Some of the more interesting bits of researching our families are the stories that we hear and the stories that we discover. Through the documents, it is often us, the researcher, who weaves those stories from the names, dates, places from those documents we discover while doing family history. The stories create the memorable bits of our family; the bits that can often get an “oh my gosh – I need to run they are going to talk about genealogy” relative interested in family history enough to say “hey that IS a cool document.” You know then you have accomplished one of the most important goals of researching our families; passing on those family stories.....with documentation.

These sources presented are geared toward that goal, getting the uninterested interested. These sources offer unusual sources for documentation that accomplish the specific task of family history research – placing an individual in a specific time period, in a specific place. Beyond the usual places to look, these and other types of beyond the normal resources offer interest to those boring family charts.

Although specific sources are listed in the bibliography for each record group, please do remember do go to the internet and keyword search specific terms. Visit FamiySearch.org for digitized tax records or census records. Don’t forget to use genealogy periodicals. Many unusual lists end up in genealogy magazines. Look in odd places, archives, and local court houses for unusual tax documents. Consider society at the time you are researching to discover what other unusual type of records might have been accumulated.

This presentation just covers a few “unusual sources.” Thinking about ones life, what one did during that life can generate other information and maybe documents about an individual that brings life to that person, creates stories about how our families interacted in history. As you look at the “usual” documents, read more into them, study them and wonder what other pieces of information can you look for to give that ancestor a story.

**ARTIFICIAL LIMBS / UNITED STATES CIVIL WAR**

On both sides of the conflict, soldiers were killed and soldiers were maimed. Response to those maimed was to provide, as much as possible artificial limbs, replacing those appendages lost during the War serving for the cause. Documents survive in Federal Government document repositories, at state archives and in published sources. Digital images are also available on the internet.

In 1862, the US Government established a board of physicians to select replacement limb designs to provide to military amputees. This board was also set up to distribute the funds for the manufacture of these limbs. Northern firms, most notable the Palmer company, were in competition with one another to provide the appendages.
The southern program was established much later in the War and fell on many insurmountable difficulties, ending in the provision of fewer limbs than anticipated. In 1864 when the South began the project, currency was inflated, and there were few in any limb replacement businesses located in the south. The southern program, was funded by state and county governments and through donations.

The process of identifying if in fact your ancestor was wounded in battle begins with searching for military service records and/or pension records. These documents can offer information into the time spent as a soldier, engagements and wounds received. Many service records and pension files have been digitized via Ancestry.com, Fold3 and at Familysearch.org. Those not digitized might reside at the National Archives (www.archives.gov) or at state archives in the case of Confederate soldiers.


“Google Images ‘Artificial Limbs’ ‘Us Civil War.’” Google Search, Google, www.google.com/search?source=univ&tbm=isch&q=%22artificial%2Blimbs%22%2B%22us%2Bcivil%2Bwar%22&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwjF-5zfmqvrAhXaVs0KHF2QAiMQsAR6BAgKEAE&biw=1536&bih=722&dpr=1.25


**DEFECTIVE, DELINQUENT, DEPENDENT CENSUS (DDD)**

In addition to the federal population schedules, there are other, not so common schedules that were also accumulated in federal census years. Called “supplemental” or “The Non-population Schedules,” these censuses, the Agricultural censuses, and Mortality Schedules all cover 1850 – 1880, while the Manufacturing censuses covers 1820, 1850 – 1880. The Defective Delinquent and Dependent supplemental schedule is only 1880. Many of these supplementals are digitized and put on line at Ancestry.com or FamilySearch, yet, especially the DDD many still reside in archives and libraries on microfilm not digitized. A search online of your state archives of interest should be engaged. Some may also be held at major universities.

The supplemental DDD schedule is only found for the 1880 Federal Population Census. These 5 affliction columns in the 1880 Population Census can lead to other avenues of research via the DDD supplemental schedule. Please note that affliction questions were asked in other population censuses also, yet supplemental DDD schedules do not exist for those years.

As a supplement to the Federal Population Census, when one finds hash marks in the columns on the 1880 population census in the correct places, one should follow through and examine the DDD census. Telling if one is insane; an idiot; a deaf-mute; blind; a pauper or indigent person; homeless child; or a
prisoner might offer clues behind the story in the “comment” column. Statements such as “Went blind from a broken heart” or “burned with hot oil, rendered cripple” is a much more of a family history story and far beyond just a birth, date, and marriage date.

In addition to this special federally supported census, many state governments took census of individuals in care of the state. These lists can be found published in books, in periodicals, on microform, in state government documents and digitally.


Microform. Records of the Kalamazoo County Clerk, 1845-1930. (n.d.): 3 mss. boxes 17v records housed at the archives and regional history collections, Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, MI "Archvies control number: rg 68-98"


WorldCat www.worldcat.org

**DOG TAXES**

Livestock is paramount to a family’s survival. Often roaming dogs killed or maimed sheep, chicken, calves, and many other farm animals. History shows most dogs were allowed to roam freely. At one point, individuals who suffered livestock losses because of these roaming dogs could demand reimbursement from local governments. Local governments in turn collected a tax from dog owners. Many of these lists can be found on property tax or other miscellaneous tax lists.

Perusing the FamilySearch catalog by keyword “dog tax” returns records for England some dating back to 1599, while in the United States, some date back to 1774 in Maine. The earliest known documentation of dog licenses was in 1446 in Utrecht, Holland. The fee was paid in salt.

Pennsylvania passed its’ first dog tax law in 1807 to help control dogs and compensate settlers for damage to livestock caused by canines. Often, tags were issued when paying taxes. The shapes and composition of these tags have changed over the years, becoming collectable items.


**FAMILYSEARCH DIGITAL LIBRARY**

FamilySearch Digital Library is a collection of more 500,000 digitized genealogy and family history publications from the archives of some of the most important family history libraries in the world. The collection includes family histories, county and local histories, genealogy magazines and how-to books, gazetteers, and medieval histories and pedigrees...all the types of books family history researchers use in the pursuit of a personal past.

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