

Ohio Family History Research

Class 4: Strategies Through Case Studies

Melanie McComb, Senior Genealogist, melanie.mccomb@nehgs.org

Objectives

1. Participants will review critical tools and resources for Ohio research
2. Participants will understand how to apply selected research strategies

Key Tools

1. Most research of Ohio ancestors will begin with one of these finding aids.
Each of these books points the reader to another source where the information was found.
 - a. Julie M. Overton's *Ohio Towns and Townships to 1900: A Location Guide*
 - b. Kip Sperry's *Genealogical Research in Ohio*
2. Several published compilations of genealogies
 - a. *Henry R. Baldwin Genealogical Records* (67 volumes)
 - b. Ohio Genealogical Society's *First Families of Ohio*
 - c. Donald M. Hehir's *Ohio Families*
3. Periodicals such as:
 - a. New England Historical and Genealogical Register
 - b. New York Biographical and Genealogical Record
 - c. The American Genealogist
 - d. Ohio Genealogical Society Quarterly
 - e. The 'Old Northwest' Genealogical Quarterly
4. The key sources of information for Ohio research
 - a. Civil vital records, church records and cemeteries
 - i. FamilySearch Wiki (Vital Records) - https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/Ohio_Vital_Records
 - b. Court records
 - c. Military records
 - i. FamilySearch Wiki - https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/Ohio_Military_Records
 - d. Probate records
 - e. Land records

Essential Techniques

1. FAN Club research – families, associates, neighbors
2. Naming patterns (onomastic research)
 - i. Some cultures have defined naming patterns
 - ii. Surnames as given names, or less common given names as given names can be clues of earlier kinships
3. Geographic research (know migration patterns)
4. Timelines
5. Manuscript research

Case Studies

1. Problem – unknown guardian. Solution – Research land deeds back to original acquisition and use the FAN Club to research origins back to New England.
2. Problem – unknown parentage. Solution – review neighbors for potential family members and exhaust local history sources for clues on the family.
3. Problem – maiden name. Solution – Identify potential candidates and research land deeds, census records, and extended family with similar migration patterns.

Resources

Baldwin, Henry R., *The Henry R. Baldwin Genealogical Records* (Fort Wayne, Indiana: Allen County Public Library, 1983)

Hehir, Donald M., *Ohio Families: A Bibliography of Books About Ohio Families* (Bowie, Maryland: Heritage Books, 1993). Available to borrow online from the Internet Archive at <https://archive.org/details/ohiofamiliesbibl00hehi>

Mayburt Stephenson Rigel, *Early Ohioans' Residences from the Land Grant Records*, (Mansfield, Ohio: The Ohio Genealogical Society, 1976). Available on FamilySearch at <https://www.familysearch.org/library/books/records/item/376640-early-ohioans-residences-from-the-land-grant-records>

Ohio Genealogical Society, *First Families of Ohio* (Bowling Green, Ohio: Center for Archival Collections, Bowling Green State University, 1992, 1994). Available on FamilySearch at <https://www.familysearch.org/search/catalog/708410>.

Overton, Julie M., *Ohio Towns and Townships to 1900: A Location Guide* (Bellville, Ohio: Ohio Genealogical Society, 2011)

Sperry, Kip, *Genealogical Research in Ohio* (Genealogical Publishing Co., 2023), 3rd Edition

Taylor, James Wickes, *History of the State of Ohio* (Miami, Fla.: HardPress, 2017)

The biographical Cyclopædia and Portrait Gallery with an Historical Sketch of the State of Ohio, 5 vols., (Cincinnati: Western Biographical Publishing Company, 1883-1891).

<https://catalog.hathitrust.org/Record/009833357>