

POCATELLO FAMILY HISTORY CENTER

[HTTP://WWW.PRFHC.ORG/](http://www.prfhc.org/)



of the Family Tree

Author: Julie Quick

All the names on these pages, it's hard to believe, that hundreds of people are related to me.

Grandmas and Grandpas,
Uncles and Aunts,
Cousins, more cousins, Me?
Stop? No, I can't!
Germany, Canada, Scotland,
and France

All came together just out of chance.

To think that I started with just a blank sheet.

Now put end to end, the tree measures in feet!

Volumes of info gathered up from the past,
saved acid free 'cause I want it to last.

It's possible that there have been some mistakes but all of these names, why bother to fake?

I'm hoping some day some ambitious descendant will cherish my volumes so glad that I've done it.

I can't help but think that if everyone did this we'd find, none too soon, we have very few differences.

Please, listen to me don't leave it to fate.

Gather much from your elders before it's too late

Question:

Could you answer a debate I have with another genealogist. They claim they saw a census pre-1850 that gives exact ages for families. I do not recall ever seeing such a census.

Answer:

Thanks for your intriguing question. Your colleague is actually partially correct. The 1840 U.S. Census does list the exact age and the name for those collecting a military pension or a widow's pension. They are often the head of household, but occasionally they are listed living with another family member. These names and ages appear on the second page of each enumeration sheet. The statistics for this was used to publish *A census of pensioners for revolutionary or military services, with their names, ages, and places of residence, as returned by the marshals of the several judicial districts, under the act for taking the sixth census.* (Washington, Printed by Blair and Rives, 1841). This volume can be seen online at www.usgennet.org/usa/topic/colonial/census/1840/

By David Allen Lambert NEHGS Vol 11, No. 6 Whole #413, February 11, 2009

Do a surname search of the Family History Library Catalog.

The Family History Library Catalog is designed to help you gain access to the over two billion records in the vaults of the Family History Library in Salt Lake City. One search that is frequently overlooked but which can pay big dividends is a simple surname search that can be found on the FamilySearch menu. The Family History Library in Salt Lake City has archived over 150,000 family histories submitted by members and non-members of the Church and these contain not only biographical material but multi-generation pedigrees of the families they cover. By typing into the computer the surname in which you are interested and doing the surname search you will be presented with a list of all of the family histories that include the search surname. It will be up to you to select the family histories that appear to be of interest and, when one is found that you believe includes your ancestors, to borrow the film and search filmed pages of the actual family history.

Juliana Smith talks about writing "cryptic notes" to herself and then not being able to decipher them later. We are going to include just her suggestions for making the journal.

"How and where did I find the information? What searches did I perform during online research? How was the name indexed? Were there any irregularities or discrepancies? I also record times where I've failed to find an ancestor. I document the various methods I used to search, and include why I think they should be included in that record collection. Sometimes this step is very revealing. It makes me look closely at descriptive materials and sometimes I realize that there's a very good reason they aren't included.

What was the extent of my search? Did I just search the index? Did I go all the way to the end of the register or microfilmed or digitized collection to see whether there were more records at the end? Did I browse surrounding pages (and how many), looking for other family references?

When possible, I like to include a transcription of the record. It makes for easy review and this can also be copied/pasted into my family history software, family timelines, and e-mails to family history buddies.

Sometimes a record may not come right out and say something, but alone or in the context of other records, it may allow you to draw conclusions. This is a great place to spell out the rationale behind any conclusions you have drawn. For example, you have an 1860 census record that says that your eleven-year-old ancestor was born in Ireland. You also have a baptism record for his sister that says she was born in 1852 in New York. From these you can estimate that the family immigrated to the U.S. somewhere between 1849 and 1852. If you spell it out here, you won't be scratching your head a year from now trying to figure out how you arrived at that estimate.

Put yourself in your ancestors shoes. Has something in this record changed your perceptions about the family and what was going on in their lives? What part might history have played in what you've learned? Did they emigrate because of war, disease, or famine? Spell out your theories.

Sort out conflicting facts. Did the information in the record conflict with what you had previously thought or with what you have found in other records? Is it possible you are looking at two separate individuals or families? How can you reconcile the conflicts? How credible is the record you are looking at? Document the conflicts and look for ways you can prove or disprove your findings.

Chart your course for follow-up. Look at what you've written and make a list of follow-up steps you can take to move your case forward."

Juliana Smith in Journal Your Research written the 15 November issue of 7/24 Family History Circle.

<http://blogs.ancestry.com/circle/?p=3052>

Internet Favorites - When you get a new computer or simply use a computer away from home, it simplifies your searches if you can use the list of Favorite Web Sites you are familiar with. Favorite "Import and Export" capability is available. When using Internet Explorer, look under File on XP computers or under 'Add to Favorites' on a Vista machine. "Import and Export" gives you a wizard from which you can export your list of favorites to your flash drive as an htm file type. You can Import this file if you buy a new computer. When you are away from your computer, you can easily access your Favorites by using Windows Explorer to locate your file, clicking to read it into a browser like Internet Explorer. Then click on the link you desire. --submitted by Elder Rex Shumway