



Citing Your Sources Can Be Fun and Useful!

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Anne Mitchell



Citing your Sources

Why should you cite your sources?

- 1. So you can find the source again if you need it**
- 2. So you can evaluate the quality of the source when you have conflicting evidence**

Citing your Sources

Family History is not about finding records to attach to your family tree.

It is about determining kinship between people and understanding their identify, telling their story.

It is about what you do with the records after you find them.

Elizabeth Shown Mills and Evidence Explained

The best reference for citing and sourcing evidence is Evidence Explained by Elizabeth Shown Mills.

You can purchase a downloadable copy at <https://www.evidenceexplained.com/bookstore>

What to do when you get a record?

1. Examine the actual record if you can
 - a. What was the purpose of this record?
 - b. Who supplied the information?
 - c. Write down what you've learned

2. Write a citation for the record
 - a. Need to be able to find it again
 - b. Need to be able to evaluate the validity of the information

Let's look at an Example

When was Jeremiah Gillespie born?

What documentation do I have?

- 1. 1850 Census**
- 2. 1860 Census**
- 3. 1870 Census**
- 4. 1880 Census**
- 5. Marriage record**
- 6. Family bible**

Let's look at an Example

Birth date	Source
Abt 1827	1850 U.S. Census, Amherst County, Virginia, population schedule, Eastern, p. 96 (inferred), dwelling 340, family 340, Jeremiah Gillaspie; digital images, <i>Ancestry.com</i> (http://www.ancestry.com accessed : 18 Jul 2012); citing NARA microfilm publication, M432, roll 933.
Abt 1827	1860 U.S. Census, Amherst County, Virginia, population schedule,, p. 132 (penned), dwelling 979, family 977, Jareemiah Gillispie; digital images, <i>Ancestry.com</i> (http://www.ancestry.com accessed : 18 Jul 2012); citing NARA microfilm publication, M653, roll RRR.
Abt 1826	1870 U.S. Census, Amherst County, Virginia, population schedule, Peddler, p. 497 (stamped), dwelling 218, family 210, Jeremiah Glasby; digital images, <i>Ancestry.com</i> (http://www.ancestry.com accessed : 18 Jul 2012); digital images, citing NARA microfilm publication, M593, roll 1633.
Abt 1820	1880 U.S. Census, Amherst County, Virginia, population schedule, Pedlar, enumeration district 19, p. 215A (stamped), p. 13 (penned), dwelling 118, family 125, Jese Gilaspie; digital images, <i>Ancestry.com</i> (http://www.ancestry.com accessed : 18 Jul 2012); digital images, citing NARA microfilm publication, T9, roll 1353.
March 4 1826	Gillespie Family Bible, <i>The Holy Bible</i> , (New York, American Bible Society, 1857), "Family Records, Births", p840; privately held by Anne Gillespie Mitchell, [ADDRESS FOR PRIVATE USE,] California, 2012. The sons of Tarlton and Mahala Gillespie are listed with their birth dates; it appears that they were all written at one time and are date April 20 1860.
No Data	"Virginia Marriages, 1740-1850," database, <i>Ancestry.com</i> (http://www.ancestry.com : accessed 18 Jul 2012), entry for Jeremiah Gillespie and Mary E Gillespie, 21 Nov 1848, Amherst, Virginia; citing Dodd, Jordan R., et al.. <i>Early American Marriages: Virginia to 1850</i> . Bountiful, UT, USA: Precision Indexing Publishers.

Which one is right?

When was Jeremiah Gillespie born?

None of the evidence has an identified informant.

None appears to have been recorded at the time of Jeremiah's birth.

The bible was most likely transcribed by someone who had some knowledge directly or indirectly of Jeremiah's birth date.

Until other evidence is found, the family bible is the best source.

1850 US Census

1850 U.S. Census, COUNTY_NAME County, STATE_NAME, population schedule, CITY_OR_DISTRICT, p. XXX (stamped/penned), dwelling DDD, family FFF, *person or people*; *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com> accessed : DATE); digital images, citing NARA microfilm publication, M432, roll RRR.

1850 U.S. Census, Amherst County, Virginia, population schedule, Eastern, p. 96 (inferred), dwelling 340, family 340, Jeremiah Gillaspie; digital images, *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com> accessed : 18 Jul 2012); citing NARA microfilm publication, M432, roll 933.

1860 US Census

1860 U.S. Census, COUNTY_NAME County, STATE_NAME, population schedule, CITY_OR_DISTRICT, p. XXX (stamped/penned), dwelling DDD, family FFF, PERSON; digital images, *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com> accessed : DATE); digital images, citing NARA microfilm publication, M653, roll RRR.

1860 U.S. Census, Amherst County, Virginia, population schedule,, p. 132 (penned), dwelling 979, family 977, Jeremiah Gillispie; digital images, *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com> accessed : 18 Jul 2012); citing NARA microfilm publication, M653, roll RRR.

1870 US Census

1870 U.S. Census, COUNTY_NAME County, STATE_NAME, population schedule, CITY_OR_DISTRICT, p. XXX (stamped/penned), dwelling DDD, family FFF, PERSON; digital images, *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com> accessed : DATE); digital images, citing NARA microfilm publication, M593, roll RRR.

1870 U.S. Census, Amherst County, Virginia, population schedule, Peddler, p. 497 (stamped), dwelling 218, family 210, Jeremiah Glasby; digital images, *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com> accessed : 18 Jul 2012); digital images, citing NARA microfilm publication, M593, roll 1633.

1880 US Census

1880 U.S. Census, COUNTY_NAME County, STATE_NAME, population schedule, CITY_OR_DISTRICT, enumeration district ENUM_DISTRICT, p. XXX (stamped/penned), dwelling DDD, family FFF, PERSON; digital images, *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com> accessed : DATE); digital images, citing NARA microfilm publication, T9, roll RRR.

1880 U.S. Census, Amherst County, Virginia, population schedule, Pedlar, enumeration district 19, p. 215A (stamped), p. 13 (penned), dwelling 118, family 125, Jese Gilaspie; digital images, *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com> accessed : 18 Jul 2012); digital images, citing NARA microfilm publication, T9, roll 1353.

Family Bible

ORIG_OWNER_AND_DATES, BIBLE NAME, (PUB PLACE, PUBLISHER, YEAR), PAGE_OR_SECTION, CURRENT_OR_LAST_OWNER, OWNER's LOCATION, YEAR OWNED, descriptive detail.

Gillespie Family Bible, *The Holy Bible*, (New York, American Bible Society, 1857), "Family Records, Births", p. 840; privately held by Anne Gillespie Mitchell, [ADDRESS FOR PRIVATE USE,] California, 2012. The sons of Tarlton and Mahala Gillespie are listed with their birth dates; it appears that they were all written at one time and are date April 20 1860.

Marriage Index

DATABASENAME, database, *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed DATE), entry for PERSON, EVENT DATE, EVENT LOCATION; citing SOURCE.



“Virginia Marriages, 1740-1850,” database, *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 18 Jul 2012), entry for Jeremiah Gillespie and Mary E Gillespie, 21 Nov 1848, Amherst, Virginia; citing Dodd, Jordan R., et al.. *Early American Marriages: Virginia to 1850*. Bountiful, UT, USA: Precision Indexing Publishers.


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