

Using [FamilyTreeNow.com](https://www.familytreenow.com) and [TruePeopleSearch.com](https://www.truepeoplesearch.com) websites to find people (living or dead)

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Have you been trying to locate a long-lost relative, friend, or classmate? In the past, I've paid for the use of Spokeo, Whitepages, and Been Verified, but a couple years ago I was introduced to what I believe are two of the best FREE sites: **FamilyTreeNow.com** and **TruePeopleSearch.com**.

The search results for these sites include: a target person's age, birth month and year, current and past addresses, email addresses, phone numbers, relatives, associates, and possible business listings. They claim to have information on more than 1.6 billion people and, as I said, the searches are FREE.

FamilyTreeNow.com

[Search Genealogy Records Free - Census, Birth, Death, Vital, Marriage & Divorce and More! \(familytreenow.com\)](https://www.familytreenow.com)

This site is genealogy-related and allows one to search various records for people (living and dead) and to post one's one family tree. The home page states that the following records are included:

- Census records from 1790 to 1940
- Social security records back to 1936
- Marriage records – 28.8 million back to 1968
- Divorce records – 6 million back to 1968
- Living People records – more than 1.6 billion

There is a **Start a tree** function which is beyond the scope of this presentation, although finding trees at the site will be mentioned later.

Search Records

The default search page has fields for a person's full name, location, and birth year.

The screenshot displays the FamilyTreeNow.com search interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the site logo, 'HOME', 'SEARCH', 'MY TREE', and a green 'Start Family Tree' button. Below the navigation bar, the page title is 'Search Records'. The search form consists of several input fields: 'First Name' (with 'first' as a placeholder), 'Middle Name' (with 'middle' as a placeholder), 'Last Name' (with 'last' as a placeholder), 'Location' (with 'city, state' as a placeholder), and 'Birth Year' (with 'birth year' as a placeholder). There is a '+ add more criteria' link below the location field. A green 'Search' button is positioned below the form. To the right of the form is a promotional banner for CareCredit featuring a dog and the text 'PAY OVER TIME FOR VET EXPENSES*' with an 'APPLY NOW' button.

Hit **+add more criteria** to access several other fields.

Additional fields include birth year, birth country, another relative's name, date of death, street address, and phone number.

FamilyTreeNow.com HOME SEARCH MY TREE Start Family Tree

First Name: first, middle, last
 Location: city, state
 Birth Year: birth year
 Birth Country: birth country
 Relative Name: relative name
 County: county
 Date of Death: Day, Month, Year
 Street Address: street address
 Phone Number: phone number

Search

PAY OVER TIME FOR VET EXPENSES*
 CareCred APPLY NOW

I suggest experimenting by searching for your own name with minimal data (like name and state).

“Hits” Page

“xx Records for [name]” box

It will state how many hits there are for the data entered. The first 12 or so hits are listed in a box on the same page. If you specify a more specific location or birth date at the outset, you should get fewer. Let's explore the page:

There's a blue box/sidebar to the left (**Filter Results**) with links to Census Records, Death Records, Marriage and Divorce Records, and any Public Member Trees that have been uploaded to the site. There's an entry for the total number of living people found for the search criteria. I will describe using this box later.

Filter Results

All Records	250
Living People	250
Census Records	view
Death Records	view
Public Member Trees	view
Marriage Records	view
Divorce Records	view

At the very bottom of the page of candidates are a couple of boxes of other candidates labeled “**Sponsored Links**”. These links lead to paid sites at **TruthFinders.com** and **BeenVerified.com**. Any of the “Continue” icons on the page will also take you to an ad. If you want to continue going through the list of hits, hit the “Next Page” link at the very bottom.

To narrow down the candidates, add more information until you have found your Person of Interest. When you find a record you want to look at, click only on the blue [Living People Records](#), or the green [View Details](#) to open the record and thus avoid ads.

Specific Results Page for the target person

At the top is the target person’s name, birth month and year, and current age. Be forewarned that a lot of this information below is likely not to pertain to your chosen target person, but to others with the same name.

Note: clicking on any of the links in blue in any of the following boxes ([names](#), [addresses](#), [phone numbers](#)) allows you to do a search of records for that item. So it will take you to the Specific Results Page for a person, or to an abbreviated list of individuals who have been associated with that address or phone number.

Associated Names – these may or may not pertain

More information on [TruePeopleSearch.com](#)” (we’ll come back to this)

Current Address – The current address is one item that I tend to trust, because it is coming from current property records. There is a link to a Google map to show the location. The address is in light blue type which indicates a link. If you click it, you can see others who purportedly lived at that address.

Phone Numbers – The first entry might state **Possible Primary Phone**. I tend to believe it. The others may or may not be correct.

Past Addresses - when searching for myself there were 36 addresses. Only 9 applied to me; however, they included all but one of the places where I had lived or worked during the last 54 years! This feature could be very useful for finding former neighbors, co-workers, or school classmates.

Possible Relatives – for me, 35 people were listed, but only I knew 5 of them: my parents and 3 of 4 children. My wife was not listed but she had been here in a search done in 2024. This can be a great place for tracing DNA matches and building speculative family trees. People who are a generation older than the target person could be their parents, aunts, or uncles, and ones a generation younger could be children, nieces, or nephews.

Possible Associates – One two associates were listed for me, and the only ones I knew was a son-in-law

Business ownership – this may or may not be applicable. For me, it listed a local genealogy group of which I was a Board member.

Current Address Property Record – this is probably current information.

Most Searched Family Names

Back at the bottom of the home page is an interesting feature, where you can search for information on surnames. It's labeled **Genealogy Directory** with a row of letters of the alphabet. Below that are columns of surnames of people in the database listed in order of prevalence, with the number of persons with that name in parentheses.

The eight most common surnames are currently Smith, Johnson, Williams, Jones, Brown, Garcia, Rodriguez, and Davis. The order apparently changes over time as new records are added. When I first wrote about this in 2024, the first five names were all the same, but Garcia was 18th, and Rodriguez, 20th.

Clicking on the O, I got **Most Common Surnames Starting with O**. The most common happen to be Ortiz, Owens, and Olson (which in 2024, were Owens, Olson, and Ortiz). Clicking on Olson retrieves **People With Last Name Olson** which has two sections. First is two columns of Olsons by First and Last Name, followed by age and city and state of residence. These are in no discernable order. The only way I could find to search this list was using the Microsoft Find command (Control+F) and entering my first name. I was 'way down the page. Below this section was three columns of **Most Common Names in the Olson Family Tree**. These were organized by number of names. I found myself in the first column - there were 294 Larry Olsons. Clicking on my name brought me to a version of the "Hits" page, which showed multiple relatives, addresses, and phone numbers for each candidate.

Family Trees

At the very bottom of every page on the site is a link to the **Genealogy Directory**, as well as two links to find stored family trees, **Browse Trees**, and **Trees**.

Clicking on either of these links gives you a window – **Recently Updated Public Family Trees**

The page has columns titled **Name**, **Size** (number of individuals), and **Last Modified**.

There are about 100 names per page, and there are nine pages, so there are close to 900 trees.

Clicking on a link will bring up a horizontal pedigree tree. Clicking on **See All xxx People** link will give you an alphabetical list with names, births and deaths.

There is more to be explored here. The only way to search for a specific surname here is apparently to use Control+F (which only works on the page that is open). Trees may also be found from the Filter Results box (explained next).

Using Filter Results

Returning to a person search page - I have not used these much and did not find them particularly useful at this time. More research is required. After entering a name in the search mode which I did before, you can consult the sidebar below to further filter results. For demonstration, I made a search using my deceased father's name and former residence.

Census records – those that popped up listed only three people of the same name in the 1930 census. His was the second record listed. He should have also been in the 1940 census, which did not come up in this search.

Death records – This was the only other filter that gave an accurate result. My dad’s was the very first entry in the list of 40 not in any particular order. Possibly AI made the connection between us.

Marriage records – As stated on the home page these are from 1968 on, so they were not useful for searching my parents’ 1949 marriage; however, but neither could I find a record of my 1974 marriage.

Divorce records – did not apply.

Public Member Trees – I found one person with his name who had a minimal tree of a couple of people.

TruePeopleSearch.com

[100% Free People Search, Free People Finder - TruePeopleSearch.com](https://www.truepeoplesearch.com/)

This is another search site, more specifically intended for finding people than for genealogy, “with updated records on nearly every single adult living in the U.S.” It appears to have mostly the same information on living people as FamilyTreeNow.

There are two ways in which to enter:

- 1) You can enter from the link in FamilyTreeNow. You are taken to the most current address of the target person you were on.
- 2) Enter directly from TPS. This site can be searched by: Name, Phone, Address, or Email address.

The screenshot shows the TruePeopleSearch.com homepage. At the top, the logo "TruePeopleSearch" is displayed in blue. Below the logo is a navigation bar with tabs for "Name", "Phone", "Address", "Email", and "Neighbors". A search bar is positioned below the navigation bar, containing the placeholder text "Enter name, phone or address" and "City, State or Zip" with a magnifying glass icon on the right. The main content area features three sections, each with a title, a brief description, and an icon:

- Lookup Anyone for Free**: Accompanied by a person icon. The text states: "TruePeopleSearch.com is a free people search service. With updated records on nearly every single adult living in the US, if you need to find someone you are in the right place. Get full address histories, phone numbers, email addresses, relatives, friends, associates, property information & more. And yes, it's 100% free, no signups, no teasers."
- Whose Number is this?**: Accompanied by a smartphone icon. The text states: "Need to know the person behind the phone number? Enter the number in our reverse phone lookup tool and we will give you the name, current address, address history, relatives, associates and more right now. Whether you are verifying an online date or you want to know who's calling or texting you, we know who it is and soon you will too."
- Who Lives at this Address?**: Accompanied by a house icon. The text states: "Do property lookups for free. Find out everyone that's ever lived at an address with our address lookup tool, or check out our neighbors lookup. Get property information, phone numbers of current occupants, and more. Are you a real estate investor ready to make an offer? Don't wait, get the owner's phone number right now and close the deal!"

At the bottom of the page, there is a section titled "Most Common Last Names".

(The home page has recently added the Most Common Last Names feature from FTN.)

Sections

Opening page – person’s name, age, birth month and year, city and state of residence, and most likely phone number

Full Background Report - Sponsored Link

Also Seen As - other names

Current Address – with link to map

Phone Numbers – “Possible Primary Phone” is listed first

Email Addresses – these may or may not apply. They used to also appear in FamilyTreeNow.

Current Address Property Details – same as FTN

Previous Addresses – same as FTN

Criminal Records Report - Sponsored Link

Possible Relatives – it indicated my wife as “Possible Spouse”

Possible Associates – there were many more of them here than in FTN

Business Connections – same as FTN

Background Profile – apparently concocted by AI using other data on the site. Some of the statements may be accurate, and others not.

Opting Out

Although these sources may be great if you are looking for someone, you yourself may not want to be found. If you are horrified by the amount of information available, you may opt out.

At the end of end website there are instructions for:

Opting out from being visible on the site, and

Opting out from selling and sharing personal information

You may opt out by calling a phone number or by filling out an online form.

This ends our guided tour! I highly recommend trying out these sites yourself. You may decide to ditch any others you have been using!

Happy Hunting!!