
The Yocum Library

Resources for Genealogy

The Yocum Research Librarians

days and evenings:



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Mary Ellen Heckman and Brenna Corbit have several decades of combined experience as genealogists. Besides researching their own family histories over the past decades, they have helped many of the RACC and Berks County community research their own family trees through one-on-one research and genealogy workshops.

Mary Ellen was also the past president of the Berks County Genealogical Society.

Together, they love the challenge of helping others find their elusive ancestors.



Database Resources

The Yocum Library subscribes to three database collections for genealogical research, which can be found on the Yocum Library Online Databases under the [subject of History](#).

Ancestry Library (on campus only) Includes U.S. and U.K. census records, immigration records, military records, city directories, Social Security death indexes, church records, vital records, and more.

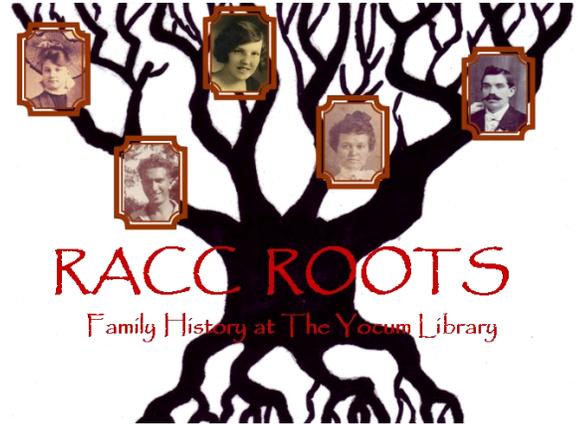
HeritageQuest Online (on campus only) Includes 25,000+ family and local history books, U.S. Census Records, PERSItm Index (a subject index of genealogy and local history periodicals), Revolutionary War and bounty land warrant application files, Freedman Bank Records (a database collection for African-American research).

Accessible Archives 18th and 19th century newspapers and magazines. Funded by the James H. Yocum Library Endowment Fund. (remote access password is available on the resource tab in your Angel account)

There are also two other newspaper databases, one is an institutional subscription, the other is free:

Reading Eagle Archives (on campus only) keyword search articles from 1989 to the present.

[Google News Archives Search](#) (free) Search newspaper archives including the Reading Eagle back to the 1800s. It also automatically generates a timeline. Some content requires a fee. Ask librarians for help on how to search, save and print articles.



Free Internet Resources

The Yocum Library has a selection of free and reliable web resources for genealogical research. Some resources require a free registration. Try these for a start:

FamilySearch—similar to Ancestry, a large collection of genealogy sources, including free web courses and GEDCOM software for organizing family trees.

www.familysearch.org

Cyndi's List—a directory of genealogical sources. Many are free, but some fees may apply www.cyndislist.com

Berks History Center online church records index. www.berkshistory.org/library/

Berks County Courthouse—estate indexes, birth, marriage and death indexes, immigration and court indexes, digital online deed searches (see full list for individual web links).

And many more . . .

To view the full list of free genealogical internet resources go to:

<http://www.racc.edu/Yocum/UsefulLinks/genealogy.aspx>

Genealogy Workshops

The Yocum Library conducts various workshops throughout the year for the RACC and Berks community. Scheduled workshops are posted on the RACC email. Requested workshops are also available. Feel free to contact us. library@racc.edu

Genealogy 101—Many would-be family historians are soon beset with roadblocks when researching their roots. This most popular of our workshops instructs newcomers on the types of resources and basic techniques on locating and navigating the complexities of genealogical records.

Ancestry/Census Basics—Censuses are usually taken every ten years in the U.S. and other countries. Thus, they often become much of the groundwork for forming family trees. This workshop explains the various types of census records and their application to family research.

Ancestry Part 2—This workshop explains the various types of records and their usage other than census records—immigration and naturalization records, military records, vital records, church records, courthouse records and more.

FamilySearch—Similar to the Ancestry, this workshop explains the various records available and their usage. Ancestry may be one of the largest genealogical database collections on the web, but FamilySearch is a comparable second—and it is free to users.



Polish Family Research—While similar to other immigrant groups, researching Polish immigrants can be quite complex due to the many border changes in Eastern Europe, as well as many language barriers. This advanced workshop explains how to research records in context with these challenges.

Resurrecting Your Ancestors—An advanced workshop that shows you how to breathe life into those genealogical records that make up your family tree and how to place your ancestors into a historical context.

Research Resources

The Yocum Library has a growing collection of genealogical research guides and resources for the following subjects located on the 2nd floor:

- Ethnic Genealogy Research
- Military Records Research
- Immigration and Naturalization Research
- Family Names Guides
- Census Records Research
- Advanced Genealogy Research Techniques
- Land Records Research
- Court Records Research
- DNA Research
- *Genealogy at a Glance* sheets
- DVDs—*Who Do You Think You Are* and *Finding Your Roots* (Henry Louis Gates series)

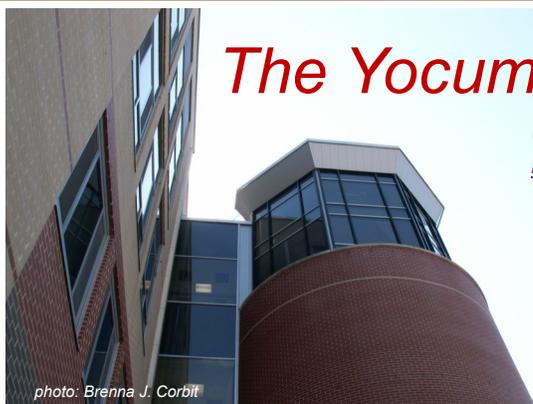


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