

Genealogy Research Log

A reusable research-session log designed to capture not only **what you searched**, but what the results actually mean.

Research focus

RESEARCH QUESTION / OBJECTIVE		
PERSON / FAMILY	PLACE	TIME PERIOD
KNOWN FACTS BEFORE THIS SEARCH Record only the facts relevant to this question. Note uncertainty rather than filling gaps with assumptions.		

Search details

REPOSITORY / WEBSITE		COLLECTION / RECORD SET
SEARCH TERMS USED		NAME VARIATIONS TRIED
DATE RANGE SEARCHED	LOCATION SEARCHED	FILTERS / RESTRICTIONS

What I examined

Record / item	Date	Name(s)	Result / note

NEGATIVE SEARCHES / NOTHING FOUND

Record unsuccessful searches too: where you looked, exactly what you searched, and the relevant scope or date range.

Analyze the Evidence

Finding a record is only the beginning. Separate the information in the source from the conclusion you draw from it.

Evidence found

SOURCE / CITATION

WHAT DOES THE SOURCE ACTUALLY SAY OR SHOW?

WHAT DOES THIS EVIDENCE SUPPORT?

WHAT DOES IT CONTRADICT OR LEAVE UNRESOLVED?

Evaluate it

CONFIDENCE

■ Confirmed ■ Probable ■ Possible ■ Unknown

WHY?

Questions & next steps

NEW QUESTIONS RAISED

CONFLICTING EVIDENCE

PEOPLE / ASSOCIATES TO FOLLOW

PLACES / JURISDICTIONS TO FOLLOW

SOURCES NOT YET CHECKED

SEARCHES TO REPEAT DIFFERENTLY

MY NEXT THREE ACTIONS

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

GENLADY REMINDER

A search that finds nothing isn't necessarily a failed search. Record where you looked, what you searched, and what you didn't find.