

Jewish Genealogical Society of Los Angeles

Cousin Baiting & Cousin Stalking

ChristineCohenGenealogy.com

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Descendancy Research is a good method to reach out to unknown cousins who may help you to:

- Locate artifacts, heirlooms, stories or pictures
- Breakdown a brick wall
- Share your passion for genealogy and be a research, library or conference attendance buddy
- Let them know your interest in documents
- Take a DNA test

Do collateral research forward in time, using especially the 1930 - 1940 Censuses. Try to find adult children who married, had children, and who could be still alive today. Focus on people with uncommon first or last names – *Priscilla instead of Mary / Cahill instead of Jones*

Websites to post a tree to bait & stalk cousins:

- www.Ancestry.com – Free for many elements
- www.MyHeritage.com – Tree free for up to 250 ancestors
- www.WikiTree.com - Free
- www.FamilySearch.org - Free + download “Relatives around Me” App
- www.Fold3.com - Free to add Military Memorials
- www.LostCousins.com – Free
 - Make sure to add your photo to get better results!

Websites to stalk cousins:

- www.DAR.org – membership is not required
- Sons of American Revolution – 145,000 applications that gives descendants into the 20th Century
- Unusual Surname Websites
- www.One-Name.org
- Descendants of First Family Societies
- Periodical Source Index (PERSI) available to free to search on www.FindMyPast.com
- WWI & WWII Draft Registrations

- Social Security Death Index / Application Index
- Online Newspapers especially obituaries
- www.Legacy.com (obituaries)

Living People Search engines, where you often can get the basics for free, but will need to pay to get details.

In addition, social media can be VERY useful.

- www.Pipl.com
- www.USSearch.com
- www.Google.com
- www.Linkedin.com
- www.FACEBOOK.com
- www.Twitter.com
- www.SteveMorse.org
- www.TruePeopleSearch.com
- www.PeopleLooker.com
- www.YellowBook.com
- www.FamilyTreeNow.com
- www.Spokeo.com
- www.WhitePages.com

Online Cemetery Indexes and Records to stalk:

- www.FindAGrave.com (International)
- www.BillionGraves.com (International)
- www.DeceasedOnline.com (United Kingdom)
- www.GraveStonePhotos.com (International)
- www.ArizonaGraveStones.org >
www.WyomingGraveStones.org
- www.USGWTombstones.org (United States)
- www.Interment.net (International)
- <https://gravelocator.cem.va.gov/> (United States
Department of Veterans Affairs)

Photo Sharing to search surnames and locations:

- www.DeadFred.com - Free
- www.FamilyOldPhotos.com - Free
- www.AncientFaces.com – Free

DNA - Ancestry & 23andMe transfers for free to:

- www.LivingDNA.com
- www.FamilyTreeDNA.com (MyHeritage.com too)
- www.MyHeritage.com
- www.Geneanet.org

Make sure you check which versions are transferrable to upload the zip file of the DNA test results data.

Communicate with your new cousins:

- Be polite and specific in requests
- Offer to share items that may spark their interest such as:
 - Census records, Citizenship papers, photos, diaries, journal, pension files, etc.
- Offer *your email* to show you are sincere
- Send a SASE, if using snail mail
- Offer to pay for DNA test
- Consider privacy issues & feelings
- They may not be interested now, but may in the future. Make a note on your calendar to email, write, call or text in a few months.
- Keep a research log of connections who you contacted, your relationship, how you determined your connection, such as DNA test or an online family tree.