Your Family History Identity: Discovering Who You Are

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Goals for the two sessions:

• Documenting your Family History
• Organizing your Family History Records
• Websites you can Use for Search
• Census Basics
• If we have time – Stories

Discussion of Homework

• Pedigree Chart
• Family Group Sheet
• Research Log

Questions based on First Lecture?

Day Two

Census Records

• Why consider Census Records
  o Public Guides beginning in 1790
  o Available on Microfilm and as digital images
• Possible places to find the records
  o Ancestry.com ($$)
  o FamilySearch.org
  o LDS (Family History Library) or affiliate libraries
  o Many public libraries
  o Indexes also available
• Enumeration Instructions – get the instructions for the census taker

Timing of when the Census was taken

• 1790, 1800, 1810 – First Monday in August
• 1820 – August 7th
• 1830-1900 (done every 10 years) on June 1st
• 1910 – April 15th
• 1920 – January 1st
• 1930 and beyond – April 1st
1790 to 1840

- Head of each household and other in the household
- Slave and free persons
- Grouped by Age and Sex
- Sample 1830 Census – page 1 (actually there are two pages for this census and 1840)

1850 – 1870 Census

- Named each person in the household with age, sex, race, occupation, birthplace, ability to read or write and schooling during the year
- DOES NOT show relationship among the people
- Sample 1870 Census
1880 Census and beyond

- Shows relationships of individuals
- By 1900, street and house numbers in cities, how many children born and still living
- 1910 added language spoken if not English
- 1920 Mother tongue of each person and parent of each person
- 1930 – whether anyone owned a radio, veteran status
- 1940 – years of schooling, residence in 1935

Using Census Records

- Locate your family in the census during the time period of their lives
- Work on extracting every piece of information – use forms
- Evaluate the information
- Create a chart

Challenges in the Census

- Handwriting and Legibility
- Names and Spelling
- Dates and Places of Birth
- Missing Census (1890 for one)
- False Census Entries
- Missing Persons

Census Citations

- 1920 US Census, Queens County, New York, population schedule, Queens Assembly District2, Maspeth, Enumeration District (ED) 93; sheet 31A, dwelling 282, family 375, Frank Serviss, NARA microfilm T625, roll 1230.
Other Census to Consider

- State Census Records
- Slave Schedules
- Veterans Schedules
- Non-population Schedules
  - Mortality Schedules
  - Agricultural Schedules
  - Manufacturing Schedules

Your Genealogy Bookshelf

Elizabeth Shown Mills, *Evidence Explained*, 3rd edition


Val Greenwood, *The Researcher’s Guide to American Genealogy*