

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://gloreCORDS.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?
- Do you have family recipes that were passed down the generations? Who started that

Eleanor O. Brinsko, MLIS

eleanor@carlongenealogy.com

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- 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)

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| 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)

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| 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)

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| 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)

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| 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)

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

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Minnesota (1858)

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| 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)

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| 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)

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| 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)

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| 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)

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

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|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|
| Ohio Memory (Ohio Digital Library) | https://ohiomemory.org |
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South Dakota (1889)

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| 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)

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| 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 |