

Beyond the Usual Records

Five Franklin County Research Stops

Look beyond the usual records.

Your family lived here. A library, community museum, or local archive may hold a lead that your usual search missed. Choose one stop that matches your question, then follow one specific collection.

START WITH YOUR QUESTION	TURN TO
A Columbus neighborhood, address, or organization	Columbus Metropolitan Library - p. 2
Upper Arlington civic or school life	UA Archives - p. 3
Worthington families or historic Sharon Township	Worthington Historical Society - p. 4
Westerville people and community life	Westerville History Museum - p. 5
Local records transferred to a larger archive	Ohio History Connection - p. 6

How to use this guide

Bring a name, a place, an approximate date range, and one question. The suggested questions on the following pages are prompts you can adapt; they are not claims that a record exists.

Selected starting points, not a complete county directory or an itinerary. Statewide holdings and community boundaries may extend beyond Franklin County. Any maternal or paternal line can use the same approach.

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Compiled from public institutional information. No onsite inspection or staff confirmation. Recheck access before travel; fees and procedures can change.

Columbus Metropolitan Library

Look beyond the book catalog.

When to try it

Start here when you have a Columbus neighborhood, address, school, or organization to investigate.

What to look for

My History brings together photographs, documents, maps, and yearbooks. The Local History & Genealogy page also points to archival finding aids - descriptions of collections and their contents.

How to begin

Start with My History online. For material described in a finding aid, ask staff how to consult it; an online description is not necessarily a digital copy. Confirm arrangements for physical archival material before a visit.

A question you can ask

"I am researching [person or address] in [years]. Are there archival collections or neighborhood files I should consult beyond the online images?"

Keep in mind

Search by place, organization, and surname variants. A person may appear within a collection without being named in its description.

Official sources / reviewed September 29, 2026

[My History](#)

[Local History & Genealogy](#)

Collection descriptions are starting points. Confirm item-level dates and availability with the holding institution.

Upper Arlington Public Library

A library can lead you to council minutes.

When to try it

Try this when a person, property, school, or local business connects to Upper Arlington.

What to look for

UA Archives includes City and Village Documents beginning in 1918, historical maps, Norwester yearbooks, and Norwester magazines from 1917-1922. The library describes digitized Village Commission and City Council proceedings.

How to begin

Open UA Archives from the library page, choose the relevant collection, and check the dates actually available. The introductory page lists yearbooks through 2000 but also describes ongoing additions; use the live collection to establish coverage.

A question you can ask

"Do your proceedings for [year] include an index? I am looking for [name, street, business, or issue]. Are any relevant volumes not online?"

Keep in mind

A meeting entry can identify a resident or activity without establishing a family relationship. Record the meeting date and page, not just a search-result link.

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[UA Archives: collections and access](#)

Collection descriptions are starting points. Confirm item-level dates and availability with the holding institution.

Worthington Historical Society

Follow the record to its present keeper.

When to try it

Try this for Worthington families, houses, organizations, or connections to historic Sharon Township.

What to look for

The society describes family files, photographs, ledgers, correspondence, and other archival material. Its research guide also points to Sharon Township minutes, account books, poll books, and civil and criminal dockets at Ohio History Connection.

How to begin

Use the Resources and Links page and its research-file indexes. Subject files are available by appointment; copying or scanning may carry a charge. Confirm access separately with the organization that actually holds the records.

A question you can ask

"Does your [family or subject] file cover [person, place, years]? Which items are original documents, and which are later research? Where are the relevant township records held?"

Keep in mind

The society explains that subject files vary greatly and contain much secondary material. Treat a family-history assertion as a lead until you assess its supporting evidence.

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[Resources and Links for Research](#)

[Subject files and access conditions](#)

Collection descriptions are starting points. Confirm item-level dates and availability with the holding institution.

Westerville History Museum

Search the catalog as well as the scans.

When to try it

Try this for a Westerville family, school, church, business, or community organization.

What to look for

The museum lists photographs, maps, oral histories, obituaries, and wedding announcements; the last two collections begin in 1880. It also provides Anti-Saloon League material and other local history collections.

How to begin

The museum page has separate links to all digitized records and all records. Explore both. Physical-collection research requires an appointment, even though exhibit visitors can walk in during museum hours.

A question you can ask

"Your catalog mentions [item or collection]. Is it digitized? If not, can I request a copy or arrange to consult it? What dates and places does it cover?"

Keep in mind

Museum exhibits are only one way into the collections. Catalog coverage, digitization, and item access are separate questions. Do not assume every year or resident is represented.

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[Westerville History Museum: collections and appointments](#)

Collection descriptions are starting points. Confirm item-level dates and availability with the holding institution.

Ohio History Connection

Local records can travel beyond the locality.

When to try it

Try this when a community guide points to transferred records or your question crosses local boundaries.

What to look for

Worthington Historical Society points to Sharon Township records at Ohio History Connection; ask OHC to confirm the series and call number. OHC also describes manuscripts relating to business, education, politics, and religious organizations.

How to begin

Start with the Archives & Library catalog and record the collection title and call number. Ask about dates, restrictions, retrieval, copying costs, and appointments before traveling.

A question you can ask

"I am looking for [record series] created by [township, municipality, school district, or other office] in [years]. Do you hold it, and what is its call number and access procedure?"

Keep in mind

As checked September 29, 2026, the Archives & Library page posts a closure through October 2 and reopening by appointment October 8. Check its live access notice before every visit. A statewide repository does not hold every local record.

Official sources / reviewed September 29, 2026

[Archives & Library: current access notice and catalog](#)

[Manuscripts & Audiovisual Collections](#)

[Worthington guide: township-record lead](#)

Collection descriptions are starting points. Confirm item-level dates and availability with the holding institution.

Leave yourself a way back.

You do not need to search all five places. Choose one that fits your question and record what happens next.

My question and the place / years involved

Repository and collection to try

What I searched or requested, and the date

What I found - or what the search did not cover

One next step / when I will return

Before you follow a lead

Separate the record creator from the current custodian. A township, municipality, and school district can produce different records for the same area. Identify the responsible office for the place and time, then find out who holds its surviving records.

Record the source title, date, page or item number, repository, and link. A search with no results does not prove that a record never existed.

Want more room to organize the question?

The optional [Brick Wall Case File](#) is a \$15 Word and PDF toolkit for evidence, completed searches, and your next step. It is sold by Brick Wall Protocol; this free guide can be used on its own.

[Explore more research strategies at brickwallprotocol.com](#)

Corrections or a useful local lead? hello@brickwallprotocol.com