# BEGINNING GENEALOGY

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# What Tools Do I Need?

- Access to a Computer with Internet
- E-mail Address
- Flash Drive or Portable Hard Drive
- Notepads and Pencils
- Durable File Folders
- Curious Mind and Inquisitive Nature
- Perseverance and Patience



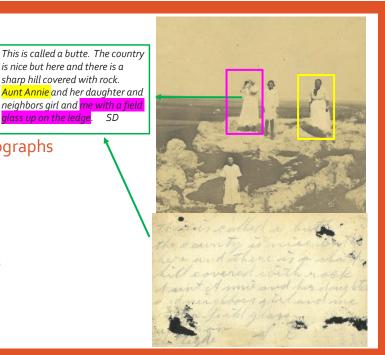
# Where do I start?

- □ Start with a Goal
- □ Interview Relatives
- ☐ Family Documents & Photographs

is nice but here and there is a sharp hill covered with rock.

glass up on the ledge.

- □ Genealogy Forms to Know
- Look for Records
- Conduct Research
- Online Tools and Resources
- What if I need Help?



# Start with a Goal!

- You need a goal & a strategy
- Start off with a general task and work backward as you accomplish each goal.
- Goal 1 Find out more about my grandmother's mother
- Goal 2 Learn more about my great-great grandmother and her immigration from Ireland
- Goal 3 Find village where great-great- grandmother was born in Ireland
- Goal 4 Trace great-great-grandmother's lineage in Ireland



### **INTERVIEW RELATIVES**

## Focus on 'Why?' 'How?' 'What?'

- · What were some of your mother's positive qualities?
- · What about negative qualities?
- · How did your mother meet your father?
- · What is your fondest memory of your mother or your grandmother?
- · As you think of your mother or grandmother, how do you remember her looking?
- · How old was she then?
- What did you call her?
- What did others call her?
- Tell me a story about your mother or grandmother that would characterize her or show me what kind of a woman she was.





Q: What did Uncle Burt (Dudek) do for a living?

"Uncle Burt got out of the military and toured around the country as a barnstormer. He'd organize the show and Aunt Kate (his wife) would sell tickets." – Interview with Dorothy Dudek September 1992

# **Family Documents**

Look around the house (or a relative's house ) for documents such as:

- Vital Records
  - Birth/Marriage/Death Certificates, Divorces, Baptisms, etc.
- Geographic Location
  - Maps, City Directories, Phone Books
- Legal and Municipal Obligations
  - Wills, Probates, Land Sales, Tax Rolls, Juror Lists, Voters Registrations, Lawsuits
- Military Service
  - Service Records, Draft Records, Pensions
- Immigration
  - Passenger Lists, Naturalizations, Passports
- Daily Routine and Community Life
  - Local & Regional Newspapers, Social organizations, church membership, fraternal organizations

All these factors help piece together your family's personal experiences





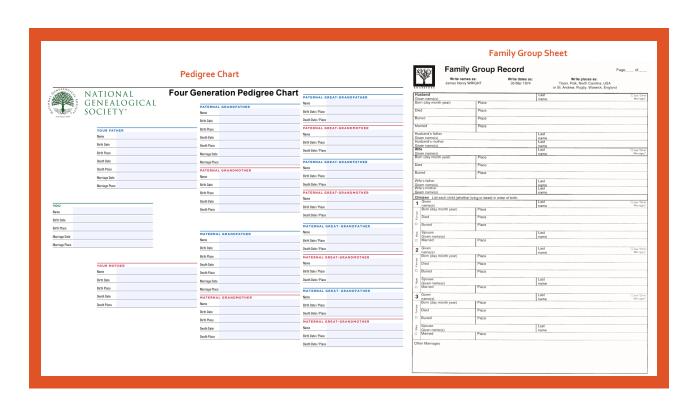
The farm of Frank and Anna (Kucera) Dudek circ 1905. They purchased this 100 acre farm in 1903 after farming in Nebraska for twenty years.

# Genealogy Forms to Know

- Ancestor / Pedigree Charts
- Family Group Sheet
- Biographical Outlines
- Correspondence Record
- Research Log
- Relationship Chart
- Vital Records Chart







Q: What Type of Records Are Out There?

# A: ALL KINDS!



# Records To Use

- Birth/Marriage/Death
- Census Records (Geographic Location & More)
- Legal, Court, and Probate Records
- Maps
- Military Service Records
- Land Records
- Church Records
- Immigration Records
- Newspapers
- And Many, Many, More!

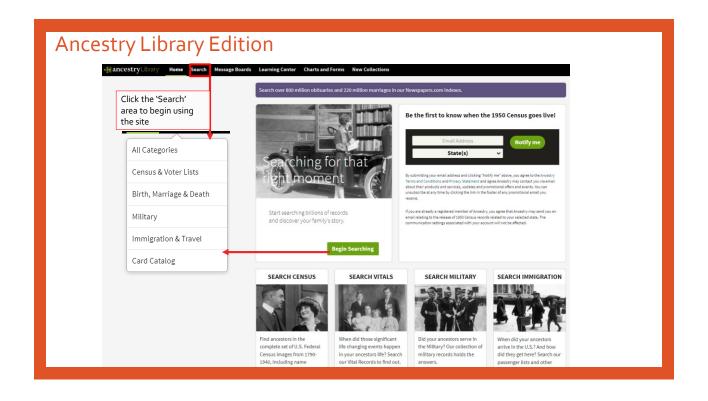


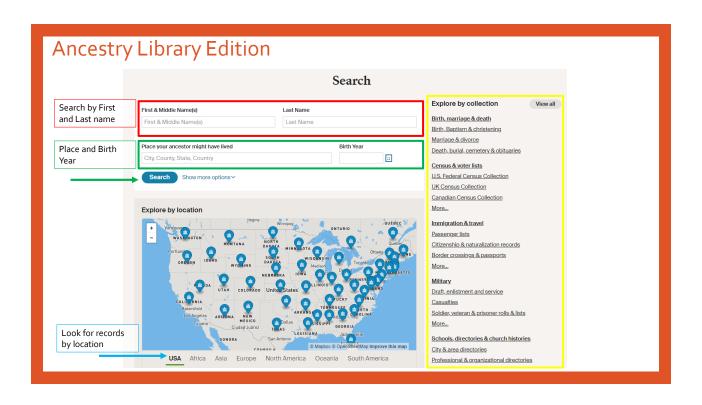
Sergeant Samuel Smith of the 119th US Colored Infantry, his wife Molle and their daughters Mary and Maggie

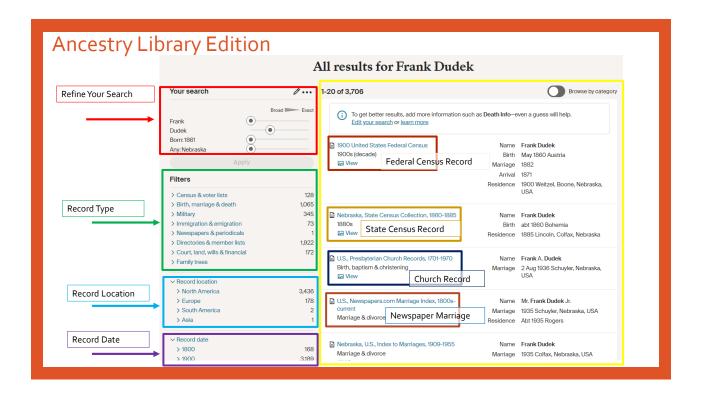
### Where Can I Find Records?

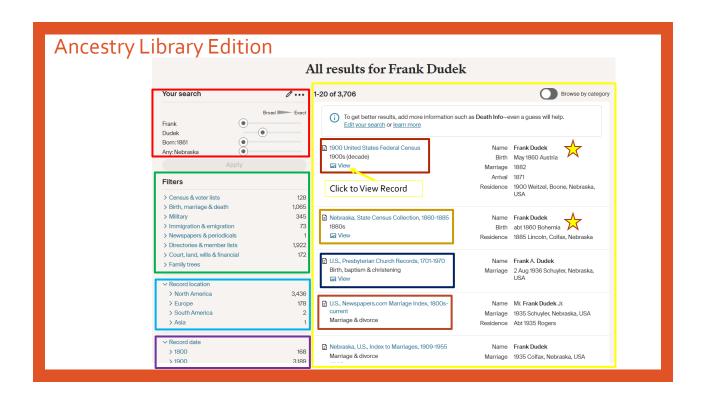
- Websites
  - Ancestry, FindMyPast, MyHeritage, Fold3, Internet Archive, HathiTrust, and a lot more!
- Books
  - Online and in-person research
- Libraries & Archives
- Local Government Offices
- Family Members
- Local Genealogical/History Societies
- Lineage Groups and Organizations

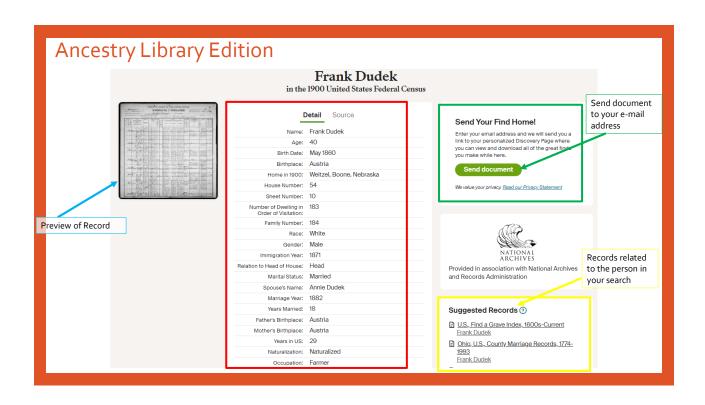


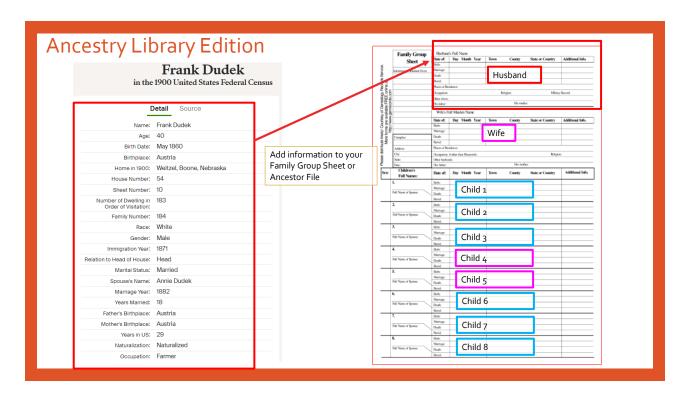












## Searching Online Websites

- Search broadly for records using:
  - First and last name
  - Location
  - Birth and death dates (if applicable)
- Be open to misspelled first and last names
  - Names may be recorded inaccurately for a variety or reasons
  - Nicknames, middle names, or initials may be recorded in documents
- Some records do not take death dates into account
  - Marriage records, yearbooks, draft cards, city directories, tax digests
- Narrow Searches
  - Search by surname only, first name only, or leave the name blank
  - Can also use an 'exact' option if offered by the site

## Searching Online Websites

#### Do not ignore siblings!

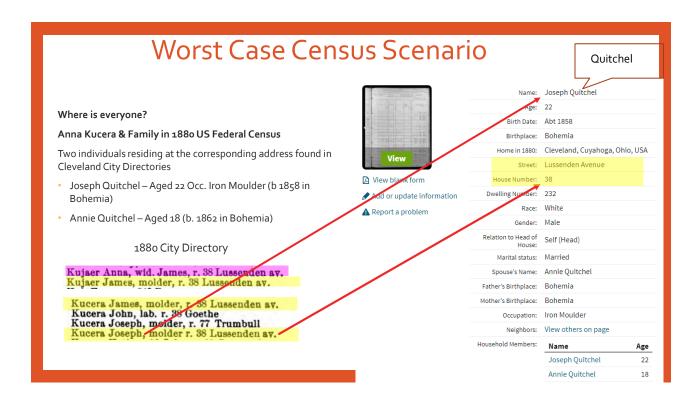
- Research beyond your direct ancestor
- Records may exist for a sibling instead of your direct ancestor
  - Places of birth (immigrant families)
  - Names of parents (in death records or registers)
  - Figuring out which 'John Smith' belongs to 'John Smith, Sr.'

#### Stop Looking for an Individual - Look for a Family Group

 First names may be misspelled or incorrect, so look for other family members

#### Stop Looking by Surname – Look for an Address

- Families living in large or mid-sized towns and cities will have a street address in US Federal Census Records 1880 onward
- The last name of the family may be misspelled beyond recognition



## Searching Online Websites

#### Keep track of records which look promising

 Keep a copy and information for records which are close, but more evidence is needed to confirm the information

#### Not everything you find online is correct

• Genealogy and Family History is filled with data which is unsourced and unsupported by documentation

#### Look through indexes which will lead you to other records

- Indexes for vital records, church records, and military records are very useful
- These indexes will provide certificate numbers and other information to request a copy of the record
- · Remember, women served in the military during WWI and onward

#### **Avoid These Mistakes!**

### The First Result in an Online Search May Not Be Correct!

- Evaluate Every Record
- Does the information in the record match what you have collected?
- Confirm the birth/marriage/death dates and family members connected in the document

### Ask what other records could you use to find the same information?

• Can you back this up with an obituary, will, probate, naturalization record, or supporting document?

## Do you already have a document in your family collection?

- Keeping an account of what you have at home can save time and money requesting copies
  - Do you know how long it takes to receive records from New York state?

#### **Avoid These Mistakes!**

#### Searching for women's Records

- Use a first and last name for women under the maiden name
- Use a first and last name for women under their married name
- Continue this for each successive marriage (if applicable)

#### Don't Ignore Unmarred Women and Widows

- Women lost considerable autonomy and legal rights upon marriage
- Unmarried women will keep their surname in all paperwork
- Widows generate a lot of courthouse and military pension paperwork

#### **Maiden and Married Names**

- Cultures document maiden and married names differently
- Women may wed a second or third spouse using their prior married name
  - Maribelle Freelove -> Maribelle Jackson -> Maribelle Andrews

### **Avoid These Mistakes!**

#### Only looking for exact names and dates

- Name spellings and nicknames change over time, and not all dates collected on documents is correct
- Immigrant ancestors may have transitioned to an anglicized spelling to blend in with the community
  - Contrary to what you were have heard or were told, your ancestor's names were NOT changed at Ellis Island!

#### Save Your Work!

 Your computer may crash or you could lose a flash drive, so back up your information to a cloud service or exterior hard drive

# Where Can I Go Besides Ancestry?

#### > Family Search <a href="http://www.familysearch.org/">http://www.familysearch.org/</a>

• Top free website which offers access to genealogical records, education, and software

#### >Internet Archive <a href="http://www.archive.org">http://www.archive.org</a>

• Huge site of digitized resources found in libraries and archives from around the world

#### > National Archives (US) <a href="http://www.archives.gov/genealogy/">http://www.archives.gov/genealogy/</a>

 Government agency charged with the preservation and documentation of government and historical records

#### > Library of Congress <a href="https://www.loc.gov/">https://www.loc.gov/</a>

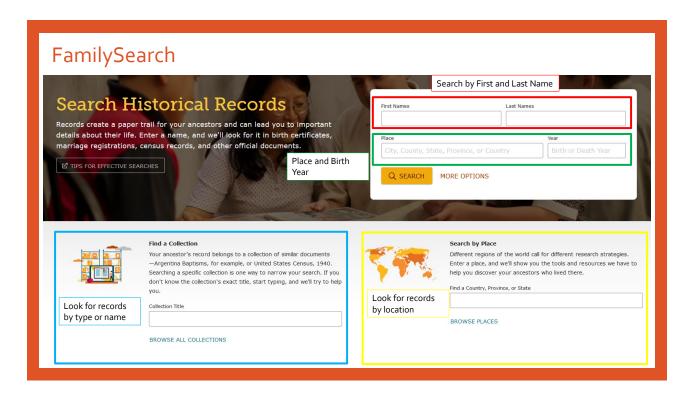
• Official research library of the US Congress and the de facto national library of the country

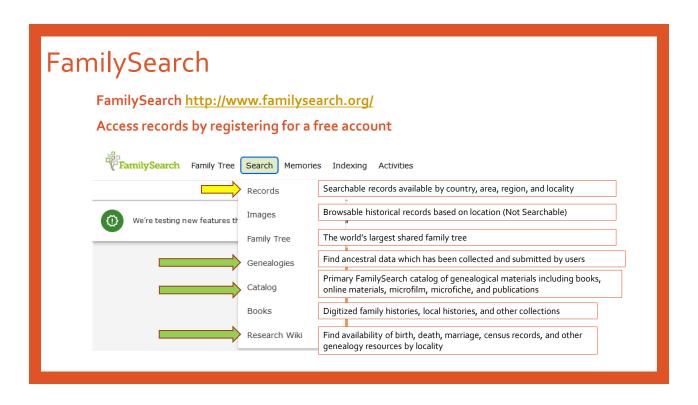
#### >GoogleBooks <a href="http://books.google.com">http://books.google.com</a>

• Service that searches the full text of books and magazines that Google has scanned and stored in its digital database

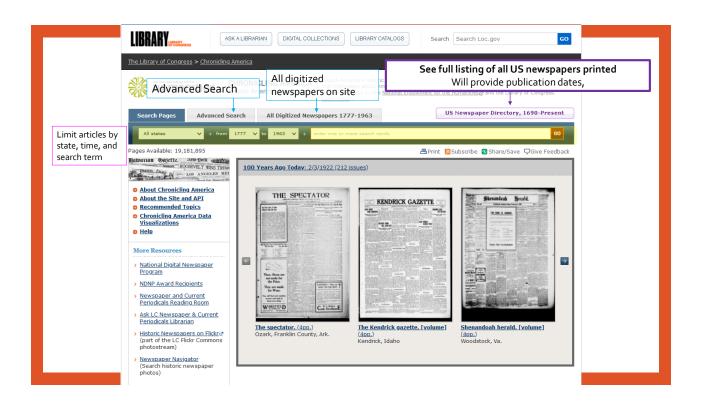
#### > HathiTrust https://www.hathitrust.org/

 A partnership of academic and research institutions, offering a collection of millions of titles digitized from libraries around the world









# Can I Use Other Subscription Sites?

#### > FindMyPast <a href="http://www.findmypast.com">http://www.findmypast.com</a>

 A top notch website specializing in records from the United Kingdom and Ireland. You won't find these records on Ancestry!

#### > MyHeritage <a href="http://www.myheritage.com">http://www.myheritage.com</a>

Huge site of digitized resources specializing in European records and photo enhancement software

#### > RootsIreland <a href="http://www.rootsireland.ie">http://www.rootsireland.ie</a>

• One of the three top Irish genealogy websites online consisting of transcribed records from all counties except for Cork, Kerry, and Dublin.

#### > ArkivDigital <a href="https://www.arkivdigital.net/">https://www.arkivdigital.net/</a>

Access to 91 million images of Swedish church and historical records for family history research.

#### > American Ancestors - <a href="https://www.americanancestors.org/">https://www.americanancestors.org/</a>

 New England Historic Genealogical Society's website contains over a billion records from around the United States.

#### > Newspapers.com - <a href="http://www.newspapers.com">http://www.newspapers.com</a>

• Home to more than 566 million digitized newspaper images and more than 16,000 newspapers dating back to the 1700s.

Q: Where Can I Go to watch free webinars?



# YouTube

But there are a ton of other places too!

# Free Online Genealogy Classes

FutureLearn - <a href="http://www.futurelearn.com">http://www.futurelearn.com</a>

> Free online classes from colleges and universities all over the world. Best known for its Genealogy, Irish Language and History, and Paleographic courses

BYU Family History Library Classes & Webinars - https://fh.lib.byu.edu/classes-and-webinars/

- > BYU offers a combination of free online courses and webinars to assist you with your research. They also offer special classes on specific genealogy records and regional genealogy topics.
- > YouTube Channel https://www.youtube.com/c/BYUFamilyHistoryLibrary

#### Conference Keeper - https://conferencekeeper.org/

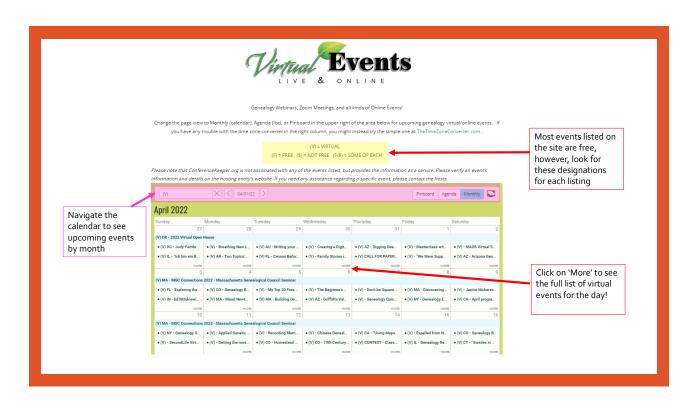
> Conference Keeper is a calendar of genealogy events and conferences organized on a single organized website. There is an option to view virtual-only events and enjoy programs online from home.

Cyndi's List of Genealogical Online Courses and Webinars -

https://www.cyndislist.com/education/online-courses-and-webinars/

> Compiled list of sites offering programs and learning opportunities for genealogical research. Includes paid and free sites.









Q: Do I Need Special Computer Software?



# YES!

# Good news, some of them are free!

# **Genealogy Software**

My Heritage Family Tree Builder (Free)

• http://www.myheritage.com/family-tree-builder

Family Tree Maker (Ancestry \$\$) http://familytreemaker.com/

#### FREE ONLINE FAMILY TREES

FamilySearch - <a href="http://www.familysearch.org">http://www.familysearch.org</a>

Geni - <a href="http://www.geni.com/">http://www.geni.com/</a>

MyHeritage Family Tree - <a href="http://www.myheritage.com/">http://www.myheritage.com/</a>

# Where Do I Go If I Need Help?

- Go to your local library
- Make an appointment with a knowledgeable librarian!
- Take free online genealogy classes
- Visit the local Family History Center
  - Naperville Family History Center
  - 1320 Ridgeland Ave, Naperville, Illinois 60563
  - Phone: (630) 505-0233 Hours: Tues-Thur 9-9; Fri-Sat 9-4
- Genealogical Clubs and Society Programs
  - Fountaindale Library Genealogy Club (2nd & 4th Wednesdays of the Month)
  - Fox Valley Genealogical Society <a href="http://ilfvgs.org">http://ilfvgs.org</a>
  - Dupage County Genealogical Society http://www.dcgs.org
  - CAGGNI (Computer Assisted Genealogy Group Northern Illinois) http://cagqni.shuttlepod.org

## Questions?

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