
Research Suggestions for John Smith

Born about 1837 in New York

Died after 1880 in Ohio

Married to a spouse who was

Married before 1865

Died exactly 1903 in Ohio

The following are possible documents that you can locate in order to find out more about your ancestor. This list cannot possibly include all possible sources of information that can be located, but instead it will list the most common sources used in U.S. genealogy.

Evaluate Existing Sources

You will want to carefully re-examine all of the sources you have already located for your ancestor, including the full images of the documents, to make sure you haven't missed any important clues.

1850 census for John Smith

Your ancestor is likely listed in the 1850 census. The 1850 census listed name, age, and gender, occupation, birthplace, whether married that year, and value of real estate owned for each person in a household. If you are having difficulty locating your ancestor, see our article with [10 U.S. census tips](#). To locate census records, see our [directory of census records](#).

1860 census for John Smith

Your ancestor is likely listed in the 1860 census. The 1860 census listed name, age, and gender, occupation, birthplace, whether married that year, and value of real estate owned for each person in a household. If you are having difficulty locating your ancestor, see our article with [10 U.S. census tips](#). To locate census records, see our [directory of census records](#).

1870 census for John Smith

Your ancestor is likely listed in the 1870 census. The 1870 census listed name, age, and gender, occupation, birthplace, whether married that year, whether parents were foreign born, and value of real estate owned for each person in a household. If you are having difficulty locating your ancestor, see our article with [10 U.S. census tips](#). To locate census records, see our [directory of census records](#).

1880 census for John Smith

Your ancestor is likely listed in the 1880 census. The 1880 census listed name, age, gender, occupation, birthplace, marital status, relationship to head of household, and place of birth of parents for each person in a household. If you are having difficulty locating your ancestor, see our article with [10 U.S. census tips](#). To locate census records, see our [directory of census records](#).

1900 census for John Smith

Your ancestor is likely listed in the 1900 census. The 1900 census listed name, age, month and year of birth, gender, occupation, birthplace, marital status, relationship to head of household, number of years married, number of children and number currently living for women, citizenship and immigration information, and place of birth of parents for each person in a household. If you are having difficulty locating your ancestor, see our article with [10 U.S. census tips](#). To locate census records, see our [directory of census records](#).

Cemetery record for John Smith

Your ancestor may have a tombstone in a cemetery. Many cemetery tombstones have images or transcriptions online. To locate a cemetery record, find the location in our [directory of Ohio cemetery records](#). See also our article on [how to find your ancestor's burial location](#).

Obituary for John Smith

Your ancestor may have an obituary that was printed in the newspapers. Many newspapers are digitized online. To find newspapers in which your ancestor lived, find the location in our [directory of Ohio newspapers and obituaries](#). See also our article on [how to find your ancestor's obituary](#)

Marriage record document

There may be a marriage record for your ancestor's marriage. Note that you will want to obtain the full marriage document and not just an index found online. Our article about [the need for examining original documents](#) explains the difference in the index versus the document. Begin your search for marriage records in our [directory of marriage records](#).

Probate record for John Smith

There may be a probate record for your ancestor. For information about types of probate records and how probate records may be helpful, see our article about [locating probate records](#). Begin your search for probate records in our [directory of probate records](#).

Obituary for spouse

Your ancestor's spouse may have an obituary that was printed in the newspapers that could help you to obtain more information. Many newspapers are digitized online. To find newspapers in which your ancestor lived, find the location in our [directory of newspapers and obituaries](#). See also our article on [how to find your ancestor's obituary](#)

Newspaper marriage notice to spouse

There may have been a notice printed in the newspaper for your ancestor's marriage. Though not all newspapers carried this information, sometimes a marriage notice may be helpful. To locate where a newspaper marriage notice may be found, find the marriage location in our [directory of newspapers and obituaries](#).

Land records for John Smith

Your ancestor may have owned land, and if so, there may be land records or land deeds that can give you more information about your ancestor. It could be helpful to look for land records in every place your ancestor lived. For more information about land records, see our articles [Probate Records and Land Deeds: Useful and Often Underused](#) and [Using Land Deeds and Plats](#).

Civil war service for John Smith

Your ancestor may have served in or been drafted for the Civil War. For more information about Civil War records, see our article on [Using Civil War Records](#).

Digital newspaper search for John Smith

There may be a mention of your ancestor in a digitized newspaper that may give you helpful clues. If possible, you may want to search for your ancestor in digitized newspapers all of the places where he or she lived. To locate digitized newspapers, see our [directory of newspapers and obituaries](#).

Obituaries for siblings

If you know who the siblings of your ancestor were, the obituary of siblings may give you more information about the family. To find newspapers in which your ancestor lived, find the location in our [directory of newspapers and obituaries](#). See also our article on [how to find your ancestor's obituary](#).

County or local history for John Smith

Your ancestor may appear in a local or county history book. To locate local histories, see our [directory of histories and genealogies](#).

Marriage records for children

The children of your ancestor may have had marriage records that gave information about parents. To locate marriage records, see our [directory of marriage records](#).

Obituaries for children

The children of your ancestor may have an obituary that was printed in the newspapers that gave information about parents. Many newspapers are digitized online. To find newspapers in which your ancestor lived, find the location in our [directory of newspapers and obituaries](#). See also our article on [how to find your ancestor's obituary](#).

Church record of birth for John Smith

Your ancestor was probably born before birth certificates are available for the state where your ancestor was born. Statewide registration of births in New York began in 1880 with complete records by 1915. A few cities began keeping birth records before 1880. A church birth record may have been recorded. For more information see our article about [Using and Finding U.S. Church Records](#).

Tax records for John Smith

There may be tax records for your ancestor that can give clues about your ancestor's family. It could be helpful to look for tax records for any place your ancestor lived. For more information about tax records, see our article, [Using Tax Records for U.S. Genealogy](#). To locate tax records, look at the locations in our [directory of tax records](#).

Court records for John Smith

Your ancestor may appear in the court records of the local court where he or she lived, and these records can give clues about your ancestor. To locate court records, see our [directory of court records](#).

Cluster research

A cluster research strategy help you to find more about your ancestor. For more information about cluster research, see our article [Cluster Research for Genealogy](#).

DNA testing for John Smith

DNA testing may be helpful in locating your ancestor's family members. For more information about DNA testing, see our article on [Using DNA Testing for Genealogy](#)