



MyHeritage Library Edition



Description: MyHeritage Library Edition contains genealogy resources with more than six billion historical records from 48 countries including census and other government records, historical records, and photographs. The search interface is available in 40 languages. New collections are added monthly. The database includes:

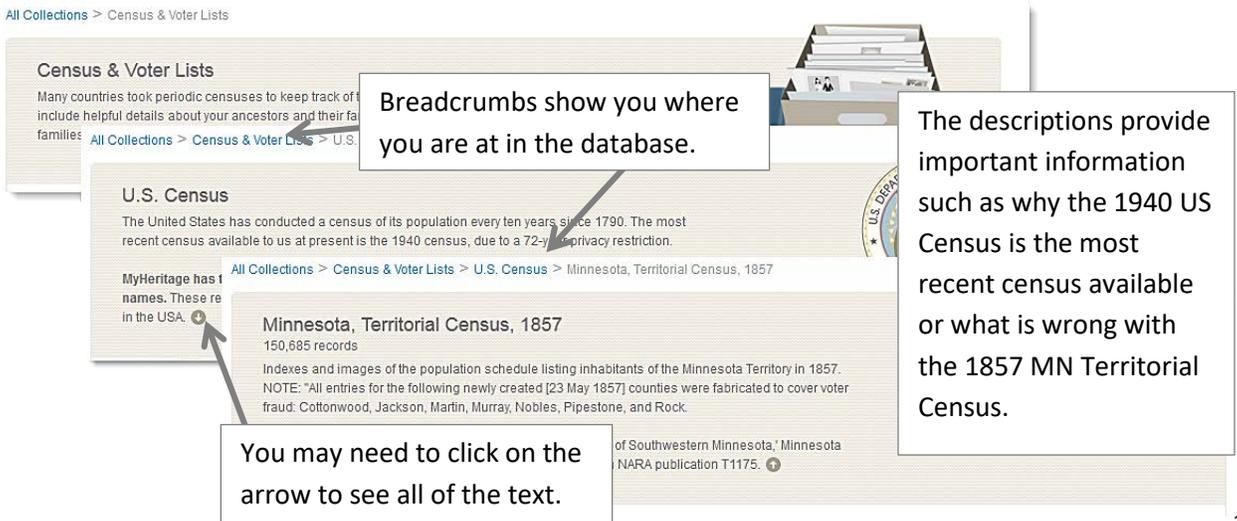
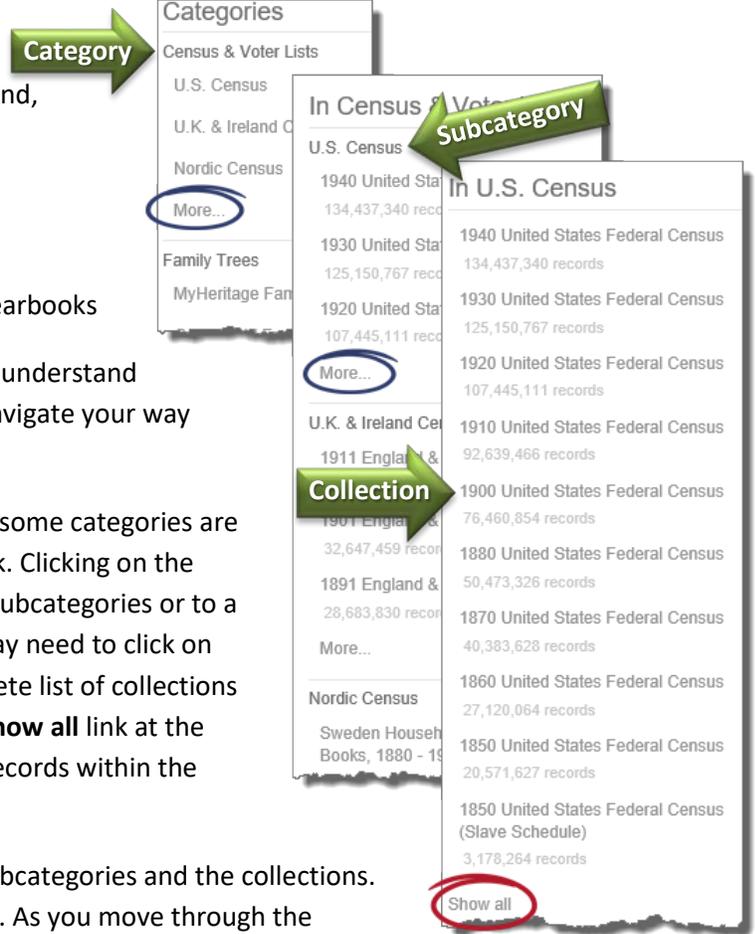
- United States Federal Census - 1790-1940 (also includes 1850 Mortality Schedule and Slave Schedule)
- 816 million US public records including citizenship, naturalization, immigration, land, military, court, and will and probate records
- Passenger lists
- Census of England and Wales - 1841-1901 (In England, censuses were conducted every ten years)
- More than 100 million Nordic records
- More than 80 million historical photographs
- 1.5 billion exclusive family tree profiles
- Directories, guides, references, biographies, and yearbooks

Before searching MyHeritage Library Edition it is helpful to understand what resources are included in the database and how to navigate your way through them.

Along the right side of the screen are 14 categories. Under some categories are subcategories. Some categories will also have a **More...** link. Clicking on the category name or the **More...** link will take you to a list of subcategories or to a list of collections. If the category has subcategories, you may need to click on the subcategory name or the **More...** link to see the complete list of collections in the subcategory. Many of the lists are long and have a **Show all** link at the bottom. The list of collections is sorted by the number of records within the collection with the largest collection at the top.

I find it useful to read the descriptions of the categories, subcategories and the collections.

This information is displayed towards the top of the screen. As you move through the database this information will change based on the category or collection you are in.



The amount and format of the information available in each collection varies. Some collections may contain copies of the original source documents. The original source documents may be available within the MyHeritage website or they may be located on other website. Here are a few examples of the types of collections and information available in the database.

| Relationship to head | Name | Age |
|----------------------|--------------------|-----|
| Head | Arthur J Weaver | 56 |
| Wife | Maudie Hall Weaver | 44 |
| Daughter | Maudie Hall Weaver | 20 |
| Daughter | Conroy Jane Weaver | 18 |
| Son | Arthur Weaver, Jr | 17 |
| Daughter | Ruth Jane Weaver | 15 |
| Son | Philo Hall Weaver | 11 |
| Daughter | Jessamine Weaver | 5 |
| Head | Harold Owen | 58 |
| Wife | Esther Davidson | 31 |

US Federal Census: The original census images are available within the MyHeritage Library Edition interface. Basic information from the census documents has been transcribed but not all of the information. The transcribed information will vary depending on the census year. You can only search information that has been transcribed.

Netherlands, Tilburg Population Registers, 1800-1923: This collection is an index of population registers for Tilburg, which is a city in the Netherlands. The records in MyHeritage contain just the transcribed information. The original documents are available on the Tilburg Regional Archives' website. There is a link at the bottom of the record in the database that says: "Source: View full record on Tilburg Regional Archives." Clicking this link will take you to the website. As I mentioned, these records are from the Netherlands so the website is in Dutch. For this particular site, it is easy to figure out what you need to click on to see the original record. As expected, the records are also written in Dutch.

| PLAATSELIJKE AFDEELING. | | AANDUIDING DER INGEZET | |
|----------------------------|--|------------------------|-------------------|
| Straat, steeg, gracht enz. | Nummers der huizen. Huizennummen per huish. Lawooners per huish. | NAMEN EN | GEBORTEPLAATS. |
| Lomenestraet | | Alfred Jones | Londen (Engeland) |

Alfred Jones

Gender: Male

Birth: Londen (Engeland)

Residence: Tilburg, Netherlands

Age: 13

Source

Collection: Archiefnaam: Bevolkingsregister Tilburg, Bron: boek, Deel: 1283, Periode: 1

Book: Inv. nr. 1283 1830 (Pagina's 301-592)

Institution: Regionaal Archief Tilburg

Archive: 0917

Page: 549

Registry #: 1283

Source place: Tilburg, Netherlands

Source date: 1830

Index date: Jan 31 1830

Source: [View full record on Tilburg Regional Archives](#)

You may want to bookmark a site such as Google Translate that can be used to translate text from one language to another. <http://translate.google.com/>

| | | | |
|----------|--------------|--------|---------|
| Country: | USA | Film: | 2369971 |
| State: | South Dakota | Sheet: | 399 |
| Date: | 1935 | | |

[View full image](#)

Registration to familysearch.org may be required

South Dakota, State Census, 1935: This is another example of when basic transcribed information is provided in the database but the original document is on another site. In this case, the original document is on the familysearch.org website. In order to see the document you are required to create a free familysearch.org account. The link from the MyHeritage record clearly tells you that you may need to register on the familysearch.org site.

Family Trees: These family trees come from a wide variety of sites including WikiTree, FamilySearch Family Tree, Geni World Family Tree and MyHeritage Family Trees. The majority of these family trees have been put together by people from around the world doing their own family research. They can be a great source of information however; there are no guarantees that the information in the family trees is 100% accurate.

Searching

There are many different ways to approach searching in MyHeritage. What works best will depend on how you like to search, how much or little information you know about the person or family being researched and how much research has already been done. Here are a few different approaches to searching:

- Search everything at once. Use the basic or advanced search screen to search everything. Most times this type of search will return many results.
- Search one category or one subcategory at a time. This is one way to focus your search.
- Search a single collection. This type of search may or may not return results. It will depend on how much information you already have and which collection you are searching.
- Search by location. This may be a good option when you are researching a person that you know lived in a specific location.

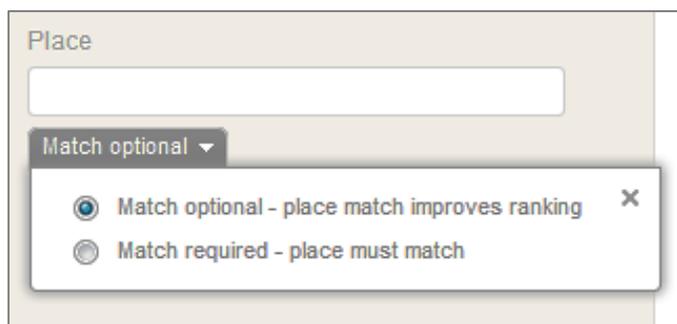
Search Screen

No matter if you are searching everything or a single collection the search screen is designed to do a broad search. For example, when text is entered in the first name box the system will search for exactly what was entered and it will search for similar names that may be spelled differently and for records that just contain matching initials. For example if the name John is entered in the search box, the system will search for John, Jon and records with the first initial J. The same type of thing happens with the last name field however, it uses one or more Soundex. A Soundex is an algorithm designed to match surnames on how they sound rather than how they are spelled.

These types of searching options can be both a huge help and a little annoying. When searching historical records that contain names that were handwritten and then transcribed by a human there is potential for error. In addition, the spelling of family names may have changed over time. These search options try to deal with all of these possible issues.



The screenshot shows the 'Name' search interface. It has two input fields: 'First and middle name(s)' and 'Last name'. Below these fields is a dropdown menu labeled 'Match similar names' with a downward arrow. To the right of this dropdown is a button labeled 'Match similar names'. Below the dropdown menu are four radio button options: 'Match name exactly', 'Match similar names' (which is selected), 'Varying on spelling (e.g., John and Jon, Robert and Bob)', and 'Matching initials (e.g., J and John)'. There are also two checked checkboxes: 'Varying on spelling (e.g., John and Jon, Robert and Bob)' and 'Matching initials (e.g., J and John)'. A third checkbox, 'Names starting with letters (e.g., Jo finds Joshua)', is unchecked. At the bottom of the options is a link that says 'Use default settings'.



The screenshot shows the 'Place' search interface. It has a single input field. Below the field is a dropdown menu labeled 'Match optional' with a downward arrow. Below the dropdown menu are two radio button options: 'Match optional - place match improves ranking' (which is selected) and 'Match required - place must match'. There is a close button (an 'x' in a square) to the right of the first option.

If you would like to better control over how the information you have entered is being searched use the **Advanced Search** screen. The Advanced Search link is at the top right corner of the search box. On the Advanced Search screen, you will see dropdown menus below most of the search boxes. Use the options available in these dropdowns to control how a field is being searched. Be a bit careful however as you can make your search so exact that you may not get any results or accidentally eliminate good results.

Search Results

The search results page offers options along the left side of the screen to help you narrow your search results. At the bottom of the page, you can control how many results are displayed per page. The default is 20 but it can be increased up to 100.

Navigating Search Results

A search across all of the collections may return a lot results. Here are some tips on navigating the results.

Click the **Summary** tab to see the results grouped by category. Under each category will be a list of up to 10 collections. The collections are sorted by the number of results found in each collection. There may also be a link to see additional collections and/or subcategories.

The screenshot shows a search results page for 'david butler' with 5,991,183 results. The page is annotated with callouts explaining navigation features:

- Left Side Navigation:** A box explains that the left side of the screen allows users to limit their search to a specific category. The number behind the categories indicates how many results were found. The 'Immigration & Travel' category is highlighted.
- Summary Tab:** A box explains that clicking the 'Summary' tab shows results grouped by category. Under each category, there is a list of up to 10 collections, sorted by the number of results found in each collection. A link to see additional collections and/or subcategories is also present.

The search results are displayed in a 'Summary' view for 'david butler' (4,793,046 results in 3,642 collections). The results are grouped by category:

- Census & Voter Lists:** 946,110 results in 87 collections. Top 10 collections include:

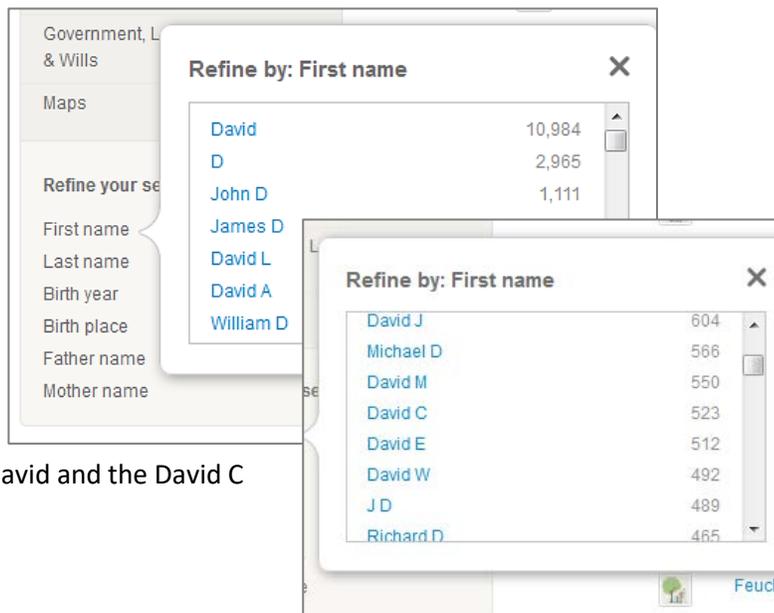
| | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------|
| 1940 United States Federal Census | 126,694 results |
| 1930 United States Federal Census | 126,683 results |
| 1920 United States Federal Census | 109,020 results |
| 1910 United States Federal Census | 97,350 results |
| 1900 United States Federal Census | 85,362 results |
| 1880 United States Federal Census | 62,739 results |
| 1870 United States Federal Census | 47,148 results |
| 1901 England & Wales Census | 39,036 results |
| 1891 England & Wales Census | 34,008 results |
| 1860 United States Federal Census | 33,559 results |
- Family Trees:** 2,014,988 results in 35 collections. Top collection: MyHeritage Family Trees (1,388,567 results).
- Immigration & Travel:** 12,104 results in 20 collections. Top collections include:

| | |
|---|---------------|
| Passenger and Immigration Lists, 1500 - 1900 | 4,608 results |
| U.S. Naturalization Records | 2,235 results |
| Germans Immigrating to the United States | 2,102 results |
| Brazil, Rio de Janeiro, Immigration Cards, 1900-1965 | 981 results |
| Passengers arriving in New York from Ireland 1846 - 1851 | 913 results |
| British & Irish Passenger Lists 1890 | 231 results |
| Illinois, Northern District (Eastern Division), Naturalization Index, 1926-1979 | 209 results |
| Queenstand Early Pioneers Index, 1824 - 1859 | 163 results |
| Russians Immigrating to the United States | 155 results |
| Ohio, County Naturalization Records, 1800-1977 | 155 results |

The left sidebar shows the search criteria: Name: david butler, with an 'Edit search' button and a 'Narrow down by category' section. The 'Refine your search by' section shows the following categories and result counts:

| | |
|----------------------------------|-------|
| All Collections | |
| Immigration & Travel | |
| Passenger Lists | 4,900 |
| Citizenship & Naturalization | 2,631 |
| Immigration & Emigration Records | 4,572 |
| Immigration Documents | 1 |

At the bottom of the left hand column will be a **Refine Your Search by** option. This option appears to find the most common elements in your search results and then provides you with the option to limit your results by one of those elements. As you can see in the screenshot, the system found a variety of first names. Clicking on any one of them will limit your results. Again, be careful when doing this. In this search example, I was looking for David Christy Butler. At first glance selecting David looks like the best options however, if you scroll down the list there is also a David C option. You may need to try both the David and the David C option.



Search Records by Location

The Search Records by Location option is located below the search area on the homepage. As you place your mouse over the map, different countries or regions will be highlighted. Click on an area to see a list of locations. Select a location to be taken to a search screen. Along the right side of the screen will be a list of collections related to the area you selected. Please note this is not a comprehensive list. Some locations may not have any collections that are specific to that location. In those cases, you will only see the Global Collection of MyHeritage Family Trees listed.

Personally, I've had mixed results using this search option. I like to use this screen to identify collections related to a specific country or state. I then search each of the collections individually.

Record Detective

As you are looking at individual records in MyHeritage Library Edition keep an eye out for the Record Detective. The Record Detective does not always appear but when he does, he will be located at the bottom of the page below the record. FYI - sometimes he's a little slow to load. The Record Detective helps you locate other records and people related to the record you are currently viewing.

