

COLLEEN FITZPATRICK

Title

Not just the facts Ma'am – give me the big picture. The big picture is often more than its individual parts

Summary

Individual facts only give bits of a story. But for best results, it is critical to knit those facts into what we call “information”. Knowing *where* to look for facts is only the first step; knowing *how* to look at them is the key to success.

Abstract

As genealogists, it is easy for us to take databases for granted, especially because of the enormous amount of data we can access through the internet. We often believe it is enough “look something up” if we need it.

But individual facts only give bits of a story. Knowing “where” to look for facts is critical for genealogical success. But for best results, it is critical to knit those facts into what we call “information”. Knowing where to look for facts is only the first step; knowing how to look at them is the key to success.

In this talk, Colleen takes one photograph of a scene, and starting from easily recognized details in it, gradually builds a coherent story that gives insight about the “big picture”. She explains how facts, or small bits of information that individually may not seem important, can be fit together like a jigsaw puzzle, to create a picture that means much more than its individual parts.

Audience

All levels