**Looking Forward to Looking Back: Where to Go Next**

Jean Wilcox Hibben; PhD, MA

Riverside County, CA

[circlemending@gmail.com](mailto:circlemending@gmail.com)

<https://circlemending.org>

cell: 909-994-6114

© 2022, J. W. Hibben

No unauthorized reproduction

Once you have celebrated locating your ancestor(s) on that elusive document, now what? Genealogists are never satisfied for long. We are always hungry for more. Maybe that’s why genealogy is such a perfect pastime, whether hobby, profession, or perceived duty (the official or unofficial family historian). Where can that latest discovery take you?

Suggestions below are not all inclusive; individual states and/or counties, particular time periods, and other elements mean that uniformity is not to be expected. However, do not discount the possibility of striking gold . . . or even platinum. The list here provides some possible, additional findings and everything is worth checking (sometimes twice). Resources accurate as of 21 January 2022. (Note: “principal” refers to the person to whom the record is primarily linked.)

Newspapers.com

NewspaperArchive.com

* Obituary can include
  + Cause, date, & place of death (place may not be the same as)
  + Occupation (former or current) & affiliations (religious, civic, etc.)
  + Family members (older obituaries may list relationships, full names of children, names of spouses, & residence location at the time the principal died)
  + Funeral, memorial, &/or burial information.

Check:

FindAGrave.com

BillionGraves.com

Interment.net

* Death certificate or registration can give
  + Death info
    - Age at time of death
    - Location of death
    - Attending physician
    - Cause of death
    - Informant of the particulars for the deceased (might be a relative; not always clear) with his/her signature
  + Birthdate & place

Many Church & Vital Records at:

FamilySearch.org

Ancestry.com

* + Occupation (former or at time of death)
  + Parents & spouse names and if they are still living
  + Burial (when & where) or cremation information
  + immigration & naturalization information, if applicable.
* Marriage record, certificate, or registration can provide
  + Names of parents
  + Location of marriage (not always where the license was obtained)
  + Person officiating
  + Occupation(s)
  + Residence(s)
  + Ages of both spouses
  + Whether or not it is a first marriage (should be noted for each)
  + Signatures of couple & witnesses
* Birth and/or baptism record might include
  + Birth date & place
  + Any unusual birthing circumstances (still born, health condition, etc.)
  + Parents’ names, occupations, residence, & ages; maybe their birth places
  + Godparents’ names (may be relatives)
* Naturalization records (intent & granted) can list
  + Legal name of principal, age, & signature
  + Birth location & citizenship of principal (& renouncement of loyalty)
  + Date, arrival port, ship name of immigration
  + Occupation & residence
* Immigration record might include
  + Legal name & occupation of principal (with signature)
  + Names of other family, as applicable
  + Address or destination in the new country
  + Arrival date & port (possibly departure date & port as well)
  + Name of ship

More on these: Ancestry.com

FamilySearch.org

Archives.gov

* Passenger list could identify
  + Legal name of principal & names of those in the party
  + Occupation (in the “old country” &/or planned in the new one)
  + Sponsoring person, family, organization, &/or destination
  + Date & port of entry & possibly the same for departure
  + Name of ship & captain
  + Physical description &/or health status
* City directories can list
  + Name of head of household (age & sex not usually included)
  + Names (listed individually) of others in household (but alphabetically)
    - Usually only adult children are listed
    - Sometimes only employed household members are included
  + Address of home (if in another township, that might be noted)
  + Address & name of company or organization of trade
  + Difference from previous directory
    - Moved, married, name change, etc.
* Military records
* Pension can include
  + - Family data – spouse, children (names, dates, & whether alive)
    - Health data – information on service-related issues as well as other maladies from time of discharge to time of application
    - Affidavits from colleagues, clergy, friends, service compatriots, etc.
    - Letters from invalid &/or lawyer to pension board
    - Photos (rare)

Military resource: Fold3.com

* + - Applicant signature
* Service record shows
  + - Muster rolls (bi-monthly attendance)
    - Enlistment & Discharge dates & places
    - Injuries, imprisonments, or death – where & what circumstances
    - Furloughs
    - Advancements & commendations
    - Reprimands & demotions
* Family ephemera can include any number of clues to family history
  + Letters & address books
  + Photos

Check county websites at USGenWeb.com & Genealogy Trails.com & LinkPendium.com

* + Newspaper articles
  + Certificates of award or other achievement
  + Diplomas, graduation programs, & school records
  + Funeral cards or announcements
  + Maps & schedules
  + Address books & gift receipt lists (wedding, shower, birthday, etc.)
  + Anything with a signature (can be used to identify who is who in cases of same names)
* Federal Census records (day, month, and year in italics indicates the date from which information is to be gathered; e.g., 1 April 1940 means that the data collected is to reflect the status in the household on that date and anyone dying even one day later or born one day earlier should be included, while those dying even just one day before or born even one day after that date are to be omitted – no, enumerators are not always careful about that). It is usually safe to expect that the city, township, county, state on the top of the page is the residence location for those listed on that target date, however, be careful to check that enumeration districts were not mixed together or that any of the households listed at the end are not from another location.
  + Earliest US Census schedules: 1790, 1800, 1810, 1820, 1830, 1840 (no dates listed):
  + Names of heads of households only
  + Others grouped by sex & general age
  + 1850 Census *1 June 1850*
  + Dwelling & family numbers
  + Real estate value
  + Every person in household plus
    - his/her age, sex, ethnicity (color or race), occupation, place of birth
    - If married within the year
    - School attendance during the year
    - Literacy
  + Actual date of enumeration
  + Death dates of those who died during the year (listed at end of district pages)
* 1860 Census *1 June 1860*
  + Same as 1850 plus
  + Personal property value
  + 1870 Census *1 June 1870*

More Census info:

Ancesry.com

FamilySearch.com

Archives.gov

* + Same as earlier ones plus
  + Whether parents were foreign-born
  + Month of birth of children born within Census year
  + Month married if within Census year
  + Voting eligibility
  + 1880 Census *1 June 1880*
  + Same as earlier ones plus
  + Relation to head of household
  + Marital status of each person
  + Place of birth of both parents of the principal
  + 1890 Census: Destroyed, only fragments available
  + 1900 Census *1 June 1900*
  + Same as earlier ones plus
  + Address (number & street, as applicable)
  + Month & year of birth
  + Number of years married
  + Mother of how many children & number still living
  + Year of immigration plus naturalization status (if applicable)
  + Can’t speak English (box to check)
  + Number of years unemployed (if applicable)
  + Dwelling info
    - Home rented or owned &, if the latter, is there a mortgage
    - Farm or house
  + 1910 Census *15 April 1910*
  + Same as earlier ones (adding “nature of business” to occupation) plus
  + Number of years married
  + Mother of how many children & number of those still living
  + Year of immigration & naturalization status
  + Language spoken
  + Veteran status (Civil War)
  + Blind or deaf-mute
  + 1920 Census *1 January 1920*
  + Same as earlier ones plus
  + Specific years of immigration & naturalization
  + Mother tongue of principal & parents
  + 1930 Census *1 April 1930*
  + Same info as earlier ones plus
  + Radio in household
  + Age at first marriage
  + College education if any time since 1 Sept 1929
  + Year of immigration & naturalization status (if applicable)
  + Language in home before coming to US (if applicable)
  + Work industry, class of worker, & employment status
  + Veteran status plus war or expedition
  + 1940 Census *1 April 1940*
  + Some of same info as in earlier ones, but
  + Birth locations (with more detail) of only those listed (not their parents), except
  + for 5% of population
    - More details about occupation, education, & income in 1939
    - Farm schedule cross reference
  + X to indicate which household member is answering the questions
  + Temporarily absent members to be noted
  + Use “infant” to identify any unnamed children
  + Highest grade in school
  + Residence location in 1935

For more info:

Census.gov (esp. for 1950)

* + 1950 Census *1 April 1950*
  + Most of the above plus
  + Property acreage (if applicable)
  + State or country of birth
  + Extra questions for those over 14 years old
    - What was person doing most of last week – working, keeping house, ?
    - More clarification of the activities of the last week
    - Information on type of occupation, etc.
  + Supplemental questions for 5% of population
    - All ages
      * Living in same location as a year ago
      * Living on a farm a year ago
      * Living in same county as a year ago
      * If in foreign country a year ago, where
      * Parental birth locations
      * School: highest grade, if attended since Feb 1
    - Over age 14
      * How long looking for work (if applicable)
      * How many weeks out of work
      * Money earned (in identified occupation)
      * Other income & related questions
      * If head of household, what did other relatives in home earn
      * If male, Armed Forces engagements
      * If married, what number marriage is it
      * How many years since marriage termination (if applicable)
      * If female & ever married, how many children born alive

**A COUPLE OF ADDITIONAL SUGGESTIONS ON WHERE TO FIND MORE**

Cyndi’s List (Cyndislist.com)

Stephen Morse’s 1-Step Pages (stevemorse.org)