

Being a Family History Detective

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RESEARCHING FAMILY HISTORY IS LIKE HAVING A GREAT MYSTERY TO SOLVE

You start by:

Carefully describe your research question and from that extract a few clues

Then you:

Build the case by following the clues to find a few facts, then use those facts to deduce where to find more facts that will help unravel the mystery

Until it is Solved

Always Remember

A good detective not only carefully searches through **records, databases and publications** compiling facts but....

A good detective also uses **deductive skills, and follows hunches, nagging thoughts, and impressions....**

Some call it listening to your gut feel but I like to think to it as.... **FOLLOWING INSPIRATION**

FHC RESOURCES AVAILABLE FOR YOUR USE

1. BOOKS AND PERIODICALS
2. FILMS AND FICHE
3. COMPUTER RESOURCES
4. HELP OF OUR VOLUNTEER STAFF

Use the Records Selection Table

Keep a copy at hand

Use it to analyze how to follow up on clues

It is an excellent Sleuthing Tool

A FEW GUIDELINES TO REMEMBER BEFORE JUMPING ON A COMPUTER GET ORGANIZED !!!

THINK THROUGH what you want Research CAREFULLY

Do your ASSESSMENT (write down notes and lists)

Extract a few CLUES

Start a TIME LINE and FAMILY RESEARCH DOCUMENT

Keep a Research Log of WHERE YOU HAVE LOOKED and WHAT WAS FOUND or NOT FOUND

REMEMBER – Its very easy TO GO AROUND IN CIRCLES