



Deconstructing Your Ancestors Life on Paper: Finding Hidden Clues in our Research

Examining the Records and Documents

- Census: Instructions for census takers, supplemental schedules, did they skip my ancestors? Mortality schedules for 1850, 60, 70, and 80. Census schedule dates
- Marriage
- Death, Probate
- Newspapers

Keeping a timeline

- Child labor laws
- Wars and combat
- Pandemics and Medical breakthroughs

Socioeconomic status matters

- Occupational hazards
- Disease
- Economic hardships, own vs. rent, etc.

Investigating your family

- How much fact is there to a family story?
- Importance of following a paper trail vs. trying to prove a family story

Case examples:

1. Cordelia

Did she marry more than once?

Were there other children?

Who were her parents/family?

2. Joseph

Was he an orphan?

What happened to his parents?

Was his mother really a mail-order bride?