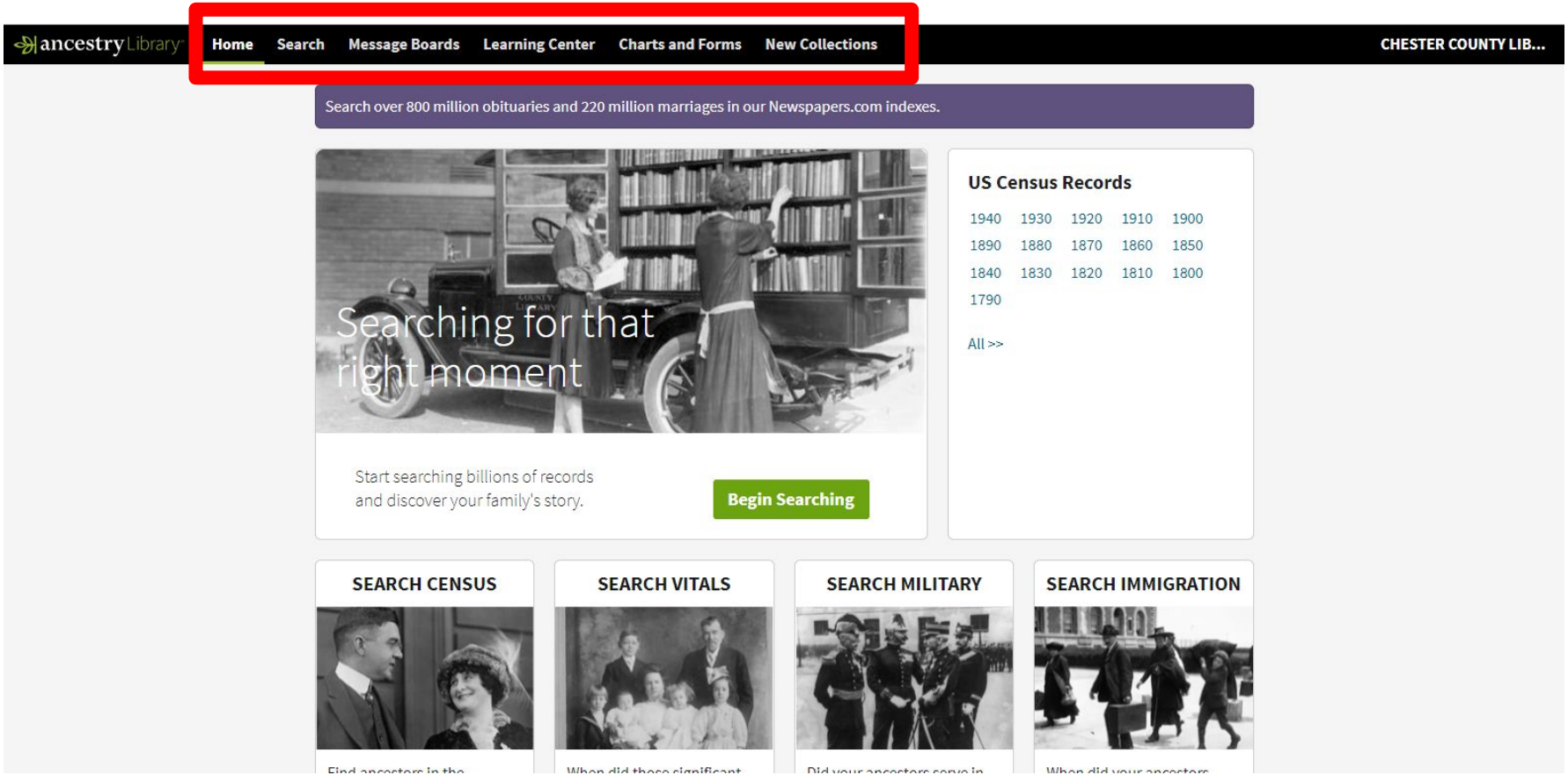
In-Library Use Only Database

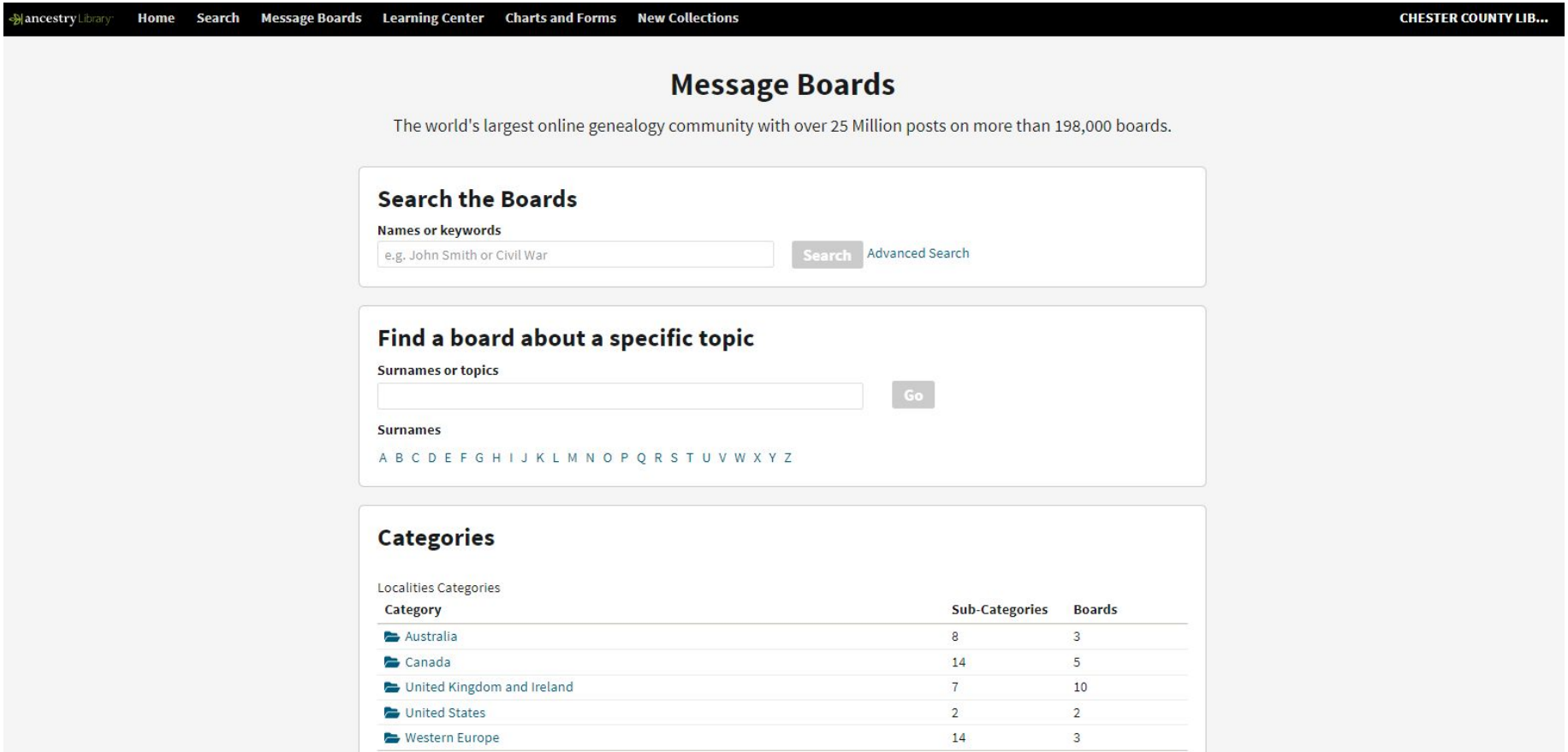
How to access

- In a Chester County library location
  - Use your personal device when connected to the library's wifi
  - Use a library public computer
- Go to https://www.ccls.org/196/Databases-by-Name#A and click Ancestry-Library Edition

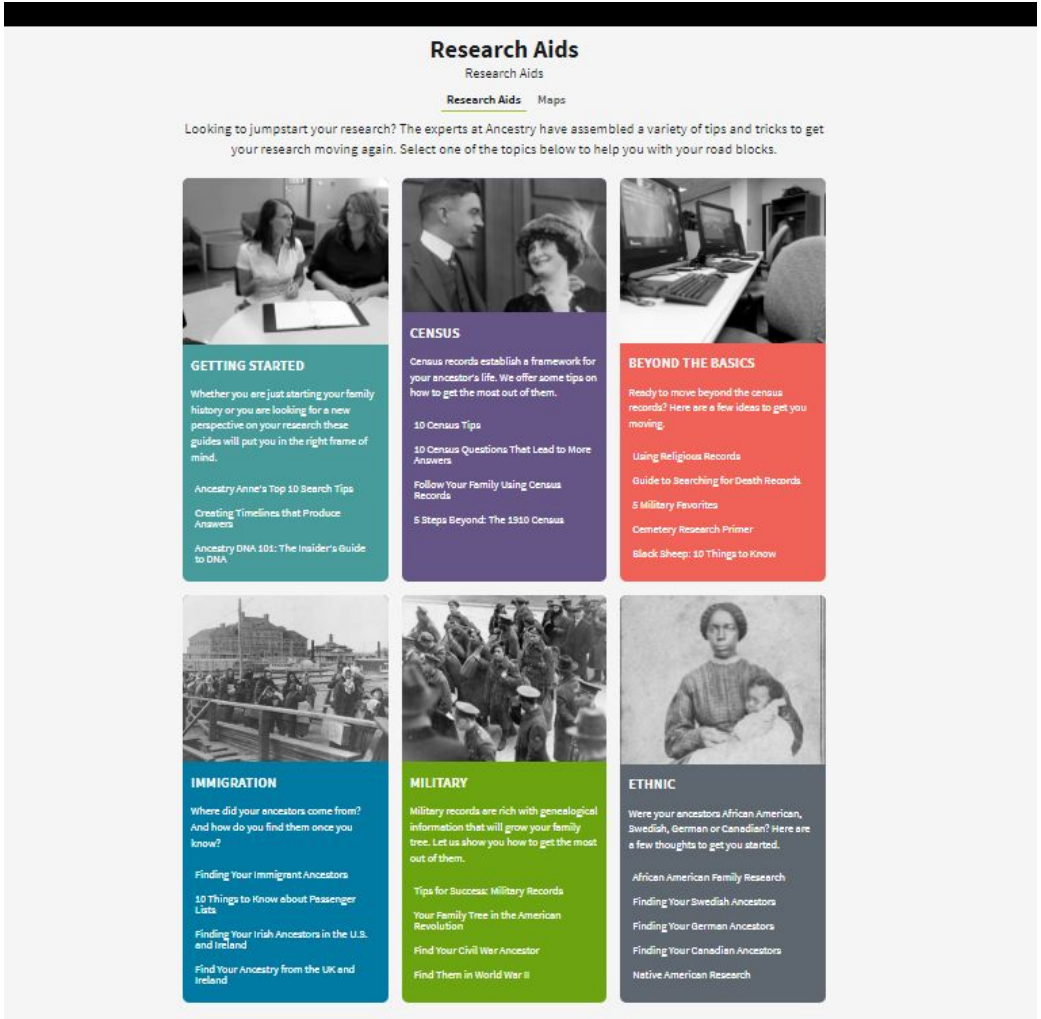
Ancestry Library Edition has several different modules that you can see listed at the top. We will go through each and talk about the Search module last.



If you click on Message Boards, you can view the Message Boards that users post on through Ancestry.com. These are sometimes helpful in finding information on genealogy topics that others have already looked into. You cannot participate in the message boards, but you can view them.

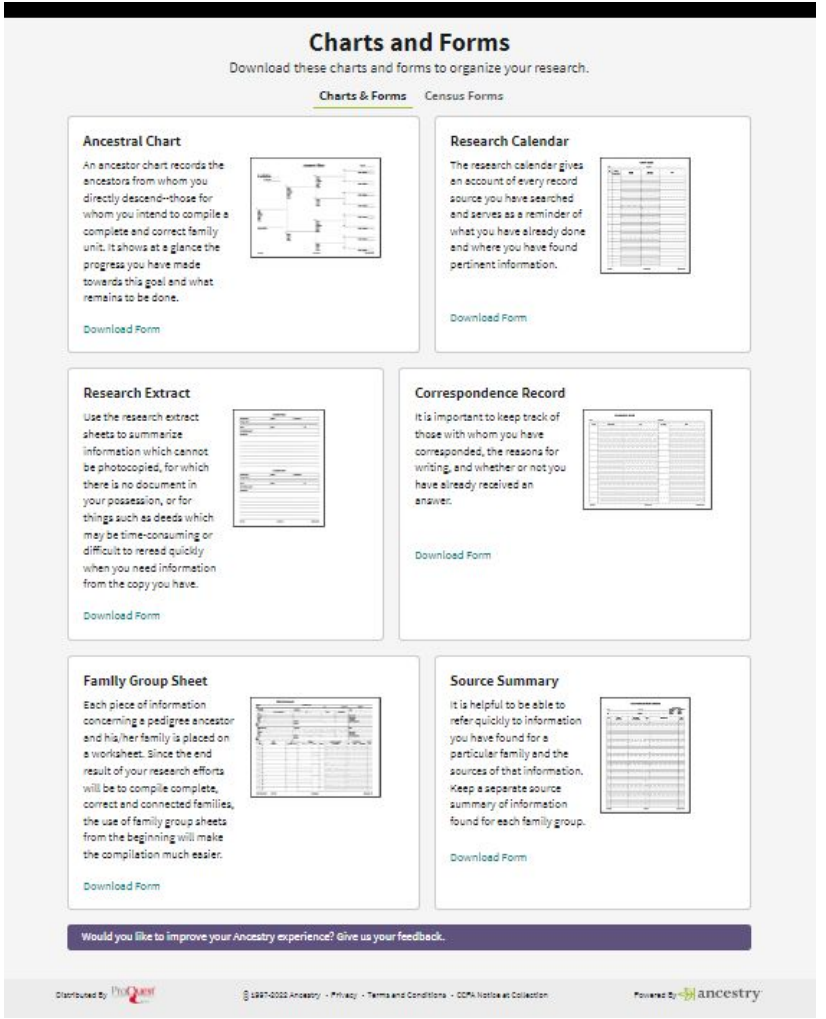


Next, if you click on Learning Center, you can look at various Research Aids that Ancestry has prepared to help you get started in genealogy research.

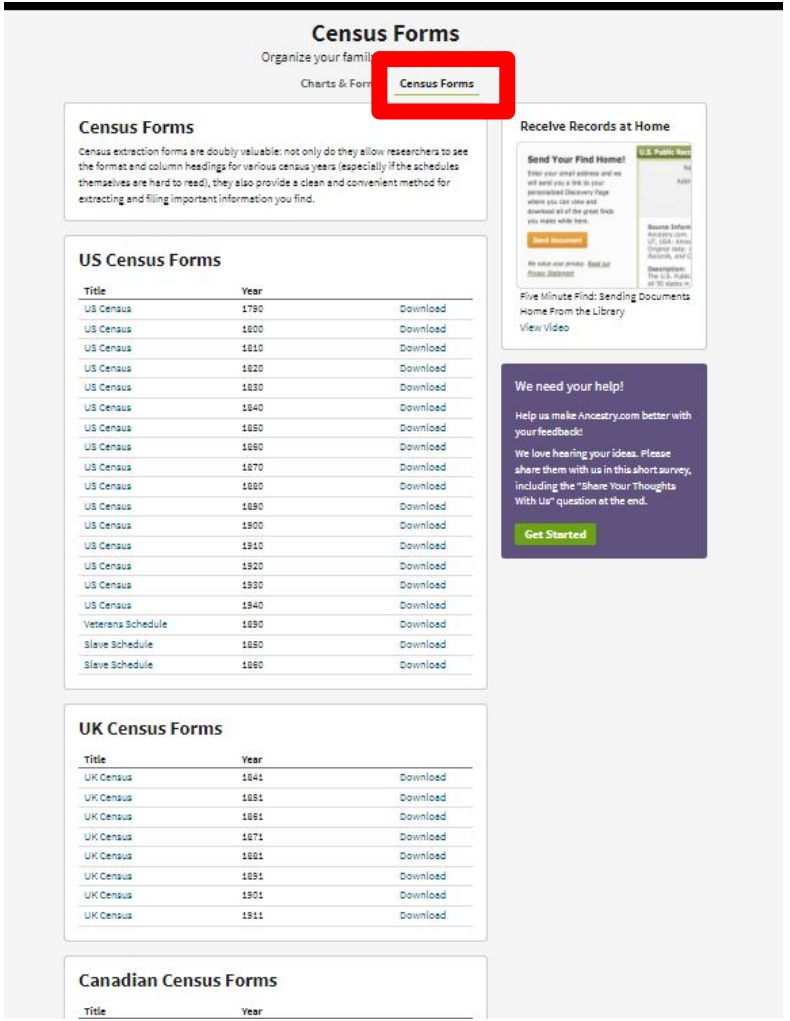


If you click on Maps in the Learning Center, you can click on various states to learn about recordkeeping and local history in those areas. This can be helpful to put your ancestors in context and also to learn how to track records on a local level.

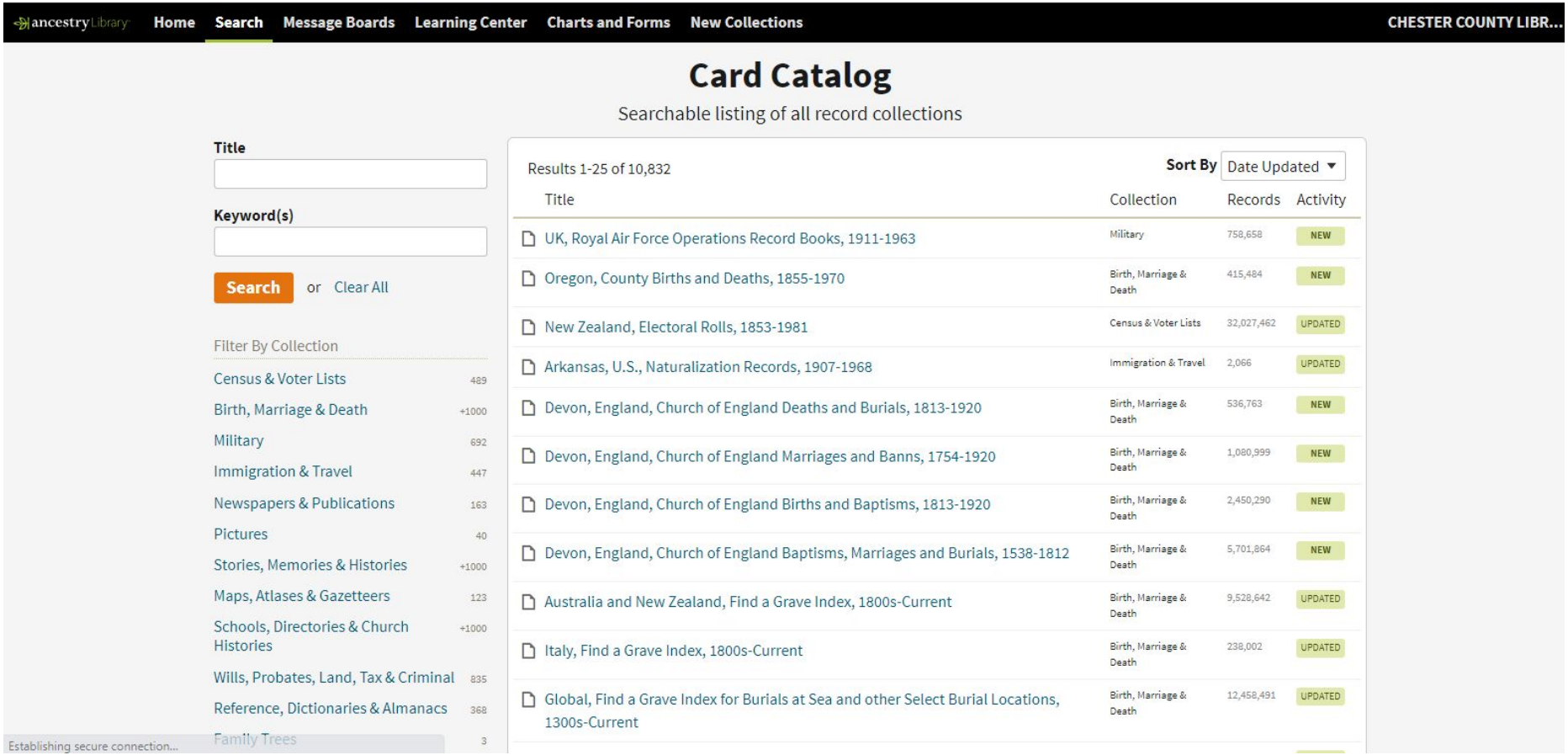
In the next module, Charts and Forms, you can download and print forms to keep track of your research.



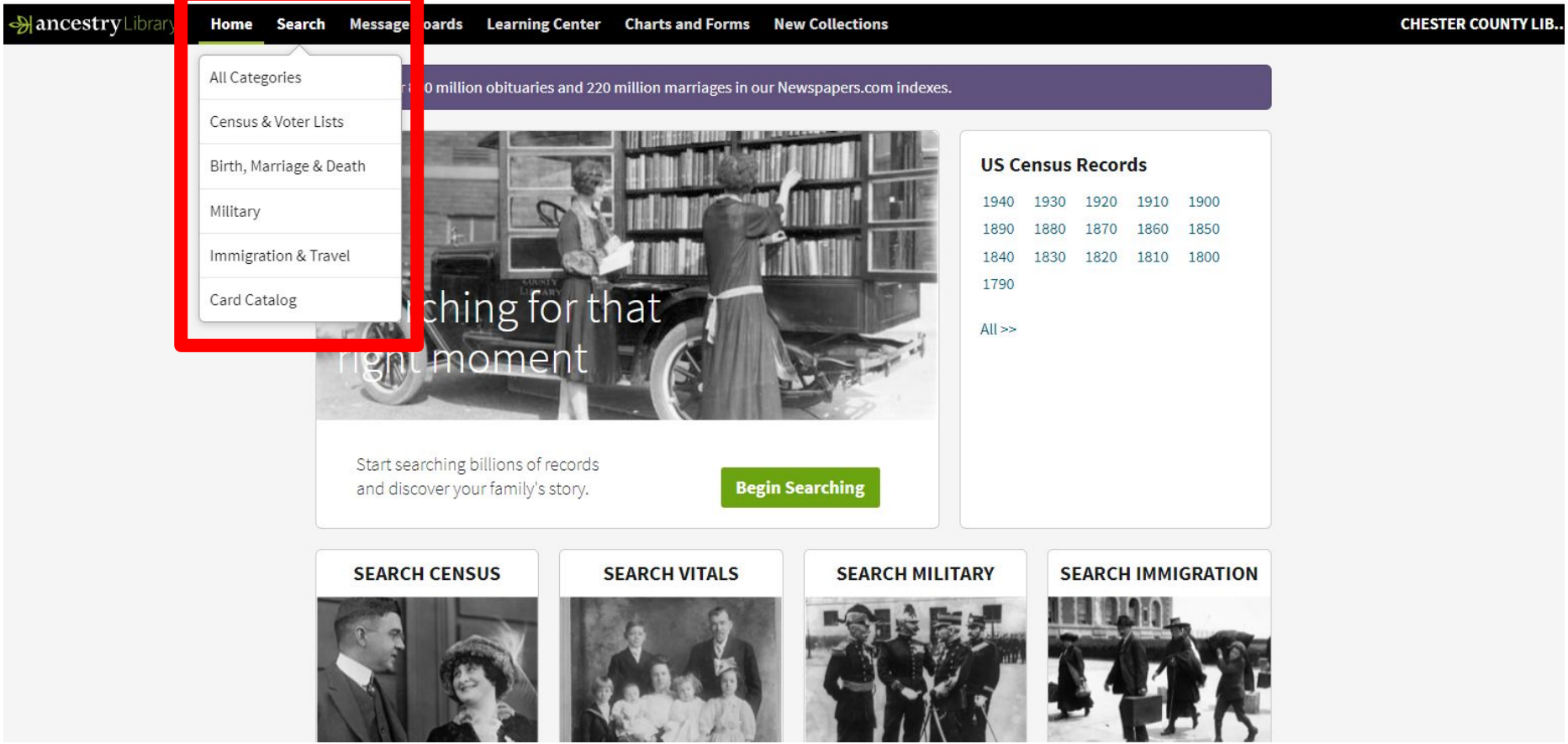
If you click on Census Forms in the Charts and Forms section, you can view easy-to-read example Census forms from each year the Census has been conducted in the US, as well as some forms from the UK and Canada. This can be helpful in deciphering handwriting on old Census documents.



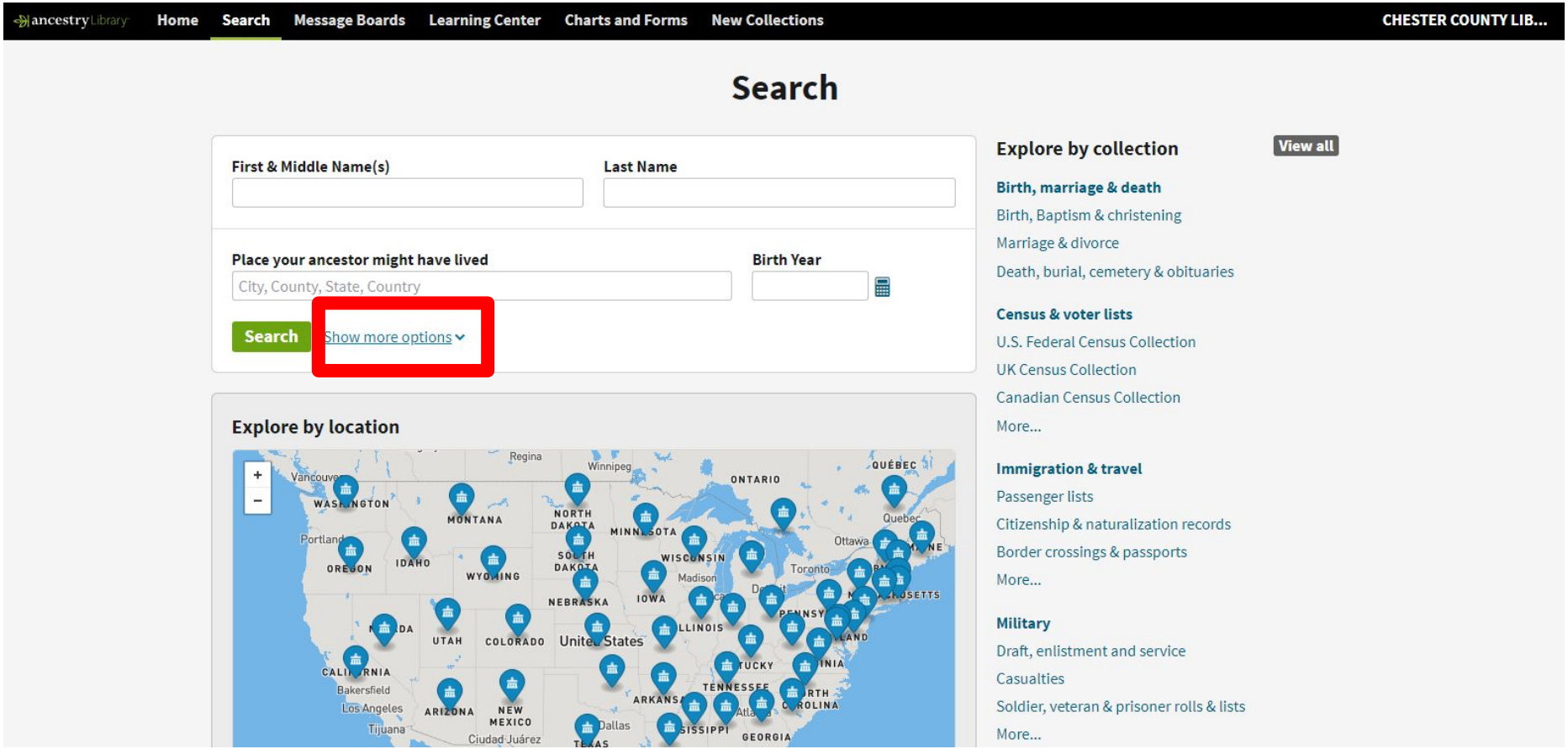
In the New Collections section, you can view what collections have recently been added to the Ancestry database. This is helpful if you search in Ancestry frequently, but find that there is a specific gap in the information that you need. You might see that a collection has been added that will be helpful to you.



If we click on the Search button, you can see several different options for search. I like to start with searching All Categories. You can limit your search further later if you find that you're getting too many results.

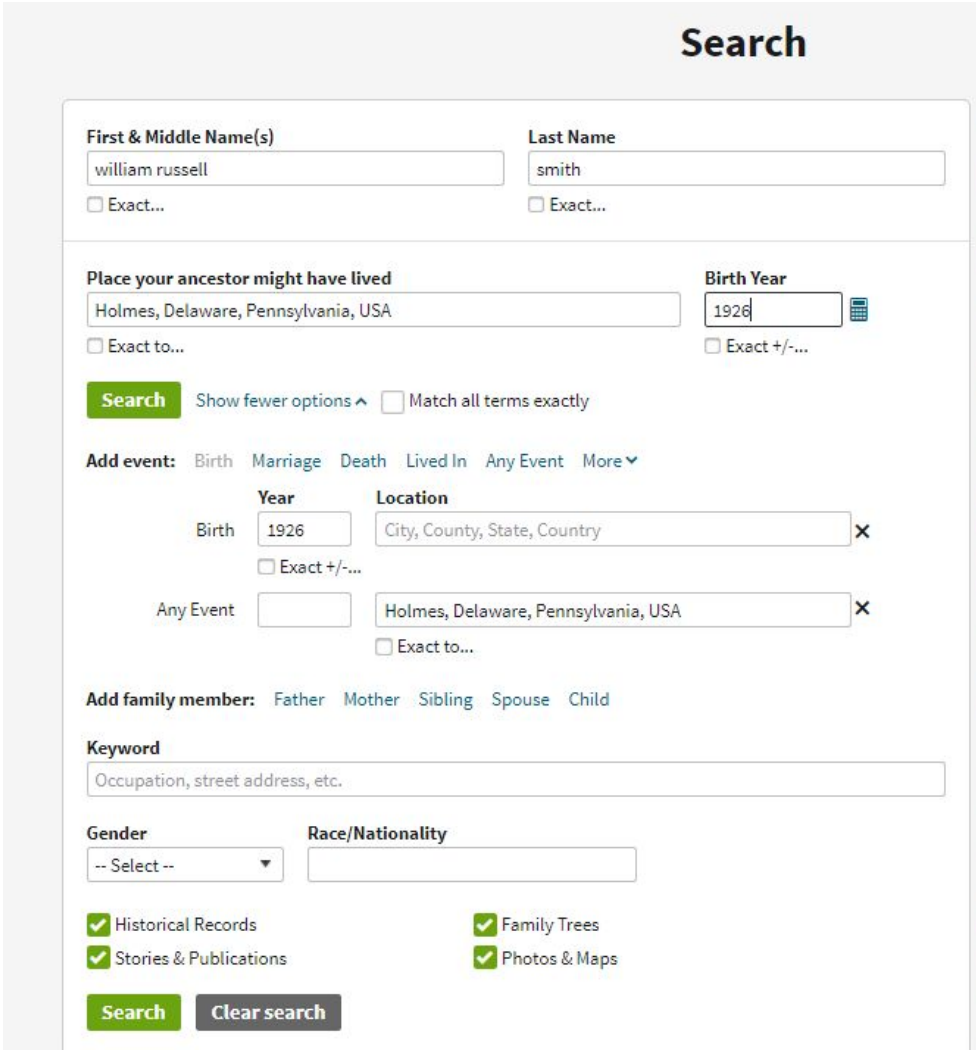


Once you are on the search page, click “Show More Options.”



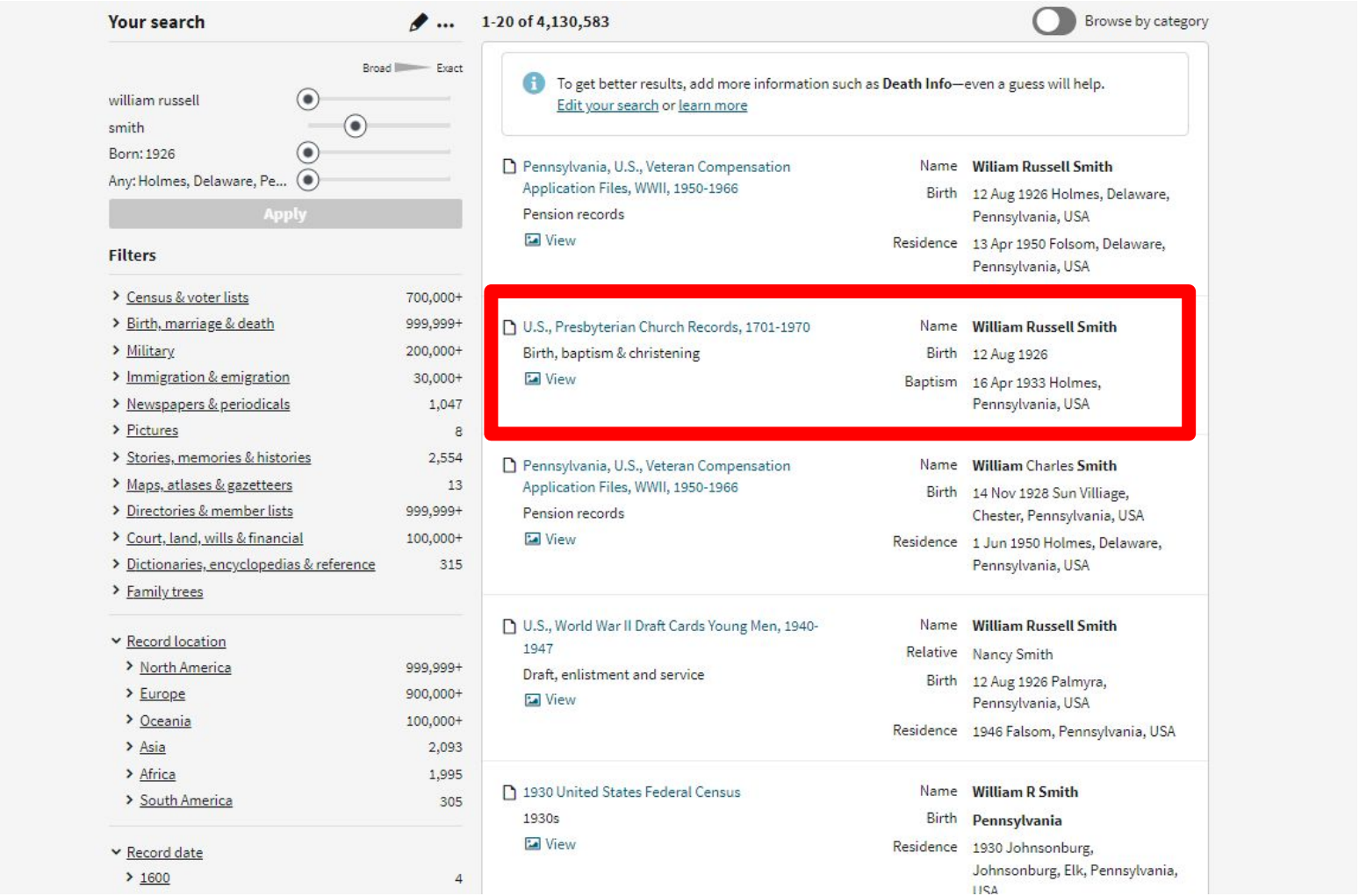
In this example search, I put in my grandfather's First, Middle, and Last name, the location where he was born in "Place Your Ancestor Might have Lived" and his Birth Year. I chose not to fill in more information because I am looking for his baptism record. Keep in mind what kind of information you are looking for while you search. If you want a marriage record, it would be appropriate to put in a spouse. If you want a birth record, you should leave that information out.

I also tend not to click "Exact" under my search terms. If you do this, the database will only return records that exactly match the characters you put in. As Mike discussed, there can sometimes be spelling errors in records, in which case you would not see those records if you clicked "Exact."



Here is the record I was looking for. You can hover over the link for the record to see a preview of it, or you can click on it to open it fully and view the image of the record if there is one.

You can also use the Filters on the left side of the screen to limit your results if you are seeing too much that isn't relevant to you.



This is the transcribed record view. You can click the “View” button to see the image of the actual record that has been digitized.

All Results

William Russell Smith

in the U.S., Presbyterian Church Records, 1701-1970

Name:	William Russell Smith
Baptism Age:	6
Record Type:	Baptism
Birth Date:	12 Aug 1926
Baptism Date:	16 Apr 1933
Baptism Place:	Holmes, Pennsylvania, USA
Church:	Pennsylvania Presbyterian Church
Father:	Philip Smith
Mother:	Nancy Vincent Smith

Source Citation

Presbyterian Historical Society; Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; *U.S., Presbyterian Church Records, 1701-1907*

Source Information

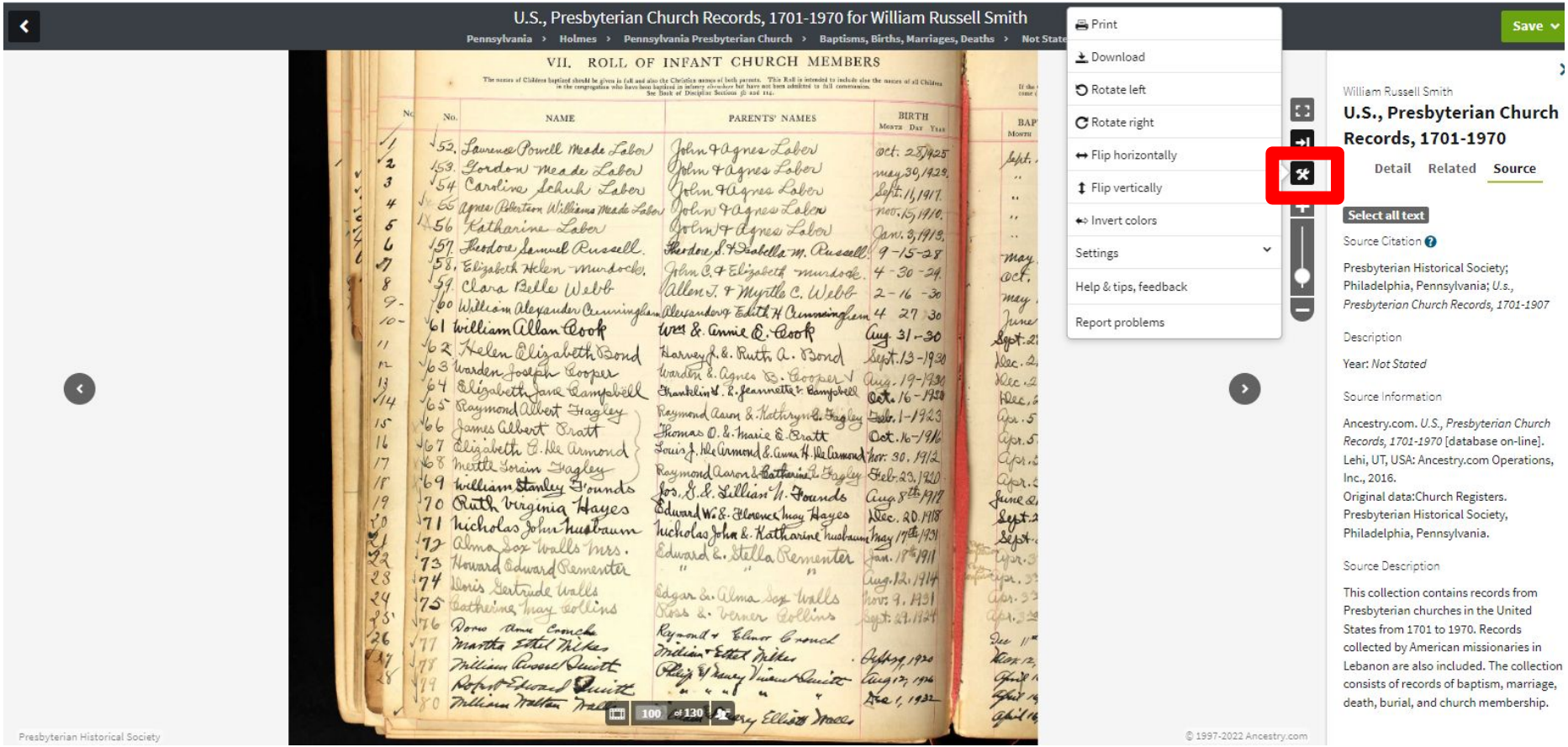
Ancestry.com. *U.S., Presbyterian Church Records, 1701-1970* [database on-line]. Lehi, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2016.

Original data: Church Registers. Presbyterian Historical Society, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

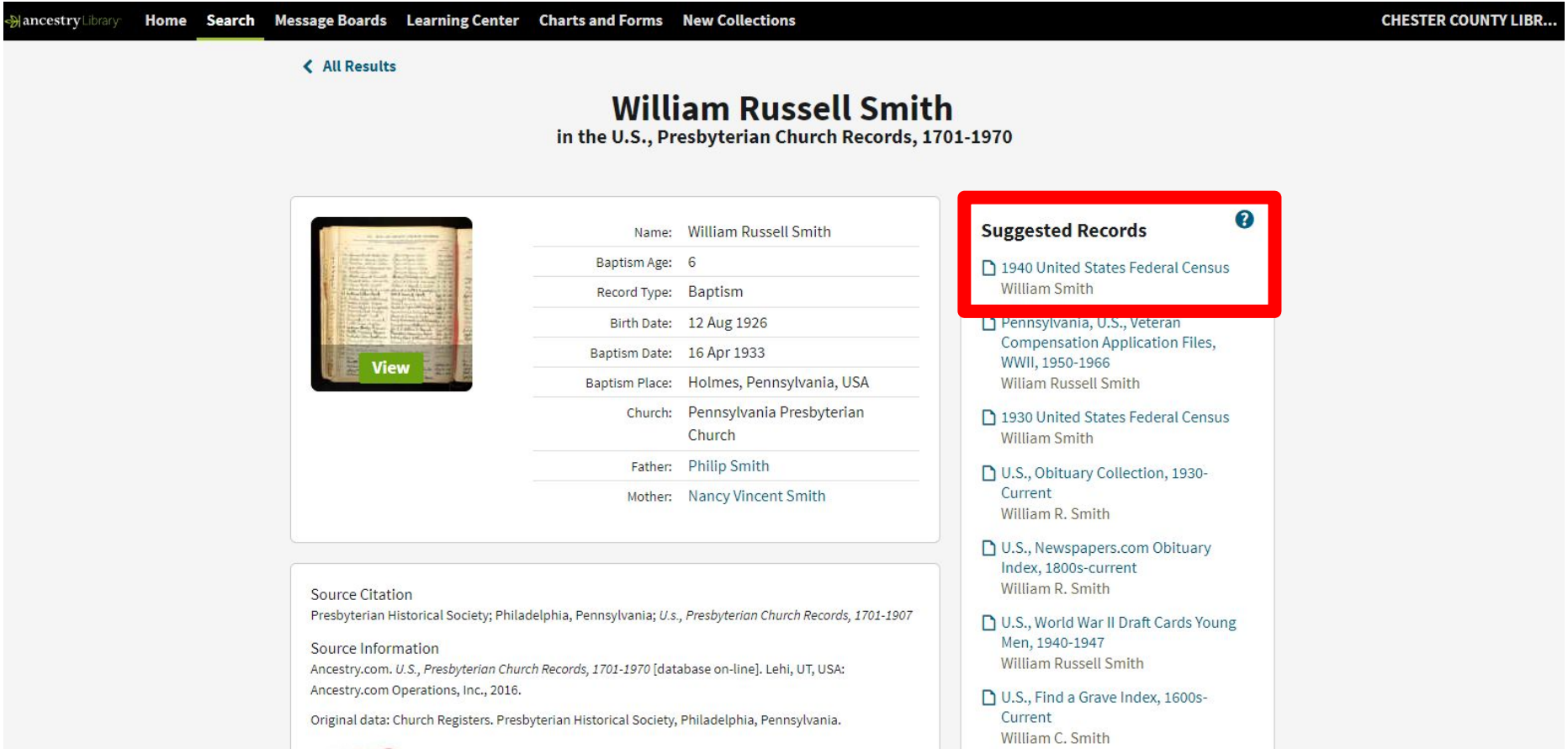
Suggested Records

- 1940 United States Federal Census
  William Smith
- Pennsylvania, U.S., Veteran Compensation Application Files, WWII, 1950-1966
  Wiliam Russell Smith
- 1930 United States Federal Census
  William Smith
- U.S., Obituary Collection, 1930-Current
  William R. Smith
- U.S., Newspapers.com Obituary Index, 1800s-current
  William R. Smith
- U.S., World War II Draft Cards Young Men, 1940-1947
  William Russell Smith
- U.S., Find a Grave Index, 1600s-Current
  William C. Smith

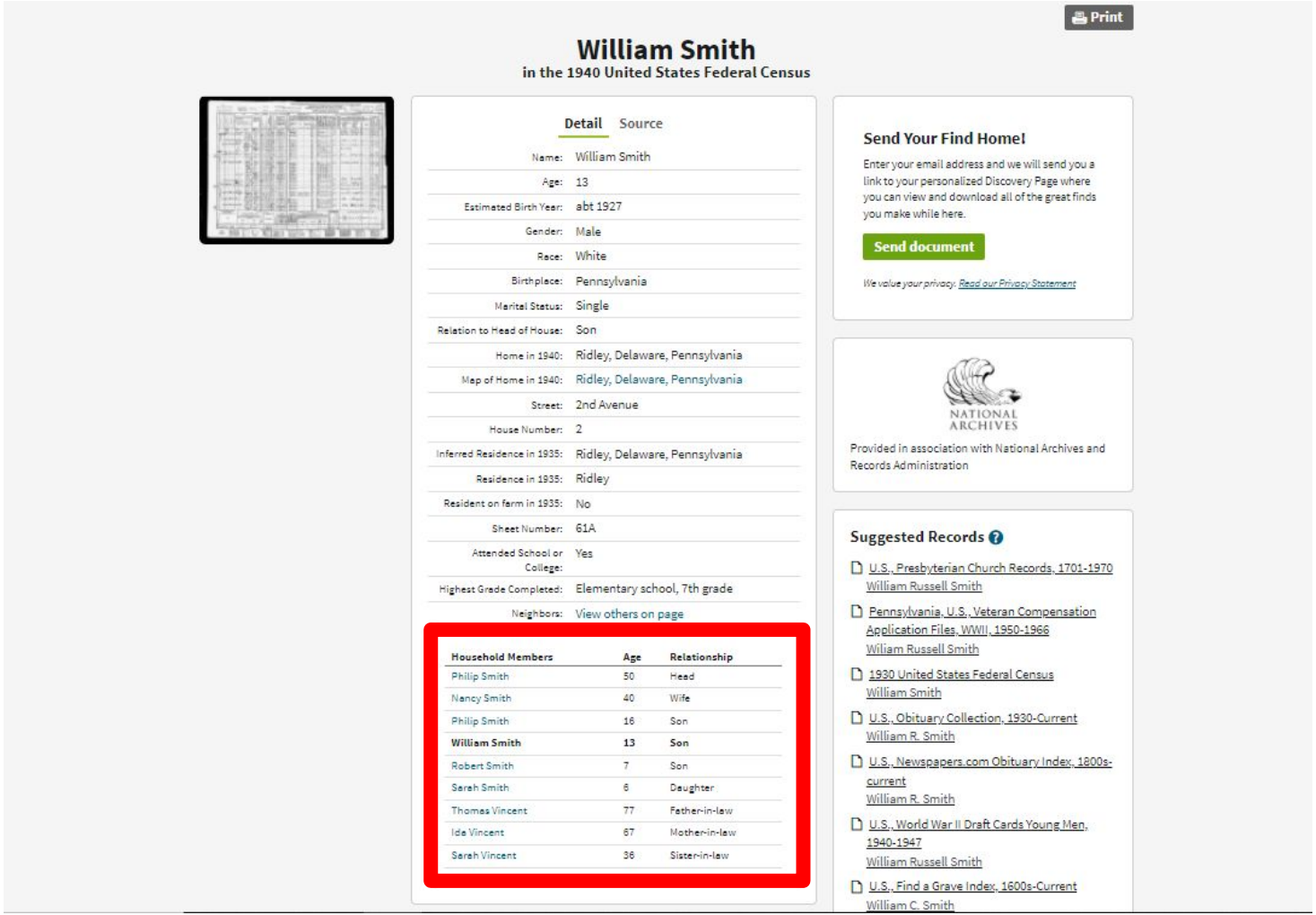
From the image, you can print or download it to save for your records if you click the “Tool” icon.



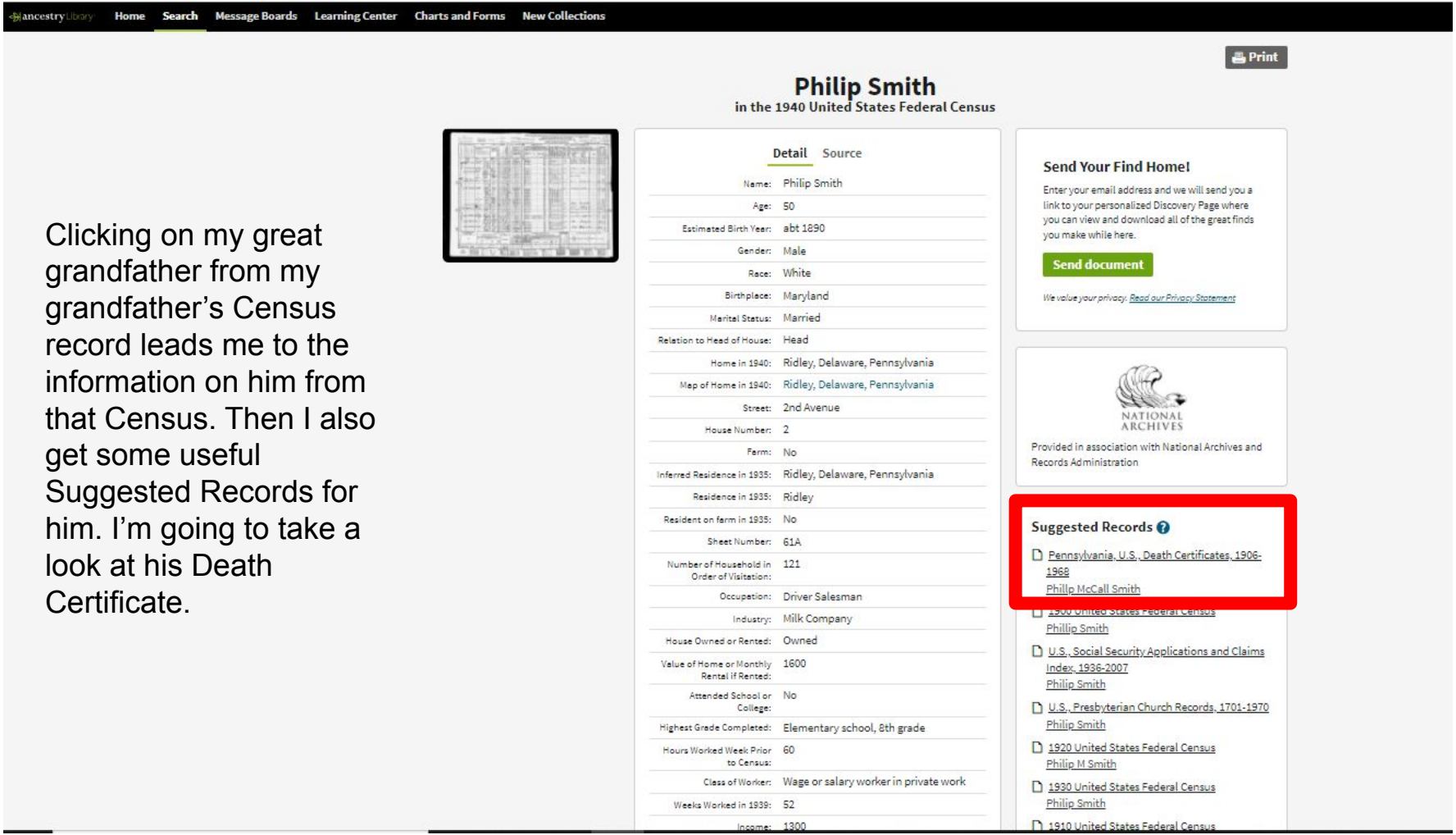
You may also see some “Suggested Records” connected to the record you are looking at. These can be pretty accurate, so I recommend taking a look at them. The 1940 Federal Census that my grandfather was recorded in is connected to this record.



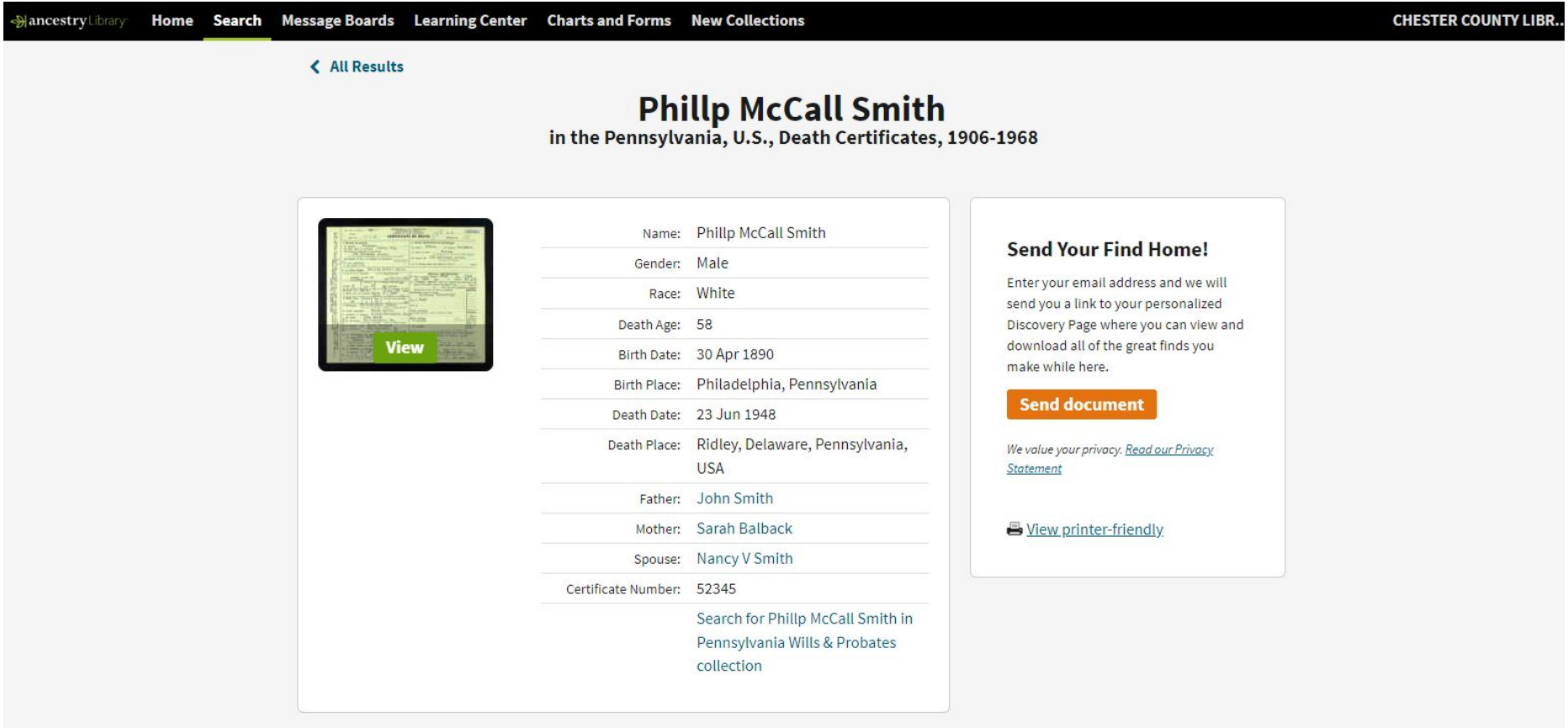
In this record, I get information on my grandfather's parents and his grandparents because they all lived in the house together when this Census was taken. I can click on the people listed at the bottom to view the record from their "perspective," which can also lead to me Suggested Records for those individuals.



Clicking on my great grandfather from my grandfather's Census record leads me to the information on him from that Census. Then I also get some useful Suggested Records for him. I'm going to take a look at his Death Certificate.



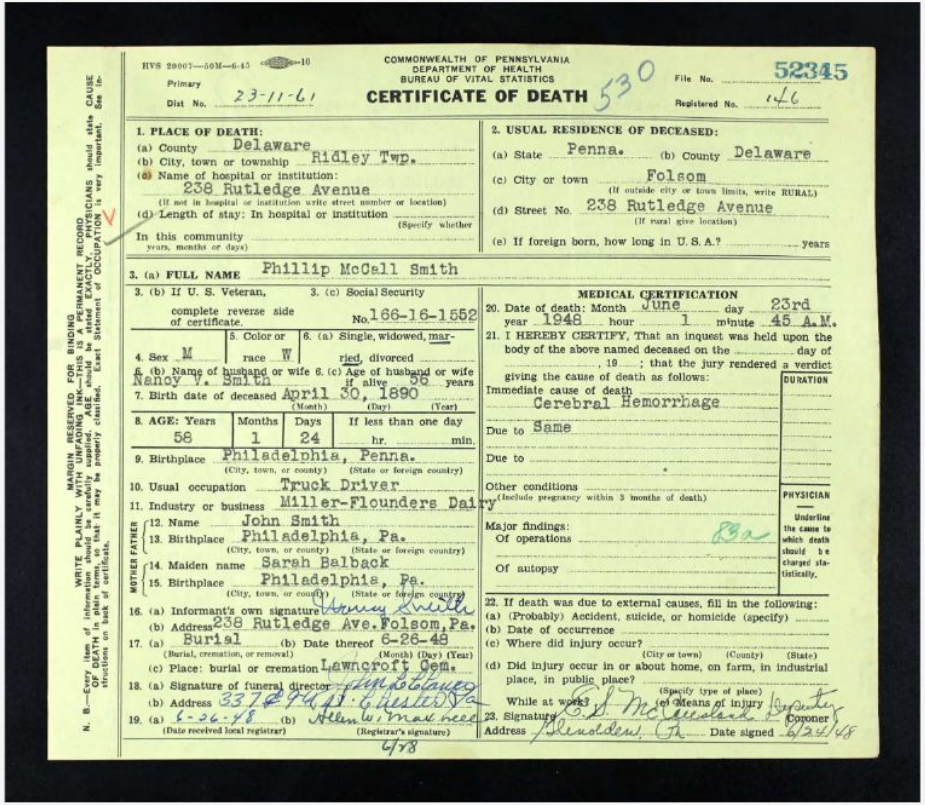
Finding the death certificate for my great-grandfather is very helpful because his parents are listed, so I can go another rung back in my family tree.



Here is the image view of the actual death certificate.

Pennsylvania, U.S., Death Certificates, 1906-1968 for Phillp McCall Smith

1948 › 051151-053700



HVS 20007—50M—6-45 10

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
BUREAU OF VITAL STATISTICS

CERTIFICATE OF DEATH

File No. 52345

Registered No. 146

Primary Dist No. 23-11-61

MARGIN RESERVED FOR BINDING — WRITE PLAINLY WITH UNFADING INK—THIS IS A PERMANENT RECORD. N. B.—Every item of information should be carefully supplied. CAUSE OF DEATH: Exact statement is required. See instructions on back of certificate. AGE should be stated EXACTLY. PHYSICIANS should state CAUSE OF DEATH in a manner that may be properly classified. Exact Statement of OCCUPATION is very important. See instructions on back of certificate.

1. PLACE OF DEATH:
(a) County Delaware
(b) City, town or township Ridley Twp.
(c) Name of hospital or institution: 238 Rutledge Avenue (If not in hospital or institution write street number or location)
(d) Length of stay: In hospital or institution ____ (Specify whether In this community years, months or days)

2. USUAL RESIDENCE OF DECEASED:
(a) State Penna. (b) County Delaware
(c) City or town Folsom (If outside city or town limits, write RURAL)
(d) Street No. 238 Rutledge Avenue (If rural give location)
(e) If foreign born, how long in U. S. A.? ____ years

3. (a) FULL NAME Phillip McCall Smith
3. (b) If U. S. Veteran, complete reverse side of certificate.
3. (c) Social Security No. 166-16-1552
4. Sex M
5. Color or race W
6. (a) Single, widowed, married, divorced
6. (b) Name of husband or wife Nancy V. Smith
6. (c) Age of husband or wife if alive 56 years
7. Birth date of deceased April 30, 1890 (Month) (Day) (Year)
8. AGE: Years 58 Months 1 Days 24 If less than one day ____ hr. ____ min.
9. Birthplace Philadelphia, Penna. (City, town, or county) (State or foreign country)
10. Usual occupation Truck Driver
11. Industry or business Miller-Flounders Dairy

MOTHER FATHER
12. Name John Smith
13. Birthplace Philadelphia, Pa. (City, town, or county) (State or foreign country)
14. Maiden name Sarah Balback
15. Birthplace Philadelphia, Pa. (City, town, or county) (State or foreign country)

16. (a) Informant's own signature Nancy Smith
(b) Address 238 Rutledge Ave. Folsom, Pa.
17. (a) Burial (b) Date thereof 6-26-48 (Burial, cremation, or removal) (Month) (Day) (Year)
(c) Place: burial or cremation Lawncroft Cem.
18. (a) Signature of funeral director [illegible] Delaney
(b) Address 337 E 9th St. Chester Pa.
19. (a) 6-26-48 (Date received local registrar) (b) Allen W. Mayhew (Registrar's signature)

MEDICAL CERTIFICATION
20. Date of death: Month June day 23rd year 1948 hour 1 minute 45 A.M.
21. I HEREBY CERTIFY, That an inquest was held upon the body of the above named deceased on the ____ day of ____, 19__; that the jury rendered a verdict giving the cause of death as follows:

DURATION

Immediate cause of death Cerebral Hemorrhage
Due to Same
Due to ____
Other conditions (Include pregnancy within 3 months of death)

PHYSICIAN — Underline the cause to which death should be charged statistically.

Major findings:
Of operations ____
Of autopsy ____

22. If death was due to external causes, fill in the following:
(a) (Probably) Accident, suicide, or homicide (specify) ____
(b) Date of occurrence ____
(c) Where did injury occur? (City or town) (County) (State)
(d) Did injury occur in or about home, on farm, in industrial place, in public place? (Specify type of place)
While at work? (e) Means of injury ____
23. Signature E. J. McCausland Coroner
Address Glenolden, Pa. Date signed 6/24/48

6/28

1827 of 3732

Phillp McCall Smith

Pennsylvania, U.S., D
Certificates, 1906-19

Detail Related Sou

Select all text

Source Citation

Pennsylvania Historic and Museu Commission; Harrisburg, PA; *Penn (State). Death Certificates, 1906-19* Certificate Number Range: *051151*

Description

Certificate Number Range: *051151*

Source Information

Ancestry.com. *Pennsylvania, U.S., Certificates, 1906-1968* [database Lehi, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Oper Inc., 2014.
Original data:Pennsylvania (State certificates, 1906–1968. Series 11. cartons). Records of the Pennsylv Department of Health, Record Gro Pennsylvania Historical and Muse Commission, Harrisburg, Pennsyl

Source Description

Pennsylvania's Department of He started keeping statewide death r on January 1, 1906. Now you can them in this collection.

Those are the basics of using Ancestry Library Edition in your library! If you have any questions, feel free to contact me:

Jamie Claxton

Information Literacy Librarian, Chester County Library

610-344-5955

jclaxton@ccls.org

You can also book an appointment with me to work on your genealogy questions here: https://ccls.libcal.com/appointments/jamieclaxton