10 Ways to Use Wolfram|Alpha for Genealogy

Genealogy Bargain$

GENEALOGY BARGAINS

Wolfram|Alpha (https://wolframalpha.com) is a free computational database which presents a variety of solutions for genealogy. No, you won't find any records at Wolfram|Alpha, but you can find the 23 different nicknames for Elizabeth or the price of eggs in 1903. Click on the links in each tip below to see the calculation over at Wolfram|Alpha.

WolframAlpha

☐ **Family Relationships:** See a visual depiction through a family tree and detailed relationship properties. Enter "father's mother's sister's son" to see how you are related to your first cousin once removed.

☐ **Names:** Names, both given and surnames, hold great meaning and Wolfram|Alpha can provide information such as name variations, nicknames and alternative names, name popularity and distribution and more. Ex: Elizabeth.

☐ **Determine Missing Letters in a Word:** Having trouble deciphering a handwritten word? Type the beginning letter, the number of missing letters, and then the ending letter to see a list of results based on the number of total letters in the word. Ex: b_____k.

☐ **Soundex:** Knowing the Soundex equivalents for names and words can still come in handy for genealogists. Type "soundex" plus a surname to see the Soundex code. Ex: Soundex Henneberg.

☐ **Sounds Like:** To find similar-sounding words, type "sounds like" plus a word such as "Rubin" in the search field. This can be helpful to find census records where the enumerator may have "misheard" a name. Ex: Sounds like Ralph.

☐ **Dates:** A vital record may not state the day of the week when an event occurred. Type a date to determine the day of the week, historical events on that date, and more. Ex: Easter 1910.

☐ **Back Engineer a Date:** To calculate a date using year, month and day information – frequently found on tombstones – the syntax is as follows: February 2, 1901 -74 years -3 months -2 days.

☐ **Calculate a Date Based on a Previous Day of the Week:** Often a newspaper will mention "Mr. Smith passed away last Sunday . . ." To calculate the date, use the newspaper publication date and enter "Sunday before July 13, 1869".

☐ **Current Value of Historical Money:** To determine what $100 in 1910 would be worth today, enter $100 (1910 dollars). To determine what $100 today would be in 1910, enter 100 current dollars in 1910.

☐ **Historical Weather:** Want to know if it snowed on December 5, 1960 where your ancestors lived? Enter weather Chicago December 1960.

Check out the **Wolphram|Alpha Resource List** on the back page!

Wolfram|Alpha Resource List

- **Wolfram|Alpha**
  https://www.wolframalpha.com

- **Wolfram|Alpha – Take the Tour**
  https://www.wolframalpha.com/tour/

- **Wolfram|Alpha Blog**
  https://blog.wolfram.com/

- **Wolfram|Alpha Example By Topic**
  https://www.wolframalpha.com/examples/

- **Wolfram|Alpha Resources and Tools**
  https://www.wolframalpha.com/resources/

- **Wolfram|Alpha Toolbars and Add-Ons**
  https://www.wolframalpha.com/downloads.html

- **Wolfram|Alpha Community Forum**
  https://community.wolfram.com/

- **Wolfram|Alpha for Mobile**
  https://products.wolframalpha.com/mobile/

- **Wolfram|Alpha Genealogy & History Research Assistant**
  https://products.wolframalpha.com/personalapps/genealogyhistory.html

Wolfram|Alpha Easter Eggs

An "easter egg" as it relates to digital media, represents a special feature or "inside joke" when the developers of the media want to have fun. Click the search criteria below to treat yourself to some surprising answers from Wolfram|Alpha.

- Am I pretty?
- Are you a PC (or Mac)?
- How do I win the lottery?
- How long is a piece of string?
- How many roads must a man walk down before you can call him a man?
- How much wood could a woodchuck chuck?
- If a tree falls in a forest and no one is around to hear it, does it make a sound?
- What is your favorite color?
- What is your name?
- What's the answer to life?
- What's the speed of an unladen swallow?
- When is Judgment Day?
- Where am I?
- Where did I put my keys?
- Where in the world is Carmen Sandiego?
- Who lives in a pineapple under the sea?
- Why did the chicken cross the road?