

Who Can Help Me?

Historical Agencies Beyond the Church

There are many organizations outside the church that can help you with information, training, and resources as you do research and plan programs.

✧ Local ✧

Visit your town library. Many libraries have local history rooms, and some time spent studying town and county history will help you better understand the history of your church. The library may also be willing to lend items for display; help plan special tours and programs; and offer training in oral history, writing, and archival skills. Local newspapers contain much information about church events; if back issues are not available at the library and cannot be accessed electronically, they probably can be ordered on microfilm through Interlibrary Loan (ILL) from the state library. Books, articles, and other resources can also be borrowed through ILL from libraries all over the country.

Don't overlook nearby colleges. Their libraries, history departments, or women's studies programs may be fruitful sources of information, encouragement, training, and inspiration.

Local historical societies, genealogical societies, and graveyard preservation groups will be very interested in the work you are doing, and can often provide you with information not available elsewhere.

✧ Regional ✧

Every state has an archives and library; in addition, many counties have historical societies. Ask your town librarian for the addresses. Like local organizations, county and state agencies welcome research requests, although you should be aware that there may be charges for staff services. Regional agencies may also offer publications that will be of great use to you, and you can request catalogs. Also ask for calendars of training programs in archival management, oral history, research, and writing techniques. Scholarships may be available to help cover transportation and registration costs.

✧ National ✧

The American Association for State and Local History provides a wide range of services and publications. Write or visit their website for information and catalogs.

American Association for State and Local History
1717 Church Street
Nashville, TN 37203-2991
www.aaslh.org

Note: The AASLH publishes a *Directory of Historical Agencies in North America* that lists hundreds of historical societies and interest groups.