

## Genealogy Rocks!

### Genealogy Books Reveal Our Ancestor's Lifestyles

Frank Zappa's quote, "so many books, so little time" is so true. Developing research skills with books can help us be more efficient genealogy detectives. When we find a book applicable to our genealogy research, we need to search that book productively for ancestor clues.



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Start by skimming the book's 'Table of Contents' to identify what chapters might be important to read. Check out the book's 'Index' for desired topics or people. Don't forget to read about other family members, neighbors, or friends for clues. Reading about wars, traditions, occupations, the environment, religion, politics and tragedies are helpful and might explain our ancestor's lifestyles.

In genealogy, the quote "pictures are worth a thousand words" is so true. A book's pictures may give us

a wealth of information about our ancestor's careers, clothing, hair styles, education, hobbies, and social-economic status. We might even find a picture of our relative. "Footnotes" are supplemental or supporting information on our ancestors and if they were descendants of the Mayflower, who died during the battle of Saratoga, or were sent to jail. Or tell us if there is more information on our ancestor in another book.

Some books have 'Appendices' that recommend other books, websites, and organizations or give additional information for further genealogy research. 'Bibliographies' are a list of reference books, articles, websites, or other resources the author used to write the book. Bibliographies can give information such as little known books, county histories, or family genealogies. What a great place to find a clue for more resources.

❖ *Karen Wenthe is an instructor and speaker for the Larimer County Genealogical Society. Visit our website ([www.lcgsc.org](http://www.lcgsc.org)) or our Facebook page ([www.facebook.com/lcgsc](http://www.facebook.com/lcgsc)).*