Records, Resources, and Repositories

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Repositories

1. **Government Records**
   a. Federal records
      - **National Archives** – Resources for Genealogists:
         o https://www.archives.gov/research/genealogy
         o FamilySearch Wiki, "National Archives and Records Administration": https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/National_Archives_and_Records_Administration
         o How to Obtain Copies of National Archives records (files or microfilms): https://www.archives.gov/research/order
      - **Library of Congress**: https://www.loc.gov/research-centers/main/about-this-research-center/. FAQ: What will I discover in the library's local history and genealogy collection? https://ask.loc.gov/genealogy-local-history/faq/305220
         o Local History and Genealogy Section vertical files
         o Family and local history publications
         o Genealogy Research Guides (under Researcher Resources)
   b. **State records**
      - Department of Health [and Human Services]/Public Health/Vital Records/Vital Statistics
   c. **County** – use FamilySearch Wiki to identify the office which houses the county records
      - County clerk
      - Courthouse
      - Register of deeds

2. **Libraries and Archives**
   a. **State/Regional**
      To locate, use the FamilySearch Wiki:
      https://familysearch.org/wiki > search [State] Genealogy > Topics box (right side)/Local Research Resources "Archives & Libraries"
   b. **County**
      - Allen County [Indiana] Public Library (ACPL) Genealogy Center, https://www.acpl.lib.in.us/genealogy - produces the Periodical Source Index (PERSI)
      - St. Louis County [Missouri] Library, https://www.slcl.org/research-learn/genealogy - houses the National Genealogical Society library holdings
   c. **Local**
   d. **University/College**
   e. **Family History/Genealogical Libraries**

- FamilySearch Library (Salt Lake City, UT): https://www.familysearch.org
- New England Historic Genealogical Society, American Ancestors Research Center (Boston, MA): https://americanancestors.org
- Daughters of the American Revolution Library (Washington, D.C.): https://dar.org
- Sons of the American Revolution Library and Archives (Louisville, KY): https://sar.org

3. **Historical and Genealogical Societies**
   a. **State**
   b. **County**
   c. **Town**

   How to find societies:
   - Google search for: (Location) AND (type of society)
   - FamilySearch Wiki: by state and county levels
   - National Genealogical Society (NGS): Find a Society, Library, Museum, Archive or College Program. https://ngsgenealogy.org > Societies & Organizations

4. **Internet –**
   a. **Repositories**
   b. **Gateway websites**
   c. **Catalogs/Indexes**
      - National Union Catalog of Manuscript Collections (NUCMC): https://www.loc.gov/coll/nucmc/index.html
      - Allen County Public Library Periodical Source Index (PERSI): https://www.genealogycenter.info/persi/
   d. **Descendancy/Lineage Societies**
   e. **Family/Surname websites**

> **Finding Online Records Resource**: FamilySearch Wiki, "Online Genealogy Records by Location", https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/Online_Genealogy_Records_by_Location

Source Analysis

1. **Type of source**
   a. Original source –the first/unaltered recording of the information
   b. Derivative source – produced by copying an original record or manipulating its content (e.g. transcription, index, database)
   c. Authored source – narrative created by someone who has studied the subject

2. **Informant** - Source of the information
   a. Primary information – firsthand information provided by a participant or eyewitness of the event

    b. Secondary information – secondhand information provided by someone who did not witness the event

    c. Indeterminant – source of the information is unknown

3. **Evidence** - Relatedness of the information
   a. Direct evidence – explicitly answers the research question
   b. Indirect evidence – only provides supporting evidence of a fact by inference or through patterns of connections
   c. Negative evidence – "an inference drawn … from an absence of information or situation that should exist under given circumstances." (Elizabeth Shown Mills, Evidence Explained, 4th ed. (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 2024) 703.

Record Resources

1. **Vital Records**
   - CDC Where to Write for Vital Records: https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/w2w/index.htm
   - FamilySearch
     o Guided Research: https://familysearch.org/wiki
     o Catalog: https://www.familysearch.org/search/catalog
   - Ancestry "Birth, Marriage & Death" database: https://www.ancestry.com/search/categories/34/
   - National Archives Databases [Social Security records database]: https://aad.archives.gov/aad/index.jsp > Browse by Subjects > Social Security

2. **Church Records**: baptisms, communion, confirmation, marriage, burial, membership
   - FamilySearch Wiki, "United States Church Records": https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/United_States_Church_Records
   - FamilySearch Wiki > search for [State] Genealogy > Topics: Church Records
   - FamilySearch Catalog > search for place [County, State] > Church Records
   - Ancestry > Search > Church Records > use filters for specific location
   - Correspond with specific church

3. **Census Records/Census Substitutes** (directories, tax records, school records)
   - National Archives, "About Census Records": https://www.archives.gov/research/census/about
   - National Archives, "Nonpopulation Census Records" : https://www.archives.gov/research/census/nonpopulation#intro
   - United States Census Bureau, "Instruction for census enumerators": https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/decennial-census/technical-documentation/questionnaires.html

- FamilySearch Wiki, "United States Census": https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/United_States_Census
- FamilySearch Wiki, "State Census Records": https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/State_Census_Records
- National Archives, 1950 Census: https://1950census.archives.gov/
- Library of Congress Research Guides, "U.S. City Directories": https://guides.loc.gov/united-states-city-telephone-directories/city-directories

4. **Court Records**: wills, probate, guardianships, adoption, land records, civil/criminal court
   - FamilySearch Wiki, "United States Court Records": https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/United_States_Court_Records
   - Ancestry database search, "Wills, Probates, Land, Tax & Criminal": https://www.ancestry.com/search/categories/36/
   - Black's Law Dictionary,
     o 1st Edition (1891): https://archive.org/details/blacks-law-dictionary-1st-edition-1891
     o 2nd Edition (1910): https://archive.org/details/BlacksLaw2dEd

5. **Military Records:** draft, service records, pension, land warrants, muster rolls, pay rolls, descriptive rolls, unit histories, lineage societies (DAR/SAR)
   - National Archives, "Genealogy Research in Military Records": https://www.archives.gov/research/military/genealogy
   - National Archives, "Military Service Records at the National Archives": https://www.archives.gov/files/publications/ref-info-papers/rip109.pdf
   - National Archives, "Pre-World War I U.S. Army Pensions and Bounty Land Applications": https://www.archives.gov/research/military/army/pensions
   - FamilySearch Wiki, "United States Military Records": https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/United_States_Military_Records
   - FamilySearch Wiki, "US Military Types of Military Records": https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/US_Military_Types_of_Military_Records

6. **Travel, Migration, and Naturalization Records**: passports, emigration, passenger lists, immigration, declaration of intention (First papers), Petition for citizenship (Final papers)
   - FamilySearch Wiki, "United States Emigration and Immigration":
   - FamilySearch Wiki, "United States Naturalization and Citizenship":
   - National Archives, "Immigrant Records": https://www.archives.gov/research/immigration
   - National Archives, "Immigration Records": https://www.archives.gov/research/immigration/overview

- National Archives, "Online Naturalization Records, 1790-1995": https://www.archives.gov/files/research/naturalization/419-online-naturalization-records.pdf
- United States Citizenship and Immigration Services, "About the Genealogy Program": https://www.uscis.gov/records/genealogy

7. Publications

Books

- WorldCat : https://search.worldcat.org/
- Periodical Source Index (PERSI): https://www.genealogycenter.info/persi/
- Library Archive: https://archive.org/
- HathiTrust: https://hathitrust.org/
- FamilySearch Digital Library: https://www.familysearch.org/library/books/
- Google Books: https://books.google.com/
- Open Education Database (OEDb), "250+ Killer Digital Libraries and Archives": https://www.oedb.org/ilibrarian/250-plus-killer-digital-libraries-and-archives/

Newspapers

- Wikipedia, "List of online newspaper archives": https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:List_of_online_newspaper_archives
- Chronicling America (Library of Congress): https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/search/titles/
- Google News Archive: https://news.google.com/newspapers
- Newspaper Archive ($) (FamilySearch Center): https://newspaperarchive.com/
- Newspapers.com ($) (Ancestry): https://www.newspapers.com/
- GenealogyBank ($) (NewsBank): https://www.genealogybank.com/
- The British Newspaper Archive ($) (FSC): https://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/
- Fulton Search: Historical newspapers (New York Public Library): https://www.nypl.org/research/collections/articles-databases/fulton-search-historical-newspapers

Other places to look for digital newspaper collections:
- State or Local Historical Societies (some have online newspaper collections)
- State or Local Libraries
- Cyndi's List > Categories > United States > [select state] > Newspapers (https://www.cyndislist.com/)

Reference: Katherine R Willson, "American Genealogical Research Checklist," downloadable file, *Social Media Genealogy* (https://socialmediagenealogy.com/ : downloaded 7 November 2024) > Resources > Forms & Chart – American genealogical research checklist.