


Genealogy 101: The Basics

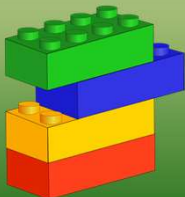


What is Genealogy?

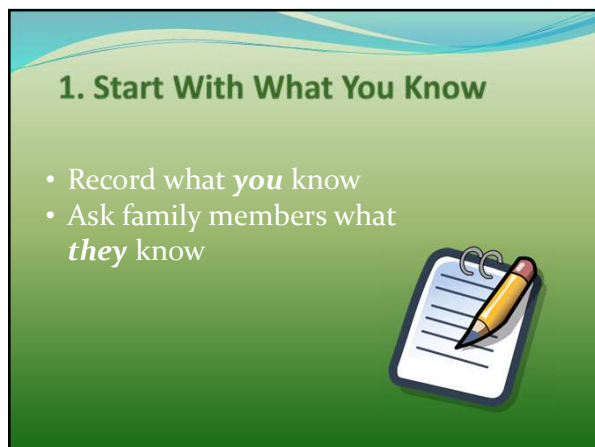
Genealogy is the study of family ancestors with birth, marriage and death dates as far back as desired and/or possible (Who, Where, When). Closely related to **Family History** (Why, How).

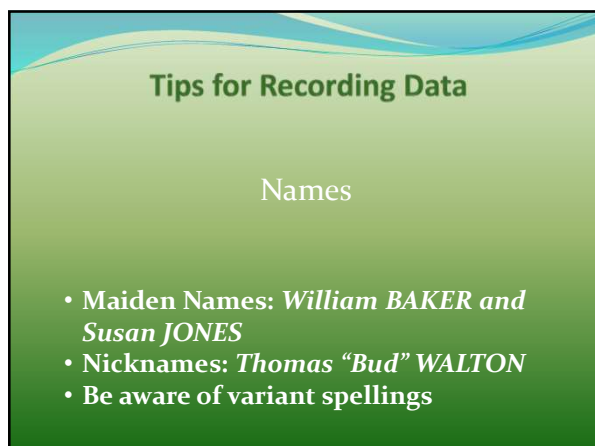
Building Blocks of Genealogy

- Names
- Dates
- Places









Tips for Recording Data

Dates

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

Tips for Recording Data

Places

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

2. Look around your Home for Documents and Information

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



Things to look for:

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

Things to look for:

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

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)

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.

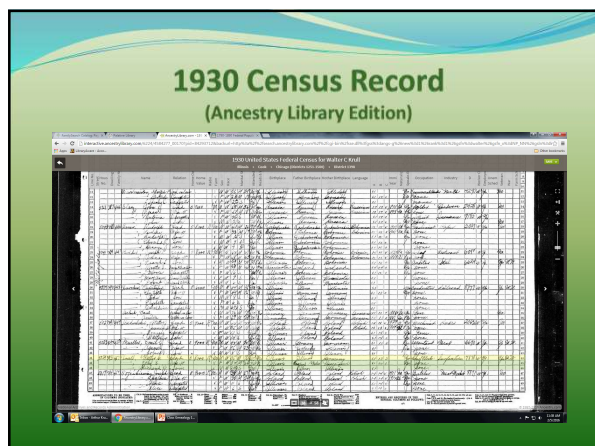
What's on a census record?

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

Sources of Census Records

- Ancestry Library Edition*
- HeritageQuest*
- Ancestry.com – Requires paid subscription*
- MyHeritage – Requires paid subscription
- National Archives, Regional Archives in Chicago
- FamilySearch – Free at www.familysearch.org

- *Available at the library









Sources of Passenger Lists

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

Sample Passenger List (FamilySearch.org)

The screenshot shows a digital scan of a passenger list document. The document is a table with multiple columns containing names, birth dates, birthplaces, and other details. The text is somewhat faded but legible. Below the main table, there is a summary section with columns for 'Name', 'Age', 'Sex', 'Marital Status', 'Occupation', 'Religion', and 'Remarks'. The first row of the summary table shows 'Robert Smith', '32', 'M', 'M', 'Farmer', 'Presbyterian', and 'Remarks'.

Name	Age	Sex	Marital Status	Occupation	Religion	Remarks
Robert Smith	32	M	M	Farmer	Presbyterian	Remarks
Elizabeth A. Smith	28	F	M	Housewife	Presbyterian	Remarks
John A. Smith	10	M	S	Scholar	Presbyterian	Remarks
Mary A. Smith	8	F	S	Scholar	Presbyterian	Remarks

Sample Naturalization Record

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

Sample Naturalization Index Record

New York Index to Petitions for Naturalization Filed in New York City, 1790-1900

Family Name VON THUN		Given Name or Name PETER	
Place and Location of Birth COMMON PLEAS COUNTY, NEW YORK COUNTY			
Date of Naturalization SEP 9 1868	Volume or Bundle No. 286	Page No. —	Copy of Record No. 371
Address of Naturalization Record 444 STANTON STAYNE			
Occupation —	Birth Date or Age —	Former Nationality GERMAN	
Port of Arrival in the United States —	Date of Arrival —		
Name, Address and Occupations of Witnesses to Naturalization			
1 PETER SCHAFER - 476			
2 STANTON STAYNE			

Sources of Obituaries

- Offline
 - Home sources (scrapbooks, Bibles, etc.)
 - Newspapers on microfilm or databases 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

Sources of Cemetery Information

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

Sources of Family History Books

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

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
- HeritageQuest Online
- Newspapers.com

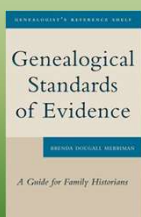
4. Evaluate Data and Cite Your Sources!

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!

Cite your Sources

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



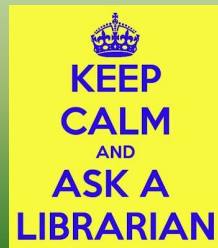
5. Review

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

6. Where Can I learn More?

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

Don't be afraid to ask for help



- Arthur Krull
- 847-358-5881 x193
- akrull@palatinelibrary.org





