

## Genealogy Is a Game

*You must  
outwit, outplay and outlast  
centuries of misfortune,  
incompetence and deceit  
... but it's fun and challenging  
... and invigorating!*

Class Web Site: <http://copland.udel.edu/~tdoherty>

## Finding Your Family Roots

*is like assembling  
a giant jigsaw puzzle...  
but with a few missing pieces!  
While you can never finish the puzzle,  
you can open many doors  
to new adventures.*

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## Genealogical Research Methods 2

### Getting Started

Class Web Site:

<http://copland.udel.edu/~tdoherty>

## Some Ground Rules

- ◆ *Come and go as you please.*
- ◆ *Ask questions when you have them.*
  - *did I go too fast? misspeak?*
- ◆ *I don't know everything,  
so please contribute to discussion.*
- ◆ *Add email to class list (pink page)*
  - *I'll keep you informed, usually weekly.*
  - *You may need to adjust filter to receive  
email from [tdoherty@udel.edu](mailto:tdoherty@udel.edu)  
and [tdoherty@magpage.com](mailto:tdoherty@magpage.com)*

## More Ground Rules

- ◆ *You may come to computer workshop*
  - *after class at 3:20 in Room 214*
- ◆ *Bring laptop to setup wireless UD access*
- ◆ *Find handouts on chair as you enter*
- ◆ *Most handouts posted on class web site*
  - *preliminary before class; final after*
- ◆ *If you can't download "handouts",  
please tell me – file is probably too big.*

## Free Genealogical Databases

- ◆ *University of Delaware*
  - <http://www.lib.udel.edu> (click blue banner)
  - *free to UD students (that's you)*
  - *you need udel.edu email/password to access*
    - *signup in ALL office or on forms*
- ◆ *Delaware Public Libraries*
  - [http://www.state.lib.de.us/Collection\\_Development/Electronic\\_Resources/DelAWARE](http://www.state.lib.de.us/Collection_Development/Electronic_Resources/DelAWARE)
  - *free to Delaware residents (\$ for others)*
  - *need library card # & password to access*
    - *get at any Delaware library*
- ◆ *More: see <http://copland.udel.edu/~tdoherty>*

## The Class Website

<http://copland.udel.edu/~tdoherty>

- ◆ Many useful genealogical links
- ◆ Center panel has most useful links
- ◆ Left frame has class schedule and handouts
  - possible additional topics for this semester
- ◆ Right frame has access to databases
  - UD Library
  - Delaware Public Library
  - Godfrey Library
  - Google, MapQuest, Newsgroups
  - Delaware Genealogical Society + web links

## Some Topics for This Semester

Genealogical Research Methods #2 + Lab (same time Wed)

- ◆ Review First Semester (some new students)
- ◆ Examples of successful use of DNA data (Feb 22)
- ◆ Demonstration of PAF Software (Apr 5)
- ◆ Reading Old Handwriting (2 sessions)
- ◆ Preservation of books, documents and photos
- ◆ Building a Personal Web Page
- ◆ Solving class brickwalls
- ◆ More of my personal ancestral stories - combining info from original documents to track their lives
- ◆ Others?

## What additional topics do you want presented?

- ◆ more ways to find foreign town of origin
  - search immigration records
  - new web passenger indices (1800-1900s)
- ◆ finding maiden names
- ◆ others? Send me email: [tdoherty@udel.edu](mailto:tdoherty@udel.edu)
- ◆
- ◆

## Where to Look for Information

### Main Focus First Semester:

- ◆ What record types are there?
- ◆ What information is in them?

### Alternate Focus:

- ◆ Where can I find the information I want to have?

## Information About Ancestors

### Where to look for it\*

- ◆ Other Genealogies (*has it already been done?*)
- ◆ Ancestral Relationships
- ◆ Vitals (birth/baptism, marriage, death, burial)
  - The Basics: Who, What, When and Where?
- ◆ Exactly where did they live?
- ◆ Did they Serve in the Military
- ◆ The Person's Character and Prosperity
- ◆ Migration; Foreign Town of Origin
- ◆ Describe Community and its History
- \* Have you found the original document?

## Has it already been done?

- ◆ First: talk to *all* the relatives\* to learn
  - who, when, where, tales, photos, relations
  - sometimes: your only source, possibly best
- ◆ Research Web for Genealogies\*
  - Library of Congress: <http://lcweb.loc.gov>  
"nnnn family"
  - PERSI/Books (Heritage Quest)
  - surname, place (year?) on [google.com](http://google.com)
  - Find county on [usgenweb.org](http://usgenweb.org) & search
- ◆ Research Web for Surnames
- \* genealogy books, on-line, hearsay are secondary sources

## Surname Searching

- ◆ Search “all” pertinent databases for surnames
- ◆ Key database links on class page: bottom middle
  - SSDI, igi, ancestry, rootsweb, PERSI, Ellis Island
- ◆ Local databases (where your ancestor lived), use
  - <http://usgenweb.org> to help find local databases
  - [familysearch.org](http://familysearch.org) to clump surnames to places
  - also try <http://google.com>
- ◆ Regional databases
  - e.g. <http://newenglandancestors.org>
- ◆ Foreign databases
  - find via e.g. <http://worldgenweb.org>

## Which Sources to Believe? Original vs Secondary\* Records

- ◆ *Closest to date of event*
  - ◆ *Made by eye witness to event*
  - ◆ *Unbiased and competent*
  - ◆ *No reason to hide the truth*
  - ◆ *Incentive to be accurate*
- \* history/genealogy book, on-line, hearsay*

## Always

- ◆ *Record your source of information.*
- ◆ *Was it the original record?*
  - *record made at time of event or soon thereafter*
  - *if not, confirm with original record.*
- ◆ *Confirm the original record itself.*
  - *was it made with competent hands?*
  - *did anyone want to hide the truth?*

## The Decennial Census

- ◆ *Very revealing snapshot in time*
  - *find every ancestor in every year ... and their siblings and kids!*
- ◆ *Easy to get, easy to use: ancestry UD*
  - *use HeritageQuest (DE library) with ancestry*
- ◆ *U.S. 1790-1930 now all on-line*
  - *also certain state, county, country census and*
- ◆ *England, Wales 1851-1901 (no Scots)*
  - *includes Isle of Man, Channel Islands*
- ◆ *Canada: 1911*
  - *1871 Ontario index (ancestry.com)*

## Census: Ancestry vs. ProQuest

Free access: student udel email DE Pub. library  
Indexed: all (by head) not 1830-50,1880  
Every-name: 1790-1930 (x1910) 1790-1820  
Searching: Soundex or not\* no Soundex  
Searching: wildcards:\*,?\* exact spelling only  
Transcribing: lower quality higher quality  
Page numbers: variable often ProQuest's  
Printing: slow fast  
e-Formats: .gif\*\* pdf files  
Usual Image Quality: lower higher

\*Soundex overrides wildcard; no wildcard allowed in 1<sup>st</sup> three letters  
\*\*can print to pdf file with Adobe Acrobat; also <http://www.pdf995.com>

## Birth and Baptism\* (by class)

- ◆ **“Original” Record** (entries made during 12-7-05 class)
    - Birth certificate
    - Church and town record?
    - family bible, diaries and engravings?
  - ◆ **Secondary Records** (entries made during 12-7-05 class)
    - newspaper report
    - from a relative?
    - correspondence
    - family photos
    - census
- \* baptism could be day of birth or many years later*

## Birth and Baptism\*

### ◆“Original” Record

- **certificate of birth** (baptism often says when born)
  - even the original can be wrong (something to hide?)
- mother says so, town/church record?, family bible?

### ◆Secondary Records

- death or marriage certificate
- age on document
  - court, military, marriage, apprentice indenture
  - census (month of birth on 1900 U.S. census)
- presumed age, e.g. adulthood (tax, vote, legal dealings)
- depositions/supoenas

\* *baptism could be day of birth or many years later*

## Marriage (by class)

### ◆“Original” Record (entries to be made in Part 2 class)

- **civil (government) and church record**

?

### ◆Secondary Records (entries to be made in Part 2 class)

?

\*