

Guide to Online Resources about Laidmans

Family History Websites

Among the more than half-dozen major genealogical websites, four are of particular note:

- **FamilySearch.org** – This website’s coverage of the Laidmans whose ancestors settled in Cleveland was extensively expanded in 2021 by Kirk Hallahan, grandson of Jack Laidman, to provide a no-cost, easy-access online family tree for those interested in exploring their family heritage. As with all the major family history sites, entries are limited to *deceased* family members in order to protect the personal privacy of living individuals. However, the names and city of residence of their living children are included at the top of the Person page for many deceased individuals. About 350 family-related photos and documents are included from various sources. See Laidman Family History Series No.5 (below) for details about accessing the site. *Family members are encouraged to join in this collaborative effort by adding/correcting information, uploading photos, posting documents, sharing stories, and recording audio remembrances.*
- **Ancestry.com** – Searching names on this widely advertised, for-profit website leads users to various family trees created by subscribers. For example, family patriarch Robert (Ruben) Laidman (1875-1936) appears on 13 trees. Ancestry.com is an attractive option for families who know that Ancestry users already have created genealogies of the Laidman and/or non-Laidman branches of their family. To explore the site, take advantage of Ancestry’s free-trial offer. Various 20th century exhibits found only on Ancestry related to the Laidmans have been downloaded and reposted on Family Search -- in the Memories sections of the entries for various deceased family members.
- **MyHeritage.com** – The Laidman Genealogy on this site was created by Lynn Laidman Palin, the daughter of Robert Laidman (1912-2000), to compile the family research she had been working on sporadically since 1979. Go to: <https://www.myheritage.com/site-family-tree-53017942/laidman-genealogy> to read Lynn’s introduction and scan her family tree (pedigree). Lynn began the site when access was free; most names and details remain private and are not available to the public. Full access now requires premium membership on MyHeritage.com and Lynn’s (readily available) approval to access her work. On the Welcome page, Lynn explains that she has not worked on the site in recent years. However, several family members have continued to post information about their own families.
- **JewishGen.org** – This is the best source for information about family members in Lithuania. For details, see Leidmans in Lithuania, No. 6 in the Laidman Family History Series (see below). Provides access to abstracted records compiled by the Jewish-Lithuania Special Interest Group, LitvakSIG. The site is free but encourages contributions. Registration required.

Facebook

- **Descendants of Ruben and Rose Laidman** – This private Facebook group includes 55+ members of the extended Laidman family from Cleveland. The descendants of Benjamin,

Albert, Morris, and Robert Laidman have been most active in posting items since the site began in 2009. Occasional posts include photos and historical tidbits about early family members (Search the group's name or go to: [Facebook.com/groups/54236889609](https://www.facebook.com/groups/54236889609))

- **Friending Family Members** – Many family members have friended cousins, aunts, and uncles on Facebook. In turn, the social networking site routinely sends suggestions to users about potential new friends based on mutual acquaintances. Examining the profiles of suggested friends with family connections is a good way to learn about their background and interests. However, discretion is advised in sending friend requests. (Many Facebook users want to limit friends to people they actually know.)

LinkedIn

About two dozen Laidman family members participate in this social networking site for working professionals. Their profiles provide interesting information about their background and experience, but posts (if any) are typically limited to work and professional topics.

Google

Google and other search engines allow looking for specific individuals who are believed to be relatives. However, as is the case with Facebook and LinkedIn, there are hundreds of Laidmans who are not part of the Laidman family that originally settled in Cleveland, including many in eastern Canada and the U.K. Google is most useful for searching relatively recent mentions of family members in the news, on websites, in obituaries, or within books, directories, and U.S. patents that have been digitized within the past two decades by Google or other organizations (such as [HathiTrust.org](https://www.hathiitrust.org/)). Various for-profit websites compile and sell information culled from public records and allow searching for individuals by name and by location. However, their information is often limited (unless paying a fee) and their content is often outdated. *As with all online information, only rely on sources deemed knowledgeable and trustworthy – preferably original material or verifiable public or private records.*

Laidman One-Name Research (Europe)

Nicholas Michael of Donnelove, Switzerland, has catalogued the names of more than 1,000 Europeans with the name Laidman but with no effort to make familial connections, in keeping with the focus of this research site. Go to <https://one-name.org> and enter “Laidman” into the search box at the top, Michael summarizes his research in the Introduction page. He separately explained in a 2021 letter to Kirk Hallahan, “I don’t have much experience researching USA resources. I do know that there is a Laidman family or families in Ohio of Jewish origin, but which are apparently not connected to my Laidmans, who all appear to have been Christian. Anecdotally, when my Jewish father married my Laidman mother, his father (my grandfather) observed that with a name like that no one would ever guessed he had married out of the faith...!” Note: Several members of the Laidmans originating in Cleveland *are* included.

Laidman Family History Series -- <https://hallahan.info/families>

This site is the online repository for Kirk Hallahan’s genealogical research about three families. His Laidman Family History Series includes about 10 documents, including a short history of the Laidmans’ early years in Cleveland; snippets of notable, important and interesting facts; an extended history about the Laidman’s in Lithuania (with two appendices); historical narratives about several families; this guide to online resources; and a quick-start guide for finding Laidmans on the FamilySearch.org website. Additional numbers are expected to be added. .