

Researching your Genealogy in Five Steps

1. Get Started!

Every journey begins with the first step and discovering your family history is no different! To begin, try writing down information you know about your immediate family members, birth and death dates, places of birth, residence, or death, etc. Filling out a Family History Outline is a good way to start.

2. Create an Outline of Who, Where, and When, using the Census

You can begin to fill in the gaps on your family history outline, as well as discover more distant ancestors, using the Census. The Census for a selection of years can be found in a variety of places online, including IConn.org (for Connecticut residents), FamilySearch.org, and Archive.org.

3. Research and Verify Vital Statistics

By using vital records, church records, and other sources you can verify vital statistics regarding your ancestors as well as discover new information. These vital records can be found in various places, including the Godfrey collection, town and state history centers, churches, and many more.

4. Research Specialty Areas- Immigration, Military, Etc.

By looking at more specific records you can discover more details about your ancestor's lives. The Godfrey collection contains many specialty records, but many more can be found in other places.

5. Discover Life Events and Put in Historical Context

By researching your ancestors in newspapers, as well as the sources you've already utilized, you can learn about interesting events that happened in their lives. And don't forget to do a little research about the time and place that they lived! That way you can really get a sense of their lives and place in history!