Foundations of Genealogy

Getting Started and Doing it Right the First Time

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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

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• 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!

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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