

Where to find Primary Documents

JUST LOOKING

- municipal/county historian
- local records repositories
- museums and historical societies
- university library/special collections
- local library- history room
- flea market/local bookshops
- attic searches
- cemeteries
- internet

LOOKING FOR SPECIFIC RECORDS

Personal Papers (diaries, letters, etc.)

- archives: public records repositories
- historical societies and museums
- family attics
- libraries

Business Records (executive, financial and employee records)

- advertisements in old magazines
- old catalogs (like the 1902 Sears Catalog-reissue)
- local historical society
- corporate archive
- local business people
- libraries (public and university)

Newspapers

- libraries (microfilm/microfiche)
- historical societies and museums
- newspaper offices (archives)

Old Maps

- libraries
- county and local government clerks
- museums and historical societies
- used bookstores
- zoning offices

Picture Sources (photographs, postcards)

- garage sales, auctions
- historical societies and museums
- family albums

Broadsides (posters)

- archives collections
- libraries
- historical societies
- museum collections
- antique dealers

Local Government Records (court, minutes of meetings, deeds, school district, wills, military, license, permits, etc.)

- city, county, village, town clerks
- local government archives
- local school records
- surrogate court (wills and inventories)
- historical societies

Census Records (Federal: 1790-1930)

- National Archives facilities
- Genealogical Society of Utah – familysearch.org
- check major public and university libraries.
- local clerk's offices

Death Records, Wills and Inventories

- local clerk's office
- surrogate court
- historical societies and museums
- family records

Cemetery Records and Visits

(Using a site as an educational tool)

- historical societies
- newspaper files—deaths, obits
- community maps
- church records
- cemetery records, burial plot information, cemetery plot maps
- fraternal and military organization records

Organizational Records

(political parties, labor unions, social clubs, etc.)

- historical societies
- organizations themselves

Church Records

- diocesan archives
- local churches, synagogues, and mosques

Military Records




- pension records (National Archives)
- museums and historical societies
- VFW/American Legion
- cemetery stones

Calling ahead for an appointment is a good idea.

List developed by Tom Gray and Susan Owens.

Keepers of the Past: Finding the Information You Need

In the search for history and those little “nuggets” of information that provide historians with insight into the past, there are times when a lot of time and patience are needed to uncover (or discover!) just the right source. Listed below are “repositories”, or places where you might find many of the resources you need for your project! However, do not limit yourself to just this list! See if you can discover and record other repositories and sources of your own!

	<p>STATE RECORDS: Historic Registers Photographs Census Records Geological Survey Maps Military Records Fire Records Railroad Records</p>	<p>HISTORICAL & CULTURAL INSTITUTIONS: Special Collections Artifacts Archaeological Site Maps Letters Government Records Newspapers Exhibits Historical Archives</p>	<p>HOME: Albums Diaries Journals Letters Private Collections Genealogy Quilts Oral Histories Medical Records Military Records Photographs</p>
<p>COURTHOUSE: Deeds Wills Ledgers Estate Settlements Marriage Records City Directories Tax Records Genealogy Records</p>	<p>LIBRARY: Census Records Business Ledgers Histories Reference Works Special Collections Primary Sources Magazines Books Photographs</p>	<p>SCHOOLS: Yearbooks Attendance Records School Board Minutes</p>	
<p>ONLINE: Primary Sources Secondary Sources Photographs Letters Census Records Genealogy Records Newspapers</p>	<p>BUSINESSES: Employer Newsletters Correspondence Annual Reports Photographs Historical Records</p>		<p>PLACES OF WORSHIP: Memberships Names and Dates Cemetery Records Burial Practices Inscriptions</p>