

WEBVTT

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Something went away. Okay. Wow, okay. And we're going to be recording the class tonight, and it'll be available we'll send you a link to the recording as soon as it gets processed by our volunteer.

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Well, Kevin Spire is a native Iowa, and a member of the Iowa Genealogical Society, with over 20 years of genealogy, research, experience.

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He's traced his ancestors in the U.

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S. Midwest, Germany, Denmark, and England, now a professional genealogist and owner of inspired connections.

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He provides research and consultation services to clients and lectures, to small groups like us.

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And with that I'll turn it over to you, Kevin.

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Alright, so, as Sherri had said my name is Kevin Spire.

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Welcome for joining us. Just a couple of things. There were some class handouts that were sent to you in an email.

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Don't worry about having those printed out there for your reference, but I will be talking about them a little bit later, and referring to them, and there for you to use.

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As you're doing your research. A couple of things here that I just want to mention in regards to what we'll be talking about.

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So well, more so. What we're not gonna be talking about.

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So tonight I'm not gonna be covering anything about DNA.

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DNA is a class unto itself that we could be her all night talking about so we're not really gonna get into any DNA conversation.

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But at the end of the class, if you have some questions I'll do my best to try and field some of those questions.

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After the presentation is done, and also we're going to be focusing a lot on us records.

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Well, solely on us records. We're not going to be looking at any non us or European records.

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That being said, you can still use the same strategies and approaches whether you are doing us research or or international research or worldwide research.

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The practices and the approaches are still the same.

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So first of all, I'd just like to start off with a little bit of some background with the group and find out a little bit about your level of experience.

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And Sherry's popped up a poll on the screen, and if you would just reply to indicate how much Danielogical experience have you had?

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It just just helps me understand the group that I'm speaking with.

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So if you would respond to that, poll.

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Great we've got some more than 5 years, some 2 to 5, less than a year, and none.

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We are all over the place. That is awesome. I love that.

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Okay. Great.

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And oops. Here we go! Come on, go by, there we go!

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And then the other thing I'd like to know is a little bit of your location.

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Where are you located at? Are you in the Des Moines area, or some of the outlined areas?

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Or maybe you're outside the State of Iowa.

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Just kind of curious to know where folks are located, and how far news has spread about the availability of this class.

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So we have one that is out of state, awesome, and majority of you are in the Greater Des Moines area like Urban Dale, Johnston, West des Moines.

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Alright, fantastic, cool, another one a little bit further out.

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Okay. Fantastic.

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Alright! Well, I'll give you just a little bit of background about me and my ancestors, as Sharri had said, I've been doing genealogy research for a long time, and I've tracked my ancestors through the midwest of the United States and traced them

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back to Denmark, Germany, England, and have had a great time doing all that, and glad that I could share some of my understandings with all of you.

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For this class. So let's take a look here. At our agenda, what we're going to be talking about.

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So we'll start off with the 5 basic rules of genealogy.

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Just some things to get us kicked off in the conversation, started then we'll talk about where do I start?

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How do I get going with this? Where do I find information?

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What to do when I physically go to those places or go to those locations on the Internet.

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Then we'll look at some foundational records that's used for research.

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We'll talk about some warnings and some pitfalls.

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Talk a little bit about establishing some good work happens and then we'll wrap it up.

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Talking about documentation organizing, using paper versus electronic computer software.

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And that type of thing. So with that, what's start off with some 5 basic rules of genealogy.

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So number one, everyone was a beginner once, and even experienced researchers are still learning new things.

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So I have this here just to tell folks don't be shy.

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Jump! In! Get started! It's the best way to learn more about what you're doing, even if you feel very inexperienced.

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We all have started from that point at some point at some time in our journey, and even if you are a very experienced researcher, there is still so many new things out there that become available to us technology changes new records sets become available to us new things with websites and tools that are out there

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to use with your research. It's all parts of it are all new to all of us.

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So don't be afraid to jump in, and if you have someone to take the journey with you, that's all.

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The better. But many times you can find a more experienced person that can help give you a little guidance, too, and that's always good to have some help with, and that support.

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Number 2. There are no such things as family secrets. Just some of those things we don't talk about right.

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A lot of our families have this type of thing. I mean, it's it's in my family, too.

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There are some things that are just not talked about. It can range from from so many different topics.

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You might encounter some of this in your family, if you're not already aware it might be something like an unexpected pregnancy.

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It might be something like financial ruin, mental illness, physical illness, something.

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Maybe there's a criminal record out there that a family member isn't particularly proud of.

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I have this slide on here to remind folks that when and if you do encounter this type of thing, give some consideration to how you want to handle that type of information.

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Remember exposing that to a large group can be detrimental to them and their family, and it might impact other families also, there might be some of the things that you choose to hold privately or quietly to yourself, and not broadcast to a larger community.

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And if you are going to be sharing it with someone, give them a little heads up and just let them know.

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Hey? I found something unexpected. I wonder if you were aware about this, and if you'd like to know more?

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Number 3. Family lore can become tangled, but it often contains negative nuggets of truth.

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You know, I hear from a lot of people the stories about how oh, maybe it's a native American bloodline, or maybe they are related to royalty, or just maybe they've always heard they have a descendant that came on the Mayflower.

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I don't know if it's true or not.

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Maybe you do have maybe you don't have.

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But hold on to those stories that you heard over time. They can often be little nuggets that can add and help to your research.

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And I'll give you an example of that in my own experience.

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So I had heard that part of my ancestry owned a business in Northern Germany, and I didn't really give it too much thought until I was researching that part of my family line, and I was stuck, and I just couldn't find any evidence of of the family, and the the ancestors

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the parents of a particular ancestor. Until I remember this story, that they had a business, and so that clued me in to go start looking for some business related records and some tax records that were in the area where I knew that they lived lo!

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And behold, there they work. I found that they owned a butcher shop in downtown, well downtown, within a a city or a community where they lived, and those business documents told me not only the ancestors name, but his brother's name, and his father's

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name, who was, you know, a master butcher at the Bush Butcher store.

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So I got a lot of family information just by remembering the fact that the family had a business in that community.

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So hold on to those negative 2. They can be helpful.

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Number 4. You need to be flexible in the spelling of names.

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The ages of family members, etc. Etc. So we have a little saying in the genealogy world of research that if you're attached to how your family name is spelled, shake it loose, let it go you know a lot of the documents that we work with here

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they were written down by someone else, and they wrote it down.

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How they heard the name they did not get points for spelling.

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They did not get a words for spelling their job was to just count the people or write the names down and move on to the next one, and they did it rather quickly.

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Also, as you go back further in in time, remember that a lot of our ancestors may have been illiterate, and they didn't even know how to spell their own names.

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So? Who knows what was the right or wrong way with spelling?

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So be flexible with that spelling. It'll help open up your search results when you're searching for your ancestors.

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Okay, and number 5. Everything is not on the Internet and not everything on the Internet is true.

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So, there's a lot of on the Internet. And every day there is more and more made available to you and there's some good information out there to help you build and get started with your family tree.

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But know that not everything has made it to the Internet, and it may not.

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You know there are documents that are in a county courthouse somewhere that they don't have the funds to digitize them and make them available on the Internet.

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If you are wanting to see those those documents at that courthouse, it might require a few phone calls.

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It might require a visit to that courthouse to be able to look at those documents.

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You might have to do a little extra lightwork if you're wanting to look at them and see them also.

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Not. Everything is on, or not. Everything on the Internet is true.

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We're going to see some examples of this later on.

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But we know that we can't believe everything on the Internet, right?

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That there are some things out there that people have put up and honestly thought that they were accurate, and later views prove that they are not necessarily as accurate as we hope they were. But like I said, we're going to look at some examples of that a little bit.

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A little bit later.

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Alright. So let's talk about where do you get started?

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Where do I start? You know the first place, I tell everyone who is just getting started with genealogy research, the best thing to do is to start with what you know best, and to stretch out from there, and what you know best is starting with yourself.

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And getting yourself documented. And you want to collect for yourself and for everybody else in your family tree.

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There are some 3 core pieces of information. Actually, I would save 4, probably that first being your name right your as much of your full name as you know, and hopefully, you know your entire full name.

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But for other ancestors, you know, it's whatever name that you can find available for them, and beyond that it's going to be some places and some dates.

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So we're going to collect information about birth, marriage, and death, birthplace, birth, date.

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Marriage, date, marriage, place, death, date, and death place. So for yourself you can at least collect your name, your birthplace, and your birth, date.

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If you have a spouse or a life partner, then you can collect that.

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Their information. Same thing, birth, marriage, and date. If you're married with that particular spouse.

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From there you can probably get your children pretty quick if you have any children, and collect their birth.

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Marriage, and and death information, if they have passed away, and if you have grandchildren, you can probably collect that pretty early or pretty quickly.

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Excuse me once you've gotten that foundation, and you can.

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Most people can do this just for memory to get that but once you've got this foundation done for your yourself, your your partner, and your designs, then I would say, start going up the family tree and look towards collecting that information for your parents birth, marriage and

death information for each of their parents, from there I would expand out

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to any siblings that you might have. You know the other children of your parents, and from there then your grandparents, and onto aunts and uncles.

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So the idea here is to be methodical in your approach.

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In going a generation at a time to collect the information, and especially to ensure that you have a solid foundation, that you're building your tree off of.

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You really want to avoid that desire to branch, hop so, if you've heard a story that your family's related to George Washington example, then it might be really tempting to just jump up and start with George Washington and go from there slow down.

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Let's make sure you've got all the connections to George Washington that you can prove instead of just jumping there so that you're assured of the accuracy that you have, and you're not, as they say, climbing someone else's family.

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Tree with an arrow.

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Alright. So from there, where do we go? Something that I think is often overlooked is collecting oral history.

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So these are things that you are not going to find on hard copy documents on.

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You not gonna find necessarily on the Internet? They are about experiences, recollections, and impressions.

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If you have some of those older family members that are still with us, reach out to them and talk to them about these things, about their family and their ancestors, and what they remember doing, because these experiences and recollections like I said are not something that's going to be in documents, if

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if the person is comfortable with you doing an audio visual recording, do that because you'll be glad when they're not around anymore.

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And plus. You can listen to it over and over to see if you missed any any details or subtleties that you didn't hear the first time. And of course you want to be respectful of any sensitive topics that you might bump into like we talked about earlier.

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Okay. From there. Let's expand out just a little bit further.

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And talk about some local resources. So these are things that are in your own backyard that you can identify and work with to do your research and I'm talking about things like local libraries, county courthouses, church records, cemeteries, genealogical and historical societies and there

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are many more. This list is not all inclusive. There are others, but these are just kind of some highlights, of some places where you can find genealogy, rich information to help you with your research.

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For tonight. I'm gonna focus on just a couple of these that were on the prior slide, the first one being public libraries.

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So I think libraries are often very underutilized.

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And that could be the public library that is closest to you, where you live, or it might be a public library where your ancestor lived.

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Remember that part, library. They have lots of information there, too.

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If it's still around. This is where that local information is housed.

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Now they might have some old newspapers that can help you with your research.

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Many of these little towns, especially around Iowa, had newspapers for the town or the the community, or the county, often, sometimes they have publications that were put out by local groups in the community that might be available at that library if you're at the library.

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You know. Don't look for a genealogy section you'll have to look at.

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Maybe a local history section, that type of thing. And if your little community that you're researching no longer has a public library, then I would look towards the next larger town or community, or maybe a county

seat in that county that might have funneled and collected information from that small town where you're ancestor

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lived keep in mind about the intelibrary loan system that's available within the United States.

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If you're not familiar with it, just kind of a real high level here we have agreements within many of our libraries across the United States that materials can be sent and shared between libraries.

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So if I if I knew that there was a book or something.

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Let's say I'm I'm in Des Moines, and there was something in you know, and I don't wanna drive all the way to Sioux City.

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I can contact my local library. Let them know the material I want, and they can help coordinate.

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Having that item set to my library here in Des Moines to look at for many libraries.

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It's free at no cost. Some libraries do charge a fee.

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It's generally under \$10. But you just need to check that out with your library. If there's any costs involved.

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And then the other resource we talked about was genealogical Societies.

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So a lot of these genealogical and historical societies have some really great connections, and they are focused on genealogy, research, and family history.

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A lot of these items are are rare. They're out of print.

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They might be as simple as, and you know the something that wasn't widely distributed like a mapping of a cemetery in a county that you're researching.

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And instead of having to travel to that county, to go walk through the cemetery, you know there could be a document, and I've seen this where a

Boy Scout troop has gone, and they've plotted the cemetery and written all the names and transcribe the names and dates off

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the headstones and mapped them out, and it saved me a trip to that county to go look at it.

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So those are the types of things. And there's many more that you can find at the societies.

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Some of them, some of these societies do not have their own brick and mortar building.

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They might share a space with a public library or a historical society building.

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You might have to do a little looking and Internet searching in order to find out where they house their collection, if, in fact, they do have a collection that you can browse.

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But I think the most valuable thing with these places is that third and last bullet on there.

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There are members that can help you with your specific problems. So these places have folks who have been doing genealogy research for a long time.

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They may have encountered the same type of problems and struggles that you're having.

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And just by talking to them they can give you some ideas and suggestions on how you can overcome that roadblock that you might be struggling.

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Now, of course, I have to talk just a little bit about our own Iowa Genealogical Society that's located right here in Des Moines.

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If you go out to our homepage there at www.genealogy.org.

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Dot, I would www.genealogy.org. The homepage will look something like this.

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It changes periodically, and you'll find a lot of information about the activities and things that are going on with the at the Irogen Geological Society.

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If you choose to come, visit. This is in Des Moines.

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This is what the front of the building looks like at 6, 20 eighties.

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Grand. We are located just west of the Iowa State Capitol, about 2, 3 blocks or so on East Grand Avenue.

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Excuse me, you can see there's parking in front of the building.

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There's also a large parking lot that's not in the picture, but it's on what would appear to be the right hand side of this picture of this photo and the parking in that ramp is free, and it's covered so that it protects your car from the elements.

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And you just walk right over.

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What is at the Iowa Genealogical Society in library.

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Well, there's a lot of materials to help you.

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First of all, they're open Monday through Saturday.

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Usually 10 Am. To about 4 9 Pm. Depending on the day of the week.

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Admission for members is free for non members. We ask for a \$10 a day usage fee, but you can become a member at the door if you'd like to, and then access to the library will be free for you.

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Of course, there's a lot of books, publications, and microfilm not just about Iowa, but about all the States in the United States, and also some European places.

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Germany, England, Scotland, irrelevant, etc., etc., and a number of how to books are also there.

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We also have access to ancestry.com for free on when you use the libraries, computers that are available there in the computer lab area.

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And the library is also an affiliate of the Family History Library in Salt Lake City.

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What that is. Is. If you've ever used family search.org, and you have been blocked from being able to look at a specific image of a file, you might get a little popup that says you must be at a family history library, or an affiliate library in order to view this particular record at

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the I would Genealogical Society. They are an affiliate member, and if you bring your computer and connect to our Wi-fi there, or if you use one of the live or the computers at the library, then you can view that record it becomes unlocked and you can look at it.

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there, of course, educational classes are offered each month genealogical conferences twice a year.

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There are special interest groups that focused on German ancestry, Irish ancestry, Norwegian ancestry, DNA ancestry, roots, magic, a number of topics where people can get together monthly network and collaborate and talk about some discoveries and and look

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for help from one another, and of course volunteers are there to help you.

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So a lot at the Iowa Genealogical Society.

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If you're not a member, I encourage you to take a look at the web page, and there's some information about membership there.

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Okay, let's stretch out a little bit further in our in our search for information and talk about state historical Societies.

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Now, of course, I'm going to focus on the state of Iowa's Historical Society.

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If you are researching an ancestor in another state, then you're going to want to look towards that State or their Historical Society.

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If you go out to the Iowa culture.gov website.

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Then their homepage will look something like this to look at their collection.

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You're gonna select on the menu bar at the top of the screen for history.

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And then research where you will find information about their collection.

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What do they have there? Well, what they have all kinds of good stuff, and they've just done some remodeling.

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I still need to get down there to see what they've done.

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But I've heard it's very nice that they finally gotten it open and we're thrilled about that.

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Of course they have all the county records, newspapers, books, periodicals, not only for Iowa, but many across the United States.

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Special collections of personal papers, diaries of our government officials, photographs, auto, visual materials.

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They also have access to ancestry.com at the Des Moines location, and all of the original documents that are related to Iowa history.

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They have a couple of locations. They have the one here in Des Moines, and I do need to mention that the one here in Des Moinesley des Moines is directly across the street from the Iowa Genealogical Society.

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So you can make one stop and go to both if you have time to do that.

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During your day, but they are directly across the street from one another.

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There is also an Iowa city location. They have their own special collections and own historical collections.

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They have some different photographs, collections. If you look on the State historicals of Iowa's website and you're looking at their catalog you see something that's at the Iowa City location.

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I believe you can contact them. They can make arrangements to have it available to you in Des Moines.

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If you'd like to. Their hours are a little bit limited at this.

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At this time they're only open Wednesday through Friday from 9 Am.

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To 4, 30, but you don't need to schedule an appointment unless you want something from one of those special collections.

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You need to give them a heads up that you'd like something from there, and you just contact them and schedule a time.

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With them.

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Okay. There are many other libraries across the United States that focus on genealogy data to help you with your research.

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One of the most close to us here in Iowa is the Mid-continent Public Library, located in Independence, Missouri, right by Kansas City.

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To the south of us. This is a great place, while the Mid-continent Public Library has many libraries around the Kansas City and Independents area.

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They have one building, a big building that is dedicated just to genealogy research they have a lot of material that's very helpful.

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And you can learn about it on their website. If you just go do a Google search for the Mid-continent Public Library.

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Next is the Alan County Library, in Fort Wayne, Indiana.

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Another very large genealogy library in the United States that has a very large collection where you can learn more about your ancestry.

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Research number 3 is the Family History Library, located in Salt Lake City, Utah.

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This is where I say, the mother load of records are collected for genealogy, research.

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The Family History Library is part of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, kind of a little different division of that organization, and the Family History Library is located just across the street from the Temple.

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There in Salt Lake City. They have an incredible amount of resources.

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There that are not just us, but worldwide, and the people there are very helpful and able to translate for you on the spot.

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I was there, and I had Danish records, and I was stuck in this lady just read it right off to me, and I said, Slow down, slow down, I need to write this down, but it was great.

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It was a wonderful, a wonderful place. And then, of course, our own Library of Congress in Washington, DC.

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They have a lot of genealogy resources. As I mentioned earlier.

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If you want to know more about these libraries or the collections that they have, go Google, the libraries.

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Many of them have websites. Some of those collections might be available online.

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Some of them might be available for interlibrary loan.

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Maybe it's worth checking out.

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So what do you do when you go to that library? You're ready to research.

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Number one thing. Talk to the librarian and the volunteers.

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These people are not scary, and they're there to help you with your research.

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Ask for a tour to get oriented. Explain what you're interested in, and what you're looking for a lot of times, you know.

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They can take your right to it, and save you a lot of time.

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It's their job to know the materials in their library and share it with you.

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So that you can find it and make use of it. Learn about making copies and policies and costs with making copies.

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Some of these places, you know, are nonprofit organizations, and if they can earn a couple quarters or a couple of dollars off of making some photocopies for you, you're helping them out some of them do not like you to take pictures with your smart phones

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or that type of thing. Just ask before you do, and you know they might allow you to do that, depending on what their policies are.

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Okay. Let's stretch out a little bit further and talk about the Internet and using the Internet for research.

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We've all been out there right. It's convenient.

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You can do your research whenever you want, be it 7 Am.

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In the morning or 2 A. M. In the morning, if you like.

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There are lots of websites out there, lots and lots and lots of websites.

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Some are free some have subscription costs associated with them.

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It just varies a lot, and I would tell you that.

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Take a look at the handout that I've given you when you have a chance there's a list of just a few websites that you can explore out there.

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I know. Once you start looking, you'll find more. But the few that I have listed can get you started.

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One thing I do like to point out are the instructional videos.

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So, if you have not ever been out to youtube.com, go check it out and do a search for genealogy, you will find for free at no cost many instructional videos that will tell you how to do stuff vir genealogy research.

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You'll find all kinds of things that happen. Some of them are just quick little little things that might only last 3Â min.

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Some of them are entire series of classes that can be an hour on top of an hour if you want to do that type of thing, there's a lot available out there.

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If you take a look and you just start digging.

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And then for here, as we have been stretching further and further out, looking for resources and information, one option, finally, is to hire a professional professional or collaborate with a friend, are we hitting a brick wall? Are you stuck?

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Do you need some assistance? You know a professional might be able to help you get focused if you need them to do that for you, or maybe you can hire someone to go to that library and pul some information at some library in Virginia where you're doing your research, there.

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Are folks who do that type of thing. The other thing is to collaborate with a friend, or maybe another family member.

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It's always good to have someone else to bounce some ideas off of, or just talk some things through.

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It kind of helps you to slow down and find things that might be a stumbling block.

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So give that some consideration to help you with things that you're stuck on.

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Okay, before we go into foundational records, I'm gonna pause here for just a minute and check to see if folks have any questions feel free to open up your mind and ask any questions.

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And sherry. Maybe you can tell me if there's been anything in the.

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Nothing from the participants. I did put the link to the lunch and learn for the State Historical Society Presentation.

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That was, they did a lunch and learn it was just an hour, but went over some of the resources available over there. And that's available on our website.

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Great, and you know, Sherry, when I heard you talk about that in one of the prior classes, I didn't know it was alright. I went out and went through it.

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It was really good, really good.

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Yeah.

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It is she? Was she's so enthusiastic, but and it's a brain dump of all the stuff that they have and how to navigate the collection.

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The catalog, their whole catalogue is online.

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And so, if you're wondering, do they have, you know, a diary?

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And they, you know some of those are at the University libraries, and some of them are at the State Historical Society Library, and so you just can find out all kinds of fun Stuff it's a bit of a rabbit hole, especially get into the Photograph Collection.

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Yeah, it was good. Yeah, it can be.

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I'm like oh, it's because it's all online.

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Yeah.

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Some of it.

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Alright! Well, if there are any questions, that's fine, I'll take a break again.

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A little bit later to see if there's anything. But let's move ahead, for now we'll talk about some foundational records.

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Okay Foundational records this is kind of just a term that I coin foundational records.

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And what I'm what I'm talking about. Foundational records.

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I'm talking about Sensus records, vital records and family documents and stories.

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Those are the ones that we're going to look at tonight and talk about.

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Don't think that these are the only ones that are out there.

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There's more, of course, that's that. You might stumble into.

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But we're just gonna focus on these 3 groups of records.

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And we're gonna start off with census records.

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So, for in the United States we know that we have Federal and many States took a State census.

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Not all States, but but a lot of them did take a State census.

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Consider these, the basic building blocks for your research. And you really want to try and locate your family in every census possible.

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And the reason, I say that is because in each one of these censuses a little bit different information was collected, and that just helps to add to the picture of the family unit that you are recording about it it all helps.

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Of course there are some limitations, as there are with all records.

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Yes, the information can be inaccurate, as I said earlier, it's only as accurate as what the census taker wrote down when they heard it from someone, and that informant may not have had quite all the information

correct you know when the census taker came to the house in 1880 they might have

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been talking to the eldest child because the parents were out working in the field right, and she might not have got he or she might not have gotten all the information quite right.

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Yes, some families were missed. The census taker could only go back to the house so many times, and they had to move on because they had a scheduled key.

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The thing I struggle with most is this third bullet where handwriting might be illegible or favorable.

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A lot of these census takers had horrible penmanship.

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And you just you just have to work with it. It can be a struggle, but you just have to work with it.

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It might take a little bit of time, and of course, when you are doing your search on the Internet to look for your family in that census record, that information had to be transcribed.

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Someone or something had to type out the family names of John Smith and Mary Smith and Susan Smith, and all that, and there could be errors in how that transcription occurred.

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So this is a key, a clue very much in keeping those spellings of last name flexible you know you didn't find it searching it this way.

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Maybe you'll find it searching it under another spelling.

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You might be more successful that way. Just some things to keep in mind.

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If you're expecting to find something and not finding it.

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So let's take a closer look here and talk specifically about Federal census records.

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So the Federal census in the United States is taking every 10 years, beginning in the year 1790, keep in mind that the 1890 census was destroyed in fire.

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There's not much left of that census. Barely anything that survived from that fire.

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Also privacy, laws closed them for 72 years before they're released to the public.

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That means the last census that became available for us to have access to was the 1950 census which became available in April of 2022. Just last year.

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No, that the census collections are organized first by State and then by county, and then further down by townships or towns, and then within large towns and cities that might be divided by wards or parishes, or districts, for you know larger cities, the earlier census.

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like between 1790 and 1840, only gave the name of the head of the household, and then the number of free white males and females in various age categories, and then a number for slaves.

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We're going to look at some examples of that. In just a minute you'll see what I'm talking about.

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But there are some ways to work with that to kind of help guide you.

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If you're looking for other names in that house, it's not until 1850, and later, when we start to see the name of each person in the household listed on the census sheets.

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Okay, so let's take a look at some examples here.

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So here's an example of an 1810 census. And I'm going to make this just a little bit bigger.

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Okay, we zoom in a little bit and you'll see there's no column headings on here.

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The first page of the census did have the column headings, but the column headings were not carried on page by page, because, as you can see, it was a blank sheet, and then they just had to draw their own lines.

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But on here you can see that we have collected the name of the head of the household, and then we have these different categories for white males, and there are age groups.

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So we have ages. I don't remember the age ranges, but it's like 0 to 5, and then 10 to 21 and 21 to 40, and so on, and so forth.

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And then we have a little double bar here, and this is when we do the same thing, for the group of white women we're counting them in these different age groups.

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And finally we come to the end, and the last column, where we have the number of slaves at those particular residents, and then on this one they happen to be collecting a name, or excuse me, occupation of the head of the household is listed on on this particular one so some fairly

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limited information on there. But this is what we were collecting in those early census records.

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Let's take a look at a later senses. This is the 1,880 census, and you can see on here now that we are collecting, permitting the names of each individual in the household.

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Excuse me just a minute.

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Sorry about that, so we've got a line for each individual of the household, and we're collecting some other information.

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Let's pretend that this first family happens to be your family.

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You're researching. So we've got. Looks like last name is Coltray.

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Maybe little hard to tell. But and the first name appears to be Tracy.

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She's a white female, aged 45 alright! Now, here's some information I can start collecting from my family tree.

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I got a name. I got an age. We know the census was taken in 1880.

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A little bit of math, and we can figure out an approximate birth year.

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We don't know if she's had her birthday yet or not, but you know you're close there.

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We also know by this column for civil condition, which is marriage's status, that she's widowed.

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So she had a husband, but is just deceased at this time.

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We've got her occupation as a farmer. Then we start collecting some more information over here about health, whether they're blind, def dumb, insane, etcetera.

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Here, and then some education information if they could read or write.

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And now we've got place of birth, for this person is Bohemia, place of birth, for this person's father, and place a birth for this person's mother.

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So now we've got another clue. Not only do we have an approximate birth year, but we've got a birthplace for this person as well as their name.

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And going back over, we can see that the rest of the family unit we've got Mary White, female age, 10 daughter, another daughter, Katie White, female, age 6, and then John White, male, H. 4.

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Is a son. So we've collected information for this particular family.

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If this were your ancestor?

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Let's take a look at another census record.

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Here is a 1,900 census record, and this one happens to be for the State of Indiana in the county of Sullivan.

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Curry township. And let's say, just, for example, that this second line was your ancestors, that you were researching.

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We've got the last name is Mcgarvey. First name is Samuel D.

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It's the head of the household. White Mail.

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Well, look here, this time, we're collecting birth, month, and birth, year.

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We can get a little more accurate in our birth information for this individual agent last birthday is 53.

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He's married, and this column is, for how many years have you been married 27 years?

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Born in Indiana. Father born in Ireland. Mother born in Kentucky.

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So we've got the person's name, birth, month, birth, year, and we know that they've been married for 27 years.

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When we skip down to their wife and collect their information.

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Now we've got an approximate marriage year for these individuals.

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So we can start adding to that part of the family information.

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And then down below. We've got all the children and their information that we can, collect and do the same type of thing for all the children.

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This census happened to be collecting a couple other columns, and for the the women.

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It asked, How many children have you had, and how many are living?

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This woman has had 10 children, and 9 are living. We know from looking here that 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 1, 2, 3, 4, or 5, 6, 7, yes, there are 7 children listed.

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That means that 2 more children are not present. Maybe they're older, and they're living on their own.

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Or maybe they're with a grandparent. They're younger and with a grandparents.

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Possibly, and we also know that one of the children is no longer living.

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So if you're wanting to know who that child is that might be a clue to go search for a death record for that child.

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Looking on further to the left. Again we collect some more information, a little bit different this time.

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We have columns for citizenship. When did they arrive to the Us.

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Have they been naturalized? Again, occupation, education. And there's some information that kind of cut off over here about ownership of property if it's a phone, that type of thing to tell you.

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So a lot of information here on this 1880 or 1,900 census.

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Excuse me that can help you with building out your family tree.

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Where can you find these things? You can find them online at ancestry@familysearch.org.

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You can find them at the National Archives website and be able to access them.

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There you'll find them in a number of other locations these are just a couple that I'm mentioning here, where you can find them and be able to browse them and of course there's still out there on microfilm, because that's the method we use before we have been

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digitizing available on the Internet. But sometimes sometimes, if you'd like to go work with one of those microfilm machines that I always struggle with, you might wanna browse one of those.

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Alright. Let's move on and talk about State census records.

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We talked about Federal. Let's move on to State. So like I said earlier, many of the States in the Us.

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Took a census, and especially in years, ending in 5, and then every 10 years a lot of these are also available on ancestry and family search.

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Dot org. Sometimes you'll find them on that State's government website or Historical Society's website, historical Library.

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If you are unsure, if your state took a census, and for what years say your researching?

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I don't know. Missouri. Okay, and you're wondering if they took a state census and what years?

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A great resource to find that is the Red Book, and many libraries, and genealogical libraries have a copy of this book.

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I happen to get one at a book sale mine's a little bit old, but it still has some good information in it.

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For what I'm looking for, but the type of information you can find in here.

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Not only does it have details about when the State was admitted to the Us.

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Union. But what are the Vinyl records they have for what years are they available?

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What are the census records that are available? When were the counties formed in that state?

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What are the court records, land records, tax records, probate records, military records on and on the list goes there's a lot of detailed information about each of the States in the United States, in this book, and it's really very hard.

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Now, there is an online version of A, and hopefully, my friend Sherry has the URL that she can plug and looks like she did.

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Thank you very much. In the chat. There's a link to a website, locations where you can find an online version of this.

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If you don't have a hard copy available.

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Let's take a little closer at the State census for Iowa.

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I can't go through all the States in the in the Us.

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But we're going to talk a little bit about the state of Iowa.

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I always did take a state census, and it covered the years 1856.

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And then we got t(018) 859-5190.

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5, 15 and then 1925 was the last State census that Iowa took.

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You can find them online at [ancestry](http://ancestry.com) and [family search.org](http://familysearch.org).

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The one I like to point out to people particularly is the 1925 Iowa State census, and this is because this is the only census in the Us.

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That ask for the names of each person's father and mother, and that includes the mother's maiden name.

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So that means, if your ancestor was living in Iowa in 1925 and was a part of that census.

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And you are struggling with that mother's maiden name especially you can go find them in the census, and it will list the name of each parent out there.

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It will also tell where those parents were married, and it will give their ages if the parents are still alive.

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In 1925. Keep in mind if those parents were alive in 1925 and they were living in Iowa.

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They are also a part of that census, and you can go to find their record and then find the name of their parents on there.

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So if you're fortunate that these family members were all here in 1945, and you're having some trouble going back in time.

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This might be something that can help that you can leverage that can help you get back a little bit further with your ancestors.

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If you're looking at the the 1925 census online, remember that the census is 3 pages across so your your search is just going to show you page one, you're going to have to scroll through to get to page 2, and page 3, when you're looking at them online let's take a

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look at an example of the 1925 census.

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So the beginning here looks pretty familiar, like we've seen on the Federal census.

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We've got a list of the names of every each person in the household.

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Their relationship to the head of the household. You know whether it's wife, son, daughter, that type of thing.

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6 color race age, and then miracle status is listed here.

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We've got some columns for 10 year or how long have they been living in that location?

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Some information being collected about citizenship, information being collected about education and literacy is on the first pages, whoops.

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Excuse me if we flip over to page 2, then let me make this little bigger.

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We see that page 2 comes over it leaves the name exposed, and we keep reading across to find this person's place of birth.

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The name of their father, the father's birthplace, and remember that age is listed here only if they are still living in 1925.

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There's no wage for this particular one, and going across, we have the name of mother with their maiden name, their birthplace, age of living, and then their marriage location for those parents.

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We flip over to page 3, and we're collecting information about military service occupation for the individuals.

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And then church affiliation for those individuals. So a lot of great information, if you're ancestor, happen to be here in Iowa in 1925.

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Okay. Let's talk a minute about a little bit about vital records.

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So vital records, when I'm talking about my records, I'm talking about the birth, marriage, and death records.

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Each of our States in the Us. Have collected this, and content and accessibility to those records can vary from State to State.

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They can be found at a number of locations. You can find them online at many of them.

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I should say not all of them, but many of them on ancestry and familysearch org.

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You can also find them at Channel County and State Agencies.

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You know some government websites have some. Some of these records available online to be able to look at.

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But like I said earlier, some of these places just not have the money or the resources to digitize them.

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They might be in a book on a shelf. Possibly you really want to try to find a record for every event in your ancestors.

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Life. Because, just like those censors records, it gives another little piece to the puzzle of what you're looking at.

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Of course, the information on these cameras can be inaccurate.

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A lot of them were filtered. Build out about by someone else.

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About another end. And sometimes those records are not recorded in a timely fashion, and you know that county doctor that delivered that baby, you know.

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Maybe only filled out certificates once a month, maybe just an example.

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And the dates made be as good as what his memory recalls of what you're looking at.

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So just realize it might be in accurate. And sometimes, if you can't find them, you might have to rely on some alternate sources like church records, thataptismal records, newspapers, announcements, and that type of thing.

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Like. I said, everything in each stage is different. We're going to talk a little bit about Iowa.

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Vital records in the State of Iowa.

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Remember that events are recorded first at the county level and then a copy sent onto the State level.

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So we've got 2 copies of that record of that event.

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Excuse me, that's being recorded. Official registration did not start until July of 1880.

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Some counties were very slow to comply, some did as soon as they can.

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Of course, we didn't have email and Internet Internet back then.

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It was only as quick as those counties were able to comply to them.

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By State statute. Vital records are closed at the State level until 75 years after the birth or marriage event.

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Or 50 years after the death event. So that means, if you go to the State of Iowa Archives, and you're looking for a birthday record, it will be

available to the public 75 years after that birth date that's recorded on there, or after that marriage date on that marriage record and then

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50 years after that death event. Remember, I said earlier, there are 2 recordings of this event, one at the county and one of the State.

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What I talked about was the rules around the State level records.

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The county level records are to be available and open to the public without those time restrictions in place.

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I say that they are supposed to be available. And they typically are, but know that every county are elected.

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Officials. Change policies, procedures, change in these offices, availability, and that type of thing sometimes be a challenge.

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I have not encountered that when I've been asking at the county level, folks have been great to work with, I've not had any problems with that type of thing.

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If you're needing to visit another county for some records, the the first thing I recommend is call first before you make that trip and spend that time and gas and money and all that stuff to go.

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Don't catch them by surprise a lot of times if you tell them what you're coming and what you're looking for, they'll pull the stuff out in advance and set it to the side, and then you just tell them that you've arrived and they can let you look at of course these

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Government employees are often overworked and underpaid, so giving them a helping hand with all the information that you can, and being courteous, is much appreciated.

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Know that our laws do change so in January of 2022 we had a change to accessibility of original birth.

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Records of Adoptees. Previously those records were not available for viewing to the public, but the law changed and effective.

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In January of 2022 adoptees could have access to their original birth records.

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There are some what are we call forms, and some particular information you have to provide in order to gain access to those documents.

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But if you do that, I've heard many people have some success in order to get them, and if the if the person is deceased that you're wanting the birth record, for then an entitled family member can apply for the record, and I I think on the form you have to explain how you're

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related, as an entitled Family Number Check out the Department of Health's website.

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They have instructions on how to how to get that original birth record.

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If you're interested in that.

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Alright! Let's take a look at some vital record information in the form of registers.

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And what's made available. This is a register of marriages, and we can see we've got a book here that's opened up, and the page on the left has all the grooms information we've got the name of the groom place of residence occupation agent last

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birthday race or color, place of birth. Father's name, mother's name, and number of grooms.

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Marriages is listed here.

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On page 2. The other side we've got likewise for the bride.

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Name, place of residence, age, place of birth, father's name, mother's name, number of marriages, and then we've got the place of the marriage, the date of the marriages, the efficient and I think we have some witnesses sometimes listed in there also and so a lot of

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information that you can collect here. If you find your fault family member, your ancestor in these registers.

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Of course, the register is often used to create the actual marriage license or marriage certificate, but you know this can suffice for that type of information.

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Let's take a look at a death record, and I'm changing states.

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This is a death record for the State of Missouri.

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A lot of information on here. We have the place of death.

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The city or town. The name of the location of the death.

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It was a hospital or nursing home. The individual's usual residence where they lived, their full name, the date of the death, sex, color, race, marital status, date, birth, age, occupation, birthplace, father's name, mother's name.

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Were they in the armed forces? Do they have a social security number?

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Who is the informant that, provided all this information for this certificate, which can be very important to note, of course, as we go down on the certificate, we've got the cause of death and some more notes and signatures of the examining physician finally, at

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the bottom. We have what is done with the body? Who was the funeral home or funeral director that collected the body?

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Was it going to a cemetery? Where was that located?

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And the dates associated with that. So a lot of information on this particular death record that can help you in understanding more about your ancestor.

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Contrary, for this register, for Alamaki County, in Iowa, if you're unable to find a more specific death record, you might be relying on a death register like this, where all we have is the deceased name and they male or female age occupation.

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Data, death and marital status. And that's it.

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That's that might be all that you can find on an individual.

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Possibly, and that's what you might have to work with.

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Okay. I'm gonna pause just a minute because I need a drink of water.

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But I'm also gonna check to see if anyone has any questions or anything that might have been added to the chat for questions.

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Nothing in chat, but I go ahead and open up your mics and ask any questions you might have.

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Okay.

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Alright! We'll push ahead. I'll take another break a little bit later.

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Don't be shy. I don't bite very hard, and there's no stupid questions, you know.

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Only the ones that aren't asked like they say, Okay, let's take a look at some foundational records.

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These are the family documents and stories. So when I am talking about family documents and stories, I'm talking about things that you don't typically find in a live.

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But you might find in a historical or genealogical library.

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They also might be held by a family member in some box in an attic or a basement.

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These are things like family histories. There might be family Bibles that have family histories recorded in them.

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I have a family history of my family. It was a certain part of my maternal family that they created their own little book, and it was just bound to get together with those plastic cimy things, you know, like we used to get with the old church cookbooks, back in the 19 seventies and

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19 eighties, right? And they put something together which had a lot of family history.

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And it's a great resource and a lot of great information in it.

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Some people have letters, scrapbook, school awards, school records, funeral cards are a great resource of information, you know.

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A lot of of older folks will collect those funeral cards and they'll throw them in a shoe box and forget about it, and those can be a real gold mine.

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Of information. If you come across. Those photos are another great resource.

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Hopefully. The person who has the photo. Someone wrote on the back with the names of the people in the picture, or maybe a date or a place where it was taken or the event that was happening.

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If there was such a thing. You know this is where talking with those relatives that are still with us will help get their gears together and their memories to go.

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Oh, you know, I think upstairs I've got some stuff, some newspaper clippings, or whatever that you might be interested in.

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When you go to visit that ancestor, if they do have something like that.

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No, this is where we're taking a quick picture with the cell phone can be really, really helpful so that you can look at it closer after you get home and have some time.

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Published family histories can be very helpful. You know there are some people who have already done some research, and they have published books or booklets.

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Sometimes you see them on the shelf. They're a hardbound book, a hard bound book that's says the Joones County of of Cassuth County, for instance.

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It might be part of your family's in there, and you can leverage some of that work to help you.

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You still want to verify that information, you know. There, there might be some errors in that printed book, or maybe it was written with whatever was the best knowledge the person had available at the time, and something new has come up since then you definitely want to use it as a finding aid in a research and then do

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your own validation for accuracy, savings.

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If you do borrow some of that, don't plagiarize their work.

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Get them some credit, make some notations where you got it from, who provided it?

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That type of thing to give them credit for the work and the effort that they did. And who knows?

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You might stumble into some more work that that person did.

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That will come. Evaluator.

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You can find these at Genealogical societies, local libraries, historical societies, Google books has a number of these online and available there.

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There are other library websites where some of these types of things are available.

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I found a many, many online and digitally accessible.

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There!

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We did talk a little bit already about some of those unpublished family stories like oral histories.

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Think about recording your own family traditions, that that you have had in the past, so that the people that follow you know a little bit about what your immediate immediate family did for family traditions maybe it was always gathering at grandma and grandpa's house for Christmas every year and all the

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other family members, you know. Aunts and uncles were always present there with their with your cousins.

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Those types of things are important to record.

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There are a lot of other foundational records out there to help you with your genealogy research.

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And this is just yet a few more on the screen that we're not going to have time for tonight.

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But you can find out more information about these types of resources on some of those websites.

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I listed like Cindy's list or family search.org, and the wiki on family search.org has more information to help you get familiar with these types of resources.

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Let's talk a little bit about some warnings and some pitfalls, some things to beware of, and cautious of.

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Remember, I said earlier that not everything you see on the Internet is true.

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Let's look at something. Examples. This is an example of a family tree, as it appears on ancestry.

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Com. And if you're not familiar, just a real quick background.

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This is a family tree for a lady by the name of Lavie Louise Irvine, who was born in 1860.

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One each one of these darker rows represent represents a husband, and we see that Lottie had 4 husbands on this family tree, and underneath some of these husbands we have some children that the couple had when we take a little bit closer look and really dig into some of these names.

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And dates, it appears that Lottie is shown us having 4 husbands, and 3 are similar in ages to some of her sons, so some of our sons are the same, or some of her husbands are the same age, or close to it as her son.

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Look at this one here, born 1887. This husband was born in 18 to 87, that it just sounds fishy right?

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And usually, if it sounds fishy, it is a little bit fishy.

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Here, actually, when we start digging a little deeper, we find out that 3 of these husbands actually belong to a niece who is also named Lottie Louise Irvine.

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Somebody, fell into what we call the name Trap.

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They found 2 different pieces of information about Lottie, Louise, their Irvine.

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They slapped them altogether into one family tree and put it out there on ancestral.

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Now, if you come along and you find this, and you think, Oh, good!

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Look. I found information about Lottie Louise Irvine.

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I'm just gonna copy that put in my family tree.

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Well, you've kind of propagated that problem a little bit, and you're probably going to have a spaghetti mess that you're going to have to straighten out earlier or later.

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Excuse me what I would do with this information if I encountered it is kind of used it as a a hint.

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If I was stuck on logging Louise or Vine, I take a look at these and go.

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Oh, it looks like we have 4 husbands. Let's go make sure that we have marriage records for these 4 husbands, and they matched the right.

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Lottie, Louise, Irvine, with their ages and their birth dates, and all that type of thing, and it will help you sort that out.

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Here's another puzzle that I've encountered, and I have date of this individual in the family Bible.

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Their date of birth is listed as 1850. This birth year, on census records indicates that their birth years 1854, and the birth date on the tombstone is 1851, which date is correct.

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I have this a lot of my family tree from my earlier days of research.

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I have all these birth years, or deaf years or marriage years, and evidence that it's multiple.

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What do I do? I need to get this sorted out.

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It can be kind of a tricky thing until you can find some accurate source records to help you sort it out.

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I would tell you that the person that is more the person that is closer to the actual events, the more likely the accuracy of that the birth date on the tombstone.

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Well, the guy wasn't there. The guy was dead. He wasn't there to tell them what his birth year was.

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It was just the surviving family members or friends that told them that birth year.

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We've already talked about how accurate birth years might be on the census record.

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It's only as accurate as the census taker.

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Heard, and that might be an approximation, and you might think that the birth date on the family Bible is accurate.

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Well, it kind of depends whose family Bible it was. If the mother wrote down that date of the individual it I trust that the mother was there.

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She knows or may even the father, you know, for that matter.

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But if it was a distant cousin, and they wrote it down for an 1850 birth date, I'm I kind of question how accurate is that so?

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Still, what do you do? What I would do for the time being is I'd use a birth year range, and I probably record for the time being.

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Birth year is 1,850 to 1,854, and that'll work for the time being a little bit less.

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We might find something to help firm that up and make it a little more solid.

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So let's talk just a little bit. I think now is a good time to talk about establishing some good source habit or some good work.

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Habits. Number one, you I might hear some groaning if you were off of mute, but don't fear the source citation right?

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Start forming some good habits for early. There's a lot of good reasons to cite your sources.

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It validates and supports the work you've done, so that when you shared with other people and they're questioning, well, where'd you get this information?

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How accurate is it? That isn't what I heard, and you can easily say, well, my source citation says this information came from census record, or it came from a birth record, or wherever that information came from.

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Another good reason is that the ability to retrace your footsteps later and find that source again I can't tell you how many times I've gone back to that record time and time again to look at it again, to see am I remembering this right.

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Or was there something else on that record that I missed the last time?

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And I just want to reconfirm having that traceability has saved my time.

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A number of times in helping me out. If you do nothing else, just consider, how would I get back to this source 6 months from now, if I wanted to, or a year from now and record at least that much as a minimum.

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If you want to take a deeper dive and learn about the details of source citation, there's a lot of resources out there to do that.

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There are Youtube videos. There are videos on other websites on how to do it.

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The book. That's kind of considered the Bible of source citation is written by a lady called Elizabeth shown Mills, and it is called evidence.

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Explain, citing history sources from artifacts to cyberspace, it is a big, thick book of about 700 800 pages.

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Don't let that intimidate you it's because there's a lot of examples in there, and she goes into a lot of detail.

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I rely on the index in the back lot.

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My, I'm using that that particular book.

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She also has a website that I have on the screen there evidence, explained Com.

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She has some of those source citation examples, just a few of them on the website.

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Not all of them. If you find that a Elizabeth Show Mills is not, is an author that just doesn't speak to you.

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You just don't connect or understand. There are others out there.

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A number of them that can help you if you want to go into the details of of how to better your source citation.

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Okay.

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Alright! Let's talk a little bit about documenting, organizing, and using paper, and forms, you know, using paper to document your genealogy.

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History is still a valid way of doing it. It does take, I think, a little bit more time and a little bit more patience, but that's the way we did it for hundreds of years before we ever had computers right.

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You're just gonna want to get a little forethought to.

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How am I gonna sort this information when I collect it? You might want to sort it by families.

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You might want to sort it by generations. You might want to collect it in 3 ring binders or in colored file folders just takes a little more thought and a little more planning when working with the paper method, but it is very doable, and I know a number of people are still

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out there that do it this way, especially when they're getting started.

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Of course, when you are relying on hardcopy documentation, you never want to carry those irreplaceable or expensive documents with you.

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Make copies or backups, take copies with you, or maybe digital copies on your phone when you're going to a library or something like that, and think about investing in some storage boxes or or sleeves plastic sleeves for some of those items to help collect those

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hard copy and organize them.

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Regardless. If you use paper as your way of recording your family history, or you're doing an electronic method you're going to be using forms.

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I use forms all the time when doing my research, the forms help you to record and organize what you know, or at least sometimes just what you think, you know, you got to get it down on paper, and try not hold it all in your head.

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It gets to be too much. Take advantage of those pedigree and ancestor charts and family group sheets to help record that information and use pencil because you will be making corrections.

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But know that these forms are tools that can help alert you to missing information.

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Inconsistent information and help distinguish between family members.

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With the same names, some inconsistent things are like this bullet here.

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I found it in my family tree. I have some children that were born after the mother's death, not possible.

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Folks, children cannot be born after the mother's death. Have I?

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Well, not in not before 1970. Anyways, we didn't have freezing of cells of that type of thing was very common.

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I probably have a date wrong, or maybe I have a child with a wrong wife or a wrong mother.

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Sometimes I've had children that were born to a female.

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That was only age 5, not physically possible for that to happen.

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I've got a connection wrong, something I need to fix the forms helped me to identify those things and get them straightened, straightened out.

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Sometimes they identify migration patterns. If you see a family and you notice children that were born in Ohio, Evan, Illinois, and then Iowa.

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That might have been why they were migrating to the west, and it might be a clue to go look back at those States to see if you can find other records recorded for that family that maybe they own land.

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Or maybe they they there were some. I don't. Employment records or something like that in those areas that you want to take advantage of in your research.

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So where can you find some of these forms? You can find them in a number of places.

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If you just Google, genealogy forms. And I put the word free on there you'll get a bunch of websites where you can find them.

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You can download them. If you already have a software program.

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Many times your software program will just generate them for you.

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And I do that a lot I use genealogy software.

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Sometimes I like the paper sheets so I can write all my scribble notes on it, and help helping out also that Mid-continent library.

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They have a number of forms that you can fill out or gap download and print off, so does ancestry.com.

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You don't have to have a subscription to print off those forms on ancestry, but we're gonna take a look now at some of these charts and and understand a little bit more of how to complete them.

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Let's start with pedigree and ancestor charts.

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So I've got 3 examples on the screen just 3 and there's a number of other types of formats and styles that are out there and available.

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They might collect a little bit different information, but it's all basically the same type of stuff that we're collecting now in the handouts that you received the of these 3 charts, the one I provided to you was this particular one which came from ancestry.com and so if

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you were completing this for your research. We'll just walk through this a little bit in case you're not familiar.

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But if you're a completing this for your research, you start here in the leftmost, most position and put the individuals full.

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Name when and where they were born. Marriage information. For when and where they were married, and if they are deceased, when and where they they died, and then a name of the spouse, if they have a spouse from there on, you would you would take that person and do the same for their parents the men go on the top row

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the ladies go on the on the bottom row, and you record the same information for them, and then the same for their parents, and so on, and so forth, until you get to the end of the chart.

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Once the charge is filled out, you get to this point where it says continued on chart number, and you write in chart number 2, here's the place for your chart. Number.

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You get another sheet, put number 2. Put that name down here, and you carry on going through and documenting that individual ancestors.

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What does this do for you? Why do you want to do this?

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Well, it helps to show you that ancestral line of the individual.

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It kind of helps to focus you in, because, you know, these trees can get pretty big, and they can mushroom out pretty quickly, and sometimes you can kind of lose your place of where you're at in the whole connection of everything.

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This is kind of an anchoring point to show how the people are related from parent to child in that in ancestral line, and it gives you a good overview of that ancestral line.

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Okay, let's talk about family groups. Sheets again. There are some different styles of family group sheets out there, and these are just some examples.

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Each of them collect a little bit different information, and sometimes you can even you know, you can just create your own and collect whatever information you want.

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But on these particular examples, the one that I provided to you and the handout is this one that came from the Midcontinent Public Library and the Midwest Genealogy Center.

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They all collect the basic same basic information. And the idea is to document the family unit or the family group there's a section at the top for the husband's information, much like we were collecting on the pedigree chart.

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We have places for birth, marriage, and death. This one also collects burial information.

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Father's full name, mother's name, name, and any other wives, and then we do the same for the wife, and we collect information for other husbands, and then down below we start to collect names and information for each of

the children, where we list out the children birth marriage deaf information for them and list a spouse's name.

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So what do these things do for you? Well, they help to identify, as I said, that family group for those immediate family members helps kind of show an overview of where did they live?

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Where might they have moved to if those children were born in other locations?

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What are their ages? What are their marital statuses?

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What's missing on there. If you find that someone, mother or father had multiple spouses, you'll want to create a separate family sheet for that.

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Parent, spouse, other spouse relationship, because they could have had a different group of children, or they may have had no children.

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Possibly kind of helps. Keep all that straight for you, so you've got it laid out on those sheets.

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Just a couple of rules to follow, or recommendations, I guess I should say as you fill out the forms, you always want to refer to women by their maiden name.

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If you don't know the maiden name, leave it blank, for now you might get to it later, but it helps to distinguish that you haven't entered their married name incorrectly.

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And of course it could happen that you might have a John Smith that married a Mary Smith, and they are not related right but if you're consistent in the fashion that you're always listing the maiden name there, or leaving a blank, then that's a clue to you to

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know that. Oh, Smith is her maiden name, and they are not of the same family, or maybe they are right.

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You know we have that happen, too, back in the day.

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I recommend listing your dates out in when I call more.

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This European format of putting 2 digit day, 3. Letter month, 4.

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Digit year. Really avoid this format of like this. Where we have 11 slash, 2 90, we don't know if that is November the second, or the eleventh of February, and we especially don't know if that's 1890 or 1790, it just creates a

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lot of confusion, and being consistent in how you do your dating will make sense to you and anyone else that you share the information with when you're recording location.

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I recommend that you record from smallest to largest whatever you know.

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Anyways from smallest to largest, if you only have the State, then just put the state, and I would, even though it sounds redundant, I would put U.S.A. at the end just to be consistent.

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So! If I only knew with Iowa I put Iowa commee U.S.A., if all I had was a county, then I would put Poll County, Iowa, U.S.A.

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If all I had was a township, I would do that, or a city.

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You know I go city, county, State, and on up with what I knew.

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Okay. We're gonna talk a little bit about computer software.

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But I'm gonna pause for just a minute and see if we have any more questions that have come up.

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Come to mind. Take kick your Microsoft mute if you do, or if there's any that's been added to the chat.

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Anything, sherry?

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I'm having a private conversation. So if that person wants to go ahead and ask her question to Kevin, go ahead.

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If you wanna wait and we can do it afterwards as well.

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Okay.

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Alright! Well, that's fine. We can circle back at the end of the presentation if you'd like.

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If you're if you're still wondering, and you want some more information that sure he didn't have, or whatever.

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Okay.

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Alright! Let's talk about computer software. I don't know if some of you don't have software and you're shopping for it.

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I'm just gonna talk a little bit about what's out there and what's available.

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These are some. Well, let me back up and tell you that there are many, many, many, many options for recording your family tree information electronically and on your computer, these are just a few family tree maker is very popular legacy roots, magic is also very popular reunion and mac family tree are still, popular

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items, these range in price typically below a hundred dollars, sometimes significantly less.

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It might be something we want to ask for for Christmas.

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Maybe I know it's a ways off or birthday. You got a birthday coming up.

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And you want something soon. If you're curious in your shopping.

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Hi, And you're not really sure what you want. I would recommend going out Googling, Google.

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The name of of these different software companies sometimes there's a free download, or there's a free version of the application that you can access, and you can play with it a little bit and see what it looks like and what it feels like before you lay out the money for it i've done

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that a number of times, just to see what's out there, and what new features are that are available.

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So that might be an option. If you're shopping for computer software that you load on your computer.

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There are some other options. If you don't want to load that software on your computer, you can use a web-based genealogy software on your computer, you can use a web-based genealogy software program.

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These are things like Gramps and Gramps web, genia, app, Humo, hype, and gene web trees are some interactive web-based genealogy software programs that you can use to record your family history.

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I don't know an awful lot about these. I discovered these about maybe a year ago or so.

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Some of them are free. Some of them have cost or subscription costs associated with them just know that if you want to use this option you have to have an Internet service available, you have to be online in order to access them.

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And so that they will work for you.

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There's also an option of just recording your family tree online using the tree options.

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On answering.com family search.org tribal pages there's many, many more that are out there where you can record it on on their website.

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You don't have any software to download with you.

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Just put it out there, and there is no cost any times for that to be able to access those, of course they come with some pros and cost the pros.

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You know, software expense. I don't have to worry about maintenance and buy new versions when versions get updated.

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I can easily access it from my computer, or if I go to my cousin's house, I can log onto their computer and access it from there without having to bring anything extra.

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So portability is very convenient. Someone else handles those backups.

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I don't have to worry about it. I get the little hints whether it's that shaky green leaf or blue box, or whatever is out there which are very helpful to me.

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There are some pros to doing that with that comes a few cons check out your user agreements.

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If you're going to do this, and you're concerned that the data you enter may not be owned by you.

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If you're entering family information into that website, then the owner of that website probably has access to that data, and they may use it for some marketing purposes.

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Just check your users agreement. If that is something that is concerning to you.

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Another thing is that depending on the website, these websites don't live forever right?

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Sometimes, you know, not like a big one, like ancestry.

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They've been around a long time, and family search has, and some of these others have been around a long time.

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But if you find a another one out there sometimes there are no longer available, and they can't support themselves, and then your data disappears and you have done a lot of research, and you we're stuck, which is no fun.

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You might be contributing to a communal tree. Maybe that's not a big deal to you.

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Maybe it is, and you don't want to be contributing to a communal world tree that's out there.

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It may be openly available for others to comment. Again, that may or may not be a big deal to you, if that's something that bothers you, then you might want to think twice about using this as an option.

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The one thing I do find is that these online trees have some limited functionality.

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I want to do some more reporting and some more things with my family tree data and those the family trees that are out there and available on ancestry and family search just aren't robust enough to do the reporting and the stuff that I want to do.

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You know, if you're just getting started, this might be a good place to start, and maybe you can consider transitioning to something else a little further down the road.

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Just an idea or a suggestion. But you know, when it comes to online family trees, I kind of follow this.

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The advice of this lady, named Lisa Louise Cook, who is well known in the genealogy world, with her Podcasts and her books, and that type of thing.

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And she says, she recommends planning your own, your tree in your own backyard, and sharing branches online.

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She says that if you're going to invest your time and your effort in this great hobby and adventure of researching your family history, take the time and the investment to buy that software loaded onto your computer, you know where you're one true copy resides.

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You have ownership of it. You can control who has availability and access to it, and then, if you want to share a little branch of it online so that you can get those shaky leaf hints, you can do that and when you're done with it, you can delete it out

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there. But you know you've got your true copy on your system that's available to you.

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Okay, so just to recap real quick of all the things we've talked about tonight, and we've talked about an awful lot of things and gone through a lot.

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If I've done my job. Well, then, your head spinning a little bit, take your time to digest, and and give some consideration to what we talked about and what we covered.

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But you know, if you walk away with nothing else from tonight, just remember why you're doing this.

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Explore, have fun. Learn about your ancestry it's something to be proud about, you know all these people way back in time made all these life choices and decisions and took risks with their exploration and their westward movement to come across the us and it all brought all came down to

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a point to where you were born at this time in this place, and it's because of that, and what they did that brought you here to this time and this place.

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Take that option to connect with some of those distance or lost family there members, and share your discoveries with them, and most importantly, teach some of those younger generations about their family, and why they should be proud of their ancestors.

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You don't necessarily want to go into as much depth as we talked about, especially for that younger generation.

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But you know, starting to make the connections, child, the parent to grandparent as a child that can be very confusing of what our cousins and what are aunts and uncles, and I don't get it help them to understand and have an appreciation of your family and your

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ancestors, so that's what I have for you tonight.

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I hope you gained something out of it, or there was something to help you with your family research before we adjourn for tonight.

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I'll just check one more time if there's any questions or anything that you'd like to discuss before we adjourn and and disconnect from the meeting.

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Okay.

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No, I'm not seeing anything new in chat. Go ahead and open your mic's up.

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If you wanna and ask a specific question.

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Excuse me.

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Alright. Thank you.