



*Teaching
Genealogists AI™*
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Getting Started – Account Setup Checklist

Puerto Rican Genealogy Group | <https://puertoricangenealogy.org>

Choose Your Platform

Before creating an account, decide which platform is right for you:

Platform	Cost	Best For
FamilySearch.org	Free	Puerto Rican birth, marriage, and death records (4.5M+ images)
Ancestry.com	Paid subscription	Family tree hosting, automated record suggestions, U.S. census records

Pro tip: Many researchers use both. Create a free FamilySearch account first, then evaluate whether an Ancestry subscription adds value for your research goals.

Option A – Free FamilySearch Account

Required to view record images. Takes about 2 minutes.

Before you start, have ready:

Your email address

A password you will remember

Create your account:

Go to <https://www.familysearch.org>

Click **Sign In**, then **Create Account**

Enter your name, email address, and a password

Check your email and click the verification link

Sign back in – you now have full access

Confirm access to Puerto Rico records:

Go to **Search > Records**

In the Place field, type your family's *pueblo* name

Confirm you can open and view a record image (not just a name index)

Option B – Ancestry.com Paid Subscription

Optional. Useful for family tree building and U.S. census access.

Before you subscribe:

Check whether your local public library offers free Ancestry access

◦ Many libraries provide free access on-site or remotely with a library card

- Ask your librarian or visit your library's digital resources page

If subscribing directly:

Go to <https://www.ancestry.com>

Review current membership plan options and pricing

Choose the plan that fits your research needs

Create your account and enter payment information

Set a calendar reminder before your renewal date

After Setup – Your First Search

Whether you chose FamilySearch or Ancestry, complete these steps:

Open the Puerto Rico Civil Registration collection (1885-2001)

Search for the ancestor you most want to find

Filter by the *pueblo* your family came from

Record the result in your research log – whether you find something or not

Remember: A “not found” result is still valuable. Log it and try the church records collection next.

Quick Reference – Key Collections on FamilySearch

Collection	Coverage	Direct Link
Civil Registration	1885-2001 births, marriages, deaths	https://www.familysearch.org/en/search/collection/1682798
Catholic Church Records	1645-2021 baptisms, marriages, burials	https://www.familysearch.org/en/search/collection/1807092
All Puerto Rico Records	Full collection index	https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/Puerto_Rico_Genealogy
