

The Genealogy Game Show

Presented by Robert Raymond, of FamilySearch International

Robert.Raymond@familysearch.org

Introduction

Think you can read a census record? Can you properly interpret old documents? Does accessing records online have special pitfalls? Come and quiz yourself. This class provides a fun way for beginners to learn, experienced genealogists to review, and advanced genealogists to challenge their knowledge of interpreting records and genealogical skills. It's a good thing that genealogists love to learn. There is so much to know and we depend heavily on each other.

Give yourself +1 point if you have a right answer and +1 additional point if you already understood the concept.

Question	Answer and Notes	Points
True/False: Individuals in U.S. census records are grouped by family		
True/False: A census household can have only one "Head"		
What are the issues involved in identifying the last child of a family?		
Do you think the family on the census page shown has no head?		
Have you tried out pilot.familysearch.org ?	If you have, give yourself a bonus of 3 points.	
Can the family number listed in the left column be out of order?		
Have you participated in FamilySearch Indexing?	If you have, give yourself a bonus of 5 points. If not, sign up now at indexing.familysearch.org	
True/False: The age given in the U.S. census is always given in whole numbers		
You print a snippet of a census image. Later you examine it and ask, "What do I lack to be able to tell when these people were born?"		
When were they born if aged 50 in the 1850 census?		

Question	Answer and Notes	Points
What is the correct spellings of the wife's given name in the sampler of Chester Goodale ?		
In a census, are inhabitants ever listed in the wrong place?		
When records are microfilmed, is the page order of the originals maintained?		
Are those listed in the census present on the "enumerated by me on the" date?		
In the 1860s, did the term "insane" mean mentally ill?		
What is meant by "census bonuses?"		
What is the meaning of the dates shown in the 1860 Nankin, Michigan example?		
What is the name of the person shown from that example?		
True/False: "French Woman" was from France		
Is it possible for a search to return all the residents from the poor house example?		
Who is buried in Grant's tomb ? (You Bet Your Life)		
What is the maiden name of the person buried here?		
Is a headstone proof of a burial location?		
When was the 1850 census taken?		
<p>In the example of the Samuel Williams family in Salt Lake in 1850:</p> <p>Is Newman Rebecca's son? What is his last name?</p> <p>Is Louisa Rebecca's daughter? What is Louisa's last name?</p>		
T/F: Records of marriages for those over 90 or 100 years of age are erroneous		
What is provenance?		

What is the worst-case information provenance of U.S. census indexes published by FamilySearch? In other words, what are the copies that exist between you and the informant? A single-letter hint is given for each copy. (+2 point for each) Think about it. As each copy was made, errors could have been introduced.

Copy #	Answer and Notes	Points
1	E	
2	F	
3	M	
4	D	
5	I	
6	A	
7	A	
8	T	
9	R	

Reliable records are extremely important for genealogy research. But in order to trust the information from records you must:

- Search all reliable records, within reason
- As you gather information, record the source, with comments about record anomalies
- Compare information from multiple records to determine record accuracy
- Investigate reasons for conflicting records
- Add notes in your genealogy software explaining your conclusions about conflicting records

See “The Genealogical Proof Standard,” web page, *Board for Certification of Genealogists* (www.bccertification.org/resources/standard.html : accessed 19 February 2009).

For additional helps with specific records and research strategies, consult the FamilySearch Wiki at wiki.familysearch.org.