

# Foundations of Genealogy

## Getting Started and Doing it Right the First Time

Sydney F. Cruice Dixon  
The Historical Society of Pennsylvania  
Spring 2019

### Class 1

#### Introduction to the Four Elements of Genealogy

- Discovery
- Proof and Documentation
- Organization
- Reporting and Sharing

#### Introduction to the Genealogical Proof Standard

- Conduct a reasonably exhaustive search
- Compile a complete and accurate citation for all sources of information
- Analyze and correlate the collected information to assess its quality as evidence
- Resolve any conflicts caused by items of evidence that contradict each other
- Arrive at a soundly reasoned, coherently written conclusion

#### Introduction to the Types of Genealogical Documents

#### Introduction to Ancestry.com

- Searching
- Tree Building
- Collaboration
- Learning Center/Wiki

#### Records: Census Records

### Class 2

#### Preparing for Research and Organization

- Research Goals - What is your Genealogical Question?
- Research Plans - Developing research strategies
- Research Implementation – Understanding documents, transcriptions, abstracts, and extracts

- Research Logs and Notes - Tracking where you have been

## Mastering Ancestry.com

- Advanced search strategies
- Importing media
- Collaboration tools

## Records: Vital Records and Their Substitutes

### **Class 3**

#### Understanding and Citing Your Sources

- Who, What, When, Where (in), Where (is)
- Types of Citations

#### FamilySearch.org/The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

- Searching – Records/Microfilms, Catalogue, One World Tree
- Family History Wiki
- Family History Centers

#### Records: Church Records

### **Class 4**

#### Evidence Analysis

- Types of Evidence
- Evidence Process Map

#### Tree Building and Timelines

- Putting your evidence into historical context

#### Records: Immigration and Naturalization Records

### **Class 5**

#### Correlation of Evidence

- Organizing evidence to reveal patterns and conflicts

#### Just Google It!

## Records: Maps, City Directories

### **Class 6**

#### Resolving Conflicts in Evidence

- Weighing and balancing conflicts
- Developing explanations for conflicts
- Unresolved conflicts

#### Types of Repositories

- Libraries
- Archives
- Manuscript Collections

#### Records: Newspapers and Periodicals

### **Class 7**

#### Reporting, Sharing and Written Conclusions

- Creating a piece of history
- Creating Genealogical Data Communications - Gedcoms
- Types of written conclusions

#### Records: Land Records and Probate Records

### **Class 8**

#### Reporting, Sharing and Written Conclusions

- Proof Statements
- Proof Summaries
- Proof Arguments

#### Records: Military Records