

Getting Started in Finding Your Identity

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Personal Records and other stuff around the house

- Bible records
- Funeral Programs
- Photographs
- Yearbooks
- School records
- Letters
- Wills
- Birth certificates
- Pension records
- Customs
- Stories

Interview your relatives. Match names to the pictures, get biographical information, ask about events mentioned in letters, ask questions about the origins of stories or anything else you think may some day be relevant.

1st Big Question: *Which record do I use?*

Sources of information genealogists use:

- Obituaries
- Census
- Vital records
- Property records
- Probate records
- Plat books/fire insurance maps
- Social Security Death Index
- Passenger lists
- Naturalization records
- Military records
- Marriage and cemetery indexes

Computer Databases and Online Resources

- Local Library resources
- Ancestry Library Edition
- Heritage Quest
- Family Search
- Fold3
- NARA– national archives
- State and County websites
- Online Newspaper Indexes