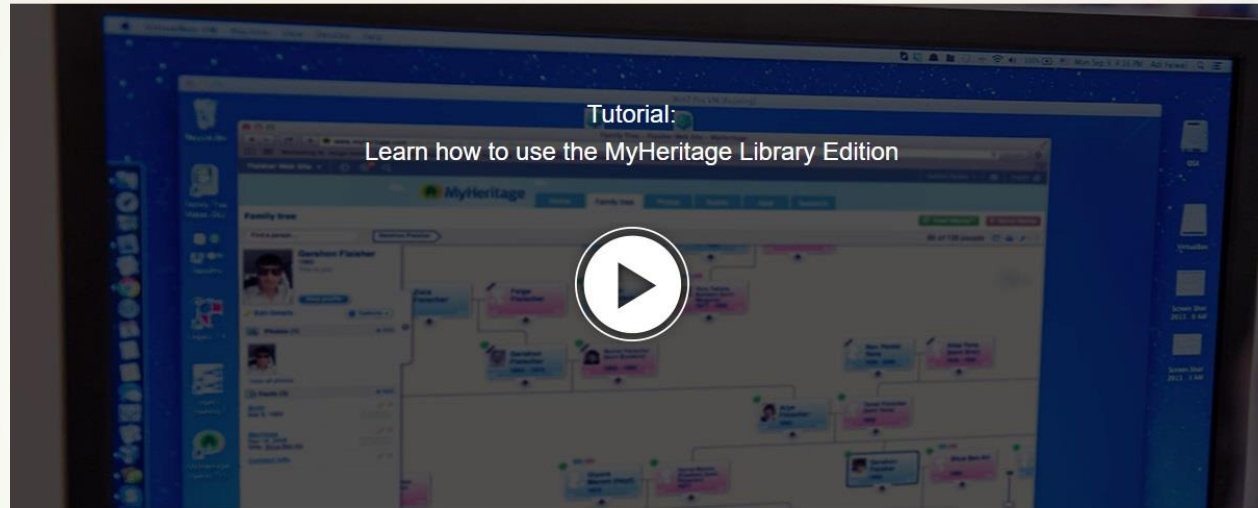
# MyHeritage – Getting Started

MyHeritage LIBRARY EDITION

SAN FRANCISCO PUBLIC LIBRARY

Start a new search

English



## What's in the MyHeritage Library Edition

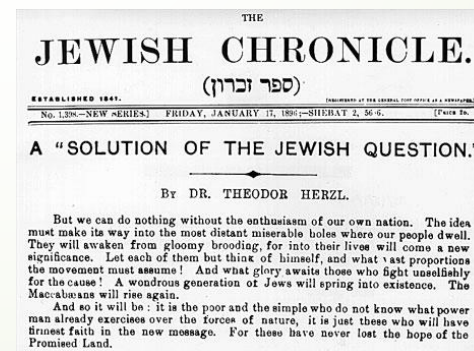
- More than 20 billion historical records from all over the world
- The USA federal census (1790-1940) and the UK census (1841-1901) with images
- More than 2.4 billion exclusive family tree profiles from MyHeritage and Geni
- 816 million US public records
- More than a hundred million tombstone photos
- Hundreds of millions of Nordic records
- More than 1157 million historical photographs

# MyHeritage – Key Collections

- U.S. & U.K. Census
- Nordic records (Scandinavia, Finland, Iceland, etc.)
- U.S. Public Records
- *Jewish Chronicle* historical newspaper (exclusive)

United States™  
**Census**  
Bureau

[This Photo](#) by Unknown Author is licensed under [CC BY-SA](#)



# MyHeritage – Sample Search



**MyHeritage LIBRARY EDITION**  
SAN FRANCISCO PUBLIC LIBRARY

Search all historical records [Hide advanced search](#)

**Name**  
First and middle name(s):  Last name:  Gender:

**Events**  
Type:  Date: Day  Month  Place:

[+ Add another event](#)

**Relatives**  
Type:  First and middle name(s):  Last name:

[+ Add another relative](#)

**Keywords**  
  
Examples: carpenter, or "SS Anglia"

Exact search  With translations

Virginia Woolf, author

# MyHeritage – Sample Search



**MyHeritage LIBRARY EDITION**  
SAN FRANCISCO PUBLIC LIBRARY

Start a new search English

**Search for**  
Name: Virginia Woolf  
Gender: Female  
Any: 1941, East Sussex, England

Edit search  
Start a new search

**Narrow down by category**

All Collections	
Census & Voter Lists	1,722
Histories, Memories & Biographies	28
Birth, Marriage & Death	2,464
Public Records	2,261
Schools & Universities	856
Family Trees	6,654
Newspapers	10,000+
Directories, Guides & References	1,042
Military	9
Photos	212
Books & Publications	4,817
Government, Land, Court & Wills	11
Immigration & Travel	53

**All results for Virginia Woolf in All Collections**  
1 - 20 of 55,410 results (0.98 seconds)

Results Summary

**Adeline Virginia Woolf**  
★★★★★  
England & Wales, Index of Wills and Probates, 1853-1943  
Death: Mar 28 1941 - Lewes, East Sussex, England  
Residence: Lewes, East Sussex, England  
Husband: Leonard Sidney Woolf

**Adeline (Virginia Woolf) Woolf (born Stephen)**  
★★★★★  
MyHeritage Family Trees  
Denise McKay Family Tree (New) in McKay Web Site, managed by Denise Mary McKay  
Birth: Jan 25 1882 - Kensington, Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea, Greater London, England  
Death: Mar 28 1941 - Lewes, Lewes District, East Sussex, England  
Parents: Leslie Stephen, Julia Prinsep Jackson  
Siblings: George Herbert Duckworth, Stella Duckworth, Laura Makepeace Stephen, Gerald Duckworth, Sybil Dicke, Vanessa Stephen, Julian Thoby Stephen, Adrian Leslie Stephen  
Husband: Leonard Sidney Woolf

**Virginia M Wolfe**  
★★★★★  
U. S. City Directories  
Residence: Between 1940 and 1960 - 4000 Cathedral Avenue Northwest Apt 553, Washington, District Of Columbia, USA  
Husband (implied): Thomas B Wolfe  
Occupation: Division Chief

Virginia Woolf, author

Change Databases ▾

# HeritageHub

Discover the premier collection of U.S. obituaries and death notices for genealogical research, 1704 - today

[A-Z Source List](#)

Search

# Log in with SFPL Card Number & PIN



## Articles and Databases - Authentication

The San Francisco Public Library offers a rich collection of online resources. Library card holders have immediate access to articles in magazines, newspapers, encyclopedias, ebooks, images and much more...

Barcode

21223999999999

Enter your complete 14-digit library card number without spaces (e.g. 21223xxxxxxxxx)

PIN/Password

\*\*\*\*

[Forgot your PIN/Password?](#)

Submit

Type your 14-digit card number without spaces or dashes, and your PIN/password.

# HeritageHub – Getting Started

Change Databases ▾

# HeritageHub

Discover the premier collection of U.S. obituaries and death notices for genealogical research, 1704 - today

A-Z Source List

Last Name (required)

First Name (optional)

Middle Name (optional)

Year of Death (recommended)

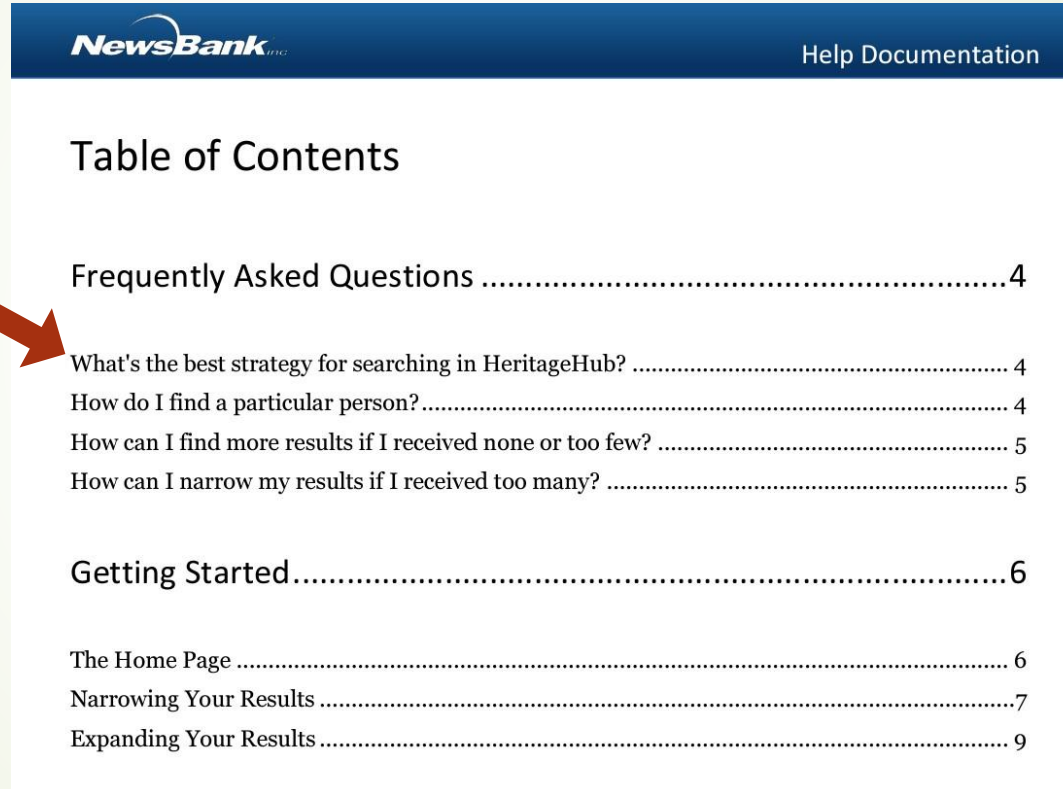
Keyword (optional) ?

Search

©2024 NewsBank, Inc. [Help](#) [Contact Customer Service](#) [Privacy Policy](#) [Terms of Use](#)

Click “Help” to see Table of Contents.

# HeritageHub – Getting Started




**NewsBank** Help Documentation

## Table of Contents

- Frequently Asked Questions ..... 4
  - What's the best strategy for searching in HeritageHub? ..... 4
  - How do I find a particular person? ..... 4
  - How can I find more results if I received none or too few? ..... 5
  - How can I narrow my results if I received too many? ..... 5
- Getting Started ..... 6
  - The Home Page ..... 6
  - Narrowing Your Results ..... 7
  - Expanding Your Results ..... 9

Click “What’s the best strategy for searching in HeritageHub?”





# HeritageHub – Getting Started

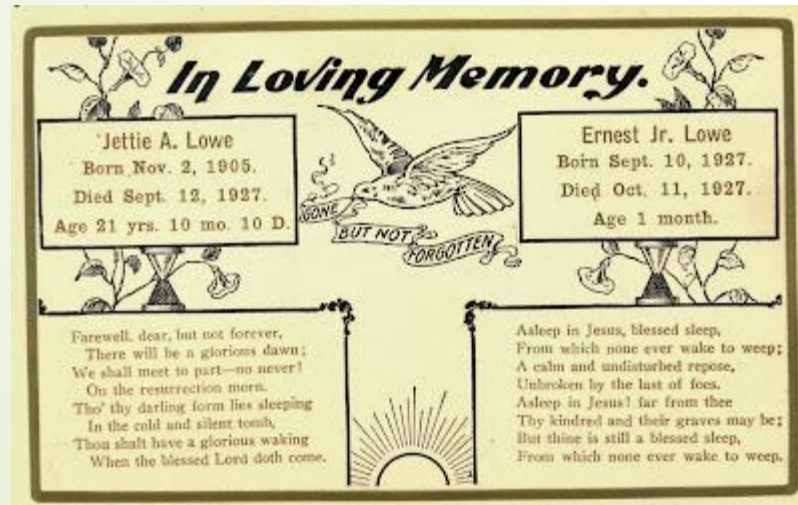
## What's the best strategy for searching in HeritageHub?

Envision a funnel, wide at the top, narrow at the bottom. This is the search strategy, the funnel.

- ★ 1. First, try searching just a last name.
- ★ 2. Narrow search results using filters on the left. Try the graphic timeline first because you can immediately narrow the search further. Select the decade you think was appropriate for the death date. You can quickly see the number of results per year.
- ★ 3. Narrow to the year of death within the timeline. Usually there are only limited number of obituaries within a year.
- ★ 4. Scroll through the results list.
- ★ 5. If you need to narrow your search even more, try adding a first name. When entering first names, keep in mind that variations that might be used - e.g., William, Bill, Will, etc.
- ★ 6. Lastly, if you need to further limit your results, try entering personal details, such as a person's occupation, the name of a spouse or child, the town or city in which the person lived, or even the name of a school the person attended.

# HeritageHub – Key Collections

- U.S. obituaries and death notifications
- Social Security Death Index

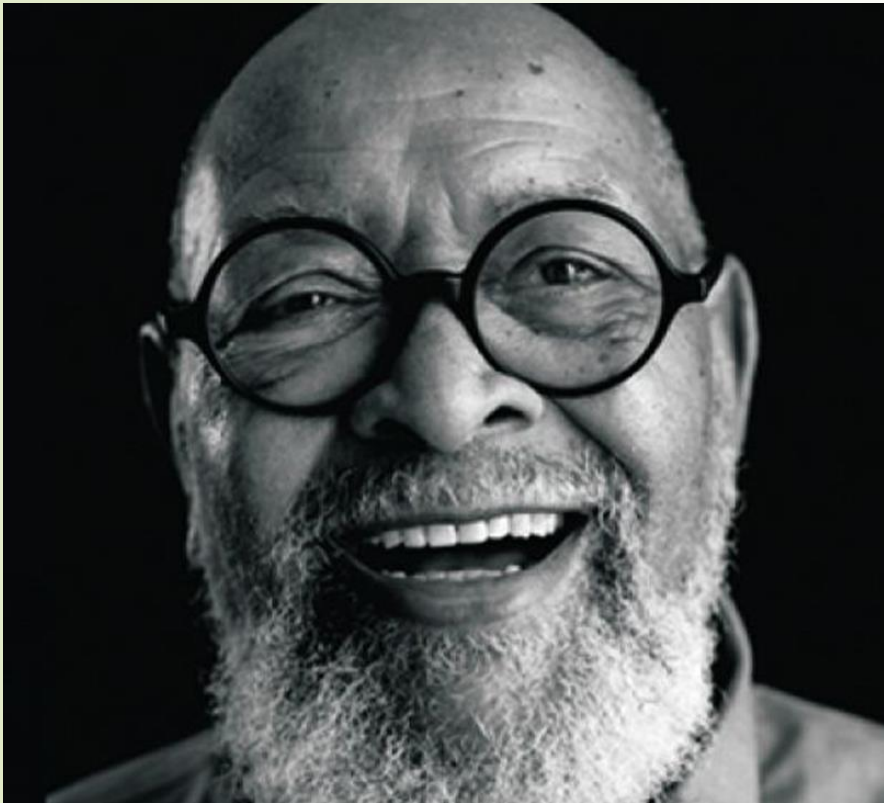


[This Photo](#) by Unknown Author is licensed under [CC BY-SA](#)



[This Photo](#) by Unknown Author is licensed under [CC BY-SA](#)

# HeritageHub – Sample Search

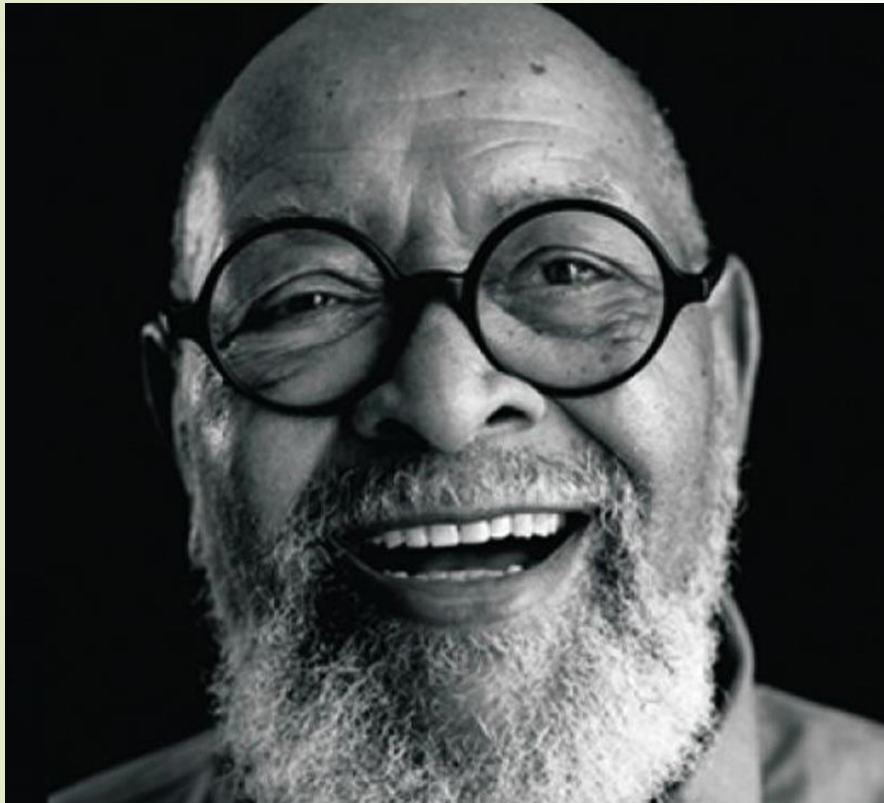


Reverend Cecil Williams, local pastor, community leader/activist

A screenshot of the HeritageHub search interface. The background is a blurred image of a person wearing a floral-patterned shirt. The search form is white with a teal 'Search' button at the bottom. The form has the following fields:

- A-Z Source List (header)
- Williams (text input, highlighted with a red box, with an 'X' icon to the right)
- Cecil (text input, highlighted with a red box, with an 'X' icon to the right)
- Middle Name (optional) (text input)
- 2024 (text input, highlighted with a red box, with an 'X' icon to the right)
- Keyword (optional) (text input, with a '?' icon to the right)
- Search (teal button)

# HeritageHub – Sample Search



Reverend Cecil Williams, local pastor, community leader/activist

A screenshot of the HeritageHub search interface. The search bar at the top contains the terms 'Williams', 'Cecil', and 'Middle Name (optional)'. Below it, there are filters for '2024' and 'Keyword (optional)'. The search results show 17 results. Two results are highlighted with red boxes: 'Obituary: Social Justice Leader, the Rev. Cecil Williams, Passes at 94' and 'Under Cecil Williams, Glide Memorial became world-renowned for welcoming 'anyone who wanted to come''. The interface includes a sidebar with sorting options (Best Matches, Newest, Oldest), a date selector (Jan 2024 - May 2024), and a date search section. The main content area displays a list of search results with columns for Source, Article, Event, and Family Relationships. The first result is an obituary from Oakland Post, The (CA) dated May 3, 2024. The second result is an article from East Bay Times, Web Edition, dated April 24, 2024.

# Genealogy Resources at the Library

- General Collections & Humanities Center's Genealogy Collection (3<sup>rd</sup> Floor)
- Magazines & Newspaper Center (5th Floor)
- San Francisco History Center (6<sup>th</sup> Floor)

