

HANDOUT FOR GETTING STARTED ON YOUR FAMILY HISTORY

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These are some additional sites and info not shown in the slides that may be helpful. Most of them are not sites to find actual records, but provide info about a particular topic or where to find records.

Genealogical Proof Standard [GPS]

There are many books and articles written about the GPS. These 2 websites/articles should be enough to get you started.

The 5 elements to the "GPS" [Genealogical Proof Standard]
https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Genealogical_Proof_Standard

On the Findmypast website is a short article which briefly tells you what to do in each of the 5 elements of the GPS. It's important you know what the steps are - they will HELP you.

Note - although FindMyPast is a fee based site, the article can be viewed for FREE at <https://blog.findmypast.co.uk/do-you-bide-by-the-genealogical-proof-standard-1908545294.html>

Local Genealogy Societies You Can Join

Mount Vernon Genealogical Society [MVGS] at www.mvgenealogy.org
[located in Alexandria VA near Fort Hunt]

Fairfax Genealogical Society [FxGS] at www.fxgs.org
[located in Fairfax Co, VA]

Afro-American Historical and Genealogical Society at <https://www.aahgs.org/>
[located in Washington, DC]

Jewish Genealogical Society of Greater Washington at <https://jgsgw.org/>
[their library is located in Rockville, MD]

Maryland Genealogical Society at <https://mdgensoc.org/index.php>
[located in Baltimore, MD]

Montgomery County Genealogical Society at <http://montgomeryhistory.org/genealogy/>
[meets in Rockville MD]

Prince George's County Genealogical Society Inc. at <https://pgcgs.org/>
[their library is located in Bowie MD]

Guidance on talking to the family

Short, but good, article on Dummies.com
<https://www.dummies.com/relationships/genealogy/how-to-get-genealogy-information-from-your-relatives/>

How to Approach Living Relatives for Genealogical Information on ancestral findings.com
<https://ancestralfindings.com/how-to-approach-living-relatives-for-genealogical-information/>

Sites on organizing your materials - paper or digital

The FamilySearch wiki has multiple articles on organizing your materials

Ancestry.com has quick videos on their training page

On Cyndi's List under Organizing your Research:
<https://www.cyndislist.com/organizing/general/>

a 14 page article about organizing your materials
http://www.pittsburgcogenealogical.org/C%20Educ/14%20The%20Organized%20Genealogist/family_tree_tips_23_secrets_organize_your_genealogy.pdf

a 6 page article on organizing your materials
<https://www.boiseartsandhistory.org/media/3259/how-to-organize-your-family-history-pdf.pdf>

Types of Info you want for each person

You want to try and find as much info about each person as you can. Start with the dates and places and family members, but eventually you'll want to branch out to learn as much as you can about them as a person, and about their lives in general. This will not all happen at once.

Ideally, to start, you're going to look for:

- name
- birthdate and birthplace
- parents' names
- siblings' names
- children's names
- spouse's name [maiden name for women]

marriage date and place, divorce date and place if applicable
death date and place, tombstone or burial info,

But as you go along you'll also want to look for:

- places the person lived
- occupations and industries they worked in
- military service
- land ownership
- types of taxes paid
- did they belong to any fraternal or social groups
- their religion and any religious activities
- schools they attended
- were they involved in any town or county activities - running the property bounds, serve as a council member, JP, or sheriff, etc.
- court cases they were involved in, were a witness in, provided bonds, etc
- did they serve on a jury
- did they have a guardian, or were they a guardian
- immigration dates and location
- naturalization dates and location
- did they have a will, or can you find their inventory and probate case
- and the list goes on and on

Note - the lists below are not complete, but included to give you a general idea of what's out there and what to look for.

Where will you find the above types of info?

Vital records such as church baptismal, marriage or burial registers; State birth, marriage or death certificates - for names, dates of events, location of events, family members, etc.

Censuses - federal, state, sometimes local - for names, ages, locations, family members, occupations, and other info depending on the year of the census

City directories - [not exactly a record, but...] usually for a city or town, may include more than one small location; rural/agricultural directories were also done. They include alphabetical listings of all the residents by name and residence, including renters and boarders. Many also include occupations, with a business address; and spouses. Often they include other useful information about the city/town such as lists of businesses, government officials, churches and ministers/priests, fraternal and social organizations, etc. There may even be maps.

Immigration and emigration records such as ships' passenger lists, border crossing records, passport applications - for names, family members, where they came from and when, etc.

Naturalization and citizenship records such as declarations of intent, petitions for naturalization, naturalization certificates - for original names in the old country, when they arrived, citizenship status, location, etc.

Land and property records such as warrants, deeds, plots and surveys, sales, mortgages, homestead records and applications, etc. - for what type of land they owned, how much land, how much it cost, where it was, who they bought it from and sold it to, etc.

Probate records such as wills, bonds, administration records, inventories, receipts, distributions, estate settlements, etc. - for when they died, names of family members, in-laws, friends or associates, what they possessed, how much it was valued at, who received it, etc.

Taxation records such as local, state, federal personal property records, real estate records, income records, poll records, etc. - for names, inferred ages, family members, number of servants or slaves, where they lived, what they had, etc.

Military records such as enlistment records, service records, pension records, and bounty land records [sometimes], awards, etc - for names, ages, locations, where they served, what they did, etc. Pension records can provide all manner of personal info, including marriage info, spouse names, service info, medical info, friends and associates' names, etc. Don't forget to look for widow pensions as well.

Court records as as Minute Books, Dockets, Order Books, Jury Lists, etc. In these types of documents you'll find bankruptcy, guardianship, criminal and civil cases, divorce cases [in the early days], etc.

Remember, there are different levels of courts - Federal, State, and local - and different types of courts in each level. Remember to keep the time period and location in mind as types of courts and their responsibilities changed over time.

Who Creates Those Types of Records?

Federal government creates among other things:

censuses

tax records

passports

some land records

post office records - lists of postmasters and employees, route establishment, etc.

State and Local Governments create among other things:

censuses
vital records - marriage certificates and licenses, birth and death certificates
tax records
road order books [in the colonial days before there were public works departments]
public health records
business licenses
property deeds
militia records during colonial times
poor house records

Courts create among other things:

minute books, order books, lists of jury members, Justice of the Peace appointments,
naturalization records, naturalization certificates, Coroner's reports, etc.
land records
court case records
probate records - copies of wills, inventories, estate settlements, guardianships, etc.
divorce records - early on
apprenticeship records
indenture records

Military creates among other things:

individual service records
individual pension records, and widows pensions
muster rolls and payment records
awards and medal citations
unit histories
military discharge certificates

Religious organizations/ churches create among other things:

registers of baptisms, marriages, burials
vestry minutes and records
communion lists, tithe lists
lists of members, ministers/priests
school records, if the church had a school
care of the poor, until that function was assumed by state/local groups

Funeral home and cemetery records include among other things:

tombstones
records of burials
plot sales/ownership records
funeral home info - costs of coffins, urns, who paid, obituaries, etc.

Businesses/Guilds create among other things:

company newsletters and reports
payroll and employee info

rules and regulations, fees
store owners' daily log books, receipt books, lists of accounts
mortgages, deeds, etc.
insurance policies, payment records, etc.

Clubs, and social and fraternal organizations create among other things:

meeting minutes, reports
membership lists and records

Educational Institutions create among other things:

yearbooks
student enrollment records
teacher employment records

Hospitals/Doctors/Medical Facilities create among other things:

patient medical records
employment records
patient lists [in old days]

Info sometimes held by Families

'Family Bible' pages listing births, marriages, and deaths

[Note - always check to see when the Bible was printed - was it before the dates that have been entered, or after? Also, are the names and dates entered in different inks, different writing, etc. indicating they were done over time, as the events occurred? Dates entered in a Bible that was printed after the events occurred indicate they probably weren't done at the time of the event and therefore should be verified by other means.]

Physical artifacts /memorabilia - quilts or other linens, tools, clothing, samovars, dishes, jewelry, sabers, guns, steamship tickets, etc.

Photographs, drawings, portrait paintings, silhouettes

Diaries, journals, scrapbooks, etc

Correspondence, greeting cards, postcards,

Home 'movies,' oral recordings

Insurance policies and payment books, savings account books,

Naturalization certificates, applications, etc.

Work related papers - pay statements, awards, job applications, etc.

and more recently - driver's licenses, credit cards, library cards, bank cards, Social Security cards, and all the odd little things that tell us more about a person or their life.

Some of the Places to Look for Those Types of Records/Info

They can be on paper - either unpublished or published; on microfilm/fiche/CD; in electronic databases, indexes, etc; or in digitized images online.

Federal, State, local governments, and Agencies - check archives and libraries.

Courts - all types and levels - check the courthouse, archives, town clerks, etc.

Military services and related organizations - Military Personnel Center in St Louis, MO; older info may be online; individual service organization repositories, etc.

Organizations and Societies - check their offices, libraries, etc.

Churches and religious institutions - check their archives; their, and other, libraries; manuscript collections and historical societies, etc.

Societies come in all types: ethnic, fraternal, social, business, genealogical, historical, etc. - look in the specific groups, then look in historical societies, libraries, etc.

Funeral homes and Cemetery offices - check them first, then historical societies and local libraries.

Hospitals, Schools, and commercial entities - check with them first, then the organizational entities above them - local governments, corporations, etc.

Published sources: Books, Journals, Magazines, Newsletters, City Directories, Newspapers, Maps, etc. can be in paper or online almost anywhere. Look in online card catalogs, bibliographies, etc.

Unpublished manuscript collections and other special collections - can be found in many places such as libraries, universities, historical and genealogical societies, and sometimes even online. Look in card catalogs, library finding aids, bibliographies, online card catalogs, etc.

Family Members - the ones you know well, and maybe even reach out to cousins you've found through DNA. Also, sources like JustAJoy.com, Ebay, and other online sales sites may have photos, artifacts, and even documents that once belonged to your family.

CENSUS INFORMATION

Info about what each Federal census asked for can be found at either the US Census Bureau at https://www.census.gov/history/www/genealogy/decennial_census_records/census_records_2.html under the tab 'Through the Decades,'

OR

at https://www.census.gov/history/www/through_the_decades/index_of_questions/ Some of the questions you see on this website may be a bit different from what's below but most of them are the same.

Often when looking at original images of censuses prior to 1850, you won't see any column headings so it will be handy to either bookmark a site that has them or have some other reference - a pre-printed sheet available from various sources, etc.

Also, not all online transcriptions, especially of the earlier censuses, include all the additional categories of info beyond the number of free whites, free Blacks, and slaves. For the additional info, you need to look at the original images. Very occasionally census takers added additional marginal comments with even more info, so always check.

Keep in mind - until the censuses started showing relationships of the people to the head of the household in 1880, don't just assume they're all family members. They could be in-laws, nieces, uncles, farm hands, apprentices, etc. And if you see a male

head of household say around age 54 and the next person listed is a female around age 24, keep in mind that it may be his wife, or it may be his daughter. So don't assume.

Many states also took State censuses - often these were done between the Federal ones, so they can help fill in gaps left by the Federal ones. You can find these through google searches, on ancestry, etc. There were also some censuses done when "states" were still a territory.

1790 census asked, for free whites and free Blacks. [Note: Censuses for free Blacks will have blanks for the first several categories, and then numbers in the categories for "other free persons." Sometimes, if the free Black is the head of the household the census taker might write in somewhere that they were "Negro" or "Colored" but not always.]

Name of the head of household [usually male, but if a widow, etc. could be female]

Number of men >16 years old

Number of men <16 years old

Total number of women

Total number of all other free persons

Total number of slaves

Total number of dwellings and miscellaneous

All the censuses between 1800-1840 showed for free whites and free Blacks, the name of the head of the household and the numbers of men and women in each of several age ranges.

For the censuses below, I've bolded some of the "new" or different questions for that year that may give you additional genealogical clues.

1800 and 1810 censuses

Expanded the number of age ranges to pick from

Number of all other persons except Indians not taxed

Number of slaves

1820 census, in addition to sex and age ranges, also asked for

Males 16-18 years old [this was to help determine men eligible for the militia]

Numbers and age ranges for free Blacks, male and female

Number of foreigners not naturalized

Number of persons engaged in agriculture

Number of persons in commerce

Number of persons in manufacturing

Number of free 'colored' men and women in various age ranges

Number of all other persons

Number of Slaves

1830 census, didn't ask for the males 16-18 age or those engaged in agriculture, commerce, or manufacturing, but did add:

Expanded the number of age ranges you could choose
Numbers of slaves, men and women, in various age ranges
Numbers of free 'colored', men and women, in various age ranges
Number of white persons deaf and dumb in various age ranges
Number of white persons blind

Number of white foreigners not naturalized

Number of slaves and 'colored' persons deaf and dumb in various age ranges
Number of slaves and 'colored' persons blind

1840 census did not repeat the questions about number of persons blind, deaf or dumb or not naturalized, but did add:

Number of persons employed in mining
Number of persons employed in agriculture
Number of persons employed in commerce
number of persons employed in manufacturing and trades

number of persons employed in ocean navigation

number of persons employed in canal, lake, river navigation

number of persons employed in learned professions and engineers

Revolutionary or military service pensioner's name

Revolutionary or military service pensioner's age

NOTE - the transcriptions on ancestry don't include this info most of the time, you **HAVE** to look at the original images too.

1850 census was a big change.

It assigned a dwelling and family number to each family.

All the people in the household were listed by name, not just the head

age and sex are still there, as well as it asked for each person:

their race

profession, occupation, or trade of each male over 15

value of real estate owned

place of birth

were they married within the year?

were they in school within the year?

for persons over 20, were they unable to read and write

whether the person was deaf and dumb, blind, insane, idiot, pauper or convict

NOTE - It did not ask for the marital status of each person.

1860 census had pretty much the same questions as the 1850 census.

1850 and 1860 Slave Schedules

For those 2 censuses, there were separate "slave schedules" which showed, by slave holder, a listing of their slaves only by sex, age, and color. There were no names shown.

The 1850 and 1860 schedules also asked for Number of fugitives from the state, the number manumitted, the number deaf and dumb, blind, insane or idiotic, and the number of slave houses. Both years are on ancestry.com.

1870 - added questions about location parents were born the month, if the person was born within the year **the month, if the couple were married within the year** was the male eligible to vote or not eligible

1880 Census added questions such as: months unemployed that year [remember the 1870's had a depression] was the person currently ill? specify. whether they were blind, deaf and dumb, idiotic, insane or disabled **the birthplace of everyone, and each persons parents' birthplaces**

1890 Census - unfortunately this was destroyed. However, there was also a separate Veterans Schedule of the Civil War and some of those survive.

1900 Census [includes a lot of immigration related info]
the only time the censuses had asked for a birth month and year
asked for number of years married
how many children had the woman had and how many were living
asked if they rented or owned home, and whether it was free or mortgaged
the year of immigration
the number of years in the US
were they a naturalized citizen
did they live on a farm or in a house, the number on the farm schedule if applicable
could they speak English

1910 Census - asked many of the same type of questions as the 1900 census, but also included
was the person out of work on 15 April 1910
number of weeks out of work in 1909
was the person a Civil War veteran

1920 Census - added info related to the language spoken and whether someone was naturalized and when.

1930 Census - similar questions to 1920, although not identical.

1940 Census - because we were coming out of the Depression, there were lots of questions relating to employment, unemployment, where you lived in 1935, did the work for things like the WPA, CCC, etc; amount of wages, etc. In addition, some folks were asked additional questions that appear at the bottom of the filmed pages.

The 1950 census should be published sometime around April 2022 hopefully. There's a 72 year delay from the date of the census to its release to the public.

There were also other types of censuses such as:

Agricultural censuses [done in 1820, 1850-1880] that listed the crops, livestock, buildings, etc for each farm. The 1820 is only on microfilm. Usually you can find the 1850-1880 ones online either at Ancestry or Familysearch.

Mortality censuses that showed who died in the year prior to the census year [this may be the ONLY place you can find death info for a person; unfortunately they only did them for 1850-1880, in 1885 in some areas, and in 1900 only in Minnesota. The 1850-1880 ones are online at either Ancestry.com or Familysearch.org.

In 1880 there was a separate schedule for those shown on the main census as blind, deaf, etc. A few of these are on microfilm at Familysearch.com or the National Archives, but most are in the applicable states - often in either the State Archives or State Library, but also in other locations.

In 1880, 1900 and 1910 there were separate censuses for Native Americans IF they didn't pay taxes in 1880, but it seems they're only on microfilm right now.

There are also a few miscellaneous censuses for military veterans and seaman, but not many, and they're not easy to find.

Sources for research logs

Do a web search for "genealogy research log", the results will be huge. Pick a couple that you think you might actually use, or develop something for yourself.

Remember - the important thing is to keep track of what you've already looked for, and at, and that you have included the citations/info on where you found stuff - and that includes url's for info found on the web. You have too much research to do to waste time re-doing something you've already done.

Sources for pedigree charts, timelines, etc.

National Archives, Resources for Genealogists

<https://www.archives.gov/research/genealogy>

Site has a whole collection of free forms that you can download.

Ancestry.com, FamilySearch.org, and a host of other sites also have lots and lots of downloadable forms. If you've decided to use a commercial genealogy software, a lot of the info that usually goes on forms is automated within those systems. And again, you can always design your own for what works for you. Also, many Family History Centers have printed forms you can have.

Sites to do online research other than the biggies like FamilySearch, Ancestry, MyHeritage, etc.

Almost every genealogy site you use will have links to lots of other related sites, some better than others. In addition, Google/web searching is your friend. Search a topic and more sites than you can image will usually appear. Don't forget www.cyndislist.com

In addition, on the MVGS website at www.mvsgenealogy.org, under the "Research Center" tab and then under the subheading 'Genealogy Web Resources', there are additional links to general genealogy sites, immigration resources, African-American genealogy, and links to genealogy and records sites for France and Germany, Hungary and Poland, and Italy. Depending on when your ancestors came to the US, you may need the international sites sooner rather than later. You don't have to be an MVGS member to access this information.

Also on the MVGS website, on the "Forums" page, under the "Training and Education Forum" there are listings for Links to International Genealogy Resources, Online Scandinavian Resources, and Online Resources for UK Genealogy. You don't have to be an MVGS member to access these pages/links.

Archives, Libraries, Genealogical and Historical Societies

Keep in mind that every State will have a State Archives and/or State Library. They may be in the same location. You can find their websites online through general web searches. In addition to searchable catalogs, research guides to their collections, and other helpful material, they'll often have digitized collections you can view from home. And in the US, viewing and downloading online is free. That's not always the case when using other countries' archives.

Archive Grid at <https://researchworks.oclc.org/archivegrid/>

This is a very quick way to locate archives and special collections. When you click on a map pin, or select a location, it will tell you about their collections, and give you contact info.

Do web searches to locate State, county, and local genealogical and historical societies. Most places have them, most of them have websites, and many also have online collections, especially stuff that is very locally focused. Check historical societies not only for historical info, but because sometimes they end up with genealogical materials if the local genealogical society doesn't have its own repository, or someone just preferred to give their stuff to them.

Most foreign countries also have National Archives and/or Libraries, as well as Regional or Provincial or State, versions. Also, most countries have genealogy and historical societies at all levels as well. These can all be found either through web searches, or on FamilySearch, Cyndi's List, in the documents on the MVGS Training Forum, etc.

Just a few Federal/National archives are:

US National Archives <https://www.archives.gov/>

The British National Archives at <https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/>

The National Digital Archive of Poland <https://nac.gov.pl/>

The National Archival System of Italy http://san.beniculturali.it/web/san/home;jsessionid=B95CA15A23C4FD144EDB6D5B8AF6DC35.sanapp01_portal

State archives in Italy - This page has a map where you can click on the dots to get to the individual State archives or you can run your cursor down the tiny print on the left and it will enlarge to show you the name of the archive and you can click on that: <http://www.guidageneralearchivistato.beniculturali.it/> [NOTE - most foreign State archive pages are much friendlier.]

Danish National Archives <https://www.sa.dk/en/>

German Federal Archives <https://www.bundesarchiv.de/EN/Navigation/Home/home.html>

Local Physical Places For Research And/Or Help

Family History Centers. For help on doing your family history, accessing [ancestry.com](https://www.ancestry.com) for free, and other genealogy databases.

These are run by the Church of Latter Day Saints, aka the Mormon Church, but you do NOT have to be a Mormon to use them and they will NOT try to get you to join the church while you're there. The staff are volunteers. The centers are located all over the US and the rest of the world. All the centers have varying amounts of microfilm. They also have published books, journals and other periodicals, computers and film reader/copiers. For specifics about their individual holdings, check their websites. You used to be able to borrow microfilm from Salt Lake City but that's no longer the case, although not every online site has corrected that information.

Washington DC Family History Center [it's actually in Kensington MD just off the Beltway near Silver Spring]
10,000 Stoneybrook Dr, Kensington, MD 20895
301-587-0042

McLean Family History Center [in western Falls Church a little east of Tyson's Corner]
2034 Great Falls St, Falls Church, VA 22043

703-532-9019
[they have a LOT of UK resources]

Annandale Family History Center [just off Gallows Rd in Annandale]
3900 Howard St, Annandale, VA 22003
703-256-1668

Mount Vernon Virginia Family History Center
6219 Villa St, Alexandria, VA 22310-1725
703-313-7918
[is at the corner of Franconia Rd and Van Dorn St and is relatively new]

Here's a **link to find ALL the LDS' US and worldwide locations:**
<https://www.familysearch.org/locations/#>

Local Public Libraries with good genealogy resources

Hanley Regional Library, especially the Stewart Bell Jr Archives
<https://www.handleyregional.org/>
100 West Piccadilly St
Winchester, VA 22601
540-662-9041

Thomas Balch Library in Leesburg
<https://www.leesburgva.gov/departments/thomas-balch-library>
208 West Market St, Leesburg, VA 20176
703-737-7195
[is very active in genealogy]

Ruth E Lloyd Information Center [RELIC] in Manassas
<https://www.pwcgov.org/government/dept/library/Pages/RELIC.aspx>
located in the Central Library at
8601 Mathis Ave, Manassas, VA [backs to Rte 28 Centreville Rd]
[it's the genealogy center for the Manassas Public Library]

Virginia Room at the City of Fairfax Regional Library
<https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/virginia-room>
10360 North St, Fairfax, VA 22030-2514
703-293-6227
[has a great collection of info related to Virginia, but also many other states as well; also has Fairfax County specific info]

Alexandria Library Local History/Special Collections
717 Queen St, Alexandria, VA 22314 [parking is terrible]
703-746-1706
<https://alexlibraryva.org/lhsc>

[has both Alexandria specific info, and genealogy info]

DC Public Library Genealogy Resources at <https://www.dclibrary.org/node/3293>

[page shows what resources are available, and they have some good ones. Unfortunately I could never figure out at which location they were physically located and I didn't call them.

Available in most public libraries for free:

Heritage Quest - for family and local histories and genealogy info

Ancestry.com Library Edition

Fold 3 [for military records, but has other info too]

JSTOR - provides access to more than 12 million academic journal articles, books, and primary sources in 75 disciplines. You can also access JSTOR publications in a limited way from home for free, or you can also pay for a subscription.

and many other databases - check your library's website to see what else they have.

Other Physical Repositories

The Library of Congress in DC

Thomas Jefferson Building - the main, old building, with the green domed roof.

10 First St, SE, Washington, DC 20540

visitor info 202-707-8000

The main web site is at www.loc.gov

Web page that shows the maps and floor plans and related info for the 3 buildings is at:

<https://www.loc.gov/visit/maps-and-floor-plans/>

The easiest way to get there is by subway; get off at the Capitol South stop and walk UP the street toward the Capitol - until you get to Independence Ave, you'll be walking alongside the Library of Congress' Madison Building on the right side of the street.

The Jefferson Building is where the genealogy reading room is, as well as genealogy microfilm.

Maps, newspapers, periodicals, etc., as well as where you get a researcher card, are in the Madison Building on Independence Ave between 1st and 2nd Streets.

In various parts of the Library, there are published sources, microfilm, newspapers, magazines, maps, photographs, a law library reading room, etc. Before you go, check out their website.

For the Local History and Genealogy webpage, go to: <https://www.loc.gov/rr/genealogy/>. It's all FREE.

Their **online Chronicling America [newspapers]** website is awesome! It's at: <https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/> . While their focus is on the United States, they have some limited international information.

The DAR Library is located in DC in Constitution Hall at 1776 D St NW.
website at <https://www.dar.org/library/about-library>

There's very little on-street parking and you pay for it by credit card. Easiest way is to take the subway to either Farragut West or Farragut North stops and walk down either 18th or 19th Streets to D St [about 6 blocks of varying sizes].

You don't have to be a member of the DAR to use the library and it's free to use. Before you go, check out the main page of their website at <https://www.dar.org/library/about-library>.

They have a huge collection of published family histories; as well as relevant-to-genealogy local, county, and state books; newspaper transcripts; published indexes of records; etc. They also have information about the Revolutionary War patriots; unpublished transcriptions of cemeteries, records, etc. done by their members around the country; as well as microfilmed records.

Mount Vernon Genealogical Society [MVGS] Research Center

www.mvgenealogy.org

Hollin Hall Senior Center

1500 Shenandoah Rd, Alexandria, VA 22308 [off Ft Hunt Rd]

MVGS' research center is located in room 214.

703-768-4101 [answering machine only; is in the Research Center]

In the Research Center, there are books, periodicals, some CDs, miscellaneous surname files, as well as 6 computers where you can access a variety of genealogy related software programs for free, such as Newspapers.com, Fold3, etc. MVGS is also a FamilySearch Affiliate Library which means you can access familysearch.org files that are usually blocked from home viewing.

Other non-local major genealogical repositories that are/may be useful are:

The Family History Library

35 N West Temple, Salt Lake City, UT 84150

801-240-6996

<https://www.familysearch.org/family-history-library/welcome-to-the-family-history-library>

Midwest Genealogy Center

3440 S. Lee's Summit Rd, Independence, MO 64055

816-252-7228

<https://www.mymcpl.org/locations/midwest-genealogy-center>

Godfrey Memorial Library

134 Newfield St., Middletown, CT 06457

860-346-4375

<https://www.godfrey.org/scholar/godfrey-home.html>

Allen County Public Library

900 Library Plaza, Fort Wayne, IN 46802

260-421-1200

Main Library Page is at <https://www.acpl.lib.in.us/>

click on the Research Tab, then select Genealogy from the drop down menu.

They sponsor the Periodical Source Index [PERSI], now physically located on FindMyPast. This is an index to articles in genealogy periodicals and journals.

Genealogy Blogs

Dick Eastman newsletter at www.eogn.com - comes out every day, subscribe for free or pay for additional content. Even the experts use this blog.

Dear Myrtle genealogy blog - <https://blog.dearmyrtle.com/>

Run by a professional genealogist who used to live in this area. A well-respected site.

The Genealogy Guys Blog at <http://blog.genealogyguys.com/>

The hosts are 2 well known genealogists. Click on any of the links on the right under "Tags" to get to information.

Sites for Legal Stuff

Black's Law Dictionary

http://nfpcar.org/Archive/Blacks_Law/ [this version is free!]

An old version but good for doing genealogy research because of the timeframes we're looking at. A great source to learn about terminology used in old legal documents, deeds, etc.

The Legal Genealogist blog with Judy Russell - a lawyer

<https://www.legalgenealogist.com/>

She addresses all sorts of legal related topics such as copyright, admiralty law, the Constitution, statutes, dower laws, and many, many more. What's nice is while she's very accurate, she makes it enjoyable to read and easy to understand.

Sites for Tax Information

Family History Daily article “Tax Records Could Offer Surprisingly Rich Details About Your Ancestors”

<https://familyhistorydaily.com/genealogy-help-and-how-to/tax-records-genealogy/>

This is a good, general article about taxes and why they can be useful to genealogists. It also has some helpful links to other info.

FYI - Taxes could be on real property [land]; personal property [e.g., livestock, carriages, watches, or slaves]. Sometimes even closets, windows, or how much street front your house took up were taxed. Quitrents - a tax sometimes paid in colonial times. Poll, aka tithable, aka head tax was owed for adult males. Often a young man will show up on the tax lists paying just a poll tax, but not yet any taxes on property.

Lee County Library System article “Research Value of Using Tax Records”

<https://www.libraryaware.com/1159/NewsletterIssues/ViewIssue/5ed25a4b-75b2-4914-93ba-851224226856?postId=7ba6938e-5e33-4cb8-a386-b93d695eea55>

This is a good general article about taxes, with some brief info on how to find them.

Maryland Genealogical Society page on 18th Century Maryland Tax Lists

<https://mdgensoc.org/cpage.php?pt=129>

Describes what kinds of taxes were collected, formats for the records, and links to actual tax records [yes, this is a just a sample to give you an idea of what's out there]

Sites for Migration Routes - These are important because you'll need to know whether and how your ancestors travelled from place to place

Family Search's US Migration Trails and Roads

[https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/US Migration Trails and Roads](https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/US_Migration_Trails_and_Roads)

A good chart with dates, starting and ending locations, and links for each one to more info.

National Park Service, National Trails System, National Historic Trails

<https://www.nps.gov/subjects/nationaltrailssystem/national-historic-trails.htm>

Has links and info about major trails/migration routes used in the US.

Piedmont Trails - Genealogy and History in NC and Beyond, “Migration Trail History 17th, 18th, & 19th Centuries”

<https://piedmonttrails.com/migration-trail-history-18th-19th-centuries/>

Has basic info about each of the main trails used in these time periods. Some have links to more information, and at the end of the article are links to additional roads and trails.

Sites for Immigration

Very early in colonial history, immigrants arrived wherever ships pulled into port along the coast wherever houses had piers, etc. Later, people came into Baltimore, Philadelphia, Boston, and New Orleans, as well as New York City.

There are many books and indexes as well as online info for immigration to those cities, including databases on Ancestry.com, etc.

Immigrants to the West Coast between 1910 and 1940 often came in at Angel Island in San Francisco Bay, so remember to look there too.

Website is at <https://www.aiisf.org/>

Castle Garden online info [Castle Garden pre-dated Ellis Island]

www.castlegarden.org

operated from 3 Aug 1855 to 18 Apr 1890

run by New York, not the Federal Government

The Barge Office

located on the southeast tip of Manhattan in Battery Park

operated from 19 Apr 1890 - 31 Dec 1891 and 15 June 1897 to 16 Dec 1900 when Ellis had a fire.

Ellis Island [for immigration into NY

<https://www.libertyellisfoundation.org/passenger>

Ellis Island, run by the Federal Government, operated from from 1892 -1897 when there was a fire, and then again from 1900 until 1924, although it was open til 1954. After 1924, immigrants were processed in 35 different district stations around the US and Canada.

The **National Archives** also has immigration and naturalization records. Start at their Immigrant records page at <https://www.archives.gov/research/immigration>

Sites for Passenger Ships, etc.

Olive Tree Genealogy

<http://www.olivetreegenealogy.com/index.shtml>

It's not a very pretty site, but it has some great info related to early passenger ships coming in to the US, etc.

National Archives at New York City at <https://www.archives.gov/nyc/finding-aids/passenger-lists.html>.

In addition the Archives has some specific sets of passenger lists that can be found at:

<https://aad.archives.gov/aad/series-list.jsp?cat=GP44>. These include Russians to the US 1834-1897; Passengers arriving in New York during the Irish famine 1846-1851; Immigration of Germans 1850-1897; and Immigration of Italians 1855-1900.

The Ships List

<http://www.theshipslist.com/>

Immigrant Ships Transcribers Guild

<https://immigrantships.net/>

Sites for Newspapers

smalltownpapers.com is a free newspaper website.

Library of Virginia at www.lva.virginia.gov/

LVA also has plenty of West VA info since it was part of VA until the Civil War. Contains over 2500 newspaper titles.

Library of Congress' Chronicling America website

Has papers from all over the US from all time periods and it's FREE.

Genealogy Bank - <https://www.genealogybank.com/newspapers/sourcelist>

for free, you can see a list of states, click on a state and it will give you a list of what that state has, links to it, and the years of coverage. Beyond that I think you have to pay to see individual editions. For example, Connecticut had 248 papers, some going back to the 1700's.

Newspaper Archive - <https://newspaperarchive.com/us/>

For free, gives you a search page, you can select by state, city, etc. If you search for a list of papers in a certain city/town, it will give you a list as links of what papers they have and show you the years covered. If you click on a paper, a page comes up with a sampling of articles, information about the paper, and another search area. For free, you can view search results and see mini images of the pages, but to see a full size image of the newspaper page, you have to pay for it.

Newspapers.com - <https://www.newspapers.com/papers/>

Main page has links to individual papers and tells you the year and how many pages are digitized. There's also a map of the US color coded to show coverage of their newspapers, etc. While to see everything, you need to pay, there's a lot you can see for free.

Old Fulton History Postcards website

<https://fultonhistory.com/>

DON'T let the name fool you - they have lots more than postcards, including over 50 million newspaper pages from the US and Canada. Note - search results show up only

on the far left column, after the search box. Make sure you click on the Help and FAQ link - this is where you can get a link to see what newspapers are on the site, as well as other info about the site. Everything is FREE but you will need to create a login and password to see the list of newspapers. To see everything else you don't need to log in.

The Ancestor Hunt - newspaper research links page - free

<https://www.theancestorhunt.com/newspaper-research-links.html#.Wsr1gdPwaCd>

Has links to all 50 states, links to Special US Collections, links to papers in 11 provinces in Canada, some World newspapers - Australia, Europe, and the Caribbean, and much more. Also has pages with how-to info, general sources, etc. Note - it sometimes links you to free newspapers and other times to locations that are pay sites.

Sites for Maps, Geographical boundary changes, etc.

Map of US at <https://www.mapofus.org/>

From this site you can get to interactive maps for all the states. Individual maps will show when counties were formed, by year. Each page has other info as well.

NY Public Library blog on Using Maps for Genealogy Research, Part 1: Finding Records

<https://www.nypl.org/blog/2018/12/21/using-maps-genealogy-research-part-1-finding-records>

This is a great overview of how to use maps in genealogy. [FYI - The NYPL has lots of great genealogy resources and how-to's you should check out]

Library of Congress Map Collection web page

<https://www.loc.gov/collections/panoramic-maps/about-this-collection/>

Heart of the Family

<https://www.thefamilyheart.com/maps-for-genealogy-research/>

Has links to 10 great, major map sites - including the Library of Congress and the Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps [especially helpful if your ancestors lived in town, and not on a farm].

Osher Map Library of the Univ of Southern Maine

<https://oshermaps.org/>

Great if you have ancestors in the Maine area, or want to see some 19th and 20th road maps and some antique international maps. Mostly included to show you that often universities and other organizations have collections that will be useful to you.

Sites for 1753 Calendar Change

Time and date.com article on Gregorian Calendar Reform

<https://www.timeanddate.com/calendar/julian-gregorian-switch.html>

Ancestor Search article

<http://www.searchforancestors.com/utility/gregorian.html>

also has a list by country of when the new calendar was adopted

Connecticut State Library Guide about the calendar change

<https://libguides.ctstatelibrary.org/hg/colonialresearch/calendar>

Tombstone Birth Date Calculators

OVS-Genealogy has an **online calculator** at:

http://ovs-genealogy.com/tools/free_birthdate_calculator_calculates_birth_day.shtml

[GenealogyBuff.com](http://www.genealogybuff.com) has an **online calculator** at:

<https://www.genealogybuff.com/birthcalc.htm>

Calendar Conversion Sites

stevemorse.org has an **online calculator** at: <https://stevemorse.org/jcal/julian.html>

CalendarHome.com at <https://calendarhome.com/calculate/convert-a-date>

Has Julian/Gregorian conversions, but also many others, including the French Republican Calendar

Cousin Relationship Charts - there are LOTS of these. The trick is to find one that makes sense to you and save it.

Family Tree Relationship Chart at <http://www.genealogyintime.com/downloads/Family%20Tree%20Relationship%20Chart.pdf>

FamilySearch.org has a **chart** [not downloadable] and explanations of cousins, etc.
<https://www.familysearch.org/blog/en/cousin-chart/>

NGS has a **downloadable chart** at:

<https://www.ngsgenealogy.org/wp-content/uploads/Getting-Started/NGS-Family-Relationship-Chart-FINAL.pdf>

Irish Genealogy Toolkit has a **downloadable chart** at:

<https://www.irish-genealogy-toolkit.com/support-files/family-relationship-chart.pdf>

Sites related to DNA

FamilySearch, Ancestry, and most of the pay genealogy sites have extensive info on DNA. Below are some additional free sites that may be useful.

International Society of Genetic Genealogy Wiki

[https://isogg.org/wiki/Beginners' guides to genetic genealogy](https://isogg.org/wiki/Beginners'_guides_to_genetic_genealogy)

Lots of links to additional info and resources.

New York Genealogical and Biographical Society

<https://www.newyorkfamilyhistory.org/blog/resources-get-you-started-genetic-genealogy>

This page has some helpful links to other basic resources.

Genetic Genealogy Standards

<https://www.geneticgenealogystandards.com/>

This is sort of like the Genealogical Proof Standard but specifically for DNA related info.

a google or web search will show you many more sites.

Sites for Free Online Books

These are great sources for older county histories, published genealogy records, etc.

Hathi Trust

<https://www.hathitrust.org/>

Google Books [has genealogy related journals too]

www.books.google.com

Project Gutenberg

<https://www.gutenberg.org>

Internet Archive [and Wayback Machine for older websites]

<https://archive.org/>

Sites for Military Records

National Personnel Records Center at <https://www.archives.gov/personnel-records-center/military-personnel>

Is the repository of millions of military personnel, health, and medical records of discharged and deceased veterans of all services during the 20th century. Records prior to WWI are in Washington, DC at the National Archives.

Civil War Soldiers and Sailors Database at <https://www.nps.gov/civilwar/soldiers-and-sailors-database.htm>

Has information about both Union and Confederate soldiers and sailors. There are also links to Battles, Prisoners of War, Regimental info, etc.

Also has **US Colored Troops personnel** at <https://www.nps.gov/civilwar/search-soldiers.htm#fq%5B%5D=State%3A%22United+States+Colored+Troops%22>

[or from the Browse Soldiers link on the home page, over on the left under State, click on United States Colored Troops [227,885 soldiers are listed in the database]. Their actual service records are on FamilySearch.org.

Naval History and Heritage Command at <https://www.history.navy.mil/research/library/research-guides/military-service-records-and-unit-histories-a-guide-to-locating-sources.html>

Has brief explanations of what types of personnel records are where, links to various Service sites that may have records, etc.

International African American Museum, Center for Family History, info on U.S. Colored Troops at <https://cfh.iaamuseum.org/did-your-ancestor-serve-in-the-united-states-colored-troops-usct-heres-how-to-find-out/>

Provides info about locating ancestors in the USCT, as well as info about locating their pension files, and more. A lot of the records are on familysearch.org for free.

Revolutionary War Records can be found at the National Archives in DC, on Fold3 online, and on FamilySearch.org and Ancestry.com

Sites for Native American Records/Resources

National Indian Law Library, Tracing Native American Family Roots page at <https://narf.org/nill/resources/roots.html>.

Has links to the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the Department of the Interior, and many other sites with info on how to begin, where to find records, etc. It also has links to specific Tribal links with more info.

Native American Online-Chat has a page on Native American Genealogy at <http://www.native-american-online.org/genealogy.htm>.

Miscellaneous

www.usa.gov/genealogy - basic genealogy info home page

Digital Public Library of America

<https://dp.la/guides/the-family-research-guide-to-dpla>

Articles, photos, etc. to help put your ancestors' lives into context.

One-Step Webpages by Stephen P. Morse

<https://stevemorse.org/index.html>

This website has a wide variety of links to topics such as calendar conversions, passenger lists and immigration, Enumeration District finders for US Censuses, New York City and Chicago records of various types, latitude/longitude and geocoder conversions; translations for some foreign alphabets, etc. etc. etc.