

Bell

Surname Summary Report

Prepared by *Genealogy Today*
25/Oct/2006

Overview

The surname BELL is listed as the 58th most common based on statistics from the 1990 census published by the U.S. Census Bureau. For such a common surname, we recommend purchasing one of our premium reports that allow you to narrow the search scope by geography (state/county) and time (year range).

Surname Research Report

<http://reports.genealogytoday.com/surname-report.html>

Ancestor Scout Report

<http://reports.genealogytoday.com/ancestor-report.html>

This report will highlight resources that offer the greatest number of search results for the BELL surname. Revisions to this report will be made periodically as additional online information is discovered that may be relevant.

You are permitted to share this report with anyone, but we ask you not to post it on any web site, nor violate any mailing list rules that do not permit commercial postings.

Published Family Trees

The three most common methods of publishing family trees include: online using GEDcom publishing tools, online in a shared environment using one of several services, and the most traditional being in print.

We always recommend checking for existing research as a first step. Many researchers "reinvent the wheel" when someone may already have tackled certain branches of your tree. As with any compiled genealogy, we remind you of the importance to verify the sources used before assimilating any of the information into your own project.

Here are the results for the BELL surname.

Service / Product	Results
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WorldConnect Project	399968
Ancestry World Tree	399947
OneWorldTree (Ancestry.com)	131102
Family & Local Histories (Ancestry.com)	64557
OneGreatFamily.com	29850
Online Family Trees (gendex.txt)	659
Self-Published Family Histories	9

Self-Published Family Histories

<http://gentod.com/click.mv?RG=1>

Family & Local Histories (Ancestry.com)

<http://gentod.com/click.mv?RG=2>

Ancestry World Tree

<http://gentod.com/click.mv?RG=3>

OneWorldTree (Ancestry.com)

<http://gentod.com/click.mv?RG=4>

OneGreatFamily.com

<http://gentod.com/click.mv?RG=5>

WorldConnect Project

<http://gentod.com/click.mv?RG=6>

Online Family Trees (gendex.txt)

<http://gentod.com/click.mv?RG=89>

Census Records

The U.S. Federal Census is one of the most popular resources for genealogists. Access to the actual census provides information about family members residing in the same home, and even lets you see who the neighbors were.

Currently, the census data for the years 1790 to 1930 have been made public. Census data is released 72 years after it is taken for privacy reasons. The 1940 census data will be available in 2012.

The results below were obtained from Ancestry.com, the only company currently offering indexed, searchable access to all census years.

Here are the results for the BELL surname.

Census Year	Results
1930 US Federal Census	132076
1920 US Federal Census	121689
1910 US Federal Census	112673
1900 US Federal Census	90747
1880 US Federal Census	66643
1870 US Federal Census	52172
1860 US Federal Census	33368
1850 US Federal Census	25008
1840 US Federal Census	3394
1830 US Federal Census	2320
1820 US Federal Census	1554
1810 US Federal Census	1020
1800 US Federal Census	613
1790 US Federal Census	462
1890 US Federal Census Fragment	6

U.S. Federal Census (Ancestry.com)
<http://gentod.com/click.mv?RG=8>

FamilySearch.org (1880 Census only)
<http://gentod.com/click.mv?RG=25>

USGenWeb Online Census Images (limited years and locations)
<http://gentod.com/click.mv?RG=24>

U.S. Census Images on CD-ROM
<http://gentod.com/click.mv?RG=26>

Some alternatives to the waiting for the 1940 census include city directories, funeral cards, WW2 war ration books and school yearbooks. Genealogy Today currently has several active projects specific to this time period.

Here are the results for the BELL surname.

Database (1940-1949)	Results
Funeral Cards Online	12

Funeral Cards Online

<http://gentod.com/click.mv?RG=27>

Index of War Ration Books

<http://gentod.com/click.mv?RG=28>

Birth Records

Birth certificates are the result of relatively modern legislated vital registration. They provide the essential elements researchers look for in a birth record: names of the child, father, and mother (sometimes with maiden name), place and date of birth.

Baptismal records can be also useful for ancestors whose denominations practiced infant baptism as the religious ceremony took place shortly after the child's birth, usually within a few weeks.

Aside from original certificates, these vital records appear in indexes published by individual states, annual town reports, and other research collections.

Here are the results for the BELL surname.

Database	Results
Birth, Marriage, & Death Records (Ancestry.com)	990207
Wisconsin Vital Records and Name Index	1009
West Virginia Vital Records	324
Early Birth Records (RootsWeb)	250
Dalby Database (Southern Minnesota)	3

Birth, Marriage, & Death Records (Ancestry.com)

<http://gentod.com/click.mv?RG=29>

Wisconsin Vital Records and Name Index

<http://gentod.com/click.mv?RG=30>

Dalby Database (Southern Minnesota)

<http://gentod.com/click.mv?RG=31>

Early Birth Records (RootsWeb)
<http://gentod.com/click.mv?RG=32>

Town Reports Online
<http://gentod.com/click.mv?RG=33>

West Virginia Vital Records
<http://gentod.com/click.mv?RG=49>

Education

Grade school, high school, and college records can be great information sources that many researchers forget to investigate. School catalogues, yearbooks and even old souvenir cards offer details about our ancestors' youth.

Here are the results for the BELL surname.

Database	Results
U.S. School Yearbooks (Ancestry.com)	983
School Alumni Lists (RootsWeb)	322
Family Tree Connection	203
Michigan Yearbooks - Students By Surname	65
OldYearbooks.com	34
Genealogy Finds	11

U.S. School Yearbooks (Ancestry.com)
<http://gentod.com/click.mv?RG=34>

Family Tree Connection
<http://gentod.com/click.mv?RG=35>

School Alumni Lists (RootsWeb)
<http://gentod.com/click.mv?RG=36>

Genealogy Finds
<http://gentod.com/click.mv?RG=37>

Michigan Yearbooks - Students By Surname
<http://gentod.com/click.mv?RG=38>

OldYearbooks.com
<http://gentod.com/click.mv?RG=39>

Church Membership

Some of the best vital records of our ancestors' lives can be found in church records. This is most significant during the age before state, county, and local governments began complying with legislation to issue birth and death certificates.

In addition to vital records, the membership records of churches can serve as a guide to the migration of your ancestors within this country. Regardless of their circumstances, most would register with the church upon arriving in a new town as they often travelled to find better opportunities.

Here are the results for the BELL surname.

Database	Results
Family Tree Connection	87
Church Records (RootsWeb)	31

Family Tree Connection

<http://gentod.com/click.mv?RG=41>

Dalby Database (Southern Minnesota)

<http://gentod.com/click.mv?RG=43>

Church Records (RootsWeb)

<http://gentod.com/click.mv?RG=44>

Marriage Records

Marriage records often contain detailed information including places of birth and current residence, occupations, parents' names and birth places, and previous marriages of the bride and groom. Even something as basic as the couple's signatures can be invaluable in deciphering other handwritten documents.

Years ago, when a couple planned to marry, the prospective groom would take out a bond from the clerk with the county court of the bride's residence. These marriage bonds can be helpful in determining the approximate date of the marriage whenever marriage books and/or church records cannot be located.

Here are the results for the BELL surname.

Database	Results
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Birth, Marriage, & Death Records (Ancestry.com)	990207
Colorado Marriages Search	1470
Wisconsin Vital Records and Name Index	1344
Marriage Records (RootsWeb)	1098
West Virginia Vital Records	178
Marriage Records Database (GeneaLinks)	82

Birth, Marriage, & Death Records (Ancestry.com)
<http://gentod.com/click.mv?RG=45>

Marriage Records (RootsWeb)
<http://gentod.com/click.mv?RG=46>

Colorado Marriages Search
<http://gentod.com/click.mv?RG=47>

West Virginia Vital Records
<http://gentod.com/click.mv?RG=48>

Marriage Records Database (GeneaLinks)
<http://gentod.com/click.mv?RG=51>

Wisconsin Vital Records and Name Index
<http://gentod.com/click.mv?RG=53>

Town Reports Online
<http://gentod.com/click.mv?RG=54>

Immigration Data

Immigration records (including passenger lists and naturalizations) are also among the most valued records for family historians. These documents provide clues to an important piece in the story of our ancestors' arrival in this country.

Here are the results for the BELL surname.

Database	Results
Immigration Records (Ancestry.com)	27292
Missouri Naturalization Records (1816-1955)	132
Naturalization Records (RootsWeb)	36

Passenger Lists (RootsWeb)	18
Passenger Lists Online	16

Immigration Records (Ancestry.com)
<http://gentod.com/click.mv?RG=55>

Naturalization Records (RootsWeb)
<http://gentod.com/click.mv?RG=56>

Missouri Naturalization Records (1816-1955)
<http://gentod.com/click.mv?RG=58>

Passenger Lists Online
<http://gentod.com/click.mv?RG=59>

Passenger Lists (RootsWeb)
<http://gentod.com/click.mv?RG=88>

Military Service

Just about every male on your family tree would have been a candidate for military service. During the American Revolution, men aged 16 to 60 were considered fit for service, and in certain periods of our history, enlistment was mandatory.

The 1930 census documents an individual's military service, stating whether the person was a veteran of the U.S. military or naval forces, and even listing wars or expeditions that they may have served in.

Frequently overlooked resources include Civil War Pension records and draft registration cards.

Here are the results for the BELL surname.

Database	Results
Military Records (Ancestry.com)	66804
Military Rosters (RootsWeb)	170
Military Roots Project	138

Military Records (Ancestry.com)
<http://gentod.com/click.mv?RG=60>

Military Rosters (RootsWeb)
<http://gentod.com/click.mv?RG=61>

Military Roots Project
<http://gentod.com/click.mv?RG=62>

Death Records

Death records can be located in death indexes, funeral notices, obituaries in newspapers, cemetery records and even remembrance (or mass) cards. In addition, the Social Security Death index is a fantastic resource for more recent deaths.

Sources of death information that researchers don't often consider are the publications of clubs and societies. Many of these organizations kept careful records of their members' passings, even when they have relocated to other towns or states.

Here are the results for the BELL surname.

Database	Results
Birth, Marriage, & Death Records (Ancestry.com)	990207
Social Security Death Index (RootsWeb)	87791
California Death Records (RootsWeb)	10098
Texas Death Records (RootsWeb)	6310
Minnesota Death Certificates Index	1490
Missouri Death Records	1358
West Virginia Vital Records	905
Death Records (RootsWeb)	594
Obituary Depot	456
Wisconsin Vital Records and Name Index	412
Obituaries (RootsWeb)	415
Maine Death Records (RootsWeb)	364
Dalby Database (Southern Minnesota)	19

Birth, Marriage, & Death Records (Ancestry.com)
<http://gentod.com/click.mv?RG=63>

Social Security Death Index (RootsWeb)
<http://gentod.com/click.mv?RG=64>

Death Records (RootsWeb)
<http://gentod.com/click.mv?RG=65>

Wisconsin Vital Records and Name Index
<http://gentod.com/click.mv?RG=66>

Dalby Database (Southern Minnesota)
<http://gentod.com/click.mv?RG=67>

Town Reports Online
<http://gentod.com/click.mv?RG=68>

West Virginia Vital Records
<http://gentod.com/click.mv?RG=69>

Family Tree Connection
<http://gentod.com/click.mv?RG=70>

Minnesota Death Certificates Index
<http://gentod.com/click.mv?RG=73>

Texas Death Records (RootsWeb)
<http://gentod.com/click.mv?RG=74>

California Death Records (RootsWeb)
<http://gentod.com/click.mv?RG=75>

Maine Death Records (RootsWeb)
<http://gentod.com/click.mv?RG=76>

Missouri Death Records
<http://gentod.com/click.mv?RG=78>

Obituary Depot
<http://gentod.com/click.mv?RG=86>

Obituaries (RootsWeb)
<http://gentod.com/click.mv?RG=87>

Miscellaneous Resources

There are countless type of records that provide additional details about the lives of our ancestors, including their occupations, involvement in clubs and societies, donations they may have made, the types of vehicles they owned,

personal disasters recorded by insurance claims, and even photographs from different stages of their lives.

Local city directories, old telephone books, Masonic lodge rosters, insurance company annual reports, state vehicle registration documents, mining reports, employment service records and government employment registers are just of the few resources that the **Family Tree Connection** project is actively transcribing.

Here are the results for the BELL surname.

Database	Results
Directory & Member Lists (Ancestry.com)	1185073
Family Tree Connection	786
Native American Records (RootsWeb)	687
Family Old Photos	247
Dead Fred's Genealogy Photo Archive	57
AncientFaces	54
Tax and Voter Lists (RootsWeb)	18

Directory & Member Lists (Ancestry.com)
<http://gentod.com/click.mv?RG=85>

Family Tree Connection
<http://gentod.com/click.mv?RG=84>

Dead Fred's Genealogy Photo Archive
<http://gentod.com/click.mv?RG=79>

AncientFaces
<http://gentod.com/click.mv?RG=80>

Family Old Photos
<http://gentod.com/click.mv?RG=81>

Native American Records (RootsWeb)
<http://gentod.com/click.mv?RG=82>

Tax and Voter Lists (RootsWeb)
<http://gentod.com/click.mv?RG=83>

Next Steps

While this report may seem comprehensive, there are many other sites that offer transcribed information and vital records. We will continue to add more sites to the list of resources used to produce these reports, and will send you updates periodically.

If you are having difficulty with any aspect of your genealogy, you may want to consider consulting a professional researcher. Genealogy Today has been a partner of The ProGenealogists Group for several years, providing our visitors with a trusted resource to turn to whenever they run into a "brick wall".

The ProGenealogists Group conducts genealogy research at the Family History Library in Salt Lake City and in archives across the world, and can also help with detailed and thorough record searches. Feel free to contact them for a FREE Estimate.

The ProGenealogists Group
<http://gentod.com/click.mv?RG=90>

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