

Are You My Grandpa? Men of the Same Name



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Community – Records - Methodology

A NAME IS NOT ENOUGH:

- Locations
- Occupations
- Social status & financial standing
- Handwriting & literacy
- Family & Community

STEPS TO COMPARING MEN OF THE SAME NAME:

1. Review & analyze known information; check facts in family legends
2. Create a timeline/chronology of persons with same name
3. Identify the community: relatives, associates, neighbors, witnesses
4. Identify places of residence, occupation
5. Pinpoint locations & maps
6. Collect signatures
7. Use checklists & finding aids for new ideas for records in the area
8. Identify socio-economic status
9. Use comparative tables to visualize commonalities or differences.
10. Have you done reasonably exhaustive research? Write a proof summary and it will give you the answer.

HELPFUL HINTS:

- Follow the Genealogical Proof Standard (GPS) - <http://bcgcertification.org/resources/standard.html>
- Cite all sources fully, *Evidence Explained* format or similar is preferred
- Keep spelling intact
- Never make assumptions, make deductions.
- Not all original documentation is factual
- Learn family legends, but be willing to disprove or half-prove them. Check every fact!
- Genealogists should be the most optimistic skeptics
- Record limitations on records: burned counties, record loss, inception of vital records.
- Do not stop at indexes, always find the original.

- Indexes and abstracts may miss signatures and witnesses or may incorrectly transcribe information.
- Record all witnesses & copy any original signatures.
- Check the back of the original or preceding and later pages.
Compare information in censuses, tax records, court records, and city directories to compare and contrast men of the same name.
- Identify all men of the same name using maps and deeds.
- Work to resolve conflicts.
- Use a checklist or finding aids for ideas of records you have not tried yet for that location.
- Occupations and socio-economic status do not commonly change; find proof if they do.
- Spread research to associates, in-laws, and other relatives connected with the ancestor as well as for men of the same name as the ancestor.
- Review the locality – what do you still need to learn about area records?
- Do you keep a complete research log? Review it regularly.

NOTES:

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