Phyllis Hamner Room

321 South 4th Street
Ironton, Ohio 45638
740-532-1124

Hours

Monday through
Thursday
9:00 a.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Friday and Saturday
9:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Closed Sunday

Discovering Your Roots

Information for First Time Genealogists

When you begin your research, write down everything you know.

Step 1:
Start with yourself.... Write down your complete name, birth date, place of birth, and parents name.

Step 2:
Next write your siblings, parents, grandparents, etc. Remember to always use pencil and list married females under their maiden name. For each person fill out the information below.

- Complete Name (first, middle, last) - nicknames should be noted as well.
- Birth Date (day, month, year)
- Birth Place (city, township, county, state and/or country)
- Marriage Date (day, month, year)
- Place of Marriage (city, township, county, state and/or country)

- Death Date (day, month, year)
- Place of Death (city, township, county, state and/or country)
- Place of Burial (name of cemetery, city, township, county, state and/or country)
- Name of Parents (remember to list females' maiden names)

Of course, you may not know all of this information about everyone at the beginning. Just write what you know and leave the rest blank.

Step 3:

Once you have written down all you know. The next step is to contact your older relatives and write down what they know. Record your conversation, if you can. Some suggested questions are:

1. Where are our relatives buried?
2. Do you know any dates for births, deaths, marriage, etc.?
3. Do you know any stories, legends or rumors about our family? (These answers are the most important because a lot of the information resulting from this question will not be available elsewhere)
4. Do you know of any other relatives I can talk to?
5. Has anyone else done genealogy research on our family?
6. Do you have any family bibles? (Bibles are a wealth of information on families. Often, they include births, deaths, and other special events.)

Once you have gathered all the information you can, you need to find other source to search.

Step 4:

Go to your local genealogy resource center. For Lawrence County information, start in the Phyllis Hamner Room in the Ironton Branch of Briggs Lawrence County Public Library.

Sources Available in the Phyllis Hamner Room.

- Marriage Records from 1817-2007— Marriage records can include name of groom, maiden name of bride, date of marriage, place of marriage, age of couple, marital status of the couple (single, divorce, widowed), and names of parents (after 1899).
- Census Records for Lawrence County from 1820-1930– Census records can include names, year and month of birth, occupations, income, siblings, children, and birth place.
- Birth Records and Indexes from 1868-2000—Only records from 1868-1938 are located on the library shelves. From 1939-2000, records are kept in a locked closet for privacy purposes. Library staff can tell you what the record includes from 1939-2000. From 1868-1909, only birth records (not birth certificates) are available. Birth Records can Include the baby's complete name, date of birth, place of birth, father's name, mother's maiden name, and number of siblings.
- Cemetery Listings and Indexes—The Hamner Room has a listing of all known cemeteries in Lawrence County by township. Woodland Ceme-

tery has an index and three volumes of cemetery records. A cemetery record can include where the person was buried, date of death, funeral home, parent's name, and birth date.

- Death Records and Indexes—Death Records are available from 1868-2000. Only records from 1868-1938 are accessible to the public. From 1939-2000, the records can be searched by library staff for information. From 1868-1909, only death records exist. Death certificates did not begin until 1909. A death record can include the death date, place of death, cause of death, age and marital status.
- Military Records and Information—We have a variety of military information, including first hand accounts, injured lists, and draft records. Other military records are available through the National Archives in Washinton, D.C.
- Church Records—We have a few church records and histories. A church record can include birth dates, death dates, marriages, baptisms, etc. You can also ask the specific church for records.
- Wills from 1800-1999
- Deed Records from 1816-1876
- Early Court Records
- Ironton Newspapers on Microfilm from 1851-present
- Obituary Indexes from 1850-1900 and 2001-2008
- Ironton City Directories from 1894 to 2007 (some volumes are not available)
- Yearbooks from local school systems
- Over 300 Family books
- Lawrence County History Volume 1 and 2
- Hardesty Atlas of Lawrence County
- Historical Registration Applications for Historical Homes, Buildings, and Businesses in Ironton and the county
- Notebooks on the Waterloo Wonders, Underground Railroad in Lawrence County, Burlington 37 and other various topics
- And many other items.

While your in our room, don't forget to sign our guest book. You can also check our guest book and files for other people researching your family.

Other Helpful Hints

- Be aware of variations in spelling of names. Remember not everyone was literate in our past and names were spelled how they sounded.
- Remember to be open minded. Expect to find some skeletons in your family's closet and be proud of their differences.
- Indexes can be wrong. People create indexes from old records which are often difficult to read, so mistakes can happen.

History and Parent Counties

History plays an important role in genealogy research. For in-

stance, a large number of widows or deaths are often attributed to wars or battles. Another example is land grants given to soldiers instead of payment for their service in the army, which brought more settlers to our region.

Parent counties are counties from which another county is formed. Since how and when certain counties were formed may determine where you will find records, you need to know you county's history and the history of your state.

For our area, here are some basic points to keep in mind:

1. Kentucky was part of Virginia until 1792.
2. West Virginia was part of Virginia until 1863.
3. Lawrence County's parent counties include Washington (1790-1800), Adams County (1800), Gallia County (1810), and Scioto County (1810). In 1820, Lawrence County became the county we know today.
4. Kentucky's Greenup, Boyd, and Carter Counties' parent counties were Mason County, Virginia (1790), Mason County, Kentucky (1800), Greenup County, Kentucky (1810-1850), Lawrence County, Kentucky (1830-1850), and Carter County (1840 and 1850). In 1860, the counties of Greenup, Boyd, and Carter have the same boundaries as they do today.

For more information on parent counties, you can use the book, Map Guide to the U. S. Federal Census, 1790-1920 by William Thorndale and William Dollarhide.

Common Nicknames

Belle and Bella—Mabel,Sybil, Arabelle, Belinda, Elizabeth, Isabel Mirabel, and Rosebel
Boots—Bertha
Bridet and Brie—Bridget
Daisy – Margaret
Dode and Dody—Dorothy and Theodore
Mamie, Polly, and May—Mary
Pat, Patsy, Patty, and Pattie—Martha, Matilda, Patricia, and Patience
Robin—Robert and Roberta
Sadie, Sally and Sallie—Sarah
Tad and Theo—Theodore
Ted and Teddy—Edward and Theodore
Trina—Catherine and Katherine
Bob, Bobby, and Dobbin—Robert
Dick—Richard
Hal—Harold and Henry

Online Resources

Ancestry.com = Ancestry has census, marriage, birth and death records

available. You can also search other records and histories. This website is available for free in any Briggs Lawrence County Public Library branch.

Cyndi's List of Genealogical Sites on the Internet = http://www.cyndislist.com/ = Cyndi's List is an excellent website for links to good genealogy resources on a variety of topics.

Family Search Labs = http://labs.familysearch.org/ = To access this database, you must signup for the service. Currently, the site offers free access to Ohio Death Certificates, Census Records and other resources.

Lawrence County Chapter of the Ohio Genealogical Society = http://lawrencecountyohio.com/gensoc/gensoc.htm = This link will take you to information on the genealogy society and forms for Civil War, Founding, and Settler and Builders Families.

Lawrence County Register = http://lawrencecountyohio.com/ = This website has indexes to deaths, obituaries, and marriages. The site also has many other helpful information on Lawrence County History. Most of this information is available in book form in the Hamner Room, but this way you can access the information from the comforts of your home.

Sandborn Fire Maps = This database is available through the library's OPLIN research databases. Sandborn Fire Maps has maps all over the United States including the owners of the properties.

For more websites, go to http://www.briggslibrary.com/hamner/links06.html.

For information on Lawrence County history and view some of our photo collection, go to http://www.briggslibrary.com/hamner/Photos.html.

Rules and Prices

- Due to the age of the items in the Hamner Room, all visitors must use pencils only.
- All bags, purses, and laptop cases must be places in lockers located near the door.
- No child under the age of 12 is permitted in the room.
- All Briggs Lawrence County Public Library branches have wireless internet access, so you can access the internet with your laptop.
- Copies are 15¢ for black and white 8 1/2 by 11 and 25¢ for color prints (from the printer in the Hamner Room), legal size prints, and blown up copies.
- Copies from the microfilm machines are 25¢ each.
- Please bring small currency because we do not have the ability to make change from large amounts.