

Genealogy Definitions

- 1) **Census**- “Usually a listing of all persons within a political subdivision (prescient, city, county, state, nation”.¹
- 2) **Pedigree Chart**- “Those genealogical forms used to depict one’s ancestry over several generations”²
- 3) **Vital Statistics**- Birth, Death and Marriage Records
- 4) **Family History Center**- A library/research center run by volunteers of the Church of Latter Day Saints (LDS). There are Family History Centers around the world that are free and open to the public.
- 5) **Familysearch.org**- A website run by the LDS containing free genealogical information along with information about Family History Centers around the world.
- 6) **Ancestry.com**- A subscription genealogical database available to both individuals and to libraries. In the Tuscaloosa Public Library we have 2 computers in the Local History Section that offer free access to this database.
- 7) **HeritageQuest**- A subscription genealogical database only available to libraries. The Tuscaloosa Public Library offers access to the database both in the library and at home via our website. Patrons must have a valid TPL library card to access HeritageQuest at home.
- 8) **Cyndi’s List**- Refers to the website www.cyndislist.com which contains a large collection of genealogy related websites.
- 9) **NARA**- National Archives and Records Administration- www.archives.gov. The national archives for the United States.
- 10) **Social Security Death Index (SSDI)** – Contains the deaths of 98% of Americans who died after 1962 and whose deaths were reported to the Social Security Administration. If a person did not receive benefits they may not be listed or if they worked for a railroad they will not be listed. The **SSDI** can be found on a number of different websites including **Ancestry.com** and rootsweb.com.
- 11) **CMSR**- Compiled Military Service Records- In particular this refers to service records of men who served in the Revolutionary War, War of 1812, and American Civil War. These papers were compiled from various unit papers and can include such documents as enlistment records, pay records, hospitalization records, and discharge papers. These records can be found online, on microfilm, at NARA, and in state archives.

¹ What Did They Mean By That? A Dictionary of Historical & Genealogical Terms Old & New by Paul Drake F.D.

² “Ibid”