Using Online Sources to Expand Your Family Story

We've All Found
- Names
- Dates
- Places
- Occurrences

But what is the rest of the story?

Why Do We Need More?
- Our kids and grandkids don't always care about the names, dates, and places
- We get more of a sense of who we are and where we came from by expanding our research
- Stories are much more interesting to tell
- It's stories passed from generation to generation that keep the legacy alive

How Do I Start?
- Set up the basics of the story by asking questions
  - Names
    - Are there naming patterns in my family?
    - Does a name have a special meaning?
    - Was there a Coat of Arms or Family Crest?
  - Dates
    - What was going on in the world at that time?
    - How did any of these things impact my family?
  - Places
    - What was going on in that place at that time?
    - Why was my family there at that time?
    - How did they get there?
    - Why did they leave?
  - Occurrences
    - Were they documented in a book or in the newspapers?
    - Did something happen for which I was unaware and, if so, where would it be documented?
    - What other interesting thing is there on the birth or death certificate?
    - On the census record?
    - Did a family member serve in a war?
    - Did my family do anything special that has been forgotten but should be remembered, such as inventing something?
- Then find answers to the questions
- Also look for other things about your family that you might not have known
- Follow and build the story

Subscription Sites
- http://www.ancestry.com
- http://www.americanancestors.org/home.html
- http://www.worldvitalrecords.com
- http://www.archives.com

Free Sites
- http://www.familysearch.org/wiki
- http://usgenweb.org
- http://www.worldgenweb.web/

Digital Collections
- All states have digital collections
  - http://www.digitalstatearchives.com/
  - Each state has different and more or less content
  - Click on state name on left side to see content and links
    - Eg. Missouri digital heritage has plat maps
- Check each state's Historian's Office
- Check each state's Historical Society
- Check for a county's Historical Society
- Dead Fred Genealogy Photo Archive
  - http://deadfred.com/
- BYU Digital Collection
  - http://lib.byu.edu/digital/
- Check for railroad archives
  - Eg. Pacific Northwest Railroad Archive (http://pnrarchive.org/default.aspx)
- England
  - The British Library
    - http://www.bl.uk
  - British Isles Maps
    - http://www.bl.uk/reshelp/findhelprestype/webres/scanned/

Google and Books
- Google Images
- Google Earth
- Google Books
- Heritage Quest Online
  - Choose "Search Books"
  - Can access from home with a library card
- Internet Archive
  - http://archive.org

Newspapers
FREE
- Elephind
  - http://www.elephind.com
- Chronicling America
  - http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/
- Google Newspaper Archive
  - http://news.google.com/archivesearch
- Google Newspapers
  - http://news.google.com/newspapers
  - Alphabetized list of newspapers with dates
  - Includes some foreign newspapers
- California Digital Newspaper Collection (1846-present)
  - http://cdnc.ucr.edu/cgi-bin/cdnc?a=p&p=home&e=-------en--20--1--txt-txIN-----
  - NOTE: Other states have digital newspaper collections, also
    - Google for links
- Worldwide sources to online newspapers (many free, some pay)
  - Most in language of country—some can be translated into English
  - http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:List_of_online_newspaper_archives

SUBSCRIPTION
- Newspapers.com
  - http://www.newspapers.com
- Genealogy Bank
  - http://www.genealogybank.com

Cemeteries
- http://www.findagrave.com
- http://billiongraves.com
- http://www.interment.net

Military
- Fold3
  - http://www.fold3.com/
  - You can also access some city directories here
- National Archives
  - Access to Archival Databases
  - http://aad.archives.gov/aad/

Land
- Bureau of Land Management—General Land Office
  - http://www.glorecords.blm.gov/
- NARA – OPA (Online Public Access)
- Several states have land records online
  - Google "land records online" to get links
- *State land patents*
  - This was the land given to the state by the Federal government
  - The state issued the land patents, verifying title & ownership to the parcels sold, for purchased sections of this donated land

- *Credit volume patents*
  - These were issued to anyone who either paid by cash at the time of sale (and received a discount); or paid by credit in installments over a 4 year period
  - If full payment was not received, title to the land would revert back to the Federal government

Immigration
- Immigrant Ships Transcribers Guild
  - http://www.immigrantships.net/
  - Can also find pictures of ships here
- Ellis Island
  - http://www.ellisisland.org/
- Castle Garden
  - http://www.castlegarden.org/

Other
- Inflation calculator
  - http://www.davemanuel.com/inflation-calculator.php
- Patents
  - http://www.google.com/?tbm=pts
  - http://www.freepatentsonline.com/search.html
- Allen County Public Library Genealogy Center
  - http://www.genealogycenter.org/Home.aspx
- Library of Congress Digital Collections
  - http://www.loc.gov/library/libarch-digital.html
  - American Memory Project
  - http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/index.html

Finally
- *More and more records are being digitized and coming online daily*
- *If you don't find what you want at one site, check another*
- *If you don't find what you want today, check next week or next month or next year*
- *Be sure to source everything you find*
- *If you find a new site that is helpful, pass it on to others*
- *Put the story together, expand it, and share it!*

Onsite NARA Screen (Default)

Your Home Screen

NARA Home Page
www.archives.gov

Research our Records

Order Copies of Records

Research Military Records

Research Your Ancestry
- Start your Genealogy
- Research Tips
- Reference Reports
- Census
- Immigration
- Land Records
- More Topics (Ethnic Heritage)
- Free Databases at NARA

Guide to Federal Records

Access to Archival Databases (AAD)
- Passenger Lists
- Gorgas Hospital
- Prisoners
- Japanese-American Relocation

Archival Research Catalog (ARC)

Online Research Tools
- Online Catalog (OPA)
- Microfilm Catalog
- AAD
- Archives Library Information Center (ALIC)
- Guide to Federal Records

Online Catalog (Clusters)