

Digitized Records

The Stories of Your Forefathers May Be in Scanned Books, Journals and Resources

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Most of your ancestors were probably not the prominent or the earliest people into a new settlement. They were just those who were too busy working and taking care of their family to write in a journal (or didn't know how). But the story of their lives may have been written in segments, if not more comprehensive. How can you know?

BYU and FHL digitizing projects

www.lib.byu.edu/fhc -- **Family History Archive** at BYU – over 30,000 books and manuscripts. A repository of histories created by families to record and celebrate the lives of their ancestors. These are digitized family history books and manuscripts, including many of the histories, biographies, and journals from the Family History Library.

Also at www.FamilySearch.org > click [Search Records] and [Historical Books].

Eventually most of the books at the Family History Library and BYU will be digitized and available online.

OR - click [Catalog] and [Surname Search] for all printed biographies, histories, manuscripts, newsletters, periodical, etc. at the FHL. If the surname is common or you want to focus only on those in a certain locality, try the many options with the <Keyword Search>. For published family histories - thoroughly check all the spellings and possibilities of your family names in the catalog for biographies and histories written by persons or organizations. This could save you hours of research. Many of these histories are **digitized**— now books or manuscripts can be read online, **every word searchable**.

www.ancestry.com > then click [Stories and Publications] for stories, memories, histories and newspaper articles. (Also check the American Genealogical-Biographical Index (AGBI) for your family names. It is an every-name index of about 6.25 million early American names.)

Many manuscripts, newspapers, periodicals and histories are being digitized. Some sources for locating family histories is:

- 1) Heritage Quest – 25,000 books accessed at many public libraries through (www.proquest.com)
- 2) from commercial companies and websites, such as: www.worldvitalrecords.com, www.usgenweb.org, books at www.google.com & ebay.com, www.genealogybank.com,

Libraries --

The Library of Congress (www.loc.gov) has a huge collection of biographies and genealogies. The National Union Catalog of Manuscript Collections (NUCMC) is an online catalog to their collections and others. Many of these books and manuscripts are being digitized and will be available online.

The Allen County Public Library (ACPL) in Ft. Wayne, Indiana (www.acpl.lib.in.us). Besides their collection of family histories, the Allen County Public Library also has a collection of nearly 2 million genealogy related articles that have been published in **periodicals**. Individuals living in the locality where your ancestors lived or descendants of those ancestors may have written an article about their family and published it in a periodical or newsletter. The index to these articles is the Periodical Source Index (PERSI). This index is available on HeritageQuest (Proquest) through your local library.

Check for online catalogs of other libraries: www.oclc.org/worldcat/genealogy/

National Archives (www.nara.gov), State Archives, Lineage, Genealogy & Historical Societies- check their catalog or the index of their holding online.

It is wise to join, the genealogical and/or historical societies in the area where your ancestors lived. These organizations have written family histories, newspapers, quarterlies, journals, and family newsletters that could have an article about your family, their siblings, or close associates. Associates lives compared with those of your ancestors – learn about your ancestors by studying the histories of those in their neighborhoods. The Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR), the New England Historic Genealogical Society (NEHGS), and the Daughters of the Utah Pioneers (DUP) are societies with huge collections of family histories.

The history of our forefathers and the places where they lived are inseparable, a study of the history of their residences is necessary. Also many of the **histories of localities are digitized**.

LDS Pioneer Stories: www.lds.org/churchhistory/library/pioneercompanysearch

A listing of individuals and companies of pioneers traveling west from 1847- 1868 with digitized journal entries, logs and notes. It also identifies sources to learn more about each company.

Mormon Immigration – on CD, available at Family History Centers, lists passenger lists and digitized journals and logs of LDS companies and individuals crossing the ocean to America. It also identifies sources.

Pioneers and Prominent Men of Utah with photos is available on Ancestry.com.

Daughters of Utah Pioneers (DUP) and Sons of Utah Pioneers (SUP) digital books and publications (over 70 volumes) are available at the Idaho Falls Family History Center and some are available on CD (“FamilyHistory Suite 2”) at most Family History Centers.

<http://pilot.familysearch.org> -- Record Search is a quick and easy way to search millions of historical records for information about your ancestors. It includes indexes to millions of birth, marriage, death and census records -OR browse through images of records waiting to be indexed.

FACT or FICTION - It is important to analyze and verify the quality and information in published and/or submitted records. Compare them with other records, especially original records, if possible. Until verified, use only for clues to save time and effort in your research.