

# Lessons Learned from One-on-One Genealogy Research

Jessica Brown and April Lynne Earle



# Today's Presenters' Backgrounds



**Jessica Brown**

**Genealogy Librarian** at  
Patchogue-Medford Library



**April Lynne Earle**

**Academic Librarian /  
Genealogy Consultant** at  
Farmingdale State College &  
Adjunct Professor at St. John's  
University

# Today's Focus:



Thursday, May 8, 2025

Long Island Library  
Conference  
“A Celebration of Libraries”

## Lessons Learned from One-on-One Genealogy Research

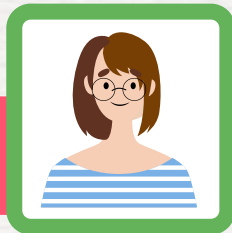
Not how to do your family history research  
but rather...

- Enhancing The Genealogical Reference Interview
- Cultivating the Genealogical Research Methodology in your patrons
- Understanding the Record's Intent
- FamilySearch Research Wiki
- Local History
- Other Genealogy Research Institutions & BOOKS
- DNA as a Genealogy Research Tool



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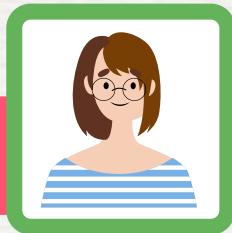
## Enhancing the Genealogical Reference Interview



## First off...

- Going into this type of reference service may cause a bit of imposter syndrome; that feeling that you have to answer all these questions and that you have to know everything (and you don't).
- It's okay to say, "I don't know and we'll find out together."
- It's okay to refer them somewhere else or hand them a book.
- Having a cheat sheet for your community is really important (on your library's website or as a hand-out), and we'll talk more about this.
- You are starting from scratch. You don't know what they are looking for. Make them slow down, start at the beginning.





# The Goal

- The goal of the genealogical reference interview is to determine what your patron is looking for and direct them to the right resource, just like a normal reference interview.
- The goal is not to do the research for them.
- Sometimes it requires teaching them how to use a database or resources. Not every patron is technically savvy or digitally literate.
- Sometimes it means referring them to somewhere else.
- Ultimately the goal is to be able to say - -

“So you’re looking for a \_\_\_\_\_.  
Then here is where you go.”

# What are you interested in finding out?

You decide you're going to sit down one-on-one with a patron to help them through their genealogy research and you get these responses to this question...

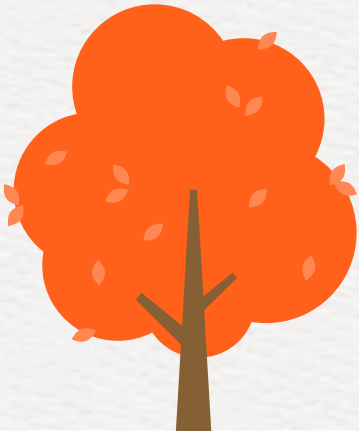




**“I don’t know.”**

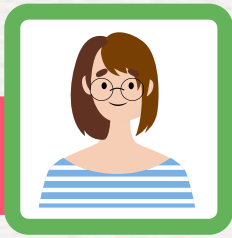
Or worse...

**“Don’t you have  
my tree?”**



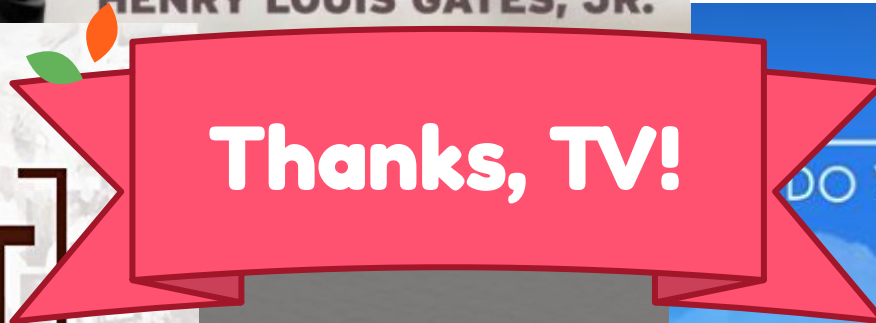
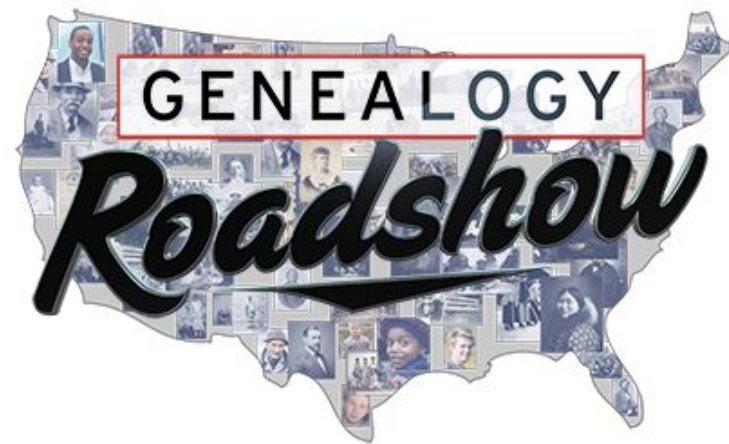
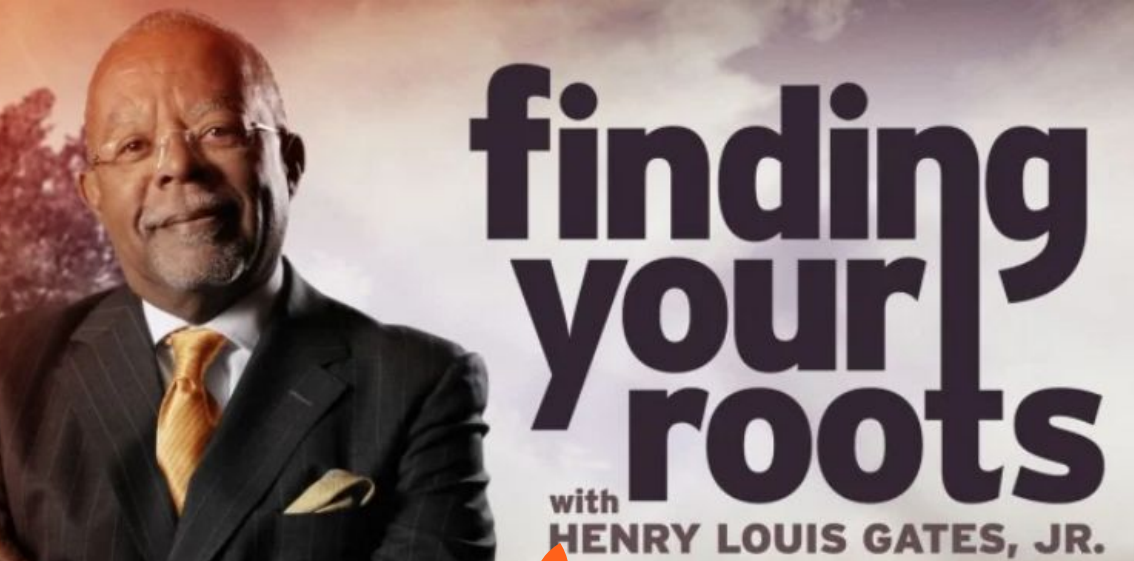


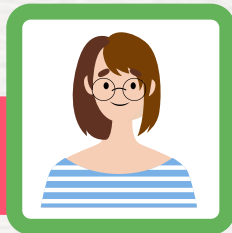
# You are going to have to be able to...



- Manage their expectations. This can be challenging...



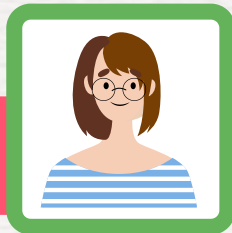




# You are going to have to be able to...



- Manage their expectations.
- This is a free service.
- This is not a TV show. This doesn't happen in an hour and you only have an hour.
- You need to have the patron formulate their research goal. If for no other reason than to manage your time.
- Make them verbalize exactly what they are looking for. Examples:
  - "I want to know where my ancestors came from in Europe."
  - "I want to know when my grandmother was born."
  - "I want to find a photo of my great-great grandfather."

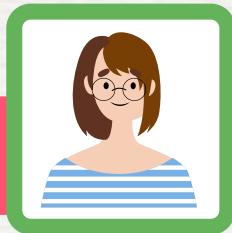


# You are going to have to be able to...




- Not all of their goals will be attainable.
- Not all of their goals will be reasonable.
- BUT you must make them define the goal.
- Sometimes there just isn't an answer to the question they have.
- Know that it's harder to find the living.





## Our Advice:



If possible find out in advance of the appointment what the patron's research question is, i.e. what regions of the world their interested in, what time period, etc.

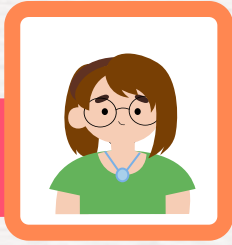




2

Cultivating the Genealogical  
Research Methodology

# Common Mistakes...



- To do any research, you need a starting point; some scrap of information to start with.



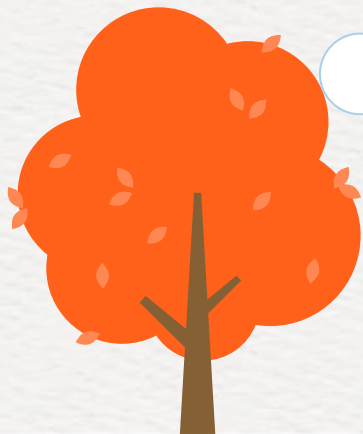
You ask:

**“OK, so tell me what  
you know about  
person X.”**



They respond:

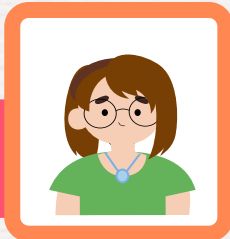
**“Oh I don’t know  
anything.”**



# Common Mistakes...



- Typically, patrons are ill-prepared to provide:
  - **Names** of their relatives.
  - Known **Dates** of birth, marriage, and death for family members.
  - **Locations** where their relatives lived.
- You need a starting point.
- AGAIN, inform them in advance of the appointment that these details (if they have any) because it will help and in some instances it will be absolutely necessary.



# Step 1: When you sit down with them

- Bust out a good, old-fashioned, paper pedigree chart

**6 Generation Pedigree Chart**

Chart # \_\_\_\_\_

No. 1 on this chart is same as # \_\_\_\_\_ on Chart # \_\_\_\_\_.

The boxes by the male names may be filled in with a color or mark to indicate when all the work has been completed for that family.

**(2nd Generation)**

1 ☐ Birth  
Place  
Married  
Place  
Death  
Place

**SPOUSE**

Birth  
Death

**Children of #1 (1st Generation)**

3 ☐ Birth  
Place  
Death  
Place

**Parents (3rd Generation)**

2 ☐ Birth  
Place  
Married  
Place  
Death  
Place

**Grandparents (4th Generation)**

4 ☐ Birth  
Place  
Married  
Place  
Death  
Place

5 ☐ Birth  
Place  
Death  
Place

6 ☐ Birth  
Place  
Married  
Place  
Death  
Place

7 ☐ Birth  
Place  
Death  
Place

**Great Grandparents (5th Generation)**

8 ☐ Birth  
Place  
Death  
Place

9 ☐ Birth  
Place  
Death  
Place

10 ☐ Birth  
Place  
Death  
Place

11 ☐ Birth  
Place  
Death  
Place

12 ☐ Birth  
Place  
Death  
Place

13 ☐ Birth  
Place  
Death  
Place

14 ☐ Birth  
Place  
Death  
Place

15 ☐ Birth  
Place  
Death  
Place

**2nd Great Grandparents (6th Generation)**

16 ☐ Birth

17 ☐ Birth

18 ☐ Birth

19 ☐ Birth

20 ☐ Birth

21 ☐ Birth

22 ☐ Birth

23 ☐ Birth

24 ☐ Birth

25 ☐ Birth

26 ☐ Birth

27 ☐ Birth

28 ☐ Birth

29 ☐ Birth

30 ☐ Birth

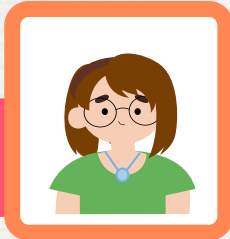
31 ☐ Birth

Enter continuation Chart number on dotted line

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www.misbach.org

- [misbach.org](https://www.misbach.org)
- Free Downloadable, Rewritable pdf genealogy charts





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The boxes by the male names may be filled in with a color or mark to indicate when all the work has been completed for that family.

**2nd Generation**

1 ☐ Birth  
Place  
Married  
Place  
Death  
Place  
**Patron**

**Parents (3rd Generation)**

2 ☐ Birth  
Place  
Married  
Place  
Death  
Place  
**Dad**

**Children of #1 (1st Generation)**

3 ☐ Birth  
Place  
Death  
Place  
**Mom**

**Grandparents (4th Generation)**

4 ☐ Birth  
Place  
Married  
Place  
Death  
Place

5 ☐ Birth  
Place  
Death  
Place

6 ☐ Birth  
Place  
Married  
Place  
Death  
Place

7 ☐ Birth  
Place  
Death  
Place

**Great Grandparents (5th Generation)**

8 ☐ Birth  
Place  
Death  
Place

9 ☐ Birth  
Place  
Death  
Place

10 ☐ Birth  
Place  
Death  
Place

11 ☐ Birth  
Place  
Death  
Place

12 ☐ Birth  
Place  
Death  
Place

13 ☐ Birth  
Place  
Death  
Place

14 ☐ Birth  
Place  
Death  
Place

15 ☐ Birth  
Place  
Death  
Place

**2nd Great Grandparents (6th Generation)**

16 ☐ Birth

17 ☐ Birth

18 ☐ Birth

19 ☐ Birth

20 ☐ Birth

21 ☐ Birth

22 ☐ Birth

23 ☐ Birth

24 ☐ Birth

25 ☐ Birth

26 ☐ Birth

27 ☐ Birth

28 ☐ Birth

29 ☐ Birth

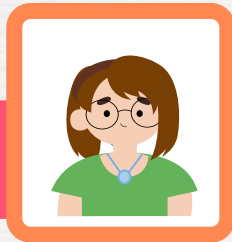
30 ☐ Birth

31 ☐ Birth

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www.misbach.org

Enter continuation Chart number on dotted line

- [misbach.org](http://misbach.org)
- Free Downloadable, Rewritable pdf genealogy charts
- Patrons can even fill this out in advance of the appointment with the information that they know, or at least \*think\* they know



# Common Mistakes



- Patrons tend to jump in at their grandparents or great grandparents.

# Our Advice:



**6 Generation Pedigree Chart**

Chart # \_\_\_\_\_

No. 1 on this chart is same as # \_\_\_\_\_ on Chart # \_\_\_\_\_.

The boxes by the male names may be filled in with a color or mark to indicate when all the work has been completed for that family.

**Patron**

**Dad**

**Mom**

**Children of #1 (1st Generation)**

**Parents (3rd Generation)**

**Grandparents (4th Generation)**

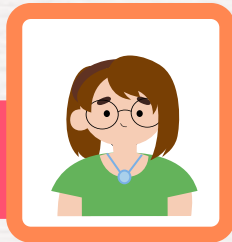
**Great Grandparents (5th Generation)**

**2nd Great Grandparents (6th Generation)**

Enter continuation Chart number on dotted line

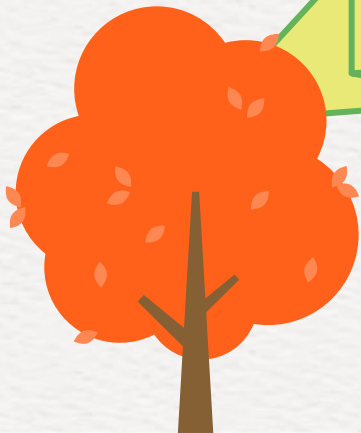
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**Slow the patron down.  
Always start from the patron (the known  
information) and move backwards one  
generation at a time, documenting as you go.**

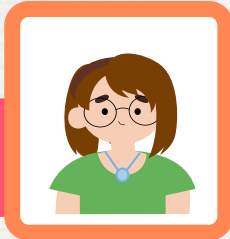


## Common Mistakes

**“It said so on  
Ancestry.”**





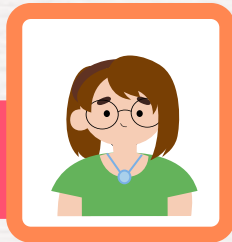


# Common Mistakes

**“It said so on  
Ancestry.”**

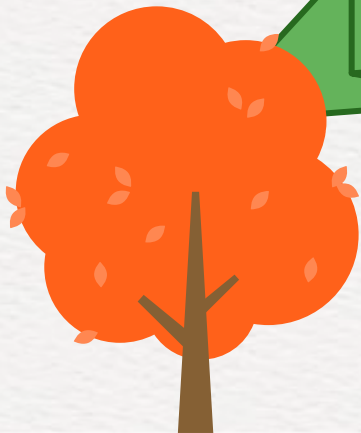
- Patrons copy what they are seeing online from other novice researchers in undocumented family trees.
- OR they do not know the source the information came from. For example, they show you a screenshot on their phone.
- They need to validate the information in their tree with supportive documents. These can include census records, vital records, wills, etc.





## Common Mistakes

**“The document  
says so.”**





# Common Mistakes



**“The document said so.”**

- Patrons don't understand why the record was created or by whom the information was provided.
- For example, a death certificate provides the deceased person's parents' names but the deceased person didn't provide that information. Just because the document says so, doesn't mean it is right.
- Also, if they are only looking at the index and not the actual certificate they can miss marginalia like this...

## New York, New York, Index to Death Certificates, 1862-1948

[View record](#)

Name	<b>Mary Henry</b>
Gender	Female
Race	White
Marital Status	Widowed
Age	52
Birth Date	abt 1855
Birth Place	Brooklyn
Years in US	U S
Death Date	8 Jan 1907
Death Street Address	Water Av Near Ferry St Wodlaven L I
Death Place	New York City, New York, USA
Cause of Death	Chronic Interstitial Nephritis Exhaustion
Burial Date	11 Jan 1907
Burial Place	St John, New Brunswick
Father's Birth Place	Switzerland
Mother's Birth Place	Switzerland
Father	Carrian
Certificate Number	103



## New York, New York, Index to Death Certificates, 1862-1948

[View record](#)

Name	<b>Mary Henry</b>
Gender	Female
Race	White
Marital Status	Widowed
Age	52
Birth Date	abt 1855
Birth Place	Brooklyn
Years in US	U S
Death Date	8 Jan 1907
Death Street Address	Water Av Near Ferry St Wodlaven L I
Death Place	New York City, New York, USA
Cause of Death	Chronic Interstitial Nephritis Exhaustion
Burial Date	11 Jan 1907
Burial Place	St John, New Brunswick
Father's Birth Place	Switzerland
Mother's Birth Place	Switzerland
Father	Carrian
Certificate Number	103





14 B-1905  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK.  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH.

STATE OF NEW YORK.  
CERTIFICATE AND RECORD OF DEATH

103 No. of Certificate,

*Mary Henry*

*Female* Color *White* Place of Death *Water St. near Ferry St. Woodlaven L.I.*

Age *52* Yrs. *52* Mos. *52* Days

Character of premises, whether residential, private, etc. If hotel, hospital or other institution, state full title *Private*

Single, Married, Widowed or Divorced *Widowed*

Occupation *—*

Birthplace *Brooklyn*

How long in U.S., if foreign birth *U. S.*

How long resident in City of New York *52 years*

Father's Name *Carrian*

Father's Birthplace *Switzerland*

Mother's Maiden Name *not known*

Mother's Birthplace *Switzerland*

I hereby certify that I attended deceased from *November 1906* to *January 8th 1907*, that I last saw *her* alive on the *8th* day of *January*, 1907, that *she* died on the *8th* day of *January*, 1907, about *10* o'clock *A.M.*, or *P.M.*, and that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, the cause of *her* death was as follows:  
*Chronic Interstitial Nephritis Exhaustion*

SPECIAL INFORMATION  
required in deaths in hospitals and institutions and in deaths of non-residents and recent residents.

Former or usual residence }  
How long resident at place of death }

Witness my hand this *8th* day of *January*, 1907  
(Signature) *Charles E. Hecht (M.D.)*  
(Residence) *Brooklyn, Long Island City*

## New York, New York, Index to Death Certificates, 1890-1907

[View record](#)



Name	Mary Henry
Gender	Female
Race	White
Marital Status	Widowed
Age	52
Birth Date	abt 1855
Birth Place	Brooklyn
Years in US	U S
Death Date	8 Jan 1907
Death Street Address	Water Av Near Ferry St Wodlaven L I
Death Place	New York City, New York, USA
Cause of Death	Chronic Interstitial Nephritis Exhaustion
Burial Date	11 Jan 1907
Burial Place	St John, New Brunswick
Father's Birth Place	Switzerland
Mother's Birth Place	Switzerland
Father	Carrian
Certificate Number	103



THE CITY OF NEW YORK.  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH.

STATE OF NEW YORK.

103

No. of Certificate,

## CERTIFICATE AND RECORD OF DEATH

103

Name <i>Mary Henry</i>		Place of Death <i>Water St. near Ferry St. Woodhaven L.I.</i>
Sex <i>Female</i>	Color <i>White</i>	Character of premises, whether domestic, private, etc. If hotel, hospital or other institution, state full title <i>Private</i>
Age <i>52</i> - Yrs. - Mos. - Days	Marital Status <i>Widowed</i>	Father's Name <i>Carrian</i>
Occupation <i>—</i>	Birthplace <i>Brooklyn U. S.</i>	Father's Birthplace <i>Switzerland</i>
How long in U.S., if foreign birth <i>52 years</i>	How long resident in City of New York <i>52 years</i>	Mother's Name <i>not known</i>
		Mother's Birthplace <i>Switzerland</i>

I hereby certify that I attended deceased from *November 1906* to *January 8th 1907*, that I last saw her alive on the *8th* day of *January*, 1907, that she died on the *8th* day of *January*, 1907, about *10:30* A.M., or P.M., and that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, the cause of her death was as follows:

*Chronic Interstitial Nephritis  
Exhaustion*

SPECIAL INFORMATION  
required in deaths in hospitals and institutions and in deaths of non-residents and recent residents.

Former or usual residence

How long resident at place of death

Witness my hand this *8th* day of *January*, 1907

(Signature)

(Residence)

*Charles E. Hecht (M.D.)  
Broadway, Game Park*

Place of Burial

Date of Burial

Undertaker

Place of Business

N. B.—A certificate of death is a document of great importance. More than 23,000 copies of such certificates are issued annually from this office for use here and abroad as legal proof of death. It is essential, therefore, that the particulars called for shall be given correctly, legibly, and as fully as possible.

## TO PHYSICIANS.

1. The attending physician must furnish a certificate to the Department of Health within 86 hours after death, and where death has resulted from infectious or contagious disease a certificate must be furnished by him forthwith (Sanitary Code, Sections 183 and 184).
2. All physicians practicing in The City of New York (including those in public institutions) must be registered in the Bureau of Records (Sanitary Code, Section 160).
3. If a person dies from criminal violence or by a casualty, or suddenly while in apparent health, or when unattended by a physician or in prison, or in any suspicious or unusual manner, the case must be referred to the Coroners' office (Chapter 410, Section 1173, Laws of 1898).
4. Certificates will be returned for additional information which give any of the following diseases, without explanation, as the sole cause of death:

Abortion,	Gastritis,	Peritonitis,
Cellulitis,	Erysipelas,	Phlebitis,
Childbirth,	Meningitis,	Pyæmia,
Convulsions,	Metritis,	Septicæmia,
Hæmorrhage,	Miscarriage,	Tetanus.
Gangrene,	Necrosis,	

(Any one of these may be the result of an injury, and thus be a subject for investigation by a Coroner. If it is not, the certificate should make that fact plain.)

5. No certificate giving "Heart failure," "Dropsy," or other mere symptoms as the sole cause of death will be accepted, unless accompanied by a satisfactory written explanation.

## TO UNDERTAKERS.

1. No burial permit can be obtained without a proper certificate.
2. Certificates must be written throughout in black ink.
3. No certificate will be accepted which is mutilated, illegible, inaccurate, or any portion of which has been erased, interlined, corrected or altered, as all such changes impair its value as a public record.

*Could not ascertain to those Maiden - Name  
August Henry*





THE CITY OF NEW YORK.  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH.

STATE OF NEW YORK.

103

No. of Certificate,

## CERTIFICATE AND RECORD OF DEATH

103

Name <i>Mary Henry</i>		Place of Death <i>Water St. near Ferry St. Woodhaven L.I.</i>
Sex <i>Female</i>	Color <i>White</i>	Character of premises, whether domestic, private, etc. If hotel, hospital or other institution, state full title <i>Private</i>
Age <i>52</i> - Yrs. - Mos. - Days	Marital Status <i>Widowed</i>	Father's Name <i>Carrian</i>
Occupation <i>—</i>	Birthplace <i>Brooklyn U. S.</i>	Father's Birthplace <i>Switzerland</i>
How long in U.S., if foreign birth	How long resident in City of New York <i>52 years</i>	Mother's Name <i>not known</i>
		Mother's Birthplace <i>Switzerland</i>

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*Chronic Interstitial Nephritis  
Exhaustion*

SPECIAL INFORMATION  
required in deaths in hospitals and institutions and in deaths of non-residents and recent residents.

Former or usual residence

How long resident at place of death

Witness my hand this...

(Signature)

(Residence)

*8th* day of *January*, 1907  
*Charles E. Hecht* (M.D.)  
*Broadway, Game Park*

Place of Burial

Date of Burial

Undertaker

Place of Business

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Childbirth,	Meningitis,	Pyæmia,
Convulsions,	Metritis,	Septicæmia,
Hæmorrhage,	Miscarriage,	Tetanus.
Gangrene,	Necrosis,	

(Any one of these may be the result of an injury, and thus be a subject for investigation by a Coroner. If it is not, the certificate should make that fact plain.)

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*Could not ascertain to those Mordin - Niece  
August Henry*





14 B-1906

THE CITY OF NEW YORK.  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH.

STATE OF NEW YORK.

103

No. of Certificate,

## CERTIFICATE AND RECORD OF DEATH

103

Name <i>Mary Henry</i>		Place of Death <i>Water St. near Ferry St. Woodhaven L.I.</i>	
Sex <i>Female</i>	Color <i>White</i>	Character of premises, whether domestic, private, etc. If hotel, hospital or other institution, state full title <i>Private</i>	
Age <i>52</i> - Yrs. - Mos. - Days	Marital Status <i>Widowed</i>	Father's Name <i>Carrian</i>	
Occupation <i>—</i>	Birthplace <i>Brooklyn</i>	Father's Birthplace <i>Switzerland</i>	
How long in U.S., if foreign birth <i>U. S.</i>		Mother's Maiden Name <i>not known</i>	
How long resident in City of New York <i>52 years</i>		Mother's Birthplace <i>Switzerland</i>	

I hereby certify that I attended deceased from *November 1906* to *January 8th 1907*, that I last saw *her* alive on the *8th* day of *January*, 1907, that *she* died on the *8th* day of *January*, 1907, about *2:30* o'clock *P. M.*, and that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, the cause of *her* death was as follows:  
*Chronic Interstitial Nephritis  
Exhaustion*

SPECIAL INFORMATION required in deaths in hospitals and institutions and in deaths of non-residents and recent residents.		Witness my hand this <i>8th</i> day of <i>January</i> , 1907
Former or usual residence		(Signature) <i>Charles E. Hecht (M.D.)</i>
How long resident at place of death		(Residence) <i>Brooklyn, Long Island City</i>

Place of Burial *St. Johns*  
Date of Burial *Jan 11 1907*  
Undertaker *Leland R. R. R.*  
Place of Residence *Brooklyn, Long Island City*

N. B.—A certificate of death is a document of great importance. More than 23,000 copies of such certificates are issued annually from this office for use here and abroad as legal proof of death. It is essential, therefore, that the particulars called for shall be given correctly, legibly, and as fully as possible.

## TO PHYSICIANS.

1. The attending physician must furnish a certificate to the Department of Health within 86 hours after death, and where death has resulted from infectious or contagious disease a certificate must be furnished by him forthwith (Sanitary Code, Sections 183 and 184).
2. All physicians practicing in The City of New York (including those in public institutions) must be registered in the Bureau of Records (Sanitary Code, Section 160).
3. If a person dies from criminal violence or by a casualty, or suddenly while in apparent health, or when unattended by a physician or in prison, or in any suspicious or unusual manner, the case must be referred to the Coroner's office (Chapter 410).

Impair its value as a public record.

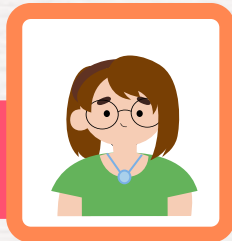
*Could not ascertain Mother's Maiden Name  
August Henry*

Could not ascertain Mother's Maiden Name  
August Henry

1. No burial permit can be obtained without a proper certificate.
2. Certificates must be written throughout in black ink.
3. No certificate will be accepted which is mutilated, illegible, inaccurate, or of which any portion has been erased, interlined, corrected or altered, as all such changes impair its value as a public record.

*Could not ascertain Mother's Maiden Name  
August Henry*





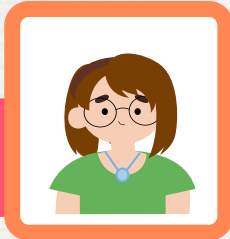
# Common Mistakes

- Sometimes the informant doesn't know the information requested of them for the record.
- People make mistakes.

**“The document  
said so.”**







# Common Mistakes



**“The document  
said so.”**



- Census records are notorious for errors.
- Think about the role the enumerator played; walking miles writing down thousands of names.
- These record details were typically provided by one member of the household who answered the enumerator's question - or maybe it wasn't even a member of the household but perhaps a neighbor or landlord.
- Aside from the 1940 Census, we don't know who the informant was on most census records.





37	173	0	4600	No	Willadyka, Indre (A)	Head	M	W	50	M	NO	P	
					—, Mary	Wife	F	W	48	M	NO	O	
					—, John	Son	M	W	23	S	NO	H-4	
					—, William	Son	M	W	22	S	NO	P	
					—, Stephen	Son	M	W	19	S	NO	H-1	
					—, Anna	Daughter	F	W	17	S	YES	H-3	
					—, Peter	Son	M	W	16	S	YES	H-1	
27	174	0	3000	No	Hampson, Hugh (A)	Head	M	W	50	M	NO	P	
					—, Catherine	Wife	F	W	43	M	NO	P	
					—, Margaret	Daughter	F	W	16	S	YES	H-1	
					—, Samuel	Son	M	W	13	S	YES	P	
					—, Catherine	Daughter	F	W	11	S	YES	L	
					—, Benjamin	Son	M	W	8	S	YES	2	
					—, Rose Marie	Daughter	F	W	4	S	NO	O	
					—, Patricia Ann	Daughter	F	W	1	S	NO	O	
15	175	0	4500	No	Henry, Charles A	Head	M	W	44	M	NO	P	
					—, Anna M	Wife	F	W	40	M	NO	H-4	
					—, Charles A Jr	Son	M	W	17	S	YES	H-3	
					—, Regina	Daughter	F	W	16	S	YES	H-1	
					—, Robert	Son	M	W	14	S	YES	P	
					—, Anna M	Daughter	F	W	12	S	YES	P	
					—, Clare	Daughter	F	W	11	S	YES	P	
					—, Richard	Son	M	W	8	S	YES	P	





37	173	0	4600	No	Willadyka, Indre (A)	Head	M	W	50	M	NO	P	
					—, Mary	Wife	F	W	48	M	NO	O	
					—, John	Son	M	W	23	S	NO	H-4	
					—, William	Son	M	W	22	S	NO	P	
					—, Stephen	Son	M	W	19	S	NO	H-1	
					—, Anna	Daughter	F	W	17	S	YES	H-3	
					—, Peter	Son	M	W	16	S	YES	H-1	
27	174	0	3000	No	Hampson, Hugh (B)	Head	M	W	50	M	NO	P	
					—, Catherine	Wife	F	W	43	M	NO	P	
					—, Margaret	Daughter	F	W	16	S	YES	H-1	
					—, Samuel	Son	M	W	13	S	YES	P	
					—, Catherine	Daughter	F	W	11	S	YES	6	
					—, Benjamin	Son	M	W	8	S	YES	2	
					—, Rose Marie	Daughter	F	W	4	S	NO	O	
					—, Patricia Ann	Daughter	F	W	1	S	NO	O	
15	175	0	4500	No	Henry, Charles A	Head	M	W	44	M	NO	P	
					—, Anna M	Wife	F	W	40	M	NO	H-4	
					—, Charles A Jr	Son	M	W	17	S	NO	P-3	
					—, Regina	Daughter	F	W	16	S	YES	H-1	
					—, Robert	Son	M	W	14	S	YES	P	
					—, Anna M	Daughter	F	W	12	S	YES	P	
					—, Clare	Daughter	F	W	11	S	YES	P	
					—, Richard	Son	M	W	8	S	YES	P	



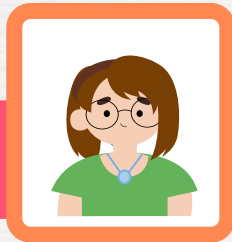




37	173	0	4600	No	Willadyka, Indre	Head	M	W	50	M	NO	8	
					—, Mary	Wife	F	W	48	M	NO	0	
					—, John	Son	M	W	23	S	NO	H-1	
					—, William	Son	M	W	22	S	NO	8	
					—, Stephen	Son	M	W	19	S	NO	H-1	
					—, Anna	Daughter	F	W	17	S	YES	H-3	
					—, Peter	Son	M	W	16	S	YES	H-1	
27	174	0	3000	No	Hampson, Hugh	Head	M	W	50	M	NO	8	
					—, Catherine	Wife	F	W	43	M	NO	8	
					—, Margaret	Daughter	F	W	16	S	YES	H-1	
					—, Samuel	Son	M	W	13	S	YES	8	
					—, Catherine	Daughter							
					—, Benjamin	Son							
					—, Rose Marie	Daughter							
					—, Patricia Ann	Daughter							
15	125	0	4500	No	Henry, Charles A	Head							
					—, Anna M	Wife							
					—, Charles A Jr	Son	M	W	17	S	YES	H-3	
					—, Regina	Daughter	F	W	16	S	YES	H-1	
					—, Robert	Son	M	W	14	S	YES	8	
					—, Anna M	Daughter	F	W	12	S	YES	7	
					—, Clare	Daughter	F	W	11	S	YES	4	
					—, Richard	Son	M	W	8	S	YES	1	

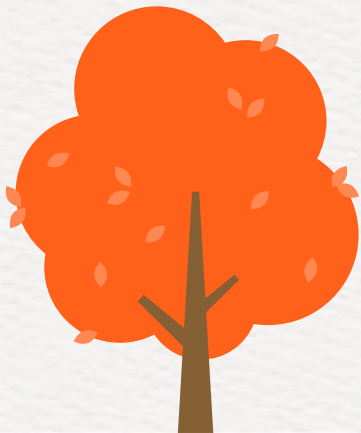
The census form itself was filled in by the enumerator. It was absolutely NOT filled in by the hand of a member of the household!





## Common Mistakes - Spelling

**“That’s not how it’s spelled.”**

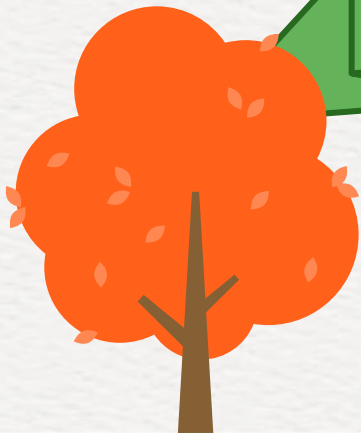


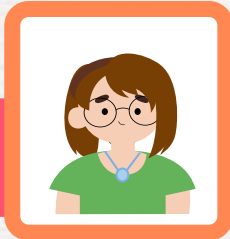
**“They spelled the name wrong.”**



## Common Mistakes - Spelling

**“Their surname was  
changed at Ellis Island.”**





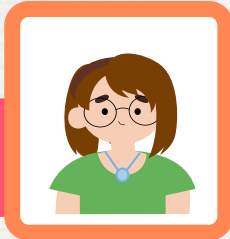
# Common Mistakes - Spelling



## Spelling

- No name was ever changed at Ellis Island.
- It could have been changed before they got on the ship that brought them to Ellis Island.
- Spelling never counts.
- Spelling is a very modern notion that really took hold with the establishment of Social Security and a much more literate society.
- Civil servants spelled phonetically from foreign languages.
- Again, records were filled out by the civil servant.





# Common Mistakes - Spelling

- Patrons then draw the conclusion that those aren't their people because of variations in spelling.
- OR variations in age.



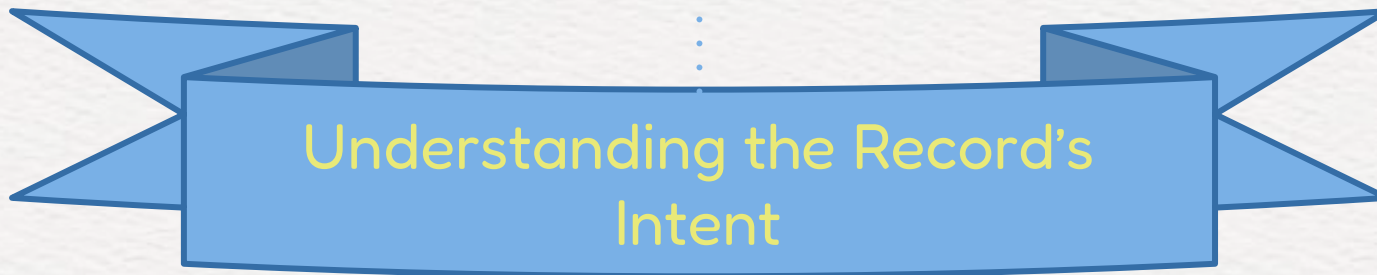
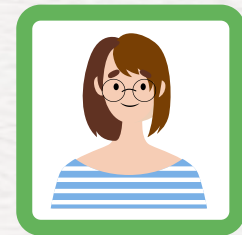
**Spelling**



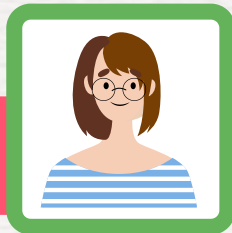
# Common Mistakes - Age & Birthday

## Age & Birthday

- Censuses were typically taken in April or June. Sometimes the person had already had their birthday, sometimes they hadn't.
- That explains some of the age variations.
- Sometimes it was the informant's error...or the enumerator's.
- Vital Records, Certificates of Birth, Marriage, and Death (BMD), didn't really come into existence until the mid- to late 1800s
- If your ancestor was born in the 1700s, there is likely no birth record. Perhaps there is a church register. Perhaps.



Understanding the Record's  
Intent



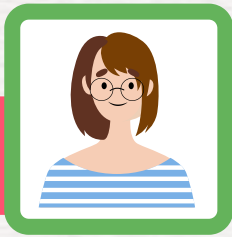
# Resources

- The two most powerful genealogical resources are:
  - Census
  - Vital Records

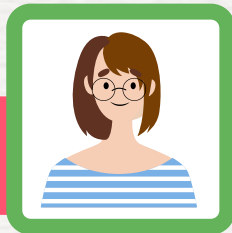




# Census



- A census is a systematic recording of information about a specific population.
- It is often a regularly occurring, typically every 10 years, official government count of the population of a country but they also exist for states, provinces, cities, and religious bodies.
- U.S. Federal Census is only available for 1790-1950, MINUS 1890.
- Census is a very important type of record to use in genealogy research because it shows a family set together.
- It also provides basic demographic information which can help you track down other records such as immigration records, vital records, and military records.

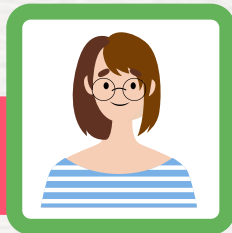


# Vital Records

**“I need my grandfather’s death record.”**



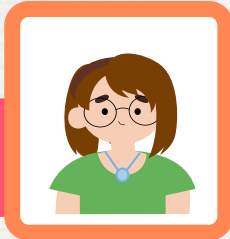
- Do they really need the document?
  - Are there substitutions like, the SS Death Index, that will suffice
- Vital Records are Birth, Marriage, Death Certificates.
- They are primary sources to those life events.
- Does the patron know where the event took place?
- Because WE don’t have it.



# Vital Records

- Vital Records are managed and maintained by the State (and NYC) where the event took place.
- Each municipality has privacy restrictions.
- The municipality may regulate who can access the document
- ...or how long the document must be on file before it becomes accessible to anyone other than next of kin.
- They may require ID.
- There is typically a fee associated.
- There can be long waiting periods to receive the document.





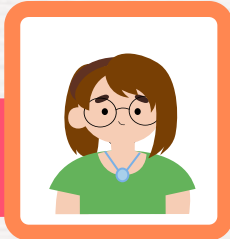
# Resources

- The two most powerful genealogical resources are:
  - Census
  - Vital Records
- However, there are tons of different types of resources that provide genealogical detail. TONS!



“So you’re looking for a \_\_\_\_\_. Then here is where you go.”

Information Needed	Search These Records First	These Records Might Possibly Help
<b>Age</b>	Census, Vital Records	Cemeteries, Military Records
<b>Birth date and place</b>	Vital Records, Census, Naturalization	Cemeteries, <b>Family Bibles</b> , Newspapers
<b>Country of foreign birth</b>	Naturalization, Vital Records, Census	Military Records, Newspapers
<b>Death date and place</b>	Vital Records, Cemeteries, Probate Records, Newspapers, <b>Census MORTALITY SCHEDULES ONLY</b>	<b>Family Bible</b> , Military Records
<b>Foreign birth location</b>	Vital Records, Naturalization, Ship Manifests, Census	Published Genealogies, Newspapers
<b>Immigration date</b>	Census, Naturalization, Ship Manifests	Newspapers, Published Genealogies
<b>Maiden name</b>	Vital Records, Newspapers, <b>some ethnic groups in Ship Manifests</b>	Naturalization, Cemeteries, Probate Records
<b>Marriage date and place</b>	Vital Records, Census, Newspapers	Military Records, Probate Records, Naturalization
<b>Parents' names</b>	Vital Records, Census, <b>Ship Manifests</b> , Probate Records	Newspapers, Published Genealogies, <b>Land Deeds</b>
<b>Places family has lived</b>	Census, Vital Records, Newspapers, Directories, Land Deeds	Military Records



## Resources

- It is likely novice researchers will not understand why a record was created and thus think the record will yield details that were not of importance to the record creator.
- Example: A marriage record typically doesn't have the bride or groom's birthday but likely will state their ages. It is definitely not going to tell you when the groom died.





“So you’re looking for a \_\_\_\_\_. Then here is where you go.”

Information Needed	Search These Records First	These Records Might Possibly Help
Age	Census, Vital Records	Cemeteries, Military Records
Birth date and place	Vital Records, Census, Naturalization	Cemeteries, <b>Family Bibles</b> , Newspapers
Country of foreign birth	Naturalization, Ship Manifests, Vital Records, Census	Military Records, Newspapers, Published Genealogies
Death date and place	Vital Records, Cemeteries, Probate Records, Newspapers, <b>Census MORTALITY SCHEDULES ONLY</b>	<b>Family Bible</b> , Military Records
Immigration date	Census, Naturalization, Ship Manifests	Newspapers, Published Genealogies
Maiden name	Vital Records, Newspapers, <b>some ethnic groups in Ship Manifests</b>	Naturalization, Cemeteries, Probate Records
Marriage date and place	Vital Records, Census, Newspapers	Military Records, Probate Records, Naturalization
Parents' names	Vital Records, Census, <b>Ship Manifests,</b> Probate Records	Newspapers, Published Genealogies, <b>Land Deeds</b>
Places family has lived	Census, Vital Records, Newspapers, Directories, Land Deeds	Military Records

“So you’re looking for a \_\_\_\_\_. Then here is where you go.”

Information Needed	Search These Records First	These Records Might Possibly Help
Age	Census, Vital Records	Cemeteries, Military Records
Birth date and place	Vital Records, Census, Naturalization	Cemeteries, <b>Family Bibles</b> , Newspapers
Country of foreign birth	Naturalization, Ship Manifests, Vital Records, Census	Military Records, Newspapers, Published
Death date and place	Vital Records, Cemeteries, Probate Records, Newspapers, <b>Census MORTALITY SCHEDULES ONLY</b>	<b>Census Mortality Schedules</b> include information about all the people who died within the 12 months preceding the census taking. They exist for the 1850, 1860, 1870, and 1880 censuses.
Immigration date	Census, Naturalization, Ship Manifests	
Maiden name	Vital Records, Newspapers, <b>some ethnic groups in Ship Manifests</b>	
Marriage date and place	Vital Records, Census, Newspapers	Military Records, Probate Records, Naturalization
Parents' names	Vital Records, Census, <b>Ship Manifests</b> , Probate Records	Newspapers, Published Genealogies, <b>Land Deeds</b>
Places family has lived	Census, Vital Records, Newspapers, Directories, Land Deeds	Military Records

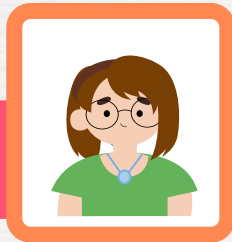
“So you’re looking for a \_\_\_\_\_. Then here is where you go.”

Information Needed	Search These Records First	These Records Might Possibly Help
Age	Census, Vital Records	Cemeteries, Military Records
Birth date and place	Vital Records, Census, Naturalization	Cemeteries, <b>Family Bibles</b> , Newspapers
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Death date and place	Vital Records, Cemeteries, Probate Records, Newspapers, <b>Census MORTALITY SCHEDULES ONLY</b>	<div> <p>Ship Manifests vary wildly in the amount of information they collected over time. Women from some ethnic groups used their maiden names, i.e. Italian women.</p> </div>
Immigration date	Census, Naturalization, Ship Manifests	
Maiden name	Vital Records, Newspapers, <b>some ethnic groups in Ship Manifests</b>	
Marriage date and place	Vital Records, Census, Newspapers	Military Records, Probate Records, Naturalization
Parents' names	Vital Records, Census, <b>Ship Manifests</b> , Probate Records	Newspapers, Published Genealogies, <b>Land Deeds</b>
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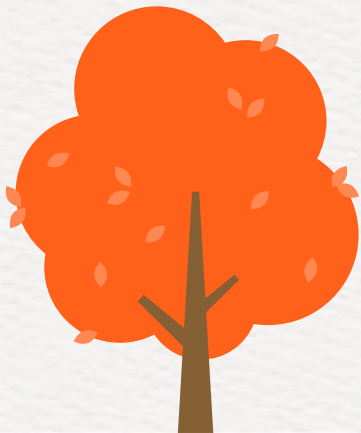
“So you’re looking for a \_\_\_\_\_. Then here is where you go.”

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Death date and place	Vital Records, Cemeteries, Probate Records, Newspapers, <b>Census MORTALITY SCHEDULES ONLY</b>	<p>In some time periods passengers were asked who they were leaving in their country of origin and who they were going to in the U.S. Typically these were relatives which sometimes included a parent.</p>
Immigration date	Census, Naturalization, Ship Manifests	
Maiden name	Vital Records, Newspapers, <b>some ethnic groups in Ship Manifests</b>	
Marriage date and place	Vital Records, Census, Newspapers	Military Records, Probate Records, Naturalization
Parents' names	Vital Records, Census, <b>Ship Manifests</b> , Probate Records	Newspapers, Published Genealogies, <b>Land Deeds</b>
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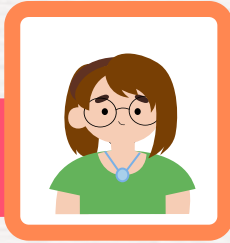
## Common Mistakes - Record Availability

**“Everything is  
online.”**



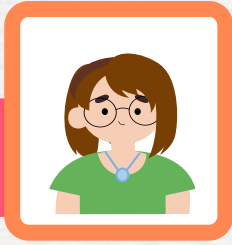
**“I’ve already looked on  
Ancestry.com.”**

# Common Mistakes



- Not everything is online.
- You know the time that goes into digitizing and indexing. Everything couldn't possibly be online.
- Researchers still need to seek answers in libraries, archives, historical societies, and cemeteries. Like in the olden days, pre-Internet.
- There is so much more than just what is on Ancestry.

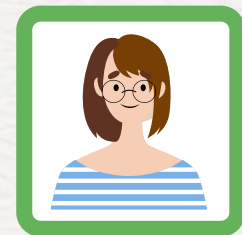
# Digital Literacy



**YOUR PATRON**

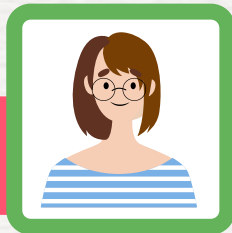
- General lack of digital information literacy.
- Patrons sometimes do not know how to download a record.
- Or how to Email agencies.
- Sometimes they don't understand the difference between the index information and the actual record.





4

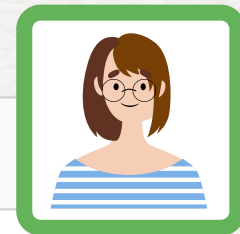
FamilySearch Research Wiki



# Databases

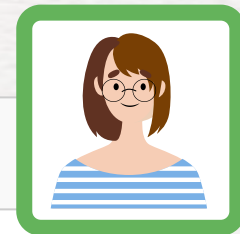
- There are many, many genealogical databases beyond Ancestry.
- Each contain something unique.
- Sometimes the company has done their own, independent indexing which means you could search on Ancestry and not find what you are looking for, do that same search on FamilySearch, and find it.





Database	Free / Subscription	Database	Free / Subscription
Ancestry.com	\$	Brooklyn Daily Eagle	FREE
Archives.com	\$	Chronicling America	FREE
FamilySearch.org	FREE	FindAGrave	FREE
FindMyPast.com	\$	Fulton History	FREE
Fold3.com	\$	Google Books	FREE
GenealogyBank.com	\$	Google News	FREE
MyHeritage.com	\$	New York City Historical Vital Records	FREE
Newspapers.com	\$	New York Historic Newspapers	FREE
		Newspaper Archive	\$



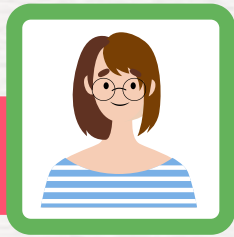


Database	Free / Subscription	Database	Free / Subscription
Ancestry.com	\$	Brooklyn Daily Eagle	FREE
Archives.com	\$	Chronicling America	FREE
FamilySearch.org	FREE	FindAGrave	FREE
FindMyPast.com	\$	Fulton History	FREE
Fold3.com	\$	Google Books	FREE
GenealogyBank.com	\$	Google News	FREE
MyHeritage.com	\$	New York City Historical Vital Records	FREE
Newspapers.com	\$	New York Historic Newspapers	FREE
		Newspaper Archive	\$

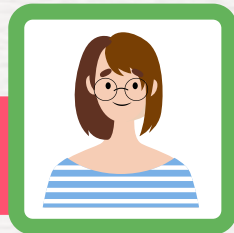




# FamilySearch.org

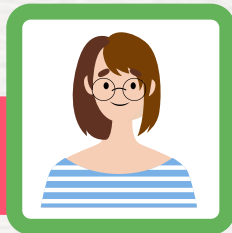


- This is a free web-based database produced by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints.
- LDS has the largest genealogy library in the world.
- FamilySearch has content that Ancestry does not have but it is not as user-friendly.
- Provides billions of records from all over the world for FREE.
- Includes FREE, expert, phone support 24 hours / day, 7 days / week...for FREE.
- They have nearly 5,000 research centers, known as Family History Centers, around the world that anyone can use for FREE.



# FamilySearch.org

- Different levels of access (still FREE)
- Home, Affiliate library, Family History Center
- Affiliate libraries have access to digital collections that might otherwise be accessible only through a FHC
- Just need to be physically inside of the affiliate library, you can use your own device and login information



# FamilySearch Centers Near Us

**Terryville:** 372 Terryville Road, Port Jefferson Station, NY 11776

◆ Phone: (631) 642-2096

**Lynbrook:** 10 Peninsula Boulevard, Lynbrook, NY 11563

◆ Phone: (516) 599-8079

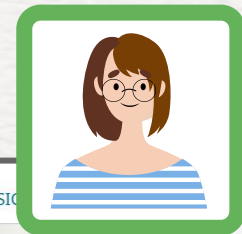
**Plainview:** 160 Washington Avenue, Plainview, NY 11803

◆ Phone: (516) 433-0122

**Queens:** 40-24 62nd Street, Woodside, NY 11377

◆ Phone: (718) 478-5337

# Searching in FamilySearch & the Wiki



## What will you discover about your ancestors?

Search billions of ancestor profiles, photographs, and historical documents at once—absolutely FREE.

### Enter your ancestor information:

Not sure who to search for? Try a grandparent or great-grandparent.

First Names

Last Names\*

Place Lived


Birth Year

SEARCH








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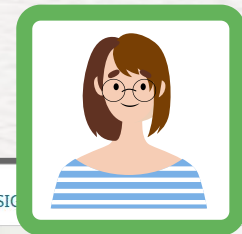
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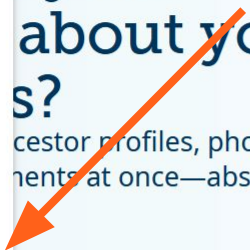
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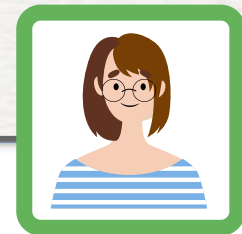
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## FamilySearch Research Wiki

A Genealogy Resource Guide

107,550 articles

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Search by place or topic



[Find Search Tips](#)

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**Jump-start your research**

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North America

Europe

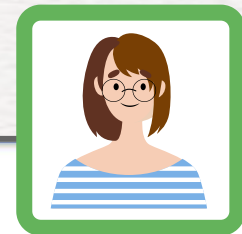
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Europe

Asia

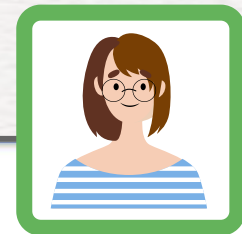
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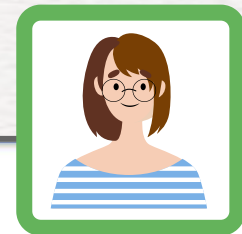
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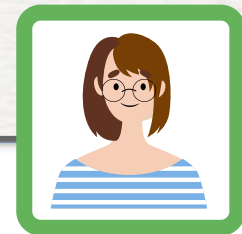
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- New Brunswick
- Newfoundland & Labrador
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- Nunavut
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- Quebec
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## Newfoundland and Labrador, Canada Genealogy

Canada → Newfoundland and Labrador

Guide to **Newfoundland and Labrador ancestry, family history and genealogy**: birth records, marriage records, death records, census records, parish registers, and military records.

### Newfoundland and Labrador Information [ [edit](#) | [edit source](#) ]

- The first peoples were the **Beothuk**, who became extinct in 1829. Today there are **Inuit, Innu, Mi'kmaq and Southern Inuit peoples**.
- In 1501 and 1502, explorer claimed Newfoundland and Labrador as part of the Portuguese Empire. Seasonal fishing outposts were established in Newfoundland around 1521, and older **Portuguese settlements** may have existed.
- Sometime before 1563 **Basque fishermen**, who had been fishing cod shoals off Newfoundland's coasts since the beginning of the sixteenth century, founded **Plaisance (today Placentia)**.
- Twenty years later, in 1583, Newfoundland became England's first possession in North America and one of the **earliest permanent English colonies** in the New World.
- Proprietary Governors were assigned to establish colonial settlements on the Island from 1610 to 1728.
- Explorers quickly realized the waters around Newfoundland had the best fishing in the North Atlantic. By 1620, 300 fishing boats worked the Grand Banks, employing some 10,000 sailors; many continuing to come from the **Basque Country, Normandy, or Brittany**.
- In 1655, France appointed a governor in Plaisance (Placentia), the former Basque fishing settlement, thus starting a formal **French colonization period** in Newfoundland. In 1713, France ceded to the British its claims to Newfoundland. The French population of Plaisance moved to Île Royale (now Cape Breton Island). French fishermen retained the right to land and cure fish on the "French Shore" on the western coast.
- Newfoundland **rejected confederation with Canada** in the 1869 general election. Newfoundland remained a colony until acquiring Dominion status in 1907. The **Dominion of Newfoundland** was relatively autonomous from British rule.
- Since the early 1800s, Newfoundland and Quebec had been in a border dispute over the Labrador region. In 1927, however, the British government ruled that the area known as **modern-day Labrador** was to be considered part of the Dominion of Newfoundland.
- Newfoundland officially joined Canada at midnight on March 31, 1949.<sup>[1]</sup>

### Getting Started [ [edit](#) | [edit source](#) ]

#### Getting Started with Newfoundland and Labrador Research

Links to articles on getting started with Newfoundland and Labrador research.

- [Guided Research](#)
- [Newfoundland Genealogy at American Ancestors](#)
- [How to Locate Your Ancestor in Canada](#)
- [Canada Online Genealogy Records](#)

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- [Family History Society of Newfoundland and Labrador](#)
- [CanGenealogy Newfoundland and Labrador](#)
- [Memorial University Libraries, Centre for Newfoundland Studies](#)

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#### Beginning Research

- [Guided Research](#)
- [Research Strategies](#)
- [Record Finder](#)

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|--|--|
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|--|--|

#### Cultural Groups

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Ask the FamilySearch Community

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# Newfoundland and Labrador Online Genealogy Records

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## Newfoundland and Labrador Online Genealogy Records

This table shows links to province-wide collections. It does not list collections for lower jurisdictions. Some subscription websites listed below can be searched for free at a [FamilySearch](#) or [FamilySearch affiliate library](#).

### Vital Records

#### Births

- **1753-1893:** [Canada, Newfoundland Vital Statistics](#) at FamilySearch; index & images
- **1757-1901:** [Newfoundland, Canada Births, Marriages, and Deaths](#) at Ancestry; index & images (\$)
- **1810-1890:** [Newfoundland, Canada Index of Birth, Marriage & Death Notices from Newspapers](#) at Ancestry; index only (\$)
- **1840-1949:** [Canada, Newfoundland Vital Records](#) at FamilySearch; index & images
- **1850-1949:** [Newfoundland, Canada Births, Marriages, and Deaths](#) at Ancestry; index & images (\$)

#### Marriages

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#### Deaths

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#### Archives and Libraries

### Church Records

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- **1757-1901:** [Newfoundland, Canada Births, Marriages, and Deaths](#) at Ancestry; index & images (\$)
- **1793-1899:** [Newfoundland, Church Records](#) at Ancestry; index & images (\$)
- **1793-1945:** [Newfoundland, Church Records](#) at FamilySearch; index & images

### Civil Registration

- [Canada, Newfoundland and Labrador Deaths](#) at MyHeritage — index & images (\$)

### Compiled Genealogies

- See [Canada Compiled Genealogies](#)
- **1500-1850:** [Keith Matthews Name Files of Newfoundland](#) at Maritime History Archive

### Court Records

### Cultural Groups

#### Newfoundland and Labrador Acadians

#### Directories

- See [Canada Directories](#)
- **1870-1871:** [McAlpine's Maritime Provinces Directory](#) at Memorial University of Newfoundland
- **1877:** [Business and general directory of Newfoundland](#) at Memorial University of Newfoundland
- **1930:** [Gazetteer and Business Directory Canada](#) at MyHeritage; index & images (\$)

### First Nations of Newfoundland and Labrador

- See [Canada First Nations](#)

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- **1793-1899:** [Newfoundland, Church Records](#) at Ancestry; index & images (\$)

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- **1930:** [Gazetteer and Business Directory Canada](#) at MyHeritage; index & images (\$)

### First Nations of Newfoundland and Labrador

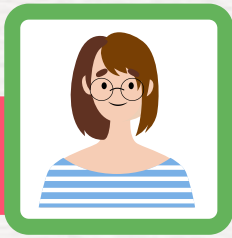
- See [Canada First Nations](#)

### Histories

### Immigration Records



# FamilySearch.org



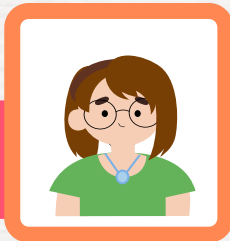
- FamilySearch will have great information about researching in any region of the world.
- BUT YOU have great information about your area in your own library and community.



5

Local History

# You need to know...



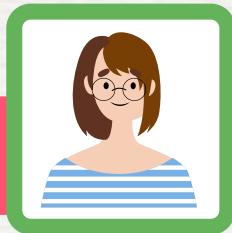
- **ADVICE:** Create your own Wiki-like cheat sheet about your community's records
- **You need to know:**
  - Where the local vital records are and the time period they cover
  - The kinds of records are held by your town/county AND how do you access them
  - If your community has a cemetery
  - Do you have printed Cemetery Inventories?
  - Is it on FindAGrave?
  - If your community has a Historical Society AND what they have in their collection
  - What churches were/are in the community AND how to contact them



6

Other Genealogy Research  
Institutions & **BOOKS**

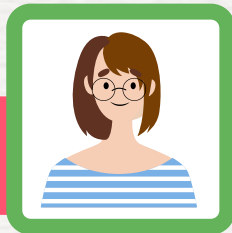




## You need to ...



- Direct your patrons to the right resource, even if it is a resource you don't own.
- Find out on a case-by-case basis, who holds the resources your patron needs and send them there in-person, by phone, or via email.
- Build a collection that supports your stakeholders' research.

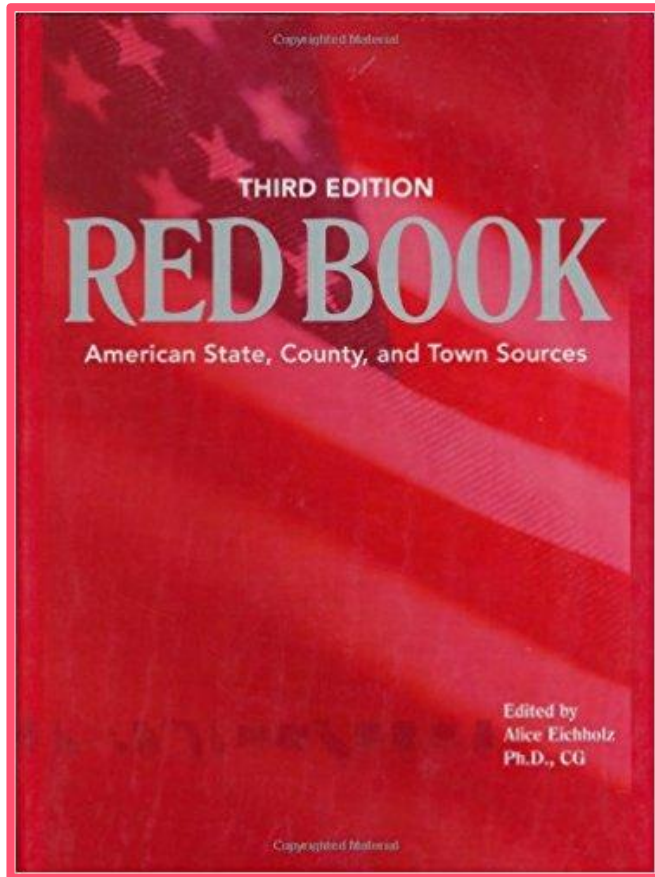


# New York Research Institutions

- New York Public Library - Milstein Division of U.S. History, Local History, & Genealogy
- New York City Municipal Archives
- New York State Library & Archives
- New York Genealogical & Biographical Society
- Brooklyn Historical Society / Center for Brooklyn History
- Ackman and Ziff Family Genealogy Institute at the Center for Jewish History

# Essential General Reference Books

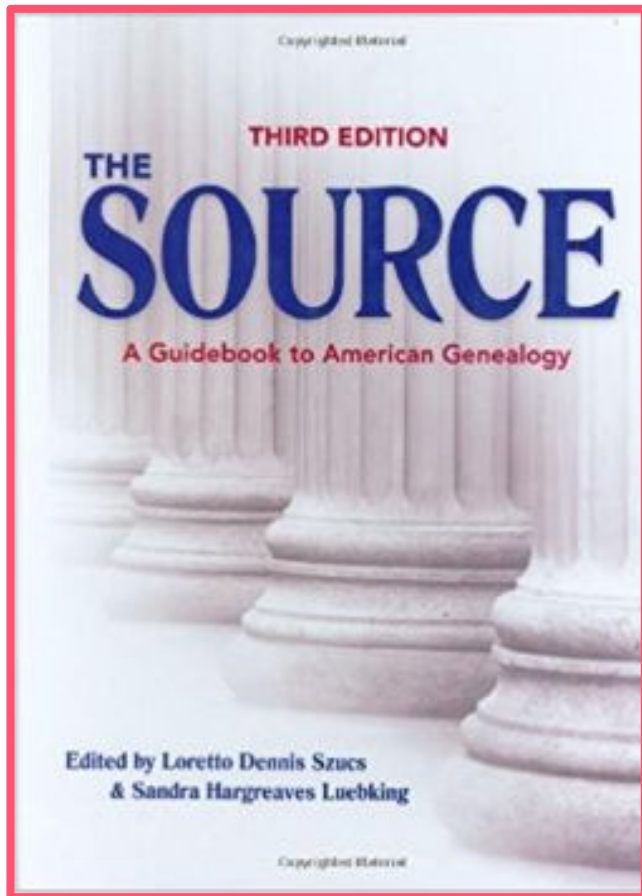




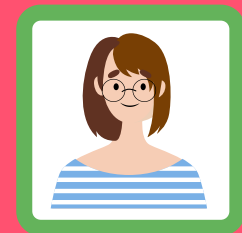
- Third edition, 2004
- American records
- Organized by state for all 50 states and all territories.
- Presents the holdings for records in every county in the U.S.
- Includes maps
- Outlines the availability of census records; federal, state, and territorial.
- Covers the different questions that were asked at different times by census takers.
- Location of vital records including retention schedules, repositories, and how to access them.





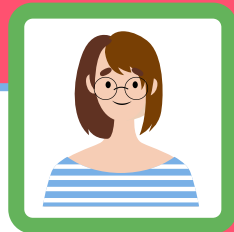
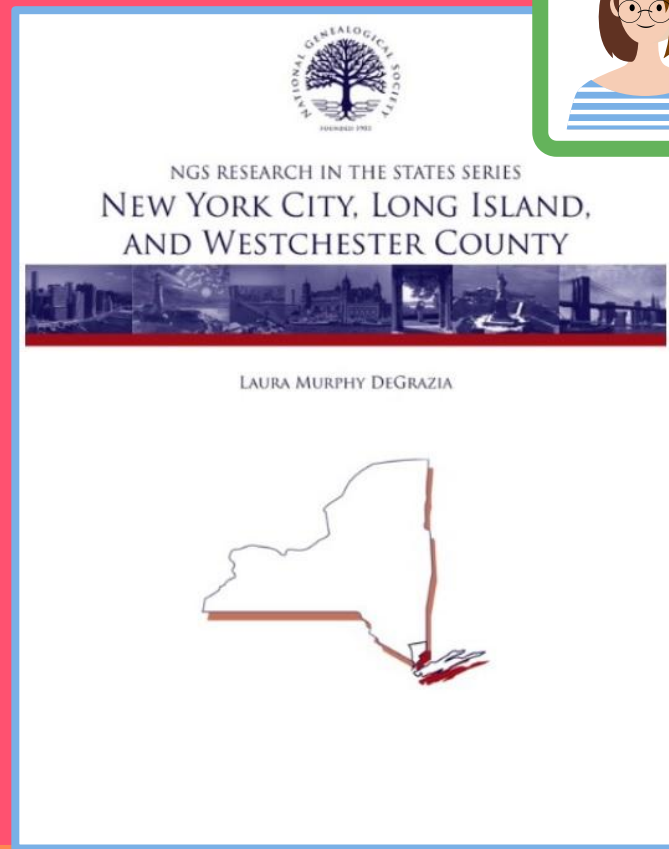
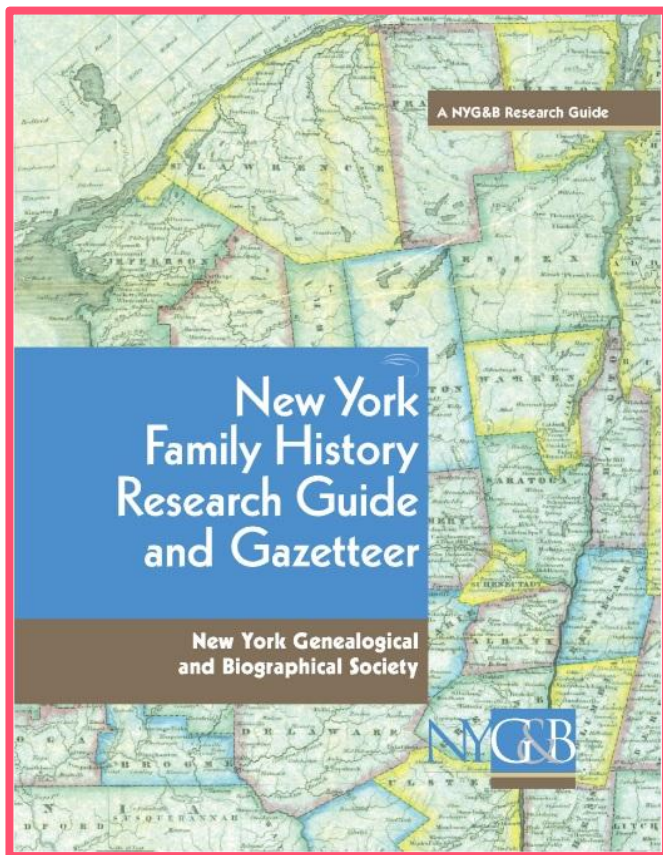


- Third edition, 2006
- American genealogy
- Guidebook
- Describes:
  - Process and methodology
  - Types of records and resources commonly consulted (and some more obscure sources)
  - Cultural groups (African-American, Jewish, Native American, etc.)
  - Family Associations
  - Genealogical Societies
  - Lineage Organizations
  - National and State Archives
  - LDS FHCs



# New York Research Specific

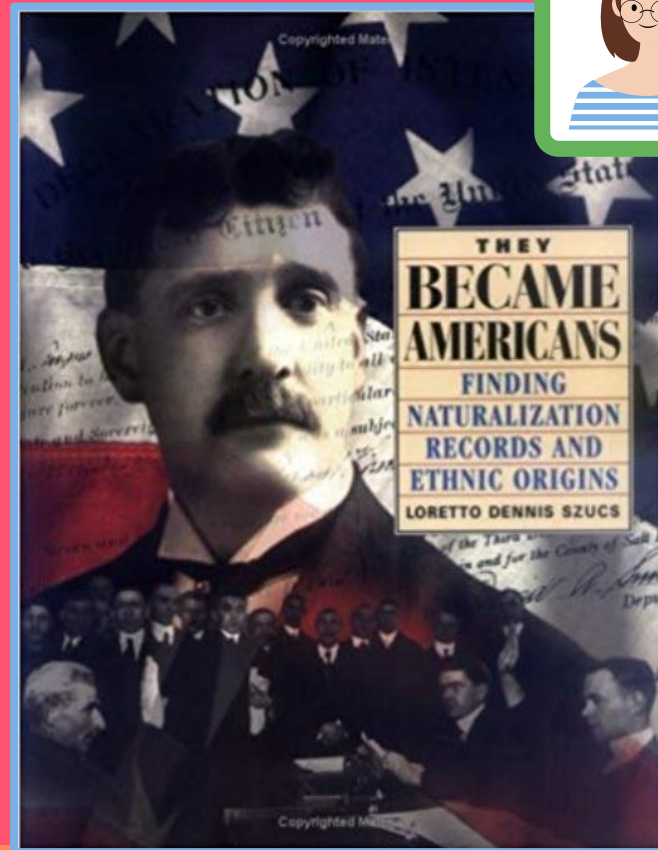
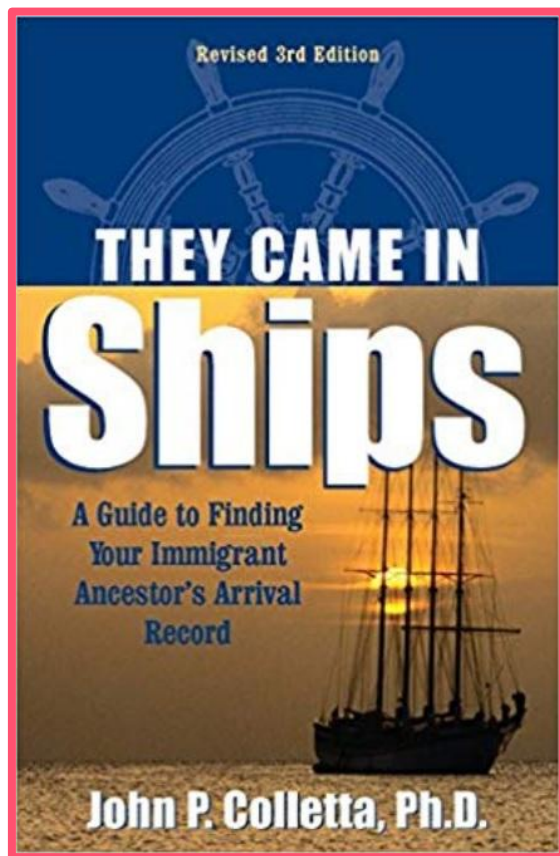


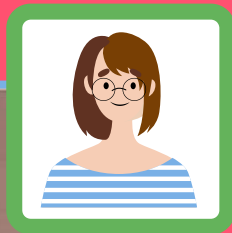
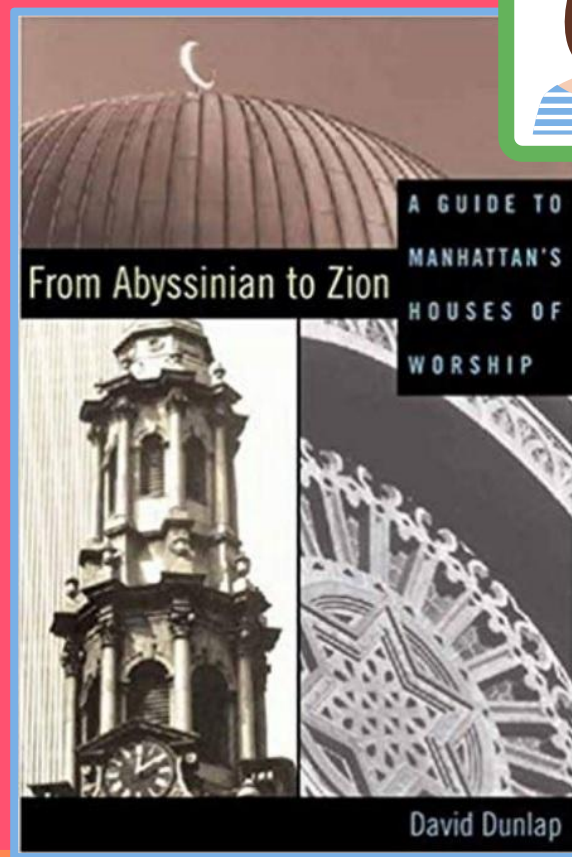
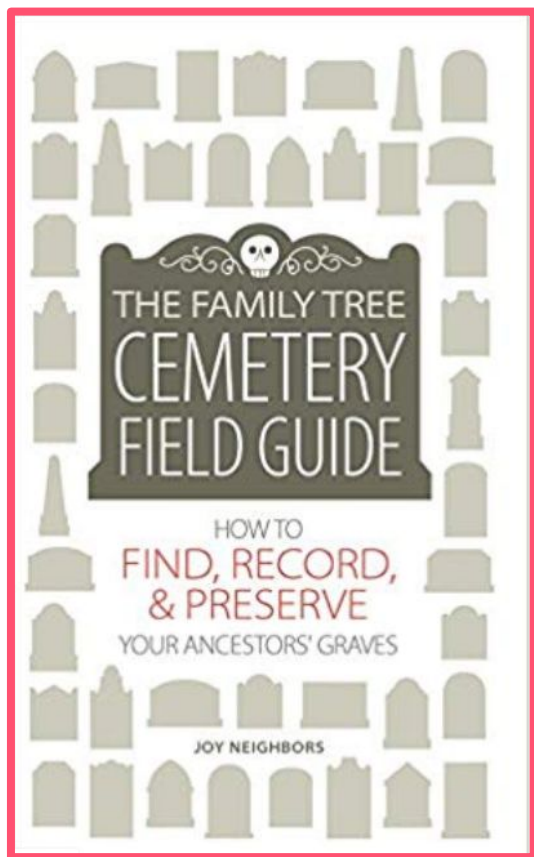


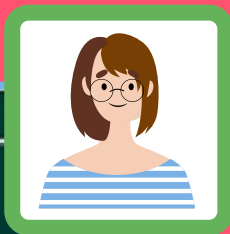
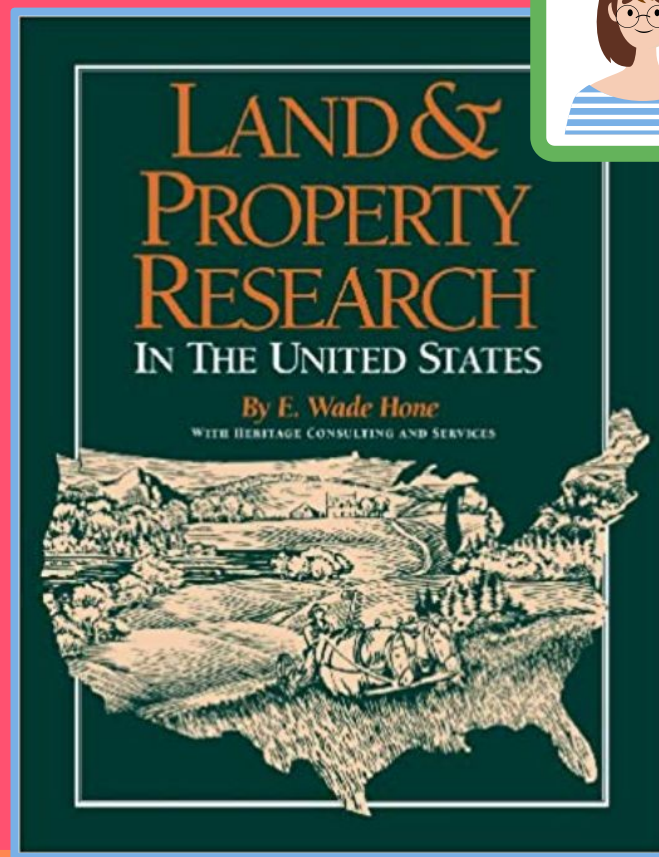
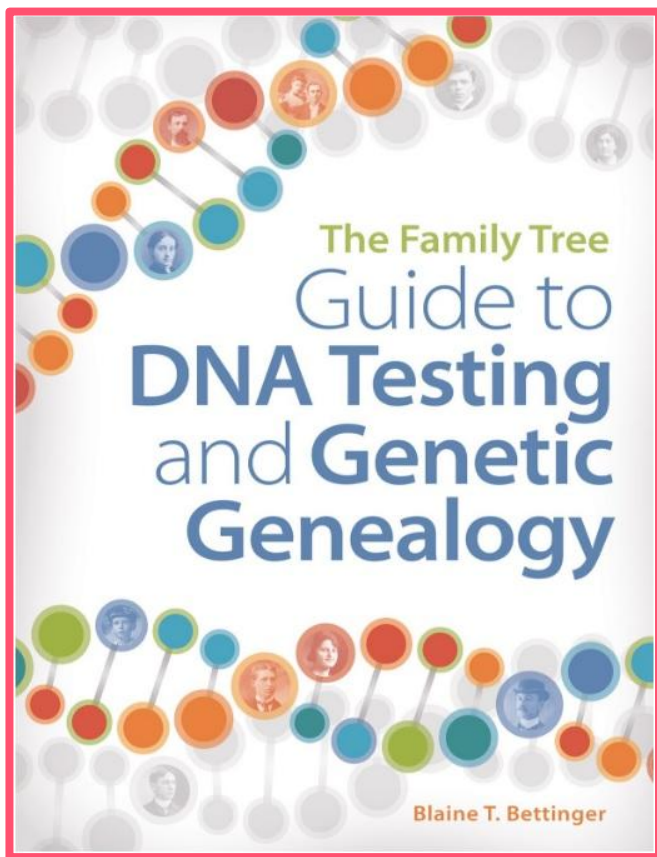
**Resource Specific**







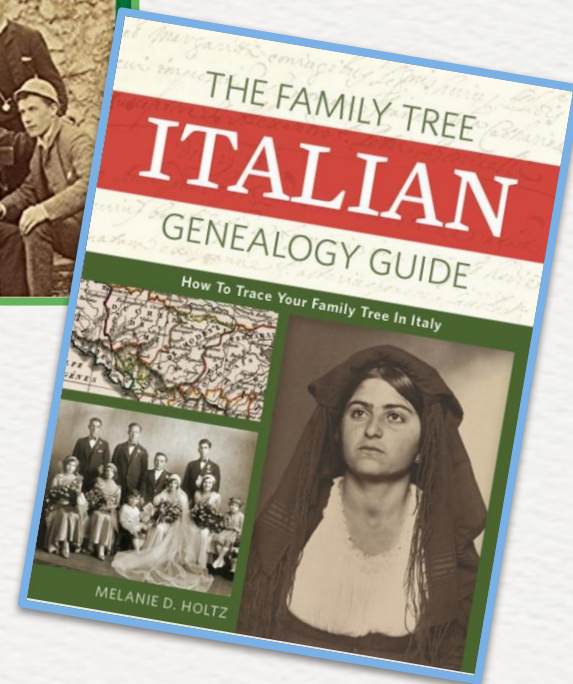
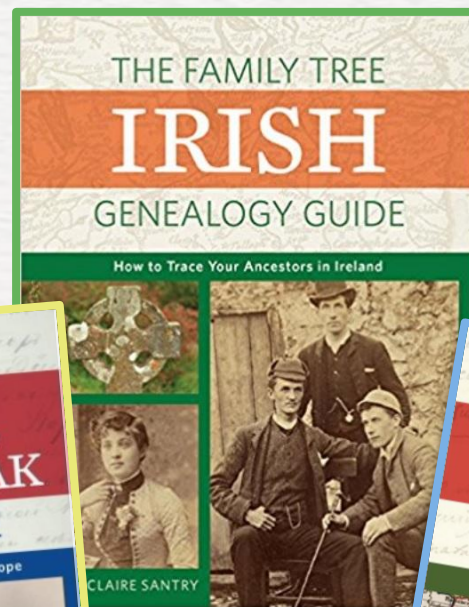
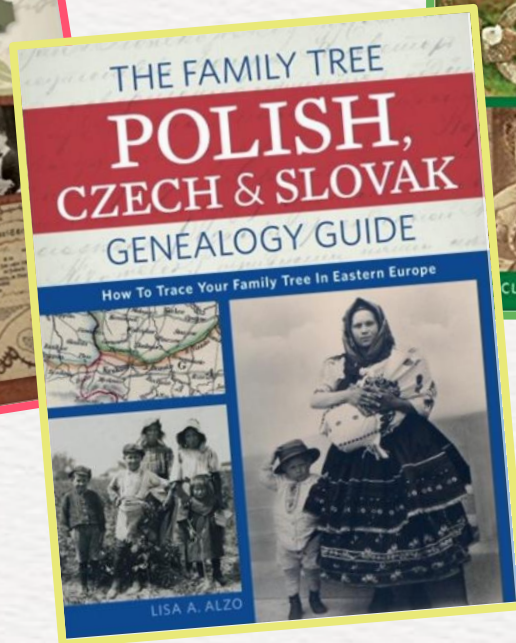
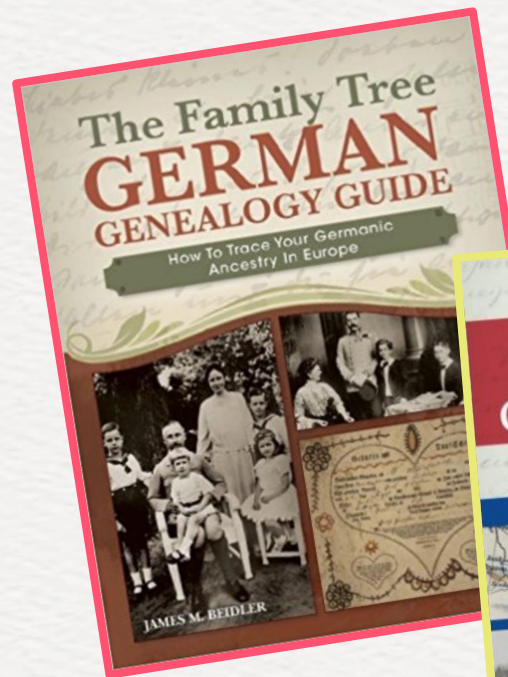




# Ethnic Group Specific

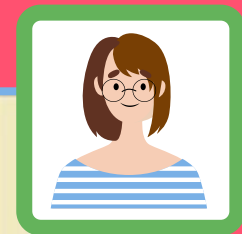
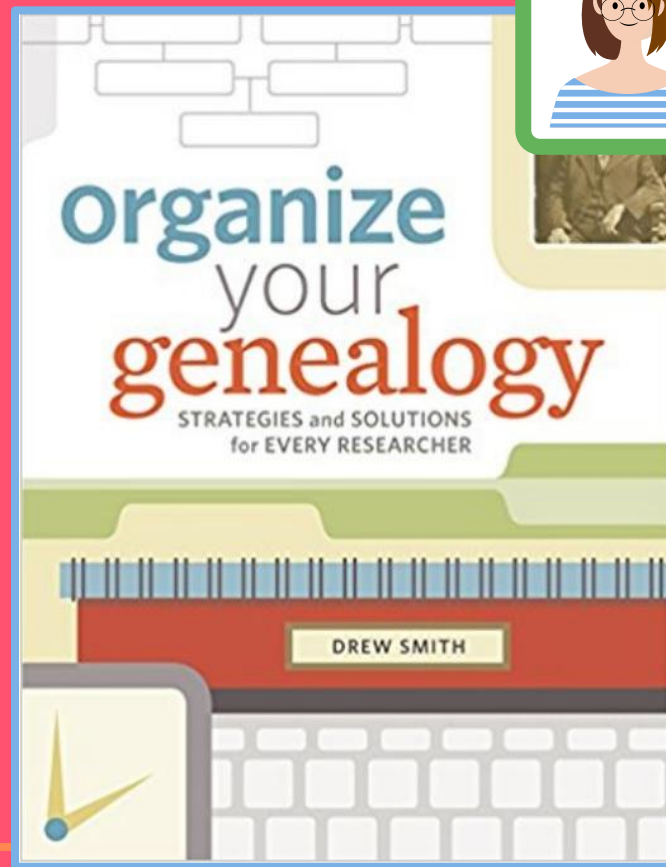
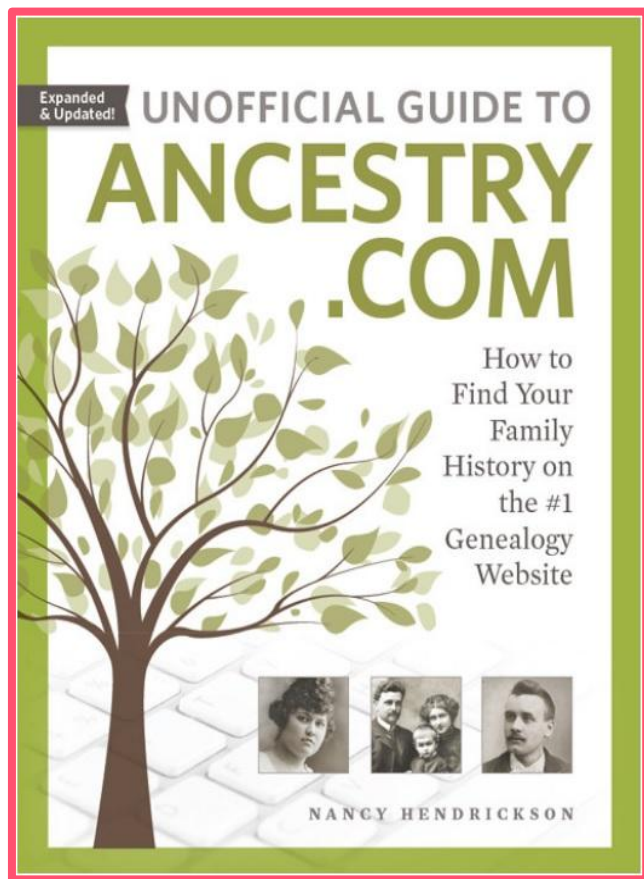






# How-to Books









7

DNA as a Genealogical  
Research Tool

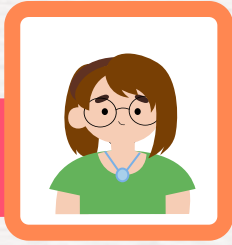


# DNA

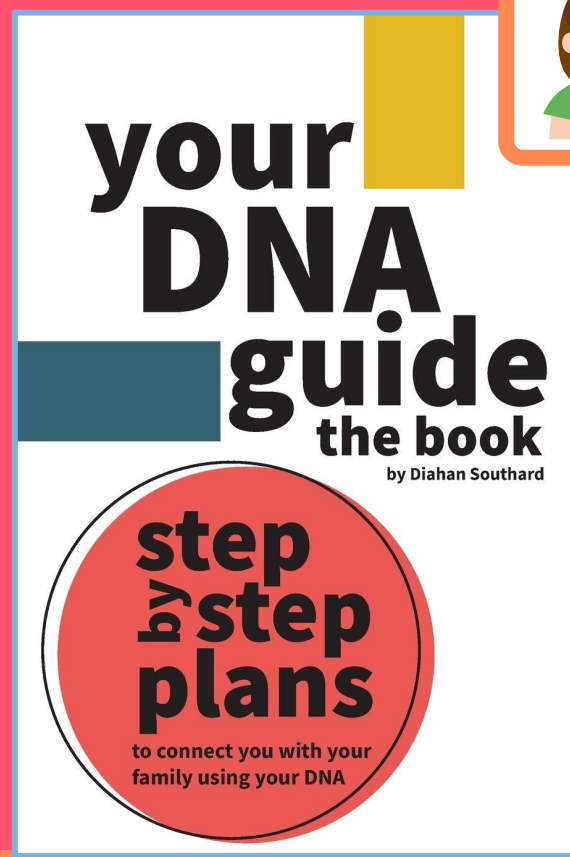
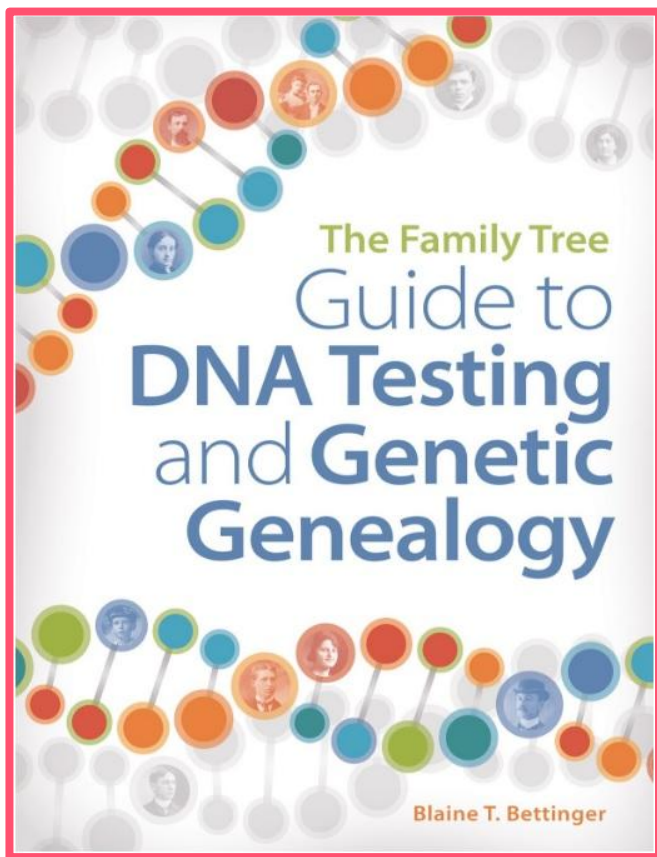


- Just like with medical and legal matters, you do not have to dabble in anyone's DNA results.
- You need to have resources to help them understand their DNA matches.

# DNA



- Connecting with distant cousins through DNA matching can often yield access to family owned resources like a family bible, photos, etc.
- Researchers need to consider that although they may be the keyholder of their family's history, they may not be directly descended from the previous family historian; perhaps some other family line has inherited the family stories, photos, bible, etc. These are the people you want to connect with and you might be able to find them through a DNA match.





# Summary & Advice

The Lessons We've Learned




The background features several decorative elements: a white cloud on the left, a small tree with pink, orange, and yellow fruit-like leaves in the center, and another white cloud on the right. There are also several small green and yellow leaves scattered around.

# 1

Inform your patron in advance of  
the appointment that they will  
need a research goal.



2



It will help if the patron has  
names, dates, and locations of  
family members.



3

Give them a blank pedigree  
chart. ([misbach.org](https://misbach.org))

A green tree with yellow leaves is positioned on top of a large yellow square. The number '4' is written in white on the square.

4

A yellow banner with a blue outline, featuring a ribbon-like design with folded ends. It is connected to the yellow square above by a vertical dotted line.

There is more than just Ancestry.





5

Patrons don't know what they  
are looking at or what is  
available.



6



Know what you have in your  
library.



7

As always, build a collection that supports your users' needs.



8



Know your local history and  
what information sources you  
have in your community.





9

It is okay to direct them to a  
book or another research  
institution.

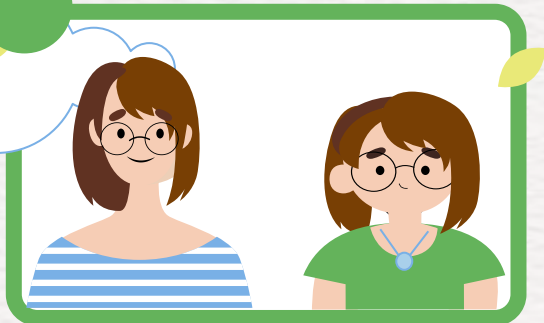


# Thanks!

Does anyone have any questions?

[jbrown@pmlib.org](mailto:jbrown@pmlib.org)  
631-654-4700

[earleal@farmingdale.edu](mailto:earleal@farmingdale.edu)  
934-420-2205



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