

Boot Camp 2022, Session 2 Outline

Genealogy Sources, 6 Jun 2022

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Goals

- Build family trees
- Document Information Sources
- Find cousins

Getting Started

- Collect information about your family
 - Collaborate with relatives.
- Join FamilySearch.org. FamilySearch has one global tree for everyone.
 - Start building your family tree.
- Get Ancestry.com DNA. Each user of Ancestry can have one or more trees.
 - Join Ancestry and upload/input your family tree. See GEDCOM. <https://www.gedcom.org/>
 - Upload/input your DNA to MyHeritage and FamilyTreeDNA (free)
 - As you find cousins, verify, update all trees – tedious but worth it.
- Consider Purchasing a computer-based genealogy program.
 - RootsMagic 8 or Legacy Family Tree 9 (MyHeritage). Both link nicely to FamilySearch.
- There are many sales, especially end of year.

Getting Started – Suggestions

- Develop a file structure to collect information
 - Media Folder: Bibles, Birth, Marriage, Death, Census, Graves, DNA, Photos, News, ...
- Download all information
 - Don't assume you'll find it again
 - Use consistent file naming convention
 - Link it to your ancestor(s)
- Backup your computer files at least 3 places
 - Hard drives and SSD will fail - 3 to 5 year average lifetime

Finding Resources

- Family Records (e.g., Letters, Photos, Bibles, Diaries, Clippings)
- Government Records (e.g., Census, Birth, Marriage, Death, Wills, Voter)
- Online Resources (e.g., Ancestry, FamilySearch, DNA, FindAGrave, Newspapers, Google)
- Other (e.g., Church, Chronicles, HathiTrust, Libraries)

Census Records

- Census 1790 to 1950, every 10 years (1890 burned)
- 1850 and later, each person listed by name
- 1880 started listing the person's relationship to HOH.
- 1990 has birth month and year. Check accuracy.
- Headings for all years: https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/United_States_Census_Forms
- Look for spelling variations, indexing errors and other information that may not be accurate.

Birth & Death Records

- Birth and Death certificates in USA available after 1900.
- Place of death and death date is usually accurate. Check other information.

Newspaper Records

- Use Newspaper.com search filters
 - Name in quote
 - Simplify / substitute (Sarah → Sally, Maria → Mary, Richard → Dick)
 - Name variations (OCR mistakes)
 - Try different key words (streetcar, tram, trolley)

- Add spouse name, especially if unusual
- Add date range (birth, death), Restrict state
- Use Google with restrictors: Quotes, Minus, Plus (See Bob Ringo's presentation)

Obituaries

- One of the best sources of family group information. Newspapers.com or Google.

Photographs

- Check the back of photo for information. Put in filename or metadata.

HathiTrust Digital Library

- Millions of digitized titles. See: <https://www.hathitrust.org>. Link through universities.

FindAGrave

- Owned by Ancestry. Often has a complete obituary, family members. Watch for nicknames.

DNA Sources

- Solve mysteries in your immediate family
- Find biological parents of adoptees
- Determine the accurate male ancestor - father presumed not actual
- Prove your pedigree (lineage of direct relatives)
- Verify your family tree
- Find cousins and branches that you were not aware of
- Identify brick walls
- Break through brick walls

Using DNA to Find Relatives

- Upload your tree to Ancestry, MyHeritage, FamilyTreeDNA, etc.
- Use Ancestry's Shared Matches.

Common Ancestors

- Most Recent Common Ancestor: MRCA
- Ancestry **ThruLines** needs an uploaded tree. **ThruLines** aids in confirmation of tree entries.
- Use Ancestry's **Common Ancestors** even if tree is marked private or not connected with DNA.
- Brick Walls happen for everyone. Just keep searching.

Why Add an Unlinked Tree?

- Potential or certain DNA link but specifics are unknown. Hypothesized ancestor. Very useful.

Further Reading

- Read FamilySearch Search Tips
 - <https://www.familysearch.org/en/help/helpcenter/article/when-i-am-searching-historical-records-what-are-the-best-practices-and-tips>
- FamilySearch Blog on Census Records
 - <https://www.familysearch.org/en/blog/learn-how-to-use-u-s-census-records>
- The Family Tree Guide to DNA Testing and Genetic Genealogy, by Blaine T. Bettinger
- Blaine Bettinger's Shared DNA Project, <https://thegeneticgenealogist.com/>
- Lots of information in Legacy Family Tree Webinars: <https://familytreewebinars.com/>
- Look at rootstech sessions. <https://www.familysearch.org/rootstech/getting-started>
- Internet Genealogy Magazine
 - <https://www.internet-genealogy.com/>
- For German Researchers
 - <https://www.ortsfamilienbuecher.de/>

Lincoln Hills Genealogy Club Website: <https://www.suncitylhgc.com/>

This presentation: <https://www.suncitylhgc.com/presentations/>