



ETTLINGER PRODUCTIONS

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Routes to Roots

Subjects Covered: How to get started with collecting, organizing, and documenting family history data.

Why Genealogy?:

- Learn about your Past
- Leave a Legacy
- Learn about History, Geography, Economics
- Connect with relatives

Pitfalls:

- Dead Ends
- Missing Data
- Tedium
- Expenses
- Mysteries

Some hints on how to do better detective work:

- If family members came from foreign soil, find out how their language sounded to someone interviewing them. How did the family name sound to someone who didn't speak their language?

Getting Started

- Look through any memorabilia you might have
- Look for email and phone contacts from strangers who believe you might be related
- Encourage your children to ask questions about your family and start looking for information you don't know
- Write down what you know
 - Download forms from my website: www.ettlingerproductions.com
 - Think about investing in a computer program to organize your family information
- Gather any materials you have collected

- The importance of Organization
 - Pictures in an album – be sure to label them with names, places, and dates.
 - Contact other family members to see if they have memorabilia and/or to see if they can identify pictures with family members unknown to you.
 - Documents in files – by family, or source
 - All records for one branch of the family together
 - Or all census records together

- The importance of documentation
 - Document sources whenever possible
 - Check out information provided orally with documents whenever possible.