

# Genealogy Research Checklist

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This checklist is NOT COMPREHENSIVE and is merely a starting point for your own research. Remember that in genealogy “your mileage may vary” and the record sets I use may not be useful to your own search. In addition, this checklist has a bias towards United States records; however, it can serve as a template for you to create your own country-specific research checklist.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

PRIMARY GROUP	RECORD SET	APPLICABLE?	START DATE	COMPLETE DATE
<b>Around the House</b>	Appointment Books			
Around the House	Baby Books			
Around the House	Bank Statements and Checks			
Around the House	Birth Records			
Around the House	Calling Cards			
Around the House	Death Records			
Around the House	Diaries			
Around the House	Family Bible			
Around the House	Family History Books			
Around the House	Family Stories			
Around the House	Government Records			
Around the House	Greeting Cards			
Around the House	Heirlooms			
Around the House	Insurance Records			
Around the House	Legal Records			
Around the House	Letters			
Around the House	Marriage Records			
Around the House	Medical Records			
Around the House	Memoirs			
Around the House	Photo Albums			
Around the House	Postcards			
Around the House	Prayer Cards			
Around the House	Recipes			
Around the House	Religious Records			
Around the House	School Records			
Around the House	Scrapbooks			
Around the House	Telegrams			
Around the House	Wedding Albums			
Around the House	Yearbooks			
<b>Alumni Records</b>	Alumni Directory			
Alumni Records	Magazines			
Alumni Records	Membership Records			
Alumni Records	Newsletters			
<b>Adoption Records</b>	Original Birth Certificate			
Adoption Records	Birth Certificate			
Adoption Records	Adoption Registry Online			
<b>Archives</b>	Genealogies and Family Files			
Archives	Vertical Files			

PRIMARY GROUP	RECORD SET	APPLICABLE?	START DATE	COMPLETE DATE
Archives	Local and County Histories			
Archives	Abstracts and Transcriptions			
Archives - Online	Archive Grid			
<b>Birth Records</b>	Birth Certificate			
Birth Records	Delayed Birth Certificate			
Birth Records	Adoption			
Birth Records	Baptism			
<b>Books - Online</b>	Ancestry			
Books - Online	Family Search Books			
Books - Online	Google Books			
Books - Online	Internet Archive			
Books - Online	Local Public Library			
Books - Online	MyHeritage			
Books - Online	WorldCat			
<b>Business Records</b>	Account Books			
Business Records	Apprentice Records			
Business Records	Business Insurance Records			
Business Records	Business Journals			
Business Records	Governmental Reports			
Business Records	Indenture Records			
Business Records	Membership Records			
Business Records	Newspaper Advertisements			
Business Records	Professional Licenses			
Business Records	Professional Organization Records			
<b>Cemetery Records</b>	Burial Records			
Cemetery Records	Grave Location Records			
Cemetery Records	Gravestone Inscription			
Cemetery Records	Plot Deed			
<b>Census Records - Federal</b>	1790 Population Schedule			
Census Records - Federal	1800 Population Schedule			
Census Records - Federal	1810 Population Schedule			
Census Records - Federal	1820 Population Schedule			
Census Records - Federal	1830 Population Schedule			
Census Records - Federal	1840 Population Schedule			
Census Records - Federal	1850 Population Schedule			
Census Records - Federal	1860 Population Schedule			
Census Records - Federal	1870 Population Schedule			
Census Records - Federal	1880 Population Schedule			
Census Records - Federal	1890 Population Schedule			
Census Records - Federal	1900 Population Schedule			
Census Records - Federal	1910 Population Schedule			
Census Records - Federal	1920 Population Schedule			
Census Records - Federal	1930 Population Schedule			
Census Records - Federal	1940 Population Schedule			
Census Records - Federal	1850 Mortality Schedule			
Census Records - Federal	1860 Mortality Schedule			
Census Records - Federal	1870 Mortality Schedule			
Census Records - Federal	1880 Mortality Schedule			
Census Records - Federal	1890 Mortality Schedule			
Census Records - Federal	1900 Mortality Schedule			

PRIMARY GROUP	RECORD SET	APPLICABLE?	START DATE	COMPLETE DATE
Census Records - Federal	1850 Agricultural Schedule			
Census Records - Federal	1860 Agricultural Schedule			
Census Records - Federal	1870 Agricultural Schedule			
Census Records - Federal	1880 Agricultural Schedule			
Census Records - Federal	1880 Defective, Dependent, and Delinquent			
Census Records - Federal	1810 Manufacturing/Industry Schedule			
Census Records - Federal	1820 Manufacturing/Industry Schedule			
Census Records - Federal	1850 Manufacturing/Industry Schedule			
Census Records - Federal	1860 Manufacturing/Industry Schedule			
Census Records - Federal	1870 Manufacturing/Industry Schedule			
Census Records - Federal	1880 Manufacturing/Industry Schedule			
Census Records - Federal	1850 Slave Schedule			
Census Records - Federal	1860 Slave Schedule			
Census Records - Federal	1850 Social Statistics Schedule			
Census Records - Federal	1860 Social Statistics Schedule			
Census Records - Federal	1870 Social Statistics Schedule			
Census Records - Federal	1880 Social Statistics Schedule			
Census Records - Federal	1840 Veterans Schedule			
Census Records - Federal	1890 Veterans Schedule			
Census Records - State	[YEAR] _____ State Census			
<b>Church Records</b>	Baptism Certificate			
Church Records	Confirmation Records			
Church Records	Congregational Histories			
Church Records	Excommunication Records			
Church Records	First Holy Communion Records			
Church Records	Membership Records			
Church Records	Ministers' Journals			
Church Records	Ordination Records			
Church Records	Organizational Records and Meeting Minutes			
<b>Court Records</b>	Adoption Records			
Court Records	Bastardy Records			
Court Records	Civil Suit Records			
Court Records	Coroners' Records			
Court Records	Criminal Records			
Court Records	Custody Records			
Court Records	Estate Inventories			
Court Records	Guardianship Records			
Court Records	Insanity / Commitment Records			
Court Records	Licenses and Permits			
Court Records	Property Foreclosures			
Court Records	Voter Registration Records			
Court Records	Wills			
<b>Death Records</b>	Autopsy Records			
Death Records	Burial Records			
Death Records	Cemetery Records			
Death Records	Coroners' Records			
Death Records	Death Certificate			
Death Records	Death Notice			
Death Records	Funeral Home Records			
Death Records	Gravestone Information			
Death Records	Necrologies (Newspapers)			

PRIMARY GROUP	RECORD SET	APPLICABLE?	START DATE	COMPLETE DATE
Death Records	Obituary			
Death Records	Social Security Death Index			
<b>Directories</b>	Biographical Directories			
Directories	Business Directories			
Directories	City Directories			
Directories	Gazetteers			
Directories	Professional/Occupational Directories			
Directories	Telephone Directories			
Directories - Online	Online Historical Directories			
<b>DNA Records</b>	DNA Match Records			
DNA Records	DNA Test Results			
<b>Employment Records</b>	Social Security Number			
Employment Records	Social Security Application			
<b>Fraternal Records</b>	Compiled Histories			
Fraternal Records	Membership Records			
Fraternal Records	Organizational Records and Meeting Minutes			
Fraternal Records	Yearbooks			
<b>Genealogy Databases - Online</b>	Ancestry			
Genealogy Databases - Online	Billion Graves			
Genealogy Databases - Online	Find A Grave			
Genealogy Databases - Online	Findmypast			
Genealogy Databases - Online	MyHeritage			
Genealogy Databases - Online	National Archives			
Genealogy Databases - Online	RootsWeb			
<b>Immigration Records</b>	Alien Registration Records			
Immigration Records	Border Crossing Records			
Immigration Records	Emigration Records			
Immigration Records	Naturalization Records			
Immigration Records	Passenger Lists			
Immigration Records	Passport Records			
<b>Institutional Records</b>	Alms House / Poor House Records			
Institutional Records	Hospital Records			
Institutional Records	Insanity / Commitment Records			
Institutional Records	Orphanage Records			
Institutional Records	Prison Records			
Institutional Records	Work House Records			
<b>Insurance Records</b>	Automobile Insurance Records			
Insurance Records	Business Insurance Records			
Insurance Records	Casualty Insurance Records			
Insurance Records	Health Insurance Records			
Insurance Records	Home Insurance Records			
Insurance Records	Life Insurance Records			
<b>Land Records</b>	Abstracts			
Land Records	County Map			
Land Records	Deeds			
Land Records	Grantee Index			
Land Records	Grantor Index			
Land Records	Homestead Application			
Land Records	Homestead Certificate			
Land Records	Land Grants			

PRIMARY GROUP	RECORD SET	APPLICABLE?	START DATE	COMPLETE DATE
Land Records	Land Patents			
Land Records	Land Survey			
Land Records	Mortgage Records			
Land Records	Plat Map			
Land Records	Promissory Notes			
<b>Licenses and Permits</b>	Driver's License			
Licenses and Permits	Professional Licenses			
<b>Marriage Records</b>	Marriage Certificate			
Marriage Records	Marriage License			
Marriage Records	Newspaper Announcement			
Marriage Records	Divorce Petition			
Marriage Records	Divorce Decree			
<b>Military Records - Engagement</b>	Colonial War Records			
Military Records - Engagement	Revolutionary War Records			
Military Records - Engagement	War of 1812 Records			
Military Records - Engagement	Indian Wars and Frontier Conflict Records			
Military Records - Engagement	Mexican-American War Records			
Military Records - Engagement	US Civil War Records			
Military Records - Engagement	Spanish-American War Records			
Military Records - Engagement	World War I			
Military Records - Engagement	World War II			
Military Records - Engagement	Korean Conflict Records			
Military Records - Engagement	Vietnam Conflict Records			
<b>Military Records</b>	Burial Records			
Military Records	Discharge Records			
Military Records	Draft Records			
Military Records	Enlistment Records			
Military Records	Land Bounty Records			
Military Records	Muster Rolls			
Military Records	Payroll Records			
Military Records	Pension Records			
Military Records	Prisoner of War Records			
Military Records	Relocation/Internment Records			
Military Records	Service Records			
<b>Newspapers</b>	Anniversary Announcements			
Newspapers	Birth Announcements			
Newspapers	Classified Ads			
Newspapers	Engagement Announcements			
Newspapers	Family Reunion Announcements			
Newspapers	Legal Notices			
Newspapers	Local News			
Newspapers	Marital Discord Ads			
Newspapers	Marriage Announcements			
Newspapers	Necrologies			
Newspapers	Obituaries			
Newspapers	Runaway Notices			
Newspapers	Shipping News			
Newspapers	Unclaimed Mail Notices			
Newspapers - Online	Ancestor Hunt			
Newspapers - Online	Chronicling America			

PRIMARY GROUP	RECORD SET	APPLICABLE?	START DATE	COMPLETE DATE
Newspapers - Online	GenealogyBank			
Newspapers - Online	Newspaper Archives			
Newspapers - Online	Newspapers.com			
Newspapers - Online	Online Historical Newspapers			
<b>Personal Contacts</b>	Family Members			
Personal Contacts	Family Friends			
<b>Personal Knowledge</b>	Family Stories			
Personal Knowledge	Family Member Interviews			
<b>Probate Records</b>	Bond Records			
Probate Records	Estate Sale Records			
Probate Records	Guardianship Records			
Probate Records	Property Inventory			
Probate Records	Will			
<b>Published Sources</b>	Abstracts and Transcriptions			
Published Sources	Genealogies and Family Files			
Published Sources	Local and County Histories			
Published Sources	Periodicals			
Published Sources - Online	PERSI			
<b>School Records</b>	Attendance Records			
School Records	College Records			
School Records	Diplomas			
School Records	Elementary School Records			
School Records	Finishing School Records			
School Records	High School Records			
School Records	Honor Roll Records			
School Records	Normal School (Teaching) Records			
School Records	Private School Records			
School Records	Report Cards			
School Records	School Census Records			
School Records	Seminary Records			
School Records	Trade and Vocational School Records			
School Records	Truancy Records			
School Records	Yearbooks			
<b>Social Media</b>	Facebook Groups			
Social Media	Facebook Pages			
Social Media	Facebook Search (name/location)			
Social Media	Instagram Search			
Social Media	Pinteret Search			
Social Media	Twitter Search			
<b>Tax Records</b>	Income Tax Records			
Tax Records	Real Estate Tax Records			
Tax Records	Personal Property Tax Records			
Tax Records	Poll Tax Records			
<b>Vital Records</b>	Birth Certificate			
Vital Records	Marriage Certificate			
Vital Records	Death Certificate			