


See You on Sunday!
Church Records in Genealogy

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Why Church Records?

- In use before or instead of civil registration
- Slave research

Which Church?

- Present affiliation
- Will or tombstone
- Only church in vicinity, circuit rider
- Birth, marriage or death record
 - Usually at bride/mother's church
- Check siblings
- National tradition, language

Types of Church Records

- Baptism and christening
- Marriage
- Death and burial
- Confirmation and communicant
- Membership rolls
- Meetings
- Language issues

Birth, Baptism, Christening

- Infant or adult baptism
- Person baptized, sponsors, parents, date and place
- Do not make assumptions

Infante.	Parente.	Deute.
Maria, geb. 7 Sept. 1774 get. 14 Sept.	Carl Seuman und Christine	Wilhelm Fohel und Christine
Johanna, geb. 24 Febr. 1776 get. 26 Febr.	Carl Seuman und Christina	Johanna Leonard und Cornelia
Wilhelm	Philipp Seuman und	Wilhelm Fohel und

Marriage

- Puritans viewed marriage as civil contract
- South Carolina did not begin civil registration until 1911
- Names of bride and groom, parents, residences, birth dates, baptism records



Marriage

Copulations, Albany, Wres 12, 1794.

1794.		
May 10	Christian Louwig Burgere beyde von Teutschland, und Glieder der Ewang. Luth. ge- meinde alhier.	und Catharina Barbara Heemlin, beyde von Teutschland, und Glieder der Ewang. Luth. ge- meinde alhier.
Junius 12	Adam Schneider	und Maria Wiley
August 21	Gilbert Phillips	und Elisabeth Gray
December 11	Christophor Husy, Sohn von Conrad Husy Kirchen schul- teiler dieser gemeinde,	und Catharina Cadogen

Death, Burial

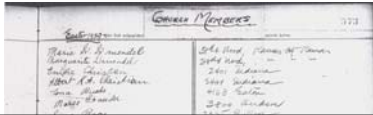
- Many church registers give place of birth – immigrants
- Date maybe burial, not death

Confirmation, Communicant

- Can be just a list of names and dates
- Lutheran, Episcopal records are extremely detailed: names, dates, residences

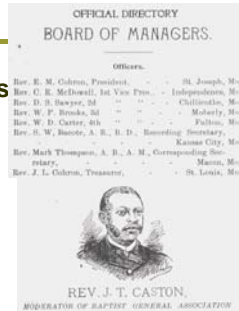
Membership Rolls

- Usually done on a regular basis
- Disappearance of family could indicate move
- Disappearance of spouse could indicate death
- Can be used like a census record

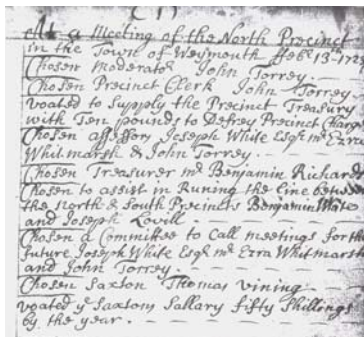


Meetings

- Annual meetings
- Weekly worship
- Council
- Disciplinary
- Pew rentals
- Family registers



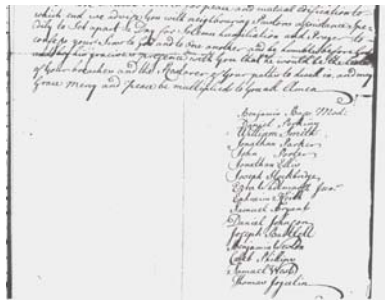
Meetings – Church Officers



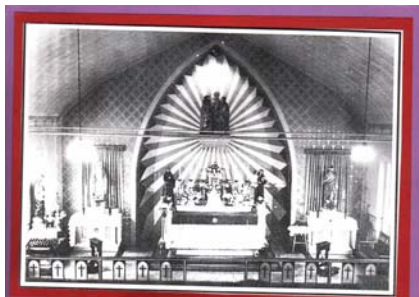
How to find the Records?

- Microfilm at LDS Library in Salt Lake – familysearch.org
- Church still exists, talk to current minister
- Local, county, state libraries, archives, societies
- Denomination archive
- Personal records of former ministers – circuit riders

How to find the Records?



Questions?



Holy Family Church, Kansas City, Mo
