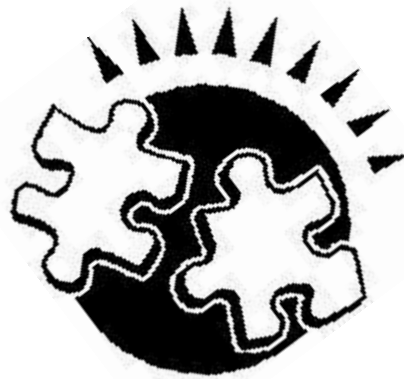


# THE BACHELOR

Reconstructing a Solitary Life  
Using Obscure and Far-Flung Resources

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**Where** do you turn when your research subject left no will, never married, had no children, and moved far away from his parents and siblings? Discover how turning over every dusty rock along an ancestral trail can produce effective research results. Learn about obscure and elusive sources and how casting a wide net across the span of his acquaintances, his extended family, and his time in history revealed **The Bachelor's** nineteenth-century story – a life full of adventure, peril, scandal, and a murder or two.



**Why** reconstruct a life from the past? Why investigate beyond the traditional sources, such as census records, vital records, probate records, deed records, and historical newspapers? Learn about the potential benefits, for yourself, your business, and your clients, when you conduct an in-depth probe into the life of a person from the past.

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## WHY should you conduct in-depth research on a person from the past?

- Expose yourself to obscure and diverse sources
- Develop expertise with local records or specific types of records
- Develop expertise on a historical person, historical place, and/or historical era
- Attract specialized clients such as authors and historians
- Acquire an abundance of material for publication in:
  - Historical journals
  - Genealogical society journals
  - Period magazines and journals
  - Methodology articles for journals and magazines
  - Newspaper articles
  - Books
- Generate a project for grant funding
- Generate multiple topics for lectures
- Pad your research resume
- Preserve a great story



## WHO should you choose as your person from the past?

- Consider location – **Where** did the person live?
  - Access to records
- Consider timeframe – **When** did the person live?
  - Events of significance during his or her lifetime
- Consider previous research – **What** has already been discovered about the person?
  - Other experts
- Consider the impact of the person – **Who** was this person and **how** did he or she interact with the world?
  - Historical footprints

*"People, like great novels, have themes."*

Thomas Larson

## WHICH sources helped reconstruct **The Bachelor's** story?

When reconstructing a life you need to cover all of the common bases of research. Then you need to delve into less common sources. Below are some of the sources where I found details on **The Bachelor**. Not every source specifically mentions him, but each source provides a clue about his life.

<b>Common Sources</b>	<b>Less Common Sources</b>	<b>Uncommon Sources</b>
baptismal records	voting records – poll & tally books, election returns	notes created from personal interviews with his friends
naturalization records	district court journals & dockets	arrest warrants
federal census records	district court civil & criminal case files – cases involving him	district court civil & criminal case files – cases involving his friends
his obituary	his relatives' obituaries	his friends' obituaries
deed/land records – property he owned	deed/land records – property he didn't own	land grant records
non-fiction books focusing on his place & time in history	published letters, diaries & memoirs written by friends & acquaintances	unpublished letters, diaries & memoirs written by friends & acquaintances
newspapers from where he lived & visited	newspapers from where his family lived	newspapers from places he never lived or visited
club membership rolls	club meeting minutes	club annual reports
	modern historical society journals	personal papers of friends & acquaintances
	sheriff's records	executive documents of the U.S. Congress
	living distant relatives	supreme court cases involving his friends
	store/business ledgers & account books	business licenses

## HOW have I put **The Bachelor's** story to use?

- Professional Management Conference lecture
- Research grant from the Kansas State Historical Society
- Feature article for genealogical journal
- Examples/material for columns & articles
- Sidebar material for magazine article
- Research subject for BCG kinship determination project
- Research grant from the State Historical Society of Missouri
- Improved networking with local archivists, librarians, authors, & historians
- New clients through networking



## WHAT are my future plans for **The Bachelor's** story?

- More articles
  - Historical society journals
  - History-based magazines
  - Santa Fe Trail Association quarterly
- More lectures
  - Historical conferences
  - Genealogical & historical society programs
- More research/publication grants
- Non-fiction book about his life

