

Genealogy Basics for Library Staff

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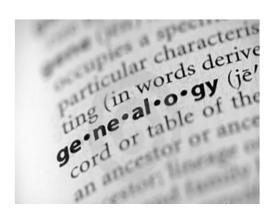
No need to hide from Genealogists!

Where to Begin?

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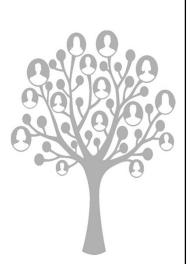
The study or investigation of ancestry & family histories

- Who are Genealogists?
- What are They Seeking?
- Where Can You Find Answers?



Who Are You Helping?

- There are two main types of genealogists:
 - Patrons visiting your community looking for local ancestors
 - Patrons from your community looking for ancestors elsewhere
 - -What are they seeking? EVERYTHING!



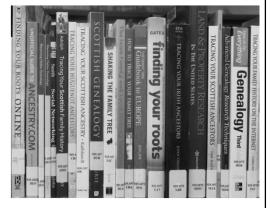
Genealogy Materials @ Your Library

- Assess your collections
 - -What genealogy resources do you have?
 - -County Histories & Reference Books
 - Maps
 - -Newspapers
 - Phone Books/City Directories etc.
- Create finding aids for your genealogical information highlighting these resources



Genealogy Materials @ Your Library

- Is there a historical or genealogical society in your area you can rely on for information?
- Who else may collect genealogy records and artifacts in your area?
- Does Your library participate in Inter-Library Loan?



Genealogy online @ Your Library

- Does your library subscribe to online genealogy resources?
- Does your library link to other genealogy websites on your website?
- Has your library created online genealogy resources for items within your collections?
 - -obit index
 - -Historic photos







Try-It Illinois www.finditillinois.org/tryit

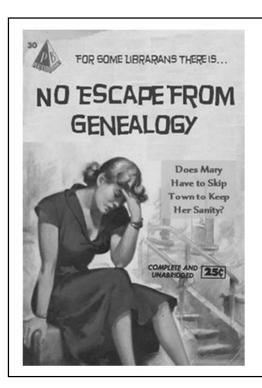
- Try-It Illinois is a program sponsored by the Illinois State Library to give libraries and patrons a chance to test-drive online databases and electronic resources
- There are multiple genealogy databases available including HeritageQuest, Fold3, Newspaperarchive.com and more
- Follow the link above for the password to access the collections from October 1-Novmeber 30th

Digitized Genealogy Books

- Digital Public Library http://dp.la/bookshelf
- FamilySearch www.familysearch.org
- Google Books http://books.google.com
- Hathi Trust www.hathitrust.org
- Internet Archives www.archive.org

Genealogy Libraries

- Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library
- Allen County Public Library
- Family History Library Salt Lake City
- Cincinnati and Hamilton County Public Library
- Mid-Continent Public Library
- Newberry Library



The Reference Interview

Conducting a Reference Interview

- Assess their skill level
- Common types of questions include:
 - -Directional
 - Beginning methodology
 - -Experiential research
- Three main points to a genealogy question: name, place & time



Conducting A Reference Interview

- Keep it Simple
 - -Limit patrons to two main topics
 - Keep them on point
 - -Set a time limit
 - -Schedule a follow-up interview
 - -Ask guided questions



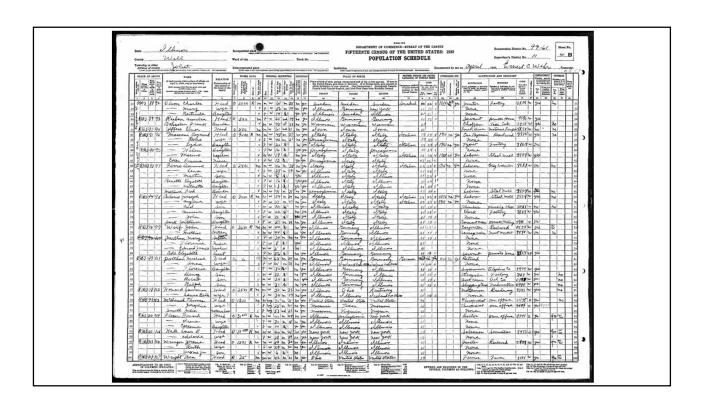
Conducting A Reference Interview

- What to ask in your reference interview:
 - -What do you know?
 - -What records do you already have?
 - -What resources have you already used?
 - -What do you want to accomplish?



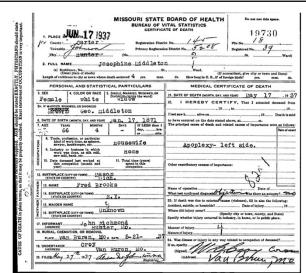
Things to Know: Census

- Census returns are widely available online for free and can help any researcher begin to trace their ancestor
 - Federal Censuses have been recorded every 10 years on the zeros since 1790
 - Each census collects different information
 - -1790-1840 censuses only listed names of head-of-household
 - -1850-present every name within the household is recorded
 - −1940 is the most recent census available online to the public



Things to Know: Vital Records

- Vital Records are birth, marriages and deaths recorded by city/county/state
 - Each state sets their own laws and regulations regarding access to vital records
 - -Vital records collection dates varies from state to state
 - -Illinois began recording marriages in 1763 (statehood 1818)
 - -Illinois deaths and birth registration began in November 1877, but was requested not required until 1914



Missouri Death Records to 1965 are available online for free http://s1.sos.mo.gov/records/archives/archivesdb/deathcertificates

Illinois marriage indexes are available online

Things to Know: Newspapers

- Newspaper indexes and digitized editions can be extremely helpful in filling in details of an ancestors life
 - -Many websites offer free access to digitized newspapers
 - Every-name searches help avoid the need for exact dates
 - Cast a wide net; don't limit your search to just your town, newsworthy stories could run across the globe
 - Don't limit your search by date
 - Be flexible in your spellings

Digital Newspaper Collections

- Ancestor Hunt Website: www.theancestorhunt.com/newspapers.html
- California Digital Newspapers Collection: http://cdnc.ucr.edu/cgi-bin/cdnc?a=q&e=----en--2o--1--txt-IN-----
- Chicago Tribune Newspaper Archives: http://archives.chicagotribune.com
- Chronicling America: http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov

Digital Newspaper Collections

- www.elephind.com Free digitized newspapers from around the globe
- Family Search www.familysearch.org
- Fulton History: www.fultonhistory.com/Fulton.html
- Google News Archive https://news.google.ca/newspapers
- Wikipedia list of digitized newspapers: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:List_of_online_newspaper_archives



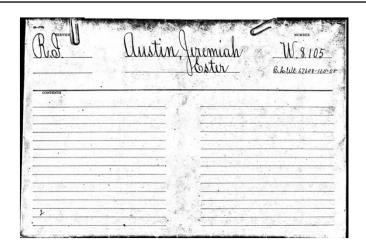


Case Studies

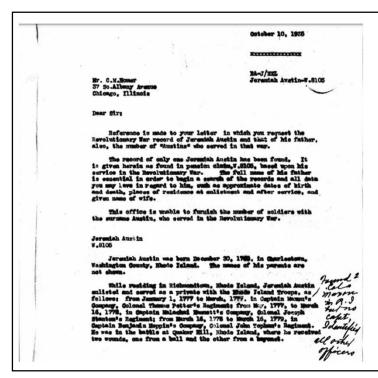
- My ancestor may have fought in the American Revolution
 - What is their evidence?
 - Family stories and bible entry showing date of birth
 - -What resources have they used?
 - Ancestry.com
 - -What do they wish to accomplish?
 - Membership in the Daughter of the American Revolution

- Several great resources exist for Revolutionary War Soldiers:
 - HeritageQuest Online has digitized select papers from the Revolutionary War Pension Files at the National Archives
 - Fold3 www.Fold3.com has digitized the entire collection of Revolutionary War Pension Files in gray scale
 - Daughters of the American Revolution www.dar.org has several research tools including patriot Finder and Descendant Finder databases

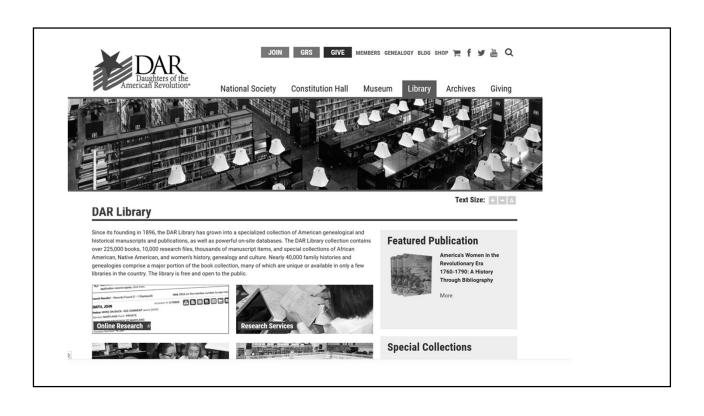


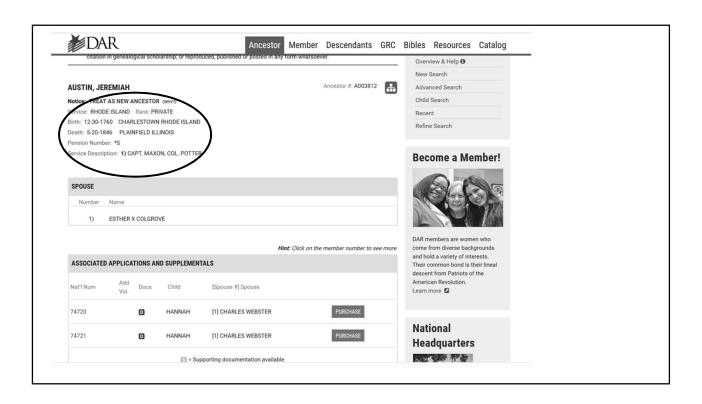


Private Jeremiah Austin served with Rhode Island troops from 1777-1779. He originally applied for Pension in Vermont in 1833. He and his wife moved to Illinois, where he died in 1846 His wife applied for pension in Illinois in 1853.



Letter From HeritageQuest Online's Revolutionary War Pension File for Jeremiah Austin



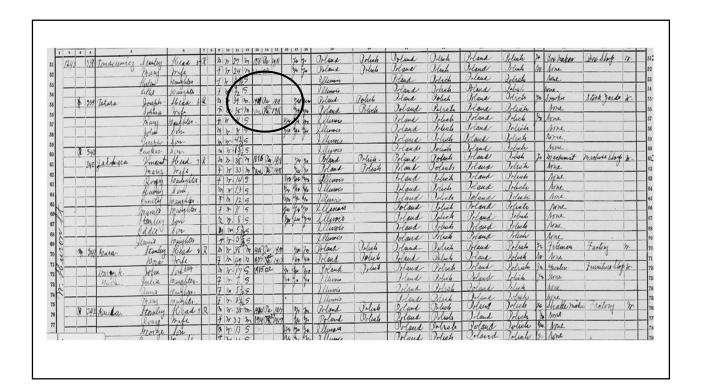


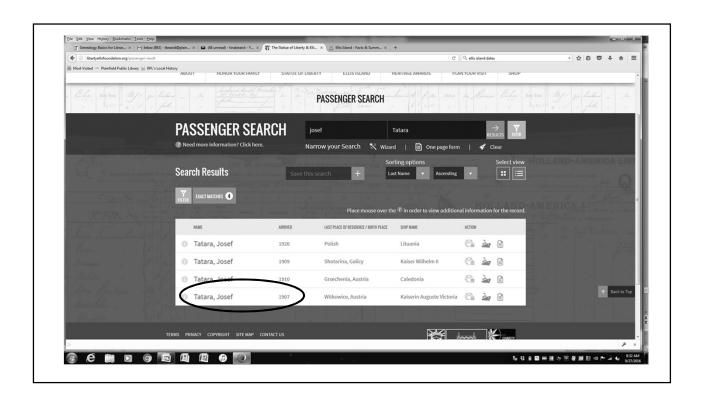
Case Study #2

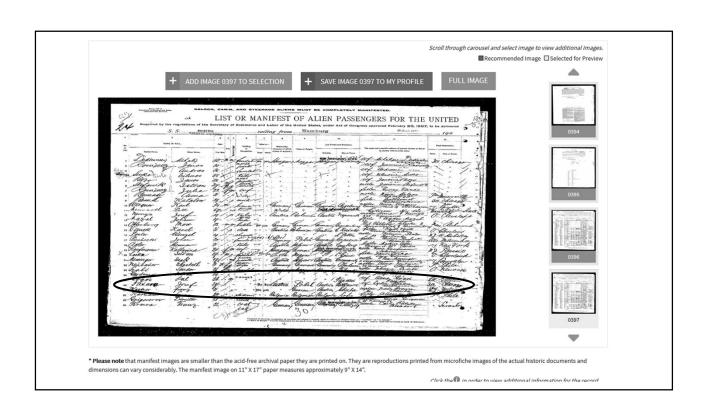
- My ancestor may have come through Ellis Island
 - -What is their evidence?
 - Family stories
 - What resources have they used?
 - Familysearch.org
 - -What do they wish to accomplish?
 - Find out where and when they arrived in the U.S.

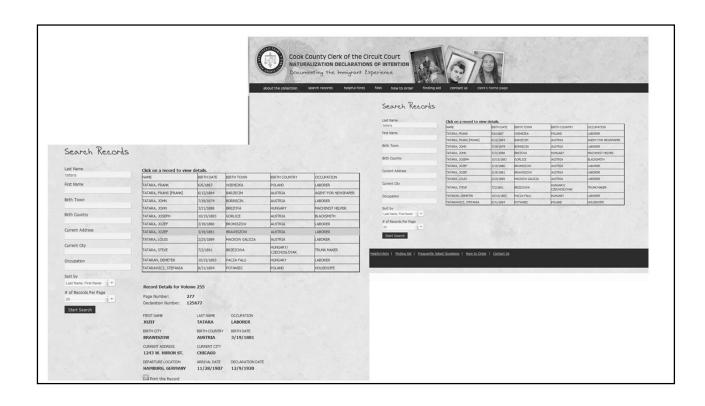
- Immigration records can be found in multiple locations. Encourage the patron to reevaluate what they know.
 - Ellis Island opened January 1, 1892.
 - Check Census records to find potential date of immigration
 - Ancestry.com has immigration indexes for all U.S. ports of entry from 1820-1950s
 - Immigrant Ships Transcriber's Guild is a free resource www.immigrantships.net

- Joseph Tatara came through Ellis Island on February 20, 1907
- I found his ships manifest online through Ellis Island www.libertyellisfoundation.org
- He eventually came to Chicago, IL where he applied for naturalization... twice. www.cookcountyclerkofcourt.org/nr
- His naturalization records were available to view at the Cook County Clerk of the Circuit Court Archives.









Book Resources

- Bently, Elizabeth Petty. Genealogists' Address Book. Genealogical Publishing Company. Woodsboro, MD. 2006.
- Bently, Elizabeth Petty. County Courthouse Book. 3rd Ed. Genealogical Publishing Company. Woodsboro, MD. 2009.
- Crow, Elizabeth Powell. Genealogy Online. McGraw Hill. N.Y. 2015
- Eichholtz, Alice. Ancestry's Red Book: American State, County and Town Sources. Ancestry. Salt Lake City, UT. 1992

Book Resources

- Hendrickson, Nancy. The Unofficial Guide to Ancestry.com. F+W Books. Cincinnati, OH. 2014.
- Mills, Elizabeth Shown. Evidence Explained: citing history sources from artifacts to cyberspace. 3rd Ed. Genealogical Publishing Company. Baltimore, Maryland. 2015.
- Simpson, Jack. Basics of Genealogy Reference: a librarian's guide. Libraries Unlimited. Westport, CT. 2008.
- Szucs, Lou. The Source: Guidebook of American Genealogy. 3rd Ed. Ancestry Publishing. Provo, UT. 2006.