

## Major Steps of Genealogical Research

The following are examples of important kinds of information and records to look for in family history research - whether searching for ancestors in the United States or in other countries. While much information can be found online in major databases such as Ancestry.com or Familysearch.org, it is important to note that many records are not available online.

### Family Information

- Family interviews
- Family bibles and documents
- Old letters & diaries
- Tradition & lore
- Photographs

### Family genealogies (in print)

### Vital Records

- Birth certificates
- Marriage certificates
- Death certificates
- Other vitals (divorce, etc.)

### Census Records

- Federal
- State & territorial
- Indices
- Abstracts

### Probate Records

- Wills
- Administrations of estates
- Accountings & inventories
- Guardianships

### Land Records

- Deeds
- Homestead & donation land claims
- Land grants & patents
- Mortgage records - e.g., County indices of Grantees and Grantors
- Maps
- Gazetteers

### Court Records

- Criminal
- Civil

### Church Records

- Baptism, confirmation & marriage records
- Admission & dismissal lists
- Membership lists
- Funeral & burial records

### Military Records

- Service & enlistment records
- Pensions & pension applications
- Muster rolls
- Military land grants

### County & Town Records

- Compiled histories
- City directories
- School enrollment records

### Cemetery Records

- Sexton's records
- Gravestone inscriptions

### Naturalization & Immigration Records

- Passenger lists
- Ship lists
- Passports
- Visas

### Old Newspapers