

Beginning Genealogy
Louisville History and Genealogy Conference
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Suggestions if you are beginning

- Find you a good “how-to” book
- Attend lectures in person or online
- Join a local genealogical society
- Join a genealogical society in the area you are researching
- Tell your family and your family friends that you are doing research.
- Be prepared for what you might find.

Genealogy vs. Family History

- **Genealogy** is the retrieval of vital and familial data from records of various types, and its ordering into meaningful relationship patterns.
- **Family History** is the integration of this data with social, economic, political contexts to develop a narrative.

Board for Certification of Genealogists

Genealogical Proof Standard

<http://www.bgc certification.org/resources/standard.html>

1. Reasonably exhaustive research
2. Complete, accurate citations to the sources or sources of each in each information item
3. Tests- through processes of analysis and correlation –of all sources, information items, and evidence
4. Resolution of conflicts among evidence items
5. Soundly reasoned, coherently written conclusion

Original vs. Derivative Sources

- **Original sources** are original documents or copies of the document.
- **Derivative sources** have taken the original documents and transcribed, extract, or abstracted the source opening it to error.

Primary vs. Secondary information

- **Primary** is information created at the time of the event
- **Secondary** is information created at a later time which opens it up errors

Basic Genealogy Recordkeeping

Dates = 5 Aug 2017

Surnames = CAPITALIZED

Women = Maiden names

Nicknames = “Brownie”

Spelling Variations = John (Dingas) Dingus

Unknown last name = _____, ?, UNK, LNU

Building Your Trees

- Pencil and paper
- Software
 - Family Tree Maker
 - Legacy
 - Roots Magic
 - Word processing/ excel
 - Evernote/ One Note
- Build your tree online
 - www.ancestry.com
 - www.familysearch.org
 - www.geni.com

Basic Forms – multiple styles available on the web

- Pedigree Chart
- Family Group Sheets

Look at what records you have at home (see handout for more ideas)

- Birth Certificates
- Marriage Certificates
- Death Certificates
- Family Bibles
- Newspaper clipping
- Wills
- Land records
- School records
- Diaries
- Journals
- Photo albums
- Obituaries
- Funeral books
- Military papers
- Letters
- Naturalization paperwork
- Passports

Vague Idea of Where They Lived

- You need to have a vague idea of where to research.
- Boundaries changed but they may not have moved.
- The records will stay with the parent county.
- Use www.newberry.org for maps.
- Be aware of “burned counties”
 - <https://kdla.ky.gov/researchers/Pages/courthousedisasters.aspx>

Where to find the records

- Court Houses
 - Have a list hand of burned counties and boundary changes.
- Libraries
- County Historical / Genealogical Societies
- In Kentucky
 - Kentucky Department of Libraries and Archives
 - *300 Coffee Tree Rd, Frankfort, KY 40601*
 - Thomas D Clark Center for Kentucky History (KHS)
 - *100 W Broadway, Frankfort, KY 40601*

Repositories to Know

- National Archives and Records Administration --NARA (D.C)
- Fort Wayne Allen County Public Library
- Salt Lake City
- Cincinnati Public Library

Genealogy Databases

- www.ancestry.com \$\$ but free at several libraries
- www.familysearch.org free
- www.myheritage.com \$\$
- www.findmypast \$\$
- www.fold3.com \$\$
- www.newspapers.com \$\$

Websites (see handout for more websites)

- Cyndi's List www.cyndislist.com
- Find a Grave www.findagrave.com
- Billion Grave www.billiongraves.com
- Family Search Wiki <https://familysearch.org/wiki/>
- Chronicling America <http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/>
- Map of US <https://www.mapofus.org>
- USGen Web (broken down by states) <http://usgenweb.org/>

Published Sources

- Mug Books (county history books)
- Family history books
- Indexes
- Transcribe works

Birth Certificates

In Kentucky, really started in 1911

Some pre-1911 do exist

Index online at Ancestry.com

100-year moratorium on the release of Kentucky birth certificates

BUT none have been released

Marriage Certificates

In Kentucky 1785-1979 is online at FamilySearch

KDLA and KHS have some on microfilm

Intentions of Marriage

- Marriage Banns
- Marriage Bond –the surety is usually a relative of the bride.
- Applications and licenses – the most common types of records showing intent to marry.
- Consent Papers – when the bride or groom are underage. (Know the law in time and place)

Marriage Records

- Certificates
- Returns – may hear them called Ministers Returns
- Personal records of the minister

Death Certificates

In Kentucky, Death Records 1852-1964 online at Ancestry.com

50-year moratorium on Death Certificates

Census Records

72-year moratorium on US Federal Census

1950 will be released April 2022

Taken every 10 years starting in 1790

- Early census 1790-1840 are tick marks only with head of house listed
- 1850 -1870 –everyone named but relationships not given
- 1880 – starts to show relationships
- 1890—destroyed by water damaged when the upper floors burned
- 1900-1940—lots of really good info

Online in multiple locations

Next Steps

- Military records
- Immigration records
- Wills
- Probates
- Diaries / Journals
- Manuscripts
- City Directories
- Religious Documents

Resources

Books (very small selection of my favorites)

Bettinger, Blaine T. Family Tree Guide to DNA Testing and Genetic Genealogy.

Board for Certification of Genealogist. Genealogy Standards: Millennium Edition.

Helm, Matthew. Genealogy for Dummies.

Hogan, Roseann Reinemuth. Kentucky Ancestry: A Guide to Genealogical and Historical Research. (old but a standard for Kentucky research)

Mills, Elizabeth Mills. Evidence Explained: Citing History Sources from Artifacts to Cyberspace. (read the first two chapters)

Morgan, George G. How to Do Everything Genealogy.

Red Book: American State, County and Town Sources.

Rose, Christine. Complete Idiot's Guide to Genealogy.

Rose, Christine. Courthouse Research for Family Historians: Your Guide to Genealogical Treasures.

Rose, Christine. Military Bounty Land 1776-1855

Smith, Drew. Organize Your Genealogy: Strategies and Solutions for Every Researcher.

The Source: A Guidebook of American Genealogy

www.youtube.com channels

Ancestry

Barefoot Genealogist

BYU Family History Library

DearMYRTLE

Family Search

Lisa Louise Cooke's Genealogy Gems

US National Archives

Facebook Groups

Ancestry

DNA Detectives

Family Search

Genealogy Chit-Chat

Judy Russell or LegalGenealogist.com

National Genealogical Society

User groups of your software

Local Genealogical Society

Louisville Genealogical Society

<https://kylgs.org/>

Kentucky Genealogical Society

www.kygs.org