Richland Library can help you fill in the blanks.

Now that you have detailed information about your family written down, bring in your information so we can help you extend your family tree. Below are some good places to look for more information.

**Social Security Death Index.** The Social Security Death Index contains the birth date and death date for most people who died **after 1962.** In some cases, it also provides the city and county of last residence. (Note: This may or may not be the place where they actually died.) If you are unsure of the exact birth date, death date, or death place of your ancestors (but you know they died after 1962), look them up at this site. For females, search on their married name.

- Access the SSDI on our website through Newsbank (library card required).

**Obituaries.** Obituaries often contain a wealth of information about a person’s parentage, living relatives, place of burial and age at death. If your relatives are from the Midlands area of South Carolina, Search the Richland Library Obituary Index to find the date an obituary appeared in the newspaper. Then retrieve the obituary from the digital archive of The State newspaper.

- Access both the Obituary Index and the Newsbank database, for digital archive of The State, on our website.

**Census Records.** The next step is to search the federal census records to locate unknown ancestors. Search for your grandparents or great-grandparents. The goal is to find them as children living in their parents’ household. Entire households are described by name in the United State census starting in 1850, and heads of households are recorded back to 1790.

- Access census records through Heritage Quest (library card required) or Ancestry Library Edition in the library. A selection of Free census records are viewable on FamilySearch.org.

**Death Records.** Death records may list the deceased’s mother and father, age at death and place of burial. Public access to death certificates vary by state.

- South Carolina death certificates are available from 1915 -1965 in the library through Ancestry Library Edition and FamilySearch from home.

**Ask a Librarian.** Staff in the Walker Local and Family History Center can assist you in breaking through a brick wall in your family history research. Stop by and ask a librarian.

Walker Local and Family History Center
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