

Paleography: Tips for Reading Old Handwriting

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Class Objectives

This class is a practical approach to reading early handwriting (paleography). Suggestions for reading and analyzing genealogical records will be covered, and interpreting terms and abbreviations found in early American and other records, along with examples.

Alphabets and Handwriting Styles

Guidelines for Reading Old Records

Common Phrases

Personal Names and Place Names

Abbreviations and Contractions

Terms

Example documents

Summary

Selected Internet Sites

BYU Script Tutorials (<https://script.byu.edu/Pages/home.aspx>)

Cyndi's List, Handwriting & Script (www.cyndislist.com/handwrit.htm)

Early-Modern Palaeography (<http://paleo.anglo-norman.org/empfram.html>)

FamilySearch Learning Center (<https://familysearch.org/learningcenter/home.html>)

How to Read a Document (www.earlyamerica.com/read-document)

How to Read 18th Century British-American Writing

(http://dohistory.org/on_your_own/toolkit/writing.html)

How to Read Old Handwriting (www.genealogyintime.com/GenealogyResources/Articles/how-to-read-old-handwriting-page1.html)

How to Read Old Handwriting (www.wikihow.com/Read-Old-Handwriting)

Introduction to Collecting Vellum Indentures (www.historicpages.com/texts/velhist.htm)

Murray, Sabina J. Deciphering Old Handwriting

(www.amberskyline.com/treasuremaps/oldhand.html)

Newberry Library, Chicago: Paleography (www.newberry.org/paleography)

Old English Handwriting Helps (Family History Research Wiki)

(https://familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/Old_English_Handwriting_Helps)

Quill Pen (<http://medievalwriting.50megs.com/tools/quill.htm>)

Reading Old Handwriting (<http://genealogy.about.com/od/paleography/tp/examples.htm>)

Reading Old Handwriting (www.moonzstuff.com/articles/oldhandwriting.html)

Sperry, Kip. Guidelines for Reading Old Documents

(www.genealogy.com/genealogy/68_sperry.html)

Tips for Reading Old Handwriting

([www.ancestry.com/wiki/index.php?title=Tips for Reading Old Handwriting](http://www.ancestry.com/wiki/index.php?title=Tips_for_Reading_Old_Handwriting))

Trails of Hope: Overland Diaries and Letters (BYU) (<http://overlandtrails.lib.byu.edu>)

UK National Archives: Palaeography (www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/palaeography)

Paleography: Tips for Reading Old Handwriting: Selected Bibliography

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