

## Exploring Patterns in Your Family History Research

Melissa C. Tennant

260-421-1225

[Genealogy@ACPL.Info](mailto:Genealogy@ACPL.Info)

### Pattern Detectors:

- For the missing piece.
  - Collect family records.
  - Create a timeline.
  - Research collateral lines.
  - Add the extended family to the timeline.
  - Map the locales.
- For multiple generations.
  - Do not make assumptions.
  - Map locations.
  - Pay attention to state, county, and town boundaries.
  - Consider searching for records in the surrounding area.
  - Search for newspaper announcements, such as obits and wedding anniversaries in current and previous locales of residence.
  - Ask ... Why did they do that? Look for what might have influenced your ancestors' decisions.
  - Note other family member details in whatever format works best for you.
  - Create spreadsheets or lists that will help you visualize the family connections.
  - Explore the identical details among the family members
- For a neighborhood / community.
  - Collect records for the family.
  - Note the names of the other people and addresses that appear in the family records.
  - Track your ancestors' residences.
  - Pay attention to the Friends, Acquaintances, and Neighbors (FANs).
  - Use census and city directories to see who else might have been neighbors or possibly lived at the same address.
  - Create a way to track the information that works best for you.
  - Map the family.
  - Research the social history.
    - Ethnicity sourcebooks.
    - State guidebooks with ethnic chapters.
    - Historical books about the county or town.

- Area, region, and neighborhood.
- Histories of organizations.

Articles on patterns:

- Tanner, James. "Pattern Recognition as a Goal in Genealogy." *Genealogy Star* <<https://genealogystar.blogspot.com/2018/08/pattern-recognition-as-goal-in-genealogy.html>>, 19 Aug 2018. Accessed 3/30/2022.

Articles about timelines:

- Starmans, Barbara J. "Step Two: Create a Timeline." *Out of My Tree Genealogy* <<https://www.outofmytreegenealogy.com/step-two-create-a-timeline/>>, accessed 3/30/2022.
- "Timeline Grids." *FamilySearch Wiki* <[https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/Timeline\\_Grids](https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/Timeline_Grids)>, accessed 3/30/2022.

Article on creating a timeline in Word:

- "Family History Timeline: Quick and Easy How To Tutorial." *Who Are You Made of Blog* <<https://whoareyoumadeof.com/blog/family-history-timeline-quick-and-easy-how-to-tutorial/>>, 20 Apr 2021. Accessed 3/30/2022.

Article on creating a timeline in Excel:

- "7 Simple Steps To Creating A Genealogy Timeline (And Why You Need One)." *Heritage Discovered* <<https://www.heritagediscovered.com/blog/7-simple-steps-creating-genealogy-timeline-why-need-one>>, accessed 3/30/2022.

Article on creating a timeline in MyHeritage:

- "Introducing the Family Tree Timeline." *MyHeritage* <<https://blog.myheritage.com/2022/03/introducing-the-family-tree-timeline/>>, 6 Mar 2022. Accessed 3/30/2022.

Articles about timelines that mention multiple options for their creation:

- Dunkley, Rachel. "Genealogy Timeline: How it Can Help Your Research." *Family Tree Resources* <<https://www.familytreeresources.com/genealogy-timeline.html>>, accessed 3/30/2022.
- McGowan, Alistair. "Why you need a Timeline for Family History Success." *bespokeGENEALOGY* <<https://bespokegenealogy.com/timeline-for-family-history/>>, 12 June 2019. Accessed 3/30/2022.

- Sullivan, Amanda. "This Straightforward Technique Will Help You Uncover Missed Facts About Your Ancestors." *Family History Daily* <<https://familyhistorydaily.com/genealogy-help-and-how-to/ancestor-timeline/>>, accessed 3/30/2022.

Other forms to consider:

- "Charts and Forms." *FamilySearch Wiki* <[https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/Category:Charts and Forms](https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/Category:Charts_and_Forms)>, accessed 3/30/2022.

Articles on map options for genealogy:

- Morton, Sunny Jane. "5 Ways to Use Online Historical Maps for Genealogy." *Family Tree Magazine* <<https://www.familytreemagazine.com/records/maps/use-online-maps-for-genealogy/>>, accessed 3/30/2022.
- O'Neal, Elizabeth Swanay. "10 Awesome Websites With Maps for Genealogy Research." *Heart of the Family* <<https://www.thefamilyheart.com/maps-for-genealogy-research/>>, accessed 3/30/2022.

Tips to search for social history:

- Search Google and library and archive catalogs for the name of the town, organization, or ethnic group and the state of interest.

Books to consider for ethnic history:

- *Discovering the People of Michigan* is a book series published by Michigan State University Press <[https://msupress.org/search-results-grid/?keyword=Discovering+the+People+of+Michigan&page\\_number=1](https://msupress.org/search-results-grid/?keyword=Discovering+the+People+of+Michigan&page_number=1)>.
- Taylor, Robert M., Jr. and Connie A. McBirney (ed.). *Peopling Indiana: The Ethnic Experience*. Indianapolis: Indiana Historical Society, 1996.
- Thernstrom, Stephan (ed.). *Harvard Encyclopedia of American Ethnic Groups*. Cambridge, MA: Belknap Press of Harvard University, 1980.

Articles on searching social history, FANs, and clusters:

- Haddad, Diane. "7 Ways to Solve Genealogy Problems With Cluster Research." *Family Tree Magazine* <<https://www.familytreemagazine.com/research/ways-to-solve-genealogy-problems-with-cluster-research/>>, accessed 3/30/2022.
- John, Samantha. "Cluster Research in Genealogy – Let's Go FAN Clubbing!" *Lyfelynes Family History* <<https://lyfelynes.com/cluster-research-genealogy/>>, 7 June 2019. Accessed 3/30/2022.

- John, Samantha. "Context in Genealogy – Clues From Your Ancestor's Environment." *Lyfelynes Family History* <<https://lyfelynes.com/context-in-genealogy/>>, 21 Feb 2020. Accessed 3/30/2022.
- McDermott, Marc. "Cluster Research – Start Your FAN Club!" *Genealogy Explained* <<https://www.genealogyexplained.com/research/cluster-fan-club/>>, 24 Feb 2022. Accessed 3/30/2022.
- "Research a Family in Community Context." *FamilySearch Wiki* <[https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/Research a Family in Community Context](https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/Research_a_Family_in_Community_Context)>, accessed 3/30/2022.
- Starmans, Barbara J. "Step Six: Search for Social History." *Out of My Tree Genealogy* <<https://www.outofmytreegenealogy.com/step-six-search-social-history/>>, accessed 3/30/2022.