Information About Ancestors
What Do You Want to Know?

- Vitals (birth/baptism, marriage, death, burial)
  - The Basics: Who, What, When and Where?
- Exactly where did they live and history of place
- Serve in military?
- The person's character and prosperity
- Migration; Foreign Town of Origin

Where to look for it

- Other genealogies (Has it already been done?)
- Partial pedigrees: Individual submissions
- Books, periodicals, newspapers, letters
- Database transcriptions: find original record

Has it already been done?*

- First: talk to all the relatives to learn
  - Who, when, where, tales, photos, relationships
  - Sometimes: your only source, possibly best one
- Research Web for Genealogies (general searches)
  - LDS on-line: http://familysearch.org and
    “Library” tab: connects surnames to places
  - Ancestry World Family Tree: 400 million names
  - HeritageQuest: PERSI; 25K Gen/Hist Books

* Have you found the original document?
  - genealogy books, on-line, hearsay are secondary sources
Surname Searching
Search “all” pertinent databases for surnames

- Social Security Death Index: http://ssdi.rootsweb.com
- Local databases (where your ancestor lived), use
  - http://usgenweb.org (county) find local databases
  - BYU: http://www.lib.byu.edu/fhc LDS genealogies
  - also http://gencircles.com
- Surname or “surname family”+ place (year?) on
  http://google.com or http://google.com + images:
  http://www.google.com/imghp?hl=en&tab=wi&q=
- MyHeritage http://www.myheritage.com free
  -- searches >400 web databases at once (must login)
- Godfrey Library: http://godfrey.org many local links

Surname Searching
Some Additional Databases for Surnames

- Key database links on class page - middle frame
- Census Name Distribution (1850, 1880, 1920, 1990):
  http://hamrick.com/names “All Years” for migration
- Regional databases, e.g. http://newenglandancestors.org
- Foreign databases: e.g. http://worldgenweb.org
  - Godfrey Library: http://godfrey.org
- Immigration: ancestry.com passenger lists
  - Castle Garden 1830-1913 http://www.castlegarden.org
  - Ellis Island 1892-1924 http://www.ellisislandrecords.org