

Using County History Societies

- The first enumerations in the United States were done on the county level.
- Unique characteristics of counties east of the Mississippi Delta:
 - Are smaller in area
 - Are older, therefore will have more records
 - Frequently came from former counties – additional records
 - Have church records which usually will predate county records
- Characteristics of all counties:
 1. All have websites with contact information.
 2. Have workers, (many times, volunteers), who have vested interests in the history of their county.
 3. Become repositories for an innumerable amount of records, including those collected by individuals.
 4. Have workers indexing records and putting the information up on THEIR websites.
 5. Many times will do the searching for you, for free, or for a nominal fee.
 6. Given enough time, will have all kinds of things for you to go through when you come and visit.
- Kinds of sources found in county historical society repositories:
 1. School Records
 2. Local Histories
 3. Industry Records
 4. Picture Files
 5. Church Records
 6. County Census Records
 7. City Directories
 8. Court Records
 9. Immigration & Naturalization Records
 10. Plat Maps
- Other repositories that will be familiar to historical societies:
 - County Recorders' Offices
 - Local Libraries – County, City, University
 - Local History Museums
 - Ethnic Immigrant Societies
 - Newspaper Offices
- How does one contact County Historical Societies?
 - Google the Cuyahoga County Historical Society
 - Look for a button that says, "About Us" to find contact information and hours.
 - Explore the websites; become familiar with them.

"Every time I go to a seminar or Expo, someone comes up to me with information about records that have never been filmed, and aren't likely to be filmed soon.

They are everywhere."

~ Dennis Meldrum ~

Former CEO of FamilySearch Worldwide Scanning