



Unusual, but Useful Record Sets at FamilySearch

Karen L. Newman looks at business and commerce records

NOT ALL OUR ANCESTORS WORKED ON THE family farm, or as laborers or miners. Some owned their own business. To find business and commerce records on *FamilySearch*, you go to the catalog and type “business and commerce” under subjects, and “United States” or any other country you’re researching under place.

Some *FamilySearch* records can only be viewed at a Family History Library. These include records of business licenses from Pike County, Ohio from 1816-1854, www.familysearch.org/search/catalog/1315380?availability=Family%20History%20Library and early business records in Somerset County, New Jersey, from 1814-1817, www.familysearch.org/search/catalog/999493?availability=Family%20History%20Library.

These business records can sometimes be those of mortuaries such as that of the Newman and Harper Mortuary of Cole County, Illinois. These images date from 1912-1929 and can be viewed at www.familysearch.org/search/catalog/277962?availability=Family%20History%20Library. Information in these records include the name of the deceased, age, death date, cause of death, burial date, casket type and cost, whether the deceased wore a suit, dress, or slippers, was embalmed, whether a carriage, hearse, or vault was used, muslin [category listed, assumed casket lining], and whether the services of a sexton were utilized.

State Superior Court records can sometimes contain business incorporation documents like this dataset from Surry County, North Carolina from August 1886 to April 1926, www.familysearch.org/search/catalog/179064?availability=Family%20History%20Library. The

court record includes a list of the company’s founders.

County records can include apprenticeships, veterinary and medical licenses, and foreign incorporations which are companies from out of state such as Baltimore, Maryland doing business in Allen County, Indiana, as shown in this *FamilySearch* record set: www.familysearch.org/search/catalog/2462928?availability=Family%20History%20Library.

FamilySearch also has microfilm from The National Archives of Confederate papers for businesses contributing to the war effort for the Confederacy at www.familysearch.org/search/catalog/589906?availability=Family%20History%20Library. Individuals are also named in these records.

In Utah, marks and brands of livestock are found at www.familysearch.org/search/catalog/4231869?availability=Family%20History%20Library. The brands and the people who own them are from 1874-1930.

Corporate owners and their companies can be found in the *FamilySearch* record set at www.familysearch.org/search/catalog/573081?availability=Family%20History%20Library. According to the description of these National Archives microfilm images, Continental Congress received loans from both domestic and foreign companies and individuals to fund the American Revolution. Banks held the loans from foreigners, and loan offices in the colonies held the domestic loans. The corporate microfilm record starts at image 843 out of 3036 of digital film number 008855385 and contains index cards with the name of the business, the book volume where the record is located, Foles which I assume indicates page number but am



LEFT: John Freeman Tate’s [great-grandfather of author] gravesite, 4 November 1928, Woodland Cemetery, Ironton, Ohio. (Author’s Collection) RIGHT: Cattle Branding, circa 1877. (Wikimedia Commons)

