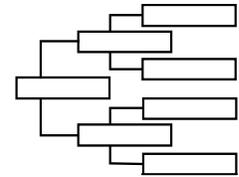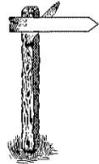# Foundations of Family History
0586

GCCC Education Encore, Spring 2010
William Zehner, CG^{SM}

Jan 22: Getting Started

We begin with ourselves, reviewing any old photos, newspaper clippings, and letters that we may have inherited. Then we interview our closest relatives, squeezing out every possible bit of firsthand knowledge and family traditions. We also learn how to record dates, places, and events on commonly-used forms and charts.

Jan 29: Organization and Note Taking

We continue to learn about what to record, how to keep track of what we know and what we need to do next. We are introduced to techniques for resolving conflicting information, reasons and standards for citing sources, and genealogy software.

Feb 5: 20th Century Records

Vital records, including birth, death, and marriage records, as well as obituaries, funeral records, and the Social Security Death Index will be covered in some detail, including the gradual progression of record stewardship from county jurisdiction to state authority.
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Feb 12: 19th Century Records

Of the dozens of record types that genealogists use, census records are the probably the most useful for establishing family relationships, residences, birth years, occupations, and more. Where to find and how to use census indexes and the Accelerated Indexing System.

Feb 19: Repositories in Your Home Town

What you can expect to learn without leaving your own home town from libraries, genealogical societies, courthouses and cemeteries. How to use the LDS Family History Center, including the International Genealogical Index (IGI) and other compiled databases and, most important, the FHL catalog.

Feb 26: Internet

Genealogical resources on the Internet continue to grow. We will learn how to find (1) *primary records*, such as land patents, immigration records, Revolutionary War Records, and maps; and (2) *finding aids*, like compiled genealogies, forums, and the FHL megasite. How to contact cousins, what to avoid, and how to judge what's authentic will be covered.

Course Outline: http://www.northwestfloridagenealogy.com/currentevents/courseoutline.html