

Title:

15 Resources For Tracing Your Family Ancestry

Word Count:

897

Summary:

Getting older seems to make finding our "roots" more important. But where to start? Here you

Keywords:

ancestry,genealogy,family tree,family roots,trace ancestry,automated genealogy,ancestry library

Article Body:

If you're like me, when you were young, looking beyond your mother and father to find out where

Well, I've found that the older you get, the more important your ancestry becomes. I'm not su

Whatever my reasons, I do find tracing my ancestry fascinating. It is so interesting to learn

So here I've compiled a list of 25 resources you should take advantage of if you're really ser

1.The obvious, of course, is interviewing family members; not only mom and dad, but aunts, uncles

- Complete names (married and maiden names)

- Addresses throughout their life

- Birth records

- Military service (when and where)

- Marriage records (even attendants, if possible)

- Property records (state and county)

- Burial records (where)

- Old pictures, especially if they have names and dates

2.Family bibles. While it doesn't seem to be such a common practice these days, in the past,

3.Old family letters. Once again, with technology, we've all but lost the art of letter writing

4.Legal documents are a great resource. Such documents include deeds (property addresses), will

5.What about associations your ancestors may have belonged to? These would include churches,

6.Census data. After 1840 the Census collected age, place of birth, occupation, personal wealth

7.Naturalizations records.

For Pre-1906 Naturalizations:

Contact the State Archives for the state where the naturalization occurred to request a search

Contact the NARA regional facility that serves the state where naturalization occurred to requ

For Naturalizations After 1906:

After 1906, the courts forwarded copies of naturalizations to the Immigration and Naturalizati

8.Grave sites. Headstones will give dates and possible family names.

9.Libraries. Here you'll find newspaper articles (look for obituaries, and birth and marriage

10.Genealogy message boards. Google "genealogy message boards" and join in--you'll find a wea

11.Military records. You'll find several sources online, including NARA (<http://www.archives.gov>)

- 12.High school and college yearbooks. These sources can help locate a relative or provide other information.
- 13.Family pedigrees. These are family groups already linked in a computer system. Accessing a pedigree can be very helpful.
- 14.U.S. Immigration records. Two great sources are Ellis Island Records (<http://www.ellisisland.gov>) and the National Archives (<http://www.na.gov>).
- 15.Social Security Death Index. This is a database of people whose deaths were reported to the Social Security Administration.

Now that you're all grown up and interested in finding your "roots", these 15 resources should be helpful.

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