



## ETTLINGER PRODUCTIONS

[cruiseteachers@comcast.net](mailto:cruiseteachers@comcast.net)  
[www.Ettlingerproductions.com](http://www.Ettlingerproductions.com)

### Windows to Your Past

Subjects Covered: Family Tree Maker & Ancestry.com; flat versus relational databases; family search demonstration; helpful websites

#### Family Tree Maker and Ancestry.com:

- If you are serious about your genealogical research, invest in a good program
- If you have used an earlier version of Family Tree Maker, stick with it unless you are very computer literate about field mapping
- If you are new to a genealogy program, invest in Family Tree Maker 2009 or later
- Earlier programs are flat data bases; 2009 or later is a relational data base
- You may enter what you know or you may import a tree if you already have one
- Names, dates and places are important
- Even nicknames are important
- Look for evidence of a group with several family members together
- New information found a the internet can be merged with your database
- Many documents such as ship manifests have two pages of data. Record the line number and look at the page before and after
- Names may repeat in succeeding generations
- Documentation of sources is important

#### Pitfalls

- List women by their maiden names. You may make a note of their married name
- Try to enter complete place names
- Do not enter nick names such as Dick for Richard, or Bob for Robert
- Watch for name collectors among those doing Family History Research. Be certain the researcher reveals his/her sources before you enter the information into your database. Verify it's authenticity

#### Other Places to Search

- Google
- Intellius
- Facebook
- Geni
- Tribal Pages
- MyHeritage.com is good for a thorough search on your family name