WHAT IS YOUR FAMILY STORY?
INTRODUCTION TO GENEALOGY
FOR ADULTS

A six week course
NSU Alvin Sherman Library 2019 Adult Summer Programming
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Session 1
Getting Started

• What is Genealogy?
• Who does it?
• Why do it?
• Where do you start
• What do you already know or have?
The American Story

• What is your family’s American story?
The Best Genealogy Research

• Work with the information you know!
• Know the BIG picture
  • Identify the whole family group – not just your family line
• Accuracy and completeness over guessing or assuming
• Believe it when you see it – find proof
World History

Think of the history of your ancestor’s time:

Religion
Economics
Social
Medical
Political
NOTABLE DATES

• 1815
European powers reach agreement at the Congress of Vienna to counteract the political and territorial gains made by France under Napoleon and his revolutionary predecessors and to oppose nationalist uprisings in other countries.

• 1829
Greece wins independence from the Ottoman Empire.

• 1830
French rebels drive King Charles X from power and restore a constitutional monarchy under King Louis Philippe. Belgium declares its independence from the Netherlands.

• 1848
Revolutions erupt in France, Prussia, Austria, and other European countries as protesters seek to oust monarchs or limit their powers and establish constitutional governments. French revolutionaries abolish the monarchy and inaugurate the Second Republic.

• 1860
Giuseppe Garibaldi leads a revolution in southern Italy and paves the way for the unification of Italy under King Victor Emmanuel II.

• 1866
Prussia defeats Austria in the Seven Weeks' War and increases its authority over other German states.

• 1870
Prussia leads German states in the Franco-Prussian War and seizes Paris. France cedes Alsace and Lorraine to the victors in the peace settlement.

• 1871
Germany is unified as an empire under Kaiser William I of Prussia.
Geography

• The World changes – know the geography of your ancestor’s time
  • https://youtu.be/nq0KNfS_M44
Reading the Record

- Watch out for the following!
  - Languages
  - Handwriting
  - Abbreviations
    - Words
    - Names
  - Capitalization, Punctuation, Spelling
  - Titles, Professions
  - Family relationships
  - Dates
• Lets define RESEARCH!
• How have you done research?
  • Buying a car, a house, a new TV
• Identify problem or question
  • Ex: Grandmother’s maiden name
• Determine Objectives or purpose of the research
  • Identify her family
• Gather and record data
  • Secondary sources: Checklist of Marriages in XYZ county.
  • Primary sources: marriage certificate
• Evaluate/analyze data
  • Who, what, when, how, where
• Document, document, document!
Documentation

• Citation standards
• Note the following:
  • Author
  • Title
  • Repository (for publications the place published and publisher; for unpublished material the
    repository and address)
  • Date
  • Page
  • Optional library or archive call number
  • Brief preliminary evaluation comment about the source (optional, but especially valuable)
• Evidence Explained
A Citation

Recording your information

• Online
  • In a database
  • In your own files
• On paper
  • Charts and tables
• Keeping a log
• Stay organized
Ahnentafel Chart
Next Week

• Library Resources