

## Hunting the old with the new: genealogy searches @ the library

Family history-your family history-is fascinating. Looking for long ago relatives and trying to piece together how they are related to you, where they lived, and who were their children occupies thousands of people. The internet has made the search process easier and faster.

On the Bartholomew County Public Library website, [www.barth.lib.in.us](http://www.barth.lib.in.us), you can use two popular genealogy databases, Ancestry.Com and HeritageQuest. Look in the Online Databases column. Ancestry.com is right at the top of the column. If you are at home, don't stop here but move down and click on HeritageQuest. You will need to enter your library card number on the next screen. Then you will find several options. You can search census records, books, magazines and newspapers, some Revolutionary War records and some records of the Freeman's Bank that served African-Americans for 10 years after the Civil War.

HeritageQuest has United States census records from 1790-1930. You can search by head of household or browse the pages of the census. The years 1830, 1840, 1850 and 1930 are not indexed but you can still find your relative by using the browse feature.

In HeritageQuest, there are over 20,000 books and more than one million articles on genealogy and family history that you can search for a person or place name. If you know the name of the relative who applied for a pension after the Revolutionary War or applied for a Land-Grant, search the Revolutionary War Pension Applications and Bounty Land-Grant Applications. There are links to helpful information about each kind of search.

To use Ancestry.com, you need come to the Main library or the Hope Branch to use a public access internet terminal. Remember to bring your library card so you can log on to the internet. When the library webpage comes up, go to the Online Databases column and click on Ancestry.com. This is a very large database and new records are being added daily. Like HeritageQuest, it contains the United States census records with the added feature of being able to search by other family members as well as head of household. It also offers records from countries other than the United States.

Is there a story about a Civil War veteran in your family? Check the Civil War records. Or maybe your great grandfather registered for the draft in World War I. You can find a photocopy of the draft form he completed.

Do you need help getting started? Each month the library offers a class to introduce these databases. Upcoming classes are Saturday, August 18 at 2:30-4:00 pm and Saturday, September 15 at 2:30-4:00 pm. Call the Reference Desk, 379-1266, to register. And happy hunting!

*Elizabeth Monette is a reference librarian at Bartholomew County Public Library.*