

# Lida Larkin's family history tips

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## From the Sonneborns "Genealogy News" – January 2009: Relatives Found Through Real Estate Settlements

"Imagine finding a genealogy of your third great-grandmother's descendants compiled fifty years after her death. It might not be where you expect. I found one for mine, but it isn't in any genealogical library, was never published in book form, and has never been posted online. I found it in the county courthouse, contained in the estate record of one of her daughters. Estate settlements of relatives who died without children are one of the best genealogical sources you may never heard of." --by Michael John Neill. Read more at: [Estate Records](#)

Source: "Family History Bulletin", WorldVitalRecords.com, 7/28/2008

## Also: [Poignant Civil War Records Digitized by Latter-day Saints](#)

A powerful and amazing letter from Abraham Lincoln discovered in the National Archives by Family History Missionaries, Ronald and Elaine Knight, emphasizes the importance of the project of digitizing precious Civil War letters.

By Laura Leavitt Hauck  
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Note: If you don't know this daily LDS online magazine, I highly recommend that you sign up for it. It has news and interesting articles.

## Also: ANYONE NEED ARIZONA RECORDS?

A lot of my husband's family is from Arizona, and I have been successfully using that site (<http://genealogy.az.gov>) for a couple of years. The death records are from 1844 - 1957. It does not have just death certificates. You can also access birth certificates from this site from 1855 to 1932. It is a great site and we have found a lot of information there. I think all the states should do this. Arizona does it because it is public record.

Amy Griffin  
Prescott, AZ Stake

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**Naturalization Petitions in Cook County Archives.** This is a work in progress with 150,000 immigrant petitions with 250,000 more coming that cover the years 1871-1929. Then there are 400,000 Declarations of Intention - 1906-1929. David Earl Perry, Ph.D. tells us, "Because the Declaration may be the only public record of an individual immigrant, it is a significant source of documentation for genealogists and scholars. Keep checking back if you don't find any one the first time." <http://www.cookcountyclerkofcourt.org/NR/>

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Kimberly Powell's About Genealogy Newsletter gives us some great tips: [Five Golden Rules for Growing Family Trees](#). <http://genealogy.about.com/od/basics/a/rules.htm?nl=1>

Check it out! \* \* \* \* \*

Dick Eastman's newsletter tells us:

"Mary L. B." has placed an interesting article on the EOGN Discussion Forum that I wish all genealogy newcomers would read. Entitled, "Pitfalls That Can Create Brick Walls or Cause You to Claim the Wrong Ancestors," Mary details several bits of "misinformation" that most of us struggled with when we first started.

The article describes the confusion over the terms Junior and Senior in old records, the relationships of children in a household in U.S. census records, marriage licenses versus marriage returns, and more.

You can read her excellent article at:  
<http://www.eogn.com/forum/index.php/topic,242.0>.

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In July 2008 Family Tree Magazine, Sharon Debartolo Carmack has a good article, "Recharge Your Research," on page 17.

Here are the suggestions and a quick synopsis:

1. Find originals – get those original records
2. Review your records – did you overlook the fact great grandma came from France instead of England as listed on a death certificate?
3. Use a checklist – list all possible types of records and check them out.
4. Write your family history – helps you see the holes and faulty logic in your research as you try to string it together.
5. Google your ancestor – new info keeps coming online so check often

6. Look up neighbors and associates – they might have info you didn't know about.
7. Consult county and local histories – early days your people were in the histories of the area or the local news reasonably often.
8. Read a state or county guide – find what records are available for that area.
9. Attend a seminar, institute or conference – a teacher in one of the classes may have the clue you need for new ideas and to jump-start your enthusiasm.
10. Trace lines forward to locate cousins – someone might have the family Bible or an unpublished family history or an obit with great family info.
11. Contact local historical societies – they could have funeral home records, business records, or lots of other helpful things.
12. Get a second opinion – a fresh pair of eyes helps as well as explaining the problem might bring new ideas.

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Find out about the houses where your ancestors lived. Check county records and see if there's an early picture. Do a bit of history hunting and maybe those "walls will talk."

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That's all Folks! For this time.

To Contact lida larkin  
[momuv712@gmail.com](mailto:momuv712@gmail.com)

