Genealogy

Genealogy Research: beyond Ancestry Library Edition

Presented by Elaine Jones Hayes
Laramie County Library System (LCLS)
ehayes@lclsonline.org

Genealogy Basics Review:
- Record what you already know about your family.
- Start with yourself and work backwards in time using the U.S. federal census and birth/marriage/death records.
- **Ancestry Library Edition is free to search in the library** and is the library version of Ancestry.com

What other sources of information about your family is already out there?
- Published information in books, periodicals and magazines:
  - Family histories
  - Compiled records-birth, marriage, death, cemetery, military, wills, etc. that have been published in print.
- Information in other genealogy databases (beyond Ancestry).
- Information in federal, state and local record offices, or in churches, cemeteries or your relatives' homes. See home sources handout. **Consider ALL available sources.**

Places to Find Published Genealogy Records (Family histories and more):
- In the LCLS book & periodical collection.
- Interlibrary Loan (ILL) through LCLS. Search the collection of catalogs at **www.worldcat.org**.
- **Google Books** at **books.google.com**.
- The LDS Family History Library's scanned book collection at **FamilySearch.org**.
- **Ancestry Library** and **Ancestry.com** databases.

Where to get Vital Records?

- **Most birth, marriage and death information is not on the Internet** or in any database or book. Due to privacy/identity theft protection laws.
- '**Google** it' or use another search engine but look for official government websites (**.gov** or **state.gov**).
- Websites such as "Where To Write for Vital Records" **http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/w2w.htm**

LaramieCountyLibrary.org • 307.634.3561

Genealogy

Other free LCLS Genealogy Databases: NewsVault, ProQuest Obituaries, ProQuest African American Heritage, Sanborn Maps, Wyoming Newspapers, several history databases**.**

- From **laramiecountylibrary.org,** click on the <u>Library Catalog.</u>
- Then click on **databases**.
- You will need to enter your library card number and PIN.
- The **default PIN is wyld**.

Wyoming Newspapers (1922 and older) can also be searched at **newspapers.wyo.gov**

Genealogy websites:
- **FamilySearch.org**
- **FindAGrave.com**
- **Homestead Records ww.glorecords.blm.gov**
- **Ellis Island www.libertyellisfoundation.org**
- **www.usgenweb.org**
- **U.S. National Archives** at **www.archives.gov**

See bibliography handout for more.

FamilySearch.org is the LDS church's huge genealogy database. It includes **census, vital records, church records, wills, land records, family histories, family trees, etc. from all over the world.** You can search FamilySearch at home or in the library for **free**. You <u>do need to register</u> and pick a password but registration is free and simple. You can also save your family tree, sources, pictures, and memories and FamilySearch.org. You can learn how to search FamilySearch at **thefhguide.com**.

Land Records:

Genealogical value:
- Names of the buyer and seller
- Dates
- Description and acreage
- County and state of residence

Federal Land Records – Homestead Records, as an example:
- Began in 1862.
- Required filing fee, residence, cultivation, and improvement of land.
- Allotted to heads of households, widows, single persons of either sex over the age of 21 who were citizens or intended citizens.

Finding Homestead and other Federal Land Records:
- Search at **www.glorecords.blm.gov.** To find the information needed to order land-entry case files from the U.S. National Archives **www.archives.gov.**

LaramieCountyLibrary.org • 307.634.3561

Genealogy

Immigration Records:

From the earliest colonial period until approximately 1820, immigration records were kept by the colony or state where the port was located. And were primarily ship manifests which varied in detail.

- **Customs ship passenger lists (few immigration laws)**
  From 1820 until approximately 1891
- **Immigration ship passenger lists (more immigration laws)**
  From 1892 until ~1957

Immigration Records on the Internet:

- **Ellis Island libertyellisfoundation.org/passenger**
  - Ellis Island opening in 1892 – just New York immigration 1892 until 1954
- **Castle Garden www.castlegarden.org**
  - New York immigration 1822-1892
- **Immigrant Ship Transcribers Guild www.immigrantships.net**
  - Look here for online records for other ports and time periods.

Naturalization Records:

- From the first naturalization law passed by Congress in 1790 through much of the 20th century, an alien could become naturalized in any court of record.

Most people went to the court most convenient to them, usually a county court.
Now these are usually administered in district courts but naturalization ceremonies (taking the oath of allegiance) can happen anywhere.

- The naturalization process took a **minimum of 5 years:**
  - After residing in the United States for 2 years, a person could file a <u>declaration of intent</u> to become a citizen.
  - After 3 additional years, the person could <u>petition for naturalization</u>.
  - After the petition was granted, a <u>certificate of citizenship</u> was issued.

More recent immigrants - 1950s to 2018?
They immigrated from 1906-1957 but didn't go through Ellis Island?

- In 1906 congress created the Immigration and Naturalization Service (now the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Service

- **www.uscis.gov/files/form/g-639.pdf**

- The **USCIS** has a **Genealogy Program** which is a **fee for service** program.

- See **www.uscis.gov/genealogy**

LaramieCountyLibrary.org • 307.634.3561

Genealogy

U.S. Military Records:

- In general the **U.S. National Archives and Records Administration (archives.gov)** has military records from **1775 to 1918**.

- The **National Personal Records Center (NPRC)** in St. Louis, MO has records from 1919 to the present day. But you can still reach them through the National Archives.

- Records from 1917 -1956 are available to the general public for a fee. Generally $70/packet.

- Order online from the **National Archives** (through the National Personnel Records Center in St. Louis).

Post Korean War to present (1957 to present):
- Service records restricted to immediate family.
  - Right-to-privacy laws
- **Housed at the National Personnel Records Center St. Louis, MO.**
  - Fire in 1973 destroyed millions of records.
    - But even if the records you are interested in were in the fire, don't despair there MAY still be records available. The DOD and NARA has tried to replace these records with records from other sources such as the VA, military bases etc.

World War I & II draft registration cards:
- Required males between 18 and 45 to register.
- Are available from the **National Archives** (NPRC) and the **FamilySearch.org** and on **Ancestry Library.**
- Discharge records for World Wars I and II are also on file at local county courthouses.

Cemetery Research:
- **Find A Grave** at **www.findagrave.com**

- **Interment.net** at **www.interment.net**

- The **USGenWeb** **www.usgenweb.org** and **WorldGenWeb** **www.worldgenweb.org**

- **RootsWeb Cemetery search** **http://userdb.rootsweb.ancestry.com/cemeteries/**

Other Good Genealogy Websites:

- Cyndi's List **www.cyndislist.com**
- The Family History Guide **thefhguide.com**
- Library of Congress **www.loc.gov**

LaramieCountyLibrary.org • 307.634.3561