Cite Your Sources – Handout

The generally accepted standard for citing genealogical sources is:

Mills, Elizabeth Shown. *Evidence Explained: Citing History Sources from Artifacts to Cyberspace.* 2nd ed. Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Company, 2009.

Hardbound copy available from Amazon.com or in downloadable format (half the price) from https://www.evidenceexplained.com/bookstore . Copy available in JGSCV permanent library collection.

Some ways to make citation easier:

1. Create your own template – Ancestry Anne (Anne Gillespie Mitchell) examples:
    http://ancestry-stickynotes.tumblr.com/post/27564686370/ask-ancestry-anne-sourcing-templates

2. Use your family tree program:
    o Legacy Family Tree 7.5
       ▪ Nearly all of the source templates are derived from *Evidence Explained.*
       ▪ Either use the Help screens in Legacy or see
          http://www.legacyfamilytree.com/TourSources-SourceWriter.asp

    o Family Tree Maker 2012
       ▪ Uses the 2007 version of *Evidence Explained.*
       ▪ http://familytreemaker.com/Learn/Tutorials - see "Adding Sources"

3. Use source citations supplied by online sources, e.g., Ancestry.com and Familysearch.org

4. Attach a record to your online family tree (Ancestry.com) and when the tree syncs with Family Tree Maker 2012 (newest version only), your citation will appear automatically!

- Even if you don't follow *Evidence Explained*, some citation is better than no citation at all.
    ▪ Going forward, make sure you cite new sources as you add them
    ▪ Go back and gradually add sources you have used in the past, but not cited
    ▪ Identify research gaps and determine if the sources you have used are sufficient to establish the facts you are trying to prove
- Ensure that your citation includes the pertinent information you need to find it again.
- Pay attention to citation formatting details if you are planning to publish.

"I am continually astounded at the number of people I encounter who think that citing sources and questioning undocumented information is only for professionals…The reason that professionals encourage researchers to verify everything and cite where they got the information is so that they can be confident that they are sharing correct information with their family. We want you to be able to be proud about your work. And when your descendants look back at the work you have done, we want them to be proud of the work you do. We want them to be able to be confident about the information, not questioning all of your work because it was not carefully done."
                    - Michael J. Leclerc, Mocavo Genealogy Blog, 23 July 2012