

Bibliography of Social History Writing Guides

An abundance of print resources are available to help you locate the social history background for your family history. This bibliography offers a wide variety of helpful books to get you started. This is by no means an exhaustive list but merely offers suggestions to get you thinking about the many books that will help you to learn about the time and place where your ancestors lived. Many of these books are available at your local library, favorite bookseller, or online at www.amazon.com.

Allen, Frederick Lewis. ***Only Yesterday: An Informal History of the 1920s***. ©2000. ISBN 0060956658.

Prohibition. Al Capone. The President Harding scandals. The revolution of manners and morals. Black Tuesday. These are only an inkling of the events and figures characterizing the wild, tumultuous era that was the Roaring Twenties.

Erbsen, Wayne. ***Manners and Morals of Victorian America***. ©2009. ISBN 1883206545.

This book details the norms of etiquette of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries in America.

Foy, Jessica H. and Thomas J. Schlereth, editors. ***American Home Life, 1880-1930: A Social History of Spaces and Services***. ©1994. ISBN 087049855x.

This book moves beyond the study of buildings to the study of behaviors, particularly the behaviors of people in the middle-class, single family, detached American home.

Kammen, Carol. ***On Doing Local History***, Second Edition. ©2003. ISBN 0759102538.

Kammen introduces her readers to the excitement and varieties of local history. She writes from her experience as a historian, showing how to use history in a way that is clear, engaging, and interesting.

Kyvig, David E., and Myron A. Marty. ***Nearby History***, Third Edition. ©2010. ISBN 0759113009.

A comprehensive handbook on investigating the history of your community, family, local institutions, and cultural artifacts, *Nearby History* guides you in researching the world close at hand. This third edition has been updated to include examples of some of the best published work in the field.

Larkin, Jack. ***The Reshaping of Everyday Life, 1790-1840***. ©1989. ISBN 0060916060.

The story of ordinary people during a transitional period of American history, often told in their own words.

Schlissel, Lillian, Byrd Gibbens, and Elizabeth Hampsten. ***Far from Home: Families of the Westward Journey***. ©2002. ISBN 0803292953.

In a study of the westward movement, the authors examine the bitter history of three migrant families—everyday people who lived on the western frontier in the 1800s.

Sturdevant, Katherine Scott. ***Bringing Your Family History to Life Through Social History***. ©2000. ISBN 1558705104.

A great handbook for any genealogist who wants to learn how to bring the world of local and social history into their genealogy. Photographs, oral histories, home sources, artifacts, and material folk culture are valuable social history resources. Each chapter is enhanced with examples, tips, charts, and checklists.

Sutherland, Daniel E. ***The Expansion of Everyday Life, 1860-1976***. ©2000. ISBN 1557285969.

A richly detailed, absorbing portrait of the daily life of Americans before, during, and after the Civil War. This period was characterized by the completion of the first intercontinental railroad, the westward movement, and a gradual shift from farms and villages to cities and towns.

Skyhorse Publishing. ***1897 Sears Roebuck and Company Catalog***, Reprint. ©2007. ISBN 1602390630.

What better way to learn about the clothing our grandparents wore or the appliances they used or the tools they purchased than to peruse the Sears catalog. Most homes in America had one.

Taylor, Dale. ***The Writer's Guide to Everyday Life in Colonial America***. ©1997. ISBN 0898799422.

Learn about the characteristics of each colonial region (climate, religion, politics, geography), what the colonist ate, family life customs, fashion, occupations, and more in this manual. This book provides a wealth of background information that helps to build lives around your ancestors.

Tunis, Edwin. ***Colonial Living***. ©1999. ISBN 0801862272.

A lively re-creation of seventeenth and eighteenth century America that examines the everyday lives of the men and women who transplanted European culture to the New World. From New England to New Amsterdam to the southern colonies, the author looks at social history topics that discuss every aspect of the lives of America's early settlers.



Greenwood Press *Daily Life Through History Series*

This series examines the arts, religion, food, social customs, government, and many other social history topics for American history time periods. Each volume is written by an expert on the topic and time period.

Titles in the series:

Bergquist, James M. ***Daily Life of Immigrant America, 1820-1870.*** ©2007. ISBN 0313336989.

Heyman, Neil M. ***Daily Life During World War I.*** ©2002. ISBN 0313315000.

Husband, Julie. ***Daily Life in the Industrial United States, 1870-1900.*** ©2004. ISBN 031332302x.

Johnson, Claudia Durst. ***Daily Life in Colonial New England.*** ©2008. ISBN 0313361118.

Kaledin, Eugenia. ***Daily Life in the United States, 1940-1960: Shifting Worlds.*** ©2000. ISBN 031329786x.

Kyvig, David E. ***Daily Life in the United States, 1920-1939: Decades of Promise and Pain.*** ©2001. ISBN 0313295557.

Kyvig, David E. ***Daily Life in the United States, 1920-1940: How Americans Lived Through the Roaring Twenties and the Great Depression.*** ©2004. ISBN 1566635845.

Volo, Dorothy Denneen. ***Daily Life During the American Revolution.*** ©2008. ISBN 0313361428.