



# DISCOVERING RECORDS

CONTRIBUTED BY: Sarah Day from Utah

*You will discover the different types of records, what information they contain and how they can be used for genealogy and family history purposes.*

**BEFORE YOU BEGIN:** Be sure to visit our website and fill out the Pre-Experiment Survey!

**TAKE  
SURVEY**

## 1 VITAL RECORDS

Vital records include birth, marriage, divorce and death records. They are the bread and butter of genealogy. Search them out and learn what information they contain that truly is vital.

## 2 THE CENSUSES

Censuses record information about a household. They have been taken every ten years in the United States since 1790. They have changed dramatically in the information they contain over time. Some states did their own census recording as well. Research the censuses that were taken in your country and the amazing information they contain.

## 3 OBITUARIES

This record is usually found in a newspaper and can sometimes be seen copied into [FindAGrave](#) information. It tells a short summary of a person's life, sometimes lists relatives, when and where they died, when their funeral will be held, and sometimes some very interesting other details. They can be a wealth of quick, wonderful information. Find out more about obituaries in your area and how you can access them.

Tip: [Newspapers.com](#) holds a lot of newspapers and it is a subscription based option. FamilySearch also has a lot of obituaries.

## 4 CALLED FOR DUTY

Look into military records today. First, you might want to make a list of wars fought in your ancestors location. Then look into the records produced for that war. World War I and World War II draft records are especially full of information.

## 5 READ ALL ABOUT IT!

Today, look more into the newspapers. You may have already looked at obituaries but newspapers also contain announcements, stories and much, much more. Learn more about the newspapers in your location and where you can access them.

Tip: For the [United States Chronicling America](#) and [Newspapers.com](#) are wonderful resources for newspapers.





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## SCHOOL RECORDS AND YEARBOOKS

Your ancestors might have gone to school, too. Today, see what schools were in your ancestors' home towns and what records might have been created for your ancestors.

Bonus!: Look and see if you can find yearbooks for your ancestors. [Ancestry](#) has a wonderful collection.

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## EMIGRATION & IMMIGRATION

What are the rules for emigration and immigration in your ancestors' location. How have they changed over time? What records were created for immigrants and emigrants? Today, go and find out the answers to these questions and learn more about immigration and emigration records.

Tip: An emigrate is someone who leaves a country. An immigrant is someone who enters a new country.

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## NATURALIZATION

Now that you have learned about the immigration and emigration, it is time to learn about naturalization and citizenship records. What did your ancestors have to do to become naturalized? What records were created as a part of this process? Today, go and find out all about these types of records and the rich information you can glean from them.

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## RELIGION

There are many different types of religious records. The main categories are Religious Records, Church Records and bible records. Go and find out which one of these is used in your research location and what information can be gained from them.

Tip: Find out what religion your ancestors were. This will help you know which records to look in.

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## LAND AND PROPERTY

Dive into land and property records. Did your ancestors live, work, own, or rent land? They might have and if they did their information will be listed on the land and property records. Go and learn more about the land and property records in your location. What dates are they kept? What information can you get from them? Where can you obtain them?





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## 11 PROBATE

These are the records that are created near the time of death. The will is created by the deceased and then probate records are created to distribute land, property and money to descendants, relatives, friends, neighbors, and any one else the deceased wanted to give something to. Learn about what kinds of probate records were created in your area and what could be learned from them.

## 12 TAXES

Most of our ancestors will have paid taxes. This means there is a good chance we can find them in the tax records. Look into the tax records in your location and learn more about them.

## 13 VOTING RECORDS

These records are about voting. They will only be kept in locations where the people were able to vote. Learn about the voting records in your location today.

## 14 DIRECTORIES

These records usually list a name, what someone does for a living, their location and how to contact them. See if directories were made for you area and what information you can gain from them.

## 15 CEMETERIES AND FUNERAL HOMES

These are more death records. They may contain information about a person's funeral and where they are buried. Learn and the cemetery and funeral records for your location today and what information you can glean from them.

## 16 COLONIAL RECORDS

These will be mostly USA specific. These records deal with colonial America. Learn in colonial records are kept in your area and what you can learn from them today.

## 17 TOWN RECORDS

These are the specific records that are kept at a town level. They may include just about anything. Find out what town records are kept in your location today and how you can use them.





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## 18 COURT RECORDS

Almost everyone has at least one ancestor that will appear in these records. Learn about the court records in your location and what information you can learn from them.

Tip: These records may contain some of your most exciting and interesting family stories.

## 19 GENEALOGIES & PERIODICALS

These records are compiled by someone else. It may be a compiled genealogy for a specific line or a history of a town or place. Learn about what genealogies and periodicals may be available in your area of interest and what information you may gain from them.

Tip: Genealogies and Periodicals are usually second or third hand information. They are not necessarily completely reliable. Be sure to find other evidence to support what you learn in them.

## 20 ADOPTION

These records are for someone who was adopted. There are both open and closed adoptions and rules about who can access what records. Today, learn about the adoption records in your location. Learn who has legal access them, what information they contain, and how you can use them.

## 21 BUSINESS RECORDS

These records are for specific businesses they may be farmer, store, service, office or other type of businesses. Learn about the common business records in your location today and what information you can gain from them.



Share your progress with us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [Twitter](#), or [TikTok](#) using the hashtag #21DayExperiment

**WHEN YOU'RE DONE:** Be sure to visit our website and fill out the Post-Experiment Survey!

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SURVEY**



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CONTRIBUTED BY: SARAH DAY, Utah, U.S.



DAY 1

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Vital Records

DAY 12

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Taxes

DAY 2

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The Censuses

DAY 13

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Voting Records

DAY 3

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Obituaries

DAY 14

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Directories

DAY 4

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Called For Duty

DAY 15

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Cemeteries & Funeral Homes

DAY 5

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Read All About It!

DAY 16

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Colonial Records

DAY 6

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School Records & Yearbooks

DAY 17

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Town Records

DAY 7

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Emigration & Immigration

DAY 18

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Court Records

DAY 8

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Naturalization

DAY 19

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Genealogies & Periodicals

DAY 9

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Religion

DAY 20

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Adoption

DAY 10

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Land & Property

DAY 21

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Business Records

DAY 11

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Probate