Your Family History Identity: Discovering Who You Are

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OLLI@UNT

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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

Day One

Documenting Your Family History

Ancestor or Pedigree Chart (see attachment)

- Numbering: Men are always even; Women are always odd
    - 1st person on chart #1 is always #1
- Names
    - Surnames are in CAPS
    - Use Maiden Names
    - "Nicknames" in quotes
    - No surname – use a ?
- Dates – DAY/MONTH/YEAR 8 JUN 1867
- Places
    - Town, County, State, County
    - Hanover, Columbiana, Ohio, USA

Family Group Sheet – one sheet per family unit (see attachment)

- Provides names, dates (birth, marriage, death)
- Place children in birth order
- Add pictures if you have them

Organizing Your Family History Findings

The Old-Fashioned Way

- Files
    - One surname, couple per file
        - Each child gets their own file
    - Contains copy of research notes, family group sheet, documents
    - Each file is numbered, based on pedigree chart
    - Research log for that family in the file
    - Consider color coding folders
- Binders
    - Dividers
    - Contains everything that would have been in the File Folder
    - Photographs – archival sheets for storage
    - Consider how they are labeled

Technology Organization

- Save in the cloud or your computer or both
- Need to have standard back-up process
- Determine file names for elements
- Scanning
- Hard copies are still needed

Organizing Your Office

- Finding things in 10 minutes
- Keep it Simple
- Writing as you go, before filing, updating research Log

Research Log (see attachment sample)

Websites

Cyndi's List https://www.cyndislist.com

- Categories for everything genealogy
- Report broken links
- If you find a website not on hers – report it
- Pay attention to other similar categories – worth searching
- Start broad and then drill down
- Revisit as you gain more information on your family

FindAGrave https://www.findagrave.com

- Can search by name, memorial or cemetery
- Be cautious of information offered – need to double check through other research
- Start broad and narrow
- Request photos and have patience
- Consider being a volunteer in your area

Google https://www.google.com

- Use Quotations around the name you want
- Use Quotations around the Name add plus sign for year
- Consider adding words like state name, genealogy, cemetery, wills or marriage records

USGenWeb Https://www.usgenweb.org

- Organizing by states
- Run by Volunteers
- Great place to see what might be in the county