

MAJOR STEPS OF GENEALOGICAL RESEARCH

1. Family Information
 - a. Family interviews
 - b. Family documents & bibles
 - c. Old Letters & diaries
 - d. Tradition & lore
2. Family Genealogies (in print)
3. Vital Records
 - a. Birth certificates
 - b. Marriage certificates
 - c. Death certificates
 - d. Other vitals (divorce etc.)
4. Census Records
 - a. Federal
 - b. State & territorial
 - c. Indices
 - d. Abstracts
5. Probate Records
 - a. Wills
 - b. Administrations of estates
 - c. Accountings & inventories
 - d. Guardianships
6. Land Records
 - a. Deeds
 - b. Homestead & donation land claims
 - c. Land grants & patents
 - d. Mortgage records
 - e. Maps
 - f. Gazetteers
7. Court Records
 - a. Criminal
 - b. Civil
8. Church Records
 - a. Baptism, confirmation & marriage records
 - b. Admission & dismissal lists
 - c. Membership lists
 - d. Funeral & burial records
9. Military Records
 - a. Service & enlistment records
 - b. Pensions, & pension applications
 - c. Muster rolls
 - d. Military land grants
10. County & Town Records
 - a. Compiled histories
 - b. City directories
11. Cemetery Records
 - a. Sexton's records
 - b. Gravestone inscriptions
12. Naturalization & Immigration Records
 - a. Passenger lists
 - b. Ship lists
 - c. Passports
 - d. Visas
13. Old Newspapers

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