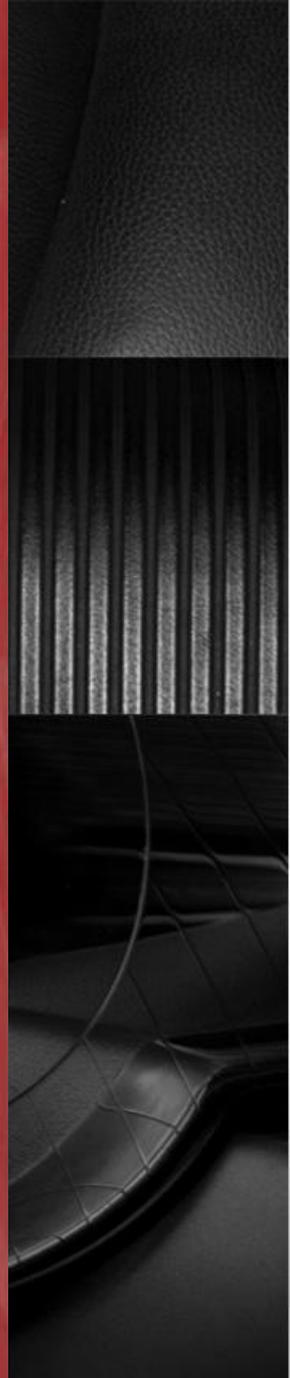


Techniques on how to use websites for Cherokee Research, Part 1 & 2

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www.ancestry.com

- Although it is a fee based research site, it is an excellent place to start if you are just beginning your research into your Cherokee roots. You may find names and dates to aid you in your search of Cherokee records.
- For new users you will log onto the new research search engine. This engine can be hard to follow with a myriad of selections when you type in a single name.
- In my opinion, as I have always used it, I prefer the old search engine which you can also access. It categorizes your results in a easier to follow selection.
- When you begin to search you may type in the exact name you are looking for at first but I would recommend just the first and last name. Having basic knowledge of the ancestor you are searching can come in handy by narrowing your search.
- If known, type in a year range, like 1872-1874 if born in 1873 as well as the state in which they may have been born. If no results come from this search change your search to the soundex search. The soundex will check variation of spellings for the last name. You can also widen the year range if needed.
- Soundex is a surname index to the US Census which only uses consonants and no vowels.
- Ancestry.com usually has a free 14 day subscription or your local library will allow you access to a library edition of the site in the genealogy or local history area.

www.ancestry.com

- When checking user submitted information under Public Family Trees or World Ancestry Trees always look for the information which is sited or sourced.
- You may also go directly to the US Census or other document and narrow your search even more. If you know the county in the state in which your ancestor was born you can search specifically through that county.
- The site also has digitized US Indian Censuses 1885-1940.
- If you are not sure of the spelling of the last name or the soundex check is not working, try searching by first name. There may have only been a handful of females named Rebecca born between 1872 and 1874 in Cherokee County, Oklahoma, in the 1910 US Census.
- The index completed by ancestry.com employees also may have not been able to decipher the old handwriting and made a guess.
- The old cursive double “s” resembled a cursive “f.” I have found Jesse indexed here as “Jefe.”
- Many people want to automatically type in Rebecca Susan Wisdom when beginning a search but the census taker or informant at her death may have recorded her as “Becca” or “Becky” or “Susie”.
- Remember, always check every variation of spelling of any name!

www.rootsweb.ancestry.com

- For those persons who may not be able to afford a subscription to ancestry.com, you may venture to their sister site, rootsweb.com which is a public access site with some of the same information.
- You would search this site much as you would the former site. It does not however have soundex check or access to the US Census images..
- Rootsweb.com only has indexes to the state birth and death records where the sister site, ancestry, also has digital images.
- It does have access to World Trees with user submitted family information but always look for sources

www.usgenweb.org

- This site is a volunteer site that broke away from rootsweb when it was purchased by ancestry.com's parent company.
- Here you can search county based records for each state such as court records which have been submitted by users of the site and its volunteers.

www.accessgenealogy.com/ native

Now hopefully armed with the information of who, when and where, the next site to look at is accessgenealogy.com, a public access free site:

- Under Native American Records, you will find access to various indexes to several tribal records including the Cherokee.
- There is also an index to the 1896 Dawes Rejected applications.
- The Dawes Final Roll is the most important of these records which we have discussed earlier.
- Here under www.accessgenealogy.com/native/finalroll.php you will find an index to the various individuals and families on this document.
- It is best to either search by tribe and last name or by tribe, last name and first name. Seldom are middle names used but the search will yield all persons with those names.
- If you type in the last name “Bush,” other last names such as “Bushyhead” will also appear.
- This search engine’s results will also show you the names of parents as well as ages.



www.accessgenealogy.com/ native

- The main applications for enrollment took place between March, 1900 and September, 1902. This site shows ages as of 1900
- Minor children applications to these same families indicated with an “M” with their roll number indicates these children’s age as of 1906.
- The Dawes Final Roll is the base roll for Cherokee Nation citizenship today but it is the first document where the adults were asked to name their parents.
- It was also the first time that birth and death affidavits were asked to be submitted if the person was born or died during the enrollment or as early as 1895-97 for births, 1900-1902 for deaths.
- Also if married by US and Cherokee law, marriage certificates were sometimes asked to be produced by the applicants.
- Knowing your ancestors ages and residents during the above time frames will tell you if they are listed.
- 61% of the general population in the Cherokee Nation were considered US Citizens and not Cherokee by blood citizens according to the 1900 US Census for Indian Territory.

www.fold3.com

This site, formerly known as footnote.com, is a great source for digitized images of microfilmed documents

- Like ancestry.com, fold3.com is a fee based site. It is much less expensive than ancestry but members of the former are offered access to this site for half-price in some instances;
- This site has digitized images of several federally based Cherokee Nation documents such as the application packets for the Dawes Final Roll..
- I usually go to browse then Non-military records then Native American Collection.
- You can also just use the home search engine but that will give you a mixture of digitized images with a person or persons with that specific name.
- With the card number or application number from accessgenealogy you can go to the actual Dawes testimony packet.
- You also have access to images of applications known as the Guion Miller Roll which was for money families had been paid previously in 1851 and were being compensated again between 1906-1909.
- Anyone could apply to Miller and they are listed A-Z by last name in the index.
- This site also cross references with ancestry.com's digitized images.



www.fold3.com

- Anyone from anywhere could apply to Guion Miller but the applicant had to prove they, their parents or grandparents had been paid previously in 1851.
- It is the best documentable source for Cherokee genealogy.
- This site is also a great source for digitized Cherokee military records such as muster records.
- Under the category of Civil War, the Service Records then Union and Confederate.

www.familysearch.org

This is the website for genealogy sponsored by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints

- This source is also a free public access site. You are required to register with a username and password but no subscription is required.
- It also has a search engine where you type in a first name and a last name.
- Like fold3.com, familysearch is in the process of digitizing all their microfilmed records, about 3.5 billion images in total. It will continue to be a free site according to the church.
- Under United States, you can also access digitized images of county court records such as Oklahoma marriages from 1891-1959.
- There is also county probate records which have been digitized from the microfilmed images.
- Also there are some Dawes records which have been digitized which include allotment records.
- There is also free access to digitized images of the US Census, World War I Draft Registrations, state birth and death records, to name a few.



www.findagrave.com

This site is a free public access site and volunteer based. It currently has over 100 million grave records and the numbers continue to increase.

- Here is can search Oklahoma cemetery records, often with photographs of the actual headstones.
- Genealogists may also upload family photographs to go with the cemetery reference. You are required to register with a username and password but there is no charge for this site.
- You can go to the search engine, type in the first and last name, the latter being required and also indicate the state and county.
- Some members add images of obituaries as well.
- This site as well as the above named sites are used by us on a daily basis.

Other sites include:

➤ www.newspapers.com, a
subscription site

➤ This site has access to digitized images of some Oklahoma newspapers.

➤ As well as these listed below:

www.okhistory.org/research/

www.archives.gov

www.interment.net

www.genforum.com

<http://www.deathindexes.com/tennessee/index.html>

<http://digital.libraries.ou.edu/whc/pioneer>