

There is More Than Census Records and Vital Records

Shaunese Luthy • Untangle Your Roots

Untangleyourroots@gmail.com

After research is conducted in the U.S Census Records and Vitals Records, there are more records to research. The other records discussed in depth are: County Histories, Church Records, Immigration, Naturalization, Probate Records, Land Records, Military Records, Court Records.

Brief Overview of Basic Methodology:

- Pre-liminary Survey
 - Gather the information around your house
 - Ask Family Members
 - Look at previous Family Trees
- U.S Census Records
 - Create a Census Survey
- Vital Records
 - Birth: Depending on time and locality of the ancestors
 - Marriage:
 - State Level
 - County
 - Death:
 - Death Certificates depending on locality and year
 - Grave Markers
 - Obituaries/Death Notices

After finishing the Pre-liminary Survey, the U.S Census Records and the Vital Records, the following are the next steps:

County Histories:

Not only do county histories give the history of the county, but they have information about the earliest families who settled the county. County histories can be found from a google search or Family Search Wiki

Church Records:

Church Records can possibly provide information about the ancestor and the ancestor's family. Below are the different records found in Church Records:

- Marriage Bonds
- Burials
- Baptisms
- Christenings

Church Records are accessible:

- Family Search Wiki
- FamilySearch.org
- Ancestry.com
- Microfilm

City Directories

City directories provide information of neighbors, address/ location, occupation, deceased.

To access city directories:

- Ancestry.com
- FamilySearch.org
- Family Search Wiki
- Family Search Catalog

Tax Records:

If the ancestor had to pay taxes, they owned land

To access tax records:

- Ancestry.com
- FamilySearch.com
- FamilySearch Wiki

Immigration:

Immigration records give information of where the individual is from, the age, occupation and if traveling with family.

- Passenger Lists after 1891
 - Ships name, date of arrival, date left, passenger name, ages
- Philadelphia (1883)
- Canada Border Crossing Records
- Census Records

Immigration Records are accessible:

- Mormon Pioneer Overland Travel
- Mormon Migration
- Ancestry.com
- FamilySearch.org
- Ellis Island
- FamilySearch Wiki

Naturalization:

- Naturalization Records
 - 1906: only Fed Courts could naturalize
 - Wives and Children
- 1850-1922 Women took the Citizenship of their Husbands
- 1940 Registration Act: all immigrants had to register

- Social Security
- World War One Draft Registration
- Voter Registration lists
- Passport Applications

Probate Records:

Probate Records supply information about the family links, if the individual owned land, and will help build their F.A.N (Friends, Associates and Neighbors).

- Wills
- Petitions
- Court Orders
- Notices
- Inventories

To access Probate Records:

- FamilySearch Wiki
- Familysearch.org
- Ancestry.com

Land Records:

Land Records help build the ancestor's F.A.N

- Land Patents
- Deeds
- Grantor/Grantee Index
- Patents
- Dower Claims
- Head Right Bounty (During Colonial Time)
- State Land Grants
- Federal Land Records
 - Bounty Land Warrants

Land Records are accessible

- FamilySearch.Org
- FamilySearch Wiki
- Ancestry.com
- glorecords.blm.gov

Military Records:

- Service (militia, volunteer, or regular forces)
- Muster in Rolls
- Muster out Rolls
- Regimental and Company Descriptive Rolls
- Pension Records and Bounty Land Warrants
- Enlistment
- Draft Records

To access Military Records:

- FamilySearch.org
- NPS.gov
- Ancestry.com
- county websites
- google search
- Fold3.com

Court Records:

Court Records can give ample information regarding the individual and the individual's family. These records can help link family relations.

- Adoption Records
- Divorce Records
- Naturalization Records (Refer to Naturalization Section)
- Probate Records (Refer to Probate Section)
- Dockets
- Minutes
- Orders of the Court
- Judgement
- Case File
- Indexes

To access Court Records, use Family Search Wiki to find where court records are available.

Newspapers:

Newspapers are great resource to find information and clues to other records. The following are listed in Newspapers, but not limited to:

- Stories about ancestors
- Marriage notices
- Death Notices
- Obituaries
- Migration lists

Newspapers are accessible at:

- Newspapers.com
- Elephind.com
- Newspaper Archives
- Genealogy Bank
- Ancestry.com
- FamilySearch.org
- FamilySearch Wiki

If you have any more questions regarding methodology, please contact me at Untangleyourroots@gmail.com. I am also on social media at Untangle Your Roots.