What is Inferential Genealogy?

Inferential Genealogy is how family historians can accurately deduce ancestors' identities and many aspects of their lives by digging below "surface information" in genealogical records and combining information from several sources. Useful in many situations, inferential methodology is especially helpful where records do not state relationships.

The process of piecing together documents to make conclusions about relationships and identities that no record tells you all by itself.

What is Kinship Determination?

"What is Kinship Determination?" It is the opposite of kinship acceptance. The process of figuring out the identity of an ancestor's parent, spouse, or child. Inferential genealogy is one method of kinship determination

Step 1 - Start with a Focused Goal

Step 2 - Search Broadly

Step 3 - Understand the Records

Step 4 - Correlate the Records

Step 5 - Write Down the Results

Related Reading:

Mastering Genealogical Proof Paperback – 2013
by Thomas W. Jones (Author)

Mastering Genealogical Documentation [Paperback] Thomas W. Jones Paperback – 2017
by Thomas W. Jones (Author, Contributor)

An interesting Blog Post by Elizabeth Shown Mills

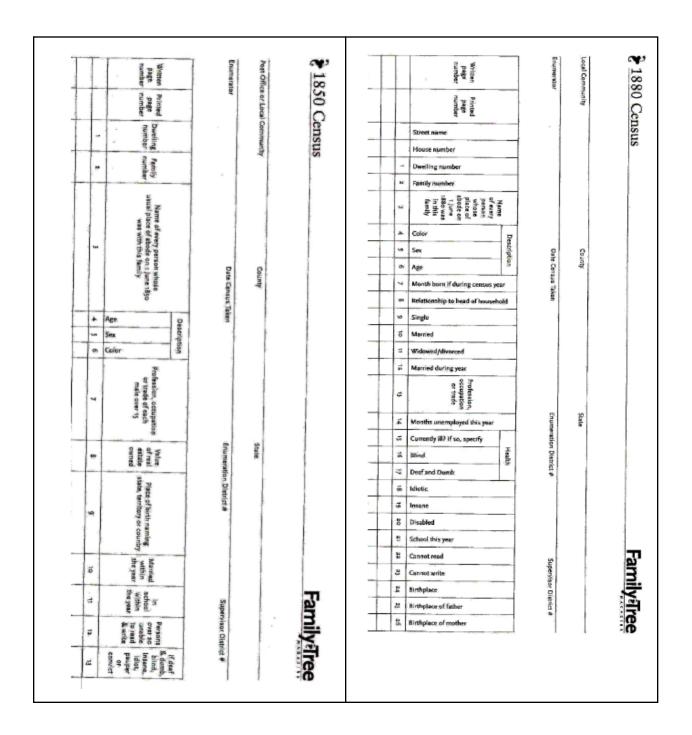**Evidence Explained**
Historical Analysis, Citation & Source Usage

QuickTips: The Blog @ Evidence Explained

Do You Know?

"Elizabeth Shown Mills, "Do You Know?" blog post, *QuickTips: The Blog @ Evidence Explained*(https://www.evidenceexplained.com/quicktips/do-you-know : posted 8 February 2019).

During the presentation I will show this Chart. I won't spend much time on the Chart, as it is not important to the presentation. However, I thought I would explain the following question.

Why don't I know Elizabeth W Howard's birth surname.

One of the "rules" for my data entry, IF I do not know a name, I use 5 Underscores (_____) for the Given Name and / or the Surname, or both.

When I created the Name, I entered the Census Years, where I should have found her, 1840, 1850, 1860, 1870). That is why the State, Place, and Description or address was blank. When I created the EXCEL spreadsheet, those are the dates I should have or would like to have researched (if needed) The fact that they were blank, is that I hadn't looked for those records, because they were not important for that study. The data would NOT have been impacted by a Research Question. Had I still not been able to answer my question, I can see where I need to research further.

Person ID	LastName	FirstName	MiddleName	Fact	Date	State	Place	Description
DRH007	_____	Elizabeth	W	Birth	1839	Maryland		
DRH007	_____	Elizabeth	W	Residence	1840			
DRH007	_____	Elizabeth	W	Residence	1850			
DRH007	_____	Elizabeth	W	Residence	1860			
DRH007	_____	Elizabeth	W	Residence	1870			
DRH007	Howard	Elizabeth	W	Marriage	1875			
DRH007	Howard	Elizabeth	W	Residence	1880	Maryland	Baltimore	Baltimore Ward 11
DRH007	Howard	Elizabeth	M	Residence	1900	Maryland	Baltimore	Independent City / Ward 13
DRH007	Howard	Elizabeth	W	Residence	1910			
DRH007	Howard	Elizabeth	W	Residence	1920			
DRH007	Howard	Elizabeth	W	Residence	1930			