

## 442 Family History Treasure Hunt

**Intermediate/Advanced Level (designed for ages 12 years and older)**

- This project may be repeated up to 6 years.
    - 1st Year Requirements: begin on page 6
    - 2nd Year Requirements: begin on page 9
    - 3rd Year Requirements: begin on page 59
    - 4th Year Requirements: begin on page 62
    - 5th Year Requirements: begin on page 65
    - 6th Year Requirements: begin on page 67
  - Do not write on the forms on pages 41-54, rather you should make copies of these forms.
1. Review and complete the Project Guidelines as outlined on Pages 4-5.
  2. Complete the Annual Essay as described on in the project requirements of your project book. Include this in a project notebook along with any completed forms (pages 41-54).
  3. Create an educational exhibit poster describing some aspect of your project.
  4. Bring to Interview Judging:
    - a. Neat and complete project book.
    - b. Be able to discuss any information and activities completed in the book.
    - c. Educational exhibit or poster.
  5. Exhibit in club's fair booth if you and your advisor so choose:
    - a. The educational exhibit or poster presented at Interview Judging. (Project book **does not** qualify as an exhibit.)



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## Supplement

*The following tips are provided by 4-H judges as a supplement to the project book.*

Computers and the Internet are playing an ever-expanding role in family history research. Although online research does not usually eliminate the need to visit traditional repositories (such as courthouses, libraries, and cemeteries), it is a valuable finding aid. **WARNING: Most information found online must be verified.** However, there are some “primary sources” online, such as census images and death certificates in limited areas.

Your public library is most likely a valuable resource. Some online databases require a paid subscription to access them at home, but many libraries maintain a subscription. It's best to check in your community to see if your library has a subscription. The services most widely used are *Heritage Quest* and *Ancestry.com*. Your librarian will be able to assist you with these.

Ask your librarian about reference or how-to manuals for genealogy. The periodical section may have magazines such as *Family Tree Magazine* or *Everton's Genealogical Helper*. These publications frequently list helpful websites. It is impossible to maintain an exhaustive list of useful genealogical websites, which are constantly being added, renamed, or revised.

While networking with local genealogists is beneficial, some students find scheduling or travel to a genealogy meeting difficult. If you have access to the Internet, there is a wealth of information available there. The following list is only a sampling of what you may find useful.

### **Websites Providing FREE Instruction on Genealogy**

<http://www.genealogy.com/university.html> Genealogy Learning Center offers how-to articles, genealogy classes and other resources that will assist you with digging into your family's past.

<http://www.dearmyrtle.com/lessons.htm> Provides practical, down-to-earth advice for family historians (offers a section for youth).

<http://www.genealogytoday.com> *Genealogy Today* offers tips on getting started and getting organized.

<http://www.honoringourancestors.com> This site by Megan Smolenyak encourages others – from novice to pro – in their quest for roots.

<http://www.familytree.com/research/roots-television/> Roots Television has recorded interviews and conference presentations of leading genealogists. A variety of topics is offered.

<http://www.genealogyguys.com> At this website, you may listen to podcasts covering a wide range of topics.

### ***Sites Where Donations of Information are Welcome***

<http://www.findagrave.com> This is a free website where burials are listed. It is searchable by location or by name. It is easy to add your names of interest to the database.

<http://werelate.org> WeRelate is a free public-service wiki for genealogy sponsored by the Foundation for On-Line Genealogy, Inc. in partnership with the Allen County Public Library.

<http://usgwarchives.net> This site is run by a group of volunteers working together to provide free genealogy websites for genealogical research in every county and every state of the United States. This project is non-commercial and fully committed to free genealogy access for everyone.

Organization is by county and state, and this website provides you with links to all the state genealogy websites which, in turn, provide gateways to the counties. The USGenWeb Project also sponsors important Special Projects at the national level and this website provides an entry point to all of those pages as well. Clicking on a state link (on the left) will take you to the state's website. Clicking on the tables above will take you to additional information and links. The information found varies widely and is dependent upon volunteer contributions.

<http://www.geni.com> is a website rapidly growing in popularity. There, you may enter your own family tree and share it with others who you invite to view or add information. Distant cousins living far away may help you expand the tree by adding their vital statistics or pictures. Your tree may be kept private or available to share as you choose. It is a safe repository for your family data and will be there even if your personal computer crashes.

### ***Primary Records***

Some primary records are available online. Census records are chief among these. The images may be found on *Heritage Quest* or *Ancestry.com*. Ask your librarian about availability to these databases.

<https://familysearch.org> This website can be accessed without charge. Among the valuable searchable databases there are images of Ohio Death Certificates, 1908-1953 and early death records of Michigan, 1867-1897. For West Virginia and some other states, there is an index to death records. Some census records are there and the site is frequently updated.

<http://www.sos.mo.gov/archives/resources/deathcertificates> This database is maintained by Missouri State Archives. If your relative died in Missouri between 1910 and 1957, you may find, view, and print a copy of their death certificate from this site.