

Putting the History in Our Family Histories

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To discover and share the most complete family histories and family stories, it is necessary to collect more than birth, marriage, and death information. It is critical to develop contexts and understand the history. It is in more fully understanding the history surrounding all our ancestors that we will avoid many research challenges and know more of their stories. Three major points to embrace.

1. The power of story changes lives.
2. The first element of the Genealogical Proof Standard must be embraced: reasonably exhaustive research has been conducted.
3. Doing the history eliminates the mystery.

Finding Geographic Information

- Published geographic histories of all kinds (city, twp., county, region, state, area, etc.)
- Published religious, business, trade and occupational histories
- Newspapers—Chroniclers of the lives and times of people, places and events.
 - Newspapers.com
 - NewspaperArchive.com
 - [Chronicling America](http://ChroniclingAmerica.org)
 - Public Library websites
 - State Library websites
 - State Memory Projects
- Periodical Source Index (PERSI)
- WorldCat.org
- Google & Wikipedia
- Internet Archive
- FamilySearch Digital Library
- Hathitrust Digital Library
- Digital Public Library of America
- National Union Catalog of Manuscript Collections
- Federal Government Documents—Federal Depository Library Program (FDLP)

Finding Ethnic Origins

- Individuals of the same ethnic group tended to migrate together, settle together & move again together.
- It is very much like a fingerprint in searching for more of our families' stories.
- Look for the "special"
 - Monographs and directories
 - Guides
 - Serials

Our story is found in our hiSTORY!