

AMERICAN INDIAN GENEALOGY

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RESEARCH STRATEGIES

Start with yourself and your family. Look for names, dates, stories in your own home or in the possession of other family members.

Look for a tribal website on the internet.

Try googling or doing other searches on the internet, i.e. "Ponca Tribe Genealogy."

Go to familysearch.org. Order microfilms to be viewed locally at a Family History Center located in Salt Lake city or a local meeting house.

Look on the National Archives website. View records at a regional National Archives, a Family History Center, city library, state archives, etc. Check with Regional Archives to records specific to the tribes in their designated areas that have not been microfilmed.

Visit local or college libraries. Local libraries can do interlibrary loans of books you need. Look for a dictionary in the tribal language. It will help you translate names.

Learn about tribal customs and culture if you are not familiar with them, so that you don't unknowingly offend tribal members.

Contact tribal headquarters. Talk to the person in charge of enrollment. Ask him/her if there are records in the tribal archives pertaining to your ancestors.

See if there is someone in the tribe, usually an elder, who knows about tribal families.

Seek permission from the tribe or tribal members for photos, quotes, interviews, etc., especially if you plan to publish them in a book or on the internet.

BASIC TIME PERIODS

Conversion Period, Prior to 1830 from missionaries, soldiers. Records from this time period include church records, land records, factory (trading post) records.

Removal Period, 1830-1880: The U.S. government decided to "remove" Indians from their traditional lands and resettle them east of the Mississippi. Records from this time include early census rolls, muster lists, removal records, correspondence records.

Reservation Period, 1850-1887: Indians became confined to reservations and were often subjected to corrupt and incompetent agents. Records from this time period included annual census rolls, school records and sanitary records.

Allotment Period, 1887-1934: Prior to the allotment period tribal land was communal. During the allotment period reservations were carved up and given to individuals. Records from this time period include allotment, land records, heirship records, family registers.

Reorganization Period, 1934-1953: In 1934 the tribes were given the right to govern themselves. Records from this time period include claims records, tribal enrollment records, vital records, wills.

Termination Period, 1953-1970: In the 1950's some government officials felt that the best way to integrate the Indians was to terminate their tribe. Most terminated tribes have been reinstated.

Self-Determination Period, 1970 to present: The tribes keep their own records today.

Source: *Indians of the United States and Canada*, Research Outline published by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints at Family Search.org

TYPES OF RECORDS

Census Records: can provide names, family relationships, age, year of birth, birthplace, degree of Indian blood, occupation, current city of residence, etc. The information is not always accurate or reliable.

Annuity Rolls: English & Indian names, sex, age, birth date, death date, amount paid to each person as a result of a government treaty or agreement.

Allotments Rolls: can provide names, sex, family relationships and amount of land allotted to each Indian in 1887 or later. Tract books and allotment maps show where each person's land was located. Patents were issued to individual Indians when he/she was judged competent to manage his/her allotment. "Scrip" was land allotted to Indians which was not located on a reservation.

Military Records: can provide date of application, name, address, age, birthplace, marriage & divorce information for the veteran and his parents and sometimes his death date. Many Indians were and are today military veterans.

Enrollment Records: can include, name, age, sex, degree of Indian blood, agency where enrolled, names of relatives, etc.

Guion Miller & Dawes Commission Rolls: can provide genealogical information for Cherokees, Choctaw, Chickasaw, Creek or Seminole tribes.

Probate Records: provide names of heirs of deceased person, each heir's portion of the estate, and can provide information about multiple generations. After 1910 Indians could make wills, a few of which were recorded.

School Records: can include the student's name, age, sex, tribe, degree of Indian blood, name of parent or guardian, attendance, grades, health history, etc. Haskell Institute and Carlisle U.S. Indian School attracted students from many tribes.

Church Records: can contain names, birth date and birth place, marriage date and marriage place, death date and death place as well as the names of other family members. During President Grant's "Peace Policy" in the 1870's, Indian agencies were assigned to church bodies. This policy was discontinued in the 1880's.

Medical Records: can include the names, ages, illnesses, etc. of Indians. By 1886 the BIA required that records be kept for any Indian receiving any kind of health treatment. The most complete records before 1934 are the "Sanitary Record of Sick, Wounded, Births, Deaths."

Business & Commerce Records: fur companies and other businesses kept records of their employees which could include dates and places of birth, marriage or death records. Many Indians are descendants of these employees.

Newspapers: can contain varying types of genealogical information. Try to locate an index to make searching easier.

Vital Records: can be kept by tribal group, state, county, church or jurisdiction of BIA. After 1934 each tribe has kept its own vital records.

Source: *Indians of the United States and Canada*, Research Outline published by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints at Family Search.org

UNIQUE CHALLENGES TO FINDING INDIAN ANCESTORS

All Family Names Weren't Listed Until the 1880's. Recognize that traditionally Indian history and genealogy were oral. Sources listing the names of all family members for many tribes are rare until the 1880's.

Names Found Under Many Races: Indian names can be found under many racial designations, depending on the census. He/she can be listed as "white," "colored," "free person of color," "Indian", or "slave."

Multiple Names: Indians often had multiple names during their lifetimes including multiple proper names, nicknames, war names, clan names, etc. Sometimes a son assumed his father's name when the father died.

Multiple Spellings for the Same Name: Names in the original Indian language were spelled phonetically and therefore dependent upon the language experience of one recording the name. Some English translations shortened names, sometimes completely changing the meaning.

Surnames: During the allotment era and boarding school era, surnames were added to individual names. This helped determine relatives who were eligible to inherit land from a deceased relative. Previously, only Indians descended from a white father had a surname.

Plural Wives: Indian men, usually tribal leaders, could have more than one wife. This practice ended by the early 1900's.

ONLINE WEBSITES

Access Genealogy, <http://www.accessgenealogy.com/native/>

U.S. Archives: American Indian Records on Microfilm
<http://www.nara.gov/publications/microfilm/amerindians/>

Ancestor Quest <http://www.ancestorquest.com/index-5.html>

Ancestry.com has many useful links. The first to try is the Ancestry Indian Census Records
http://content.ancestry.com/iexec/?htx=List&dbid=1059&pcat=ROOT_CATEGORY&offerid=0%3a7858%3a0

Bureau of Indian Affairs <http://www.doi.gov/ancestry.html>

Cyndi's List <http://www.cyndislist.com/native.htm>

Family Search (Library catalog search)

http://www.familysearch.org/eng/library/fhlcatalog/supermainframeset.asp?display=keywordsearch&columns=*,0,0

Original FamilySearch Research Wiki:

https://wiki.familysearch.org/en/Main_Page

American Indian (FamilySearch)Research Wiki:

<https://wiki.familysearch.org/en/Special:Search?fulltext=true&search=American+Indian>

Native American Research Wiki:

<https://wiki.familysearch.org/en/index.php?title=Special%3ASearch&search=Native+American&fulltext=Search>

Footnote.com has Dawes packets

http://www.footnote.com/documents/46580455/dawes_packets/ and **ratified Indian Treaties**
http://www.footnote.com/documents/6582646/ratified_indian_treaties/

Google Books

http://www.google.com/books?rview=1&as_brr=3&q=Indians&btnG=Search+Books

Index Of Native American Genealogy Resources On The Internet -

URL: <http://www.hanksville.org/NAresources/indices/NAgenealogy.html>

Kindred Trails <http://www.kindredtrails.com/native.html> (many links to Ancestry.com)

Library Of Western Fur Trade <http://www.xmission.com/~drudy/mtman/html/catlin/index.html>
(diaries George Catlin's letters talking about Indians he painted during the 1830's.)

Native American Heritage: Genealogy, Tribal Membership & Dawes Roles -

URL: <http://www.nativeamericanheritage.com/>

Native Genealogy Webring - <http://www.webring.org/cgi-bin/webring?ring=nativegen&list>

Native Languages Of The Americas <http://www.native-languages.org/genealogy.htm>

Online Native American Indian Genealogy Records & Databases

<http://www.genealogybranches.com/nativeamericans.html>

Oyate Research Center Forum (especially for the Dakota in Eastern SD) at

<http://oyate1.proboards58.com/index.cgi>

The People's Paths - Genealogy Information Links <http://www.yvwiusdinvoohii.net/genea.html>

US Genweb Project <http://usgenweb.org/projects/ndex.shtml>

WWW Virtual Library - <http://www.hanksville.org/NAresources/indices/NAgenealogy.html>

IAPI OAYE (WORD CARRIER)

Baptisms, Marriages, Deaths 1871-1909 Index of Vital Statistics by Name

By Patricia A Walker Nov 2008

The *lap(e)i Oaye* was published in Greenwood, Dakota Territory, Dakota Mission from 1871-1939 in 68 volumes.

- Microsoft Excel file (unpublished (data cut/pasted from original Word document on CD)),
 - Sortable/searchable by last name from Vital Statistics data (extracted, transcribed and translated by Elizabeth Gutch, Pat Spears and Etta Perkins and published on CD ROM), a copy of which I used (with Elizabeth Gutch's permission) from the Center for Western Studies
 - Includes baptism, marriage, death dates, places, the translated Indian name (in most cases) and the volume, page, and year/month of the *lap(i) Oaye*.
- Indexes over 10,000 entries. (partial index through 1909)
- A copy of the unindexed CD of transcribed data was donated by the Center for Western Studies in Sioux Falls to the Moody County Museum at Flandreau, in custody of Roberta Williamson, curator. Both have microfilms of the original *lap(i) Oaye*.
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lap(i) Oaye vital statistics 1871-1939

- **Author(s):** Gutch, Elizabeth Riggs; 1919-; Perkins, Etta; d. 2003.; Spears, Pat.
- **Publication:** [United States: s.n., **Year:** 2005
- **Description:** 1 v. (unpaged) ; 28 cm. **Language:** English; In Dakota and English.
- **Contents:** *lap(i) Oaye* vital statistics 1871-1879 / translations by Etta Perkins – List of omissions and corrections 1871-1879 – *lap(i) Oaye* vital statistics 1880-1889 / translated by Etta Perkins – List of Dakota names not translated 1880-1889 – Vital statistics from the *lap(i) Oaye* 1890-1894 / translated by Etta Perkins – List of Dakota names not translated 1890-1899 -- *lap(i) Oaye* vital statistics 1900-1904 / translated by Etta Perkins; [those marked with a] + translated by Elizabeth Gutch -- List of corrections and omissions 1900-1904 -- *lap(i) Oaye* vital statistics 1905-1909 / translations by Etta Perkins -- 1905-1910 names not translated -- Vital statistics for the Dakota churches from the *lap(i) Oaye* 1910-1939, v. 40-v. 69 / most names translated by Etta Perkins ; those names marked with # translated by Pat Spears and friends -- Names not translated 1910-1939 - - Dakota churches, Presbyterian and Congregational. Includes place names which are not churches.

Word Carrier Repositories (partial listing)--can be found, in microfilm and other formats, at:

- **Moody County Museum, Flandreau, SD**—Roberta Williamson, curator 605 997 3191
- **Center for Western Studies, Sioux Falls, SD**
- **USD ID Weeks Library, Microfiche, 2nd Floor E75.A6**
- **USD: ID Weeks Library CHILSON COLLECTION/3RD FLOOR -- PERIODICALS**
(holdings incomplete)
- **South Dakota State Archives; US NEWSPAPER PROJECT**
- **Ohio State University Libraries: *Iape Oaye/The Word Carrier* May 1871-Aug. 1937**
 MIC: Microfiche E75.A344 [Note: Part of the American Indian Periodical Collection held by Harvard University Library]
- **Creighton University, Nebraska:** _____. 1895-1925. *Iapi oaye*.
- **Minnesota Historical Society Reserve FOLIO PM1021 .I26 *Word carrier* 1873-1883, 1936-1939**
- **Minnesota Historical Society Microfiche 417 *Word carrier* 1873-1883, 1936-1939**
- **Nebraska State Historical Society *Iapi Oaye - The Word Carrier* (970.1/Sa5i)**
Newspapers of the Santee Normal Training School are available on microfilm.
- **NSU: Beulah Williams Library ; Archives: Rare E99.S22 I275 (2 hours in library use)**
- **Family History Library, Salt Lake City, UT (order microfilm and view/print at your nearest LDS Family History Ctr)— go to**
http://www.familysearch.org/eng/Library/FHLC/frameset_fhlc.asp Click Title Search, then enter Word Carrier in Search box. (Permanent copy may be at Sioux Falls FHC)
 - Vol. 1. no. 1-v. 4, no. 12 (Mar 1884-Dec 1887) FHL US/CAN Film 1477411
 - Vol. 17, no. 1-v. 29, no. 8 (Jan 1888-Dec 1900) FHL US/CAN Film 1477412

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