"My Elusive Ancestor" by Merrell Kenworthy

I went searching for an ancestor, I cannot find him still.
He moved around from place to place and did not leave a will.
He married where a courthouse burned, He mended all his fences.
He avoided any man who came to take a census.
He always kept his luggage packed, this man who had no fame.
And every 20 years or so, this rascal changed his name.
I'm told he's buried in a plot, with tombstone he was blessed.
But the weather took engraving, and some vandals took the rest.
He died before the county clerks decided to keep records.
No Family Bible has emerged, in spite of all my efforts.
To top it off this ancestor, who caused me many groans,
Just to give me one more pain, betrothed a girl named JONES.

Genealogical Research Methods

Getting Started

http://copland.udel.edu/~tdoherty

Some Ground Rules

• Come and go as you please.
• Ask questions when you have them.
• I don’t know everything, so please contribute to discussion.
• Tell me what topics you want covered.
• Add email to class list (yellow page) I’ll keep you informed.

Finding Your Family Roots

is like assembling a giant jigsaw puzzle ...
but first you have to find all the pieces.

Why Do Genealogy?

◆ My kids are asking questions.
◆ Why am I like I am – genetic?
◆ What are my genetic health risks?
◆ I love talking to my relatives.
◆ I want to add previously unknown relatives to my circle of friends.
◆ It’s a sense of belonging.
... but only 20% really get involved.

Why Do Genealogy? (cont.)

◆ I enjoy the hunt – it’s fun!
◆ I need to exercise my mind.
◆ I want to travel to where I can stand on my ancestor’s ground.
◆ Details, details, details: it’s my thing!
◆ I love old attics and musty books.
◆ I choose libraries over sunshine.
◆ It’s for me: I never finish anything!

Genealogy Is a Game

You must outwit, outplay and outlast centuries of misfortune, incompetence and deceit ...
but it’s fun and challenging!

Getting Started

Do the Easy Stuff First

◆ Talk or write to your relatives
  - forms: pedigree, family groups
◆ Organize your information: pedigree
  - genealogical software: FTM
◆ Who else is working on your family?
  - web resources – amazing finds

Always

◆ Record your sources of information.
◆ Confirm with the original record.
  - Record made at time of event
◆ Seek confirmation of original record.
  - Did recorder have reason to lie?