


## Genealogy 101: The Basics



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### What is Genealogy?

Genealogy is the study of family ancestors with birth, marriage and death dates as far back as desired and/or possible (Who, Where, When). Closely related to Family History (Why, How).

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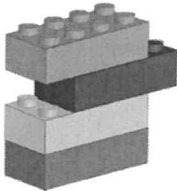
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### Building Blocks of Genealogy

- Names
- Dates
- Places



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# Where Do I Start?!??



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## 1. Start With What You Know

- Record what *you* know
- Ask family members what *they* know



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## Tips for Recording Data

Names

- Maiden Names: *William BAKER and Susan JONES*
- Nicknames: *Thomas "Bud" WALTON*
- Be aware of variant spellings

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### Tips for Recording Data

#### Dates

- Years: **1892**, not '92
- Months: **NOV or November**, not 11
- Order: Day, Month, Year: **25 NOV 1892**

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### Tips for Recording Data

#### Places

- Use contemporary place names:  
**Rockefeller**, not **Mundelein**
- Include **county information** when possible
- Smallest to largest: **Libertyville, Lake, Illinois, USA**

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### 2. Look around your Home for Documents and Information

- Attic
- Basement
- Closets
- Garage
- Nooks & crannies
- Etc.
- Ask relatives what they have



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**Things to look for:**

- Bibles/other books
- Newspaper clippings/obituaries
- Letters
- Photos
- Diaries
- Real estate records
- Military records

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**Things to look for:**

- Wedding Invitations/Announcements
- Marriage Certificates
- Baptism Certificates
- Funeral Cards
- Probate Records
- Yearbooks
- Heirlooms
- Etc.

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**3. Identify and Search Available Records**

- Work with one family line at time
- Search for one ancestor at a time
- Avoid distractions of other ancestors (BSO's)

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### Types of Records

- Census
- Vital Records (Birth, Marriage, Death)
- Passenger Lists
- Naturalization Records
- Military Records
- Land Records
- Probate Records
- Tax Records
- Social Security Card applications
- Newspaper articles
- Family histories and Genealogies
- Local histories
- Etc.

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### What's on a census record?

- Names
- Addresses
- Ages
- Citizenship
- Birthplace
- Parent's Birthplace
- Occupation
- Occupants of household
- Etc.

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### Sources of Census Records

- Ancestry Library Edition\*
- Heritage Quest\*
- Ancestry.com - Requires paid subscription\*
- MyHeritage - Requires paid subscription
- National Archives, Regional Archives in Chicago
- FamilySearch - Free at [www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org)

\*Available at the library

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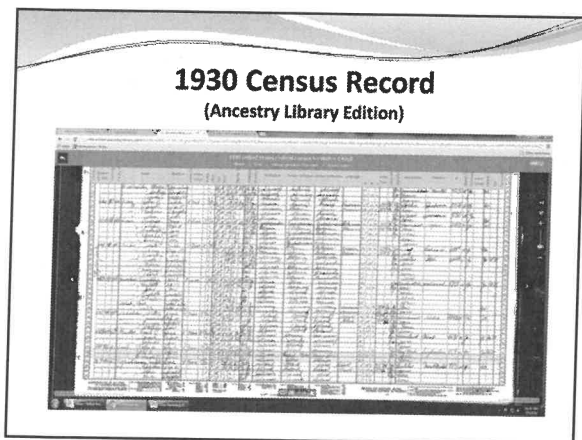
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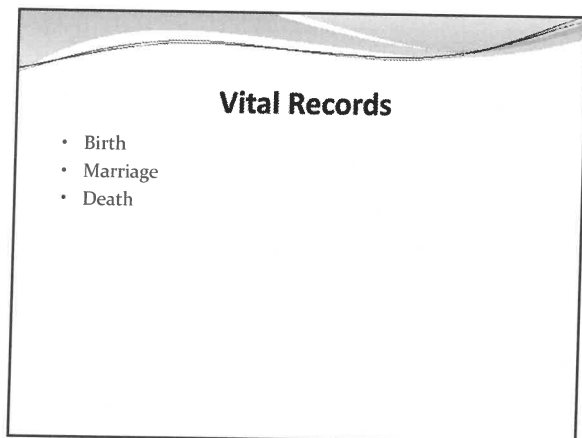
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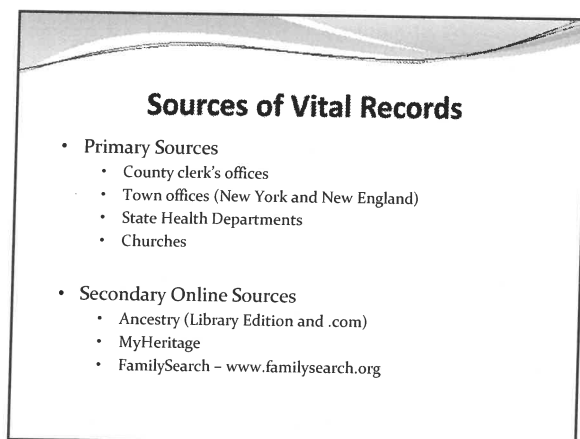
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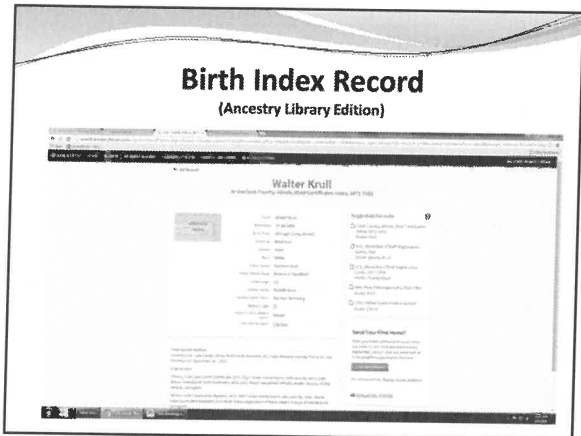
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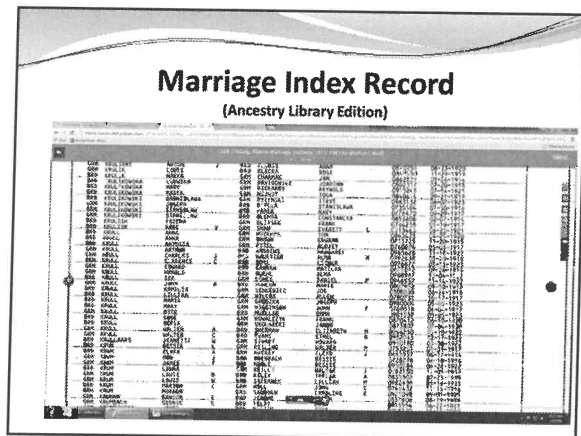
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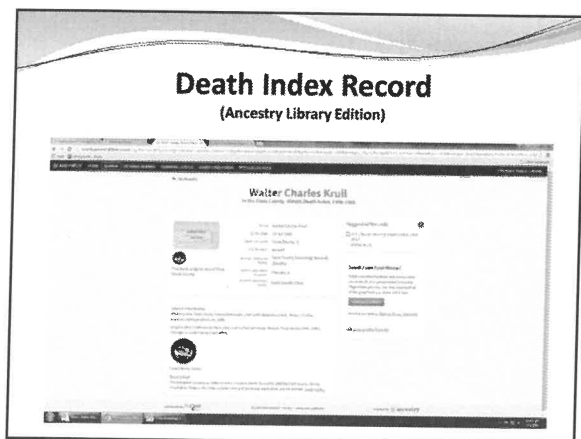
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### Sources of Passenger Lists

- Microfilm
  - National Archives, Regional Archives in Chicago
- Abstracts in Books
- Online
  - Ancestry (Library Edition and .com)
  - FamilySearch.org
  - Ellisland.org \$\$
  - CastleGarden.org

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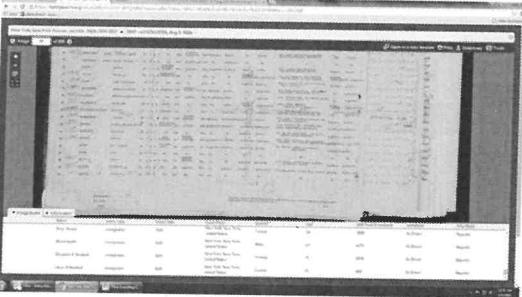
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### Sample Passenger List

(FamilySearch.org)



Name	Age	Sex	Occupation	Country of Birth	Year of Arrival	Year of Departure	Destination
John Smith	25	M	Farmer	USA	1890	1895	Chicago
Mary Jones	22	F	Housewife	USA	1890	1895	Chicago
James Brown	30	M	Merchant	USA	1890	1895	Chicago
Elizabeth White	28	F	Teacher	USA	1890	1895	Chicago

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### Sample Naturalization Record

- Courthouses (County, Criminal, other)
- State Archives
- National Archives
- USCIS (U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Service)

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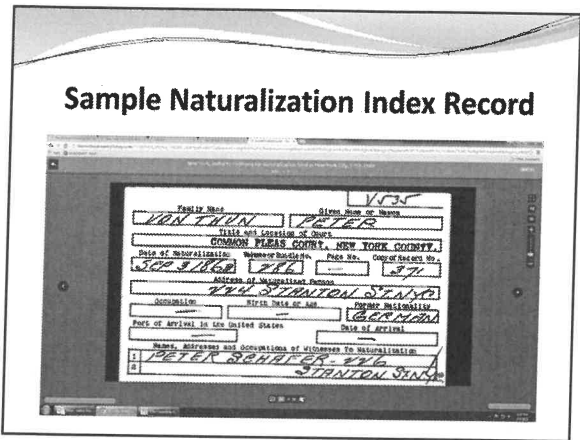
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### Sample Naturalization Index Record




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### Sources of Obituaries

- Offline
  - Home sources (scrapbooks, Bibles, etc.)
  - Newspapers on microfilm or database at local public libraries
  - Local historical or genealogy societies
- Online
  - ProQuest (Chicago Tribune, New York Times)\*
  - Access Newspaper Archive\*
  - Genealogy Bank\*
  - Newspapers.com\*
  - Legacy.com
  - Google

\* Available at the library

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### Sources of Cemetery Information

- Death Certificates
- Obituaries
- www.findagrave.com
- www.billiongraves.com

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### Sources of Family History Books

- Local public libraries
- Universities, archives and historical societies
- Online:
  - [www.worldcat.org](http://www.worldcat.org)
  - <http://books.google.com>
  - <http://archive.org/details/texts>
  - FamilySearch.org
  - Heritage Quest (available at library)

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### What's available here?

- Access Newspaper Archive
- Ancestry - Library Edition
- Ancestry.com
- Chicago Tribune Death Notices
- Chicago Tribune Historical (1849-1989)
- Daily Herald Archive (Access Newspaper Archive)
- Fold3.com
- GenealogyBank Library Edition
- HeritageQuest Online
- Newspapers.com

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### 4. Evaluate Data and Cite Your Sources!

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### How Reliable is the Information?

- What is the ultimate source of the information?
- Is this a record, transcript, or index?
- Is the original document available?
- Is the source contemporary with the event, or created after the fact?
- Who contributed the information?
- Be skeptical!

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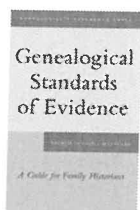
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### Cite your Sources

- Who?
- What?
- Where?
- When?
- How?



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### 5. Review

- Record What You Know
- Record What Relatives Know
- Find Sources at Home
- Search Available Records
- Evaluate What You Find
- Cite Your Sources

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### 6. Where Can I learn More?

- Books
- Periodicals
- Genealogical Societies
- Genealogical Conferences
- Websites
- Blogs
- Social Media
- Webinars (Youtube, FamilySearch, Ancestry, etc)
- Your Local Librarian

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Don't be afraid to ask for help



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- Arthur Krull
- 847-358-5881 x193
- [akrull@palatinelibrary.org](mailto:akrull@palatinelibrary.org)



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**Happy Researching!**



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**Questions?**

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