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Don't Forget the Siblings!

Prove vital dates and relationships indirectly through sibling research

Often we have no direct evidence for our ancestors that prove their key information and links to their parents. The key to breaking through these difficult genealogical puzzles can be to thoroughly trace siblings.

Class outline

- 1) **Big mistake: searching only for “my person”**
- 2) **Why we research the siblings**
 - a) May be only way to identify an immigrant family
 - b) Indirectly proves relationships and key dates
 - c) Helps explain life events
 - d) Provides tools to explain conflicting evidence
 - e) Find the maiden name of female ancestors
- 3) **How**
 - a) Collect sibling names
 - b) Have a plan for each sibling
 - c) Be organized
 - d) Keep focused on the main goal
 - e) Do descendancy research
- 4) **Tips and tricks**
- 5) **Build an indirect case for your person**
 - a) Think critically about your sources
 - b) If $a=b$ and $b=c$, then $a=c$
 - c) Write an explanation of your conclusions

Where to Search?

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Look for evidence that will link a sibling to your main person. Often the best sources for U.S. research are:

Census records (pre-1850)

Marriage records, often kept by county from earliest times

Probate: Wills, guardians, estates, inventories, etc.

County histories

Land records

Discover what records are available at:

Familysearch.org wiki

The Red Book, on Ancestry.com wiki

The Source, on Ancestry.com wiki

Familysearch catalog

Local historical /