Genealogy on the Personal Computer

GETTING STARTED IN GENEALOGY

- Courses through Fairfax County Adult Education
- Included using the National Archives (NARA) in downtown Washington, D. C.
- Census Records! – one of your most important assets
- Our class included finding our first relative in the Census Records – very exciting!

CENSUS RECORDS

- Made copies
- Microfilm was scratched – so was the copy (looked very bad)
- Lousy copies – dark and hard to read
- Collected other family information (or families)
- Began to organize data
- Generated lots of additional pieces of paper
- Purchased Family Tree Maker for Windows (FTM
- Purchased additional CD-ROMS of other information (marriages in southern states)
- Al Gore hadn't invented the Internet yet so CD-ROMS were the next best thing
- Used FTM Research Journal and CD's
- FTM Grew, Developed Web Site for online users
- Members contributed to World Family Tree
- Found additional family facts
- Al Gore finally invented the Internet and I searched it
- Finally noticed the additional "clutter" I collected over time in genealogy
- Could NOT stay organized
- Searching multiple family lines was confusing
- Learned to use Correspondence Log to document snail mail progress
- Discovered multiple relatives with similar or same surname
- Repeated given names within surnames
- Uncles, cousins, brothers all had similar names and initials – how confusing!
- Needed system to keep things organized
- Needed to visit historical locations
- What do I need to take?
- How many copies of things do I need?
- Where do I keep the Census record for Uncle, Grandfather? His family unit or where? Do I need a copy in both places?
- Help me, help me, someone please help me…
- I developed some basic tools for my use in organization
- FamilyLine sheet <Surname Line> using tables in MS Word
- TimeLine document, Visio first then MS Word

- That wasn't enough – needed more help getting organized
- Ancestor Detective — Clooz
- Clooz in *NOT* a genealogy program
- Clooz is an organization program to organize stuff – personal office, genealogy items, and magazine collection, almost anything
- It was developed by a professional genealogist. CGRS, CGL
- I highly recommend it!

SEARCHING ON LOCATION
- Analyze what you have and what you know
- Decide what you are going to search for before you leave home
- What resources you need to take with you
- Who else in your family line can you research while in that location?
- Know political history of the county
- The parent county may keep the records you need
- Several items may be obtained from home before you depart
- Write for as much as you can before your trip
- Use correspondence log to track your requests and progress
- Learn the law and customs in your targeted area
- Laws and records vary greatly by state and county
- Knowing how transactions are handled will prevent errors later

PREPARE BEFORE YOU GO
- Organize your materials. Only take copies
- Never take original source documents
- Use an on-the-road filing system
- Pedigree Charts
- Family group sheets
- Census record summaries (from Census Tools)
- Etc. anything else you might need
- Also take one or more general-use folders
    - County by county list of all surnames in progress
    - County information with maps, history, parent county, etc.
    - Information on libraries, facilities & genealogy associations in the area
    - Correspondence with local officials and other local researchers
    - Take some 9-by-12 inch envelopes to hold loose things like a drawer at home
- Your folders will act as your file. Take a "drawer" for them – a canvas tote
- Always mark everything with name, address and phone number
- Keep pill bottles for coins for phone, drinks and snacks
- Keep good supply of medications for trip
- Good digital camera, cell phone, and Laptop
- Review the article on the DOM for more details and suggestions

GENELINES

- Found a program that does a better job of creating a timeline
- Genelines from Progeny Software
- "Reads" your genealogy database directly
- Makes data available inside Genelines
- You can create timeline on any family
- Overlay historical technical facts to timeline as desired
- Genelines helps by showing missing dates and estimated dates based on established events
- Viewing the timeline can help identify an incorrect life span
- Which Census rolls should be checked
- Which family members should be on a particular census
- Individual Biographical Chart –depicts the life events of an individual in categories such as occupation, health, residence, and so on…
- Comparative Biographical Chart – An age-based chart comparing the life events of two or more individuals
- Relationship Charts
  - Pedigree Chart shows the life spans of an individual's ancestors across a timeline for as many generations as desired
  - Direct Line Chart displays the direct family line between a chosen individual and a direct descendant (or ancestor) on a timeline
  - Full Descendant Chart shows all the descendants of a chosen subject, for as many generations as selected and available in your database
  - Family Group Chart depicts the children, spouses and parents of a selected ancestor across a timeline
  - Fan Chart plots an individual's maternal and paternal lineages by birth for a selected number of generations
- Reports
  - Text View Report provides a text version of any timeline chart and lists, in chronological order, events and dates for people along with applicable notes and sources
- Summary – Genelines is a great additional program than helps provide insight and understanding to your genealogical research and data.