

Farming, Factories, and The Frontier: Midwest genealogy basics

The People who Lived Here First

Indigenous Peoples (general list): Pottawattomi, Sioux/Dakota, Chippewa/Ojibwe, Sauk, Fox, Kickapoo, Menomonie, Miami, Assiniboin, Santee, Yankton, Iowa, Shawnee, Pawnee, Omaha, Mdewakanton, Wahpeton

New France (1534-1763): This stretch of land went as far north as Canada and down to the southern states. French rule ended with the Treaty of Paris, ceding their land to Great Britain and Spain. The French retained a strip of land, which was then sold with the Louisiana Purchase in 1803.

Fur Traders and Voyageurs (1690s-1850s): Their mission was to trade with the Indigenous peoples in the area and to assist the American government in getting land. The voyageurs worked under 3-year contracts. An Indian Agent would translate and help broker deals between the Indigenous leaders and Europeans/Americans/French Canadians. Two notable companies to research during this time: Hudson Bay Company and American Fur Company.

Jesuit Missionaries: Came to New France, North America in 1611 to convert Indigenous people to Christianity. Established schools, especially in Canada.

European Settlement: Came by horse, boat, and train to settle and were enticed by the job prospects and the Homestead Act of 1862. Use the Bureau of Land Management–General Land Office Records (<https://glorerecords.blm.gov/>) for further research.

Recommended Books:

- *Wau-Bun: The Early Day in the Northwest* (1855) by Juliette Augusta Kinzie
- *Born of Lakes and Plains: Mixed-Descent Peoples and the Making of the American West* (2022) by Dr. Anne F. Hyde.

Where to Start with Your Family History Research

Can you answer the following questions:

- What do you want to know?
- Where were you born?
- How did you get your name? Was it a family naming tradition?
- Where did you grow up? How long was your family living in that house/area?
- What did your parents do for a job? Did they take on family legacy careers (i.e. running the family farm)?
- What holidays did you celebrate? What traditions were celebrated during those holidays?
- Did you have any annual family events that you took part in? How were those started?

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- Do you have family recipes that were passed down the generations? Who started that recipe? What are the origins?
- What stories were told at the family dinner table?
- What surnames or family names were brought up when talking to family?
- What languages were spoken among your relatives?
- Where are some trips that your family members took? Did you meet any relatives on these trips?
- What do you want to know about your family history? Is there a particular story you are interested in? Do you want to know how far back you can go?
- Have you taken a DNA test yet? Have your family members taken it? How did they compare to the results?
- Have you looked through what objects and papers you inherited? What is in family members' storage areas? Who has the family Bibles?

What Is Available for My Research?		
<u>Record Categories</u>	<u>Libraries</u>	<u>Websites</u>
Census Records Church/Religious Records Military Records Vital Records Legal Records Personal Papers and Manuscripts	Local University Ethnic Library of Congress Law Special Collections State Historical Societies National Archives and Records Administration (NARA)	Ancestry.com (\$ or free library edition) FamilySearch.org Internet Archive FindAGrave Google Newspapers.com (\$)

Researching in the Midwestern States

Questions to Consider:

- Is there a genealogical society library?
- What publications are for sale by the university and the state historical society?
- Do the genealogy societies have their own publications?
- Check the borders to make sure you know what state and county your ancestral town was the whole time.
- Follow their social media pages for updated information.
- Are the historical societies, libraries, or genealogical societies offering classes?

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Midwestern States by Alphabetical Order

[for more information, use FamilySearch's Wiki pages]

Illinois (1813)

Illinois Historical Society	www.historyillinois.org
Illinois State Library	https://www.ilsos.gov/departments/library/home.html
Illinois State Genealogical Society	www.ilgensoc.org
Illinois Secretary of State/State Archives	www.ilsos.gov
Illinois Digital Archives	www.idaillinois.org
Illinois Digital Newspaper Collections	https://idnc.library.illinois.edu/
Newberry Library	https://www.newberry.org/genealogy-and-local-history

Indiana (1816)

Indiana Historical Society	www.indianahistory.org
Indiana State Library	www.in.gov/library
Indiana Genealogical Society	www.indgensoc.org
Indiana Archives and Records Administration	www.in.gov/iara/divisions/state-archives
Indiana Digital Library	https://digital.library.in.gov/
Hoosier State Chronicles (digitized historic newspapers)	https://newspapers.library.in.gov/
Allen County Public Library	www.acpl.lib.in.us/genealogy

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Iowa (1846)

State Historical Society of Iowa	www.iowaculture.gov/history
State Library of Iowa	www.statelibraryofiowa.gov
Iowa Genealogical Society	www.iowagenealogy.org
Iowa State Archives	https://iowaculture.gov/history/research/collections/state-archives
Iowa Digital Library	www.iowaheritage.org
Iowa Historical Newspapers	https://guides.lib.uni.edu/iowa-historical-newspapers

Kansas (1861)

Kansas Historical Society	www.kshs.org
State Library of Kansas	www.kslib.info
Kansas Genealogical Society	www.kgs-genlibrary.com
Kansas State Archives and Libraries	https://www.kshs.org/p/state-archives-library/11933
Kansas Digital Library	www.kansasmemory.org
Kansas Historical Newspapers	https://www.kshs.org/p/kansas-digital-newspaper-program/16126

Michigan (1837)

Historical Society of Michigan	www.hsmichigan.org
Library of Michigan	www.michigan.gov/libraryofmichigan
Michigan Genealogical Council	www.mimgc.org
Archives of Michigan	www.michigan.gov/mhc/archives

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Michiganology (digital library and archives)	www.michiganology.org
Digital Michigan Newspapers	https://digmichnews.cmich.edu/

Minnesota (1858)

Minnesota Historical Society	www.mnhs.org
Minnesota Genealogical Society	www.mngs.org
Minnesota State Archives	www.mnhs.org/preserve/records/index.php
Minnesota Digital Library	https://mndigital.org
Minnesota Digital Newspapers	www.mnhs.org/newspapers
MNopedia	www.mnopedia.org
Minnesota Discovery Center	www.mndiscoverycenter.com

Missouri (1821)

Missouri Historical Society	https://mohistory.org/society
State Library of Missouri	www.sos.mo.gov/library
Missouri State Genealogical Association	www.mosga.org
Missouri State Archives	www.sos.mo.gov/archives/
Missouri Digitized Newspapers	https://shsmo.org/collections/newspapers/mdnp
Missouri Digital Heritage	www.sos.mo.gov/mdh/
Mid-Continent Public Library's Midwest Genealogy Center	www.mymcpl.org/genealogy

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Nebraska (1867)

History Nebraska	https://history.nebraska.gov/
Nebraska State Library	https://supremecourt.nebraska.gov/state-library
Nebraska State Genealogical Society	www.nsgs.org
Nebraska State Archives	https://history.nebraska.gov/tags/archives
Nebraska Digitized Newspapers	https://nebnewspapers.unl.edu/newspapers
Nebraska Digital Archives	https://nebraska.access.preservica.com

North Dakota (1889)

State Historical Society of North Dakota	www.history.nd.gov
North Dakota State Library	www.library.nd.gov
North Dakota Genealogy ** As of this printing, the state does not have an organized genealogical society	www.northdakotagenealogy.com
North Dakota State Archives	www.history.nd.gov/archives/index.html
North Dakota Digitized Newspapers	http://ndarchives.advantage-preservation.com
Digital Horizons (North Dakota Digital Archives)	http://digitalhorizonsonline.org

Ohio (1803)

Ohio History Connection	www.ohiohistory.org
Ohio State Library	https://library.ohio.gov

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Ohio Genealogical Society	www.ogs.org
Ohio State Archives	www.ohiohistory.org/research/archives-library/state-archives
Ohio Digitized Newspapers	https://ohiomemory.ohiohistory.org/newspapers
Ohio Memory (Ohio Digital Library)	https://ohiomemory.org

South Dakota (1889)

South Dakota State Historical Society	https://history.sd.gov
South Dakota State Library	https://library.sd.gov
South Dakota Genealogical Society	www.sdgensociety.org
South Dakota State Archives	https://history.sd.gov/archives/
South Dakota Digital Archives	https://sddigitalarchives.contentdm.oclc.org/digital/
Digitized newspapers are on Chronicling America	https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/

Wisconsin (1848)

Wisconsin Historical Society	www.wisconsinhistory.org
Wisconsin State Genealogical Society	www.wsgs.org
Wisconsin State Archives	www.wisconsinhistory.org/records/article/CS15415
Wisconsin Digitized Newspapers (through BadgerLink)	https://badgerlink.dpi.wi.gov
Wisconsin Digital Archives	www.wistatedocuments.org
Recollection Wisconsin	https://recollectionwisconsin.org