

## TITLE

## DETAILS

### General Topics

Centuries of Censuses: What Census Instructions Can Teach Us

Instructions to census takers differed every ten years and can tell us a lot about what was going on in the country. Understanding the details hidden in the census can help us take advantage of the information gathered and the context of our ancestor's times.

Family Tree Squabbles: How to build consensus when researchers disagree

How do you convince your family, or extended family, that your family tree is accurate? Proof, evidence, and documentation - sounds like the Genealogical Proof Standard (GPS)

Gretna Greens - Where our American ancestors went to marry (and perhaps why)

Historically marriage was tightly controlled by the family, the community, and the church. Couples often struggled to find someone who would officiate. North America has their own Gretna Greens and unlike Las Vegas, what happened there did not stay there.

Hook 'em & Reel 'em In: Getting your DNA matches to respond

How do we get our family tree or DNA relatives to bite when we cast a hook into their genealogy pond? Giving them enough information to show you are worth their time, but not so much that you get nothing in return is a balancing act.

Johnson, Jones or James, English ancestry is all around us

As a result of the Revolutionary War our ancestors often identified less as English and more as American patriots. Yet, over half of the 100 most common surnames in America could be English. Let's look at the hidden history of being English in America and unravel why

New Leaf Workshop: The right tool for the job (one or more hours based on your society)

Each website and database has its own genealogical offerings. Knowing the right site for your particular research needs will save you time and frustration. Sylvia will help you pinpoint which site, or sites, will help advance your research.

Vitally Important: Vital records and their substitutes

Vital records are integral for good genealogical research. Learn more about why they are so valuable, and how to find vital records and their substitutes.

## Culture & Its Influence on Records

19th Century America - Cultural changes and their effects on records

America in the 19th century saw geographic, cultural, and historic changes that affected the records that were created. While this was true for all Americans, it was especially true for women, African-Americans, and immigrants. We'll take a broad look at the 19th century to understand these changes.

Faith of Our Forefathers

Churches were an anchor for many of our ancestors. A general understanding of the role faith played in their lives and the effect on communities, states, and our nation will aid your understanding and may guide you to unexpected records.

Saying Goodbye: Our ancestors traditions of death and dying

What can we learn about our families by observing their traditions on death and dying. Faith, culture, and community exerted their influences on our ancestors death traditions. How can their surviving records help us understand their lives?

Tracking Ancestral Beliefs:  
What group our ancestors chose to belong to

Many of our ancestors belonged to more than one culture. They chose, perhaps more than once, to identify as one specific culture. This could be based on faith, language, or social standing. Fitting in while becoming American was a transition that all navigated and their records may reflect that acculturation.

## Language Tools & Surname Research

Leveraging Language Tools for Your Genealogical Brick Wall

Discover linguistic tips, tricks and resources that can help you find your most elusive ancestors. Brick walls can sometimes be an obstacle that has more to do with language than anything else. We will explore how the language of our ancestors, as well as the language of the area they settled in, can affect our research results.

Language Tools: Methodologies for language-based resources

Language-based tools require different methods than genealogy tools. Learn how to take advantage of them, which can help you better understand ancestral name changes. We'll focus primarily on Forvo.com and Google's advanced language tools.

Language Tools for Genealogists:  
Forvo

Forvo is a site which provides modern pronunciation of words from all languages, cultures, and countries. As a research tool it can help you understand the way your ancestors spoke and apply that knowledge. This will help you search more effectively as they migrated to, and through other regions.

Language Tools for Genealogists:  
Google Translate and other  
Google tools

Google translate can help you search more effectively for your ancestors. Other Google tools can help you monitor discussions that are happening now about records, articles, or books which may apply to your ancestry. Learn more about the tools that Google offers.

Language Tools for Genealogists:  
One-Name studies

One-Name.org is a website that has the potential to not only advance your research, but connect you to other researchers who can provide insights into your ancestry. Other resources are available for those who want an in-depth study into a surname.

Who Said What in America:  
The effects of language and  
spelling changes

Regional differences in language and culture affected how our ancestors names were heard and therefore recorded. We'll explore how the prevalent culture(s) in an area might have affected your ancestors names and help you research more effectively.

## Migration Research

Beeline to the West: Migration  
pulls for immigrants

Immigrants who settled in the "West" had their own reasons for coming. Compared to immigrants into the Colonies, those who came directly west had different pushes and pulls. This presentation focuses on the pulls of the West and who was attracted by them.

Homesteading in America: Men &  
Women, immigrants & native  
born

Homesteading in America was a way to coax people to settle on lands throughout the country. Anyone who was willing to brave the frontier with a few dollars in their pocket could apply. It was not for the faint of heart!

Territorial Records in the U.S.:  
You might be surprised!

As our nation grew, territories began keeping records to achieve statehood. Let's look at some of the records that are available.

Trekking Across America: A case  
study in westward migration

Many of our ancestors entered America in the East and made their way toward the West, where land was cheap and opportunities were abundant. Learn how I traced a family as they moved across the country.

Westward Migration: Basic tools  
for charting their course

How do we track a family who is constantly on the move in search of their corner of paradise? FAN research is the answer. Let me show you how to effectively research the Friends, Associates, and Neighbors of your ancestors.

## Research Methodologies

**Genealogy Basics, including DNA:** A methodology  
Get started right by using a method that can be applied to all your research, including DNA basics.

**British Research Methodology:** How, what & where to search  
British research differs from American research in a variety of ways. Sylvia will highlight the best places to search, plus quickly cover the major differences in terminology, language, and records. Extra Q&A time is built into this presentation for those new to the topic.

**Irish Research Methodology:** How, what & where to search  
Irish research is challenging due to record loss, poor record keeping, and the turmoil that is so well documented within Ireland. Specific techniques and methods of researching can streamline your quest for your Irish ancestors.

**Lutheran Research Methodology:** How, what & where to search  
Martin Luther wanted to change the Catholic Church. Instead he launched a movement that built on Catholic tradition while adapting to the languages used by its followers. As Lutheranism expanded through migration it continued to adapt to meet the needs of its parishioners and spawned other groups.

## Women in America

**Women's Records: Researching the world of our female ancestors**  
American women in the 17th, 18th, and 19th centuries left records, none of which are unique to women. But, these records can provide unique insights when looked at through a historical lens as American women's lives changed.

**Women on the Move: Changing migration in 19th century America**  
During the 19th century women's lives changed in myriad ways. This presentation focuses on the historic timeline of the 19th century and the events that impacted women's lives the most.



Ready to book a presentation?  
Contact Sylvia Tracy-Doolos:

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