**TAX RECORDS IN GENEAOLOGICAL RESEARCH**

**A presentation by David Duncan to Ancestry Detectives 11 May 2021.**

**Tax records are:**

* Legal documents
* Very accurate—local authorities wanted $$$
* May be recorded for every year.
* Can Predate Census records for colonies.
* Women listed under own name.
* Describe property and, for land, location.
* Can pinpoint year of land owner death and successor owner
* Document change of owners thru sale

**Overview articles on using tax records in genealogical research:**

<https://familyhistorydaily.com/genealogy-help-and-how-to/tax-records-genealogy/>

<https://ancestralfindings.com/tax-records-information-think/>

**FamilySearch wiki on taxation, with links to all states.**

<https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/United_States_Taxation>

**Navigating Ancestry.com tax databases.**

Ancestry.com YouTubeVideo on Tax Records “Using Tax Records for Family History Research” <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aJDJh1LIpms>

Go to Ancestry.com.

Go to “Search | Card Catalog” (bottom entry on drop down list under “search”. In Search titles menu box, type “Tax”. A list of Tax databases appears as the search results. Select. Can search these results by name, location, and time period.

Ancestry.com tax databases: <https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/catalog/?title=tax/>

Person search within tax databases: <https://www.ancestry.com/search/categories/clp_tax/>

**National Archives**

<https://www.archives.gov/research/genealogy/tax-records> The National Archives tax records on line are hosted at Ancestry.com—a collaboration between the National Archives and Ancestry. Ditto Fold3.

**State, County, City, Township Tax Records**

Consult local jurisdiction. Each taxing authority maintained its own records, so multiple records may exist for an individual tax payer in a given year.

**Accessing Probate Files on Family Search:**

Probate files contain receipts for taxes the probate administrator paid. The receipts will identify property, property location, etc. Probate files will also identify heirs to the decedent’s estate and property, informing who will be paying the taxes in later years.

Log onto Family Search familysearch.org

Click “Search”

Click “Records”

Click on outline of United States in world map at upper right of page.

In pop up box, select state.

On “Indexed Historical Records” Page scroll down to

“Image Only Historical Records”.

Scroll down within this section to “Probate and Court: Showing Top 5 – Show all”

Click “Show All”

Click “Ohio Probate Records”

Scroll down search parameter page to “Browse through 6,000,000 images”

Select County

Select Folder containing the case file you want to look at.

So the catch is the case file number. Some jurisdictions have a case file index online or readily available. You may need to call the jurisdiction to find out how to get the case file number.