**LOCALITY GUIDE TEMPLATE**

**Background**

**Quick Facts**

*Capital, dates of county formation, state formation, type of land (state land vs. federal land) when registration of births and deaths began, etc.*

**Online Research Guides**

*Links to the FamilySearch wiki guides about this locality and other guides online*

**Geography and Maps**

*Boundary changes, neighboring counties/towns, links to gazetteers, historical maps*

**Timeline of Major Events**

*Timeline of the area including major government changes and events*

**History**

*History of settlement, links to history articles and books about the locality, major periods, military engagements,*

**Migration Routes**

*Describe main migration routes through your locality and link to maps and articles about the subject.*

**Law and Government**

*Old books that have been digitized (via Google Books, Internet Archive, Geneanet, etc.) that contain the laws and statues of the particular locality that you are researching; blog posts and articles about laws in your locality (check out the Legal Genealogist blog and library websites)*

**Libraries and Archives**

*Repositories, courthouses, public libraries, genealogical libraries, etc. that are within the locality or specific to the locality, research aids. “America’s Best Genealogy Resource Centers” by William Dollarhide and Ronald A. Bremer identifies the top 10 in each state and includes contact information and a summary of the record collections.*

**Genealogical Societies and Publications**

*List the genealogical societies and their publications about the locality.*

**Record Loss**

*List any record sets that have been lost due to courthouse fires, floods, etc. and any record substitutes.*

**Local History**

*Local history books: county histories, town histories, etc.*

**Reference Books**

*Additional books pertaining to research in this locality.*

**Record Collections**

**General Collections**

*Ancestry.com, FamilySearch.org, MyHeritage.com, FindMyPast.com etc. catalog titles about the locality*

**Bible Records and Compiled Genealogies**

*Links to websites that have Bible records for the locality*

**Cemetery Records**

*Links to cemetery records in the locality*

**Census Records and Substitutes**

*Links to different types of censuses: federal, state, town, colonial, territorial, census substitutes, etc.*

**Church Records**

*List the various denominations and where their records are kept.*

**Court Records**

*Links to court record collections and descriptions of what they contain*

**Ethnic Records**

*List the various ethnic groups in the locality and what unique record collections are available about them.*

**Immigration and Naturalization**

*Describe immigration in the locality and link to the associated record collections.*

**Land Records**

*Link to collections about land grants, patents, bounty lands, and other land records.*

**Legislative Records**

*Link to collections about legislative records, if applicable, i.e. Virginia’s legislative petitions.*

**Military Records**

*Colonial, militia, war, regimental histories, etc.*

**Newspapers and Directories**

*Link to websites which contain digitized newspapers for your locality or how to find them if they aren’t digitized.*

**Probate Records**

*Link to record collections about will administration, probate, etc.*

**Vital Records (Birth, Marriage, Death)**

*List the start of registration for birth, marriage, and death records. List any gretna greens.*

**Tax Records**

*Link to tax record collections, personal property tax, land tax, etc.*

**[Add additional sections depending on your locality and what types of records exist]**

**About**

This template was created by Nicole Dyer and Diana Elder. They can be reached by emailing Nicole@FamilyLocket.com and Diana@FamilyLocket.com.

A link to this template is found in the book "Research Like a Pro: A Genealogist's Guide."

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