

### Genealogy 101

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### Definition of Genealogy

- Study of Families and tracing their lineages and history
- Genealogists use oral traditions, historical records, genetic analysis, etc
- Results are often displayed in charts or written as narratives



### Differentiation

- Genealogy account of kinship
- Family History -added details about lives



### Two Levels of Genealogists

- Hobbyist
- · Professional



### Motivations

- Desire to organize family relationships
- Sense of responsibility to preserve past
- Honor ancestors
- · Self-satisfaction, curiosity
- Achieve accuracy in storytelling



### Question of the Day

# What do I wish I had learned back in kindergarten?

- Where to start
- Norwegian naming systems
- Recording data issues

- Tools of the trade
- Sources of information
- Documentation



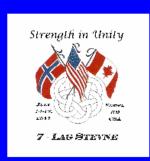
#### WHERE TO START

- Start in the USA
- Focus on older living relatives first
- Then go across to Norway



#### NORWEGIAN NAMING SYSTEM

- First name
- Patronymic name
- Geographic name
- Surname



### Norwegian Naming System First Name

- First name = baptized name = legal name
- Ancestral lists are sorted by first name
- First names are often named after grandparents
  - Paternal
  - Maternal
- Names of deceased aunts/uncles also popular
- If child dies, next born of same gender given same name



## Norwegian Naming System Patronymic Name

- Name of father followed by "sen" or "datter"
  - Ericson, Helgeson, Helleckson, Johnson, etc
  - Ericsdatter, Johnsdatter, Olsdatter, etc
- · "sen" vs "son"
  - "sen" most popular in Norway, Denmark
  - "son" mostly in Finland, Sweden, Iceland
- Often altered later (Americanized)



## Norwegian Naming System Geographic Name

- To distinguish between two Ole Larsons in the same church, they would enter a geographic name after a name in the register, like
  - Ole Larson fra Bergerud
  - Ole Larson fra Eidal
- Geographic name could be farm or place name
- Note that if you moved to a different place, your geographic address name would change



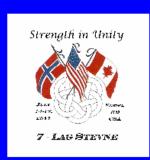
### Norwegian Naming System Surnames

- Immigrants had to register with a surname or <u>last</u> name when they arrived in America
- · Surnames often used were:
  - Patronymic name
  - Place name, like farm name
- · Sometimes ancestor "borrowed" name
  - Place that a person had worked or associated with
  - Place with a name ancestor simply liked or added prestige
  - Place that added stature to the ancestor
- Farmers moving to city often avoided farm name



### Norwegian Naming System More on Surnames

- In Norway, government didn't start to promote surnames until the late 1800's
- Women were asked to use "son" rather than "datter"
- In 1923, surnames became compulsory in Norway
- · In Iceland, the first name still rules



## Norwegian Naming System Spellings

- Could easily change over time
- In Norway, there were no pension or assistance programs in jeopardy if you change your name
- Spelling often changed to just to become more American
- People would change spelling if someone "higher" up or more educated spelled it different
- Spelling (or even names) could change to differentiated oneself from relatives they have disagreements with



## Norwegian Naming System Examples

- · Helge vs Henry
- · Gunderson vs Lillemoen
- · Lillemoen vs Lillemon
- Hellickson vs Helleckson
- Evavold vs Thamnes
- Snersrud



#### RECORDING DATA ISSUES

- Places
- Sorting of Names
- Date System
- · Norwegian Alphabet



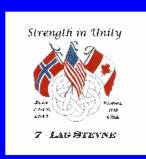
### Recording Data Issues Places

- List in order of small to large
  - Farm, parish, county, country
  - City, county, state, country
    - · Same for twp, hospital, church cemetery, etc
- Doing so can eliminate need to enter words like city, county, state, parish, etc.
- Refrain from using abbreviations
  - North Dakota, not ND



## Recording Data Issues Sorting of Names

- Software allows for sorting on first name or last name
- If you want to be able to sort on patronymic name, use backslash (\)
  - Ole \Helgeson Brevig\ = Helgeson Brevig, Ole
- Otherwise, if "place name" is not a surname, enter "place name" in "place" box
- Some enter surnames in ALL CAPS



## Recording Data Issues Date Systems

- Day-month-year 07 Jan 11
- Year-month-day (1925/07/27)
- · Three letter month (Jan, Feb, Mar)
- · Two digit vs four digit year
- · Using abt, bef, aft, btw



## Recording Data Issues Norwegian Alphabet

- Norwegian has special letters
  - å, ø, æ
  - Use them for persons before they immigrated
  - On computer, toggle to Norwegian keyboard
  - Still used today
- Note that Internet based on 26 letters
  - å becomes aa



### TOOLS OF THE TRADE

- Back of napkins
- Handwritten Notes
   & Sketches
- Preprinted forms
- Computer
  - Word processing
  - Genealogy software

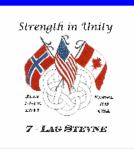
- Audio tape recorders
- Still camera
- Video camera
- Portable Scanner
- Internet
  - Email
  - Web Sites



### SOURCES OF INFORMATION

- Face to face interviews
- Family reunions
- Library
- Family Bibles
- Old Photos
- Join a Lag
- Lag books
- Bydeboks
- Genealogy done by others. Internet
- Passenger lists

- Church Records
- Obituaries
- Cemeteries
- Death notices
- Social Security Records
- Military records
- Organizations
- Museums
- Hiring professional help



### Sources of Information Old Photos



Scan both front and back

If you carry along your own scanner, you can scan and return original to owner immediately





#### Sources of Information

### Accuracy of Data

- Birth/baptism records better than obituary/tombstones for birth dates
- Marriage certificates better than obituaries
- Accuracy, hi to low
  - Civil or government records
  - Church records
  - Family records
  - Family knowledge
  - State or fed census
  - Court records



## Sources of Information Interviewing Issues

- Need to be sensitive and understanding
- Some things they will tell you; other things they will not tell you
- Some things they will be honest about; other things the will bend truth on or even lie about
- Some things they assume you know already so you really have to be inquisitive



### Sources of Information Translations

- If an internet site is in Norwegian, copy and paste the link (internet site address)
- · Go to www.google .com
- Click on more, then translate
- Enter From: Norwegian, To: English
- Paste in your copied internet site
- Click on Translate
- It may not be perfect, but it will help



#### DOCUMENTATION

- · Record source of all information
- Backup your data on CD's or flash drives
- · Hard copy material? Duplicate it
- · Share, share, share



#### SUMMARY

- Norwegian naming system is really not that difficult, in fact, when it was consistently applied, it helps you
- · In recording data, be consistent
- Assume you work will be passed down over time, so be complete
- Resource everything
- Have Fun!



# Best Kept Secret in Norwegian Genealogy...

http://digitalarkivet.uib.no

Note: Links to other great Internet sites are on the Lag Web Sites



# Thanks for your attention

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