

Researching Your Hispanic Ancestors

By Letty Rodella



1. Introduction (slides 1-3)
 - a. Hispanic Countries
 - b. Objectives:
 - 1) Identify Resources
 - 2) Provide Research Tips
 - 3) Walk through My Research for my 3rd Great Grandparents
 - c. How to Start Your Research:
 - 1) Ask questions; names, place, and dates of birth, marriage, death (approximate is OK)
 - 2) Study the locations, the surrounding communities and boundaries

2. What Resources Are Available (slides 4-9) and the important difference between a primary source and secondary source
 - a. <https://familysearch.org>
 - b. www.ancestry.com
 - c. www.cyndislist.com
 - d. www.archives.gov/research/genealogy
 - e. www.archives.gov/riverside
 - d. Many others, just Google

3. Researching Tips (slides 10-15)
 - a. Variations in names
 - b. Search what you know
 - c. Search other relatives, especially siblings
 - d. Be watchful, names are common
 - e. Look to neighboring locations
 - f. Use a 10-20 year span for birth range

- g. Read other entries by the same scribe
 - h. Notice the hyphen
 - i. IrfanView icon: www.irfanview.com
 - j. *Spanish Record Extraction*: <https://script.byu.edu/Pages/Spanish/en/guide.aspx>
5. <https://familysearch.org> (slides 16-25)
 - a. Less is best
 - b. Guesstimating the birth year
 - c. Scroll through 2-3 pages of “The Search Results”
 - c. Browsing Church Records:
Country>>State>>City>>Church>>Event>>Year
 6. Tips, Catholic Church Records (slides 26-32)
 - a. Start abt 1560
 - b. Baptismal records usually have AP and AM
 - c. Marriage records contain:
Parents’ name if 1st marriage
Name of spouse if previously married
 - d. Use the “Indice”, the index
 - e. Last resort, write to the parish
 7. Tips, Browsing Civil Record (slide 33-36)
 - a. Start about mid 1800’s
 - b. Same procedure as church browsing
 - c. Indice (Index) is usually at the end of a book
 - d. Each name has an entry number
 - e. Search by date registered, not by date of the event
 8. Tips, Reading Spanish Documents (Slide 37-39)
 - a. A unmarried woman uses her father’s surname then her mother’s surname
 - b. A married woman uses her father’s surname then her husband’s surname
 - c. Church records usually follow the same format: church, city, date, priest, event, name(s) of individual(s), parents, may have grandparents, witness, signature
 - d. Birth designations
 10. Other resources: (slide 40)
 - a. *Following the Paper Train to Mexico* by John Schmal & Donna Morales
 - b. *Finding Your Mexican Ancestors* by George and Peggy Ryskamp
 - c. *Finding Your Hispanic Roots* by George Ryskamp
 - d. *A Students Guide to Mexican American Genealogy* by George and Peggy Ryskamp
 - e. *Mexican Genealogy Research Online: A guide to Help You Discover Your Ancestry* by Moises Garza
 11. Closing Tips (slide 41)
 - a. Searching takes time
 - b. Pace yourselves
 - c. Enjoy the search!