

FINDING FAMILY TREASURES ON eBAY

By Judy Janes

eBay is the world's largest online auction community. There are about 182 million registered users around the world. In 2019, there were 1.3 billion listings. In 2018 80% of all items sold were new. About 28% of all sellers are located in the U. S.

You do not need to be a member in order to search for items on eBay, but you will need to register in order to bid or purchase on the site. You will need to setup a PayPal account to pay for any purchases. Those new to eBay can view a helpful tutorial: <https://www.thebalancesmb.com/how-to-buy-on-ebay-1140200> . Also use the "Help & Contact" link at the top of the eBay home page to learn more about how to bid, save searches, and how to pay for purchases.

What family-related treasures might you find on eBay? Look for special items that can breathe life into your family history.

Family bibles

Photos

Postcards

School yearbooks

Military artifacts, and ephemera

Old letters, diaries, and documents

Family history books

Published church records

County and town histories

Maps and atlases

Books – Have they been digitized and put online? Always check prices at used book websites such as www.bookfinder.com or <https://www.abebooks.com/> BEFORE bidding or buying.

I. The key to your success is determined by the way you formulate each search.

A. Search for surnames, places, or phrases.

1. Place a "check" in the "Include in Description" box.

2. To narrow search results, use quotation marks around your search phrase such as "New York documents" or "Icabod Crane."

3. Eliminate items by using the "Advanced Search" option to exclude words from your search.

B. Search for "old family bibles" and "antique family bibles." Use multiple terms.

II. Use the "Save this Search" option to receive daily e-mail alerts.

III. Search eBay's foreign websites as well. All you need is the two-letter country domain extension such as "ebay.fr" which represents France. You can view a list of country domain extension codes at: <https://www.worldstandards.eu/other/tlds/> .

Happy hunting!