

A HeritageQuest How-To

Access

- Through La Vergne City website (www.LaVergneTN.gov)
 - La Vergne home page → library page (www.LaVergneTN.gov/library) → link to HeritageQuest → enter in barcode number
 - Library patrons **only** access HeritageQuest using this
- Through TEL (tntel.tnsos.org)
 - TEL home page → TEL shortcuts → Genealogy → HeritageQuest link → validate TN residency using zip code and phone number

Different Databases

- Census: US Census records from 1790-1930
- Books: 14,000 family histories and 13,000 local histories
- PERSI (Periodical Source Index): searches 6,600 journals and 2.3 million citations from 1800's to the present
- Revolutionary War: searches pension and bounty-land warrants, including 81,000 files and 138,000 names
- Freedman's Bank: searches Freedman's Bank records from 1865-1874, including 105,000 accounts and 489,000 individual names
- US Serial Set: searches memorial s and petitions brought to the House and Senate from December of 1817 to present, as well as special reports and investigations

Census

- Basic: search by surname, given name, census year and state
- Advanced: search also by county, location, age, sex, race, birthplace
- Searches give you results organized by year and state
- Once you click on an individual, you get :
 - All known information (basic info. + advanced info.)
 - Series, roll and page number **and** shows image of the original page
- Options: you can add to notebook, download page, print, zoom or make negative

Books

- Search: people, places, or publications
- People **and** Places
 - Search by person, place or keywords
 - Sorts results by relevancy, author, title and publication dates
 - Gives publication citation information
 - Shows in-text image of everywhere your search was found
 - Notebook function is also available
- Publications
 - Browse titles by letter or search (advanced search is also available)
 - Search results show book citation and allows you to view pages
 - Not all books have the same amount of images or pages available for viewing
 - Notebook function is also available

PERSI (Periodical Source Index): PERSI is the largest index in the world. It was created by the Fred J. Reynolds Historical Genealogy Department at Fort Wayne in Allen County, Indiana. The location has a physical copy of every article in its database. Copies can be ordered through the Allen County Public Library.

- Can search by people, places, how-to's, or periodicals
- People: search by surname, keywords or periodical
 - Gives title, record type, locale, subject or counties as well as information on periodical itself
 - **Also**, allows you to look at information for other issues from the same periodical
- Places: search by US, Canada or Other
 - Sub-searches by state, county, keywords and record type (such as obituary, military record, will, etc.)
 - The only difference between basic and advanced searching is the ability to search the US and Canada/Other at the same time
- Periodicals: search by keyword or browse periodical titles
- How-To's: search by keyword and record type
 - These are articles **about** research methodologies; for example, typing in a search term such as mining could bring up articles that list coal mining terminology or ideas on how to search for ancestors who were miners in America.

Revolutionary War: The first pension legislation was passed in August of 1776, but it only covered war veterans who were disabled in combat and unable to earn a living; in 1818 Congress passed a service pension act that granted a pension to veterans of the War who were not disabled in battle.

- Search by surname, given name, state and branch of service
- Results give series, roll, military file and page numbers and the same options are available to print, zoom, send to notebook and change to negative image
- **Also**, this database contains a military service code glossary that lists the different military branches

Freedman's Bank: the Freedman's Savings and Trust Company was opened on March 3, 1865. The bank was created for to help newly emancipated ex-slaves start their own separate accounts and banking community. The record of names and accounts was indexed by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints.

- Search by surname, given name, correct or guessed spelling, application year and bank locale
- Results give series, roll, page and account number and shows image of entry page with zoom, print, notebook or negative options
- You can also browse the entire page around a specific entry **or** see all of the pages in a branch location

US Congressional Serial Set

- Search by person, place, keyword or data range

For papers from before 1817, search the American State Papers, a collection of 1,600 papers submitted to the House and Senate (available through the Library of Congress website)

Other Information

- The Notebook function gives you the ability to take notes on interesting pages **and** email your completed notes to yourself; **but**, the notes only save while you are in the same session.
- Search History allows you to view all of the records you've accessed in one session, making it easy to go back and review.
- The US Serial Set, Revolutionary War and Freedman's Bank databases all have "Read More" links on the left hand side. These give helpful histories, glossaries or explanations; for example, the US Serial Set link gives an explanation of the identifiers used to sort and shelve both the Serial Set and the American State Papers.
- The HeritageQuest help section is very detailed and easy to understand, with great FAQ's for each section with tips on things like how to efficiently narrow a search and the most efficient way to use Boolean search operators, information that will be helpful in all of your research.
- Copies from the PERSI database can be ordered through the Allen County Public Library at www.acpl.lib.in.us/database/graphics/order_form.html. The fees and order instructions are right on the forms.