Genealogy Workshop 2018 - Part 2 - Rebecca Knight

So the next topic is online sources for census schedules because they're much easier to use than any of the microfilm. I have not had any experience with existing print schedules. My sense is that everything from 1900 to 1940 the original paper schedules were destroyed because they had microfilm to them. Unfortunately microfilming was in its infancy back then and I'm sure we could have gotten better copies of records but I believe that was the decision. Find My Past - that is among the free records available - and I haven't done much investigating of it but from my quick look at it, it seemed to me that the census records were easier to search than they were in Ancestry. So I would recommend taking a look at both and seeing what you think. There are some others: Familysearch - it's a little bit hard to find from the Familysearch opening page so I've given you a link to the historical record collections. This would be a good time to take a look at Ancestry. You will see that there's a nice layout of basic kinds of records. The kinds of choices that you have in ancestry.com are different and maybe a little easier to work with. But, what we have here are - you can go directly into some of these major records. You can use their quick links to both miscellaneous things and US census records. And up here at the top you can click on the search menu and you can go to some of these same things that were listed before. But if you click on: "All Categories" you have Locations, you have the different states... Now these things will change, these options will change, as you go through a session. It will remember what you used last. First you get this list of records and what this is is a list of records that are Delaware records, plus databases that are larger and include information from all states, Delaware included. So this is an interesting list they have one of these obviously for each state, and then if you click on the: "See more About Delaware.", I think this is an interesting one. This is the list of things that are only Delaware.Sometimes this is a very interesting way to get started. The information that you have through here, for example, marriage records, death records, etc. All of those were filmed by Ancestry in an arrangement with the Delaware Public Archives. And they have filmed, I am told, they filmed a lot more record groups than are actually available. So at some point they will there will be more and more which is another reason you have to keep coming back and looking at things even if you've looked for them before. What's good about the way Ancestry does things (I'm just clicking on the record group) it has the "About this File" information so that's just a quick look at how you can find state-specific information.

Alright now, I'm going to go back to the beginning and take a look at a census search. Here you have information you can go directly into a particular census or you can go into "All". Just as a matter of giving you information about how the records are set up, that sort of thing, I am going to go into 1930. It gives me information about 1930 including access to a blank form, including what was unique about 1930, etc. So the information that they provide here is very good. Look at all this. And here's where you can download blank census forms. Kind of one-stop shopping here. Let's say for example, I decided that I was searching for Dick Clark and I want to search in the 1930 census. Now every time you're doing a search you need to start with what is it that you know? I might know any of several things. I might know that Dick Clark was really "Richard". Okay. Not a not a big one there. I would know I might know that he was from Westchester, New York. That his father's name is Richard. His mother's name is Julia. So there are a lot of different options there in the search form, which is wonderful. So I could be searching for Richard, and a lot of census records when the census enumerator was coming, they did not put in full middle names. Sometimes they put in the initial sometimes they didn't put in anything and you can see here it asked me: "Do I really want what I just typed in?", and in this case I'm going to say: "Exact", and in this case. But you'll notice that one of the options is: "Sounds like". So if you're looking for a name that's been spelled in a lot of different ways, the "Sounds Like" (when similar) are very good choices. But if you know what you're looking for you should start with that. In this case what I know is that he lived in Westchester, New York and it provides options for me, and I clicked the one that matches what I'm looking for. And in this case I'll click "Exact".

I happen to know that information. So I could put in "father", I could put in "mother"... I have these different options. "Relation to Head of House". Ancestry has a habit of giving you more than you really wanted. So let's see for example, by putting in the extra information I was able to narrow it down to 15 records. Yay! But if I were looking for someone and where they lived was really what I was looking for, and I put in Richard Clark, I would probably get thousands and thousands of records. So for the purpose of today's demonstration, I'm showing you what you can do if you have additional information. Then I'll have to scan down these and I'm looking for somebody whose name was Richard. Ooh look at that little pencil! Father: Richard, mother: Julia, etc, etc. Son of the head of household. Yay! And then I've got this: "View Record" which is brief information. Again this is something that I might photocopy, sorry, download, take a screenshot of for my records. I'm a little compulsive about records. And then I can go in and view the actual record. Ancestry has added, a few years back, this feature where they're highlighting the one you just picked the record of. That is very useful. Here you have all of the information. You've got a smaller copy of a portion of this on your handout, and we can see that Julia was the wife and she was a homemaker. Because there are explanations for the abbreviations and all of that information. We can see that they rented a house and that they owned a radio.

Richard is listed as "four-twelfths years old". Because the question was how many years old is this person in your household? And the census people at one point told me: "Nobody writes down zero!" It's just apparently something people can't do. And so in this case the person wrote of a fraction. The questions over here show that Richard the father was involved in the cosmetics and manufacturing in the cosmetics industry, and a few other things. Right through here are what the census calls "Nativity Questions", so here's the birthplace of this person. Birthplace of the father and mother. Language spoken at home unless it's English. Blank is considered English. Alright so - let's go into "City Directories". You have "City Directories" on your table and you can very easily see that these things are fragile.This one says - because librarians like to be redundant - "Brittle use with care." So this is an example of something that cannot be fixed, cannot be repaired. It's just going to sit on the shelf until it disintegrates. What are the kinds of things we'll see when we look at city directories? One is that the paper is very fragile and that's because city directories were kind of like how we'd use phone books. Nobody really tried to preserve them or make them on, you know, any kind of binding or paper that would last through time it was really cheap paper easily published and they were discarded after the length of time just as we would have done with phone books. The interesting things that you're seeing in there is that most of the directories - there are some on each table - most of the directories are lists of people residential listing. Some of them are lists of businesses. And the businesses would be in order in a classification system just like in today's Yellow Pages. So these are the progenitors of phone books.

These were mostly done by companies who were interested in finding out who their advertisers were, who their business contacts would be, who the individuals are that they might be dealing with, so luckily for us some of them survived. Some of them are both residential and business, some of them are only business. And what you're noticing as you're looking at them is somebody got one that have words on the outside page? You want to hold yours up? Words on the outside page edges. Advertising - every single square inch that they could use Yes! Oh, and see on this side we got the undertakers - just in case you need one! When you open them up you're going to see that the information is brief and you would need to use the front of the book where it gives you the abbreviation for all of these - the explanation for all of these abbreviations. Southwest corner of probably Market & 7th. So what you've got is an invaluable look at who lived there at that time. Doesn't give you a whole lot of information, but if you're trying to track somebody it can be very useful. And you can go through in however many years are available, and build up some kind of picture. One of the things to keep in mind is that because the 1890 census was destroyed, sometimes this is your only source of information on people and where they lived. The unfortunate thing is that most of the time you are going to need to have an idea of what city directory to look in. There are very few things where you can do a search across a broad swath of places or times. Another thing that's

present in the directories is information about the town. About the parks and the churches and all of that, which can be very interesting. One of the articles that I read said that early immigrants liked to go to a church near where they lived. You know, that could be interesting. And another thing that they do is they have business ads. Some of them are fascinating. My colleague was able to find a business ad from one of her relatives who owned a store.

You may not have that happy situation occur, but it even if you don't these ads can give you wonderful pictures of life in the times. And so here we have the Ridgeway Refrigerator from 1913. And if you look at it closely enough you will realize it is not electric. This is what I had always heard referred to as like a cool box or icebox something like that. But this was a earlier refrigerator. And so some of those things are really great for looking at the conditions of life. Going back to the research guide "City Directories" when they are available it's very useful to consult more than one directory because they may have different information in them. If there happen to be directories from two different publishers. And an interesting thing about looking for names in an alphabetical list is that this is a librarian speaking - there are rules for how you file or alphabetize names. One of the most befuddling rules to us today is the situation with "Mac". Now, many of you are familiar with the situation of "Mac". Sometimes they would take all the M-Cs and the all the M-A-Cs and read them as if they were "M" followed by nothing. So they would be at the front of the directory listing for "M"s. Sometimes they put "Mac" in the front but put M-A-C in the lists like after M-A-B, that sort of thing. So those are just some things to look for. You know, searching by names is not always the most straightforward. I have an example here of a business directory where we had gone to a city directory with residential listings and we had found out that our person is listed by (or) listed as: Occupation: Pipes. That was our beginning. Then we found a business directory for the same time period and we find out that pipes - as in "Smoking. Manufacturers of and dealers in." And here I thought we were talking about a plumber. You have to be careful about those as well.

All these interesting things that can happen. So here's the listing of churches it also has schools and hospitals. Other things like that. So they're very interesting in and among themselves. Hopefully you'll find your relatives or someone who lived next door, or something. But even if you don't, there's interesting information. There are online sources for directories: Ancestry Library Edition. They call the collection "City Directories of the United States". It's very helpful. And ancestry.com of course, and here are some other resources that you can go to. Among which are some digital collections. There is a listing on the beginners page about digital collections and where you might find some. These are some ideas, some of the more important digital collections. Sometimes these will show up on your Google search and sometimes they won't. So I've listed them here individually in case you want to give a try and see if the "1907 directory of those and such" is included. So there are some online resources. However, there are a lot of city directories that are not filmed or are filmed with imperfections. So what I did was I went through as best I could and made a listing of directories available for Delaware in their different formats. Here at UD the directories for Delaware are in the "Special Collections Department".

Therefore they are not out in the regular stacks and you can't just go and look at them. The directories that you have on their table none of those are from Delaware because they won't let them go out of the collection. What we've got is listing of print and microfiche and online as I put it together. Starting with 1814, that's the first thing in Delaware, it goes through different formats. This one for example is in Special Collections in print. This one is in microfilm. So it would take a lot and you have to do some searching to put all of this together. What is particularly interesting is the "City Directories Collection in Ancestry", which is the biggest online collection I know of that you can get to online. Well, because we have "Ancestry Library". I made a distinction here for you the name of the collection says its 1822-1995. But the years actually vary by state. In this listing I've got something here: "Incomplete". One of the directories I looked at I could search it. I searched - researchable - I could search by the name. And I didn't find anything for that name, and then you know I could go on to my next source. But then I decided I wanted to browse by the name. So I went to the residential listings and it was only

complete A-C. So no wonder I wasn't finding my "T"! There are inexplicable various things and for that particular directory I called "Special Collections" and their copy was complete. So there are various things where you need to be suspicious when you don't find things. "Special Collections" is upstairs (of the Morris Library), the second floor on that end of the building. There is a beautiful exhibit area of whatever they happen to be exhibiting at the moment - take a look at those. But when you go straight through the door there's a desk where you check in. And you request the particular item and you can't have any pens or anything that might damage the items - you can use pencils - and that's how you can read then in their reading room. So it's a little tricky and I would like to point out that if you are not doing your research in Delaware, there is a directory that we have that lists the publications that are still available of course, and those collections, the entries and those collections, can be borrowed but only if you are a UD person.

If you are a visitor to the library you can use the resources here but you are not entitled to use the resource called "Interlibrary Loan". That would be a good time for you to investigate your local public library and see if there are interlibrary loan resources available for you there. For example you could find out about a particular book. You know, the Macanitch family in Minnesota, or something. And we don't have it. You can find out from your public library, well you can find out from our catalog that it's available somewhere. You can go to your Public Library and request that they borrow it. They may not always be able to. A lot of these books will be in somebody's special collection or rare books collection. But it's certainly worth a try. You can also search for the name of the book and Google or Bing or whatever you use sometimes have luck with that. For any of you who are UD and you're looking for city directories they should be available in microfilm from our library subscription to CRL (Center for Research Libraries). So you can borrow the microfilm and it is just ever so much fun to sit there at a reader and you know kind of crank - I see you you've done it! - Yes! Kinda crank the microfilm, but if that's how you find it that's how you find it! There are very few directories available free online but the city directories are a very valuable collection. Here I go into Ancestry Library Edition, if you'd like to follow along or if you just like to watch. When you're looking at their featured collections you see "City Directories". Remember that Ancestry is a lot of resources around the world.

The U.S. City Directories, 1822-1995 is one of them. I'll just go ahead to that and not worry about other things. When I searched and all I knew about this person was that she would have been here in Delaware in the 1920s. So I can say, "Lived in" and I start. I don't know the city or town so I start with the state. 1,678 entries. And that's because I think I said to you that Ancestry tends to give you more than you really wanted. So if I were to scroll down this list I am going to find a certain point where these people are no longer in Delaware. They are trying to be helpful maybe there were some relationship to Delaware or whatever I don't know, but I was able to go through and at this point I'm just scanning to see if there's somebody in here who would have been there in 1920s. This is terrific because this is one of those places where you can search one of those resources where you can search more than one location in more than one year. Now the nice thing about them being online of course is that you can move the page around recenter it. You can enlarge it, which I'm pretty close to needing... And right there there's a tiny little marker for Anna -who is the widow of Jonathan, was the widow of Jonathan. She was I think a homemaker, and here's her address. Yaayy! At least it's some information. As I said if you add up years it even gives you a way to track information. When I went here and went to "City Directories" and went to the collection and looked to find the next person I didn't find anything. I was discouraged, but what I did is I chose to browse the collection. I went to Delaware. I knew that it was somewhere in the 1950s, and in the collection there actually, as you can see, are years that There are years that are not there. It's interesting because what was going on in that time period is they didn't publish them every year. So when you actually look at the title page of the directory it would say that it's the 1948-1949 directory something like that. So in this case I'm limiting it to a directory. What I did was go to the directory, and just browsed through the pages.

You can see it's got these tiny little filmstrips of the pages, and when I go a few dozen pages in I'm going to find that list of abbreviations. I'm going to find the title page so we can see what years it actually covers. And lists of
communities included in Delaware, you know, is pretty much all the same thing. In other states obviously you're going to find a directory that covered one town and then another. So that's how I found my second person, was browsing. The only way I knew how to do that was just to go along on the filmstrip and find my area. Alright so why don't you take a look - either in the print editions or in Ancestry Library -and see if you can find, for today's purposes because we're running out of time, see if you can find anybody with the surname you're searching. And if you would rather do something different you could go into "findmypast.com" Census Records - the free records - which the link is on the research guide, and see if you can find anybody you're looking for there.

Thank you everybody for coming today! Thank you!