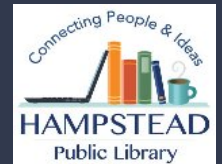


Genealogy Research Getting Started

@ Hampstead Public Library

Slides from an in-person program.



Why Genealogy?

Why are people so interested about finding out about their ancestors and their family's history? There are many reasons for this:

- To know more about the people who came before them.
- Solve mysteries left in photographs & other family memorabilia.
- Find a connection to famous historical figures.
- Leave their children with a written family history.
- To prove heritage
 - Native American tribal member
 - Daughters of the American Revolution

Where do I start?

Begin with yourself & work backwards one generation at a time:

- You
- Your siblings
- Your parents
- Your aunts & uncles
- Your grandparents

How do I get this information?

Talk talk talk....

Interview your living relatives

Talk to:

- Siblings
- Parents
- Aunts, uncles & cousins
- Grandparents

They might have information you aren't aware of.

What should you record?

- Full names
 - First, middle, last, nickname, maiden name
- Date & place of birth
- Date & place of death
- Spouses name (if applicable)
- Places the the person lived
- Also - education, occupation, hair color and other distinguishing features

Questions to ask living relatives

- What is your full name?
- Is your name significant?
- Were you named after someone in the family?
- When were you born?
- Where were you born?
- Who are your siblings?
 - Can you provide this same info for them?

More questions...

- When & where did you meet your spouse?
- When & where did you get married?
- What are your parents full given names?
- When & where were they born? Married? Occupations?

Ask for copies:

- Birth records & announcements
- Baptism records
- Wedding invitations & announcements

Additional questions:

What do you know about your grandparents?

- Ask the same questions as you asked about them.

Did you serve in the military?

- Which branch?
- Did you serve in a war?
- Which one?

Did your family travel to visit family when you were a child?

- Where did you go? Who did you visit?

Do you remember your childhood home?

- Where was it, do you remember the address? Do you have any photographs of the house?

Documents

- Birth certificates
- Death certificates
- Marriage licenses
- Funeral cards
- Wedding invitations
- Birth announcements
- Newspaper clippings
- Military records
- Photos & scrapbooks
- Bibles
- Diaries & journals

Family Records & Memories

Photos

- Names & places written on back of photos was common. May have faded.
- Look for famous landmarks in the photos.
- Do places look familiar?
- What type of photo is it? Can give you clues to what era it was taken.

Postcards & letters

- Notice the postmarks and return addresses.

Family Records & Memories

Scrapbooks

- awards, family celebrations, invitations

Bibles

Diaries

Journals

Financial ledgers

Address books

Baby books

Christmas cards

..... Anything with names, dates, or addresses.

Official records

Those kept by municipalities and churches

- Considered more reliable than others

Vital records (birth, death, marriage) are considered to be one of the most accurate of all genealogical records

- But they aren't always complete
- Accuracy depends on original author

Varies by state what is required and when they started keeping them.

Vital records offices

Birth

Death

Marriage Records

Vital records are birth, marriage, and death records kept by the government.

The records provide names, dates, places, and relationships—information that uniquely identifies a person.

Each state has their own office of Vital Records & each began keeping records at different times.

Census records

United States

- 1790 -1st U.S. census.
- Law restricts access for a period of 72 years to protect the privacy of living individuals.
 - 1940 census is most recent
 - 1950 will be available in 2022
- 1900 census includes month and year for each person. All other years only provides age.

Census records

- Early census records only required head of household, not each individual. Might only include age/gender of others.
- Requirements changed in 1850 to include every member of the household.
- Look not just at U.S. Census records. Some states have their own.

Census records

Things to keep in mind

Things to keep in mind:

- Spelling of names isn't always accurate
- Americanizing of names
- Dates aren't always accurate
- Town boundaries maybe have changed

Immigration records

Pre-1820

- Little formal record keeping, but some passenger manifests can be found in books.

1820-1890

- Requirement enacted to track arrival of any passengers from foreign ports.
- Manifest will have: name of the ship, name of captain, ports embarkation, port of arrival, name, age, gender, occupation, nationality of each person.

Immigration records

1891-1957 Standardized forms added:

- Marital status
- Last residence
- Final destination in the US
- Information on previous stays in the US
- Name, address and relationship to relatives if joining them

To search these lists you'll need to know the port. NY most popular, but there were others along the east coast - Boston, Philly, Baltimore & Tampa. Plus New Orleans, LA.

Military Records

Types of Military Records to look for:

- Draft records
- Service records
- Pension documents
- Casualty lists
- Unit histories
- Military bounty land grants

Anything with information about service.

Military Records

Where to find military records?

National Archives and Records Administration (Washington D.C.)

- Revolutionary War - 1912

National Military Personnel Records Center (St. Louis)

- World War I - Present

Also, regional archives & state libraries

Individual military records are not online.

Land, Probate, and Tax Records

Land records

- Exist from the very first permanent settlement in the U.S.
- Places individuals in a specific place at a certain time

Probate records

- Will verify death dates and identify family relationships

Tax Records

- Indicates location
- Confirms dates

Newspapers

Newspapers

- Birth, baptisms, and christenings announcements
- Funeral notices
- Obituaries
- Wedding and anniversary announcements
- Real estate transfers
- Police news

Also, articles in which your ancestor is mentioned

- Academics
- Society news
- Community social scene

Cemeteries

Gravestone may provide:

- Date of birth
- Date of death
- Maiden name
- Spouses name
- Parents names

Additionally, look for:

- Family monument
- Other markers in the the plot - Civil War stars, military, DAR, or fraternal organizations markers

How can the Library help?



Subscription databases the library pays for so you don't have to.

Some overlap in content - both contain the U.S. census from 1790 to 1940.
Searching interface is now the same.

Ancestry Library Edition

Search for:

- Census records
- Birth, marriage and death records
- Immigration records
- Church & school records
- Military records
- Court, land and probate records
- Many, many others....

Also look at:

- Knowledge base - Research Aids
- Download charts & forms
- Message board

Ancestry Library Edition

Records from:

United States, Canada, England/Wales/Scotland, Ireland, Germany, & Italy.

Also: Albania, Belgium, Croatia, Finland, Ghana, Indonesia, Lithuania, Mexico, Moldova, Peru, Philippines, South Africa, Venezuela, and many more.

Many of these are not as complete as U.S. but you might find something unexpected.

Ancestry Records

 Stars and Stripes Newspaper, Europe, Mediterranean, and North Africa Editions, 1942-1964	Military	146,860
 Iceland, Select Baptisms, 1730-1905 (in Icelandic)	Birth, Marriage & Death	590,613
 Upper Brittany, France Marriages, 1536-1907 (in French)	Birth, Marriage & Death	2,156,835
 Detroit Border Crossings and Passenger and Crew Lists, 1905-1963	Immigration & Travel	1,734,123
 New Zealand, Sheep Returns, Owners and Officers, 1879-1889	Wills, Probates, Land, Tax & Criminal	30,301

Heritage Quest Online

Search for:

- Census
- Social Security Death Index
- Family history books
- Revolutionary war records
- Wills & probate records
- City directories
- Freedman's bank records
- Cemetery records
- And more

Searching & Results:

- Choose a category to search
- Results from just that database

Family Search

Family Search - www.familysearch.org

- Non-profit service by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints.
- Free, but you must create an account.
- Good for US and European genealogy records.
- Shared Tree - information about your ancestors might have been entered already by another user.
- Step-by-step guides & help for how to search.

Exeter – LDS Family History Center

Exeter New Hampshire Family History Center

- Open to the public
- 14 databases we don't subscribe to available for use
 - Find My Past
 - Fold3
 - Geneanet
 - Kinpoint
 - My Heritage
- Staff research specialists

Additional Free Websites

Cyndi's List

www.cyndislist.com

- Created in 1996.
- 200 categories with 300,000+ links.
- Includes links for free and subscription based sites.

US GenWeb

www.usgenweb.com/

- Volunteer based.
- Offers family information not available on Ancestry.
- Each state has a separate page and admins so information available varies.

Additional Free Websites

Find a Grave

www.findagrave.com

- Search 477,173 cemeteries in 239 different countries.

U.S. National Archives and Records Administration

www.archives.gov

Ellis Island

www.ellisisland.org

- NY Immigration beginning in 1892

Castle Gardens

www.castlegardens.org

- NY Immigration from 1820-1892

Even more

Subscription sites:

- Ancestry.com
- MyHeritage
- Find My Past

Many others. Know what you're paying for before you sign up.

Roots Tech

- Annual conference in Utah.
- Videos for sessions available online.
- Current year and 1 year back.

Is everyone ready to start researching their family tree?

Thank you!



Hampstead Public Library

March 2018