Discovering Your Roots

Basic Record Types and Strategies

# Why Research Family History?

You can find extraordinary things about ordinary people.

# How to Begin



# How to Know if Information is Accurate

Primary information and original documents are best.

## Information

* \*Primary: eyewitness account\*
* Secondary: heard from someone else
* Unknown: don’t know the informant

## Source

* **\*Original**: first record of an event\*
	+ Birth, marriage, death records
	+ Cemetery records
	+ Census records
	+ Military records
* **Derivative**: index, transcription; usually created by a genealogy website, company, historical society, library.
	+ Database of births or deaths online
	+ Social security death index
	+ Census transcriptions
* **Authored**: original work; usually created by an individual – author, researcher
	+ Family trees published online
	+ Family history books
	+ Biographies
	+ Reports





# Learn to Research

FamilySearch Wiki

* Encyclopedia for family history research
* <https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Main_Page>
* Look up places (Ireland, New York, etc.) for links to record collections and how to research there
* Look up record types (newspapers, census records, military research, etc.) to learn how to find them