

# Sauk County Historical Society

History Center - 900 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue  
Wednesday-Saturday, Noon - 4 pm

## Genealogy Resources

- Numerous area history books indexed by surname, including:
  - Outline Sketches of Sauk County, Wisconsin* - W.H. Canfield, 1871
  - The History of Sauk County, Wisconsin* - C.W. Butterfield, 1880
  - A Standard History of Sauk County, Wisconsin* - H.E. Cole, 1918
- Probate Records, Wills, Orders/Judgments - 1850-1976
- *Index to Sauk County, Wisconsin Marriages - 1842-1907*
- Individual surname files containing clippings, etc.
- *Sauk County Cemetery Inscriptions*
- Family histories compiled by descendants
- Sauk County Directories - 1890 & 1898-99
- Baraboo City Directories - 1895-96, 1903-04, 1910-11, 1917-18, 1923, 1935, 1938, 1950 + many more
- Baraboo Phone Directories - 1911-13, 1920, 1924, 1928, 1931 and fairly consistent beginning in 1936
- Reedsburg City Directories - Some
- Baraboo High School yearbooks beginning in 1931
- Reedsburg High School yearbooks
- Index card file

GUIDE OR INSTRUCTION

## Getting Started Researching Your Family History

PRINT
  EMAIL A FRIEND
  FACEBOOK
  TWITTER
  MORE...

Researching your family history is a challenging, exciting and rewarding endeavor. Before you begin, have a plan in place for organizing your information. By having names and dates at your fingertips, you'll be able to quickly determine if an item you find relates to your family.

## Build Your Family Tree in Stages

There are many ways to conduct family history research. And many websites offer instruction. As a broad overview, we recommend building your family tree in three stages:

### 1 Stage 1 - Build the foundation of your tree

Use the resources below to find the core information about your ancestors that will create the foundation of your genealogical research. They often contain clues that will point you to other resources to investigate.

Census records, birth records, marriage records, death records, newspaper clippings, obituaries.

### 2 Stage 2 – Research what other people have already written

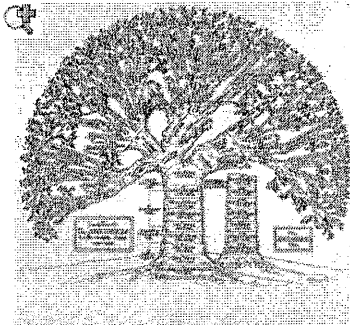
Once you have gathered the core information about your ancestors, the next step is to add context by researching what others have written about communities and the families in them. Many of these sources are available to read both online and in our Library.

Local and county histories, books of family histories.

### 3 Stage 3 – Fill out your family's story with other resources

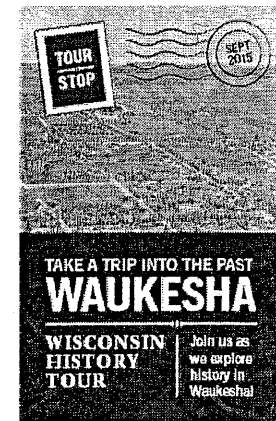
At this stage, you are ready to fill out the stories of your ancestors by researching these family history resources.

Cemetery records, passenger lists, naturalization records.



#### Ames-Angier Family Tree

Drawing of Ames-Angier family tree of North Easton, Massachusetts, 1560-1937. View the original source document: WHI 50491



Be Efficient with Your Time - Search Online First

Before making a trip to the Society, first see what you can find online. After searching the Society's resources, search the websites of other organizations offering genealogical information.

**Search All Items in Family History Resources**

Search over three million records of the following types: birth, death and marriage record indexes; newspaper clippings; visual materials; property listings for the National Register and State Register of Historic Places properties as well as for the Wisconsin Architecture and History Inventory (AHI).

When you find an item that you think might be about an ancestor, print out the detail page for your records. Keep in mind that our online resources represent only a small portion of our vast family history collections, however, they offer an excellent place to start your research.

**Search other Society Online Resources**

Click on the links below to learn more about each resource. All have online materials for viewing, plus many more physical materials in the Society's Library and Archives.

- **County Histories**
- **Wisconsin in the Civil War**
- **Maps and Atlases**
- **Wisconsin Magazine of History Archives**
- **Wisconsin Historical Collections 1855-1915**

**Search Other Genealogy Websites**

Numerous websites offer access to genealogical information. Some are free, most are not. Remember to print out the detail page when you find an item that you think might be about an ancestor.

Here are some websites that may be helpful. A note about Ancestry.com. You can search from home with a subscription, or go to your local library to search the Ancestry Library Edition for free.

Record Type	Helpful Family History Research Websites	
Cemetery Records	FindaGrave.com	
Census Records	FamilySearch.org	Ancestry.com
Church Records	FamilySearch.org	
County Histories	Google.com	
Family Histories	Google Books	FamilySearch.org
Immigration Records	Ancestry.com	
Land Ownership Records	glorerecords.blm.gov (patents)	Ancestry.com (maps)
Military Records Collections	Ancestry.com	Fold3.com
Newspapers	NewspaperArchive.com	GenealogyBank.com
Vital Records Collections	Ancestry.com (indexes)	DeathIndexes.com

## Next, Visit the Wisconsin Historical Society

The Society's Library in Madison, Wisconsin, has hundreds of family history resources. Our staff of experts is available to help you with any challenges, questions, or "brick walls" you may have. In addition, the bright, airy, 5,568 square-foot, 2-story high Library Reading Room offers you a comfortable place to do your research.

Here are the kinds of things you can do during a family history research visit.

Resource	What it Offers
View Vital Records on Microfilm	<p>Search the vital records online index, print the index page containing the information about your ancestor, and then view the actual record on microfilm.</p> <p>Learn more about our Pre-1907 Wisconsin Vital Records.</p>
Study Census Records	<p>Most North American censuses are available on Ancestry.com Library Edition, which is available free in our Library.</p> <p>Learn more about our Census Records. Or see Census Records Research Tips.</p>
Explore Community and County Histories	<p>County histories include pioneer recollections, biographical sketches and other local data not recorded anywhere else.</p> <p>Learn more about our Local and County Histories Collection. Or see our Local and County Histories Research Tips.</p>
Scroll through Newspapers on Microfilm	<p>Newspapers are a good source for obituaries and other family news and events. The Society owns newspapers from the 17th century to the present for over 1,600 Wisconsin newspapers and 2,500 out-of-state newspapers.</p> <p>Learn more about our Newspaper Collections. Or see Newspaper Research Tips for Family History.</p>
Read Family Histories	<p>Family histories include stories along with names, dates and places of our ancestors over many generations. The Society owns more than 40,000 compiled family histories, available in both the open book stacks and the pamphlet collection.</p> <p>Learn more about our Books of Family Histories Collections. Or see Family Histories Books Research Tips.</p>
Dig into Cemetery Records	<p>Check documents that list where ancestors are buried.</p> <p>Learn more about our Cemetery Records. Or see Cemetery Records Research Tips.</p>
Examine Immigration Records	<p>Passenger lists and naturalization records reveal our ancestors' immigrant experiences.</p> <p>Learn more about our Immigration Records. Or see Passenger Lists Research Tips and Naturalization Records Research Tips.</p>
Investigate Land Ownership Maps and Atlases	<p>Land ownership maps and atlases show who owned what parcels of land and the names of their neighbors.</p> <p>Learn more about our Land Ownership Maps and Atlases of Wisconsin. Or see Land Ownership Maps and Atlases Research Tips (to come).</p>
Research Military Records	<p>Substantial documentation on military activities, wars, the domestic impact of military actions, and the service and experiences of individual soldiers.</p>

Resource	What it Offers
	Learn more about our Military Records (to come). Or see Military Records Research Tips (to come).

### Finally, Visit Other Organizations that Keep Records

Place	What it Offers
Public Libraries	County histories, family histories, newspapers
County Courthouses	Vital records, land ownership records, court records, tax records
Local Churches	Church records, cemetery records
Cemetery Caretakers	Cemetery records
Village Halls	Cemetery records
National Archives	Military records

**Learn More**

• **Genealogy workshops and webinars**

Offered in the spring and fall of each year, programs are geared to all levels of experience and offer something for everyone, from beginners to veterans. Register early – space is limited.

• **Researching your family history**

See more articles about researching your family history.

**Have Questions?**

Contact our Library and Archives staff by email.

• [asklibrary@wisconsinhistory.org](mailto:asklibrary@wisconsinhistory.org)

• [askarchives@wisconsinhistory.org](mailto:askarchives@wisconsinhistory.org)

# Ancestral Chart

No. 1 on this chart is  
the same person as No. \_\_\_\_\_

On Chart No. \_\_\_\_\_

BORN  
PLACE  
MARRIED  
PLACE  
DIED  
PLACE

NAME OF SPOUSE \_\_\_\_\_

BORN  
PLACE  
MARRIED  
PLACE  
DIED  
PLACE

BORN  
PLACE  
DIED  
PLACE

BORN  
PLACE  
MARRIED  
PLACE  
DIED  
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BORN  
PLACE  
DIED  
PLACE

BORN  
PLACE  
MARRIED  
PLACE  
DIED  
PLACE

BORN  
PLACE  
DIED  
PLACE

CONT. ON CHART \_\_\_\_\_

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## GETTING STARTED WITH FAMILY HISTORY RESEARCH

### TIPS

- Many, many hours are usually involved, and researching often involves travel. Most records will be in the county or state historical societies and libraries. Genealogy is time-consuming effort, but will be well worth it to your family.
- You will make many copies and will probably spend money on them.
- Use a binder to organize your papers. Keep track of sources, and always write down the full century date. Also keep a list of where you did not find information.
- Old handwriting styles cause transcription errors and accuracy problems. Soundex is an index grouped by the sound of the last name – look for the first name of the individual you are looking for.
- There are many websites where you can make your own family tree, post it, and see other family trees. There is special software for genealogy, email discussion lists, and researchers for hire, who will do genealogy research for a fee. Some libraries and historical societies, including the Wisconsin Historical Society, also offer for-fee genealogy services, from printing copies of your family documents to conducting research for you.

### GETTING STARTED

#### PHASE 1 - Organize

- Read a how-to guide on genealogical research
- Use a chart
- Genealogy 101 on Heritage Quest
- Ancestry Library Learning Center (tab – videos, training, etc.)

#### PHASE 2 – Collect basic records on each person

- Start with yourself and work back through parents, grandparents, great-grandparents step by step without missing a generation. Stick with one family line until you hit an obstacle.

***Vital Records:***

**<http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/w2w.htm>** (CDC list by state)

***Census:***

- 1790-1840 – lists head of household only
- 1850-1940 – lists everyone (1890 – destroyed by fires in Washington in 1921)
- 1880 – gives more detail on birth location in Europe
- 1900-1940 – includes immigration info (only released after 72 years)

***Newspaper Articles:***

NewspaperArchive through Badgerlink

**<http://www.scls.info/resources>**

**PHASE 3 – Collect research by others**

(\*use info cautiously...)

- Family trees (you could find that a large amount of work has already been done by other family members)
- Published genealogies and county histories
- Biographies
- Diaries, personal letters and family Bibles
- Hereditary and lineage organization records

**PHASE 4 – Use primary/secondary documents to fill in the stories**

(\*always seek the index first...)

- Cemetery records
- Church records



- Travel records
- Courthouse records
- Military records
- City directories
- Medical records
- Occupational records
- Oral Histories
- Photographs
- School records
- Maps
- Manuscript collections

## **HELPFUL WEBSITES**

### **Ancestry Library**

<http://www.scls.info/resources>

- Ancestry Library is only available for use in the Library.
- One of the best things to use this website for is the U.S. Census records.
- Using Ancestry Library, you can access the Social Security Death Index, which has accurate records for people who died in the 1960s or later.
- The Library edition includes world records.
- You will find more search options if you choose a collection rather than just enter a name.
- You do not have to fill in every box to search. And, you can uncheck “exact matches only” box.

### **HeritageQuest**

<http://www.scls.info/resources>

- HeritageQuest can be accessed from home with your library card number.

- HeritageQuest includes over 25,000 books, biographies and histories, the US Census and military records.

### **Wisconsin Historical Society Genealogy page**

<http://www.wisconsinhistory.org/genealogy/index.html>

- Wisconsin Historical Society possesses one of the largest genealogical collections in the country. The collection is not limited to Wisconsin history and genealogy but includes family and local history material pertaining to all regions of North America.
- See the listing of various types of records such as Cemetery, Census, Church, Immigration, Naturalization, etc. with instructions on how to use each type for genealogical work, and what the Society has of each type.
- This organization provides many classes and webinars.

### **FamilySearch**

<http://www.familysearch.org/>

- This website is available for all people, not limited to members of the LDS church.
- You need to set up free account to search.
- At the site, you can read a guide on how to start your family history, search for family members in a variety of databases, find a wide variety of maps, forms, guides, and other research helps, in a list that can be sorted by place, title, subject, or document type, and find links to other websites containing family history information.
- You will be able to find specific information, such as microfilm numbers. If the website says no records exist, ask someone. If the FamilySearch headquarters in Salt Lake City can't send out the materials, the original location should also have the records.

### **Cyndi's List**

<http://www.cyndislist.com/>

- There are links to just about everything a genealogist could need at Cyndi's list.
- One of the most helpful sections of the site is the Cyndi's List list of genealogical databases.

### **Cemetery Records Online**

<http://www.interment.net/>

### **BARABOO PUBLIC LIBRARY has:**

- Digitized Sauk County History Books
- Centennial and memorial histories of almost every town and village in Sauk County
- Baraboo newspapers on microfilm (1855-), indexed for births, deaths and marriages
- Cemetery inscriptions for every cemetery in Sauk County, indexed by name within townships
- City and county directories back to 1890
- High School Yearbooks

### **SAUK COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY has in addition:**

- Original Baraboo newspapers, and some county papers
- Probate records
- Files on random individuals, families, and organizations
- Books for sale
- Extensive research and genealogical library