

# Date Your Family History

Entering Dates in your genealogy database

# Names & Dates

- Miracle Grow for your Family Tree
- Name Collectors
- Multiple sources for dates (important to ensure the RIGHT ancestor)
- Dates are a somewhat capricious

# Recording Dates

America Date: 10/5/43 (Oct 5, 1943)  
or 1843 or 1743  
European Date: 10/5/43 (May 10, 1943)  
or 1843

**No Confusion Date: 05 October 1843**

- Use DAY, MONTH (spelled out), and YEAR (four digits)<sup>1</sup>
- Spell out months<sup>2</sup>
- For approximate dates (i.e. Census) use "abt 1863" or "ca 1812"; or "aft 1880" (i.e. when you know he was alive after his wife died)
- Bracket dates when you know the events (i.e. between the dates his will was signed and when it was probated)      March 1875-May 1876

# Recording Dates (cont)

- Record date EXACTLY as it was written
- Preserve original the original wording in quotes, place modern Gregorian style equivalent in brackets<sub>2</sub>
- "02/01/01" (memo field) [2 January 1901] (date field)

# Calculate

- Use Date Calculators (Google)
- Use Reunion10 date field

# Calendar Changes

- **1582** Pope Gregory XIII replaced the Julian calendar with the **Gregorian calendar**. New Years day was March 25.  
O.S. (old style) moved to January 1.  
N.S (new style)
- **1752** England & British North America adopted the Gregorian calendar.  
Adjustments: lost 11 calendar dates

# Calendar Changes (cont)

- American dates before 2 September 1752 are Julian dates. Check your colonial period dates carefully.
- George Washington was born 11 February 1732. We celebrate 22 February (NS). He would say he was born in 1731 (OS).

# Sources

- <sup>1</sup>About.com, Introduction to Genealogy
- <sup>2</sup>Evidence Explained, Elizabeth Shown Mills, 2007.
- <sup>3</sup>BCG, Skillbuilding: Date Calculations, [bcgcertification.org/skillbuilders](http://bcgcertification.org/skillbuilders)
- <sup>4</sup>[Genealogy.about.com/ed/dates/a/converting](http://Genealogy.about.com/ed/dates/a/converting)