http://rootsweb.com

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Message Boards: Rootweb
http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/

- Rootweb began as a grassroots genealogical project; it has been taken over by Ancestry, which is maintaining Rootweb as an independent site (sort of).
- Rootweb resources are free. Registration (free) provides more functions.

RW Mailing Lists:
Posts go to subscribed readers as emails; Synched with RW message boards; board posts go out to equivalent mailing list but not the reverse.

Search, cont.
At the bottom of the page you can browse for boards:

U.S.--There is a board for every county in US + additional boards in a state for unique events, regions, etc.

Localities Categories
- Australia
- Canada
- United Kingdom and Ireland
- United States
- Western Europe
- > More Localities Categories

Topics Categories
- Cemeteries & Tombstones
- Genealogy S.X.Y.
- Immigration & Emigration
- Military
- Research Resources
- > More Topics Categories

Search: • Free, no registration required • Searches all posts on entire site = possibility of hundreds of hits • "John Smith" finds posts in which both words appear, not nec. together

-->Find a Board:
Surname or County

-->Surnames:
Drill down to single name B => Be => Ber--> List of names beginning with Ber
### Advantages of Registering

- Search within one board and get more targeted hits.

### Favorite Discussion Boards List

**Categories**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Posts</th>
<th>Last Post</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Surnames &gt; Gardner</td>
<td>5070</td>
<td>07 Apr 2009</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Counties &gt; Allegheny</td>
<td>25386</td>
<td>04 Apr 2009</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Counties &gt; Kings</td>
<td>17257</td>
<td>06 Apr 2009</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Boards**

- To reply to a post you must be registered (free).
- Poster may keep identity and email address private.
- To initiate contact with someone with a private email, you must be an Ancestry subscriber.
- Responders may provide family details, may even be co-descendants.
- Some board participants own resources such as family genealogies or records books for a locality and offer to do look-ups.
Benefits of Message Boards
Message Board participants may be researching your family; they may be related; they may have become experts on the family or locale through years of research and out of genealogical kindness participate to help out other researchers. Some participants own resources such as rare family genealogies or expensive books containing transcriptions of graves, church records, or other material and offer to do free look-ups.

Rootsweb advanced search
Note: Rootsweb posts are searched by Google and other search engines
To find out if a person you are researching is mentioned in RW boards other than his/her surname board or relevant location board, do a Google search for the person using "first last name" format

GenForum, another message board site
http://genforum.genealogy.com
Similar to Rootsweb message boards
- Free
- Registration option: Post, reply
- Keep list of your frequently visited boards "My Gen Forum"

Message Board dialogues sometimes spread over years
- Posters can elect to have an email alert sent when there is a response to their query, but if they've changed their email they won't get the message.
- Posters from the past may not check back for months, years, or ever. But sometimes others will pick up the discussion.