

Save the Last Dance for Me: Discovering the Social Lives of Our Ancestors

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1. DISCOVERING THE SOCIAL LIVES OF OUR ANCESTORS
 - a. Our ancestors were much more than just names and dates on a page. Who were they? What did they do for fun? Our ancestors didn’t have Facebook, but we can do our best to find some of the tidbits they would have posted about!
2. START AT HOME
 - a. Home sources
 - i. Diaries
 - ii. Photos (don’t forget to look on the back of photos!)
 - iii. Mementos
 - iv. Family papers, letters, tickets, wedding announcements, receipts.
 - b. Interview family members of the older generation (if possible)
3. NEWSPAPERS – online and at local repositories
 - a. What to search for in newspapers:
 - i. Obituaries
 - ii. Blurbs about family members visiting from out of town or attending events and social functions
 - iii. Marriage and engagement announcements
 - iv. Classified ads and business ads
 - v. Sports articles, statistics, and scores
 - vi. Event announcements (community events, church events, etc)
 - vii. State and local political news (if your ancestor was involved in politics)
 - viii. Any other type of article including the names of family members

- b. Finding newspapers online (USA):
 - i. <https://www.newspapers.com>
 - ii. <https://newspaperarchive.com>
 - iii. <https://www.genealogybank.com>
 - iv. <https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov>
 - v. <https://news.google.com/newspapers>
 - vi. <https://www.cyndislist.com/newspapers/>
 - vii. "Online Digital Newspaper Collections by State -- The Lists by State"
(by James Tanner)
<http://genealogysstar.blogspot.com/2014/07/online-digital-newspaper-collections-by.html>
- 4. RELIGIOUS SOURCES
 - a. Church histories
 - b. Church membership lists
 - c. Other related sources
- 5. YEARBOOKS & OTHER SCHOOL / UNIVERSITY RELATED SOURCES
 - a. Was your ancestor involved in activities at school or college?
 - b. Online Yearbooks:
 - i. Cyndi's List: <https://www.cyndislist.com/schools/yearbooks/>
 - ii. Ancestry: <https://search.ancestry.com/search/category.aspx?cat=138>
- 6. CLUBS, SOCIETIES & FRATERNAL ORGANIZATIONS
 - a. Ethnic organizations
 - b. Organizations related to the interests of our ancestors – e.g.: sports, games, ladies clubs, volunteer groups, genealogy, etc.
- 7. LINEAGE SOCIETY SOURCES – DAR, SAR, C.A.R., Mayflower Society, etc.
 - a. Lineage society publications – magazines, newsletters, etc.
 - i. May contain interesting information or insight, especially if your ancestor was a leader in a lineage society.
 - b. Lineage society applications
- 8. LOCAL SOURCES (onsite)
 - a. "Mug books" – local histories
 - b. Libraries
 - c. Museums
 - d. Local historical and genealogical societies
 - e. Other local repositories / societies

Resources:

- Cyndi's List: <https://www.cyndislist.com>
- Ancestry: <https://www.ancestry.com>
- FamilySearch: <https://www.familysearch.org>