



## Heirloom Project Digging Deeper

Researching at Archives is about researching people. By conducting research at an archive, you will be able to learn more about the people who owned your heirloom. If your heirloom is a photograph, you will be able to learn more about the people in the photograph, and maybe even the area the photograph was taken.

Archives keep different records, and not all archives will have the same types of records. Here are places you can start looking to find out about the people behind your object. Play close attention to the information it gives, and think about how you can start to reconstruct someone's life and tell their story.

1. Birth certificates and death certificates
2. Marriage certificates or divorce certificates
3. Legal records
4. Census reports
5. Military records
6. Newspaper articles, maybe they were in a story?

When working with a photograph, think about these questions:

1. Who is in the photo?
2. Where was it taken?
3. What year was it taken?
4. What else is in the photo?
5. What happened to those people and those buildings?
6. What else was going on that year?

When working with an object, think about these questions:

1. Is your object a local product?
2. Was it unique to your hometown?
3. Learn more about that trade and its local history.
4. Or, was it a product a family member made? Can you learn more about that trade and your family's business?

Other Questions to think about:

1. What details about someone's life did you learn from the archival records?
2. How can knowing these things help you create a more complete picture of your object and who used it?
3. If it is a photograph, what else have you learned about the people in it or when it was taken?
4. If you have a year associated with your object, can you reconstruct other events from that same year the person might have done?