

# 7. Beginning Genealogy II: Uncovering Your Roots

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**Remember that genealogy research is a lot like detective work- you are using clues to unlock a large story**

Work from the known to the unknown. Always start from you and track back each succeeding generation.

1. Start with you! Check your home and with family members to find birth certificates and other important documents.
2. Talk to your parents:
  - Where did they grow up (town, county, state?), Date and location of their marriage?
  - Birth and death dates of their parents?
  - Where are their parents and grandparents buried?
  - Do they know any older living relatives?
3. Call or visit other relatives.
  - Do they have any important documents you can copy?
  - Ask for birth, death and marriage dates and locations for grand and great-grandparents?
  - Do they know any family stories?
4. Search your home and relatives' homes for Bibles, photos, and other family treasures

## TIPS AS YOU RESEARCH

1. If you are not familiar with the area you are researching, use the FamilySearch Research Wiki to learn when an area started keeping vital records, where the libraries and historical societies are located, etc.  
GO to the Search tab at the top and click on RESEARCH WIKI.  
You can search by place or topic
2. If you want to find out what records are available by location  
GO to the Search tab and click on CATALOG- research by location.
3. Make a list of what you need to locate for each generation
4. If vital records are not available – what kind of records could you be looking for to prove dates, locations and links between generations?  
**Think outside the box-** should you look for Bible and Church records, probates/deeds?
5. Remember not everything is on the Internet. You may need to visit libraries, genealogical collections, courthouses, cemeteries, etc.

### TIME TO REVIEW NEEDED DOCUMENTS:

IF you think you would like to join a lineage society in the future, you will need birth, death, and marriage documents.

Look at your own birth certificate- does it list parent's names, and city, county and state of birth  
Each generation will need birth, death and marriage information, if applicable.

As you go back in time, you will find you need to be creative in finding records. You may need to find census, cemetery, Bible and land and probate records.

Review what you still need right now. What information is missing

### **CENSUS- U.S. Federal Census:**

- 1790-1840 only lists head of households, slash marks for those in households, no names
- 1840 may list Revolutionary War soldiers on page 2 of census
- 1850- 1870 lists people in households but no relationships
- 1850-1885 Mortality Schedules – lists persons who died 12 months before census
- 1880 On – identifies relationship to head of household
- \*\*1890 – population schedule destroyed by fire, only 6, 160 names available
- 1890 Veterans Schedule- mostly Union soldiers
- 1900/1910 – age of individual, how many years married, year of immigration, citizenship \*1900 gives month and year of birth
- 1920 – year of naturalization, only census to do so
- 1930 – asks for marital status, and if married, at what age
- 1940-
- 1950- available April 1, 2022

### **CEMETERY RESEARCH:**

1. Findagrave.com
2. Billiongraves.com

### ONLINE RESOURCES:

Look at your Family History and review your notes. Have you found where your ancestors lived or where they migrated? In what time period did they live?

### MAJOR ONLINE RESOURCES include:

[www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org)-free

[www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com)- fee based

[www.fold3.com](http://www.fold3.com) fee based

[www.americanancestors.com](http://www.americanancestors.com) New England Historical and Genealogical Society -fee based

[www.findmypast.com](http://www.findmypast.com) fee based

All the above have some free databases and may be accessible at your local public library.

The Internet has a multitude of sites. You can google and find sites based on your area of interest or location needs

States and counties may have their own genealogical websites

## IMPORTANT RESOURCES TO USE:

### LIBRARIES-

Your local libraries are so worth checking out as you search for clues.  
IF you are an Ohio resident, you can obtain a library card at any Ohio library  
and utilize those area research databases

Dayton Metropolitan Public Library <http://www.daytonmetrolibrary.org/>  
<http://www.daytonmetrolibrary.org/research> -you can research for free:

Ohio has some fantastic public libraries with super genealogical collections.  
Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County, Ohio

<https://www.cincinnati.library.org/main/genlocal.html>

Columbus Metropolitan Library <https://www.columbuslibrary.org/research/local-history-genealogy>

[Allen County Public Library, Fort Wayne, Indiana- www.acpl.lib.in.us](http://www.acpl.lib.in.us)

[One of the best genealogy collections in the county. Maintains a huge section of periodicals.](#)

[PERSI-PERiodical Source Index; Findmypast.com has a free index](#)

### HISTORICAL SOCIETIES:

Check out historical societies and libraries in the areas of your research-  
Clinton County Historical Society in Wilmington, Ohio <https://clintoncountyhistory.org>  
Ohio History Connection in Columbus <https://www.ohiohistory.org/learn/archives-library>  
Western Reserve History Society in Cleveland <https://www.wrhs.org/research/library/databases/>

### GENEALOGICAL SOCIETIES:

Look into those genealogical societies in locations where your ancestors lived  
Ohio Genealogical Society in Bellville, Ohio <https://www.ogs.org> Has an excellent research  
library and a few free databases  
Montgomery County Chapter, OGS <https://mcc-ogs.org>  
Warren County Chapter OGS, [www.wcgsOhio.org](http://www.wcgsOhio.org) -excellent library

## MORE CLUES CAN BE FOUND AT:

### FAMILY HISTORY CENTERS:

They are operated by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints and are free to all.  
You can research online and get copies of documents only available at the FHC.  
Dayton Ohio Family History Center 1500 Shiloh Springs Road Dayton  
Tues 4:30-6:30, Wed 10:00 am-1:00, 2:00-5:00, Th 12:00-3:00pm, classes & night sessions by  
appt. 937-836-6155  
Dayton Ohio East Family History Center 3060 Terry Drive Fairborn  
Thurs 10:00-8:00; Fri 10:00-4:00; Sat 10:00-2:00  
Centerville Ohio Family History Center 901 East Whipp Road Dayton  
Thurs 10:00-1:00

### **WHY WOULD YOU LIKE TO JOIN A LINEAGE SOCIETY?**

- Honor a specific ancestor
- Leave a lasting history of your family
- Ensure some of your research is preserved
- Recognize military service or specific achievement
- Meet new people, make new friends

### **WHAT KIND OF LINEAGE SOCIETY WOULD YOU LIKE TO JOIN?**

- First Families – early settlers in a state or county
- Military, Civil or Patriotic Service Patriots
- Ancestors of a certain occupation or activity
- Descendants of Royalty
- Mayflower and early ship arrivals in America

### **HOW TO FIND LINEAGE SOCIETIES:**

- Cyndi's List <http://www.cyndislist.com/societies>
- Hereditary Blue Book <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~cahtgs/society.htm/>
- The Hereditary Society Community <http://www.hereditary.us>
- Lineage Society of America.com

### **ITEMS TO CONSIDER BEFORE JOINING A LINEAGE SOCIETY:**

- Need to be patient- applications may take several weeks to several years to be approved
- Costs vary with each group
- Can you join just by applying or must you be invited to become a member?
- Do you want to become active with the group?
- Do you want to be able to attend meetings or is it OK to be far away?
- Check ancestral requirements- dates of service, year of settlement, etc.
- Check eligibility requirements:
  - Direct Descendants or collateral relatives (uncles and aunts)?
  - Only male descendants or male line? Only female applicants?
  - Biological line only?