

LESSON 6

Gathering Information from Public Records

RESEARCH GUIDANCE

The United States Research Outlines :

- o There are guides on the FamilySearch website for each state in the United States. These guides give information about the main types of records that are used to find genealogical information. They help you to know what the records contain and where they are located. Along with research outlines for each state, one for the United States and Canada are also available. They can be located at <http://www.familysearch.org> . They can be found by clicking on research helps, then guidance. They are listed in alphabetical order; for example, "Colorado Research Outline." Another useful research guide found on the FamilySearch website is "The Basics on How to Search for Ancestors in the United States."

The FamilySearch Wiki :

- o This is an excellent resource for finding information about how to do research in a certain area or state. Background information that can help you better understand record types can also be found here.

THE FAMILY HISTORY LIBRARY CATALOG (FHLC)

The FHLC is a useful tool to get an idea of what types of records are accessible for a given locality. The BYU Religion 261 online workshop Lesson 3.2 -- Research (FHLC, Internet) has information about how to use the FHLC.

- o The FHLC can be accessed at http://www.familysearch.org/eng/Library/FHLC/frameset_fhlc.asp
- o The REL 261 Lesson 3.2 can be accessed at <http://familyhistorylab.byu.edu/Lesson3-2.php>

If you cannot go to the FHL in Salt Lake City, Utah, you can order any microfilms of interest for a small fee, from your local Family History Center.

WEBSITES WHERE RECORDS CAN BE ACCESSED

Record Search: <http://pilot.familysearch.org>

Ancestry: <http://www.ancestry.com>

Heritage Quest: <http://www.heritagequest.com>

Footnote: <http://www.footnote.com>

Find a Grave: <http://www.findagrave.com>

Castle Garden Database: <http://www.castlegarden.org>

Ellis Island Database: <http://www.ellisland.org>

