

These are not notes from the meeting but rather a short description of the main resources use when I do genealogy research projects for people.

Records don't usually tell a story by themselves but are key to finding people, places and dates used when searching for stories.

There is lots of overlap between Ancestry and FamilySearch, but each has collections and submitted genealogies the other does not. Always search both. If you're searching for ancestors in the U.K. add FindMyPast as a quality source. I haven't used MyHeritage much, but it's a rapidly growing source of records.

Newspaper sites:

- they're often local so all you have to do is add the person's name, in quotes.
- try nicknames, e. g. Bill for William
- try known last name variations
- unless it's a common name, just do the last name
- limit the search to years of interest, e. g. when they were alive and living there
- newspapers.com has the largest collection of newspapers
- archives.post-gazette.com is the subset of newspapers.com that has the Pittsburgh newspapers only. At 1/3 the cost, if you're researching in Pittsburgh it can be a good choice.

Here's a directory of newspaper sites all over the U.S.

theancestorhunt.com/newspaper-research-links.html

Scroll down to the state you're researching and click on the state name.

Go down past Chronicling America and Google News Archive to the section that lists County and Library Collections. Find the county you're researching and see if there are any local newspaper repositories for the years you're interested in. Those are free to access.

Submitted genealogies:

- I use both Ancestry.com and FamilySearch.org
- only trust the ones with lots of sources cited
- be especially wary of trees that only cite other trees as their source
- beware of unusual migration patterns across generations

Google Search:

- Google the full name, in quotes, with and without a middle name. If you know of name variations, try those. Text inside quotes won't do fuzzy searches
- add the spouse's name, in quotes
- add the town/county/state where the person was born or lived
- add the birth year
- Google the name of the town/county and add "history of". Use the "Find" command for names if the document is long